

GlobBiz MAG

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Balochistan governor

Gwadar Free Zone becomes operational

CPEC Project: Pakistan Customs clears the
first Gwadar Free Zone consignment

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In Pakistan

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Ten mega uplift projects completed, 10 in progress: CM



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CONTACT US

Landline: +92-42 111-41-42-43

UAN: +92-348-111-41-42

Mobile: +92 321/341/334-4444067

Email: globbizmag@globbizavenue.com



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PORT OF GWADAR:

A DISTINCTIVE FEATURE OF CPEC PROJECTS IN PEACEFUL DEVELOPMENT



Many people in all of the Arab Seas have praised the development of Gwadar Port as the flagship project of the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) for its smooth and planned operation. The high-quality development of the Pakistani harbor, showing peaceful development by building a path towards global connectivity and prosperity in the area, is the result of the all-round opening of China's agenda for the BRI.

With the construction of Gwadar Port, China shares the dividends of its reform and opens policies via CPEC's multimillion-dollar project, bringing its own experiences and lessons from its coastal development.

Traditional globalization begins with sea trade, so Gwadar's development sets high standards not only for Pakistan and China but for the billion-plus population in South Asia, under the concept of coastal elevation.

The development of Gwadar Harbor equalizes the geoeconomic balance of Pakistan as the development of a favorable context for inclusive cooperation with new trade routes to other parts of the world has begun

to address the economic issues of Pakistan.

Gwadar is reviving the technological development of the modern era, and it is very certain that it is capable of building a harmonious world with lasting peace, regional security, and common prosperity.

The Gwadar Port can be credited to encourage regional countries to coordinate economic policies and conduct wider and deeper regional cooperation with all the benefits of high standards.

The reason is straightforward because the impact of Gwadar Port is not only on China and Pakistan but also on the economic region and on the global future dynamics in trade and economic relations between different countries. Their impacts can be direct and straightforward.

The joint development of the BRI port based on mutual consultations and multi-dimensional benefits also reflects the region's common ideas, as well as the pursuit of regional development, peace, and progress.

The Gwadar Master plan estimates that the ongoing work for the free zone in Gwadar Port and Gwadar has the capability, in this remote Balochistan, to

generate over 40,000 direct jobs that have opened their eyes for the second life and stand on their feet.

The city has had its own training institutes, universities, and model schools for children, and the launch of the Gwadar development project has seen dramatic change.

The province's CPEC transportation infrastructure reduces travel barriers and increases local people's socio-economic activities through direct access to major markets.

Furthermore, the installed desalination plant capacity to supply the local population with drinking water has been increased to 2.5 million gallons; there will also be three additional desalination plants in the city to increase that capacity to 5 million gallons.

The emergence of Gwadar as the commercial, financial and economic center of the country contributes to silencing the negation of the region.

A coal-fired power station has also been inaugurated, which supplies 300 megawatts under the CPEC framework, intends to provide citizens with continuous electricity, and boosts self-reliance to address the energy crisis.

SECURITY ENHANCED



IN THE LIGHT OF ITS POTENTIAL FOR MARITIME ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE GWADAR HARBOR, THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY HAS UNFORTUNATELY ATTRACTED SOME ELEMENTS WHO ALWAYS TRY TO FOCUS ON DEVELOPMENT FOR FURTHER MOTIVES.

Since the construction of the Gwadar Port is rapidly underway, more attention is paid to enhancing safety. Local authorities have increased investment and resources, free from security delays, so as to

ensure a secure and timely completion of the project. The Indian media recently inappropriately tampered with the city's extensive security schemes, including the fencing scheme.

The fencing plan demonstrates that CPEC is confronted with several challenges, especially threats to security from both external and internal opposing forces.

The closed-down area brings the security of the city to new levels and is a part of the master plan of Gwadar.

Security forces in Pakistan have always been determined to defeat the militant forces to prevent any kind of deadly attacks.

In order to counter any evil plans, traditional and non-traditional risks, including the threat of terrorism, must be wisely addressed.

The enhanced economic development security measures have enhanced local and international investors' confidence in further investment.

Local and stakeholder communities have also demonstrated support for designated area security measures that help law inquiries to ensure that the environment is sustainable in accordance with the

commitment of the local and federal government.

Bearing in mind that militant forces' covert activity in the field is very well prepared and committed to providing effective security for CPEC and Gwadar Port projects, with assistance from external authorities, Pakistani law enforcement agencies, and especially in consideration of the Pakistani army.

A timed test in the management of Gwadar Harbor's security apparatus was passed by the special security division for efficient security arrangements. The law enforcement agencies have always taken various steps to combat any terrorist attack against CPEC workers.

The government of Pakistan understands the security issues of CPEC projects in a complicated regional environment according to the information provided by the intelligence.

The authorities in the province of Baluchistan have targets of extremist forces and extremists are also contained in successful safety operations.

These security operations and the repression of militant organizations, creating a peaceful and favorable investment environment, are hoped that

GWADAR IS A NEW ECONOMIC HUB ACROSS ASIA:

BALUCHISTAN GOVERNOR

MEDIA REPORT



Amanullah Khan Yasinzai, Governor of Balochistan said that after long dark nights under the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) the rising sun of Gwadar is an announcer of a new bright morning for the whole of Asia.

As we did not benefit from the world's three great revolutions, we are unsophisticated and underdeveloped as other developing regions of the world by the Agriculture Revolution, the Industrial Revolution, and the information technology revolution. He made these opinions clear during his address to the participants at Governor House Quetta at the international conference on "Emerging Gwadar." As well as ladies and gentlemen from different routes, Li Beijing, Chinese Consul General in Pakistan, Zhang Baozhong, Chairs of the China Overseas Ports Holding Company, Member of the Provincial Assembly (CAP) San Baloch, Deputy Chancellor of the Baluchistan

Public Sector Universities, PTI Consul Baozhong, Chairman of Pakistan Overseas Ports Holding Company Bayazid Khan Basi. The Governors of Balochistan said that the 21st century was the century for the continent of Asia and that new economic targets, as well as destinations for development and prosperity, had brought in to the participants of the International Conference Emergent Gwadar. We are pleased to see that Gwadar is an important player, especially for strengthening global economic and commercial activities in this new, modern and developed environment, he said the Belt and Road project is the beginning of a new economic activity era that brings Asia, Europe, and

Africa together. Governor Yasinzai said that the implementation of the CPEC would open the way for the eradication and release of the backward thinking and superstition of the old socio-economic system. "We will embark on a new and powerful journey of economic development based on economics and artificial intelligence, which will be an important step forward towards building human fate," he said. At the Gwadar Emerging Conference, participants also spoke about the importance of the Gwadar and CPEC project include Mr. Consul-General Li Beijing, President of China Overseas Ports Holdings Company Zhang Baozhong, and MPA Sana Baloch and PTI Cooperation Advisor Bayazid Khan Kasi.



MEDIA REPORT

GWADAR FREE ZONE BECOMES OPERATIONAL

The Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) announced in a statement that Pakistan Custody cleared up the first import-cum-exports shipment for the Gwadar Free Zone made up of metal scrap.

The shipment of the HK Sun Corporation would continue for the Gwadar Free Zone, created in the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), and subsequently be exporting items from Pakistan, according to the statement. Customs Collectorate (A&F) West, Karachi, and the goods reached the Gwadar Free Zone under the Gwadar Model Customs Collectorate were handling the shipment and cleaning them up.

The HK Sun Corporation is the first company to begin production and processing in the free area. More raw material shipments of the same company to Pakistan are being carried out which are being used further for the manufacture of products to be exported.

Furthermore, other investors will help develop the first-ever free zone in the country. Following an agreement of concession with Gwadar Port Authority (GPA), the China Overseas Ports Holding Company (COPHC) runs the Gwadar free zone.

"The Gwadar Free Zone has virtually become operational, bringing other areas under CPEC in Pakistan into development by importing the current consignment," the FBR statement said.

"The free area would integrate and reinforce the link between China and Pakistan between industries. The free zone is positioned as Gwadar's engine for economic development aimed at transforming international CPEC trade logistics hub."





CPEC PROJECT: PAKISTAN CUSTOMS CLEARS THE FIRST GWADAR FREE ZONE CONSIGNMENT

Pakistan Customs has facilitated clearance by HK Sun Corporation Limited, in an effort to boost exports and trading in Pakistan, of its first import cum export consignment to be further processed within the Gwadar Free Zone set up under China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), and subsequently to expand products from Pakistan.

As detailed, Model Customs Collectorate (A&F) West, Karachi, and Gwadar Free Zone, governed by Model Customs Collectorate, processed and clearing the first consignment consisting of metal scrap. More raw material shipments from the same company to Pakistan are in progress and are being used further in the production of goods to be exported.

M/s HK Sun Corporation is the first company to start manufacturing and processing in the free zone and is followed by other investors to contribute to the development of Gwadar, Baluchistan, the country's first free zone, the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

The development and operation of the free zone of Gwadar are being implemented by COPHC in the accordance with the concession agreement signed between the China Overseas Ports Holding Company (COPHC) and the Gwadar Port Authority (GPA). The planned period of development will be in four stages from 2015 to 2030. The importation of the current shipment has led to the development in Pakistan of other CPEC economies in the Gwadar Free zone. The free zone will integrate and strengthen the link between the Chinese and Pakistani industries. The free area is placed as Gwadar's engine of economic development to transform the CPEC international trade logistic hub. The project will generate jobs for the local population and will act as a catalyst for



the country's economic growth and development. FBR said such measures are designed to boost exports and facilitate trade by ensuring the competitiveness of the international markets for our goods exported.

SPECIAL REPORT

THE BONDED LABOUR AND POLLUTION THREATS IN PAKISTAN

By Ghulam Murtaza

Pollution is an emerging challenge of the modern era. It is a self-created outcome of harmful substances by the human being. It is damaging the quality of earth, water, air, and eventually of human life. Garbage, recycling, factories-waste, and smoke-emitting vehicles are etiologies of this threat. In the sub-continent in general and Pakistan in particular, brick kilns and relic-smoldering of harvests by the farmers are additional causal factors. Only air pollution is an estimated cause of 9% of deaths annually that amounts to 5 million people across the globe. It varies from 2% to 15 % in the countries. Undoubtedly, it is risking life on this planet.

On the other hand, contaminated drinking water is considered to cause 485 000 diarrheal deaths each year. Survey reports paint a more horrible picture that by 2025, half of the world's population will face water contamination. The third-world-countries are likely to face a more critical situation due to intestinal, hepatitis, lungs, cancer, cardiac, kidneys, and mental diseases.

Pakistan, unfortunately, is ranked in the topmost polluted countries of the world. The shocking statistics anticipated by the World Bank state, "Pakistan's annual burden of disease due to outdoor air pollution accounts for 22,000 premature adult deaths and 163,432 DALYS lost, while that for indoor pollution accounts for 40 million cases of acute respiratory infections and 28,000 deaths/year." But, being a reckless nation, we are moving to this pitfall without any comprehension. We never bother about tomorrow and the generations to come.



In Pakistan, the brick kiln industry is considered one of the specifiers and contributors. The smog has become a real threat, especially in the up and middle countries. Luckily, the government has taken the right-time initiative to control the major contributors, including vehicles and brick kilns producing units. The govt. is also cracking down on the brick kiln industry and seal units using traditional brick kiln manufacturing. The heavy fines on smoky vehicles are also in action. The Government is encouraging this sector to convert to the new 'Zig-Zag' methodology which is far more human-friendly. The Punjab govt. has taken the initiative to encourage the Zig-Zag methodology which emits 85% less hazardous gases and consumes 30% less coal. This methodology also ensures better aesthetic and quality products with 20% more production. An annual saving of 6 million tons of coal is apart from; which means Rs. 60 billion national savings. The working conditions for labor also improve. The government has announced a reasonable amount for the brick kiln owners to encourage this new methodology through a soft loan scheme. This soft loan is ranging from 1 million to 25 million available through the Punjab bank against 3.4 and 5% handling or services charges, whereas KIBOR will be paid by the govt. Up to one million, the financier does not require any collateral. The writer noticed, during a meeting with the high-ups of the Punjab bank, the policy was not conservative. The role of the Punjab Disaster Management Authority and Senior Member of the Board of Revenue stand out in making this impossible possible.

Traditionally, the Brick Kiln sector has been maligned due to bonded labor, child labor, and pollution. But surprisingly they are proved more socially responsible heralding the other sectors in curbing the pollution from the country. In the province, Punjab, about 70% of units have been converted to a new human-friendly 'Zig-Zag' methodology. If you see a brick kiln unit emitting the white smoke, it has switched to a new methodology. The Brick Kiln Owners Association of Pakistan is encouraging its members regarding this drastic shift. Had the Govt. included this sector in the package announced for the construction industry, this sector would improve much more. The Brick Kiln is an integral part of the construction, hence should be seen accordingly.

The further areas are bonded and child labor this sector is slandered for. The community leaders and chairman of the association claimed that the labor working at brick kiln units was mostly on piece rate that worked on their own flexible time and style. Sometimes, a contractor puts his whole family on work, including the minors. They hold these are the NGOs that malign the country and brick kiln sector to show the ugly face of the country to the world. Debts, mostly under compulsion, are the reasons to bound the workers to work for a specific period to pay off the debts. These causal factors of this attenuating modern slavery are much deep-rooted and not limited to the brick kiln sector only. Although outlawed, is carried over in a camouflaged way to a little extent. It will continue until addressed the core etiology. The brick kiln owners claim their workers are enjoying more wages than that of working in other industries. This is also a fact that the brick kiln manufacturing units are mostly located in the far-off and backward areas of the country, without any civic facilities. If we want to save this planet from pollution and improve the quality of life of the 4.5 million families associated with 20,000 brick kiln units, we must not put the total burden on brick kiln owners. They are independently unable to build schools and basic health units. This is a joint responsibility of the Govt., private society, and international donors to eradicate these social evils by addressing the stimulants. National and international donors need to manage clean drinking water, safety gadgets, basic health units, and early education for their children. The brick kiln sector is feeding 4.5 million families across the country, such a quite big-sized economy should never be hood-winked. The majority of the owners are less educated, located in far off backward areas, and not too rich. This gap can be met with the Govt., society, UNO, ILO, and other international donors. A committee of the representatives of ILO, Govt., and Representatives of the brick kiln owners association of Pakistan may be formed to ascertain the facts regarding the bonded labor charges. The encouraging thing is now Brick Kiln Owners Association of Pakistan has been approved by the federal government to bring them into the mainstream. They should also be given the status of the industry. To ensure the maximum utilization of the funds, the Brick Kiln Owners Association should directly be collaborated instead of third-party intervention.



CENTURY STEEL OF CHINA IS INVESTING 242.2 MILLION DOLLARS IN RASHAKAI SEZ

Gwadar Pro has reported that China's Century Steel is going to invest a total of \$242.2 million in three phases in Rashakai SEZ.

The company recently announced that it had acquired 40 acres of SEZ land for the production of 0.25 million tonnes of steel products, with plans to invest \$50 million.

Currently, in Rashakai, the company is building its facility, the first SEZ investment ever. Unlike previous plans of 50 million dollars, however, the company will invest \$79 million in the first stage to double its capacity to 0.5 million tonnes.

In the second phase, \$77 million will be invested in setting up another industrial steel production unit. According to Ayesha Khan, spokesman for the Ministry of Planning, the total investment will reach 242.2 million dollars in three phases.

Pakistan's Planning Minister Asad Umar has chaired two meetings to examine progress on the Rashakai SEZ over the last eight days.

Ayesha Khan said to Gwadar Pro that the SEZ should be inaugurated by Prime Minister Imran Khan and the ministry worked daily and at noon to enable it.

The minister also informed about the progress of various projects including gas supply and electricity during this meeting which was also attended by the President of the CPEC Authority Lt Gen (R) Asim Bajwa Saleem, among other senior officials, the respective government bodies, and officials of the development contractor, CRBC.



THE THIRD ROUND OF **VIRTUAL CHINA-PAKISTAN** CONSULTATIONS HELD



A number of multilateral issues of mutual interest covering all the key areas of the work of the United Nations were virtually discussed at the Third Round of Chinese-Pakistan Consultations on United Nations affairs. A meeting was attended, among other diplomats, by the Chinese Embassy in Pakistan, the Pakistani Embassy in India, and the Permanent Missions in China and Pakistan at the UN and Geneva. Both countries have agreed to strongly safeguard multilateralism, supporting and strengthening the core role of the United Nations in international affairs.



Several multilateral issues of mutual interest covering all the key areas of the work of the United Nations were virtually discussed at the Third Round of Chinese-Pakistan Consultations on United Nations affairs.

The meeting was also attended by the Chinese Embassy in Pakistan, the Embassy of Pakistan in China, and the United Nations, and the Permanent Missions of China and Pakistan.

The two sides agreed to firmly safeguard multilateralism and support the central role of the United Nations in international affairs, in accordance with a press release issued by the Minister of Foreign affairs.

Both sides also agreed to strengthen their cooperation to encourage one other core and core interests on each other, work to resolve issues of regional and international importance politically and peacefully, and to ensure, jointly, the peace and stability of the world, in particular in Asia.

MEDIA TALK

HAKLA-DI KHAN MOTORWAY PROJECT TO BE COMPLETED BY AUGUST 2021

A major part of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is planned to be completed by August 2021 in the Hakla-DI Khan motorway project. This is said by Capt Muhammad Khurram Agha, the Chairman of the national road authorities while speaking on the official Facebook page in the headquarters of the authority.

Agha said the authorities are committed to offering better services to travelers throughout the country on motorways and national roads.

He said the total NHA network length is over 13,000 kilometers.

The NHA aims to improve road maintenance and prepare motorway and highway construction work in order to ensure that it is completed in a timely way.

He said that the land acquisition is underway, with steps taken to get this project work started early when he talked about the Sukkur-Hyderabad motorway.

He said approval for the project is expected in the near future and work on this project will start in three to four months.

In this project, he added, we are fully in agreement with Sindh Province.

The Balkassar-Mianwali road has been rehabilitated to facilitate road users.

During the design and work in the Kharain-Rawalpindi project, the Sambrial-Kharian project has been tendered.

He said that the project Bhara Kahu Flyover is being taken so that traffic can move smoothly.

Responding to questions posed by the public, Agha said that a public-private partnership (PPP) will be implemented to enhance and dualize the Balkassar-Mianwali-Muzaffargarh route. The NHA plans to also control the congestion of

traffic in Abbottabad.

He said that the priority is to maintain road systems in the province of Sindh. He expects that the work will begin with the Asian Development Bank (ADB) in Kashmir by the end of this year.

He says the maintenance work is progressively being prepared for the Gharo-Keti-Bander-Thatta road.

Work will be launched in one month on the Hala Sakrand project.

He said the NHA plans to dualize all the Indus road and work is in progress on the road to Sindh and the provinces of Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa. He responded to a question by saying that the road project Bahrain-Kalam was re-tendered. Work for the Chitral-Shandur road project has been completed.

He said maintenance work is also underway in the Thakot-Raikot section.

Work on Rakhi Gajj-Bewata will be started upon completion of the tendering process.

He said work is to be completed by the end of this year on the Gilgit-Skardu road.

Work will also take place in two months on the Lodhran-Multan section.

He said that the Lahore-Gujranwala section of N-5 is planning a comprehensive project.

The consultant for Shahdara Flyover near Lahore is carrying out design work.

This project is also in the PPP model.

He said that in a week funds will be set aside for repairing and maintaining roads.



FEATURE

TEN MEGA UPLIFT PROJECTS COMPLETED, 10 IN PROGRESS:

Sindh CEO Syed Murad Ali Shah said his government had started 20 mega projects with the worth of Rs 5,78 billion in the city, ten of which have been completed with worth Rs 3,8 billion, and ten other with the worth of Rs 178 billion projects were preferably completed in the late fiscal year.

By giving them a bail-out package and a plan worth more energy and resources, I want to strengthen the Karachi Development Authority.'

During a meeting, the CM expressed its views and examined the progress of mega-projects at CM House. Minister Syed Nasir Shah of Local Governments, P&D CEO M Waseem, PSCM President Sajid Jamal Abro, Naveed Shaikh Commissioner of Finance Karachi, Hassan Naqvi Secretary of State Najam Shah, Khali Masroor Project Manager, and others participated in the meeting.

The chief minister said that he had initiated Rs 5.78 billion in the city to improve the traffic of vehicles by building fly-overs and passes and rebuild wasteful waters of the storm, and by laying down new waters lines.

Plans are underway to build the Submarine Chowrangi Underpass and its approaching roads for Rs2.2 billion. He directed Minister Syed Nasir Shah to enhance the beauty of the underpass and open the road to Sunset Boulevard from Khaliqzaman Road by smashing the building on the road. He has already made funds available to compensate the building's residents/shopkeepers.

Construction of road from Tank Chowrangi to Super Highway via Thado Dam for Rs574.175 million, three schemes of Rs1.8 billion for construction of flyover at Tipu Sultan Intersection, underpass at Hyder Ali Road Intersection, underpass at Tariq Road Intersection, reconstruction of stadium road for Rs693.505 million, rehabilitation of Karachi Zoo for Rs391.934 million, rehabilitation For RS125.356 million, a bridge over Orangi Nullah will be widened, and for improvement of water supply, a 24-inch dia pipeline will be laid from Habib Bank to Pump No. 3.

The schemes under construction include a Rs 198.806 million stormwater drain from Star Gate to Chakora Nullah that is 70% complete, a Rs 1.48 billion reconstruction of 8000 roads from Jam Sadiq Bridge to Dawood Chowrangi that is 98 percent complete, and a Rs 171.56 million traffic signal, indication board, and beautification work on Mai Kolachi Road from MT Khan Road to Punj Road that is 70% complete. Similarly, there are a few more projects that are currently being worked on.

Syed Nasir Shah, Minister of Local Government, was ordered by the chief minister to personally track the progress of the ongoing schemes and report back to him. Minister of Local Government Nasir Shah has been directed by the CM to send his recommendation for the bailout package and to make the KDA a powerful organization.



FEATURE

ASAD EXAMINES THE PACE OF KCR PROJECTS THE GREEN LINE BRT



Asad Umar, Federal Planning, Development, and Special Initiatives Minister, has chaired a meeting in Islamabad about Karachi transport projects.

According to details, Karachi Circular Railways (KCR) is chairing a meeting on the Karachi Green Line BRT, to examine the pace of work.

The meeting informed the minister that by the end of August 2021 there would be a work-study for the Karachi Circular Railway.

He directed a monthly progress assessment of the work assigned to the consultants by the Ministry of the railway and the PPP to ensure that the tasks were carried out in due time.

The management of the SIDCL also briefed on the progress of the project of the Green Line BRT. He highlighted the need to comply with the agreed project timetables.

Secretary Habib-ur-Rehman Gilani, PPP CEO, SIDCL, DG Railways, and senior officials attended the meeting.

Asad Umar chaired a Karachi Transport Project Meeting in Islamabad, Federal Minister of Plank-ups, Development, and Special Initiatives.

According to details, Karachi Circular Railways (KCR) is chairing a meeting on the Karachi Green Line BRT, to examine the pace of work.

The Minister was informed of the completion of the workable study of the KCR by the end of August 2021.

He directed a monthly progress assessment of the work assigned to the consultants by the Ministry of the railway and the PPP to ensure that the tasks were carried out in due time.

The management of the SIDCL also briefed on the progress of the project of the Green Line BRT. He highlighted the need to comply with the agreed project timetables.

Secretary of the Railways Secretariat Habibur Gilani, PPP CEO Authority, SIDCL, DG Railway Planning, and senior officials participated in the conference.



MEDIA TALK

PESHAWAR UET DEVELOPS LOW-COST SOLAR PANELS



With the help of international partners and the third-generation solar photovoltaic technology, the Center for Advanced Studies and Energy at the University of Engineering and Technology in Peshawar has developed solar panels at a price of half the current one.

This week, the main investigator for the UET project, Dr. Najeebullah, will formally present the lightweight and flexible panels

Professor Han of the Science and Technology University of Huazhong, China, and Dr. Toby Meyer of the Swiss company Solaronixmix were also included.

Dr. Najeebullah, PhD student of material sciences at the University of Cambridge, said that the project's study started in 2014 while prototyping the development of 3rd generation solar panel systems was undertaken with financial support by the provincial government at the UET's Center for Advanced Studies and Energy in 2019.

The lead investigator stated that solar photovoltaic panels of the third generation would cost 50 percent less than those produced with photovoltaic silicon technology mainly from China and sold throughout the country.

He said that solar panels of the third generation cost less than those used in the existing generation, as materials were available locally and the production required a reduced temperature.

Dr. Najeebullah stated that solar panels required highly refined, poured, 99.9999 percent pure silicon and 1100 and higher temperature processing on the market.

"We substituted silicone for our product, which will be 450° centigrade produced, with the naturally available metal halide perovskite," he said.

He said Han would be developing a 200MW solar power plant in the Huwan area, China, in order to market emerging solar technologies.

Professor Han told, would like to work for technology transfer with Pakistan's 'our friend.'

He urged the Chinese and Pakistani governments to promote technology transfer and allocate money under the multibillion dollars Chinese-Pakistan Economic Corridor initiative for the commercialization of emerging solar technology.

Dr. Najeebullah said the Prototyper's Laboratory in the UET was supported by Dr. Toby Meyer, who had completed his PhD at the Ecole Polytechnique Federale Lausanne, Switzerland.

"Dr. Toby worked since 1994 on solar photovoltaics of the third generation. He is a pioneer of the third generation solar panels, Prof Michael Graetzel's student," he said.

Four companies worldwide, including Oxford PV in Great Britain and Deutschland, Wonder Solar which was founded by Prof Han, Microquanta, and GCL-nano, have established production units in China and others have tested their products on the field so far and are about to provide products for commercial purposes.

In contact with him, Kamran Bangash, the Chief Minister of Higher Education, said the government fully supported these innovations and, consequently, extended the duration of the solar technology project for another year.

"These interventions will generate revenues and contribute to the sustainability of universities," he said.



PAKISTAN'S 'SAFEST PLACE' JOINS THE TOURIST MAP

According to locals and police officials, a mountainous district in northern Pakistan that attracts tens of thousands of local and foreign visitors each year may be one of the country's "safest areas."

Ghanche, which borders China's Xinjiang province and the Indian-administered area of Ladakh and is known for its picturesque scenery and is surrounded by some of the world's highest mountains, has not seen an armed robbery or other serious crimes such as murder in the last decade, according to a police official. The last time murder was announced was about 15 years ago.

"Ghanche is a very peaceful Gilgit-Baltistan town. "We have a very low crime rate here," told police chief Jan Muhammad.

"For years, we haven't had major crimes like murders or armed robberies."

People in the district, Muhammad said, people are friendly and peaceful, and he has never received any complaints from locals or visitors about personal belongings or valuables being stolen.



Muhammad said, "This district is one of the safest places in northern Pakistan."

In 2020, police reports indicate that only 34 allegations of "ordinary nature" were filed around the district. Ghanche police issued only three "minor reports" this year.

Despite the coronavirus pandemic's travel restrictions, Ghanche continues to attract international and domestic visitors, owing to its healthy reputation.

"People like to travel to safe places, and Ghanche is the best place to visit because of its idyllic surroundings and peaceful environment," said Lahore tourist Muhammad Zanique. "This is my second trip to this place, and I highly recommend it to everyone."

People in Ghanche typically leave their homes and vehicles unlocked because there is "no idea" of theft, according to Muhammad Nasim Rashpori, a hotel owner.

"We sometimes find mobile phones and wallets of tourists who have left them in their rooms by mistake," Rashpori said. "We do everything we can to track down the owners and retrieve the items."

The brigade headquarters of the Pakistan Army is situated in Goma, Ghanche district. Gayari Sector Battalion Headquarters of the army is 32 kilometers west of Siachen Glacier.



PAK ECONOMY TO GROW BY 3% IN CURRENT FISCAL DESPITE RAVAGES OF COVID-19, SAYS CENTRAL BANK CHIEF

The Chief of the Central Bank in Pakistan stated that, despite the ravages of COVID-19, the country's economy would grow 3% in the current fiscal year.

Governor Reza Baqir of the State Bank of Pakistan said that while Pakistan is facing an increase in the number of coronavirus cases, the good sign that it is entering the third COVID19 pandemic wave has been upgraded with improved economic data in comparison with the first wave last year, addressing an event at the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) in Karachi.

"It is a good sign and we hope that we will tackle the third wave successfully," he said.

In the current fiscal year, Pakistan's economy will grow by 3 percent, Baqir said.

His statement, however, is contrary to global financial institutions' estimates. While Pakistan's GDP growth has been projected by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) at 1.5%, the World Bank said that the current fiscal year ended June 30 would be at 1.3 percent.

Baqir said that Pakistan's economy was doing well, exuding confidence. One of the indicators was, for the tenth consecutive month in March, an increase in remittance of more than US\$2 billion.

In January the head of the SBP emphasized that the large-scale industry grew by 9% compared with 5.7% in the same month last year. Furthermore, sales of automobiles, cement, steel, and quick-moving consumer goods were robust.

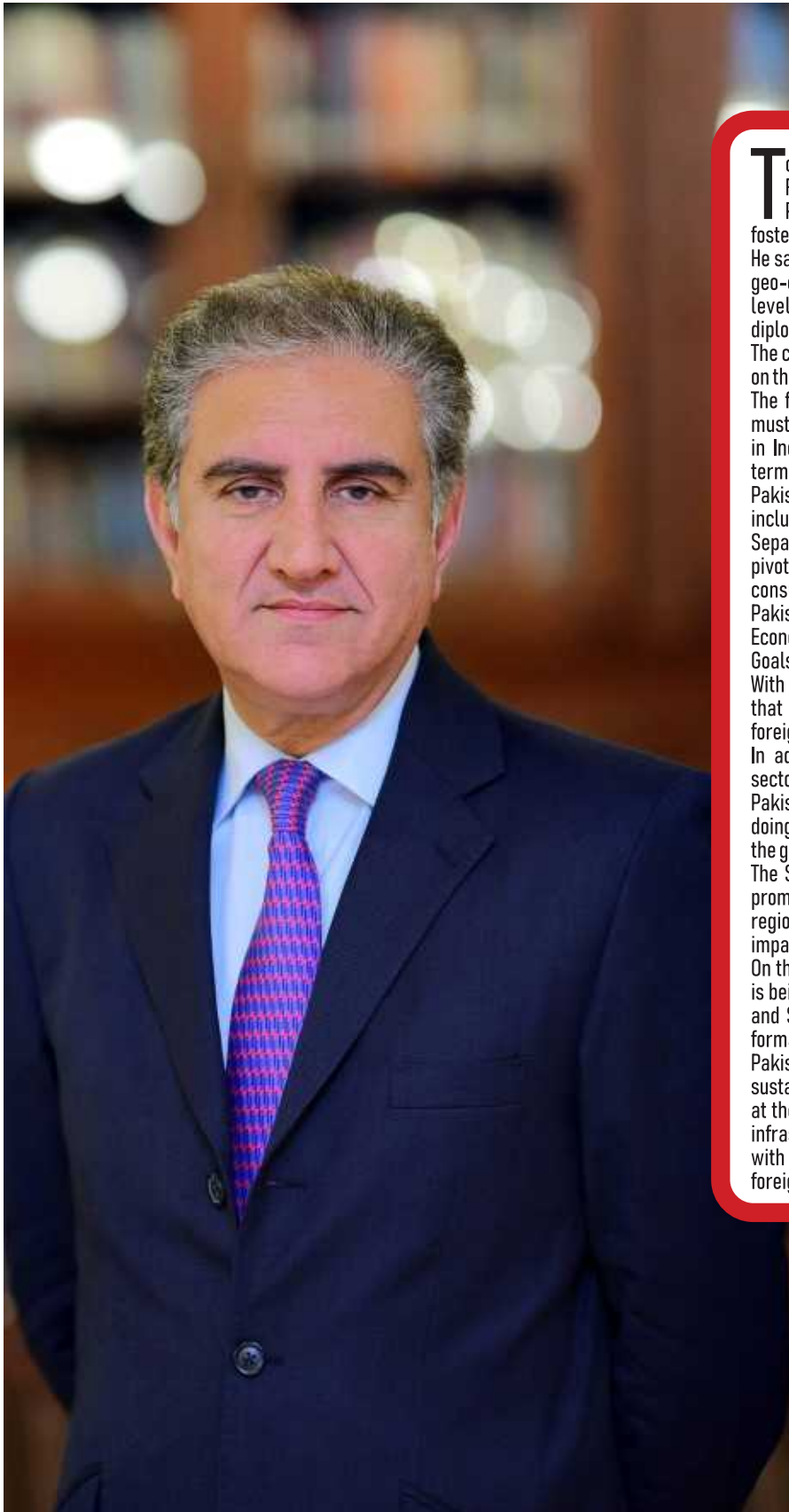
The SBP has injected liquidity of 5% of GDP into this system, added he. The monetary policy measures have been used as a means of revitalizing the economy and creating jobs for the people. "The fiscal and monetary policies and stimulus are expected to contribute to economic growth this year, compared to the contraction observed during the previous fiscal year.

In addition, Baqir offered support for the PSX. "The central bank works on rules to develop the Pakistan Stock Exchange secondary debt market," he said.

If Baqir's 3% growth estimate is right, this will mark a significant improvement in Pakistan's debt-ridden growth which recorded a positive increase last year.



PAKISTAN IS WORKING TO STRENGTHEN REGIONAL TIES IN ORDER TO ADDRESS ECONOMIC CHALLENGES: FM



To deal with the challenges of economic consequences, Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi said that Pakistan is adhering to economic diplomacy policies and fostering regional linkages.

He said Pakistan has translated its geopolitical priorities into geo-economic priorities in this context while chairing a high-level meeting on the coronavirus pandemic, economic diplomacy, and regional security.

The coronavirus pandemic, he said, has had a negative impact on the world's strongest and most powerful economies.

The foreign minister said that the international community must play its part in ending the heinous human rights abuses in Indian Occupied Kashmir (IOK) and bringing about long-term peace in the region.

Pakistan's sincere efforts for regional peace and stability, including the Afghan peace process, he said, will continue.

Separately, Qureshi said that Pakistan offers investors a pivotal geo-economic position, regional connectivity, a large consumer market, and qualified youth when he opened Pakistan's presentation at the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs' virtual Sustainable Development Goals Investment Fair 2021 in New York.

With a change in focus towards geo-economics, he stressed that economic diplomacy is now at the heart of Pakistan's foreign policy.

In addition to emphasizing the importance of the private sector in achieving SDGs, the foreign minister said that Pakistan's continued impressive success in the ease-of-doing-business rankings reflects increasing investor trust in the government's recent policies.

The SDG Investment Fair is an international event aimed at promoting new partnership opportunities and generating regional and global investments in developing country social impact projects.

On the sidelines of the Forum on Financing for Growth, which is being held under Pakistan's presidency of the UN Economic and Social Council, this year's edition was held in a virtual format.

Pakistan proposed a portfolio of investment-ready sustainable development projects worth two billion dollars at the Fair, mainly in the sectors of climate change, infrastructure, and information technology, in partnership with the UN Development Programme, in order to draw foreign private sector investments from around the world.



MEDIA REPORT

JAPANESE ENVOY MEETS SENATE CHAIRMAN, DISCUSSES MUTUAL TIES

Senate Chairman Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani said Pakistan attaches great importance to its relations with Japan and looks forward to further expanding friendly ties in various sectors in order for people on both sides to benefit each other.

He spoke to Japan's ambassador, Kuninoro Matsuda, who called on him at the House of Assembly in Pakistan. Applause for his re-election as President of the Upper House was the Japanese ambassador. The meeting discussed bilateral relations, mutual interest issues, and the overall situation in the region.

Sanjrani pointed to the need to further strengthen economic cooperation between Pakistan and Japan in which Pakistan values its relations with Japan. Parliamentary connections between both countries may help to strengthen ties in other spheres.

The president of the Senate pointed out that the province is rich in minerals and natural resources, stressing the importance of the Balochistan Province. "There is enormous investment potential in the mining and fisheries sectors that both countries can benefit. In Pakistan, in particular, in Balochistan, there is huge investment potential and Japanese investors, particularly Gwadar and Pasni, can benefit fully from investment opportunities."

Mirza Muhammad Afridi, Deputy Senate Chairman, also participated in the meeting. Senator Mirza Muhammad Afridi was congratulated by the ambassador for his election as Senate Deputy President. The Japanese envoy agreed with the Senate President's opinion that the relations between Pakistan and Japan are extremely important. The Japanese Envoy stated. He added, "Japan is keen to further improve commercial cooperation with Pakistan." He also said plans for the job creation of Pakistanis living in Japan are being launched.



PAKISTAN AND JAPAN HAVE AGREED TO EXTEND THEIR ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP.



Pakistan and Japan discussed a wide range of business and investment ties, identifying areas for further improving and enhancing economic cooperation.

During a call-on meeting between Ambassador of Japan Kuninori Matsuda and Federal Minister of Finance, Revenue, Industries, and Production Muhammad Hammad Azhar, bilateral issues of mutual interest were discussed.

The finance minister, speaking on the occasion, claimed that Pakistan and Japan have had cordial and friendly ties for many years and that this relationship will continue to grow stronger with each passing day. He praised Japan's government for its support for Pakistan's infrastructure and institutional growth, noting that Japan was Pakistan's most important development partner.

The minister emphasized the government's policies that resulted in an economic turnaround. According to him, Pakistan's primary deficit has been turned into a surplus as a result of strict fiscal discipline.

The country's fiscal response to COVID-19 has been cautious and well-targeted, including the landmark Ehsaas initiative, which re-allocated spending to the most vulnerable segments.

The minister praised Japan's significant investment in various sectors, especially the automotive industry, and pledged to assist Japanese investors and businessmen in pursuing major investment initiatives in Pakistan, where there is a growing demand for innovative business products and services.

He also praised the Japan International Cooperation Agency's (JICA) contribution to the country's socio-economic development and reform programs aimed at poverty reduction and human development.

Kuninori Matsuda was thanked by Hammad for his efforts to improve Pakistan-Japan relations. The ambassador said at the time that Japan places

high importance on its bilateral relations with Pakistan.

He briefed the Finance Minister on the activities of Japanese companies in Pakistan and expressed optimism that business and economic relations between the two countries would improve further.



E&P COMPANIES:

A delegation of heads of various Exploration and Production (E&P) companies met with Minister of Energy Omar Ayub Khan to address issues relating to the oil and gas industry.

According to a news release from the Petroleum Division, the delegation included the CEOs of Dewan Group, Orient Petroleum, Oil and Gas Development Company, Pakistan Petroleum Limited, Mari Petroleum, Petroleum Exploration Company, and PGiNG.

Speaking at the event, the minister stated that the incumbent government's top priority was to revive exploration and development activities in the region.

He added that the current government planned to achieve oil and gas self-sufficiency by auctioning new E&P blocks and speeding up exploration activities. Omar Ayub also emphasized the government's pro-investment policies, ease-of-doing-business policy in the petroleum sector, and efforts to ensure accountability so that all players have a level playing field.

Increased E&P operations, according to the minister, would help develop the oil and gas industry, build jobs in the country, and reduce the country's oil import bill.

The delegation praised and thanked the government for its efforts in promoting positive changes in the E&P sector and resolving regulatory issues related to Petroleum Concessions (PCs).

The upcoming bidding rounds for the auction of new oil and gas blocks, revocation of existing/non-performing blocks, and amendments to PPRA (Public Procurement Regulatory Authority) rules for state-owned oil and gas entities were also addressed at the meeting.



E-COMMERCE:

Sardar Masood Khan, President of Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK), said that AJK has a fertile and necessary environment for establishing effective online businesses and improving the earning potential and employability of the state-educated youth.

According to the AJK President's office, he said this after chairing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signing ceremony between the AJK Board of Investment and M/S Extreme Commerce (EC) at Jammu and Kashmir House in the federal metropolis.

Naveed Sadiq, Chairman of the Board of Investment in Azad Kashmir, Secretary of Industries Khawaja Ahsan, and officials from Extreme Commerce were also in attendance.

The EC will provide AJK students with training on digital facilities as part of the MoU, allowing them to learn a wide range of skills for starting successful online businesses. Extreme Commerce is a skill-based learning platform that has been designed to impart information on topics that will enable students to begin earning after they have completed their studies.

"I applaud Naveed Sadiq, chairman of the Board of Investment, for taking this initiative and establishing AJK as an e-commerce hub, which will provide new opportunities for our young students in e-marketing, especially in supply chains," he said.



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گوادر کا مرکز

ایونیو گلوبز



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Gwadar Builders & Associates (Pvt.) Ltd.

📍 M.M. Alam Road, 3-R, Almas Tower, 3rd Floor, Gulberg, Lahore-Pakistan.

☎ 0334 44 22 422, 0321 44 44 067, UAN: 042 111 41 42 43

✉ info@globbizavenue.com 🌐 www.globbizavenue.com