



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

January 16-31, 2025

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January 16, 2025

Daily Times

Karot hydropower project a key CPEC initiative for clean energy: report

A group of media representatives and parliamentarians visited the Karot Hydropower Project, a key initiative under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

During the visit, the delegation was briefed on the project's importance, including its annual generation of 720 MW of clean electricity and its contribution of 3,206 GWh to Pakistan's national grid.

The delegation observed the project's role in mitigating climate change by reducing approximately 3.5 million tons of carbon dioxide emissions each year, Gwadar Pro reported on Wednesday.

Senior Advisor at China Three Gorges South Asia Investment Ltd (CSAIL) informed the delegation that the reliable and affordable electricity produced by the project will enhance industrial productivity and support the growth of sectors such as agriculture, manufacturing, and services, which rely heavily on consistent energy supply.

"Additionally, the project's long-term operation will decrease Pakistan's dependency on energy imports, thereby boosting the country's energy security and economic stability," he said. As a single power generation hydropower complex, the Karot HPP comprises a rock fill dam, spillway, powerhouse, diversion tunnels, head race power tunnels, and tail race tunnels.

Developed under the Power Policy 2002 on a Build-Own-Operate-Transfer (BOOT) basis, the project has a concession period of 30 years and is a prioritized initiative under CPEC. During its construction phase, the project created around 5,000 local jobs and currently employs about 200 local workers and 25 Chinese nationals.

The total project cost is approximately USD 1.74 billion, with an installed capacity of 720 MW and an average annual electricity output of 3,206 GWh.

Moreover, the project has undertaken various Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiatives, including the establishment of schools, healthcare facilities, vocational training programs, and the development of essential infrastructure such as roads and water supply systems. The delegation appreciated these efforts, commending the project for not only addressing Pakistan's energy challenges but also fostering socio-economic development.

The visit highlighted the strength of Pakistan-China collaboration, showcasing how mutual cooperation and innovation can lead to sustainable progress. A spokesperson for the Karot Hydropower Project emphasized that the initiative reflects a broader vision of empowering communities and supporting a green energy future, addressing energy shortages, combating climate change, and improving the quality of life for the local population.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1256605/karot-hydropower-project-a-key-cpec-initiative-for-clean-energy-report/>

Pakistan poised to tap China capital markets: Finance Minister

Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb said that Pakistan was eager to tap the Yuan bond market and would encourage corporate stock listings in Hong Kong to bolster and broaden its ties with China.

In an interview with Nikkei Asia, Minister Aurangzeb said that an initial issuance of a panda bond should take place by the end of this year. The move is expected to be worth around \$200 million to \$250 million, but “it’s not a question of amount,” the minister said on the sidelines of the annual Asian Financial Forum in Hong Kong.

“What is important is that we do go for an inaugural issue and then, once it’s successful, we can always keep it on tap,” he said. Aurangzeb said that not using the world’s second-largest capital market until now had “been a miss on our part.” “We are quite keen that during this calendar year, we do,” he added.

Aurangzeb expressed hope for reaching the “B” rating zone in due course by carrying out reforms in accordance with the IMF’s terms, he stressed the importance of “diversifying” the country’s funding sources.

He said, Hong Kong’s stock market was also part of the picture, adding that an equity listing of Service Long March- a Pakistani-Chinese joint venture that makes tires for trucks and buses – in the city is in sight.

“These JVs want to do equity [fund] raising, and in the international markets, Hong Kong is a very, very obvious choice for these joint ventures,” he said, eyeing future opportunities for primary and secondary listings by Pakistani companies in Hong Kong.

He emphasized that the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) was a flagship of the Belt and Road Initiative, a core economic and geopolitical drive spearheaded by Chinese President Xi Jinping.

To a question on how the IMF’s conditions might affect planned projects with China – as offering new tax incentives and establishing new economic zones is not allowed – the Pakistani minister brushed off such concerns. “It’s not really as big a deal as it’s being made” out to be, he said, since there are many existing projects that first need to be implemented.

He said, government attaches “the highest attention at the highest level” to the safety issue, not only for Chinese but for all foreign nationals in the country. He added that the situation on the ground “is actually much better than what we see in the news and on various channels.”

As for tangible progress on reform and restructuring, Aurangzeb pointed to data points such as falling inflation, increased foreign exchange reserves, and a record-breaking performance of the local stock market.

“All of this has moved us in the right direction, including the biggest story for us, which is inflation,” which dropped from nearly 38% in May 2023 to 3% this month.

At the same time, he admitted that his country “has not really come through” on the execution and implementation part yet, especially in four key areas – taxation, the energy

sector, state-owned enterprise reform and public finance. For instance, the ratio of taxes to gross domestic product still lags at 10.8%, versus the target of 13.5%.

Despite a failed attempt to sell the loss-making national flagship carrier Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) last fall, he said the government was “very hopeful” about relaunching the effort in the coming months.

He said, it was imperative for all sides to agree on fundamental points to move “the economy forward, because it is critical that we stay away from boom and bust cycles.” “We are now in the 25th IMF program, and we want to, you know, ensure that this is the last program,” he said.

To do that, he believes the country needs to firmly establish an export-led growth model, attract more foreign direct investment and go back to the international capital market.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1256851/pakistan-poised-to-tap-china-capital-markets-finance-minister/>

Pakistan Observer

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<https://pakobserver.net/pakistan-poised-to-tap-china-capital-markets-finance-minister/>

The Express Tribune

The geopolitics of Wakhan

Wakhan Corridor's status is crucial for Afghanistan.

Inam Ul Haque

There has recently been a lot of careless talk on social media about Afghanistan's Wakhan Corridor – also called Dalan-e-Wakhan in Dari, or De Wakhan Dehleez in Pashto – in the Pamir Mountains. Geographically this thin slice of land in the Badakhshan province (Afghanistan) is about 350 km long and 16 to 64 km wide. Wakhan or Vakhan connects Afghanistan eastward to Xinjiang (China), where its eastern end, in two prongs wraps around a salient of Chinese territory. It forms Afghanistan's 92 km boundary with China's Tashkurgan Tajik Autonomous County in Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region.

The Corridor also delineates Tajikistan's Gorno-Badakhshan Autonomous Region in the north from Pakistan's KP and GB to the south. Panj (the Vakhan) and Pamir Rivers, rise from this high-altitude plateau (over 16,000 feet). Both Rivers later become the famous Amu

Darya (Oxus River), one of the four legendary rivers of Paradise in the Islamic folklore. From the Afghan city of Ishkashim, area for about 350 km is a nameless wilderness.

Sher Khan Bandar on Panj River is the famous trade crossing among some six road and ferry crossings between Afghanistan and Tajikistan, and a source of steady revenue for Kabul.

The Broghil, one of the high mountain passes, connects the Corridor to KP, while Irshad Pass links it to GB. The other Dilisang Pass that connected GB is now disused. The Wakhjir Pass connects Wakhan District to China being the only border crossing. This route is one of the centuries-old trade highways, the 'Silk Route' between Central, South and East Asia, and beyond.

The Afghan Durrani Empire took Wakhan from Czarist Russia in 1763. Greater Badakhshan, straddling Afghanistan and Tajikistan, remained a contentious territory between Afghanistan and Russia, and while delineating Durand Line in 1893, the British gave Wakhan to Afghanistan, creating a buffer between Russia's Turkestan and the British India. In 2011, Tajikistan ceded 1,000 km² territory to China in Pamirs, settling a 130-year-old border dispute.

As per 2021 Census estimates, over 17,000 semi-nomadic Wakhi, Pamiri and Kyrgyz people, mainly following the Ismaili sect, populate Afghanistan's Wakhan Oluswali (district). The Corridor has been closed to regular traffic and a rough road, built in the 1960s, connects Afghanistan's Ishkashim to Sarhad-e Broghil. Faizabad, Badakhshan is the nearest airport. Paucity of roads, when combined with the harsh weather, makes large-scale movement, settlement and sustenance difficult, if not impossible. The remoteness of the area has left it unaffected by wars in Afghanistan except for some interest by smugglers, taking drugs into Tajikistan and China, and possible route for Eastern Turkestan Islamic Movement (ETIM), the Chinese terrorist group based in ex-FATA and Afghanistan.

Despite Kabul's interest and completion of a 50 km road recently through the Corridor, China has resisted opening the Corridor for regular trade and traffic. In June 2023, IEA Foreign Minister Muttaqi raised the issue with Chinese FM Wang Yi during a meeting of 3rd 'Trans-Himalaya Forum for International Cooperation' in Tibet.

In 1929, the Soviet Union created the 'Tajik Soviet Socialist Republic' (Tajik SSR) on the Tajikistan side of the Corridor for Pamiris, whom the Soviet orientalist call the 'Mountain Tajiks'. The USSR developed Gorno Badakhshan borderland through access to higher education and projects like the Pamir Highway (1935). After the Soviet collapse, during Tajikistan's Civil War in 1992, Gorno-Badakhshan declared independence from Tajikistan under the political movement La'al-e Badakhshan.

However, later 'regionalism' as fundamental driver behind the independence movement was overtaken by 'religious/Ismaili' identity. Gorno-Badakhshan later rescinded its calls for independence, as Agha Khan's AKDN supplied Gorno-Badakhshan (from Kyrgyzstan) during the civil war, to prevent starvation. Through AKDN's ability versus Tajik state's inability to deliver, the Tajik people of greater Badakhshan region now consider themselves as 'Pamiri'.

The reported presence of IS in Tajikistan and Tajikistan's weariness with Taliban-controlled Afghanistan make any large-scale trade and commerce between Dushanbe and Kabul through the Corridor unlikely, especially when both sides have other venues available, as cited.

From the above factual situation about the greater Pamirs, the range delineating Tajikistan, China, Afghanistan, Pakistan and the Wakhan land slice, following conclusions can be drawn.

First, through historic records and contemporary understanding, Wakhan firmly belongs to Afghanistan. However, Tajik-Pamiri-Ismaili identity makes it challenging for Sunni Pashtun dominated IEA.

Second, in its present configuration, Wakhan acts as a buffer between China and a 'settling' Afghanistan. China would want to retain the status quo to avoid Afghan Taliban influence, or ETIM-generated unrest in its Xinjiang Province. The same argument is applicable to Tajikistan and, by extension, Russia, as the Corridor shields Tajikistan's Gorno-Badakhshan and the greater Pamirs from the IEA influence, that can undermine Russia's soft underbelly.

Third, from Pakistan's standpoint, any incursions or annexation (hypothetically) goes against the regional status quo and would need consensus with China, Russia and Tajikistan. Although theoretically these regional powers 'may' like Pakistan-engendered stability in the Wakhan Corridor and, by extension, in the Pamirs, solidifying this existing buffer against Afghan Taliban and IS-K, such an adventure would have severe bilateral repercussions with Afghanistan. The gambit outweighs its 'perceived' benefits of trade openings to Central Asia, bypassing an unfriendly Afghanistan, or any strategic leverage over IEA. Because such linkage requires massive all-weather communication infrastructure. The much-hyped Central Asian trade potential, except oil and gas where Kabul is a beneficiary stakeholder, needs serious study by Islamabad.

Moreover, it requires sizeable military presence under very inhospitable terrain and weather conditions year-round. One Siachen is enough. And alongside logistic unsustainability, it opens another front in Pakistan's fight against militancy and terrorism, additional to its Western borders. And global consensus is never conducive to forcible territorial acquisitions under the UN Charter and international law. Big powers only can get away with such adventurism, like Russia in Ukraine, not an aid and consensus-dependent Pakistan.

So, all the rumours about Wakhan need to be rubbished by ISPR. Research indicates that these social media posts were India-generated, aiming to further poison Pakistan's comparatively tense relations with Afghanistan. The unschooled and geo-strategically less savvy IEA brethren were quick at public denunciations, venting out their frustrations.

In statecraft, it is always a good idea to conduct quiet diplomacy and loud clarifications than filibustering in social media

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2522367/the-geopolitics-of-wakhan>

PM approves new power system for SEZs

Industrial estates to gain direct electricity provision eliminating intervention by power companies

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, chairing a meeting of the Cabinet Committee on Energy on Tuesday, approved a new power supply system for Special Economic Zones (SEZs) and Industrial Estates to accelerate industrial development.

The committee approved a proposal by the Power Division to allow SEZ and Industrial Estate management to handle electricity connections, billing, and related matters independently at a single supply point, eliminating intervention by power distribution companies. The meeting, attended by Deputy PM Ishaq Dar, Ministers Ahsan Iqbal, Ahad Khan Cheema, Sardar Owais Khan Leghari, Minister of State Ali Pervaiz Malik, Special Assistant Muhammad Ali, and other senior officials, was briefed on this development.

The new system, considered a major step for industrial growth, aims to streamline electricity operations and promote competitiveness among industries within SEZs. The Power Division and National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (NEPRA) were directed to implement the new mechanism within two to three months. Additionally, zone developers will no longer require additional licenses to supply electricity within SEZs.

The prime minister stressed the importance of industrial progress for national development. "Uninterrupted electricity will accelerate industrial development, create jobs, and boost exports," he said, expressing optimism that the improved system would enhance SEZs' role in economic growth.

During the meeting, the Power Division presented a report on the circular debt for July to November 2024, highlighting positive outcomes of the government's power sector reforms. Compared to the previous year, circular debt increased by Rs368 billion during the same period in 2023 but decreased by Rs12 billion in 2024, reflecting a net improvement of Rs380 billion compared to the previous fiscal year.

Additionally, power sector recovery rose by 4%, reaching 96%, while distribution company losses decreased by Rs53 billion. The overall cost of electricity was reduced by Rs4.64 per unit during the current fiscal year, attributed to ongoing reforms.

The prime minister praised the efforts of the Power Division and related institutions for their role in reducing circular debt and advancing reforms. "History bears witness that we have always lifted the country out of darkness whenever given the opportunity," he remarked.

He reaffirmed the government's commitment to providing low-cost, environment-friendly, and uninterrupted electricity, noting ongoing efforts to revise agreements with IPPs to further reduce costs for consumers.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2522426/pm-approves-new-power-system-for-sezs>

Nawaiwaqt News

مہنگائی میں نمایاں کمی، چینی مالیاتی منڈیوں تک رسائی، ہانگ کانگ سٹاک لسٹنگز کیلئے تیار: وزیر خزانہ

اسلام آباد (نمائندہ خصوصی) وزیر خزانہ محمد اورنگزیب نے اخبار سے انٹرویو میں کہا کہ پاکستان چین کی مالیاتی منڈیوں تک رسائی اور ہانگ کانگ میں کارپوریٹ سٹاک لسٹنگز کی حوصلہ افزائی کرنے کے لیے تیار ہے۔ رواں مالی سال کے آخر تک پانڈا بانڈ کا ابتدائی اجراء متوقع ہے۔ پاکستان کی آئی ایم ایف سے بیل آؤٹ کے بعد کریڈٹ ریٹنگ میں بہتری آئی ہے۔ وزیر خزانہ نے عالمی ایجنسیوں سے ”بی“ کی درجہ بندی کی توقع ظاہر کی۔ وزیر خزانہ نے کہا کہ پاکستانی چینی مشترکہ منصوبے سروس لائنگ مارچ کی ہانگ کانگ میں لسٹنگ متوقع ہے۔ وزیر خزانہ نے پاکستانی کمپنیوں کے لیے مزید لسٹنگز کے امکانات پر زور دیا۔ پاکستان اور چین کے تعلقات کو مزید مستحکم کرنے کے لیے چین۔ پاکستان اقتصادی راہداری ایک اہم قدم ہے، جو بیلٹ اینڈ روڈ انیٹیٹی اینڈ کالیگ شپ منصوبہ ہے۔ وزیر خزانہ نے بیلٹ اینڈ روڈ انیٹیٹی ایڈ کو اہم قرار دیا۔ پاکستان میں اقتصادی اصلاحات سے مہنگائی میں کمی آئی ہے۔ پاکستان میں مہنگائی میں نمایاں کمی آئی ہے، جو مئی 2023 میں 38٪ تھی اور اس ماہ 3٪ تک آگئی ہے۔ دریں اثنا وفاقی وزیر خزانہ و محصولات سینیٹر محمد اورنگزیب نے کہا ہے کہ حکومت مالی شمولیت کو پائیدار اقتصادی ترقی کا بنیادی ستون سمجھتی ہے اور اس کی تیز تر فروغ کے لیے پرعزم ہے۔ انہوں نے یہ بات بدھ کو یہاں پاکستان مائیکرو فنانس انویسٹمنٹ کمپنی (پی ایم آئی سی) کی قیادت کے ساتھ اہم ملاقات میں کہی۔ پی ایم آئی سی کے وفد کی قیادت چیئر مین نوید اے خان نے کی۔ وفد میں سی ای او پی ایم آئی سی یاسر اشفاق، سی ای او کار انداز پاکستان وقاص الحسن اور ہیڈ آف پورٹ فولیو اینڈ سیکرٹری ڈیولپمنٹ ٹاؤن شپ ڈیپارٹمنٹ بھی شامل تھے۔ پی ایم آئی سی 2016ء میں نیشنل فنانشل انکلوژن سٹرٹجی (این ایف آئی ایس) کے تحت قائم کی گئی تھی۔ یہ کمپنی ایک کلیدی مائیکرو فنانس ادارے کے طور پر پاکستان میں مالی شمولیت کو فروغ دینے کے لیے کام کر رہی ہے۔ ملاقات کے دوران پی ایم آئی سی کی ٹیم نے چھوٹے قرضوں (مائیکرو فنانس) کے منظر نامے کا تفصیلی جائزہ پیش کیا، جس میں کلیدی چیلنجز اور مواقع کو اجاگر کیا گیا۔ ملاقات میں مالی شمولیت کے حوالے سے کئی اہم چیلنجز پر روشنی ڈالی گئی جن میں دوہرے ریگولیشن فریم ورک سے ایم ایف آئی اور ایم ایف بی کے مختلف ضوابط سے نظام کی پیچیدگی، فنڈنگ تک محدود رسائی، رسائی بڑھانے کے لیے بڑی مقدار میں لیکویڈٹی کی ضرورت، ادارہ جاتی صلاحیت کی کمی اور این ایف آئی ایس ہدف کی فعال نگرانی جیسے چیلنجز شامل ہیں۔ وزیر خزانہ نے پیش کیے گئے خیالات کو سراہا اور ان چیلنجز کے حقیقت پسندانہ اور عملی حل کی اہمیت پر زور دیا۔

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/lahore/2025-01-16/page-1/detail-33>

January 17, 2025

Daily Times

China-Pakistan submarines to join Pakistan Navy: Naval Chief

Chief of the Naval Staff of the Pakistan Navy, Admiral Naveed Ashraf has said that the Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) Navy has participated in all previous editions of AMAN exercises, and he expects that PLA Navy will participate in AMAN-25 and is looking forward to hosting PLA Navy leadership during the AMAN dialogue.

In an exclusive interview with Global Times ahead of the AMAN-25 multinational exercise to be hosted by Pakistan Navy in early February in port city of Karachi, he said that the main objective of AMAN is to foster regional cooperation for the maintenance of good order at sea, improving interoperability, share experiences, understand each other, and exhibit united resolve against terrorism and organized crimes in the maritime domain.

He said that the Pakistan Navy is fully prepared and geared up to conduct AMAN-25 with enhanced participation of friendly countries in a professional and befitting manner.

It is worth noting that the previous edition of the exercise held in February 2023, which witnessed the participation from 50 countries across the globe. “Keeping the same spirit, we are hopeful that this edition will also mark a distinctive chapter in history of AMAN exercises with enhanced participation of friendly countries,” Ashraf said.

Ashraf revealed that the maiden AMAN Dialogue will be held in tandem with AMAN-25. “The AMAN Dialogue aims to promote understanding in maritime security issues, finding ways to enhance cooperation at sea, and discussing security linked to the blue economy.”

“We have been honored by the regular participation of PLA Navy in all previous editions of AMAN exercises,” Ashraf said, noting that this has added highlights to the exercise and is a reflection of the two countries’ common resolve to come together for peace and security in the region. “Similarly, we expect that the PLA Navy will actively participate in AMAN-25 also with suitable representation. As I have mentioned earlier as well, the maiden AMAN Dialogue will also be conducted concurrently with Exercise AMAN. So, we are also looking forward to hosting PLA Navy leadership during the dialogue,” he said.

Official Chinese media releases previously reported that the PLA Navy flotilla’s participation in the AMAN exercises further promoted the PLA Navy’s maritime exchanges and cooperation with other participating navies, showing the determination to jointly safeguard maritime security, and boosted the capability in jointly dealing with maritime security threats.

Aside from the AMAN series exercises hosted by the Pakistan Navy, China and Pakistan also regularly hold the Sea Guardian bilateral naval drills. The China-Pakistan Sea Guardian-3 maritime joint exercise was held in the waters and airspace of the northern Arabian Sea from November 11 to 17, 2023. In 2020 and 2022, the two countries held the Sea Guardian 2020 and Sea Guardian-2 joint exercises in northern Arabian Sea waters and waters and airspace near Shanghai respectively. The Sea Guardian joint exercises aim to enhance security cooperation between the two sides, consolidate all-weather strategic cooperative partnership, and boost the level of combat-oriented training of the two militaries.

Speaking about the achievements the two sides have made from the Sea Guardian series drills, Ashraf said that Pakistan Navy-PLA Navy relations are a reflection of Pakistan-China strategic ties, which includes participation in bilateral and multilateral exercises. In this regard, the Sea Guardian series of exercises amply fulfil the objectives of fostering interoperability and sharing professional experiences to deal with contemporary traditional and non-traditional threats in the Indian Ocean region.

Ashraf introduced the Sea Guardian-3 exercise in detail. He said that the Pakistan Navy units along with PLA Navy frigates, submarine, and aviation units participated in the exercise. The evolution at sea included joint maneuvers, anti-surface, anti-air, and anti-submarine drills. They “provided a useful opportunity to strengthen bilateral naval cooperation and enhance interoperability between two navies. Moreover, we expect that scope of the exercise will gradually increase in coming editions.”

In addition, as an important part of the China-Pakistan naval cooperation, all four Types 054A/P frigates built by China have been delivered to the Pakistan Navy. In May 2023, two Type 054A/P frigates built by China for the Pakistan Navy were delivered, marking that all

four Type 054A/Ps ordered by the Pakistan Navy have been commissioned. The Type 054A/P is one of the latest multi-role frigates of Chinese origin, equipped with the state-of-the-art weapons and sensors that include CM-302 surface-to-surface missiles and LY-80 surface-to-air missiles, as well as an Advanced Anti-Submarine Warfare suite and Combat Management System, enabling ships of this class to operate under multi-threat scenarios.

Ashraf spoke highly of these four ships and said that the acquisition of Type 054 A/P is a symbol of enduring friendship and historical affinity between Pakistan and China. Type 054 A/P ships are equipped to operate under multi-threat scenarios and have been fully integrated into Pakistan Navy operations. “The induction of Type 054 A/P frigates in the Pakistan Navy Fleet has bolstered our war fighting capabilities, enhanced operational flexibility, and these ships will remain the mainstay of Pakistan Navy Fleet in coming years.”

Other than cooperation in terms of surface vessels, another key project in the China-Pakistan naval cooperation is the joint construction of eight Hangor-class submarines. This type of submarine is equipped with the latest weapons and sensors. With air independent propulsion (AIP) system onboard, the submarine has significantly enhanced submerged endurance capabilities.

According to reports, Pakistan signed a contract with China to procure eight Hangor-class conventional submarines in 2015, with the first four to be constructed by China and the other four to be assembled by Pakistan, so as to improve Pakistan’s technical capabilities. The plan is that Pakistan will obtain the eight advanced submarines between 2022 and 2028.

In December 2021, the fifth Hangor-class conventional submarine, also the first one built in Pakistan, officially received a steel cutting ceremony. It marked Pakistan’s gaining of the building technology of the world’s top-class modern submarine.

The reports also showed that the first Hangor-class conventional submarine was launched in China in April 2024. In response to the questions “When is the first boat scheduled to enter service, and how is the progress for the four boats being built in Pakistan,” Ashraf said that the Hangor-class submarines will significantly enhance Pakistan’s naval capabilities.

These submarines will provide improved stealth, maneuverability and firepower, allowing our Navy to execute a wide range of operations effectively. “The project is proceeding as per the timeline. We expect that these submarines will join the Pakistan Navy fleet very soon,” Ashraf said.

Talking about the future of Pakistan-China naval cooperation, Ashraf said that the Pakistan Navy and the PLA Navy enjoys a historically strong deep-rooted bilateral relationship. Close collaboration between the two navies exists across multiple domains including acquisition of platforms, equipment, bilateral exercises, technical cooperation, Navy-to-Navy (N2N) Expert Level Staff Talks, training collaboration, exchange visits, and port calls.

According to the admiral, the prospects for future cooperation between the Pakistani and Chinese navies are very broad. “I believe that there is no shortage of avenues for the broadening of our mutual engagements and we are looking forward to establishing long term collaboration in the domains of artificial intelligence, robotics, cyber, and space.”

Ashraf visited a shipyard in Wuhan, Central China's Hubei Province in April 2024 and met with the shipyard's representatives during the launching ceremony of the first Hangor-class submarine of the Pakistan Navy.

When asked about his visit to China in April 2024, Ashraf said that he interacted with the PLA Navy leadership, and has found PLA Navy leadership to be highly professional and cordial. "I have no doubt that the PLA Navy is on the way to becoming one of the finest and leading navies in days to come. Moreover, I also believe that with the focused approach of the leadership on both sides, our relations will continue to expand further in times to come."

India is continuously expanding and modernizing its naval fleet and also commissioned its first domestically built aircraft carrier in 2022. In response to the questions, "How has the naval build up might affect regional maritime balance of power, and does the Pakistan Navy plan to eventually operate an aircraft carrier as well," Ashraf said that the Pakistan Navy is a balanced force, which is capable of responding to a full spectrum of conflicts and is optimized to the evolving character of warfare, rehearsed to perform in time-sensitive situations and remains combat ready. Manned by competent human resources, integrated through network-centric warfare, and with a right balance between manned and unmanned assets, our fleet is capable of dealing with diverse maritime challenges. "While India continues to build its navy, we are not in an arms race. However, we maintain an adequate capacity to accomplish assigned tasks effectively," Ashraf stressed.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1256980/china-pakistan-submarines-to-join-pakistan-navy-naval-chief/>

China to build cloud-based early warning systems with Pakistan and other key countries

China's Meteorological Administration (CMA) is set to strengthen international cooperation in climate change adaptation by developing cloud-based early warning systems with key nations across Africa, South Asia, Southeast Asia, and the South Pacific.

This was stated by Dr. Chen Zhenlin, Administrator of CMA, during the Administration's annual national conference held in Beijing earlier this month, according to China Economic Net.

Chen revealed that the initiative is part of China's broader efforts in 2025 to enhance its role in global climate resilience, which includes working alongside the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) countries.

The proposed cloud-based early warning system aims to support early disaster prevention and response efforts, providing timely and accurate meteorological information to regions vulnerable to climate change.

According to the report Global Cooperation Barometer 2025 developed by World Economic Forum and McKinsey & Company, global cooperation on climate goals improved in 2024, with increased finance flows and higher trade in low-carbon technologies such as solar, wind and electric vehicles.

“Yet, urgent action is required to meet net-zero targets as global emissions continue to rise. Greater global cooperation will be essential to scale up technologies and secure the financing needed to meet climate goals by 2030,” reads the report.

During COP29, China’s Action Plan on Early Warning for Climate Change Adaptation (2025-2027) was published, which has outlined China’s commitment to supporting developing countries in enhancing their early warning capabilities and climate change adaptation.

This initiative reflects China’s commitment to sharing its technological advancements in meteorology and satellite data with the international community.

The CMA’s FY satellites, which monitor global weather and climate events with precision, are already integral to the global observation system.

“The Cloud-based Early Warning System serves as a digital bridge that supports United Nations Early Warnings for All Initiative to address the climate change challenge.” said Xu Xianghua, Deputy Director-General of the Department of International Cooperation of CMA.

Last August, China provided critical satellite remote sensing data and forecasting services to Yemen during severe flooding caused by heavy rains.

Besides, China’s meteorological departments have upgraded the overseas reception stations of the CMA Satellite Data Broadcasting System (CMACast) for meteorological departments in 13 countries including Malaysia, Maldives, and Pakistan.

So far, FY satellites have expanded services to 132 countries and regions worldwide, and more than 1,400 trainees from 92 countries have received training in FY satellite technologies, further outlining China’s intent to support developing countries in bolstering their early warning systems, in line with the United Nations’ climate action agenda.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1256977/china-to-build-cloud-based-early-warning-systems-with-pakistan-and-other-key-countries/>

Pakistan Observer

ICCI Presidents pledges full support to Shandong Kerui Group’s business endeavours

Nasir Mansoor Qureshi, President of the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) has highlighted the growing economic ties between Pakistan and China during a meeting with a high-level visiting delegation from Shandong Kerui Group here Thursday. The delegation was led by Wu Xiaogui, Vice President of Shandong Kerui Group, and Hatim Yaqoob Tabani, Executive Director of Tabani Group, said a press release issued here on Thursday. Qureshi expressed that China’s firm commitment and trust to Pakistan’s development have always been a key source of progress and prosperity for the country. It is noteworthy that Shandong Kerui Group is a leading Chinese state-owned enterprise, recognized for its role in the oil and gas industry as a manufacturer of equipment, a turnkey solution provider, and an investment group. The group operates state-of-the-art manufacturing facilities in Dongying city and has a presence in over 100 countries,

consistently leading innovation and excellence in the energy sector. Both Kerui and Tabani Group have successfully executed numerous projects in Pakistan's oil and gas sectors, making a significant impact on the country's energy infrastructure.

Nasir Qureshi emphasized that the two countries share a common vision of sustainable growth and environmental stewardship. He pointed out that clean energy could be a key area for collaboration, which would not only benefit Pakistan but also contribute to the development of both nations.

The meeting further discussed the remarkable advancements made by Shandong Kerui Group and Tabani Global in Pakistan's energy infrastructure over the past 15 years. Qureshi also stressed the importance of addressing critical issues such as clean energy, securing vital gas resources, and tackling the growing gas deficiency in Pakistan. He argued that this comprehensive approach to energy management is crucial for ensuring long-term energy security for Pakistan.

President Nasir M. Qureshi expressed his full support for the proposed joint ventures and assured the delegation that ICCI would provide its full assistance in facilitating their efforts.

<https://pakobserver.net/icci-presidents-pledges-full-support-to-shandong-kerui-groups-business-endeavours/>

The Express Tribune

Pak-China forum explores strategies for Golden Ring

Says collaborative initiatives by two sides can strengthen regional ties

LAHORE: China's contemporary technology can play a pivotal role in boosting Pakistan's economic growth and the adoption of advanced technologies in sectors such as agriculture, energy and manufacturing will enhance productivity and efficiency, said Pakistan-China Joint Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCJCCI) President Nazir Hussain. He was speaking at a meeting hosted by the PCJCCI on Thursday in association with the Golden Ring Economic Forum (GREF) to discuss economic strategies and collaborative initiatives aimed at strengthening regional ties within the Golden Ring framework. They discussed the potential of barter trade between Pakistan and China to reduce dependency on conventional trade practices and also explored shared economic recovery initiatives to address challenges posed by the global economic slowdown and foster bilateral trade resilience. The PCJCCI president also highlighted the importance of collaborating in industrial digitisation, renewable energy and smart infrastructure to accelerate Pakistan's economic transformation. Speaking on the occasion, GREF Chairman Lt Gen (Retd) Sikander Afzal shared that the Golden Ring Economic Forum, a strategic economic policy think tank established in Lahore in 2015, aimed to enhance economic cooperation among China, Iran, Pakistan, Russia and Turkey, collectively called the Golden Ring.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2522655/pak-china-forum-explores-strategies-for-golden-ring>

Januray 18, 2025

Daily Times

Chinese, Pakistani firms reach \$1.6bn MoUs on medical equipment

MoUs worth around \$1.6 billion were signed at the China-Pakistan B2B matchmaking conference in the medical equipment and surgical instrument sector held today in Beijing.

Silk Road Assistance Industrial Internet Platform, a provider of advisory services for companies to do cross-border businesses, entered into agreements respectively with Pakistan's dental and surgical instrument manufacturer Sawuat, and Chinese pharmaceutical company UPH Biopharma.

This collaboration aims to steer more Chinese companies to engage in trade and set up joint ventures in Pakistan in the medical instrument sector. Mr. Sunny Yang, Chief Technology Officer of this platform, told China Economic Net that Pakistan's vast market, tax incentives, and set of standards consistent with Europe give it a competitive edge in capturing international investment. "Its medical industry can be further advanced in collaboration with China. For example, while it excels in equipment and instruments, there is significant room for improvement in areas like image documentation. By joining forces, Chinese technology can help Pakistan build its own brand and climb the global value chain," he remarked. Home to the world's fifth-largest medical manufacturing hub in Sialkot, Pakistan exports over 80% of its domestic production. Its low cost of production and favorable geographic location linking Central Asia and Middle East offer attractive opportunities for international companies. Its inexpensive medical raw materials and primary products are also supplied to other countries for processing and export. "Pakistan boasts abundant raw material resources and a large labor force. With significant strengths in medical consumables, such as surgical instruments, the demand for high-value medical products continues to rise," according to Mr. Zhou Hui, Chairman of the China Chamber of Commerce for Import and Export of Medicines and Health Products. "Pakistani enterprises seeking cooperation with China should stay updated on China's regulations concerning medical devices and drugs. The Chamber will continue offering consulting services to support the entry of Pakistani medical products into the Chinese market," he suggested. Dr. Muhammad Shahbaz, President of China Pakistan Medical Association shared that he is working to build a China-Pakistan friendship hospital in Islamabad and planning a joint medical technology park in Pakistan. At this conference, his association reached an agreement with a technology company based in Hangzhou, China for medical equipment trade, establishment of joint ventures, and transfer of technologies. Organized by the Pakistani Embassy in China, the conference attracted the participation of over 120 companies from the two countries. This event marks the conclusion of the first series of seven B2B events held since Pakistani PM's visit to China last June. It is announced that another seven roadshows are in pipeline and expected to roll out from next month. These initiatives will focus on 14 priority sectors, providing further opportunities for collaboration between businesses in both countries.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1257325/chinese-pakistani-firms-reach-1-6bn-mous-on-medical-equipment/>

January 18, 2025

Pakistan Observer

China-Africa cooperation: Prosperity & progress

Dr Mehmood Ul Hassan Khan

THE China-Africa cooperation stands as a beacon of equality, common development and shared prosperity and most recent visit of Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi vividly reflects it. The Chinese Foreign Minister visited Namibia, Republic of Congo, Chad and Nigeria and met with the high officials and head of the governments and the states alike. This tour clearly demonstrates China's enduring commitment to strengthening cooperation with Africa and bolstering solidarity among nations of the Global South. Additionally, the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) of last year, where Chinese President Xi Jinping proposed that bilateral relations between China and all African countries having diplomatic ties with China be elevated to the level of strategic relations. Thus the China-Africa elevated relations shared future for the new era. The move marked a milestone in China-Africa ties, highlighting China's firm determination to continuously elevate China-Africa cooperation to new levels.

The principles of sincerity, real results, amity and good faith have driven significant cooperation between China and Africa, contributing to sustainable development through mutually beneficial projects. Over the past 35 years, Chinese companies have helped African nations build or upgrade over 10,000 km of railways, 100,000 km of highways, 1,000 bridges, 100 ports and 66,000 km of power transmission lines, fostering connectivity across the continent. Additionally, China's investments in hydropower, wind power and solar energy, along with advancements in agricultural technology, have addressed key challenges in food security and increased crop yields by 30 to 60 percent, benefiting over one million farmers. These efforts have boosted Africa's infrastructure, technology, industrial growth and access to education, healthcare and energy, supporting poverty reduction, climate change response and economic diversification, while aligning with long-term development goals.

Now, evidently, the China-Africa cooperation extends beyond bilateral ties, offering a model for partnerships between developing nations. As major members in the Global South, China and Africa have joined forces to advance major development initiatives, aligning China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) with the African Continental Free Trade Area. This cooperation has created unprecedented opportunities for Global South nations to better integrate into global value chains, unlocking pathways for industrialization, job creation and infrastructure development. Both shared a vision of promoting a more equitable and inclusive global governance system, one that amplifies the voices of Global South nations on the international stage. China was the first country to explicitly express its support for the African Union's membership of the G20. By backing Africa's entry into the G20, China not only boosts Africa's global stature but also strengthens the voice of the Global South on critical issues such as climate change, global health, poverty reduction and trade reform. The Chinese policy makers also promoted "Made in Africa, Used for Africa" and promoted China-Africa medicine cooperation transforming it economies, industries and societies alike. It is pertinent to mention that nearly 6,000 guests, including leaders from all 53 African

countries that have diplomatic ties with China, the chairperson of the African Union Commission, the UN Secretary-General, and other international dignitaries, convening in Beijing for rigorously participated in the 2024 Summit of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) confirming close liaison in terms of political consultations, economic integration, trans-regional connectivity and last but not least, people-to-people contacts.

The 2024 Summit of the FOCAC announced the six key propositions and the 10 partnership actions for jointly advancing modernization between China and Africa. A number of landmark projects and “small but beautiful” projects have been implemented and are thriving across Africa. Moreover, during the Covid pandemic China donated more vaccines to Africa than any other country. China has long been a major contributor to healthcare in Africa with a relationship that goes back to the 1960s. Developing countries showing they prefer investment and infrastructure development over the West’s moralizing hypocrisy and badmouthing China pledged US\$51 billion in new funding to the continent over the next three years, observers, particularly in the West and regional rival India accused Beijing of trapping African nations with unsustainable debt. In summary, the Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi’s recent visit to Africa once again highlights the enduring depth and dynamism of China-Africa relations. It continues China’s tradition of prioritizing Africa as its foreign minister’s first overseas destination each year, a symbolic gesture that has spanned over three decades which has nothing do with any symbolism. The most recently held tour was also rooted in tangible objectives, emphasizing economic cooperation, security collaboration, and diplomatic alignment with African nations because Africa holds a pivotal place in China’s global strategy as an emerging market and a partner in reshaping global governance. The tours simply demonstrate China’s desire to deepen bilateral and multilateral ties.

It seems that the primary focus of the visit was the reinforcement of economic cooperation aligning China’s investments with African nations’ development agendas, emphasizing infrastructure, industrialization, and renewable energy. Obviously, Africa’s need for infrastructure remains critical, with gaps in transportation, energy, and digital connectivity limiting the growth potential and the Chinese connection and cooperation are creating living miracles. Interestingly, one highlight of the visit was China’s pledge of US\$136 million in military assistance, along with plans to train 6,000 troops and 1,000 police officers underscoring China’s increasing role in addressing the continent’s security challenges. Last but not least the current visit also advanced China’s support for Africa’s aspirations on the global stage fostering solidarity with African countries in their pursuit of equity in international decision-making processes. Additionally, the role of cultural and educational exchanges in strengthening ties was also emphasized. Agreements were reached to enhance academic cooperation, enabling more African students to study in China and facilitating knowledge transfer in science, technology, and innovation.

<https://pakobserver.net/china-africa-cooperation-prosperity-progress/>

Strategic importance of Wakhan Corridor for Pakistan

M Abdullah Hamid Gul

THE Wakhan Corridor, also known as the Pamir Corridor, is a narrow strip located in the north-eastern region of Badakhshan, Afghanistan, linking Afghanistan to the Xinjiang Province of China. This corridor serves as a geographical demarcation between Pakistan and Tajikistan, with Tajikistan situated to its north and Pakistan to its south. On the world map, the Wakhan Corridor resembles a diminutive chimney extending into the north-eastern part of Afghanistan. For centuries, this passage has been utilized for trade across Central Asia.

The delineation of the Wakhan Corridor occurred during the 19th century amidst the clashes between Britain and Russia, colloquially referred to as the “Great Game.” During this period, both powers designated the area as a buffer zone with the intention of preventing direct conflict between British India and the Russian Empire. The definitive resolution regarding the fate of Wakhan arose in 1891 during a meeting at the village of Bozai Gumbaz, involving British officer Francis Younghusband and his Russian counterpart, Colonel Yanov. This discussion culminated in the designation of the territory as Russian; however, Russia later conceded and recognized the region as part of Afghanistan under a pre-established agreement.

Under British rule, the Durand Line was established in 1893 through a treaty between Mortimer Durand and Amir Abdur Rahman Khan. This corridor became a critical component of British policy concerning Russia, playing a vital role in the establishment of an Afghan buffer state. In the latter half of the 19th century, the Russian Empire absorbed Central Asian cities such as Tashkent, Samarkand, Bukhara and Khokand—regions that were considered gateways to British India. Although Afghanistan maintained its status as an independent nation, it was effectively governed under British India.

In 1895, Russia and Britain established a Pamir Boundary Commission, which delineated the northern and southern borders of the corridor and declared that neither China nor Afghanistan would interfere in the area, a decision that had devastating effects on the local populace. Consequently, several Kyrgyz tribes migrated from Wakhan to Russian territories but later returned, only to subsequently flee to Pakistan following the Soviet invasion of Kabul in 1979, with some establishing residence in Turkey’s Kurdistan region. Currently, a significant portion of the Wakhan Corridor is technically accessible from Kabul but remains outside of its governmental control. Geopolitically, Wakhan spans 35,000 square kilometres and features dense forests, with certain sections measuring 10 miles in width, adjoined by the Pamir Mountains at elevations reaching 17,000 feet. It is inhabited by a population of approximately 17,000, which includes farmers, shepherds and local Wakhi and migrant Kyrgyz tribes.

Today, the Wakhan Corridor stands at the intersection of interests among China, Afghanistan and Pakistan. Pakistan has persistently sought to facilitate trade with Central Asian States; however, the ongoing terrorism and conflict in Afghanistan over the past four decades have severely hampered these efforts. As a result of proxy conflicts in Wakhan, Pakistan finds itself facing a more complex situation compared to China and Afghanistan. Negotiations have taken place between Afghanistan and China regarding the construction of bridges and the laying of oil pipelines in this valley. Should this corridor become operational, it would not

only diminish Afghanistan's reliance on India, but it would also facilitate Pakistan's connectivity with Central Asian nations. This development would lead to a reduction of Indian influence in Central Asia, particularly in Afghanistan. Ground access to Central Asia holds both economic and military advantages for Pakistan, necessitating that the government prioritize actions in this regard.

Foremost, it is imperative to eradicate terrorist groups, including ISIS, to establish peace and security in the region. To this end, Afghanistan must play a pivotal role in countering terrorism, alongside China and Pakistan. Additionally, effective management of the Pak-Afghan border is critically important. The interim Afghan government is obstructing Pakistan's land routes to Central Asian countries, indicating that the Taliban is not genuinely interested in fostering sincere relations with Islamabad. Initially, the establishment of a Taliban government in Afghanistan was anticipated to enhance bilateral relations; however, the current situation is quite the opposite. Refugee terrorist elements in Afghanistan are exacerbating Pakistan's security challenges, with the Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) undertaking acts of terrorism originating from Afghan territory. The support of terrorist elements by the Taliban is compounding Pakistan's difficulties. As a result, access for Pakistan to Central Asian nations via Wakhan has become increasingly complicated under the Taliban regime.

At the behest of India, the Taliban has refused to recognize the Durand Line, demanding the opening of the Pak-Afghan border, further complicating Pakistan's access to Central Asia through the Wakhan Corridor. This corridor holds immense economic, commercial and geopolitical significance for Pakistan. The purpose of outlining this context is to highlight that the Taliban's actions, including supporting terrorism and smuggling activities, have destabilized the region, resulting in the loss of thousands of Pakistani lives and harming its economy. India, acutely aware of the corridor's strategic importance, actively opposes its functionality. In the past, India utilized the Fakhor airbase in Tajikistan to monitor Pakistan-China activities and expanded it for military purposes, though Russian pressure limited its operations. During the Kargil conflict, Indian assaults in Churbat, Mushkafarm and Saltoro underscored tensions, while Pakistan leveraged regions from Shigar Bridge to Nubra to maintain its military presence. Currently, Pakistan, China and Russia are collaboratively countering India's expansionist ambitions in the region.

Access to the Wakhan Corridor will bolster Pakistan's strategic interests, enabling the enhancement of military installations and counter-measures against Indian interference from the Ladakh region into Gilgit-Baltistan. The aim of this discussion is to highlight that Pakistan has made considerable efforts to establish robust relations with successive Afghan governments; however, due to terrorism and other influencing factors within Afghanistan, these endeavours have not been successful. Therefore, there should be no further delay in Pakistan's economic and strategic initiatives in this regard. Undoubtedly, the development of the Wakhan Corridor will herald prosperity and facilitate trade for us!
<https://pakobserver.net/strategic-importance-of-wakhan-corridor-for-pakistan/>

Nawaiwaqt News

چین کے سیٹلائٹ سینٹر سے پاکستان کا تیار کردہ پہلا سیٹلائٹ خلا میں بھیج دیا گیا

اسلام آباد (خبرنگار خصوصی) پاکستان کا مقامی الیکٹرو آپٹیکل ای اوون سیٹلائٹ لانچ کر دیا گیا۔ یہ ملکی خلائی سفر میں ایک اہم سنگ میل ہے۔ آئی ایس بی آر کے مطابق سیٹلائٹ معدنیات، تیل، گیس کے شعبوں، آبی وسائل کی نگرانی میں معاونت کرے گا۔ سیٹلائٹ ماحولیاتی نگرانی، ڈیزاسٹر مینجمنٹ، سیلاب سے متعلق بروقت اپ ڈیٹس فراہم کرے گا۔ سیٹلائٹ سے آبپاشی کی ضروریات کا اندازہ لگا کر پیداوار کی پیشگوئی کی جاسکے گی۔ سیٹلائٹ سے زراعت میں فصلوں کی نگرانی کی جاسکے گی۔ ای اوون سیٹلائٹ پاکستان کے مختلف شعبوں میں فائدہ مند ہے۔ سیٹلائٹ جنگلات کی کٹائی اور زمین کے کٹاؤ سے متعلق بروقت اپ ڈیٹس فراہم کرے گا۔ سیٹلائٹ غذائی تحفظ کے اقدامات، شہری ترقی کی منصوبہ بندی، شہری پھیلاؤ کو منظم کرنے میں مدد کرے گا۔ نوائے وقت رپورٹ کے مطابق ای اوون سیٹلائٹ کو چین کے جی چھوان سیٹلائٹ لانچ سینٹر سے خلا میں روانہ کیا گیا ہے۔

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/lahore/2025-01-18/page-1/detail-14>

January 19, 2025

Dawn News

MoUs worth \$250m signed with Chinese medical companies

KARACHI: Pakistani and Chinese companies have signed memorandums of understanding (MoUs) worth around \$250 million to boost trade in the medical and surgical sector, reported Dawn.com.

Pakistan has held strong bilateral relations with China which has supported it through many investments and development projects such as the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor project which was termed as a “lifeline” for the country’s economy.

The MoUs were signed on Saturday during a China-Pakistan B2B matchmaking conference on the medical equipment and surgical instrument sector held in Beijing yesterday.

The Associated Press of Pakistan (APP), quoting China Economic Net (CEN), said that Silk Road Assistance Industrial Internet Platform — a provider of advisory services for companies to do cross-border businesses — signed MoUs with Pakistan’s dental and surgical instrument manufacturer Sawuat, as well as Chinese pharmaceutical company UPH Biopharma.

According to CEN, the collaboration aims to encourage more Chinese companies to set up joint ventures in the medical instrument sector.

Pakistan’s embassy in Beijing also confirmed in a statement yesterday that three MoUs worth \$250m were signed during the conference.

The embassy said it hosted, in collaboration with the Board of Investment (BOI), the sixth moot in a series of sector-specific B2B matchmaking meetings focused on investment partnerships between Pakistan and China in the medical sector.

“Over 80 Chinese companies and associations and more than 20 Pakistani companies participated both in person and online,” it noted.

On the occasion, Pakistan’s ambassador to China Khalil Hashmi highlighted the growing potential of the medical industry in Pakistan, saying it was valued at over \$600m.

The embassy said Hashmi announced Pakistan would host the 4th Health, Engineering, and Minerals Show (HEMS) in Lahore from April 17-19, 2025, with a special focus on surgical and medical instruments.

According to CEN, the conference marked the conclusion of the first series of seven B2B events held since Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif’s visit to China last June. Another seven roadshows were in the pipeline and were expected to roll out from next month, the report added.

During Prime Minister Shehbaz’s visit, 32 MoUs were agreed upon to promote trade and investment between the two neighbours.

Chinese businessmen note Pakistan’s ‘tax incentives, large labour force’

In September 2024, Chinese companies signed various MoUs with their Pakistani counterparts at a conference, where as many as 25 major Chinese firms expressed their deep interest in investing heavily in Pakistan.

Most recently, in December, Chinese and Pakistani diplomats signed MoUs for five projects in transport, health, energy and agriculture, with support from the Sindh government. This came days after a Chinese business delegation met with President Asif Ali Zardari in Karachi.

Sunny Yang, chief technology officer of the Silk Road Assistance platform, told CEN that Pakistan’s “vast market, tax incentives, and set of standards consistent with Europe give it a competitive edge in capturing international investment”.

“Its medical industry can be further advanced in collaboration with China. For example, while it excels in equipment and instruments, there is significant room for improvement in areas like image documentation,” Yang was quoted as saying.

“By joining forces, Chinese technology can help Pakistan build its own brand and climb the global value chain,” he added.

Meanwhile, Zhou Hui, chairman of the China Chamber of Commerce for Import and Export of Medicines and Health Products, highlighted Pakistan’s “abundant raw material resources and a large labour force”.

“With significant strengths in medical consumables, such as surgical instruments, the demand for high-value medical products continues to rise.”

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1886226/mous-worth-250m-signed-with-chinese-medical-companies>

The News

Medical & surgical equipment industry: Pak, Chinese firms to boost ties

BEIJING: There is an immense potential for collaboration between Pakistan and China in the growing medical and surgical equipment sector, and Pakistan is working closely with China to achieve sustainable growth in this industry, Pakistan's Ambassador to China, Khalil Hashmi, said during a business forum in Beijing.

Speaking at the Pakistan-China B2B Matchmaking Meeting on Medical and Surgical Equipment, hosted by Pakistan's Embassy in China in partnership with key Chinese organizations, including the China Chamber of Commerce for Import & Export of Medicines & Health Products, Ambassador Hashmi emphasized the importance of joint ventures and industrial relocation to Pakistan.

He described the Pakistan-China partnership as a model of mutual trust and collective progress, China Economic Net (CEN) reported. "Pakistan takes great pride in its unique surgical and medical equipment industry, globally recognized for craftsmanship, precision, and adherence to high-quality standards," said Hashmi.

He noted that the industry, valued at over \$600 million, is expected to grow at more than 8% over the next five years, supported by a well-established supply chain and abundant local resources.

The ambassador underscored Pakistan's prominence in the global medical equipment sector, particularly the city of Sialkot, which ranks among the top five hubs for surgical instrument manufacturing. Pakistan currently has 3,900 operational units producing over 25,000 instruments, with exports reaching \$450 million in 2023, primarily to the United States, Germany, and China.

He also outlined plans for a dedicated surgical and medical equipment industry park, aimed at enhancing innovation, streamlining operations and fostering skill development and technological advancement.

Zhou Hui, President of the China Chamber of Commerce for Import & Export of Medicines & Health Products, stated that the collaboration aims to position Pakistan as a global hub for medical manufacturing, strengthening its industrial sector while enabling Chinese enterprises to expand their international footprint. He encouraged Chinese companies to seize this opportunity for shared growth and sustainable development.

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=377314>

January 20, 2025

Dawn News

Year of the Snake will be good for China

Many famous people were born in the Year of the Snake. There's Polish astronomer and mathematician Nicolaus Copernicus (1473-1543), a major figure in the "scientific revolution", who established that Earth revolved around the sun, not the other way around.

Then there's the greatest of German literary figures, Johann Wolfgang von Goethe (1749-1832). But let's talk about years, not people. One of the traditions of the Year of the Snake in China is transformation. There have been plenty of bad "snake" years. One is reminded of the Great Depression and the Wall Street Crash of (October) 1929. Another year I would like to mention is 2001. It was the year when the Sept 11 terrorist attacks on the United States took place. It was also the year when China joined the World Trade Organisation — which helped expedite China's economic development and integrate its economy with the global economy. Looking back at the past year, two trends stand out for me. One is the deterioration of the situation in the Middle East. The region is seeing a genocide being committed by the Israeli state, witnessed in real time on TV screens across the world. And the US is complicit in this genocide, with its global standing going down drastically, even in parts of the West. On the other hand, apart from the West and a few US ally countries, China's standing has improved across the world, because it has stood with the ordinary people against the Israeli and American ruling elite. The other development is the continuing rise of BRICS, along with China's rising economic status throughout the world. The year 2024 saw the addition of several major countries to BRICS, with Indonesia becoming the first country to join the grouping in the first days of 2025. The rise of BRICS frightens the US elite, because it symbolizes the loss of their global economic dominance because of the decline of the US dollar as the principal international reserve currency. Although the decline of the dollar is an ongoing process, the year 2024 saw the acceleration of the process. So what about 2025? I believe it will be a good year for China. Of course, we have to take into account Donald Trump's return to the White House after four years and his threat to impose high tariffs on imports from China, as well as other countries. If Trump imposes punitive tariffs on Chinese goods, I believe he will cause more damage to the US than China. Looking at recent history, we can clearly see that the Chinese people's spirit of independence and self-reliance is very strong. They will not cave in under the pressure of punitive US tariffs. Self-reliance is a major part of Chinese culture, which has influenced China's development. The other features include the emphasis on education and resolving problems harmoniously. Despite the bad periods in China's history, Chinese people's resilience, fighting spirit and industriousness have seen them through many a crisis. Three factors stand out in all this. The first is the Chinese people's love for peace. Contrary to what the Western media say, I regard China as a peace-loving country. Unlike the US, which has been at war throughout its entire history, China avoids war. The century of humiliation taught it that a country is better off strong than weak. However, that does not mean it wants war. The second factor is China's emphasis on reducing pollution and moving toward a sustainable, green economy. China's leadership of the green revolution over the last few years has been extremely impressive. The country is now the global leader in electric vehicles (EVs), and solar and wind energy. This is a remarkable achievement, and shows China is sensitive to the dangers that climate change poses to our world. Some Western countries have recently accused China of "over-production" of EVs, which are important to build a sustainable, green world in the future.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1886468>

Pakistan Observer

Historic as first commercial flight lands at Gwadar International Airport

GWADAR – The Gwadar International Airport, the largest airport by area in Pakistan, has become operational as first flight landed on Monday, January 20, ushering in a new era in Balochistan. The airport covers the area of 430 acres and it is located 26 kilometers away from the city of Gwadar, at the Gundani site. The new Gwadar Airport has a single runway that is 3,658 meters long and 75 meters wide, capable of accommodating large aircraft. The airport, built at a cost of approximately Rs50 billion, will be able to handle aircraft such as the Airbus A380 and Boeing 747. The symbolic inauguration of the new Gwadar Airport was held on October 14, 2024, by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif. However, regular flights officially started today.

First Flight at New Gwadar Airport

The first flight, PK 503, departed from Karachi with 46 passengers on board at 9:50 am. The flight landed at the new Gwadar Airport at 11:15 am, marking the first commercial flight to land there. Minister of Defence and Aviation, Khawaja Muhammad Asif, and others officials welcomed the passengers at the airport. The PIA flight also received a water-canon salute at the airport.

Status of International Airport

Weeks ago, the federal government officially declared Gwadar Airport as an international airport. The move has made the passengers able to travel abroad from Gwadar International Airport, which will also receive international flights. Additionally, the airport will facilitate the delivery of goods. The Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) has issued two notifications in this regard. The first notification, issued under Section 9, declares Gwadar Airport as an international airport. Back in October, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Chinese Premier Li Qiang jointly attended the completion ceremony of New Gwadar International Airport project at the PM's Office in Islamabad. Speaking on the occasion, Li Qiang said that the Gwadar airport is a key facility for the Gwadar Port to become a regional connectivity hub and an important symbol of the further advancement of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). Since its launch, the CPEC has achieved fruitful results with the concerted efforts of both sides and played a positive role in promoting Pakistan's economic and social development and regional integration. China is ready to work with Pakistan, supported by the spirit of extensive consultation, joint contribution and shared benefits, open, green and clean cooperation, and a high-standard, people-centered and sustainable approach, to make further efforts to build the CPEC into a demonstration project for the high-quality Belt and Road cooperation. Li Qiang pointed out that the new Gwadar International Airport is also a vivid portrayal of the special friendship between China and Pakistan. PM Shehbaz Sharif had said that the new Gwadar International Airport is another demonstration of the friendship between the two countries. The completion of the project will allow the Gwadar Port to better play its role as a hub, and bring unprecedented development opportunities to Pakistan.

<https://pakobserver.net/pakistans-largest-gwadar-international-airport-gets-operational/>

January 21, 2024

Dawn News

First flight lands at new Gwadar airport

GWADAR: Pakistan's largest airport, the Gwadar International Airport, became operational on Monday with the landing of the first PIA flight from Karachi carrying 46 passengers.

Defence Minister Khawaja Asif and Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti welcomed the passengers of the inaugural flight with flowers.

Addressing the gathering at a grand ceremony on the occasion, the federal minister declared the new Gwadar International Airport as "not an end but a beginning".

"We have turned a dream into reality with the inauguration of an airport at Gwadar," Mr Asif said.

"The airport symbolises a new era of prosperity for the people of Gwadar and the rest of Balochistan. It will generate job opportunities and boost business," the minister added.

He described the airport as a milestone in the country's aviation history and thanked everyone who contributed to its completion, calling it a "beacon of hope for Pakistan's future".

Mr Asif said the new airport is a vital component of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor. "The masterminds who envisioned CPEC prioritised the establishment of this state-of-the-art airport, recognising its potential to accelerate the region's development," he observed.

The defence minister held up the collaboration between Pakistan and China for building Gwadar airport as a testament to their "storied partnership".

He acknowledged the tireless efforts and expertise of Pakistani and Chinese teams, whose dedication helped build an airport that conformed to international standards.

Mr Asif also expressed gratitude to the Chinese government for its assistance, calling the airport a gift that would benefit the people of Balochistan and the rest of Pakistan.

The new Gwadar International Airport, the minister said, would transform the region and the entire country. "It is more than just an airport — it is a gateway to progress and will play a crucial role in laying new infrastructure and spur trade and tourism."

The airport would attract investors, improve the quality of life for the people of Gwadar and encourage cultural exchanges, Mr Asif added.

Balochistan CM

In his speech at the ceremony, the Balochistan chief minister said that the inauguration of the Gwadar International Airport would turn out to be "a milestone for the speedy development of the province".

"This airport is a historic project not only for Balochistan but also for the entire country. It will open up new vistas of trade, investment and tourism," CM Bugti said.

Gwadar Airport is equipped with the latest technology and capable of handling large aircraft.

The chief minister said the new airport would connect Balochistan with major cities of the world and bring about immense progress in the province.

CM Bugti said this project would also provide employment opportunities to the locals.

“The people of Gwadar have always played a key role in the development of Balochistan and the new airport will hopefully speed up this process.”

Mr Bugti said the airport project is an important initiative under the CPEC banner and would go a long way in transforming Balochistan.

He said he was determined to undertake more projects so that the people of the province could see a positive change in their lives.

“Balochistan’s uplift is my priority and I will take all possible steps for this purpose.”

Flight takes off from Karachi

The inaugural PIA flight for Gwadar, PK-503, took off from Karachi at 9:50am with 46 passengers and landed at 11:10am. Upon its arrival, the flight was greeted with a water cannon salute on the runway.

According to a PIA spokesperson, the 3.6-kilometre-long runway of the Gwadar airport is suitable for large aircraft such as those belonging to Airbus and Boeing.

Built at a cost of Rs66 billion, the airport is spread over 4,300 acres, making it the country’s largest by area.

As a flagship project of CPEC, it boasts modern security arrangements and facilities for passengers.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1886665#:~:text=The%20inaugural%20PIA%20flight%20for,cannon%20salute%20on%20the%20runway.>

Daily Times

US, China and UK top 3 destinations of Pakistani exports during July-Dec 2024

The United States (US) remained the top export destination of Pakistani products during the first six months of the current financial year 2024-25, followed by China and the United Kingdom (UK). Pakistani cuisine recipes

Total exports to the US during July-December 2024-25 were recorded at US \$3017.563 million against the exports of US \$2748.895 million during July-December 2023-24, showing an increase of 9.77 percent, according to the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP).

This was followed by China, wherein Pakistan exported goods worth US \$1286.437 million against the exports of US \$1481.762 million last year, showing a decrease of 13.18 percent.

UK was the third top export destination, where Pakistan exported products worth US \$1100.425 million during the month under review against the exports of US \$1016.449 million, SBP data revealed.

Among other countries, Pakistani exports to UAE stood at US \$1088.99 million against US \$1000.719 million last year while the exports to Germany were recorded at US \$843.722 million against US \$732.978 million last year, data said.

During July-December 2024-25, the exports to Holland were recorded at \$742.724 million against \$670.394 million whereas the exports to Italy stood at \$569.347 million against \$568.293 million. Pakistan's exports to Spain were recorded at \$724.913 million against the exports of US \$747.933 million while the exports to Afghanistan were recorded at \$504.308 million against \$262.583 million last year.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1258225/us-china-and-uk-top-3-destinations-of-pakistani-exports-during-july-dec-2024/>

Pakistan, China sign MoU for Dhabeji SEZ under CPEC 2.0

Pakistan and China on Monday signed a memorandum of understanding for Dhabeji SEZ Under CPEC Phase II, Gwadar Pro reported on Monday.

According to the report, the Sindh government inked a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Chinese and local investors on January 18 to establish the Dhabeji Special Economic Zone (DSEZ) under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) Phase II.

The agreement, expected to attract \$3 billion in investment and generate over 100,000 jobs, marks a significant milestone in strengthening industrial cooperation between Pakistan and China. The MoU was signed by Sindh Economic Zones Management Company Chief Executive Abdul Azeem Uqaili, Zahir Khan Brothers (ZKB) CEO and Chairman Mohabat Khan, and Cheng Qiang of PowerChina International. The ceremony was held under the support of China's National Development and Reform Commission. "This agreement is a landmark achievement for Sindh and Pakistan," said Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah at the ceremony. "The Dhabeji SEZ is poised to reshape Pakistan's economic landscape by stimulating industrial growth, reducing our reliance on imports, and boosting exports. This will pave the way for a more self-reliant and sustainable economy." The Sindh government has allotted 1,530 acres of land in Thatta for the development of DSEZ, with plans to transform the area into a modern Expatriate Enclave. The zone will feature state-of-the-art infrastructure and attractive tax incentive packages, positioning it as an ideal destination for both local and international businesses. The project is being developed under the Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model, emphasizing the zone's potential to attract investment, particularly from Chinese companies seeking to expand their South Asian operations. The location of DSEZ boasts several strategic advantages. Situated near Port Qasim, the zone provides easy access for the import of raw materials and export of finished goods, minimizing inland transportation costs and saving time. Additionally, the site is only 35 kilometers from Karachi Airport via the national highway, further enhancing its logistical connectivity. "This Priority Project under CPEC will facilitate potential investors to start new enterprises or transfer their facilities to Pakistan," highlighted the CM. <https://dailytimes.com.pk/1258107/pakistan-china-sign-mou-for-dhabeji-sez-under-cpec-2-0/>

Pakistan Observer

Trump's strategy to contain China

Qamar Bashir

It was an exhilarating experience to watch the live telecast of Scott Bessent's over four-hour confirmation hearing for Treasury Secretary of the most powerful nation on Earth. This live broadcast reflected the highest standards of democratic values, making the public a part of vital decision-making, showcasing the performance of their elected representatives and ensuring their accountability. This hearing also provided a rare opportunity for a writer like me to gain insight into the minds of US decision-makers—how they think, deliberate on critical issues affecting both the United States and the world, strategize and implement far-reaching, fate-changing decisions.

During the four-hour hearing, the members of the Committee grilled Trump's nominee on multiple issues confronting the US and the world, including tariff policy, macroeconomic management, ensuring the dominance of the US Dollar as the world's principal reserve currency, reducing inflation, creating jobs, fostering innovation, controlling the energy supply chain and trade routes, establishing a foolproof cybersecurity apparatus, securing and managing rare mineral resources and maintaining military dominance. Interestingly, China emerged as the primary focus of the discussion, consuming most of the hearing.

No other country or world leader was deemed worthy of significant attention, reflecting the US policymakers' intense focus on China and its status as the foremost rival to American global influence across nearly all aspects of power dynamics and world dominance. Committee members repeatedly referred to China as "Communist China," labeling it the nation's biggest adversary and singling it out as the primary geopolitical and economic threat to the United States. Senators from both parties expressed deep concerns over China's alleged unfair trade practices, including currency manipulation, state subsidies, intellectual property theft and forced technology transfers, which they argue create an uneven playing field for American businesses. They also criticized China's growing economic influence in Latin America and Africa, particularly through investments in energy, mining and digital infrastructure, which they believed gives Beijing leverage over critical resources and political alliances. To counter this, they proposed strengthening US alliances with countries like India, Japan, South Korea, Australia and Latin American allies.

The Senators also highlighted the massive trade deficit with China, which exceeds \$400 billion annually, causing significant damage to American manufacturing, agriculture and industrial sectors. This imbalance, they argued, has led to job losses and economic vulnerabilities in the US, further intensifying the need for strategic countermeasures to limit China's growing geopolitical and economic influence.

Senator Bill Cassidy highlighted that China continues to flood global markets with artificially cheap goods, particularly in steel, semiconductors and solar panels, driving American competitors out of business. Senator John Cornyn warned that China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) strengthens its economic dominance by creating debt dependencies in developing nations, enabling Beijing to export its overcapacity while undermining US trade

influence. Senator Todd Young proposed using tariffs to pressure China into fulfilling its commitment to purchase \$200 billion in additional US agricultural products, which it has yet to fully meet.

Scott Bessent and Republican Senators advocated for tariffs as the primary tool to correct trade imbalances and protect domestic industries from China's state-backed economic aggression. Bessent outlined a tariff strategy that includes imposing selective tariffs on industries where China has gained an unfair advantage through government subsidies and forced technology transfers, using tariff revenues to fund American infrastructure and industrial revitalization and leveraging tariffs as a negotiation tool to compel China to adhere to fair trade agreements and prevent further economic distortions.

The Committee members and Scott Bessent were unanimous in viewing tariffs as the primary weapon in the economic battle against China. However, they differed widely on how this weapon should be deployed. Some Senators advocated for an aggressive tariff regime aimed at safeguarding US manufacturers from China's cost-effective yet high-quality products and services. However, this stance largely ignored the underlying inefficiencies within American manufacturing, the need for technological upgrades and strategies to lower production costs. Others struck a middle ground, proposing a selective and strategic use of tariffs by targeting specific products and services where increased duties would not disrupt domestic manufacturing efficiency or unduly burden American consumers.

A recurring argument made by Senators was that China engages in unfair trade practices by subsidizing its industries, allowing them to produce goods at lower costs, thereby outcompeting American businesses. However, this criticism overlooked a crucial aspect: the US Government itself employs similar mechanisms to support select industries through tax incentives, tax breaks, reduced levies and regulatory advantages. These policies, while not explicitly labelled as subsidies, serve the same purpose—boosting domestic industries while limiting competition from foreign markets. Moreover, the Senators failed to acknowledge that many Chinese industries, rather than being propped up by state subsidies, are highly profitable and contribute significant tax revenues. These revenues are then reinvested in struggling sectors, infrastructure and research and development, reinforcing China's economic growth and global competitiveness. Rather than focusing solely on weakening China's economic progress through tariffs, a more effective long-term strategy for the US would be to strengthen its own industries through structural reforms. This would include improving manufacturing efficiency, reducing bureaucratic red tape, accelerating decision-making processes and significantly increasing investment in research and development. Enhancing the productivity and competitiveness of American manufacturers would be a more sustainable solution than imposing reactionary tariffs. “Ultimately, the best strategy for the US is not to pull China down but to elevate itself through technological advancements, economic discipline and sound policymaking. By fostering an environment that rewards innovation and competitiveness, the US can position itself as a leader in global trade—not through protectionism, but through excellence and efficiency. —(Continued)

<https://pakobserver.net/trumps-strategy-to-contain-china/>

Operationalisation of Gwadar Airport a milestone to strengthen regional connectivity: PM

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Monday calling it an example of Pakistan-China friendship, said that the operationalization of Gwadar International Airport was a great step forward to strengthen connectivity within Pakistan as well as the entire region.

The prime minister, in a statement, expressed satisfaction as a Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) flight landed at the Gwadar Airport, making it the first commercial aircraft to arrive at the facility.

He said that with the inauguration of Gwadar Airport, another milestone has been achieved to link Gwadar with Central Asia and East Asia besides providing linkage between the Middle East and Gulf states.

The prime minister said that the opening of Gwadar International Airport would realise the dream of development of Pakistan and the region through the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

“Today, we have come closer to fulfilling the joint commitment of the Chinese President Xi Jinping and Mian Muhammad Nawaz Sharif for the development of Pakistan and the region through the CPEC. By the grace of Allah, CPEC started during the tenure of Nawaz Sharif and is now achieving important milestones under his leadership,” he remarked.

Prime Minister Shehbaz said that the entire nation was grateful to the Chinese leadership and the government as the country always played a key role in the development of Pakistan.

He also lauded Defence Minister Khawaja Muhammad Asif, Balochistan Chief Minister Sarfaraz Bugti and his government, security personnel and military leadership for their tireless efforts to ensure the completion of the airport.—APP

<https://pakobserver.net/operationalisation-of-gwadar-airport-a-milestone-to-strengthen-regional-connectivity-pm/>

The Express Tribune

'Integrate Uraan into CPEC phase 2'

Experts highlight significance of structural reforms, Chinese collaboration

KARACHI: To promote prosperity and eliminate abject poverty, economic nationalists urged the government to form think tank corridors and incorporate all 5Es of Uraan Pakistan in the second phase of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

The five-year national economic transformation plan titled Uraan Pakistan, was recently launched by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif. It focuses on the 5Es; Exports, E-Pakistan, Environment & Climate Change, Energy & Infrastructure, and Equity & Employment.

Experts said that the government has introduced Uraan, for the quick macroeconomic revival through different but integrated efforts. However, they fear that without introducing meaningful structural reforms in the economy, industry, productive channels, tax, energy, law and order situation, and political stability, it may not deliver the desired goals of achieving

the targets set for exports, GDP, investments, and qualitative industrialisation. They stressed the need for a complete overhaul of the bureaucratic set-up, transforming it into a people-, business-, and investment-friendly entity. The nurturing of qualitative human capital through investments in higher education mainly in digitalisation, artificial intelligence, sciences, and space alongside hybrid agriculture, the establishment of special economic/export zones with incentives, joint ventures in electric vehicles, solar and wind panels, lithium batteries, and accelerating qualitative industrialisation and diversifying exports are essential.

Regional expert and Executive Director of the Centre for South Asia & International Studies (CSAIS) Islamabad, Dr Mehmoodul Hassan Khan said China has become Pakistan's largest investor, business ally, and trading partner since CPEC's inception. Although it is designed as a domestic programme through local resources, the success of Uraan depends heavily on China's constant and continued support, cooperation, and coordination in different key areas, mainly exports, E-Pakistan (digitalisation), climate change, infrastructure, and equity & empowerment.

"China has rich expertise and global supply chains in these areas, enabling the government of Pakistan to achieve these targets under the flagship of Uraan, said Khan adding that, "Close liaison with the Chinese government and companies, and merging these areas with CPEC Phase 2.0 would be the right policy in the right direction." Dr Khan said achieving the targets of the 5Es would not be an easy task, but with a valid Chinese connection, the government would be better placed. "It is high time that all 5Es must be included in the CPEC Phase 2.0, making it a mutually beneficial proposition."

"Let us begin with the execution of the 5Es, which may be further developed, diversified, and determined through supporting and promoting the Chinese joint ventures in textiles, manufacturing, infrastructure development, digitalisation, modernisation, green technologies, hybrid services & agriculture sectors, along with close cooperation in metal & mining," he said. He said simply digitalisation, green technologies, the relocation of qualitative industries to Pakistan, the formation of an artificial intelligence corridor, and further banking and financial integration would be effective tools for achieving the targets of Uraan.

Dr Khan said, "There is an urgent need to form many corridors of think tanks, mainly in applied economics, public policy, good governance, climate change, International Relations (IR), marketing, investment, and financial disciplines to support Uraan. Thus, discarding blue-eyed think tanks would be essential. The Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) could lead and reach out to experienced economic think tanks for Uraan's success.

"Building the domestic economy without the help of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank, and operationalising and channelising Islamic banking and the economy, would be a value addition. The development of SMEs, youth entrepreneurship, promotion of start-ups, immense social development, and, last but not least, rigorous economic diplomacy would be vital for the quick revival of the economy," he said.

The policymakers should chalk out comprehensive economic, industrial, investment, fiscal, monetary, banking, and people-friendly policies gearing Uraan in the right direction through openness, transparency, accountability, good governance, rule of law, and the like. Moreover,

complete digitalisation of the national economy, elimination of the black economy, smuggling, the end of the phobia of unlimited discretions, the end of illegal land grabbing, the overhauling of the rotten justice system, and, last but not least, the true democratisation of wealth and resources disseminating the spirit of a fair, free, and merit-based society are essential. Speaking about making the Uraan programme successful, eminent economist Dr Shahid Hassan Siddiqui said enhancing the GDP ratio, growing domestic savings, ballooning quality investment, and making the taxation policy judicious and equitable can play a vital role in boosting the national economy.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2523413/integrate-uraan-into-cpec-phase-2>

January 22, 2024

Dawn News

Gwadar airport

THE air connectivity established by the inauguration of PIA flights between Karachi and Gwadar is a major step towards linking the southwestern port city with, and opening it up to, the rest of the country and by extension to the world at large for travel and trade.

Political rhetoric apart, the new state-of-the-art Gwadar International Airport, built by China at a cost of \$320m as a gift for the people of the region, is considered as vital a link for the development of the Makran region of Balochistan and the CPEC transport infrastructure initiative as the city's seaport.

Though it may appear to be a small step at the moment, the launch of two weekly commercial flights to and from Karachi could significantly enhance the accessibility of Gwadar, often referred to as the 'crown jewel' of the multibillion-dollar CPEC initiative, in terms of both freight and passenger traffic.

But, as they say, one swallow doesn't make a summer. There is no doubt that the airport, like the city's deep-water port, "symbolises a new era of prosperity for Gwadar and the rest of Balochistan" as the aviation and defence minister said to mark the commencement of commercial flight operations from there. The dream of economic progress, revival of tourism and industrialisation of Gwadar and the Makran region cannot be realised without addressing the challenges of security.

Indeed, the new airport can play a critical role in "connecting Pakistan to global markets and facilitating trade, tourism, and economic development". But its potential will remain suppressed till the time peace returns to the region, a hotspot of the Baloch insurgency. That the authorities have so far not been able to commercialise the Gwadar air or seaport underlines the reluctance on the part of both the local and Chinese investors to bet on the huge unrealised economic potential of the city, primarily on account of security challenges.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1886877>

Daily Times

SZABIST's students visit China-Pakistan study centre at ISSI

A delegation of Media Sciences students from Shaheed Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto Institute of Science and Technology (SZABIST), led by Amir Jahangir, Adjunct Professor of Practice – Media Sciences, on Tuesday visited the China Pakistan Study Centre (CPSC) at the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI). Pakistani cuisine recipes

The delegation was warmly welcomed by Dr. Talat Shabbir, Director of the China Pakistan Study Centre, who provided an insightful briefing on the Center's operations, its role in narrative-building, and ongoing research aimed at strengthening

the strategic partnership between China and Pakistan. His presentation also highlighted the scope and research initiatives undertaken by the Center to support stakeholders of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), emphasizing its importance for the future of bilateral cooperation, said a press release issued here.

During the visit, the students explored the China Corner and ASEAN Corner in the ISSI Library. These dedicated sections, rich with knowledge resources, aim to promote understanding of regional cooperation and the evolving dynamics of China's engagement with Pakistan and Southeast Asia. Dr. Talat encouraged the students to take full advantage of the ISSI's extensive library and digital resources for their research and academic projects.

In the interactive session, the students underscored the importance of utilizing platforms like TikTok and other social media tools to engage the youth. They suggested that such platforms could help disseminate knowledge, raise awareness about the Center's work, and make its activities more accessible to younger audiences.

Amir Jahangir praised the visit as an invaluable learning opportunity for students, emphasizing the critical role of media professionals in narrative-building and public diplomacy. He noted that such interactions expose students to the practical intersection of strategic communication, policy, and governance. Pakistani cuisine recipes

The visit concluded with an engaging discussion on the role of media in fostering stronger bilateral relations, leaving the students inspired to contribute actively to narrative-building efforts.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1258420/szabists-students-visit-china-pakistan-study-centre-at-issi/>

Chinese investment boosts inward FDI in first half of FY2024-25

Pakistan has seen an increase in inward Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) during the first half of FY 2024-25, with inflows reaching \$1,329 million compared to \$1,107 million during the same period in the previous fiscal year, according to the latest data from the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP).

This represents a 20% year-on-year increase, reflecting growing investor confidence and heightened economic activity in the country.

Experts largely attribute this upward trend to Chinese investors, with investments from Chinese mainland totaling \$535.5 million, marking a 48.2% increase from \$361.5 million in the first half of FY 2023-24 and accounting for approximately 42.9% of Pakistan's total inward FDI.

Professor Dr. Zahid Anwar, an expert on Pakistan-China relations, told Gwadar Pro that China is leading the way in FDI, and its investment has fostered "trust among other international investors, encouraging them to explore opportunities in Pakistan."

He highlighted that the Free Trade Agreements (FTAs I & II) between the two countries are playing a key role in expanding trade and investment, with "Chinese investors continuing to support Pakistan's economic growth."

Dr. Khalid Mehmood Alam, Assistant Professor at the China Study Center at Karakoram International University (KIU) in Gilgit, told Gwadar Pro that Chinese investment is driving infrastructure development, particularly in the roads, railways, and energy sectors, which will significantly enhance Pakistan's connectivity and long-term economic growth. "The industrial revolution through technology transfer, along with increased employment opportunities, is another major contribution of Chinese investment," he noted. Dr. Alam further emphasized that ensuring a "secure and safe environment for Chinese investors" in Pakistan will attract even more investment in the future.

Dr. Furqan Rao, an expert on China and a Ph.D. graduate from Tsinghua University, told Gwadar Pro that trade activities between China and Pakistan are gaining momentum post-COVID-19, with Phase II of CPEC expected to bring further investment across multiple sectors, including agriculture and food. He also pointed out the growing presence of Chinese businesses in Pakistan, including new restaurants and food centers, which not only introduce Chinese cuisine but also generate employment opportunities for locals.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1258535/chinese-investment-boosts-inward-fdi-in-first-half-of-fy2024-25/>

Pakistan Observer

PAL hosts launching of Urdu translation of three Chinese book

The Pakistan Academy of Letters (PAL) on Tuesday organized launch of three Chinese books into Urdu. The event titled 'Pak-China Classical Literature' was attended by a large number of literature loves, writers and poets of the twin cities.

The books that have been translated into Urdu include 'Afsha-e-Raaz' or 'Revelation of a Secret (a novel), 'Dariya-e-HolankiKahaniyan' or 'Tales of Hulan River' (short stories) and 'Mai HuaMulanHoon' or 'I am HuaMulan' (Chinese folk legend).

Afsha-e-Raaz has been translated into Urdu by Muhammad Asim Butt who himself is a well-known fiction writer. The second book 'Dariya-e-HolankiKahaniyan' is rendered into Urdu by Inam Nadeem while the third book 'Mai HuaMulan Hoon' is translated by Mujadid Al-Arz.

Former Chairman of the PAL and senior literary figure of Pakistan, Iftikhar Arif presided over the event while newly-arrived Chinese Cultural Counselor, Mr. Chen Ping, was the Chief Guest.

The guests of honor included Dr. Waheed Ahmed, Syed Abrar Hussain, and Mr. Zafar Bakhtawari.

Chairperson of the PAL Dr. Najiba Arif in her welcome address briefed the guests about the academy's role in fostering Pak-China literary and cultural relations.

She shared that the PAL had completed the translation of three Chinese books and soon two more would be published under Memorandums of Understanding (MoU) with China.

Similarly, China has published translations of 5 Pakistani books into Chinese language. Such efforts, she noted, would aid the people of both nations in understanding each other through literature.

Chinese Cultural Counsellor, Chen Ping who has recently assumed his position expressed gratitude for the invitation saying the first invitation after taking over the charge was from the PAL.

He stated that the future of Pakistan and China was inter-connected and emphasized the concept of an emerging Pak-China community with a shared future, where culture and literature can play a vital role. He commended the Academy for its significant efforts in translating Pak-China classical literature.

Iftikhar Arif in his presidential address underscored the importance of literary ties between Pakistan and China and emphasized the need to revive exchange of visits between writers of both countries.

He highlighted the contributions of writers who, after visiting each other's countries, documented their experiences in travelogues. He also praised the Pakistan Academy of Letters for selecting the best individuals for the translation of Chinese literature, acknowledging its commendable efforts.

Dr. Waheed Ahmed, Syed Abrar Hussain, and Mr. Zafar Bakhtawari also highlighted the importance of Pak-China relations and emphasized the need to benefit from each other's literary heritage. He applauded the PAL for its contributions.

<https://pakobserver.net/pal-hosts-launching-of-urdu-translation-of-three-chinese-books/>

CPEC's Journey in Pakistan: Successes, Challenges and the Way Forward

Muhammad Mohsin Iqbal

The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) was launched as a transformative initiative, envisioned as a cornerstone of regional connectivity and a catalyst for Pakistan's economic development. This monumental project, a flagship of China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), encompasses a wide array of infrastructure, energy and trade-related ventures aimed at enhancing Pakistan's economic potential. It holds the promise of alleviating Pakistan's longstanding challenges by modernizing its infrastructure, bridging the energy deficit and boosting trade. Despite its immense potential, however, CPEC has not yet yielded the

anticipated results. A closer examination reveals the reasons behind its slow progress and the measures needed to unlock its full potential.

CPEC is often described as a ray of light for Pakistan's struggling economy. The initiative has already brought significant investment in energy projects, road networks and the development of Gwadar Port, promising to create employment opportunities, reduce the energy shortfall and enhance trade connectivity. For example, the completion of energy projects under CPEC has added over 5,000 MW of electricity to Pakistan's national grid, significantly reducing load-shedding and fostering industrial productivity. Infrastructure developments, such as the construction of the Multan-Sukkur Motorway, have improved connectivity within Pakistan and with neighboring regions. Gwadar Port, although still under development, has seen progress, with the operationalization of free zones and increased trade activities. If fully realized, CPEC could transform Pakistan into a regional trade hub, linking Central Asia, South Asia and the Middle East. It has the potential to elevate Pakistan's economic standing and provide a much-needed stimulus to its growth trajectory. However, the journey of CPEC has not been without challenges.

One of the primary reasons for the slow progress of CPEC is the inconsistency in policy implementation and lack of political stability. Frequent changes in government and shifting policy priorities have disrupted the momentum of various projects. Political instability often leads to delays in decision-making, mismanagement and a lack of continuity in vision, which are detrimental to long-term initiatives like CPEC. Additionally, bureaucratic hurdles, red tape and inefficient project management have further slowed progress.

Security concerns have also posed significant challenges to CPEC. The targeting of Chinese nationals and infrastructure projects by insurgent groups has created an atmosphere of insecurity. These incidents have not only put a strain on Pakistan-China relations but also raised concerns among potential investors about the safety of their investments. Ensuring the safety and security of personnel and assets involved in CPEC is paramount to regaining the trust of stakeholders and maintaining the project's momentum.

Economic challenges in Pakistan have also hindered the full realization of CPEC's potential. Rising inflation, a burgeoning fiscal deficit and a weakening currency have constrained the government's ability to finance and support ongoing projects. Furthermore, delays in payments to Chinese contractors and unresolved issues related to profit repatriation have caused friction between the two countries, leading to hesitations in further investment.

To address these challenges and ensure the complete and successful implementation of CPEC, several measures must be taken. Firstly, there is a need for a unified and consistent policy framework that transcends political changes. A bipartisan consensus on the strategic importance of CPEC is essential to safeguard the project from political disruptions. Governments must prioritize the long-term benefits of CPEC over short-term political gains and ensure that policy decisions are guided by national interest.

Strengthening the security apparatus is crucial for the success of CPEC. Establishing a robust security framework to protect infrastructure, personnel, and investments is non-negotiable. This includes enhancing the capacity of security forces, improving intelligence-sharing

mechanisms, and fostering cooperation with China to address security concerns. The creation of dedicated security forces, such as the Special Security Division for CPEC, is a step in the right direction, but further efforts are needed to eliminate threats to the project.

Economic reforms are also imperative to attract and sustain investments. The government must focus on improving the ease of doing business, reducing bureaucratic inefficiencies, and ensuring timely payments to contractors. Additionally, resolving issues related to profit repatriation and creating an investor-friendly environment will encourage Chinese and other foreign investors to contribute to CPEC's success.

Public awareness and support for CPEC are equally important. Misconceptions and skepticism about the project's intentions and benefits can hinder progress. Transparent communication and engagement with the public, as well as with local stakeholders, can help build trust and ensure that the benefits of CPEC are widely recognized and appreciated. Local communities must also be involved in decision-making processes and provided with opportunities to benefit from the project through employment, skills development, and infrastructure improvements.

Another crucial aspect is the timely completion of Special Economic Zones (SEZs) under CPEC. These zones are designed to attract investments in manufacturing and industry, creating jobs and boosting exports. However, their development has been slow due to land acquisition issues, lack of infrastructure, and inadequate coordination between federal and provincial authorities. Addressing these bottlenecks and expediting the establishment of SEZs should be a top priority.

Furthermore, the success of CPEC depends on fostering a balanced and mutually beneficial partnership between Pakistan and China. Both countries must address issues of transparency, equity and sustainability to ensure that the benefits of the project are shared fairly. Regular dialogue and collaboration between the two governments can help resolve disputes and align their visions for CPEC's future.

CPEC remains a beacon of hope for Pakistan's economic revival and development. Despite the challenges it faces, its potential to transform the country's infrastructure, energy landscape, and trade dynamics is undeniable. By addressing the impediments to its progress and adopting a proactive and collaborative approach, Pakistan can unlock the full potential of CPEC and pave the way for a brighter and more prosperous future. The journey may be challenging, but with commitment, vision, and perseverance, CPEC can truly become the game-changer it was envisioned to be.

<https://pakobserver.net/cpecs-journey-in-pakistan-successes-challenges-and-the-way-forward/>

CPEC PHASE 2.0 AND AMMAN 2025: Prospects of Collaboration & Way Forward

Dr Mehmood Ul Hassan Khan

The economic stability, sustainability and further diversification of Pakistan's macro-economy heavily depend upon the success of CPEC Phase 2.0. It would be one of the main stimulators of geo-economics securing vested interests of the country, especially the immense development of the blue economy, maritime security and maritime tourism in the days to come.

It is obvious that rapidly emerging geopolitical and geostrategic scenarios in the region and beyond the role of Pakistan Navy (PN) has become permanently paramount in the region and hopefully, AMAN-2025 will further strengthen its role in the days to come.

Unfortunately, global trade has become hostage to global geopolitics which has polluted its waters and oceans too. The ongoing Russia-Ukraine conflict has ruined blue economy and maritime security in Black Sea, Iranian threat to disturb the Strait of Hormuz in case of any unpleasant western sanctions or aggression, emergence of the Asia NATO in the Indo-Pacific Region, besieging of South China Sea/Taiwan by the allied/anti-China forces, massive militarization in the South China Sea, the US China containment policy in the shape of the formation and activation of Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (QUAD) and the trilateral security partnership between Australia, the United Kingdom and the United States (AUKUS) are creating hurdles for the safety and security of the blue economy. Even energy and food security have been further compromised. Additionally, India's increasing naval force and obsession of nuclear submarines has encouraged the PN to take all possible measures to protect its vested interests.

The success of CPEC Phase 2.0 is closely tied to the Pakistan Navy's (PN) commitment to safeguarding the country's blue economy, coastal areas, and waters. The PN's role in securing CPEC's commercial and security interests is critical and the AMAN-2025 exercise will further enhance its capabilities and preparedness. With the theme "Together for Peace," AMAN 2025 aligns with the CPEC Phase 2.0's goals of promoting the prosperity of Gwadar seaport, boosting socio-economic, geopolitical and geostrategic stability. It positions the PN to strengthen maritime security and counter Indian geopolitical manoeuvres, supporting the development of the blue economy and securing Pakistan's maritime interests.

AMAN-2025, set to host over 50 countries, will solidify the PN's commitment to protecting sea lanes and combat illicit activities in the Indian Ocean. This exercise will foster regional cooperation, enhance interoperability and unite efforts against maritime terrorism and piracy. Scheduled for February 7-11, 2025, in Karachi, the event will feature the AMAN Dialogue, where naval and defence leaders will exchange ideas on global and regional security challenges, offering innovative solutions to evolving threats at sea.

Obviously, the Aman 2025 maritime exercise will further ensure maritime security in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR) aiming to promote international cooperation among regional and extra-regional naval forces enhancing strategic preparedness to grapple with an array of maritime security challenges emanating from the Indian Ocean. Thus it vividly reflects the

resolve of the country to protect vital sea lanes, curb maritime threats and ensure a secure-prosperous region which would also be beneficial for the further development of CPEC Phase 2.0 and its strategic expansion in the days to come.

It seems that the emerging geopolitics of the Sea Lines of Communication (SLOCs) extending from Australia's Western Coast in East to strategically significant Mozambique Channel in West, the Arabian Sea and Persian Gulf are disturbing the geo-economics of Asia, Africa, Europe, and beyond which needs to be rectified and successful holding of the AMAN-2025 would give an ideal platform of joint deliberation of forming a joint security system securing blue economies.

Additionally, the Indian Ocean has become an important maritime route holding 23 out of 100 key container ports in the world for easy and smooth oil supplies. It involves seven choke points including the Mozambique Channel, Sunda Strait and Lombok Strait. Malacca Strait, Suez Canal, Bab-el-Mandeb and Strait of Hormuz clearly demonstrate the strategic value of peace, stability and harmony in the region and beyond and hopefully the AMAN-2025 would be a giant step towards greater regional peace and prosperity. Pakistan's proximity to the Strait of Hormuz makes it one of the most pivotal littoral states of the Indian Ocean. More than 90 percent of the country's trade is sea-based, signifying its sheer dependence on the ocean for trade and commerce. The inception of the CPEC Phase 2.0 with its crown jewel Gwadar Seaport has tremendously augmented Pakistan's strategic significance and its stakes in IOR. In summary, maritime security has become a cornerstone of the PN national narrative consisting of anti-piracy, marine environmental degradation and smuggling and trafficking undermining safe and secure access to the region. It augurs well that AMAN-2025 will inaugurate AMAN Dialogue themed "Secure Seas, Prosperous Future," focusing on security challenges in the Indian Ocean including strategic competition, piracy, narco-trafficking, non-state actors, resource exploitation, climate change, emerging technologies like AI and unmanned systems, the blue economy and the need for global collaboration to ensure stability and prosperity. Thus the main objectives are to promote peace and regional cooperation, enhance interoperability with regional and extra regional navies, thereby acting as a bridge between the regions, displaying united resolve against terrorism and crimes in the maritime domain." To conclude AMAN 2025 stands for collaborative narrative towards peace in IOR. Moreover, the exercise is a testament to the Pakistan Navy's professional competence and staunch commitment to taking the lead against threats at sea. AMAN 2025 has become an effective instrument of 'Naval Diplomacy' bringing together navies from various regions of the world to increase mutual understanding, galvanize information sharing and further mutual preparedness against threats in maritime domain. The author suggests that the policy makers of Pakistan Navy and CPEC Phase 2.0 should chalk out a holistic and comprehensive policy further integrating resources and capacities for the strategic expansion of the CPEC, development of the blue economy, tourism, fisheries and, importantly, energy and food security.

<https://pakobserver.net/cpec-phase-2-0-and-amman-2025-prospects-of-collaboration-way-forward/>

Express News

جدید زرعی تربیت کیلئے طلباء کو چین میرٹ پر بھیجا جائے، وزیر اعظم کی ہدایت

وزیر اعظم شہباز شریف نے چین میں زرعی شعبے کی تربیت کے لئے بھیجے جانے والے طلباء کے انتخاب میں شفافیت اور میرٹ کو اولین ترجیح دینے کی ہدایت کرتے ہوئے کہا ہے کہ پاکستانی طلباء و طالبات کی چین میں جدید زرعی تربیت کا پورا خرچ حکومت پاکستان اٹھائے گی۔

وزیر اعظم آفس کے میڈیا ونگ سے جاری بیان کے مطابق وزیر اعظم محمد شہباز شریف کی زیر صدارت چین میں جدید زراعت کی تربیت کے حصول کے لئے جانے والے پاکستانی طلباء و طالبات کے حوالے سے جائزہ اجلاس ہوا۔

اجلاس میں وفاقی وزیر احسن اقبال، رانا تنویر حسین، احد خان چیمہ، چیئرمین ہاؤسنگ اور ایجوکیشن کمیشن اور متعلقہ اعلیٰ حکام نے شرکت کی۔

وزیر اعظم نے پورٹل کے ذریعے درخواستوں کی سکروٹنی کے دوران سلیکشن کے معیار پر پورا نہ اترنے والے طلباء و طالبات کی شکایات کے ازالے کے لئے کمیٹی بنانے کی ہدایت کی اور کہا کہ چین پاکستان کا دیرینہ دوست ہے جس کی زرعی شعبے میں ترقی بے مثال ہے۔

اپنے دورہ چین کے دوران چینی قیادت سے زرعی شعبے میں پاکستانی طلباء کی جدید تربیت کی درخواست کی تھی۔ اللہ کے فضل و کرم سے بہت جلد طلباء و طالبات کا پہلا بیچ زراعت کے شعبے میں جدید تربیت کے لئے چین روانہ ہو گا۔

وزیر اعظم نے کہا کہ زرعی شعبے کی جدید تربیت کے لئے چین جانے والے طلباء و طالبات میں 10 فیصد خصوصی کوٹہ بلوچستان کے طلباء کے لئے مختص کیا گیا۔ چینی قیادت اور چینی یونیورسٹیوں کے شکر گزار ہیں کہ انہوں نے پاکستانی طلباء کو چین میں زراعت کی جدید تربیت کا موقع دیا۔

اجلاس میں وزیر اعظم کو بتایا گیا کہ زرعی شعبے سے تعلق رکھنے والے طلباء و طالبات نے شفاف طریقے سے پورٹل کے ذریعے درخواستیں جمع کروائیں۔ 1287 درخواستوں میں سے 711 طلباء و طالبات تربیت کے طے کردہ معیار پر پورے اترے۔

ان طلباء و طالبات میں بلوچستان اور گلگت بلتستان کے امیدوار بھی شامل ہیں۔ اجلاس کو مزید بتایا گیا کہ ان طلباء و طالبات کو دو بیچز میں چین بھیجا جائے گا۔

پہلی کھیپ میں 300 طلباء و طالبات آپاشی میں بہتری، مویشیوں میں بیماریوں کی تشخیص و نگرانی، مویشیوں کی افزائش نسل و جدید جینیات اور جدید بیجوں کی تیاری وان کی پراسیسنگ کے شعبوں میں تربیت کے لئے بھیجا جائے گا۔ طلباء و طالبات کی پہلی کھیپ مارچ 2025 میں چین روانہ ہوگی۔

اجلاس کو مزید آگاہ کیا گیا کہ 400 طلباء کی دوسری کھیپ رواں برس کے وسط میں چین بھیجی جائے گی جو زراعت میں جدید مشینری کے استعمال، فصلوں کی تیزی سے افزائش، زراعت میں جدید ٹیکنالوجی بشمول مصنوعی ذہانت کا استعمال اور پھلوں و سبزیوں کی پراسیسنگ کے شعبوں میں تربیت دی جائے گی۔

<https://www.express.pk/story/2744080/talaba-ko-cheen-bhejne-k-liye-merit-ko-tarjeeh-dene-ki-hidayat-2744080>

Nawaiwaqt News

سی پیک پاکستان کی تیز رفتار اقتصادی ترقی کا باعث بنے گا: ظفر اقبال

لاہور (کامرس رپورٹر) سی پیک پاکستان کی تیز رفتار اقتصادی ترقی کا باعث بنے گا، علاقائی سلامتی میں بھی اضافہ ہوگا۔ ظفر اقبال نائب صدر پاکستان چائنا جوائنٹ چیمبر آف کامرس نے گزشتہ روز اپنے دفتر میں منعقدہ میٹنگ میں سی پیک کو "تعاون، شراکت داری، رابطے اور مشترکہ خوشحالی کا ایک ماڈل" قرار دیا۔ وہ بی ٹی تعاون کی اہمیت پر بات کی جبکہ حکومت سی پیک کے دوسرے مرحلے کی منتقلی یقینی بنانے کیلئے کام کر رہی ہے جس سے پسماندہ علاقوں کی سماجی و اقتصادی SEZs بڑھانے کیلئے ترقی ہوگی۔ ظفر اقبال نے کہا پاکستان کیلئے چیلنجز متعدد ہیں جبکہ چین کی اگلی تبدیلی اچھی طرح سے جاری ہے، اور ایک "نئی معیشت" ابھر رہی ہے۔ اس تبدیلی کے ثمرات حاصل کرنے کیلئے ٹیم کو اب پاکستان میں سی پیک منصوبوں کے بروقت نفاذ کے مشکل کام کو پورا کرنے کیلئے تمام وسائل کو متحرک کرنا ہوگا۔ اس بار سی پیک کی کوآپریشن کو فروغ دینے پر مرکوز ہوگی۔ SEZs توجہ صنعتی تعاون کے ذریعے ترجیحی

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/lahore/2025-01-22/page-3/detail-32>

January 23, 2025

Daily Times

Pakistan eyes China's pineapple farming expertise

As Pakistan seeks to diversify its agricultural sector and boost exports, it stands to gain valuable insights from Xuwen County in southern China, which is renowned as the "Pineapple Capital of China."

With decades of expertise, Xuwen has transformed pineapple farming into a thriving industry, offering Pakistan an opportunity to adopt similar techniques for sustainable agricultural growth.

According to China Economic Net (CEN), the region produces over 1.4 million tons of pineapples annually. This success is attributed to advanced farming techniques, efficient supply chains, and government-backed initiatives that have empowered local farmers and positioned Xuwen as a leader in agricultural innovation.

"Pakistan, with its fertile lands and favorable climate, holds immense potential for pineapple cultivation.

By studying Xuwen's model, Pakistan can benefit in several ways. For example, Xuwen employs precision farming techniques, such as soil analysis, irrigation management, and pest control, which ensure high-quality crops. Introducing these practices in Pakistan could enhance yields and reduce post-harvest losses," according to Ghulam Qadir, Trade and Investment Counsellor at the Embassy of Pakistan in Beijing.

During his visit to this agricultural hub in Guangdong Province, he noted that Xuwen's cooperative model encourages small farmers to pool resources and negotiate better prices. This model could be replicated in Pakistan to empower rural communities. "By leveraging these techniques, Pakistan could reduce its reliance on traditional crops and boost its export potential, particularly in Middle Eastern and Central Asian markets.

This initiative aligns with Pakistan’s vision of agricultural modernization and economic diversification,” said Ghulam Qadir.

Pakistan’s pineapple industry is relatively underdeveloped compared to other agricultural sectors. Although certain regions, such as Sindh and southern Punjab, offer favorable climates for pineapple cultivation, the industry faces challenges due to insufficient awareness, lack of suitable varieties, and limited adoption of advanced farming techniques. Additionally, the absence of dedicated research and development, infrastructure, and government support hampers its growth. “Most of the pineapples consumed in Pakistan are imported, making the fruit relatively expensive for local consumers. In Sindh, approximately 16,000 metric tons of pineapples are grown annually, primarily in Thatta and Badin. However, with targeted investment in research, farmer training, and the introduction of high-yield varieties, the pineapple industry has significant potential for growth and could contribute to the country’s agricultural diversification,” experts stated. It is worth noting that Xuwen County is an important agricultural production base in Guangdong Province due to its flat terrain and fertile soil. The available area for crop planting covers over 110,000 hectares, while the area for aquaculture spans 8,800 hectares. This area forms an agricultural production model centered around pineapples, sugarcane, bananas, vegetables, and shell ginger.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1258792/pakistan-eyes-chinas-pineapple-farming-expertise/>

Pakistan Observer

Chinese show interest in investing heavily in PIEDMC’s industrial estates

Chief Minister Punjab’s recent visit to China is having a fruitful impact. Chinese investors have shown interest in investing heavily in PIEDMC’s industrial estates. A delegation of China’s leading company Beijing AI Force Technology visited the Quaid-e-Azam Business Park Sheikhpura managed by PIEDMC. Chairman Han Wei, Touseef Abbas, Liu JiKai, Li Wei Hua, and Guo Wei were included in the delegation. GM Business Development Amina Faisal briefed the delegation regarding the development works of Quaid-e-Azam Business Park and various investment options under the umbrella. The Chinese delegation expressed satisfaction with the infrastructure and standard of the Quaid-e-Azam Business Park. The Chinese delegation said that production plants of robotic machines and driverless tractors for the agricultural sector will be installed in the Quaid-e-Azam Business Park on an area of 60 acres, with an investment of billions of dollars. Talking to the delegation, Amina Faisal said that there are excellent investment opportunities and facilities in Punjab, especially under the umbrella of PIEDMC, due to which investing in Punjab is the top priority of serious industrialists. After the recent visit of Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz to China more investors are also roaming to Punjab.

<https://pakobserver.net/chinese-show-interest-in-investing-heavily-in-piedmcs-industrial-estates/>

Jang News

و قراقرم ہائی وے فیئر 2 پر رواں برس کام شروع ہو گا: احسن اقبال ML1 ریلوے

وفاقی وزیر منصوبہ بندی، ترقی اور خصوصی اقدامات احسن اقبال نے کہا ہے کہ 2025ء میں ایم ایل 1 کراچی تا پشاور اور قراقرم ہائی وے فیئر 2 پر کام کا آغاز کیا جائے گا۔ انہوں نے پاکستان نیشنل کونسل آف دی آرٹس میں چینی اسپرنگ فیئٹیول کی تقریبات میں خطاب کرتے ہوئے کہا کہ ملک کے مختلف حصوں میں مکمل ہونے والے سی پیک فیئر 1 منصوبے پاکستان اور چین کی لازوال دوستی کی علامت ہیں، جیسے جیسے سی پیک کے دوسرے مرحلے میں کام آگے بڑھے گا اسی طرح یہ چین اور پاکستان کے ساتھ ساتھ خطے کے لیے فائدہ مند ہو گا۔ احسن اقبال نے کہا کہ وزیر اعظم شہباز شریف کا وٹن ہے کہ دنیا بالخصوص چینی آئی ٹی ماہرین کی مہارت کو استعمال کیا جائے اور پاکستانی نوجوانوں کو اس سے لیس کیا جائے تاکہ وہ دور حاضر کے تقاضوں پر پورا اتر سکیں۔ انہوں نے اس عزم کا اظہار کیا کہ چینی شہریوں کو ہر ممکن سہولیتیں اور سیکورٹی میا کی جائے۔ وفاقی وزیر کا یہ بھی کہنا ہے کہ دشمن اپنی مذموم سازشوں میں ناکام ہوں گے کیوں کہ دونوں ممالک کے درمیان باہمی تعلق اعتماد پر مبنی ہے

<https://jang.com.pk/news/1434041>

Nawaiwaqt News

سی پیک ٹو: چینی کمپنیوں کو پیداواری یونٹ پاکستان منتقل کرنے پر قائل کریگے: وزیر خزانہ

ڈیووس (نوائے وقت رپورٹ + این این آئی) وزیر خزانہ سینیٹر محمد اورنگزیب نے کہا ہے کہ سی پیک فیئر ٹو میں حکومت ٹو حکومت کی بجائے بزنس ٹو بزنس پر توجہ مرکوز رہے گی۔ سی پیک فیئر ٹو میں چینی کمپنیوں کو پیداواری یونٹس پاکستان منتقل کرنے پر قائل کیا جائے گا۔ محمد اورنگزیب نے ورلڈ اکنامک فورم کے دوران ترقی پذیر معیشتوں پر عالمی قرضوں کے بڑھتے ہوئے بوجھ کے موضوع پر اعلیٰ سطح کے مذاکرے سے بطور میٹلسٹ خطاب کیا۔ وزیر خزانہ نے کہا کہ پاکستان کا سب سے بڑا مسئلہ کرنٹ اکاؤنٹ اور فنسل اکاؤنٹ کا جڑواں خسارہ رہا ہے۔ فنسل خسارے کی سب سے بڑی وجہ 9 سے 10 فیصد غیر پائیدار ٹیکس ٹوجی ڈی پی شرح ہے۔ حکومت ڈھانچا جاتی اصلاحات کے باعث ٹیکس ٹوجی ڈی پی شرح کو 13 فیصد تک لے جانے، اپنے اخراجات میں کمی اور قرضوں کی ادائیگی کا حجم کم کرنے کے لیے کوشاں ہے۔ اپنا گھر ٹھیک کیے بنا قرضوں کے بوجھ سے چھٹکارا پانا مشکل ہے۔ پاکستان میں قرض ٹوجی ڈی پی شرح 78 فیصد سے کم ہو کر 67 فیصد پر آگئی ہے، قرض لینا برائیاں نہیں قرض کا صحیح استعمال ضروری ہے۔ محمد اورنگزیب نے کہا کہ قرضوں سے خرچے چلانے یا سبسڈیز دینے کی بجائے پیداواری صلاحیت بڑھا کر برآمدات کو فروغ دینا چاہیے۔ جی ڈی پی کی شرح نمو 4 فیصد ہوتے ہی معیشت کے در آمدات پر احمصار کے باعث ادائیگیوں کا توازن بگڑ جاتا ہے۔ ادائیگیوں کے توازن کے بگڑنے سے ہر دفعہ آئی ایم ایف کے پاس جانا پڑتا ہے۔ ان کا کہنا تھا کہ پائیدار ترقی کا حصول پاکستان کی اولین ترجیح ہے۔ معیشت کے ڈی این اے کو تبدیل کر کے برآمدات کے ذریعے معیشت کو مستحکم بنانے کی پالیسی پر گامزن ہیں۔ وزیر خزانہ محمد اورنگزیب نے ڈیووس میں قطری ہم منصب علی احمد الکواری سے ملاقات کی۔ دونوں برادر ممالک کے درمیان سرمایہ کاری کے فروغ سے متعلق امور پر تبادلہ خیال کیا گیا۔ وزیر خزانہ محمد اورنگزیب نے بل اینڈ میٹلسٹ ایگٹس کی صدر برائے صنفی مساوات امتیازیدی سے ڈیووس میں ملاقات کی۔ ملاقات میں غذائیت، صحت اور پولیو کے خاتمے میں تعاون کے اقدامات پر تبادلہ خیال کیا گیا۔ وزیر خزانہ محمد اورنگزیب نے ورلڈ بینک کے ہیڈنگ ڈائریکٹر سے بھی ملاقات کی۔ جس میں پاکستان اور ورلڈ بینک کے درمیان تعاون پر تبادلہ خیال کیا۔

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/lahore/2025-01-23/page-1/detail-35>

ریش سنگھ اروڑہ کا دورہ چینی توصلیٹ، پاکستان چین کے باہمی امور پر گفتگو

لاہور (نیوز رپورٹر) صوبائی وزیر ریش سنگھ اروڑہ نے لاہور میں چینی توصلیٹ کا دورہ کیا جہاں انہوں نے چینی توصلیٹ جنرل ژاؤ شی رین سے ملاقات کی۔ ملاقات میں باہمی تعلقات کو مزید مستحکم کرنے کے عزم کا اعادہ، معاشی ترقی اور پاکستان و چین کے درمیان تعاون کے مختلف پہلوؤں پر بات چیت کی گئی۔ صوبائی وزیر نے پیشہ ورانہ تربیت، معیاری تعلیم اور ڈیجیٹل تعلیم کی اہمیت کو بھی اجاگر کیا۔ ریش سنگھ نے چینی توصلیٹ جنرل کو کرتار پور راہداری کے دورے کی دعوت دی۔ مذہبی اقلیتی برادریوں کی صلاحیتوں کو بڑھانے کیلئے چین کا تعاون ضروری ہے۔ چینی توصلیٹ جنرل نے پنجاب حکومت کی اقلیتی برادریوں کیلئے کئے گئے اقدامات کو سراہا۔ نواز شریف آئی ٹی سٹی، کینسر ہسپتال، ایئر ایبوی لینس سروسز، اپنی چھت اپنا گھر پروگرامز کی تعریف بھی کی۔ انہوں نے پنجاب حکومت

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/lahore/2025-01-23/page-2/detail-24>

چینی سرمایہ کاروں کا انڈسٹریل سٹیٹس میں بھاری سرمایہ کاری کا عندیہ

لاہور (کامرس رپورٹر) وزیر اعلیٰ پنجاب کے دورہ چین کے مثبت نتائج آنا شروع ہو گئے۔ چینی سرمایہ کاروں نے بیڈمک کے زیر انتظام انڈسٹریل سٹیٹس میں بھاری سرمایہ کاری کا عندیہ دیدیا ہے۔ چین کی معروف کمپنی بیجنگ اے آئی فورس ٹیکنالوجی کے وفد نے بیڈمک کے زیر انتظام قائد اعظم بزنس پارک شیخوپورہ کا دورہ کیا۔ وفد میں چیئر مین ہین وی، توصیف عباس، لیو جیکائے، لی وے ہو اور گیو دی شامل تھے۔ جی ایم بزنس ڈویلپمنٹ آف منہ فیصل نے وفد کو قائد اعظم بزنس پارک کے ترقیاتی کاموں اور سرمایہ کاری کے مختلف آپشنز کے متعلق بریفنگ دی۔

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/lahore/2025-01-23/page-3/detail-7>

پاک چین تعلقات ”بلندیوں سے بلند، شہد سے میٹھے“ ہیں: احسن اقبال

اسلام آباد (نمائندہ خصوصی) وزارت منصوبہ بندی، ترقی و خصوصی اقدامات نے چین کے سپرنگ فیسٹول کے حوالے سے تقریب کا انعقاد کیا، جس کا مقصد پاکستان اور چین کے درمیان دیرینہ دوستی کو اجاگر کرنا تھا۔

احسن اقبال اور پاکستان میں چین کے سفیر جیانگ زائیڈونگ نے شرکت کی۔

تقریب سے خطاب کرتے ہوئے وزیر احسن اقبال نے چین کے نئے قمری سال کی اہمیت کو اجاگر کیا، جو تجدید، غور و فکر اور امید کا موقع فراہم کرتا ہے اور جسے حکمت، عزم اور ترقی کی علامت تصور کیا جاتا ہے۔

انہوں نے پاکستان اور چین کے گہرے دوستانہ تعلقات کو سراہتے ہوئے کہا کہ یہ تعلقات ”بلندیوں سے بلند، سمندروں سے گہرے اور شہد سے میٹھے“ ہیں۔ وزیر منصوبہ بندی سی بیک (چائنا-پاکستان اقتصادی راہداری) کے تحت حاصل کی گئی کامیابیوں پر روشنی ڈالتے ہوئے کہا کہ یہ محض منصوبوں کا مجموعہ نہیں بلکہ پائیدار ترقی، علاقائی خوشحالی اور مشترکہ ترقی کا ایک وژن ہے۔

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/lahore/2025-01-23/page-6/detail-33>

January 24, 2024

Daily Times

First Lady visits AFIC, appreciates Chinese support in health sector

First Lady Aseefa Bhutto Zardari on Thursday visited the Armed Forces Institute of Cardiology and National Institute of Heart Diseases (AFIC-NIHD) and appreciated the Chinese assistance in modernizing the health sector. The First Lady was briefed by the Chinese Cardiology Expert team, headed by Professor Dr Pan Xiang Bin, about the advanced medical procedures for congenital heart diseases and structural heart diseases under ultrasound guidance, which were being performed for the first time only in AFIC-NIHD with the Chinese support, a President's Office news release said. Senator Saleem Mandviwalla, the Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan, Jiang Zaidong, and Commandant AFIC-NIHD, Major General Naseer Ahmad Samore, were also present on the occasion. Speaking on the occasion, the Chinese Ambassador said that China would extend such services to the province of Balochistan as well, besides offering training opportunities to Pakistani doctors to perform these procedures. He said that China would increase collaboration with Pakistan in the health sector. The First Lady extended her sincere gratitude to the Chinese government for its cooperation in the health sector. She also commended the management of AFIC-NIHD for providing state-of-the-art treatment to heart patients. The First Lady visited various wards, interacted with patients, and presented them with flowers. The Commandant of AFIC-NIHD also presented the First Lady with a commemorative shield.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1259061/first-lady-visits-afic-appreciates-chinese-support-in-health-sector/>

January 25, 2025

Daily Times

PIA's first int'l flight from Gwadar airport takes off to Muscat

Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) marked a historic milestone as it operated its first international flight from the new Gwadar International Airport to Muscat. According to a PIA spokesperson, the inaugural flight, PK-197, carried 39 passengers and departed on schedule, marking the official launch of international operations from the state-of-the-art facility. To begin with, PIA will operate a weekly flight from Gwadar to Muscat, catering to growing passenger demand and strengthening regional connectivity. Speaking on the occasion, PIA officials bid farewell to passengers at Gwadar airport and reaffirmed the national carrier's commitment to expanding its services to meet public needs and national aspirations. The Karachi-Gwadar PK-503 flight of the Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) touched down at the new state-of-the-art airport at 11:15am. The flight received water salute upon arrival. The flight, carrying 46 passengers, had left Karachi at 9:50 am.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1259396/pias-first-intl-flight-from-gwadar-airport-takes-off-to-muscat/>

Gwadar's Leap for Regional Connectivity

Muhammad Asif Noor

The recent inaugural flight to Gwadar International Port marks a significant milestone, not just for Pakistan's economic aspirations but for the strategic framework of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) under the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).

Situated strategically near the Strait of Hormuz, Gwadar's transformation into a regional trade and connectivity hub holds immense potential for fostering economic growth, enhancing regional integration, and advancing global trade routes. While challenges remain, the efforts of both nations to address these complexities reflect a shared determination to realize the broader goals of regional connectivity and economic prosperity.

Gwadar International Airport, developed with a \$230 million grant from China, is designed to handle large aircraft such as the Airbus A380 and boasts a 3,648-meter runway, making it the largest airport by area in Pakistan. Its strategic importance cannot be overstated – it links the port city to regional and global networks, enabling Gwadar to serve as a vital node in the global supply chain. The airport's operationalization complements Gwadar Port's capacity to handle cargo vessels and aligns with Pakistan's aspirations to emerge as a central trade hub connecting South Asia, Central Asia, and the Middle East. This infrastructural alignment not only bolsters trade but also enhances Pakistan's strategic leverage in regional geopolitics.

A critical element underpinning Gwadar's development is its strategic location. For China, Gwadar offers a direct link to the Arabian Sea, bypassing the vulnerable Malacca Strait and ensuring a secure trade route for energy imports and exports. This logistical advantage shows Gwadar's role as a linchpin in China's broader vision of maritime and overland connectivity under the BRI. For Pakistan, Gwadar is a gateway to reimagine its economic trajectory, enabling diversification of trade, fostering industrial development, and attracting foreign investment. The airport further augments this vision by facilitating seamless connectivity for cargo and passengers, creating opportunities for trade expansion and economic progress. Despite these promising developments, the road to Gwadar's success is not without challenges. The region's security dynamics remain a significant concern. Balochistan, where Gwadar is located, has faced sporadic insurgent activities that have occasionally disrupted progress on CPEC projects. Over 15,000 personnel have been deployed to safeguard CPEC infrastructure, reflecting the seriousness with which both Pakistan and China approach this issue. The operationalization of the airport brings an added layer of security complexity, but it also provides a critical logistical advantage for deploying resources swiftly to address any emergent threats. Pakistan's commitment to ensuring the safety of Chinese nationals and investments to aim for as a collaborative effort to mitigate security risks and sustain development momentum.

The integration of local communities into Gwadar's development narrative is essential for its long-term success. Through the revitalization of Gwadar, Baluchistan's challenges in healthcare, education, and basic infrastructure is expected to be addressed. Initiatives such as the Pak-China Friendship Hospital and vocational training centers are steps in the right direction, but there is a need for more targeted efforts to ensure that local populations benefit

directly from the economic opportunities created by CPEC projects. The operationalization of the airport, for instance, could open avenues for employment in logistics, aviation, and hospitality, creating a multiplier effect on the local economy. Prioritizing inclusive growth and addressing socio-economic disparities will be crucial in securing local support and sustaining development.

The collaboration between Pakistan and China in Gwadar's development reflects a broader vision of regional integration and connectivity. Premier Li Qiang's recent visit to Pakistan during SCO Summit and the agreements signed during his stay are the steps to diversify the cooperation between both nations to advancing the second phase of CPEC 2.0.

This phase focuses on industrial relocation, technological innovation, and agricultural modernization, all of which are critical for enhancing Pakistan's economic resilience.

The inauguration of the Gwadar airport, alongside these initiatives, is a shift from foundational infrastructure development to a focus on operationalizing projects and maximizing their impact.

The inaugural flight to Gwadar is a symbol of progress and a testament to the enduring partnership between Pakistan and China.

It represents the culmination of years of collaboration and the beginning of a new chapter in Gwadar's journey toward becoming a global trade and connectivity hub. The challenges that lie ahead – security, economic viability, and local integration – are significant but not insurmountable.

The commitment of both nations to addressing these issues through strategic planning, targeted investments, and collaborative efforts reflects their shared vision for Gwadar as a cornerstone of regional prosperity.

As the world becomes increasingly interconnected, projects like Gwadar highlight the transformative power of infrastructure in shaping economic and geopolitical landscapes. The operationalization of Gwadar International Airport is not just a milestone for Pakistan and China but a significant step toward realizing a vision of shared growth and cooperation. In the coming years, the success of this venture will serve as a benchmark for future initiatives under the Belt and Road Initiative, demonstrating how partnerships rooted in mutual benefit can unlock new possibilities for regions and nations alike.

The writer is Founder of Friends of BRI Forum, Senior Advisor to Pakistan Research Centre at Hebei Normal University in China, Co-Founder of the Alliance of China-Pakistan Research Centres, and Senior Fellow at the Centre for CPEC Studies at Kashi University in China.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1259279/gwadars-leap-for-regional-connectivity/>

Pakistan National Pavilion celebrates Silk Road E-commerce Carnival

As the Spring Festival, or Chinese New Year, approaches, the Pakistan National Pavilion at the Shanghai Waigaoqiao Free Trade Zone is hosting activities to mark the occasion and introduce Pakistani culture to a global audience.

From January 22 to January 24, the Pavilion is participating in the Silk Road E-commerce Carnival for Spring Festival through platforms such as Douyin (the Chinese version of TikTok) and others, China Economic Net (CEN) reported on Friday.

The carnival integrates Chinese New Year celebrations with an exhibition of Pakistani culture and products.

It features a variety of jewelry, handicrafts, and food items from Pakistan, highlighting the country's cultural heritage and resources for Chinese consumers.

The hybrid event, which includes both online and offline elements, provides insights into Pakistan's landscapes, traditions, and craftsmanship.

To engage consumers, the carnival includes interactive features such as live-streaming sessions with Pakistani artisans and entrepreneurs, who share their stories, demonstrate their skills, and present their products.

Additionally, visual materials are screened, and attendees have the opportunity to sample Pakistani snacks, offering a multi-sensory experience.

Promotions and discounts are also a key component of the event, aimed at increasing accessibility and affordability of Pakistani goods. Limited-time offers, flash sales, and special discounts on selected products are available during the carnival.

Taking place during the peak shopping season for Chinese New Year, the event is part of a broader trend in global e-commerce. More than 400 specialty products from over 90 brands across 17 Belt and Road Initiative countries have seen an increase in online sales. Participating countries include Pakistan, Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand, Vietnam, Singapore, Sri Lanka, and Uzbekistan, among others. Beyond commerce, the carnival serves as a platform for cultural exchange. By incorporating elements of Chinese New Year alongside Pakistani traditions, the event fosters mutual understanding. Traditional Chinese decorations are displayed, folk dances are performed, and stories and customs associated with the Spring Festival are shared. On December 4, 2024, the Chinese Spring Festival was inscribed on UNESCO's Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity. This designation highlights the festival's cultural significance, as it embodies values such as peace, harmony, and goodwill. "We are delighted to be part of this event," said Aqeel Chaudhry, head of the Pakistan National Pavilion. "It is a valuable opportunity to introduce Pakistani crafts and products to a broader audience, especially during such an important festive period in China."

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1259477/pakistan-national-pavilion-celebrates-silk-road-e-commerce-carnival/>

Pakistan Observer

Trump's era and Chinese wisdom

Dr Mehmood Ul Hassan Khan

AS expected the US President Donald Trump's inaugural speech has set new policies of international cooperation, engagement, trade, tariffs and human migration producing ripples in the markets and creating shock waves in many capitals around the globe. In his first speech Donald Trump pledged to rescue America from further decline, prioritising a crackdown on illegal immigration and portraying himself as a national saviour chosen by God. Trump's declaration of national emergency at the southern border would be a bold step, however, it would create social chaos and political uncertainty with regional countries as well. Thus Trump 2.0 would again implement his Mexico policy.

During his speech Trump also announced to declare a national energy emergency through putting an end to the green New Deal and revoking the electric vehicle mandate. It would start a new round of trade war between the US and China because renewable and development of green technologies, mainly solar and wind panels have become new drivers of Chinese openness, modernization, qualitative industrialization and last but not the least economic globalization and international cooperation. Moreover, global commitment towards carbon footprint and neutrality would be on the receiving end and will be further delayed and marginalized.

Furthermore, Trump emphasizing on following higher tariffs and taxes on foreign countries to enrich his citizens would backfire and ultimately disturb the regional as well as international trading system. He has certain plans to impose tariffs on Canada, Mexico, Brazil, China and many other countries thus international trade has become the easy prey of Trump's new tariff policy. High inflation, price hick and disruption in global supply chains would hit even the common citizen of the US and rest of the world in the days to come. Trump's announcement of establishing the brand new Department of Government Efficiency, stopping all government censorship, following of two genders policy and forging of a merit based society are salient features of his so-called revolutionary social development parameters starting a new debate among the US social activists and jurists terming it discriminatory and anti-development and human.

Additionally, Trump's passion for building the strongest military of the world has once again indicated a new arms race in the world; however, his pledges not to indulge any war or marital conflict should be appreciated. Nevertheless, the Israel-Palestine war and Russia-Ukraine conflict would test his promises and statesmanship in the days to come. One of the biggest surprises of his speech was changing the name of the Gulf of Mexico to the Gulf of America showing a paradigm shift in the US foreign policy further eroding norms and principles of the international law pertaining to sovereignty and territorial integrity. It seems that the Panama Canal issue would create a new hot debate in the international media and create further fuss in the bilateral relations between the US and China.

Moreover, Trump's announcement of space advancement, envisioning American astronauts planting the stars and stripes on Mars, has been labelled by strategists as a new round of a

global space race, diverting investments from social development to space exploration. Meanwhile, Ding Xuexiang, China's Vice Premier, addressing the World Economic Forum, criticized protectionism for escalating trade tensions and emphasized the importance of a "win-win" approach to global trade.

Highlighting China's easing of foreign investment restrictions and efforts to boost domestic consumption, Ding stressed that economic globalization, while challenging, is a universally beneficial process rather than a zero-sum game. He called for balanced trade, noting that China seeks competitive imports rather than trade surpluses.

As the IMF warns that Trump's tariffs could exacerbate trade tensions, lower investment and disrupt global supply chains, global policymakers must prioritize cooperation and mutual benefit to foster sustainable growth and shared prosperity.

In summary, Trump 2.0 has already changed rules of engagements, trade, tariffs and economic globalization further diminishing prospects of economic globalization reversing towards anti-globalization, isolation, protectionism, eclipsing effectiveness of the international law and organization and the US withdrawal from the WHO and climate change would be disaster for global health and controlling of global warming in the days to come.

However, the Chinese President Xi Jinping's telephonic conversation with Trump calling for greater progress in China-US relations at a new starting point would decrease trade tensions between the two countries.

Xi's highlighting China and the United States are two great countries that are pursuing their own dreams and are committed to making their people live a better life, vividly reflecting the strategic importance of mutual respect, cooperation and trust sharing extensive common interests and broad space for cooperation.

Thus mutual respect, trust, cooperation, should be the way forward in achieving mutual success and prosperity, and benefit both countries and the world.

Xi said the Taiwan question concerns China's national sovereignty and territorial integrity, expressing hope that the U.S. will handle it with extra prudence showing China's foreign policy guaranteeing national pride, sovereignty and territorial integrity.

Last but not least, China-US economic and trade relations should be mutually beneficial and win-win and confrontation and conflict should not be a choice.

Thus upholding the principles of mutual respect, peaceful coexistence, and win-win cooperation, strengthening collaboration, and doing more great, practical and good things for both countries and the world enabling China and the United States to continue moving forward along a course of stable, healthy, and sustainable development.

<https://pakobserver.net/trumps-era-and-chinese-wisdom/>

China play key role in Pakistan's digital transformation: Aurangzeb

Federal Minister of Finance and Revenue Muhammad Aurangzeb said that China has played a key role in Pakistan's digital transformation, which is necessary for sustainable economic development in the country.

Pakistan has the world's third largest population of freelancers, which would play significant role in future economy of Pakistan, the minister said.

Pakistan and China have a long-term and vibrant partnership, Finance Minister Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb told China Global Television Network (CGTN) on the sidelines of the World Economic Forum, said a press release issued here on Friday.

During an interview with CGTN at the World Economic Forum, Pakistan's Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb highlighted China's significant role in developing Pakistan's digital infrastructure.

The Finance minister said that the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) Phase-II will focus on the possibilities of transfer of Chinese industries to Pakistan for economic growth and promote export led growth.

He said there will be an effort to make Pakistan an export hub for Chinese industries and Pakistan would also play significant role in global economy.

China has always supported Pakistan in Artificial Intelligence (AI) and technology, financial assistance, investment in Pakistan, and transfer of technology and knowledge, Finance Minister said.

He emphasized the necessity of future collaboration, particularly through the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, and discussed how China's GDP growth in 2024 could impact their ongoing partnership.

"We have always learned from the thoughtful Chinese leadership and the fruits of mutual business partnerships will be prominent in the Phase-II of CPEC," he said.

The government of Pakistan is trying to launch the Panda Bond this year and "We are striving to access the worlds largest and deepest Chinese capital market."

He said the launch of the first 'Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) Digital Initiative' for Pakistan is a matter of honor for us and the government to take Pakistan's IT sector forward by learning from the experiences of China.—APP

<https://pakobserver.net/china-play-key-role-in-pakistans-digital-transformation-aurangzeb/>

Nawaiwaqt News

پاکستان کو چینی صنعتوں کیلئے برآمدی مرکز بنانے، کیپٹل مارکیٹ تک رسائی کی کوشش ہے: وزیر خزانہ

اسلام آباد (نمائندہ خصوصی) وزیر خزانہ سینیٹر محمد اورنگزیب نے ورلڈ اکنامک فورم کے موقع پر چائنا گلوبل ٹیلی ویژن نیٹ ورک سے گفتگو میں کہا ہے کہ پاکستان اور چین کے درمیان سرسبز و طویل مدتی شراکت داری قائم ہے، ہم نے پرخیال چینی قیادت سے ہمیشہ سیکھا ہے، سی پیک کے دوسرے فیڑ میں باہمی کاروباری شراکتوں کے ثمرات نمایاں ہوں گے، سی پیک فیڑ ٹو میں چینی صنعتوں کی پاکستان منتقلی کے امکانات پر توجہ ہوگی، پاکستان کو چینی صنعتوں کے لیے برآمدی مرکز بنانے کی کوشش ہو

گی، ہماری کوشش ہے کہ اسی سال پانڈا بانڈ کا اجرا ہو جائے، ہم دنیا کی سب سے بڑی اور گہری چینی کپٹل مارکیٹ تک رسائی کے لیے کوشاں ہیں، پہلے ایف ڈی آئی ڈی بیٹیل انٹی ایڈ کا پاکستان کے لیے اجراء ہارے لیے اعزاز کی بات ہے، ہم دوسروں کے تجربات سے سیکھ کر پاکستان کے آئی ٹی شعبے کو آگے لے جانے کے خواہاں ہیں، ڈی بیٹیل انفراسٹرکچر کی کامیاب منتقلی، سٹیٹل ٹیکنالوجی زونز کے قیام، فن ٹیک مواقع اور آئی ڈی ٹیکنالوجی کے لیے یہ اہم پیش رفت ہے۔ ڈیووس میں وفاقی وزیر خزانہ و محصولات، سینیٹر محمد اورنگزیب نے سینیٹر ڈچاٹر ڈی بیٹل کے گروپ چیف ایگزیکٹو مسٹر بل ونرز سے ملاقات کی۔ اس ملاقات میں پاکستان میں بینک کی موجودہ سرگرمیوں اور ان میں وسعت کے ممکنہ مواقع پر بات چیت کی گئی۔ دریں اثناء محمد اورنگزیب نے ڈیووس، سوئٹزرلینڈ سے لنک پر کی۔ اجلاس میں ریونیو ڈویژن اور وزارت غربت کے خاتمے و سماجی تحفظ کی جانب سے تفصیلی پریزنٹیشنز پیش کی گئیں، جن میں ان کے دائرہ کار، تنظیمی ڈھانچے، بجٹ مختص، اخراجات، اور عوامی خدمات پر اثرات کا جائزہ لیا گیا۔ ریونیو ڈویژن کی پریزنٹیشن میں فیڈرل بورڈ آف ریونیو (ایف بی آر) کے ٹرانسفار میشن پلان کے اہم پہلوؤں کو اجاگر کیا گیا، خاص طور پر کسٹمز ڈیپارٹمنٹ کو جدید بنانے کے لیے کی گئی کوششوں پر روشنی ڈالی گئی۔ یہ ٹرانسفار میشن پلان 19 ستمبر 2024 کو وزیر اعظم کی منظوری سے نافذ کیا گیا، جس کا مقصد آپریشنز میں بہتری لانا ہے، آڈیٹیشن اور ٹیکنیکی انضمام شامل ہے۔ کمیٹی کو ریونیو ڈویژن کی جانب سے آپریشنز کو ہموار کرنے کے لیے اٹھائے گئے اقدامات پر بریفنگ دی گئی، جن کو ”ختم ہونے والی پوسٹیں“ قرار دینا شامل ہے، جو 27 اگست 2024 (BS-20 سے BS-16) کا خاتمہ اور 27 آسامیوں (اور نیچے BS-18) میں 158 آسامیوں کے کابینہ کے فیصلے کے تحت کیا گیا۔ ایف بی آر کو درپیش چیلنجز کے پیش نظر، ریونیو ڈویژن نے اپنے فیلڈ فار میٹرز میں 60 فی صد خالی آسامیوں کے خاتمے کی شرط سے ایک بار کی چھوٹ کی تجویز پیش کی۔

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/lahore/2025-01-25/page-1/detail-22>

January 26, 2025

Daily Times

Foolproof security for Chinese nationals urged

Sindh Home Minister Zia-ul-Hassan Lanjar has taken notice of the Chinese investors' decision to approach the Sindh High Court, issuing instructions to the IGP Sindh to immediately appoint a senior inquiry officer for a comprehensive investigation into the matter. This is aimed at further strengthening the unwavering trust of Chinese investors in the Sindh Government and Sindh Police. He stated that the Sindh government is committed to ensuring the security of Chinese nationals according to the set SOPs (Standard Operating Procedures), and it is a top priority for the government to ensure all related matters and actions are properly executed. Therefore, it must be ensured that at the provincial level, the “foolproof security” of Chinese nationals involved in both CPEC and non-CPEC projects is a joint responsibility of the Sindh government, Sindh Police, and local sponsors or hosts. He further emphasized that the goal of the Sindh government and Sindh Police is to facilitate and provide security to Chinese investors through mutual cooperation. However, it is also essential that sponsors are regularly informed and that officers of the SPU (Special Protection Unit) take steps to monitor security measures.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1259651/foolproof-security-for-chinese-nationals-urged/>

Pakistani hairtail and aquatic products gain popularity in China

Pakistani aquatic products, particularly hairtail (a type of ribbonfish), are gaining increasing traction in the Chinese market.

According to the latest data from the General Administration of Customs of China (GACC), imports of frozen hairtail (HS Code 03038910) from Pakistan have risen by 27.6% in 2024, reaching USD 3,565,373, up from USD 2,793,326 in 2023. Commenting on this trend, Jessie Hao, International Trade Manager at Prestige International Trading Co., Ltd., said, “China’s demand for high-quality seafood is immense, with annual consumption of hairtail alone reaching up to 1 million tons.

Pakistani exporters are seizing this opportunity by offering a wide variety of nutritious and flavorful aquatic products that cater to the tastes of Chinese consumers.” Prestige International Trading Ltd, which has managed the Pakistan National Pavilion on JD.com for the past three years, has recently expanded its offerings to include aquatic products. The company’s inaugural shipment – comprising 53 tons of frozen hairtail and 22 tons of frozen shrimp – arrived from Karachi Port to Qingdao Port.

These products are now being sold through various offline channels, including restaurants, canteens, hotels, and wholesalers.

According to China Economic Net, in the future, Prestige plans to introduce smaller retail packs of shrimp for online sales, tapping further into the rapidly growing Chinese e-commerce market.

Pakistani hairtail is particularly popular for its tender texture and delicate flavor. Hao explained, “The fish’s silvery sheen and transparent corneas make it visually appealing. Its firm muscles and broad size are particularly attractive to Chinese consumers who favor larger fish fillets.” With competitive pricing and superior quality, Pakistani hairtail is filling a significant gap.

In addition to hairtail, Jessie Hao highlighted that other premium Pakistani aquatic products, such as shrimp, lobster, black tiger prawn, and grouper, are also in demand among Chinese consumers. Currently, 307 Pakistani aquatic enterprises are registered with the GACC for exports to China, some of which have been operating in the market since 2018.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1259739/pakistani-hairtail-and-aquatic-products-gain-popularity-in-china/>

Pakistan Observer

Trump, tariffs and China’s strategic patience

Dr Imran Khalid

PRESIDENT Donald Trump, never one to shy away from a headline-grabbing manoeuvre, announced January 21 that he’s mulling a 10 percent tariff on Chinese imports, potentially set to take effect February 1. This move, the latest salvo in the long-simmering trade spat between the world’s two largest economies, raises eyebrows and questions in equal measure. The proposed tariffs, ostensibly aimed at pressuring Beijing into a more US-friendly trade

posture, come against an ironic backdrop: China's exports, including those to the United States, have recently surged. This trend seems to contradict Trump's intended goal of curbing Chinese economic influence. During his re-election campaign, Trump upped the ante, threatening tariffs as high as 60 percent on Chinese goods. Such rhetoric fuelled an already heated trade war but has yet to yield the intended concessions. So, what's driving Trump's tariff threats now? Is it strategic posturing, or simply an effort to reclaim economic leverage? Clearly Trump is once again casting China as a central antagonist in America's economic and social struggles. Accusing Beijing of fuelling the fentanyl crisis by supplying precursor chemicals to US neighbours, Trump framed the addiction epidemic as a consequence of lax border enforcement and international indifference.

The rhetoric didn't stop there. Trump proposed a steep 25 percent tariff on imports from Mexico and Canada, accusing both countries of enabling illegal immigration and fentanyl trafficking into the United States. In tandem, he unveiled plans for an "external revenue service" to centralize collection of tariffs and foreign-derived revenue – a move that signals his continued belief in tariffs as a lever of economic power. Yet, the numbers paint a complex picture. By late 2024, Chinese exports to US companies had risen 4 percent year-over-year, highlighting Beijing's resilience in the face of punitive trade measures. Meanwhile, the trade imbalance remains staggering: Chinese exports to the US reached \$401 billion in 11 months in 2024, while American goods to China totalled just \$131 billion. Trump's escalating accusations against China, combined with his ambitious tariff strategy, reflect a broader effort to realign global trade – though it remains unclear who will blink first in this high-stakes standoff. In the chess game of global trade, tariffs are a double-edged sword, and Donald Trump is no stranger to wielding them. His latest proposal to slap tariffs on all Chinese imports promises to target every product imaginable, from everyday essentials to niche industrial goods. While Trump touts this strategy as a way to protect American interests, the ripple effects could drive inflation higher, leaving US consumers to bear the burden.

Take ship-to-shore cranes, for instance – critical to US infrastructure and entirely imported from China. A 25% tariff on these cranes has already added \$131 million in costs to American ports. With no domestic alternatives, industries reliant on such imports find themselves trapped, unable to shift demand or dodge price hikes. It is a harsh reminder that protectionist policies often hit closer to home than intended. Meanwhile, Beijing appears unfazed, playing a patient and calculated game. The Belt and Road Initiative and deeper partnerships with BRICS nations are part of a broader strategy to reduce reliance on the US market. As China diversifies its trade network, its willingness to absorb the tariff hit seems increasingly unlikely. The question remains: How long can the US sustain this high-stakes trade war before consumers and industries alike demand a new strategy? For now, the clock is ticking.

As Trump's trade war escalates, American businesses face increasing difficulty finding alternatives to Chinese imports. Extending tariffs to key trading partners, like the EU, Canada or Mexico, could raise import costs significantly, creating a ripple effect with few affordable options. The already sanctioned Russian market further limits viable suppliers and previous tariffs on Canadian and Mexican steel drove US iron and steel prices up by 17.7% in just

eight months. This results in a zero-sum game for American consumers, who face higher costs or limited access to goods, regardless of origin. Meanwhile, China's economic resilience presents an uncomfortable truth: the trade war is not turning the tide as intended. In 2024, China's exports surged by 10.7% in December, totalling \$3.58 trillion for the year, up nearly 6% from 2023. This led to a record trade surplus of \$992 billion, a 21% increase from the previous year. These figures reveal China's ability to counter US tariffs while diversifying its trade partners, highlighting the limitations of the trade war approach and underscoring the volatility of global trade dynamics.

This upward trajectory underscores Beijing's success in countering US policies. With unilateral tariffs and protectionist measures sowing distrust, China is actively diversifying its trade partners. Initiatives like the Belt and Road and strengthened ties with emerging economies bolster its independence from American markets. While this temporary surge in trade benefits both economies in the short term, it reveals the volatility of a system increasingly beset by competition and discord. The long game, it seems, is being redefined – and not in Washington's favour. As Donald Trump prepared for his second inauguration ceremony, the White House facilitated a phone call with Chinese President Xi Jinping – a carefully orchestrated gesture of diplomacy. President Xi expressed hope for a “good start” to the China-US relationship, emphasizing the importance of respecting “each other's core interests” despite inevitable differences. For Beijing, the focus appears to remain internal. China seems unfazed by the return of Trump's mercurial leadership. So far, the state media has adopted a measured tone, reflecting Beijing's preference for a steady course over reacting to external unpredictability. Apparently, China's strategy is patient and deliberate. Recent interactions suggest a willingness to let Trump make the first move, matching his actions with calculated responses. While the United States enjoys advantages in many arenas, time favours China. With a four-year timeline limiting Trump's ambitions, President Xi Jinping has the luxury of playing the long game.

<https://pakobserver.net/trump-tariffs-and-chinas-strategic-patience/>

The News

Strict measures ensured for security of Chinese

Sher Ali Khalti

LAHORE: In a detailed security initiatives the Punjab government has intensified its efforts to ensure the safety of more than 2,000 Chinese residing across the province.

According to a joint report by the Special Branch (SB) and Special Protection Unit (SPU), more than 9,000 security personnel have been deployed exclusively for the purpose, signifying Pakistan's commitment to upholding strong bilateral ties with China. The government emphasised its resolute stance on fostering a safe, uninterrupted, and welcoming environment for all foreign nationals living or visiting in the country. Enhanced security protocols, especially at critical points such as airports, are under review, alongside discussions on leveraging advanced technologies to bolster safety measures. In a statement issued by the government of Pakistan, the administration highlighted its priorities, asserting that the safety and well-being of all nationals, both local and foreign, remain paramount. The

statement stressed that restrictions, if imposed, are minimal, temporary, and solely introduced when absolutely necessary to support routine security protocols. Foreigners are encouraged to respect local traditions, laws, and cultural norms and plan their activities accordingly.

Moreover, the statement added that visitors facing any difficulties can directly liaise with local authorities or law enforcement to have their concerns promptly addressed. Efforts have been made to ensure effective communication and collaboration between law enforcement agencies, hosting organisations, and foreign missions in Pakistan. The SPU and other specialised units have consistently demonstrated a high level of professionalism and dedication.

Their contributions have enabled numerous visiting and temporary resident foreigners to operate in Pakistan with ease and security. Additionally, the Chinese have played a pivotal role in strategic initiatives such as the CPEC.

Their involvement underscores the importance of creating a protective framework that accommodates these partnerships. Reports regarding specific security challenges or grievances raised by Chinese nationals have been taken seriously by the authorities concerned.

Investigations are underway to establish the facts and implement tailored measures to resolve these issues effectively. Officials also cautioned against malicious efforts by adversarial elements seeking to tarnish Pakistan's public sentiment or the integrity of its security protocols. Such actions are deemed attempts to undermine the significant progress made in ensuring a stable and protected environment for all. As Pakistan strengthens its ties with China, the safety of the Chinese working or residing in the country reflects a commitment to shared development and cooperation.

The Punjab government has vowed to maintain a vigilant approach, ensuring that its actions align with both national and international expectations of security and hospitality. This reinforced security framework signifies more than just protection—it's a testament to Pakistan's vision of fostering global alliances through proactive measures and unwavering dedication.

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=378928>

China urged to lead Asia's shift to renewable energy

KARACHI: Civil society groups from Pakistan, Bangladesh, Indonesia, the Philippines and India have called on China to lead Asia's transition from fossil fuels to renewable energy (RE), emphasising the region's energy access challenges and vulnerability to the climate crisis.

Leaders of Asian movements noted that China, as the world's largest producer and supplier of renewable energy technologies, particularly solar and wind, is uniquely positioned to spearhead this transition. A statement issued by the Policy Research Institute for Equitable Development (PRIED) on Saturday underscored China's potential role in accelerating the shift.

"China is in a vital and unique position to lead Asia's rapid and just transition from fossil fuels to 100 per cent renewable energy systems," said Lidy Nacpil, coordinator of the Asian

Peoples' Movement on Debt and Development. "China produces over 70 per cent of the global supply of solar and wind technology and has significantly reduced their costs. It also boasts one of the highest growth rates in the RE share of its electricity mix and has substantial financial resources to support investments in a just energy transition. However, it still needs to phase out coal power in its domestic energy production, presenting both a challenge and an opportunity for China to take on a more active leadership role in Asia and globally."

Pius Ginting, coordinator of Action for Ecology & People's Emancipation (AEER) in Indonesia, highlighted the importance of integrating renewables into energy systems and providing significant financing to enable a just transition. "Harmful fossil fuels must be rapidly phased out," he said. "China's investment in Indonesia's nickel industry, which relies on coal power plants with a capacity of about 9,000MW, is harmful to both Chinese and Indonesian workers."

Ian Rivera, coordinator of the Philippine Movement for Climate Justice, urged China to establish strategic partnerships with sub-national governments in developing countries to accelerate renewable energy development. "This would drive energy transitions aligned with the Paris Agreement commitments," he added.

Sharif Jamil, head of Waterkeepers Bangladesh, called for greater technology transfer and financial support from leading renewable energy producers like China. "Bangladesh has immense potential for renewable energy," he said. "China should rapidly scale up renewable energy financing and equipment supply, with stronger bilateral engagement to ensure a smooth transition to sustainable power production and economic growth."

"Renewable energy is not just a solution to the climate crisis," said Badar Alam, CEO of PRIED in Pakistan. "By converting untapped solar and wind energy resources into impactful projects, we can transform energy systems to empower communities, drive economic growth, and end our dependence on fossil fuels."

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=378710>

Express News

پاک-چین اسٹریٹجک تعاون سے باہمی فائدے میں اضافہ ہو گا، چینی سفیر

پاکستان میں چین کے سفیر جیانگ زیڈونگ نے کہا ہے کہ چین پاکستان کے ساتھ ترقیاتی حکمت عملی میں مزید ہم آہنگی کا عمل جاری رکھے گا تاکہ باہمی سود مند تعاون مزید گہرا کیا جاسکے۔

سرکاری خبر ایجنسی اے پی پی کی رپورٹ کے مطابق اسلام آباد میں چینی نئے سال کے جشن کی تقریب سے خطاب کرتے ہوئے چینی سفیر جیانگ زیڈونگ نے کہا کہ چینی ایک ساتھ یہ جشن مناتے ہیں، یہ تعاون سی بیک کے جدید ورژن کو بھی فروغ دے گا اور نئے دور میں مشترکہ مستقبل کے ساتھ مزید قریبی چین۔ پاکستان کیونٹی کے تعلقات میں تیزی آئے گی۔

انہوں نے کہا کہ سی بیک منصوبے اور غیر سی بیک منصوبے دونوں تجارتی تعاون کے منصوبے اور ترقیاتی تعاون کے منصوبے نہ صرف پاک-چین تعاون کی پختگی کی عکاسی کرتے ہیں بلکہ یہ چین اور پاکستان کے مابین ہمہ جہت عملی تعاون کی وسعت کو بھی ظاہر کرتے ہیں۔

ان کا کہنا تھا کہ چین کی معیشت نے اپنے اہم متوقع اہداف اور مواقع کو آسانی سے حاصل کر لیا ہے، معیشت کے حجم میں اضافہ ہوا ہے، ڈھانچے کو بہتر بنایا گیا ہے اور نئی رفتار سے چلایا گیا ہے۔

چینی سفیر نے کہا کہ چین نے اعلیٰ معیار کے بیلٹ اینڈ روڈ تعاون کو فروغ دیا ہے، اب تک 155 ممالک بیلٹ اینڈ روڈ تعاون میں شامل ہو چکے ہیں، 2024 میں بیلٹ اینڈ روڈ میں شریک ممالک کے ساتھ چین کی مجموعی تجارت 22 ٹریلین یو آں سے تجاوز کر گئی جو سال بہ سال 6.4 فیصد اضافہ ہے، اس طرح چین کی مجموعی غیر ملکی تجارت کی قدر کا 50.3 فیصد بنتا ہے۔

ان کا کہنا تھا کہ گزشتہ سال ہمیں یہ دیکھ کر خوشی ہوئی کہ پاکستان کی نئی حکومت نے مختلف اصلاحاتی ایجنڈے کو آگے بڑھانے، قومی ترقی میں نئی پیش رفت حاصل کرنے اور پاکستان کی بین الاقوامی حیثیت کو بڑھانے کے لیے ہر ممکن کوششیں کی ہیں۔

انہوں نے کہا کہ آج کی تقریب کا موضوع ہے ”چینی نیا سال، ہم مل کر جشن مناتے ہیں“، ہمارے دروازے آپ کے لیے ہمیشہ کھلے ہیں اور چین ہمیشہ پاکستان کے ساتھ کھڑا رہے گا۔

چینی سفیر نے کہا کہ نئے سال میں ہم پاکستان کے ساتھ مل کر کام کرنے، سخت محنت کرنے اور جرات مندانہ طور پر آگے بڑھنے، دوستانہ تعاون کے علم بردار بننے، تہذیبوں کے باہمی فروغ اور انسانیت کے مشترکہ مستقبل کے ساتھ ایک کمیونٹی کی تعمیر میں شریک ہونے اور مشترکہ طور پر چین۔ پاکستان تعلقات کے لیے مزید روشن مستقبل کی تعمیر کے لیے تیار ہیں۔

<https://www.express.pk/story/2744674/pak-china-strategic-cooperation-sey-bahmi-faidy-main-izafa-hoga-2744674>

January 27, 2025

Daily Times

Pakistan's sesame seed exports to China surpass \$226 million in 2024

Pakistan's exports of sesame seeds to China exceeded \$226 million in 2024, marking a significant development in bilateral trade relations.

This export growth reflects the increasing demand for Pakistani agricultural products in the Chinese market and highlights potential areas for further economic cooperation, according to Ghulam Qadir, Trade and Investment Counsellor at Pakistan's Embassy in China.

Ghulam stated that the rise in sesame seed exports in recent years can be attributed to several factors, including enhanced agricultural practices, improved quality control measures, and the establishment of direct trade links between Pakistani farmers and Chinese importers.

Known for their nutritional value and diverse culinary applications, Pakistani sesame seeds have gained popularity among Chinese consumers, contributing to the surge in demand.

According to the latest data from General Administration of Customs of China (GACC), China imported 177,640.638 tons of sesame seeds from Pakistan between January and December 2024, with a total trade value of \$226.52 million. Pakistani farmers report that Chinese importers have expressed satisfaction with the quality of the seeds, which are widely used in cooking oil, snacks, and health foods. The seeds are also recognized for their health

benefits, including high levels of antioxidants, vitamins, and minerals, making them a preferred ingredient in the health-conscious Chinese market. Overall, China imported 1,182,602.068 tons of sesame seeds worth \$1.86 billion from global suppliers in 2024. Niger, Tanzania, and Pakistan were the top three sources, with exports valued at \$514 million, \$229 million, and \$226 million, respectively, Gwadar Pro reported.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1259905/pakistans-sesame-seed-exports-to-china-surpass-226-million-in-2024/>

The News

‘Malicious fabrications’: Naqvi rejects claims he attended anti-China event in US

ISLAMABAD: Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi on Sunday vehemently rejected the allegations of involvement in any anti-China event in the United States, labelling them as “malicious fabrications” and “baseless campaigns” designed to tarnish his reputation.

His clarification came amid reports of the Indian and local media outlets, as well as social media posts claiming that the interior minister attended a lobbying group’s event which was involved in campaigning against China’s ruling Chinese Communist Party. “My attendance at a youth event was misinterpreted and blown out of proportion,” Naqvi said. He clarified that he did not attend any event against China in the United States. He assured that the misinformation and baseless rumours would not distract him from fulfilling his responsibilities, reiterating his commitment to his duties. The interior minister also accused certain elements of instigating the US Congress against Pakistan, urging political opponents not to harm the country for political gains. He further said that his meetings with members of Congress were productive, stressing that terrorism is not just Pakistan’s issue but a collective fight. The interior minister was on a visit to the US this week where he attended various events and meetings with US senators and Congressmen including Thomas Richard Suozzi, Jack Bergman, Joe Wilson, Rob Bresnahan, Henry Cuellar, and Maxine Waters. During his meetings with the US lawmakers, he held discussions on strengthening Pakistan-US bilateral ties and regional peace, particularly the situation in neighbouring Afghanistan. Naqvi’s meetings were held after Donald Trump assumed second term as the 47th president of the United States earlier this month. Following his oath, Pakistan’s top leadership had expressed hope that both countries would further cement bilateral ties under the new US administration. He stated that anyone taking up arms against Pakistan would be dealt with an iron hand. Speaking to the media during his visit to Houston, Mohsin Naqvi emphasised that terrorism is a shared fight not just Pakistan’s. He highlighted that the purpose of his US visit was to collaborate with American politicians to devise an effective plan against terrorism.

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=379173>

Green BRI: myth or reality

Shakeel Ahmad Ramay

President Xi Jinping introduced BRI 2.0 while addressing the 3rd BRI forum. He highlighted main features of BRI-2.0, such as connectivity, people-to-people exchange, integrity-based cooperation and high-quality cooperation, including others, and launched small but beautiful livelihood programme.

However, President Xi's unwavering commitment to green and high-quality development was the most important part of the speech.

President Xi is a passionate believer and campaigner for green development and green BRI. Unfortunately, some countries and experts who portray BRI as non-environmentally friendly try to downplay the programme. They think President Xi's commitment is only an eyewash. In this context, it is the right time to explore and analyse the green BRI initiative and its implementation status.

President Xi believes development without protecting environment and reducing GHG emissions would be of limited utility. Thus, right after the launch of BRI, President Xi deputed National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC) to devise a comprehensive policy under the BRI to promote climate-compatible and environment-friendly development.

The NDRC immediately established the Green BRI program and developed the policy for greening the BRI. The Green BRI got new impetus during 2nd BRI forum in 2019.

To pursue the goal of green BRI, numerous initiatives, including Belt and Road Initiative International Green Development Coalition (BRIGC), Silk Road Environment Programme, Green Silk Road Envoy Program, Big Data Platform, Belt and Road Environmental Technology Exchange, Transfer Centre, Green Lightning and Green Cooling Initiatives, were launched under the BRI.

The BRI International Green Development Coalition (BRIGC) is one of the leading initiatives in implementing agenda of green BRI. BRIGC is a joint venture of Ministry of Ecology and Environment, China, and over 100 international intergovernmental and non-government organisations.

The BRIGC was created with three specific objectives. First, to promote policy dialogue and communication to develop a coordinated policy and implementation plan by considering all BRI partners' needs. Second, it acts as an environmental knowledge platform to fill the knowledge gap and share Chinese experience in implementing the green agenda.

Third, most importantly, it acts as a technology transfer platform, which can promote technology transfer from developed partners with others.

Since its launch, BRIGC has been striving hard to change the mindset and promote green growth and development policies. It has launched numerous initiatives to promote dialogue, policy coordination and knowledge creation. A few examples are BRI Green Development Case Study Report 2020, BRI and Carbon Pricing Mechanism, Biodiversity Areas and Impact Assessment in BRI-covered Areas, Green Development Guidance for BRI Projects Baseline Study (GDG), Application Guide for Enterprises and Financial Institutions, a Guide for Railways and Highways Infrastructure Sectors for GDG in 2021, etc.

In March 2022, NDRC, in collaboration with Ministry of Ecology and Environment and others, introduced new guidelines to foster implementation of the vision of green BRI. Moreover, BRIGC launched new guidelines and reports on green BRI, including Green BRI Development Outlook, China's Action on South-South Cooperation on Climate Change, etc. BRIGC also developed Green Commodity Supply Chain Index.

China has launched "Green Investment Principles" initiative. It was jointly initiated by Green Finance Committee of China Society for Finance and Banking and City of London Corporation's Green Finance Initiative, with the participation of Principles for Responsible Investment, Belt & Road Bankers Roundtable, Green Belt and Road Investors Alliance, World Economic Forum and Paulson Institute.

It has 39 members and 14 supporters. It is pertinent to highlight here it also has Western members, such as UK, France, etc. The Chinese Academy of Sciences developed the Silk Road Environment Programme.

This programme aims to build close cooperation with research institutes worldwide, with a focus on BRI member countries. China's research community wants to share its experience with other countries. The Big Data Platform is another landmark initiative. It will be a major intervention in tackling environmental and climate change issues in the coming days. Data is vital in seeking truth and developing the right interventions and policies to achieve results.

Ministry of Ecology and Environment established a Belt and Road Environmental Technology Exchange and Transfer Centre, which is one of the most important initiatives. Many developing and poor countries lack technology to combat climate change. It will be interesting to see how China tries to assist these countries.

On the other hand, China is equally focused on taking concrete actions to implement the green BRI vision. It started to divert investment towards green energy, infrastructure and industry. In 2020, investment in renewable energy resources was 58.2pc, up from 19.6pc in 2014. Moreover, after President Xi Jinping's statement, China abandoned its investment in coal power plants.

China is promoting use of technology. It worked with 29 BRI countries to build low-carbon demonstration zones to strengthen their capacity to combat climate change-related challenges. China is also putting efforts into building capacity through programmes like Green Silk Road Envoys Programme, which trains 1,500 environmental officials.

China invested almost \$7.9 billion in green energy-related projects in 2023.

However, after the 3rd BRI forum, China has given new dimensions and dynamics to Green BRI agenda. It has expedited its efforts to implement Green BRI agenda. The process started with a high-level special forum on the green BRI at 3rd BRI forum, which the UN Secretary General and other dignitaries attended.

China has recently launched BRI Green and Low-Carbon Expert Network to enhance coordination with partner countries further. China has expedited process of formalising green development under BRI. For example, China-Pakistan decided to turn China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) green.

China is promoting cooperation for environment-friendly transport systems and vehicles. It is offering BRI partner countries benefit of Chinese development in these sectors.

President Xi announced China will invest in building a capacity of 100,000 personnel from BRI member countries. These are only a few examples; we can find many more by analysing the BRI investment programmes.

From the discussion we can draw two conclusions. First, BRI is not only about trade, infrastructure or logistics. It equally focuses on green goals. It looks to promote resource efficiency, tackle climate change, ensure healthy and productive ecosystems and promote environmental governance. To make the BRI a genuine green programme, it also encourages use of technology, building human and financial capacity and gathering and sharing data. China is talking about green BRI and taking practical steps to make it happen.

Second, President Xi and Chinese leadership are committed and determined to deliver on the Green BRI agenda in its true spirit, creating a practical example and model of harmony between nature and humans without compromising human development. They perceive the success will help the world have a model that can assist it in tackling climate change and pursuing dream of development simultaneously.

Hence, they have deployed the right people to execute the plans, such as dynamic leader of BRIGC, Dr Zhang Jianyu, and coordinator Pang. Thus, the uncalled or self-presumed propaganda on an environmental basis against the BRI must stop here.

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=379268>

January 28, 2025

Daily Times

Chinese embassy contradicts news article

The embassy of China in Pakistan on Monday categorically said that China has always supported the construction of Gwadar Port and the development of Balochistan.

Chinese Embassy's spokesperson while replying on the article said, "We have noted that the recent article in The Guardian, allegedly quoted the remarks of a Chinese diplomat, which is completely untrue."

He said that the rhetoric and wording imposed is obviously not credible, lacking the basic understanding of China's position.

The spokesperson said that the author's practice of unilaterally fabricating false information without prior consent for an interview violates professional ethics and breaches basic respect for the common understanding.

He said that over the past year, with joint efforts of our two countries, series of positive progress has been made.

The spokesperson said, "In March last year, we provided US\$100,000 in emergency cash assistance for disaster relief work in Balochistan."

In May, China transported 10,000 sets of solar lighting equipment to be distributed in Balochistan, he added.

“Similarly, in June, we handed over the Gwadar China-Pakistan Friendship Hospital and Gwadar desalination plant.”

He said, “In July, we organized a media delegation from Balochistan to visit China while in August, 20,000 sets of health kits were distributed to Balochistan.”

“In October, the new Gwadar International Airport was successfully completed and in November, we organized delegations from all walks of life in Gwadar to visit China.”

He said that in December, outstanding Pakistani staff of the CPEC project, including those in Balochistan were awarded.

“The embassy will soon award Chinese Ambassador Scholarships to students in Balochistan University, Sardar Bahadur Khan University and Gwadar University,” he added.

He said that those tangible achievements represent China’s determination and confidence for the development of Gwadar and Balochistan.

“We sincerely hope that China-Pakistan practical cooperation and livelihood projects can better benefit the local people.”

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1260235/chinese-embassy-contradicts-news-article/>

Gwadar Dream

For over two decades, government after government has come to the seat of power, placing immense hope in the envisioned port city in the South, anticipating it as a befitting answer to Dubai, a shimmering economic El Dorado on the horizon. Although the dream remains largely unfulfilled, the pitter-patter of development, most recent of which saw the first flight landing on the much-awaited international airport, manages to keep the optimism alive. Quite expectedly, this milestone generated a wave of exuberant assertions from Islamabad, celebrating what they termed “Shehbaz Speed” in the context of the game-changer CPEC.

However, much to its dismay, the media’s focus has, regrettably, shifted to controversies, calling into question the integrity of the project.

In response, the Chinese Embassy in Pakistan issued a press release reaffirming its commitment to Gwadar, emphasizing the strategic partnership between the two nations. And while there’s nothing new in the sinister propaganda triggered by a cauldron of anxiety (brewing most intensely in our immediate neighbourhood), those at the helm of the affairs should still not make light of the urgent need for an open dialogue addressing swirling concerns.

Gwadar is not just a symbol of infrastructural aspiration; it embodies Pakistan’s dreams for economic resurgence. For this to materialize, however, it is essential that it genuinely benefits local communities because investment does not occur in a vacuum.

Like it or not, there are palpable concerns regarding governance, which only allow those poised to exploit social unrest to play with grievances however they wish. Instances such as

the opaque handling of local fishing rights and the government's difficulties in gaining the confidence of community activists are some of the significant oversights that could have been handled differently.

To transform Gwadar into a thriving hub, Pakistan would have to establish a transparent framework that empowers local communities, fostering an environment where development is collaborative, rather than top-down. Our vision for Gwadar cannot be one that ignores the voices of its residents. Treating it as an isolated venture, detached from the aspirations of its people, would be a profound misjudgment. Any and all plans for the crown jewel must be crafted with careful consideration of what its communities truly want and need. *

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1260252/gwadar-dream/>

Pakistan Observer

CM lauds China's BGI group initiative to invest in Punjab

Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif here on Monday met with Wang Jian, Chairman of the Chinese BGI Group, who presented an offer for a pilot project focused on rice and corn cultivation in Punjab, along with the introduction of genetically modified (GMO) cotton to boost production.

The group also proposed collaboration on cancer treatment and genetic testing in the province.

The meeting, which followed up on the MoU signed during CM Punjab's recent visit to China, discussed plans for cultivating rice, corn, and GMO cotton in the desert region of Bahawalpur.

The project aims to enhance agricultural productivity, with the goal of increasing cotton production by 15 percent.

The chief minister welcomed the proposal and appointed the Provincial Agriculture Minister as the focal person for coordinating the initiative.

Regarding the health collaboration, CM Maryam Nawaz emphasized the potential for BGI Group's support to revolutionize cancer treatment and genetic testing in Punjab. She instructed the Secretary of Health to prepare a detailed plan for the proposed initiatives.

"This partnership will be a game changer in the health sector, allowing us to establish one of the most advanced genetic testing laboratories in the region," she said. The CM added that modern genetic technologies for cancer diagnosis and treatment would be integrated into the province's healthcare system. Additionally, a state-of-the-art government hospital for cancer diagnosis and treatment will be established in Punjab.

<https://pakobserver.net/cm-lauds-chinas-bgi-group-initiative-to-invest-in-punjab/>

The News

Sindh, Balochistan CMs to accompany president on China visit

Muhammad Saleh Zaafir

ISLAMABAD: Sindh Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah and Balochistan Chief Minister Sarfraz Bugti will be part of entourage of President Asif Ali Zardari's next month's visit to China.

The sources told The News here Monday evening that developmental projects of Sindh and Balochistan would be discussed with the Chinese authorities. Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz who visited China last month had also discussed developmental projects of her province and sought Chinese assistance for various plans. Accordingly, the Chinese assistance is coming to Punjab in a big way. President Asif Ali Zardari will have meetings with the Chinese leadership including President Xi Jinping and Prime Minister Li Keqiang during his stay in Beijing. He will discuss with them subjects of mutual and regional interest and development on world horizon. It would be first visit of President Asif Ali Zardari to China during this stint. It is likely president will avail himself of the opportunity for meeting with the Chinese business groups to enhance cooperation in trade as well.

Details and schedule of the visit are being worked out through the diplomatic channels. The sources hinted that at least two federal ministers will accompany the president in the trip. Federal Minister for Interior Syed Mohsin Naqvi would be part of the entourage. Foreign Secretary Amna Baloch and an additional secretary of the Foreign Office are being included in the delegation of the president. Some businessmen from different parts of the country have also been invited to join the delegation. A few Senators including Senator Sherry Rehman, Salim Mandviwala and Senator Faisal vawda will accompany the president, the sources indicated. The president will depart for Beijing on February 3 and will have four-day stay in China.

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=379536>

Pakistan reiterates commitment to One-China Policy

Mariana Baabar

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan on Monday reiterated its foreign policy on China and reaffirmed its unwavering commitment to its foundational principle of the One-China Policy, that, it said, was "a consistent cornerstone of Pakistan's foreign policy, which has remained unchanged".

The reaffirmation was raised in a statement by the spokesperson at the Foreign Office, in which he categorically rejected what he said were 'media speculations', regarding baseless and unfounded allegations which were aimed to target Pakistan-China friendship.

However, he did not clarify which specific 'media speculations' he was referring to. Meanwhile, China on Monday, specifically in a statement from its embassy in Islamabad, in a strong rebuttal, reacted to a report and named 'The Guardian' newspaper's report on CPEC and Balochistan, published on January 25, rubbishing it as "completely untrue".

"China is Pakistan's all-weather strategic partner. This relationship is characterised by mutual trust, shared values, support on issues of core concern and a commitment to regional and global stability," said the spokesperson at the Foreign Office.

Officials, when asked by The News about Monday's rebuttal by the Foreign Office, said it was related to two media reports whose aim was nothing but crude attempts to target Pakistan's bilateral relations with China.

The first that it termed 'media speculation' was a report published on Sunday by 'The Guardian' newspaper, titled, "What went wrong with 'Pakistan's Dubai'? - inside the Chinese initiative that is promoting terror attacks".

It carries an 'interview' with Wang Shengjie, China's political secretary to Pakistan, who has allegedly expressed serious concerns about CPEC's multi-billion investment in Pakistan. As a rule worldwide in embassies, no junior diplomat can speak on record to the media without approval from the top.

The second 'media speculation' that the FO spokesperson alluded to were reports about Minister for Interior Mohsin Naqvi, who allegedly met representatives of an anti-China group, based in New York.

Earlier, Mohsin Naqvi, though belatedly, had come on camera to deny these allegations saying they were 'propaganda', and confirmed that he never attended such "anti-Chinese state events", nor he would accept such invites.

The issue had also been clarified last Thursday by the spokesperson at the weekly media briefing, who said that the interior minister's visit to Washington during the oath-taking ceremony of President Donald Trump had not been processed through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

To a specific query about an event that Naqvi allegedly attended, which was sponsored by a new entity, the Federal State of China, amongst other sponsors, the spokesperson responded, "As far as Pakistan is concerned, it remains a core principle of our foreign policy to support One China. There's One China, and this principle enjoys unwavering support of Pakistan."

Meanwhile, the Chinese embassy in Islamabad Monday strongly refuted the story in 'The Guardian' newspaper quoting China's political secretary to Islamabad, Wang Shengjie, speaking about security challenges in Pakistan.

"We have noted that the recent article in 'The Guardian', allegedly quoted the remarks of a Chinese diplomat, which is completely untrue. The rhetoric and wording imposed is obviously not credible, lacking the basic understanding of China's position. The report violated "professional ethics and breaches basic respect for the common understanding", said the Chinese statement.

"China has always supported the construction of Gwadar Port and development of Balochistan. In March last year, we provided \$100,000 in emergency cash assistance for disaster relief work in Balochistan," the statement said.

Setting the record straight, the embassy added that in May, China transported 10,000 sets of solar lighting equipment to be distributed in Balochistan and in June, it handed over the Gwadar China-Pakistan Friendship Hospital and Gwadar desalination plant.

Listing the continued cooperation in Balochistan, the embassy said, “In October, the new Gwadar International Airport was successfully completed. In November, we organised delegations from all walks of life in Gwadar to visit China. In December, outstanding Pakistani staff of the CPEC project, including those in Balochistan were awarded.”

The embassy said it would soon award “Chinese Ambassador Scholarships” to students in Balochistan University, Sardar Bahadur Khan University and Gwadar University.

“Those tangible achievements represent China’s determination and confidence for the development of Gwadar and Balochistan,” the embassy concluded. “We sincerely hope that China-Pakistan practical cooperation and livelihood projects can better benefit the local people,” the Chinese clarification added.

Meanwhile, in an unrelated statement, the Foreign Office condemned the attack on a Saudi Hospital in Al-Fareesh, Sudan. “The attack leading to unfortunate deaths reportedly of seventy people clearly violates international law and puts innocent civilians at grave risk. Pakistan extends its deepest sympathies to the victims and their families,” said the spokesperson.

He pointed out that attack underscores the urgent need for upholding the sanctity of healthcare facilities and adherence to the principles of international humanitarian law.

“Pakistan believes that the conflict can only be resolved through dialogue and diplomacy. We express our full support for the unity, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Sudan,” the statement underlined.

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=379512>

Nawaiwaqt News

ماحولیات میں بہتری: پنجاب ریجنل چیمپین، ورلڈ بینک چینی کمپنی کی چائل، مکئی کیلئے پائلٹ پراجیکٹ کی پیشکش

لاہور (نیوز پورٹ + نوائے وقت رپورٹ) چینی کمپنی بی جی آئی گروپ نے پنجاب میں چاول اور مکئی کی کاشت کیلئے پائلٹ پراجیکٹ، پیداوار بڑھانے کیلئے جی ایم او کاٹن لگانے کی پیشکش کی ہے اور پنجاب میں کینسر ٹریٹمنٹ اور جنیٹک ٹیسٹنگ کیلئے اشتراک کار بھی کرے گا۔ وزیر اعلیٰ مریم نواز سے چین کے بی جی آئی گروپ کے چیئرمین وانگ جیان نے ملاقات کی۔ جس میں کینسر کے علاج اور جدید جینیاتی تحقیق کے لئے دورہ چین میں ہونے والے ایم او پور پر پیشرفت سے متعلق تبادلہ خیال کیا گیا۔ چینی وفد نے بہاولپور کے صحرائی علاقے میں چاول اور مکئی کی کاشت کے لئے پائلٹ پراجیکٹ کی پیشکش کی۔ وزیر اعلیٰ مریم نواز شریف نے چینی گروپ کی پیشکش کا خیر مقدم کیا اور صوبائی وزیر زراعت کو فوکل پرسن مقرر کر دیا۔ چینی ادارے کے تعاون سے کپاس کی پیداوار میں 15 فیصد تک اضافے کے لئے جی ایم او کاٹن کی کاشت پر اتفاق کیا گیا۔ چینی بی جی آئی گروپ کی طرف سے پنجاب میں کینسر ٹریٹمنٹ اور جنیٹک ٹیسٹنگ کے حوالے سے بھرپور اشتراک کی پیشکش پر وزیر اعلیٰ نے سیکرٹری ہیلتھ سے چینی بی جی آئی گروپ کے ساتھ ملکر قابل عمل پلان طلب کر لیا۔ وزیر اعلیٰ نے کہا کہ بی جی آئی اور پنجاب حکومت کا اشتراک کار شعبہ ہیلتھ میں گیم چینجر ثابت ہو گا۔ پنجاب میں خطے کی جدید ترین جینیاتی ٹیسٹنگ لیبارٹری قائم کرنا چاہتے ہیں۔ پنجاب میں کینسر کی تشخیص اور علاج کے لئے جدید جینیاتی ٹیکنالوجی استعمال کی جائے گی۔ پنجاب میں کینسر کی تشخیص و علاج کے لئے سیٹ آف دی آرٹ سرکاری ہسپتال بھی بنایا جائے گا۔ پنجاب حکومت صحت کے شعبے میں ترقیاتی منصوبوں کو تیزی سے مکمل کرنے کے لیے پرعزم ہے۔ بی جی آئی گروپ کے چیئرمین وانگ جیان نے وزیر اعلیٰ مریم نواز شریف کی شعبہ صحت میں کارکردگی کو سراہا اور کہا کہ پاکستان خصوصاً پنجاب کو جدید طبی تحقیق میں عالمی سطح پر نمایاں مقام دلانے میں مدد دیں گے۔ مریم نواز شریف سے ورلڈ بینک کے ریجنل نائب صدر مارٹن رائزر کی زیر قیادت وفد نے ملاقات کی۔ ورلڈ

بینک کے ریجنل نائب صدر مارٹن رائزن نے پنجاب کو ماحولیات میں بہتری کے لئے موثر اقدامات پر ”ریجنل چیئرمین“ قرار دے دیے۔ ملاقات میں غربت کے خاتمے، آئی ٹی، انفراسٹرکچر میں مزید بہتری، ماحولیاتی مسائل کے حل اور سماجی ترقی کے لئے مشترکہ اقدامات پر اتفاق کیا گیا۔ اس موقع پر پنجاب میں جاری ورلڈ بینک کے منصوبوں کی رفتار کو تیز کرنے اور نئے منصوبوں کے آغاز پر تبادلہ خیال کیا گیا۔ ورلڈ بینک کے نائب صدر برائے جنوبی ایشیائے وزیر اعلیٰ کے عوامی فلاجی پراجیکٹس کو سراہا اور کہا کہ پنجاب کے پراجیکٹس ورلڈ بینک کی کٹری پارٹنرشپ کے ساتھ مطابقت رکھتے ہیں۔ وفد نے ماحولیاتی بہتری اور سینی ٹیشن سسٹم کو بہتر بنانے کے لئے بھرپور تعاون کی پیشکش کی۔ ورلڈ بینک کے وفد نے پاپولیشن ویلفیئر ڈیپارٹمنٹ کو ہیلتھ ڈیپارٹمنٹ میں ضم کرنے کے اقدام کو قابل قدر قرار دیا۔ مارٹن رائزن نے کہا کہ پاپولیشن ویلفیئر کے ہیلتھ ڈیپارٹمنٹ میں ضم ہونے سے عوام کو بہتر سروسز کی فراہمی کی توقع ہے۔ وزیر اعلیٰ نے پنجاب کی ترقی و خوشحالی کے لیے ورلڈ بینک کے اشتراک کار کو سراہا اور کہا کہ تعلیم، صحت، سیاحت، ماحولیات کے پراجیکٹس میں ورلڈ بینک کی مزید معاونت کے خواہاں ہیں۔ وزیر اعلیٰ نے کہا کہ پنجاب میں نوجوانوں کو عالمی آئی ٹی مارکیٹ سے منسلک کر کے لئے خصوصی ٹریننگ پروگرامز متعارف کرائے ہیں۔ ورلڈ بینک کے تعاون سے پنجاب کلین ایئر پروگرام شروع کر رہے ہیں۔ الیکٹریک سبیس، رکشہ اور بائیکس متعارف کرائیں گے۔ ویٹیکل انسپکشن سٹیشنز کا قیام عمل میں لایا جا رہا ہے۔ ماحولیاتی آلودگی کا خاتمہ بقا کا معاملہ ہے، ورلڈ بینک کی معاونت قابل قدر ہے۔ ترقی کا سفر تیزی سے آگے بڑھانے کیلئے ورلڈ بینک کے ساتھ اشتراک کار جاری رکھیں گے۔ ورلڈ بینک کے نائب صدر مارٹن رائزن نے کہا کہ ورلڈ بینک پاکستان خصوصاً پنجاب کے ساتھ اپنی شراکت داری کو مزید مضبوط کرنا چاہتا ہے۔ پنجاب میں تعلیم، آئی ٹی اور موسمیاتی تبدیلی سے نمٹنے میں قابل تقلید اقدامات کیے گئے ہیں۔ دوسری جانب مریم نواز نے ملتان انڈسٹریل اسٹیٹ میں ایل پی جی کنٹینر چھٹنے سے قیمتی انسانی جانوں کے ضیاع پر گہرے دکھ اور رنج کا اظہار کیا ہے۔ ایل پی جی کے استعمال کے ایس او پیز پر عملدرآمد کرانے کا حکم دیا ہے۔

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/lahore/2025-01-28/page-1/detail-30>

پاکستان چین دوستی کو نشانہ بنانے والی قیاس آرائیوں کو مسترد کرے ہیں: دفتر خارجہ

اسلام آباد (نوائے وقت رپورٹ) دفتر خارجہ نے میڈیا میں زیر گردش قیاس آرائیوں پر رد عمل میں پاکستان اور چین کی دوستی کو نشانہ بنانے والی خبروں کو سختی سے مسترد کر دیا۔ اپنے بیان میں ترجمان نے کہا ہے کہ پاکستان ”ون چائنا پالیسی“ کے بنیادی اصول پر غیر متزلزل یقین رکھتا ہے، چین پاکستان کی خارجہ پالیسی کا مستقل اور مضبوط ستون ہے، چین پاکستان کا ہر موسم کا اسٹریٹجک پارٹنر ہے۔ ترجمان دفتر خارجہ نے کہا کہ یہ تعلقات باہمی اعتماد، مشترکہ اقدار، بنیادی مسائل پر حمایت، اور علاقائی و عالمی استحکام کے عزم کی عکاسی کرتے ہیں۔ دریں اثناء پاکستان نے سوڈان کے شہر دارفور میں سعودی ہسپتال الفریش پر حملے کی مذمت کی ہے۔ ترجمان دفتر خارجہ کی جانب سے بیان میں کہا گیا کہ سوڈان میں سعودی اسپتال پر حملہ بین الاقوامی قانون کی واضح خلاف ورزی ہے۔ معصوم شہریوں کو شدید خطرات لاحق ہیں۔ حملے میں سینہ طور پر 70 افراد ہلاک ہوئے ہیں۔ پاکستان متاثرین اور ان کے اہل خانہ سے گہری ہمدردی کا اظہار کرتا ہے۔ ہم سمجھتے ہیں کہ تنازعات کو مذاکرات اور سفارت کاری کے ذریعے ہی حل کیا جاسکتا ہے۔ پاکستان اتحاد، خوشحالی اور علاقائی سالمیت کے لیے اپنی مکمل حمایت کا اظہار کرتا ہے۔

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/lahore/2025-01-28/page-1/detail-24>

January 29, 2025

Daily Times

Pakistan, China reiterate commitment to elevating ties to new heights

Ambassador of China in Islamabad Jiang Zaidong on Tuesday met with Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar wherein both sides expressed

their commitment to elevating bilateral ties to new heights and further solidifying their strategic partnership.

In the meeting, they reaffirmed the Pak-China All-Weather Strategic Partnership, which was a cornerstone of bilateral relations between the two states, according to a Foreign Office press release.

They reviewed the progress of CPEC 2.0, calling it a significant project aimed at enhancing economic cooperation and regional connectivity.

On behalf of Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi, Ambassador Jiang extended an invitation to DPM Dar to attend the High-Level UN Security Council Event “Practicing Multilateralism, Reforming and Improving Global Governance”, hosted by China under its Presidency of the UNSC, on February 18,, 2025 in New York.

The deputy prime minister accepted the invitation, underscoring Pakistan’s commitment to multilateral cooperation.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1260508/pakistan-china-reiterate-commitment-to-elevating-ties-to-new-heights/>

Pakistan Observer

Gwadar: Transforming Pakistan’s Future Amid Unfounded Criticism

Saud Faisal Malik

The port city of Gwadar, a cornerstone of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), has become a focal point of polarizing narratives. Recently, alarmist narratives have emerged claiming that local discontent and suspicions of Beijing’s intentions are jeopardizing the city’s future. Such claims are not only reductive but fail to recognize the broader picture of progress, cooperation and opportunity that Gwadar represents.

The recent wave of criticism paints an incomplete picture, rooted more in alarmist rhetoric than in facts. To equate Gwadar’s challenges with failure undermines the very real progress being made and disregards the deep partnership between Pakistan and China that continues to drive this vision forward.

The transformation of Gwadar is already visible. Once a neglected fishing village, the city is now home to a modern deep-sea port, free trade zones, and the New Gwadar International Airport. These are not just symbolic achievements—they represent practical investments that position Pakistan as a pivotal player in global trade. According to the Gwadar Port Authority, Gwadar’s annual trade volume grew by 15% in 2023, owing to the operationalization of its deep-sea port and the establishment of the New Gwadar International Airport.

Critics often claim these projects benefit only China, ignoring the fact that Pakistan retains 91% of the port’s revenue under a fair profit-sharing model. Furthermore, the New Gwadar International Airport—fully funded by China—can process up to 30,000 tons of cargo annually. This positions Pakistan as a trade hub connecting markets in the Middle East, Central Asia, and Africa, according to the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor Authority (CPECA).

Concerns about local exclusion in Gwadar's development fail to reflect the comprehensive initiatives aimed at empowering the region's population. For instance, the Gwadar Technical Training Institute (GTTI), established under CPEC, has been instrumental in equipping locals with skills in areas such as port management, logistics, and heavy machinery operations. Additionally, vocational programs in industries like fisheries, construction, and hospitality have provided thousands of residents with opportunities to secure stable employment.

According to the 2023 CPEC Project Report, over 12,000 residents of Gwadar have been employed in various CPEC projects. Many of these individuals gained their expertise through tailored training centers established specifically to meet the demands of emerging industries. These initiatives not only offer immediate economic relief but also pave the way for long-term community development by fostering skills that align with Gwadar's evolving economic landscape.

Moreover, these projects have brought social empowerment to a region once plagued by neglect. By integrating local communities into Gwadar's evolving economic ecosystem, the city's development narrative is shifting toward inclusivity.

Another persistent narrative is that Gwadar's development has fueled insecurity and terrorism. While security challenges exist, they are neither unique to Gwadar nor insurmountable. Pakistan and China have taken proactive measures, including the establishment of the Gwadar Security Division, a specialized unit tasked with protecting workers and infrastructure. Efforts to engage local communities in countering extremism are also underway, reflecting an understanding that sustainable security requires collaboration and trust.

The portrayal of China as a solely self-serving partner in Gwadar simplifies a far more nuanced and collaborative relationship. The Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), of which CPEC is a cornerstone, is built on the principle of mutual benefit. Agreements governing China's investments ensure Pakistan retains ownership of key assets while reaping long-term economic benefits. Critics conveniently overlook these facts, choosing instead to perpetuate a narrative of exploitation.

The grievances in Gwadar, often sensationalized, are not ignored but addressed with tangible actions. Water and power shortages, long-standing issues in the region, are being resolved through initiatives like desalination plants and the 300 MW coal-fired Gwadar Power Plant. Investments in healthcare and education, including hospitals and schools funded by China, demonstrate a holistic approach to development that prioritizes human welfare alongside economic growth.

China's role in Gwadar's transformation is often misrepresented as one-sided, but the reality tells a different story. As a long-standing and trusted partner, China has demonstrated its commitment to Pakistan's prosperity by investing not just in projects with immediate returns but in initiatives with long-term benefits for the people of Balochistan. This partnership reflects the principles of mutual respect, shared growth, and strategic cooperation that define the China-Pakistan relationship.

The broader significance of Gwadar extends far beyond its economic potential. It represents a new narrative for Pakistan—one of resilience, ambition, and regional leadership. For decades, Balochistan symbolized neglect and underdevelopment; today, Gwadar challenges that legacy by offering hope and opportunity. Its strategic location and modern facilities position it as a gateway for trade and connectivity, not only for Pakistan but for the entire region, including Central Asia, the Middle East, and Africa.

While challenges remain, they are surmountable, particularly when viewed through the lens of Pakistan and China's shared commitment to progress. However, the transformation of Gwadar is not a venture for two nations alone. Its success depends on fostering a broader spirit of international collaboration. The opportunities Gwadar presents—for investment, trade, and economic growth—are vast and can benefit not only Pakistan but the entire global community.

By inviting other countries to participate in Gwadar's growth, Pakistan offers a platform for shared prosperity and regional stability. Whether through investments in infrastructure, trade partnerships, or joint ventures in emerging industries, the world has much to gain from Gwadar's development. International collaboration can amplify the city's potential, ensuring its transformation into a beacon of economic connectivity and a model for sustainable development.

Gwadar stands as a testament to what is possible when strategic partnerships are driven by trust, mutual respect, and a shared vision for the future. It is an invitation to the global community to join in shaping a more connected and prosperous world, starting from this vital port city on the Arabian Sea.

<https://pakobserver.net/gwadar-transforming-pakistans-future-amid-unfounded-criticism/>

CPEC Phase 2.0 and Gwadar to Guardian: A Start of New Hybrid War

Dr Mehmood Ul Hassan Khan

IT seems that the regional geopolitics is once again gaining momentum starting another round of 5th generation hybrid media war against Pakistan-China friendship, CPEC, BRI and Gwadar sea & and Air ports alike through comments of pseudo intellectuals, paid columnists, sponsored economists, puppetry journalists and compromised advocates in the region.

The sequences of anti-CPEC untrue media statements, false commentaries and unnamed fake reports published first in India on "Mathrubhumi.com" titled Gwadar gamble: will China's port link Pakistan, boost India written by Girish Linganna on January 14, 2025. The Eurasia Review published a new article titled "Pakistan's Gwadar Port: 'White Elephant'" written by Partial RC published on January 21, 2025. A retired Infantry officer of the Indian Army, Dawn and last but not the least, the Guardian titled "What went wrong with 'Pakistan's Dubai'?" inside the Chinese initiative that is prompting terror attacks" propagated against Pak-Sino friendship, CPEC, Gwadar Sea and Air ports terming it "White Elephant", "Dead Horse" "Debt Trap", "un-operational" and "unproductive" thus it has Indian conspiratorial schemes, sponsorship and colours. Additionally, it has also a direct link to the Interior

Minister's recent visit to the USA and so-called participation in anti-China organization which Pakistan Foreign Office has strongly rejected and refuted by issuing a statement. Ultimately, the new hybrid media war has been started from Gwadar to Guardian and Asia to Eurasia trying to pollute the strategic significance of CPEC jewel i.e. Gwadar Sea & Air ports in the country. Gwadar, with its Chinese-sponsored airport, deep-water port and proposed economic zone, has been dubbed as a jewel in the crown of the China-Pakistan economic corridor (CPEC), under which China pledged to build around US\$62bn of infrastructure "megaprojects" spanning airports, highways, railways, ports and power plants for Pakistan. The Guardian unnamed story is the brainchild of the Indian lobby crafted false, fake, fabricated facts by mentioning the name of Wang Shengjie a senior Chinese diplomat in Islamabad and tagging prestigious Pakistan Observer. Wang is a seasoned professional who neither approached the authorities of Guardian nor uttered a single word about CPEC derailing in the country, especially in Gwadar. His included statement about safety, security of the Chinese nationals residing and working on the CPEC Project in the country and long delays in the execution of CPEC projects concerns of the Chinese private companies in the country is totally out of the context. Moreover, the Daily English Newspaper "Pakistan Observer" is the die-hard supporter of China, CPEC, and BRI and always prioritizes core interests of China in its daily features, reports, articles and special editions vividly reflecting its unconditional love and passion towards Pak-Sino friendship and its deceitful tagging by the Guardian is the demise of journalism and professionalism. The high claims of the Guardian, Eurasia and many media outlets of India about so-called Chinese military base in Gwadar Sea & Air ports is clearly demonstrating Indian Navy strategic expansion in the Indian Ocean forming new hegemonic "String Pearls" disturbing regional peace, stability and harmony strangle China and Pakistan. Gwadar Sea Port lies at the crossroads of the Persian Gulf and the Arabian Sea, making it a vital point for trade and energy routes. It is built to connect Gwadar with Xinjiang, the Uyghur Autonomous Region, through a network of highways, railways and pipelines. The port is a key part of the CPEC aimed at improving connectivity between Pakistan and China. Gwadar has the potential to serve as a major transshipment hub and facilitate trade for Central Asia, the Middle East and South Asia. It is the lie of the century that Gwadar Sea & Air ports are instruments of debt trap diplomacy theory suggesting China intentionally offers unsustainable loans to gain strategic leverage which is absolutely untrue and unrealistic. On its part, the Chinese Embassy in Islamabad has strongly rebutted high claims made in a recent article published by The Guardian. The embassy spokesperson strongly rejected the article's alleged quotation of a Chinese diplomat as "completely untrue" and lacking credibility. The statement criticized the article's grandiloquence and claimed the unnamed report failed to demonstrate a basic understanding of China's position. The spokesperson further condemned the said report's unilateral fabrication of information without prior consent for an interview, describing it as a violation of journalistic ethics and respect for mutual understanding. The Chinese embassy numerous projects of social development, community development, women empowerment, clean drinking water, girl education, technical education, poverty reduction and new job generation and medication throughout Balochistan especially in Gwadar all highly speak out China's role in uplifting of common people in the province. Thus China is the real champion of development, respect for humanity, service clearly following Xi's global shared prosperity,

global initiatives of development, security and civilizational. Moreover, the Chinese embassy has highlighted a series of significant contributions and achievements in Balochistan over the past year, showcasing its commitment to the region's development. During 2024, China provided US\$100,000 in emergency cash assistance for disaster relief. It delivered 10,000 solar lighting equipment sets for distribution across the region. It completed the Gwadar China-Pakistan Friendship Hospital and Gwadar Desalination Plant. It arranged a media delegation from Balochistan to visit China, followed by the distribution of 20,000 health kits in August. The construction of the new Gwadar International Airport was successfully completed. November marked the facilitation of visits to China for delegations from Gwadar, while December concluded with the recognition and awarding of outstanding Pakistani staff involved in the CPEC project, including those based in Balochistan. These initiatives underscore China's ongoing dedication to the development and prosperity of Balochistan. The spokesperson also announced the upcoming distribution of "Chinese Ambassador Scholarships" to students from Balochistan University, Sardar Bahadur Khan University, and Gwadar University. In summary, the Chinese government and its private companies completed many mega projects in Gwadar and Balochistan and changed the miseries into opportunities and crises into smiles and transformed the lives of common people of the province. The first flight from Gwadar International Airport to Muscat has achieved a significant milestone further enhancing regional connectivity, fostering economic growth and advancing global trade routes. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has rightly termed the inauguration of the Gwadar International Airport as a game changer and a key project of the CPEC developing the economy of Balochistan also contributing positively to the overall economic landscape of the country. Hopefully, "Gwadar Airport could bring immense benefits to the people of Balochistan as well as the whole country if run on commercial lines. It is built with the help of a US\$230 million grant from China. The author suggests that formation of Corridor of Knowledge consisting of experts of social marketing, applied economics, Sinologists, IR, Political Sciences and media is the need of the hour negating the false, fake and fabricated propaganda of the western forces. The 5th generation hybrid war against Pak-Sino, CPEC and BRI needs a holistic and comprehensive policy response.

<https://pakobserver.net/cpec-phase-2-0-and-gwadar-to-guardian-a-start-of-new-hybrid-war1/>

The News

Pakistan, China stand steady on bilateral ties

Mariana Baabar

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and China on Tuesday once again reaffirmed their bilateral ties which they termed "Pak-China all-weather strategic partnership and cornerstone of bilateral relations between the two states".

The commitment came during a meeting at the Foreign Office when Chinese Ambassador Jiang Zaidong called on Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar, in which both countries discussed the CPEC which they said was a "significant project". "Both sides expressed commitment to elevating bilateral ties to new heights, further solidifying their

strategic partnership. They reviewed the progress of the CPEC 2.0 -- a significant project aimed at enhancing economic cooperation and regional connectivity,” said the Foreign Office in a statement.

The Dar-Jiang meeting is significant as it comes immediately after a report in The Guardian newspaper on Pak-China relations targeting the CPEC. Monday saw both Pakistan and China rejecting as “baseless and unfounded” and “completely untrue” the Guardian report. “China is Pakistan’s all-weather strategic partner. This relationship is characterized by mutual trust, shared values, support on issues of core concern and commitment to regional and global stability,” the FO said.

The Chinese Embassy in Islamabad in a rebuttal to The Guardian report had pointed out in a statement: “China is committed to continuous engagement with Pakistan. China has always supported the construction of Gwadar Port and the development of Balochistan.”

While China has not publicly commented on the Mohsin Naqvi allegedly attending an anti-China group event, the Foreign Office rejected it as did the interior minister himself. “As far as Pakistan is concerned, it remains a core principle of our foreign policy to support One China. There’s One China, and this principle enjoys unwavering support of Pakistan,” the FO said when the matter of the interior minister was raised.

Meanwhile, Ishaq Dar accepted an invitation from Foreign Minister Wang Yi to attend a high-level UN Security Council event, “Practicing Multilateralism, Reforming and Improving Global Governance”, to be hosted by China under its UNSC presidency on February 18 in New York. The invite was extended to Dar by Jian on behalf of Beijing. “The deputy prime minister accepted the invitation, underscoring Pakistan’s commitment to multilateral cooperation,” said the Foreign Office.

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=379774>

Express News

چینی کمپنی کا پاکستان میں 3 ہزار ای وی چارجنگ اسٹیشنز لگانے کا اعلان

چارجنگ اسٹیشنز کے (EV) چینی سرمایہ کاری وفد نے صوبائی وزیر توانائی ناصر حسین شاہ اور دیگر اسٹیک ہولڈرز سے ملاقات کی جس میں پاکستان میں الیکٹرک وہیکل قیام پر تبادلہ خیال کیا گیا۔

میڈیا سے گفتگو کرتے ہوئے ناصر حسین شاہ نے بتایا کہ چینی کمپنی پاکستان میں 3 ہزار ای وی چارجنگ اسٹیشنز لگائے گی، جو شہروں اور ہائی ویز پر قائم کیے جائیں گے۔ سندھ حکومت اس کو مکمل سپورٹ کرے گی۔

انہوں نے مزید کہا کہ ہر ای وی اسٹیشن کی مالیت 8 ملین روپے ہوگی، جبکہ ایک ملین روپے ڈپازٹ پر اسٹیشن لگانے کی اجازت دی جائے گی۔ اس منصوبے سے گرین انرجی کو فروغ ملے گا اور روزگار کے نئے مواقع پیدا ہوں گے، جس سے تقریباً 10 لاکھ افراد کو ملازمت ملے گی۔

چینی کمپنی اے ڈی ایم گروپ پاکستان میں ای وی مینوفیکچرنگ پلانٹ بھی لگانے کا ارادہ رکھتی ہے اور وفاقی حکومت کے ساتھ 3 ہزار چار جنگ اسٹیشنز کے قیام کا معاہدہ کر چکی ہے۔ سندھ حکومت اس منصوبے میں دلچسپی رکھتی ہے اور اگر کمپنی صوبے میں اپنا پلانٹ لگاتی ہے تو حکومت 20 فیصد سے زائد گاڑیاں خریدنے پر غور کرے گی۔ چائنیز اے ڈی ایم گروپ کے سی ای او یاسر بھمبانی نے کہا کہ حکومت اجازت دے تو اس سال پاکستان میں گاڑی بنانے کو تیار ہیں، میڈان پاکستان ای وی گاڑیوں کو مستقبل میں ایکسپورٹ بھی کیا جائے گا۔

یاسر بھمبانی نے کہا کہ میڈان پاکستان ای وی گاڑیوں کو بھارت سمیت سات ممالک میں ایکسپورٹ کرنے کا پلان ہے، پاکستان میں کراچی پنجاب اور بلوچستان میں 3 مینوفیکچرنگ پلانٹس لگائے جائیں گے، کمپنی کے پاس پاکستان میں سالانہ 72 ہزار یونٹس کی پیداواری استعداد ہے۔

<https://www.express.pk/story/2745248/chinese-company-will-install-3000-ev-charging-stations-in-pakistan-2745248>

چینی سال نو؛ صدر زرداری کا شیشی جن پنگ کو خط، پاک چین دوستی مضبوط بنانے کے عزم کا اعادہ

صدر آصف علی زرداری نے چینی سال نو کی مناسبت سے چین کے صدر شی جن پنگ کو خط لکھا ہے، جس میں انہوں نے پاک چین دوستی مضبوط بنانے کے عزم کا اعادہ کیا ہے۔ آصف زرداری نے چینی سال نو / موسم بہار کے تہوار کے موقع پر صدر شی جن پنگ کو مبارک باد دیتے ہوئے اپنے خط میں پاکستان اور چین کے مابین ”آہنی دوستی“ مضبوط بنانے کے عزم کا اعادہ کیا ہے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ میں دو طرفہ تعاون مضبوط بنانے اور دوستی کے بندھن کو آگے بڑھانے کے لیے بیجنگ میں چینی صدر سے تبادلہ خیال کا منتظر ہوں۔ پاکستان و چین پالیسی کی حمایت جاری رکھے گا، یہ پاکستان کی خارجہ پالیسی کا اہم حصہ ہے۔ صدر مملکت نے کہا کہ دونوں ممالک کے درمیان سدا بہار تزویراتی تعاون کی شراکت داری ہے۔ دونوں ممالک کی قیادت انتھک کوششوں نے بین الریاستی تعلقات کے اس منفرد اور مثالی بندھن کو پروان چڑھایا اور مضبوط کیا۔ آصف زرداری نے خط میں پاک چین تعلقات اور پاک چین اقتصادی راہداری کو آگے بڑھانے میں چینی صدر کی بصیرت انگیز قیادت کا شکریہ ادا کیا اور کہا کہ چین نے 2024 میں مختلف شعبوں میں نمایاں پیش رفت کی ہے۔ انہوں نے پاکستان اور چین کے درمیان پائیدار اور مسلسل بڑھتی ہوئی دوستی کو سراہا۔ صدر مملکت نے صدر شی جن پنگ کی صحت، چینی عوام کی مسلسل ترقی اور خوشحالی کے لیے نیک خواہشات کا اظہار بھی کیا۔

<https://www.express.pk/story/2745206/sadar-zardari-ka-chinese-sadar-ko-khat-2745206>

Jang News

چین پاکستان کا اہم اسٹریٹجک پارٹنر ہے: وزیر اعظم شہباز شریف

وزیر اعظم شہباز شریف کا کہنا ہے کہ چین پاکستان کا اہم اسٹریٹجک پارٹنر ہے۔

چین کے سال نو کے موقع پر جاری کیے گئے پیغام میں شہباز شریف نے کہا ہے کہ حکومت اور عوام کی جانب سے چین کی قیادت اور عوام کو مبارکباد دیتا ہوں۔

انہوں نے کہا کہ گزشتہ دہائیوں میں سماجی و معاشی میدان میں چین نے بے مثال ترقی کی، چینی صدر کی قیادت میں چین کی ترقی قابل ستائش ہے۔

وزیر اعظم کا کہنا ہے کہ ترقی کے سفر میں پاکستان اور چین اہم شراکت دار ہیں۔

شہباز شریف نے کہا کہ چین کے ساتھ قریبی تعلقات ہماری خارجہ پالیسی کا اہم حصہ ہیں۔

<https://jang.com.pk/news/1436017>

Nawaiwaqt News

نائب وزیر اعظم کی چینی سفیر سے ملاقات، تعلقات مضبوط بنانے کا عزم

اسلام آباد (نوائے وقت رپورٹ) نائب وزیر اعظم اور وزیر خارجہ اسحق ڈار نے چینی سفیر جیانگ زیڈونگ سے ملاقات کی جس میں پاکستان اور چین کے دو طرفہ تعلقات کو مستحکم کرنے کے عزم کا اعادہ کیا گیا۔ دفتر خارجہ سے جاری بیان میں چین کی پالیسیوں کے حوالے سے پاکستانی عزم کو نشاندہ بنانے والے 'بے بنیاد الزامات' مسترد کرتے ہوئے زور دیا کہ بیجنگ اسلام آباد کا ہر موسم میں سٹریٹجک پارٹنر ہے۔ یہ پیش رفت ایسے وقت میں سامنے آئی جب چین مخالف گروپ نیو فیڈرل سٹیٹ آف چائنا (این ایف ایس سی) کے زیر اہتمام امریکا میں ایک تقریب میں وزیر داخلہ محسن نقوی کی شرکت سے متعلق خبریں وائرل ہوئیں۔ ترجمان دفتر خارجہ شفقت علی خان نے ون چائنا پالیسی کو پاکستان کی خارجہ پالیسی کا مستقل ستون قرار دیتے ہوئے اس بات پر زور دیا کہ پاکستان کے موقف میں کوئی تبدیلی نہیں آئی ہے۔ 'پاکستان کے چین کے ساتھ مضبوط دو طرفہ تعلقات ہیں اور چین نے بہت سے سرمایہ کاری اور ترقیاتی منصوبوں کے ذریعے پاکستان کی مدد کی ہے جن میں چائنا پاکستان اقتصادی راہداری (سی پیک) سرفہرست ہے جسے ملکی معیشت کی 'لائف لائن' قرار دیا گیا ہے۔ وزیر خارجہ اسحق ڈار اور چینی سفیر کے درمیان آج ہونے والی ملاقات میں شراکت داری کا اعادہ کیا گیا جسے دونوں ممالک کے درمیان 'دو طرفہ تعلقات کی بنیاد' قرار دیا گیا۔ ملاقات کے دوران سی پیک کے دوسرے فیئر پیش رفت کا جائزہ لیا گیا اور فریقین نے اپنی سٹریٹجک شراکت داری کو مزید مستحکم کرنے کے عزم کا بھی اظہار کیا۔ نائب وزیر اعظم اسحاق ڈار نے پاکستان بزنس کونسل کی تقریب سے خطاب میں کہا ہے کہ ملکی معیشت درست سمت میں گامزن ہے۔ حکومتی اقدامات سے معیشت میں استحکام آئے گا۔ ملک کو 2013ء میں شدید لوڈ شیڈنگ کا سامنا تھا، ماضی میں ہماری حکومت نے لوڈ شیڈنگ اور دہشتگردی کا خاتمہ کیا جب پی ڈی ایم نے حکومت سنبھالی تو ملک دیوالیہ ہونے کے قریب تھا ڈیفالٹ سے بچایا، حکومت کی معاشی استحکام پر خصوصی توجہ مرکوز ہے۔ اڑان پاکستان منصوبہ ملکی ترقی کا روڈ میپ ہے۔

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/lahore/2025-01-29/page-8/detail-67>

January 30, 2025

Daily Times

President, PM extend greetings to Xi Jinping on Chinese New Year

President Asif Ali Zardari on Wednesday extended the greeting of Chinese New Year and Spring Festival to Chinese President Xi Jinping, reaffirming the commitment to strengthening the "iron-clad friendship" between Pakistan and China.

The president, in a letter of greetings to his Chinese counterpart, said that he looked forward to discussing ways to further enhance bilateral cooperation and friendship with him in Beijing.

He reiterated Pakistan's ongoing support for the One China Policy, calling it a vital component of Pakistan's foreign policy.

President Zardari said that both Pakistan and China enjoyed timeless and strategic cooperative partnership. This unique and exemplary bilateral relationship was nurtured and strengthened by the unwavering efforts of leaderships of both countries, he added.

He also thanked President Xi Jinping for his visionary leadership in advancing Pakistan-China relations and the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), besides acknowledging China's remarkable progress in various sectors during last year.

He also wished President Xi Jinping good health and expressed hope for the continued development and prosperity of the Chinese people.

Chinese New Year, or the Spring Festival, starting January 29 this year, is a festival that celebrates the beginning of a new year on the traditional lunisolar Chinese calendar which marks the end of winter and the beginning of spring.

Prime Minister

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday extended greetings to the Chinese people and President Xi Jinping on the Chinese New Year and said that China's success story served as a beacon of inspiration and confidence for Pakistan. Pakistani cuisine recipes

"China's awe-inspiring renaissance stands as one of the defining themes of the 21st century... For us, China's success story serves as a beacon of inspiration and confidence," the prime minister said in a televised message on the occasion of the Chinese New Year and Spring Festival starting on January 29 to mark the end of winter and the beginning of spring.

He said that over the last many decades, China's remarkable journey of progress and development was a testament to the wisdom and foresight of its visionary leadership, particularly President Xi Jinping.

The prime minister said that Pakistan and China shared an enduring bond of friendship – a relationship that has been nurtured from generation to generation.

"Our close ties, rooted in mutual trust and shared aspirations, have now transformed into a comprehensive strategic partnership. This "iron brotherhood" continues to be a cornerstone of Pakistan's foreign policy, reflecting the deep respect and admiration our nations hold for each other."

Prime Minister Shehbaz said that the Chinese New Year signified the transformation and the promise of new beginnings. The Year of the Snake, a symbol of wisdom and vitality, reminds us of the importance of resilience and collective strength as both the nations take on challenges and strive for a brighter future, he added. Pakistani cuisine recipes

He reiterated that Pakistan and China stood united in their unwavering commitment to a better world.

"Together, we will continue to make meaningful contributions to global peace, prosperity, and harmony," he said and wished that the new year brings good fortune and continued success to both nations and further strengthens the unbreakable bonds.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1260808/president-pm-extend-greetings-to-xi-jinping-on-chinese-new-year/>

Reality of CPEC Propaganda

Umme Haniya

It is very easy to rain on someone else's parade while sitting miles away. The recent article published in Guardian, "What Went Wrong with Pakistan's Dubai?" does just that; painting a distorted picture of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) as an economic burden.

Given how the propaganda is making waves in all directions, becoming easy fodder for those with nefarious agendas, it is essential to address the mischaracterization of the CPEC as an economic burden.

The criticism articulated in the article represents a one-sided narrative, driven more by biases than by well-researched, factual evidence. This becomes particularly evident when we consider the Chinese Embassy's response, labelling the statements in the article as fabricated, including erroneous remarks attributed to a Chinese diplomat. Such a breach of journalistic ethics, compounded by the dissemination of unverified misinformation, not only undermines the integrity of the publication but also threatens the constructive dialogue vital to the Pakistan-China relationship.

Negative narratives surrounding CPEC are often fueled by detractors aiming to disrupt a partnership that is, in reality, mutually beneficial. For instance, China has consistently been a steadfast supporter of Gwadar Port and the socio-economic uplift of Balochistan. Recent contributions, such as \$100,000 in emergency relief funds for disaster management in March 2024, underscore this commitment.

Moreover, China has actively worked to improve energy access in Balochistan, delivering 10,000 solar lighting devices in May 2024, reflecting a targeted effort to address the region's energy shortages. The completion and handover of significant infrastructure projects, including the Gwadar China-Pakistan Friendship Hospital and a desalination plant in June 2024, further demonstrate China's dedication to the well-being of Balochistan's residents.

To foster better mutual understanding, China organised a media delegation from Balochistan to visit China in July 2024, creating avenues for enhanced collaboration. Additionally, the distribution of 20,000 health kits in August 2024 for public health improvement illustrates a focused approach to community welfare. The inauguration of the Gwadar International Airport in October 2024 serves as a pivotal milestone in developing essential infrastructure that benefits the region.

Cultural and educational ties are also being strengthened, as evidenced by the recognition of outstanding Pakistani CPEC staff and the introduction of "Chinese Ambassador Scholarships" for students at Balochistan universities. This initiative not only provides support for education but also fosters goodwill and a deeper understanding between the two nations.

It is crucial to highlight that CPEC projects are backed by a combination of concessional loans, preferential loans, and grants from the Chinese government. The long-term nature of debt repayment alleviates any immediate financial burdens on Pakistan.

Moreover, many energy sector projects are structured around the Independent Power Producer (IPP) model, which transfers the financial risks to Chinese investors instead of the Pakistani government. We would do well to remember how, in the early phases of the CPEC, the energy sector was emphasized and prioritized as a crucial component to address

Pakistan's long-standing energy shortages, which have hindered its economic development for years. This focus on energy infrastructure has paved the way for not only immediate relief but also for sustainable economic growth in the future.

CPEC is far from an economic burden. What the government wishes to turn it into solely depends on its own policy choices. However, these misrepresentations, doing a disservice to the potential for mutual growth, cannot possibly help anyone in the room.

Instead of this biased propaganda, we need to prioritise informed discussion that accurately reflects the ground realities.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1260942/reality-of-cpec-propaganda/>

The Express Tribune

Transformative potential of CPEC and Gwadar

CPEC is about an investment environment built to align Pakistan with the eco-system of developing nations.

Durdana Najam

CPEC is not about a few scattered projects or an array of initiatives aligned more with Chinese interest rather than benefiting Pakistan. Neither is CPEC about the debt circle that China has been accused of using to snarl less developed countries to enhance its clout in the region. CPEC is about an investment environment built to align Pakistan with the eco-system of developing nations. CPEC is about the promise of better business conditions to improve Pakistan's manufacturing sector. CPEC is about hope to elevating living standard of millions of people of South Asia, specially. In the 10-year journey, CPEC has assisted Pakistan in providing electricity to millions of households and businesses. Similarly, CPEC has been a game-changer in building network of roads and railway tracks in Pakistan.

This is just a part of the story. At the heart of it lies the Gwadar port with the potential to transform the region and uplift Balochistan, which has long suffered from underdevelopment. It would create thousands of jobs, improve access to education and healthcare and stimulate local economies. While challenges remain, the long-term benefits of CPEC for Pakistan and the region are undeniable.

Despite its transformative potential, CPEC has been the target of misinformation campaigns aimed at undermining its progress. False narratives and exaggerated claims have been used to sow discord and create mistrust between China and Pakistan, as well as between the Pakistani government and local communities. These campaigns often ignore the broader context and long-term vision of CPEC, focusing instead on isolated incidents and challenges.

One such example is a recent article published in The Guardian titled "What went wrong with 'Pakistan's Dubai'? - Inside the Chinese initiative that is prompting terror attacks". While the article raises some valid concerns, it presents a skewed and incomplete picture of CPEC and Gwadar. For instance, it highlights local dissatisfaction in Gwadar but fails to acknowledge the efforts being made to address these concerns. It also speculates about China's military

intentions, ignoring the transparent and mutually beneficial nature of the China-Pakistan partnership.

It is true that CPEC faces security challenges, particularly in Balochistan, where extremist groups like the Balochistan Liberation Army (BLA) have targeted Chinese workers and infrastructure. However, these attacks are not a reflection of CPEC's failure but rather an attempt by extremist elements to derail progress and maintain their grip on the region. The BLA's violent campaign is driven by a desire to exploit local grievances for their own agenda, not by genuine concern for the people of Balochistan.

China and Pakistan have both invested heavily in securing CPEC projects, and their collaboration on intelligence sharing and counterterrorism is a positive step toward ensuring the safety of workers and infrastructure. While the security situation remains challenging, it is improving, and the commitment of both nations to overcoming these obstacles is unwavering.

Contrary to the speculative claims, China's involvement in CPEC is driven by economic, not military, motives. The deepwater port and airport in Gwadar are commercial assets designed to boost trade and investment, not military installations. Chinese officials have repeatedly emphasised their commitment to peaceful development and mutual benefit, and there is no evidence to support the claim that China is seeking to establish a military presence in Pakistan.

The suggestion that China is pressuring Pakistan to allow the presence of PLA troops is baseless and undermines the trust and cooperation that underpin the China-Pakistan relationship. Both nations have denied any such plans, and it is crucial to take their statements at face value rather than indulging in speculative narratives.

The negative portrayal of CPEC in some media outlets reflects a broader geopolitical bias rather than an objective assessment of the project. CPEC is not a zero-sum game; it is a win-win initiative that benefits not only China and Pakistan but also the wider region. By improving infrastructure and connectivity, CPEC has the potential to spur economic growth across South Asia and beyond.

The concerns raised by countries like the US and India about CPEC stem from their own strategic interests, not from a genuine concern for Pakistan's development. It is important to recognise that Pakistan has the right to pursue partnerships that align with its national interests, and CPEC is a cornerstone of its economic and strategic vision. While challenges remain, CPEC is far from a failure. It is a work in progress that requires patience, collaboration and a long-term perspective. Both China and Pakistan are committed to addressing the issues raised, whether they relate to security, local grievances or economic viability. The success of CPEC will depend on the ability of both nations to adapt to changing circumstances and ensure that the benefits of the project are shared equitably. The misinformation campaigns, such as the one exemplified by The Guardian article, seek to undermine this vision. By staying focused on the long-term goals and addressing challenges with determination, China and Pakistan can ensure that CPEC fulfills its promise as a catalyst for development and progress.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2525358/transformative-potential-of-cpec-and-gwadar>

The News

Chinese company to invest \$340m in EV manufacturing, charging stations in Pakistan

KARACHI: A significant development for Pakistan's economy is on the horizon as a Chinese group has announced an investment of \$340 million to set up electric vehicle (EV) manufacturing and charging stations across the country. Sindh Energy Minister Syed Nasir Hussain Shah assured full cooperation from the Sindh government, adding that the province would provide all necessary facilities to the Chinese company, including land for the plants. "If the company manufactures electric vehicles in Pakistan, the Sindh government will purchase over 20 per cent of the vehicles produced at the Karachi plant," Shah revealed during a press briefing held at a local hotel for the inauguration of a joint project between Malik Group and China's ADEN Group. Chairperson of Malik Group Malik Khuda Bakhsh announced that 30 charging plants will be delivered from China within the next 10 days, with nationwide installations starting soon. "We aim to have the necessary infrastructure operational by the end of this year," Bakhsh said, highlighting that the first station has already been set up in Karachi, with Lahore set to follow suit on Thursday. ADEN Group, CEO of Yasser Bhambani, detailed the company's financial commitment to the project, revealing plans to invest \$90 million for 3,000 charging stations and \$240 million for an EV manufacturing plant. "By December, electric vehicle production will begin, with an annual output target of 72,000 units. We also plan to export vehicles to the Middle East, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh," Bhambani shared. The event was attended by prominent figures in the industrial and business sectors, including Arif Habib, Zubair Tufail, Khalid Tawab and Mirza Ishtiaq Baig. <https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=379780>

K2 Daily

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چین سے دوستی آگے بڑھائیں گے، صدر زرداری

دوطرفہ تعاون مضبوط بنانے کو آگے بڑھانے کیلئے چینی صدر سے تبادلہ خیال کا منتظر ہوں

دن چائینہ پالیسی پاکستان کی خارجہ پالیسی کا اہم حصہ ہے، چینی سال نو کے آغاز پر صدر شی کو خطا

اسلام آباد (اے این ڈی) صدر آصف زرداری ممالک کے درمیان سہا بہا شریک تعاون کی شراکت داری ہے، دوطرفہ تعاون مضبوط، دوستی کا ہم حصہ شی جن چنگ (پانچویں نمبر 49)

کامیاب رہا۔ صدر زرداری نے خطا لکھی ہے۔ پاکستان کی خارجہ پالیسی کی حمایت جاری رکھے گا۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ دونوں ممالک کے درمیان سہا بہا شریک تعاون کی شراکت داری ہے، دونوں ممالک کی قیادت کی ہے۔ دوپہ لکھنؤ کی اٹھ کوششوں نے چین اور پانچ تعلقات کے اس مندر اور مٹائی بڑھانے کو پروان چڑھا ہے اور مضبوط کیا۔ صدر مکت نے پاک چین تعلقات اور پاک چین اقتصادی راہداری کو آگے بڑھانے میں چینی صدر کی سمیرت انجیز قیادت کا شکر ادا کرتے ہوئے کہا کہ چین نے سال 2024 میں مختلف شعبوں میں نمایاں پیش رفت کی۔ صدر زرداری نے خط میں پاکستان اور چین کے درمیان پائیدار و مسلسل بلاتنی دوستی کو سراہا اور صدر شی جن چنگ کی صحت و چینی مہم کی مسلسل ترقی اور ڈھولائی کیلئے نیک خواہشات کا اظہار کیا۔

https://epaper.dailyk2.com/Home?Issue=NP_GB&Page=Back_Page&Date=2025-01-30

https://epaper.dailyk2.com/Home?Issue=NP_GB&Page=Classified&Date=2025-01-30

January 31, 2025

Jang News

پاک چین دوستی پوری دنیا میں ایک مثال ہے: عطائے

وفاقی وزیر اطلاعات عطائے اللہ تارڑ نے کہا ہے کہ پاک چین دوستی پوری دنیا میں ایک مثال ہے۔

چین کے نئے قمری سال اور موسم بہار کی تقریب سے خطاب کرتے ہوئے عطائے اللہ تارڑ نے کہا کہ پاک چین دوستی ہمارے دلوں کے قریب ہے، پاکستان اور چین کے درمیان سرحدوں کے ساتھ ساتھ پہاڑ اور شاہراہیں بھی مشترک ہیں۔

عطائے اللہ تارڑ نے کہا کہ چین کے جن شہروں میں بھی گیا کبھی ملک سے باہر ہونے کا احساس نہیں ہوا، خوشی اور فخر ہے کہ پاکستان اور چین کے عوام ایک دوسرے کی عزت کرتے ہیں۔

وفاقی وزیر اطلاعات نے کہا کہ پاک چین دوستی کالازوال سفر جاری و ساری ہے، ون بیلٹ ون روڈ صدر شی جن چنگ کا شاندار منصوبہ ہے۔

انہوں نے مزید کہا کہ سی پیک کا پہلا مرحلہ مکمل ہونے پر ہم دوسرے مرحلے کی طرف بڑھ رہے ہیں جبکہ گواڈر میں پہلی فلائٹ لینڈ ہوئی جو بہت بڑا سنگ میل ہے۔

<https://jang.com.pk/news/1436751>

Chinese Newspapers

January 18, 2025

People's Daily

China launches Pakistani satellite, two others

JIUQUAN, Jan. 17 (Xinhua) -- China on Friday sent a Pakistani satellite into space from the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Center in northwest China.

The satellite, named PRSC-EO1, was launched at 12:07 p.m. (Beijing Time) by a Long March-2D carrier rocket and entered its planned orbit successfully.

The rocket also carried two other satellites, namely Tianlu-1 and Lantan-1.

This launch marked the 556th flight mission involving the Long March carrier rocket series.

<http://en.people.cn/n3/2025/0118/c90000-20267707.html>

January 20, 2025

Global Times

China-aided New Gwadar International Airport officially open

The New Gwadar International Airport, funded and built by China as a grant, officially commenced operations on Monday. The first flight, PIA503 operated by Pakistan International Airlines, arrived at the newly inaugurated airport from Karachi, China Media Group (CMG) reported.

Pakistani officials welcomed passengers at an opening ceremony, and the inaugural flight was greeted with a traditional water salute upon landing, according to CMG.

"Today marks a historic day as the Gwadar International Airport gets functional with the landing of first commercial flight. This marks the beginning of a new era of building linkages for enhanced connectivity and integration. I hope it will pave the way for new endless opportunities," Muhammad Ishaq Dar, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Pakistan said in a post published on Monday on X.

The airport is a 4F-grade state-of-the-art facility built to handle the largest civil aircraft. Its 3,658-meter-long, 75-meter-wide runway, with a specialized foundation, sets a benchmark in engineering standards, according to the Xinhua News Agency.

The new airport is located in a coastal area and faces a harsh salt spray environment that may potentially cause corrosion. According to a Chinese construction technician, the construction team took anti-corrosion measures in many aspects, such as the foundations, steel structures and decoration, with the aim of ensuring the durability of the terminal building, Xinhua reported.

The manager of the new airport said that the facility will greatly improve Pakistan's air

connectivity with other countries and provide easy access for international cargo and tourists. The airport will also be equipped with a refrigerated cargo storage system to facilitate exports of local seafood and further integrate Gwadar's economy into the global market, Xinhua reported.

Addressing previous connectivity challenges, the airport will enable modern airlines to serve Gwadar, enhancing regional economic growth and positioning Gwadar as a transshipment hub linked to the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), according to Xinhua.

Launched in 2013, the CPEC, a flagship project of the China-proposed Belt and Road Initiative, is a corridor linking the Gwadar Port in Southwest Pakistan's Balochistan province with Kashgar in Northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region. It highlighted energy, transport and industrial cooperation in the first phase, while the new phase expands into the fields of agriculture and livelihoods, among others, according to Xinhua.

A Chinese staff member at the new airport explained that the design standards, main materials and equipment used in the construction were all sourced from China, helping to promote China's civil aviation technology standards and materials abroad, CMG reported.

A Pakistani representative of the airport stated that the new facility will play a key role in the development of Gwadar and Pakistan's overall economy. With significant cargo potential, the airport is expected to handle not only a high volume of passenger traffic but also a large number of freight flights, according to CMG.

On October 14, 2024 Chinese Premier Li Qiang and Pakistani Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif jointly attended the completion ceremony of the new Gwadar International Airport Project at the Prime Minister's Office, according to Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202501/1327227.shtml>

Xinhua News

Feature: Chinese New Year celebration held in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD, Jan. 20 (Xinhua) -- In an event hall of a local hotel here, children's voices filled the air with warmth as they sang traditional Chinese and Pakistani songs to celebrate the forthcoming Chinese New Year.

The event, dedicated to providing free education and shelter to underprivileged children, became a symbol of unity and cultural celebration as over 300 Pakistanis and Chinese came together to share the joys of the festival.

The celebration began with a charming performance by students, swayed to the beats of Chinese and Pakistani folk songs in their vibrant red qipaos and traditional Pakistani attires.

Nine-year-old Maryam Murtaza, a student at Hayat Progressive School, a school funded by Chinese volunteers, said that they practiced for weeks to get the performance right.

"I learned a lot about Chinese traditions, and I also taught my Chinese friends a Pakistani song. We wanted to show everyone that we can celebrate together!" she added.

The event drew a significant crowd of both Chinese and Pakistani attendees, all of whom shared heartfelt smiles and warm greetings.

Chinese organizations take remarkable care of Pakistani students, and ensure the children receive free education, proper nutrition, and all the essentials they need to thrive, said Nusrat Imran, a teacher at the school.

"Chinese festivals hold a special place in the hearts of these children because they feel a genuine sense of belonging and appreciation. The children look forward to these celebrations and participate wholeheartedly," Imran told Xinhua.

Twelve-year-old Sana, a Pakistani student, expressed her enthusiasm, saying, "I love celebrating Chinese New Year because it feels like we are all one big family. We learn so much about each other's cultures, and it's so much fun to dance and sing together."

Talking to Xinhua, Ma Bin, one of the organizers of the event said that they organize cultural and artistic festivals in Pakistan to help children know more about Chinese culture.

"Our mission goes beyond education. We want to nurture understanding and friendship between our nations, starting with these young hearts. Today's celebration is proof that our efforts are bearing fruit," he added.

The event concluded with a joint performance of Pakistani and Chinese students on a Pakistani song, serving as a moving reminder of the bond forged through shared dreams and mutual respect.

<https://english.news.cn/asiapacific/20250120/bf96e09cd8cd40a0a14a1a7a815e3e8c/c.html>

January 21, 2025

Global Times

New Gwadar International Airport exemplifies enhancing connectivity amid CPEC co-op

Hu Weijia

The New Gwadar International Airport is regarded as a pivotal infrastructure project and a milestone that makes the Gwadar Port a regional nexus of connectivity. Officially commencing operations on Monday, the airport is anticipated to significantly contribute to Pakistan's economic development and bolster regional economic integration, especially amid the ongoing enhancements to the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) cooperation.

The Pakistan Civil Aviation Authority (PCAA) announced in a statement that the New Gwadar International Airport officially began operations on Monday, as reported by the Xinhua News Agency. With the airport now in operation, a modern, integrated transportation network - encompassing sea, land and air - will take shape alongside the deep-water Gwadar Port, the Gwadar Eastbay Expressway and other key infrastructure facilities. This development will significantly boost the overall transportation capacity of the Gwadar region.

Gwadar Port is a deep-water, ice-free harbor, strategically located at the crossroads of the Middle East and South Asia, near key international shipping lanes. As connectivity across sea,

land and air continues to improve, Gwadar's emergence as a regional logistics hub is gaining significant momentum. Strengthening transportation links with the Middle East, Central Asia and China will open up new opportunities for Pakistan's economic growth.

The opening of the New Gwadar International Airport will provide Pakistan with a powerful means to capitalize on the potential of the Gwadar Port. The airport, funded and built by China, is a 4F-grade facility capable of accommodating the world's largest civil aircraft, addressing previous connectivity challenges and enabling modern airlines to serve Gwadar. This modern airport is expected to expand Pakistan's air transport capacity, infusing vitality into the economic development of both the Gwadar region and the wider southern part of the country.

Pakistan's economy is on a path to recovery. Despite significant achievements, challenges remain, wrote Muhammad Aurangzeb, Minister of Finance and Revenue of Pakistan, in an article published on Tuesday as part of the World Economic Forum Annual Meeting.

During this critical phase of recovery, a beneficial attempt could further ignite the nation's economic endogenous momentum. This includes unlocking the strategic potential of the Gwadar port - capitalizing on its geographic advantages to expand Pakistan's trade and deepen its integration into regional supply chains.

Pakistan's Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives, Ahsan Iqbal, has called for intensified efforts to promote trade between Gulf countries and China via the Gwadar Port in the country's southwest Balochistan province, Xinhua reported on January 9. Calling the Gwadar Port "one of Pakistan's most valuable assets," Iqbal stressed the need for a robust action plan within six months to generate trade traffic through the port, with an aim to create jobs for local residents and boost the regional economy.

Moreover, as China and Pakistan intensify their efforts to enhance the CPEC through an upgraded version focused on industrial cooperation, the New Gwadar International Airport is emerging as a key project within the CPEC. This airport is set to play a crucial role in bolstering the region's significance in international logistics, trade and travel, thereby elevating Pakistan's economic importance in the broader regional landscape.

By facilitating trade, logistics and travel, it will strengthen cross-border connections. The airport's advanced refrigerated cargo facilities are set to give a significant boost to exports of local seafood, further integrating Gwadar's economy into the global market. More convenient passenger transportation will also bring more visitors and investors for local tourism and industrialization, key focuses of the upgraded version of the CPEC.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202501/1327328.shtml>

People's Daily

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The event concluded with a joint performance of Pakistani and Chinese students on a Pakistani song, serving as a moving reminder of the bond forged through shared dreams and mutual respect.

<http://en.people.cn/n3/2025/0121/c90000-20268488.html>

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Xinhua News

Pakistan keen to work with China for green development

ISLAMABAD, Jan. 21 (Xinhua) -- Pakistani experts have stressed the need for further collaboration with China to promote eco-friendly special economic zones (SEZs) under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) for sustainable development.

Learning from Chinese experience in developing green special economic zones, Pakistan can raise a climate competitive industry aligned with global sustainable development goals, the experts said at a recent seminar on SEZ organized by the Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI), an Islamabad-based think tank.

Highlighting the inseparability of economic and environmental progress, Erfa Iqbal, in charge of SEZs Wing of Pakistan's Board of Investment, said that the country's economic development must align with global carbon emission reduction goals, and collaboration with Chinese experts to guide the transition to eco-friendly SEZ was vital.

"Of nine SEZs under CPEC, four are already operational, with progress on the remaining zones moving at full throttle," Iqbal said, adding that the SEZ model, proven globally and in China, is being applied in Pakistan to create centers of excellence for economic development.

She said that efforts to accelerate Pakistan's SEZ development, including satellite imaging, marketing plans, and incentives for foreign and local investors were being made, adding that the government-to-government, government-to-business, and business-to-business initiatives are underway to strengthen Pakistan's SEZ framework.

Mustafa Hyder Sayed, executive director of the Islamabad-based think tank Pakistan-China Institute, stressed the interdependence of environmental sustainability and economic development.

"There is a need for eco-industrial parks as the next step for Pakistan's industrial growth. Green innovation supply chains, robust research and development initiatives, and financial markets are important to drive sustainability," he said.

Imran ul Haq, an Islamabad-based academic, called for adopting circular economy principles including industrial water reuse and solid waste management.

He underlined the need for standardized environmental, social, and governance reporting in Pakistan to ensure consistent implementation of green standards.

<https://english.news.cn/20250121/baa5b42f9a524c0e95d1f88a143d9205/c.html>

January 22, 2025

People's Daily

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<http://en.people.cn/n3/2025/0122/c90000-20268972.html>

January 24, 2025

People's Daily

CPEC symbolizes Pakistan-China friendship, shared vision: minister

ISLAMABAD, Jan. 23 (Xinhua) -- Pakistan's Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Ahsan Iqbal said that the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is a testament to the enduring friendship and shared vision nurtured by Pakistan and China over decades.

Speaking at a ceremony here on Wednesday to celebrate the forthcoming Chinese New Year and to recognize the contributions of 30 outstanding Chinese staff working on CPEC projects in Pakistan, Iqbal said that CPEC represents a roadmap for sustainable development, mutual growth, and prosperity, not only for the two nations but for the entire region.

Highlighting the contributions of the Chinese staff, Iqbal praised their dedication, technical expertise, and relentless hard work, which have been instrumental in transforming ambitious projects into tangible realities.

"From energy generation and infrastructure development to logistics and technology, your efforts have been crucial in overcoming challenges and ensuring the successful completion of numerous landmark initiatives," he said.

Launched in 2013, CPEC, a flagship project of the Belt and Road Initiative, connects Gwadar Port in Pakistan with Kashgar in northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region. While the first phase focused on energy, transport, and industrial cooperation, the second phase expands into areas such as agriculture and livelihoods.

Discussing the second phase, Iqbal noted that it will unlock immense opportunities, modernize agriculture, digitize industries, drive economic diversification, create millions of jobs, and enhance Pakistan's global competitiveness.

Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan Jiang Zaidong also addressed the gathering, expressing confidence in Pakistan's economic growth under the government's leadership and with the collective efforts of its people.

"The cooperation and partnership between China and Pakistan will continue to progress steadily, fostering lasting development," he added.

The event featured vibrant traditional dances by both Chinese and Pakistani performers, showcasing the rich cultural heritage of the two nations. The audience showed keen interest in the performances and expressed gratitude to China for its pivotal role in strengthening Pakistan-China relations.

A special recognition segment was held during the ceremony to honor the best-performing Chinese companies involved in CPEC projects. Certificates of excellence and souvenirs were presented to acknowledge their outstanding contributions.

<http://en.people.cn/n3/2025/0124/c90000-20270021.html>

Event celebrating upcoming Chinese New Year held in Islamabad, Pakistan

Pakistani artists perform during an event to celebrate the upcoming Chinese New Year in Islamabad, capital of Pakistan, on Jan. 22, 2025. The event features vibrant traditional dances by both Chinese and Pakistani performers, showcasing the rich cultural heritage of the two nations. (Xinhua/Ahmad Kamal)

Chinese and Pakistani artists perform during an event to celebrate the upcoming Chinese New Year in Islamabad, capital of Pakistan, on Jan. 22, 2025. The event features vibrant traditional dances by both Chinese and Pakistani performers, showcasing the rich cultural heritage of the two nations. (Xinhua/Ahmad Kamal)

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<http://en.people.cn/n3/2025/0124/c90000-20270165.html>

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<https://english.news.cn/20250124/cbc59823158244d2ac1723d0a0cb5203/c.html>

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<https://english.news.cn/20250124/935262ddd37e4a1f9e7ee14995dbb1bb/c.html>

January 27, 2025

People's Daily

Chinese premier holds symposium with foreign experts in China

BEIJING, Jan. 26 (Xinhua) -- Chinese Premier Li Qiang on Sunday held a symposium at the Great Hall of the People with representatives of foreign experts who have won the 2024 Chinese Government Friendship Award and those who are working in China.

Li extended Chinese Lunar New Year wishes and sincere greetings to the foreign experts, and thanked them for their long-term concern and support for China's modernization efforts. He also listened to their opinions and suggestions on China's reform, development and government work.

Experts from countries including the United Kingdom, Poland, Mali, Romania, Germany and Pakistan delivered speeches on topics such as scientific and technological innovation,

economic and trade cooperation, people-to-people and cultural exchanges, international communication and talent development.

Foreign experts have made positive contributions to China's new achievements in development in the past year, Li said. Their experiences of working and living in China exemplify the positive interaction and deep integration between China and the world, he said.

Noting that the world needs communication and the process of globalization is irreversible, Li said China consistently advocates strengthening international dialogue and will continue to uphold openness and inclusiveness while actively promoting international exchanges in various fields.

The premier stressed that innovation requires cooperation, and as the new round of technological revolution and industrial transformation deepens, scientific research has become increasingly complex and systematic, making open cooperation both a trend and an inevitable choice.

China will continue to expand openness in science and technology, broaden and deepen joint research, actively participate in global technology governance, collaborate with all nations to solve practical problems and jointly address global challenges, he said.

He said China's doors will always remain open to talents from all countries. The Chinese government will further optimize relevant policies, enhance service guarantees, and build more international exchange and cooperation platforms, continuously creating favorable conditions for foreign talents to work in China, said the premier.

<http://en.people.cn/n3/2025/0127/c90000-20270962.html>

January 28, 2025

People's Daily

Chinese doctors bring hope, healing to Pakistan with advanced heart treatment

ISLAMABAD, Jan. 27 (Xinhua) -- Afrah Amir's eyes glistened with hope and dreams of a brighter future as her doctor handed her a clean bill of health, just a day after undergoing a procedure performed by Chinese doctors to cure her ailing heart in Pakistan's north Rawalpindi city.

"There were six Chinese doctors with warm, kind smiles, who spoke gently to calm me before administering anesthesia. The last thing I remember before drifting off was the image of six angels from a distant land, coming to give me a chance for a beautiful tomorrow," Arfah told Xinhua as her eyes sparkled, envisioning the future ahead.

Pan Xiangbin, a doctor from Fuwai Hospital in Beijing, China's capital city, brought a Chinese original and most advanced ultrasound-guided percutaneous intervention technology to treat children suffering from congenital heart defects in Pakistan.

Describing the distinctive features of the new technology, Pan told Xinhua that they have introduced absorbable occluders, a revolutionary alternative to lifelong metal implants.

"Used with ultrasound-guided technology, these occluders dissolve within a year as the heart tissue naturally heals. This innovation leaves no scars, metal residue, or long-term complications, ensuring patients can lead normal lives without stigma, whether marrying, working, or joining the military. It's life-changing both medically and socially," he added.

Speaking to Xinhua, Saima Amir, the mother of Afrah, shared her emotional journey, saying that her girl was 10 months old when she was diagnosed with congenital heart defects, but the family could not afford the expensive treatment.

"There was always a constant fear in my heart, knowing that something could happen to my daughter because I couldn't provide the medical care she desperately needed, despite my endless prayers and efforts. But the Chinese doctors gave us hope and peace by treating her," Saima said in a voice trembling with emotion.

She noted that she had always heard about the Pakistan-China friendship on TV and read about it in poems, but now, she has personally felt the warmth of this bond.

"For my daughter and me, no friend has ever been as supportive in our time of need as the Chinese doctors. They are truly our friends indeed," she said as tears welled up in her eyes.

In the next stage, Pan plans to take the technology to villages and remote areas of Pakistan to help the children who need medical care.

Pan and his team aim to train more doctors in Pakistan, enabling them to use surgical cars to reach remote areas and save more lives.

"In China, we have a saying, 'It is better to teach people how to fish than to simply give them fish,' so our goal is for Pakistani doctors to master our original technical system, and practice it at a wider scale across the country," the medical expert added.

"This advanced technology eliminates the need for radiation, contrast agents, or hospital settings to perform surgeries. A portable, laptop-sized ultrasound machine or a surgical car is enough for the procedure which can be done when the patient is awake," the doctor said.

The setup also enables screening and surgery in villages, and the patients can return home the same day and resume normal activities immediately," he added.

Talking to Xinhua, Hajira Akbar, a cardiologist at the Armed Forces Institute of Cardiology, where Chinese doctors performed the life-saving procedures, said that the new technology significantly reduces procedure time and hospital stays, making treatment more affordable and accessible for underprivileged families.

"This advanced technology is not only highly safe for children but essential to introduce in Pakistani hospitals," she said, adding that an alarming rise in congenital heart defects has been witnessed in her country due to malnutrition among mothers, pregnancy and delivery complications, and inadequate family planning.

Hajira expressed hope that the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, which has already brought Chinese donations and investments to strengthen Pakistan's economy, will extend its support to the health sector to improve the well-being of Pakistani children.

She said there was an overwhelming joy among patients, their families, and hospital staff at the arrival of the Chinese doctors, who brought a brighter future for patients and renewed hope for doctors to treat more cases with this advanced, safe technique.

"This initiative has not only strengthened people-to-people ties but stands as a shining example of our enduring friendship with China," she said.

She added that the Chinese doctors rendered a great service to humanity under the vision of a shared future for mankind, whose memories will remain fresh in the hearts of the patients and their families forever.

<http://en.people.cn/n3/2025/0128/c90000-20271353.html>

January 29, 2025

Xinhua News

Pakistan's National Monument illuminated to celebrate Spring Festival

People visit the National Monument illuminated in red color to celebrate the Spring Festival, or the Chinese New Year, in Islamabad, Pakistan, on Jan. 28, 2025. (Xinhua/Ahmad Kamal)

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<https://english.news.cn/asiapacific/20250129/f4ac1acf2722477ab3cbffca92593d28/c.html>