



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

October 16-30, 2024

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October 16, 2024

Business Recorder

NA speaker, Chinese premier agree to make joint efforts for regional peace, stability

ISLAMABAD: National Assembly Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq and Chinese Premier Li Qiang discussed parliamentary and economic relations and agreed to make joint efforts for regional peace and stability.

Both countries also agreed to further expand the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) projects for prosperity of the people of the region.

They also discussed the importance of joint projects in the energy sector and the need to enhance collaboration in technology and the digital economy.

Speaker Sadiq met with Chinese Premier Li Qiang in Islamabad on Tuesday.

Welcoming the Chinese premier to Pakistan, the speaker expressed confidence that the premier's visit would serve as a significant milestone in strengthening bilateral relations.

He lauded the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) summit being hosted in Pakistan, stating that it was a great honour for the country. The speaker emphasised that China is a trustworthy and sincere friend of Pakistan, and the country takes great pride in its everlasting friendship with China. He expressed hope that the SCO summit would enhance regional cooperation and strengthen regional stability. He reiterated that Pakistan attaches great importance to the SCO platform and that the summit would help project Pakistan's positive image on the global stage. He also affirmed Pakistan's commitment to working for regional development through the SCO platform. Highlighting the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) projects, the speaker noted that CPEC holds special significance for both nations and that its completion would usher in a new era of development and prosperity in the region.

The speaker highlighted the vast opportunities for investment in various sectors in Pakistan and stressed the need to further expand cooperation in education and science between the two countries. Emphasising the significance of parliamentary diplomacy, the speaker reaffirmed the commitment to enhancing cooperation between Pakistan's National Assembly and China's People's Congress and to promoting future exchanges of parliamentary delegations.

Chinese Premier Li Qiang appreciated the speaker's goodwill towards the Chinese leadership and people. He reiterated that Pakistan holds great importance in China's foreign relations. The premier agreed with the speaker's proposal to strengthen bilateral parliamentary contacts, stating that enhancing ties at the parliamentary level could play a key role in bringing the two friendly nations closer. He further affirmed that China would continue its cooperation with Pakistan in economic and social sectors and expressed confidence that the completion of CPEC would fulfill the dream of sustainable development and prosperity in the region.

Premier Li Qiang expressed his happiness over visiting Pakistan and extended his gratitude to the Pakistani government and people for the warm welcome and immense hospitality. He also conveyed his best wishes for the successful hosting of the SCO summit in Pakistan.

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2024/10/16/2-page/1011437-news.html>

Dawn News

China urges tougher steps to ensure workers' safety

ISLAMABAD: Chinese Prime Minister Li Qiang emphasised on Tuesday that Pakistan remains a key priority in China's neighbourhood diplomacy, while urging stronger measures to ensure the safety of Chinese workers in the country.

Li made these remarks during talks with President Asif Ali Zardari, reaffirming China's commitment to deepening bilateral cooperation. "China views its relationship with Pakistan from a strategic and long-term perspective," he said, addressing concerns about a perceived cooling in China's enthusiasm for cooperation, largely due to security issues.

Chinese workers in Pakistan have been targeted in several attacks in recent years, raising Beijing's concerns.

Just a week before Li's visit, a convoy of Chinese workers was attacked in Karachi, resulting in the deaths of two Chinese nationals. Another major issue for Beijing is Pakistan's mounting power sector debt, which has reached nearly \$2 billion, prompting Islamabad to push for a restructuring. On the first day of his four-day visit, Li shared similar sentiments while virtually inaugurating Gwadar Airport along with Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif.

He underscored the "constantly deepening" strategic cooperation between the two allies, describing their relationship as a "unique and unbreakable time-tested ironclad friendship".

In his conversation with President Zardari, Li reiterated China's long-standing commitment to Pakistan as a strategic priority in its neighbourhood diplomacy. He highlighted the progress made in their "all-weather strategic cooperative partnership" and through "high-quality Belt and Road cooperation". The Chinese PM emphasised that China is ready to collaborate with Pakistan on sharing governance practices, aligning development strategies, enhancing economic and trade partnerships, and deepening cultural and people-to-people exchanges. He also reaffirmed China's commitment to making CPEC a flagship project of the Belt and Road Initiative, ensuring mutual benefits for both countries.

Li further stressed the importance of improving security measures for Chinese personnel, institutions, and projects in Pakistan. "We trust that Pakistan will continue to make every effort to ensure the safety of our citizens," he added.

President Zardari echoed these concerns, reaffirming Pakistan's commitment to protecting Chinese nationals. "We will do everything possible to ensure the safety of Chinese citizens and are determined to bring those responsible for recent attacks to justice," he said.

He emphasised the long-standing friendship between Pakistan and China, noting that their ties have remained strong despite global challenges. The president also mentioned his upcoming visit to China in November, where he plans to explore new avenues for cooperation. Later, Senate Chairman Syed Yusuf Raza Gilani also met Premier Li, condemning the recent terrorist attacks targeting Chinese citizens. "These attacks are part of a conspiracy to destabilise regional peace and undermine the Pakistan-China friendship," he said. <https://www.dawn.com/news/1865485>

Pakistan Observer

Strategic Significance of CPEC: A Vision for a Prosperous Future

M S Swati

The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) stands as a transformative initiative with the potential to reshape the economic and geopolitical landscape of South Asia. Launched in 2013, this ambitious project is a cornerstone of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), aimed at enhancing global trade and fostering international cooperation. In the light of the ongoing SCO conference in Islamabad, CPEC's significance is magnified as it represents not just an infrastructure project, but a comprehensive development strategy designed to enhance connectivity, spur economic growth and promote regional integration among member states.

Enhancing Connectivity and Trade: At its core, CPEC is designed to enhance connectivity between China, Pakistan and the broader region. The corridor includes a network of highways, railways and pipelines that significantly reduce transportation costs and time. By linking the Xinjiang region of China with Gwadar Port in Pakistan, CPEC creates a vital trade route facilitating the movement of goods between China, the Middle East, Africa and beyond. As leaders from the SCO gather in Islamabad, the importance of this route in fostering economic ties and ensuring smoother trade flows becomes increasingly clear. The strategic location of Gwadar Port at the crossroads of major international shipping lanes positions it as a key hub for global trade. The development of Gwadar into a modern port city is expected to unlock new economic opportunities for Pakistan, transforming it into a regional logistics and trade centre. This transformation will contribute not only to Pakistan's economic growth but also to that of its neighboring countries, thereby fostering greater regional integration.

Economic Growth and Industrial Development: One of CPEC's primary goals is to stimulate economic growth through large-scale infrastructure projects. The corridor includes a series of industrial parks and economic zones expected to attract significant foreign direct investment (FDI). These zones will offer favorable conditions for businesses, including tax incentives and streamlined regulatory processes, creating a conducive environment for industrial development. The establishment of these economic zones is anticipated to boost Pakistan's manufacturing sector, diversify its economy and create numerous job opportunities. By attracting international investors and facilitating industrial growth, CPEC will contribute to the economic upliftment of various regions within Pakistan, promoting balanced regional development and reducing economic disparities. This is particularly relevant as SCO member states seek collaborative pathways to bolster their economic resilience.

Energy Security and Sustainability: A critical component of CPEC is its focus on addressing Pakistan's energy needs. The corridor includes a range of energy projects, including coal-fired power plants, hydropower projects, and renewable energy initiatives. These projects aim to alleviate Pakistan's energy crisis, a longstanding bottleneck for economic development. By investing in energy infrastructure, CPEC seeks to ensure a stable and reliable supply of electricity, essential for sustaining economic activities and attracting further investment. The development of renewable energy projects under CPEC also aligns with global sustainability goals, contributing to the reduction of carbon emissions and promoting cleaner energy

sources. The current discourse at the SCO conference can provide a platform for collaborative efforts in energy sustainability among member states. Infrastructure Development and Regional Integration: In addition to energy and industrial projects, CPEC encompasses a wide range of infrastructure development initiatives. These include the construction of roads, bridges, and railways that will enhance connectivity within Pakistan and across the region. Improved infrastructure will facilitate trade, reduce transportation costs, and enhance logistical efficiency. Moreover, CPEC has the potential to strengthen regional integration by promoting economic cooperation between China, Pakistan, and neighboring countries such as Afghanistan and Iran. The SCO conference serves as a crucial backdrop for these discussions, as fostering cross-border trade and investment can contribute to regional stability and economic development, creating a more interconnected and prosperous South Asia. Human Development and Social Impact: Beyond economic and infrastructure benefits, CPEC significantly impacts human development. The corridor's projects are expected to create thousands of job opportunities, improving the livelihoods of people in various regions. The influx of investment and development will support local businesses, enhance skills, and provide better access to education and healthcare. Furthermore, CPEC emphasizes social development through various initiatives aimed at improving living standards and promoting community well-being. Investment in education, healthcare, and social services is integral to ensuring that the benefits of CPEC are broadly shared and contribute to overall human development. Strengthening Bilateral Ties: CPEC represents a deepening of the strategic partnership between China and Pakistan. The close cooperation between the two countries in the development and implementation of CPEC projects underscores their shared commitment to mutual growth and stability. This partnership not only benefits the two countries but also enhances their strategic position on the global stage, especially within the framework of the SCO. By fostering stronger bilateral ties, CPEC contributes to regional security and cooperation. The corridor enhances trust and collaboration between China and Pakistan, providing a solid foundation for addressing regional challenges and advancing common interests. The SCO conference is a prime opportunity for both countries to reinforce their partnership in light of shared economic and security objectives. Future Prospects and Opportunities: Looking ahead, CPEC holds immense promise for shaping the future of South Asia. As the corridor continues to evolve, it is expected to bring about transformative changes in various sectors. The successful implementation of CPEC projects will pave the way for further economic growth, regional integration, and improved quality of life for millions of people. The ongoing development of CPEC presents numerous opportunities for collaboration with other countries and international organizations. By leveraging its strategic location and infrastructure, Pakistan can position itself as a key player in global trade and economic cooperation, a narrative that resonates strongly during the SCO conference.

<https://pakobserver.net/strategic-significance-of-cpec-a-vision-for-a-prosperous-future/>

CPEC Phase-2, SCO Strategic Importance and way forward

Dr Mehmood Ul Hassan Khan

The Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) has now become a “thick” and “tall” tree spreading hope of socio-economic prosperity, human capital development, trans-regional connectivity, regional peace, stability, harmony and, above all, the plight of qualitative life and provision of “basic necessities of life” among all the member countries.

It seems that the Shanghai Spirit comprising openness, inclusiveness, mutual trust, political cooperation and last but not the least economic cooperation among the SCO member countries has become “constitution” of development, stability, progress, security and above meaningful persuasion of common strategies to mitigate the socio-economic consequences of looming threats of non-state actors, mainly climate change, terrorism and national capacity building hurdles in some of the member countries.

It is a good omen that the Chinese Premier Li has visited after the expiry of 11 years in the country. The Chinese premier Li’S visit has become a “value addition” to the 23rd SCO meeting of the Council of the Heads of Government (CHG). While in the capital of Pakistan, the Chinese Prime Minister Li addressed a ceremony of the newly completed “Gwadar” airport’s virtual inauguration with the PM Shehbaz termed it as the “landmark” achievement showcasing all about the time-tested friendship between the two countries.

On his part, Prime Minister Shehbaz expressed hope that the completion of the airport would transform Gwadar’s economy in particular and the blue economy of Pakistan in general. Thus the completion of Gwadar’s airport showed the Chinese leadership’s commitment and dedication to support Pakistan’s economic agenda and to help develop its backward areas. Thus it would further enhance aerial connectivity between China Xinjiang region and Pakistan. Moreover, it would be the gateway of Pakistan and South Asian countries to Central Asia, Middle East and Africa in the days to come.

The Prime Minister said both sides had witnessed the signing and exchange of MoUs between the two countries in various fields of industry, commerce and agriculture. Definitely, these MoUs will shape into agreements very soon through joint efforts of both countries which vividly reflect mutual commitment to promoting friendship between the two countries. PM Shehbaz termed inauguration of Gwadar airport as a gift and value addition to CPEC assuring Chinese counterpart to work closely with him to complete the second phase of the CPEC and the peace and security of the people of the two countries.

On his part, the Chinese premier congratulated the Pakistani nation and the government on behalf of the Chinese government and his people on the completion of Gwadar airport pledging it was a manifestation of the commitment of the Chinese and Pakistani engineers and workers, and also thanked Pakistani society for its support. He termed it as a critical step for realising the vision of regional connectivity, demonstrating the strength of Pak-China friendship and adding that the inauguration would significantly capitalise the promotion of shipping and port activities and enhance regional connectivity in the entire region. Rightly, the Chinese premier Li labelled it as a symbol of deepening cooperation and appreciated the positive, productive and participatory role of the CPEC in Pakistan’s economic and social

development and regional integration. Moreover, the assurance of the Chinese prime minister to continue to work closely with Pakistan in building and benefiting together by pursuing the goals of high standards, sustainability and high quality of the Belt and Road Initiative has great significance in terms of the BRI's regional as well as global expansion, scope, utility and productivity in the days to come. Premier Li, referring to the Pak-China ties, termed them as of "special relationship and friendship" and said the all-weather strategic partnership was further deepening. He reiterated to work hand in hand with Pakistan to accelerate mutual economic development in the future. Furthermore, the two countries also reiterated their support to each other on all core issues and pledged to develop CPEC's phase-II at the highest standards. PM Shehbaz and Premier Li led the delegation-level talks at the Prime Minister's House. During the meeting, the two leaders discussed all aspects of bilateral relations and discussed regional and global issues of mutual interest. The two sides also stressed the need for timely completion of all ongoing projects, including industry, modernisation of agriculture, information technology, science and technology, for the mutual benefit and the socio-economic development of Pakistan. PM Shehbaz assured Pakistan's unwavering commitment to ensuring the safety of Chinese nationals and projects in the country. The two sides agreed to continue the high-level contacts, including strengthening all areas of bilateral cooperation. In the meeting, discussions were held regarding the relocation of Chinese industry to Pakistan and strategies to increase Chinese investment in Pakistan. It was reiterated in the meeting that Pakistan and China would continue close consultations on issues of regional and global importance at the multilateral forums. In summary, the emerging "triangular" of the CPEC, BRI and SCO have become true hope of economic revival, icon of immense social development, mantra of economic integration, road map of peaceful trans-regional connectivity, an ideal platform of dealing the non-state actors and above all futuristic path for clubbing South Asia with Central Asia, and beyond in the days to come. The visit of Chinese premier Li to 23rd SCO meeting of the Council of the Heads of Government (CHG) is a "diplomatic" victory of Pakistan "silencing" the "dissenting voices" in the country and beyond mitigating all false and fake propaganda against the CPEC and BRI. It is a message of further consolidation, cooperation, collaboration and coordination between Pakistan and China. Thus it is indeed a productive visit and an expression of the importance attached by Pakistan and China to their 'All-Weather Strategic Cooperative Partnership. It further reaffirms mutual support on issues of core interest; advance high-quality development of CPEC; and reinforce regular exchanges on important regional and global developments. Hopefully the SCO summit will focus on enhancing regional cooperation, trade, and financial integrity among member states, significantly boosting Pakistan's image and future prospects". It is crystal clear that Pakistan being sole bearer of the CPEC. BRI has become a trade hub for Central Asia and holding of the SCO summit aims to promote economic integration, a digital economy and cultural exchanges, fostering regional prosperity and stability. Last but not least, the SCO summit will discuss ongoing cooperation in the fields of economy, trade, environment, socio-cultural linkages and review the performance of the Organization.

<https://pakobserver.net/cpec-phase-2-sco-strategic-importance-and-way-forward/>

Pakistan, China agree to further cement ties in various fields

Islamabad: Pakistan and China have reached ‘extensive consensus’ on further consolidating and deepening the Pakistan-China all-weather strategic cooperative partnership, besides promoting practical cooperation in various sectors.

Consensus to this effect was evolved between the two countries during the ongoing visit of Chinese Premier Li Qiang to Pakistan in the course of which he held talks with his Pakistani counterpart, Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, called on President Asif Ali Zardari, and met Chairman Senate Syed Yousaf Raza Gillani, Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq.

The Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee as well as the Chiefs of Staff of the Army, Navy and Air Force of Pakistan also called on Premier Li Qiang.

A joint statement issued by the two sides in Islamabad on Tuesday night says both sides underscored that since the establishment of diplomatic ties, Pakistan-China relations have withstood the test of times and have remained rock-solid.

“The Pakistani side highly commends and firmly supports major visions and propositions put forth by President Xi Jinping, such as fostering a community with a shared future for mankind, the Belt and Road Initiative, the Global Development Initiative, the Global Security Initiative, and the Global Civilization Initiative”

The two sides agreed to further strengthen exchanges and cooperation at all levels and across various fields between governments, legislative bodies and political parties.

The Chinese side commended the new achievements attained by Pakistan in economic reform and development under the leadership of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif.

<https://pakobserver.net/pakistan-china-agree-to-further-cement-ties-in-various-fields/>

Sino-Pak complete understanding

AS was expected, brisk and all-encompassing discussions of the visiting Chinese Prime Minister Li Qiang with Pakistani leadership have not only helped forge greater understanding between the two countries on the entire gamut of their relationship but also resulted in signing of thirteen Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) aimed at deepening cooperation in various sectors. The visit also afforded an opportunity for the soft launch of the Gwadar International Airport, which is going to be remembered as another gift of China to Pakistan.

It is a matter of satisfaction for people of Pakistan that China always supported Pakistan fervently and during the visit of Premier Li Qiang the leadership of the two countries reiterated their support to each other on all core issues and pledged to develop CPEC’s phase-II at the highest standards. The two sides expressed satisfaction that the Pakistan-China Strategic Cooperative Partnership based on mutual trust and shared principles was being further strengthened with time. There was an unfortunate impression that the historic CPEC initiative has lost its original momentum due to some factors. In this backdrop, the completion of Gwadar airport assumed special significance as it would go a long way in improving regional connectivity and help realize the potential of the port city. It is also important to note that the two countries stressed the need for timely completion of all

ongoing projects, including industry, modernization of agriculture, information technology, science and technology, for the mutual benefit and the socio-economic development of Pakistan. More importantly, during the meeting of the distinguished guest and Pakistan Prime Minister, substantive discussions were held regarding the relocation of Chinese industry to Pakistan and strategies to increase Chinese investment in Pakistan. The Chinese leader won hearts of people of Pakistan by declaring in unequivocal terms that his great country will continue to work closely with the intimate Pakistani friends in building and benefiting together by pursuing the goals of high standards, sustainability and high quality of Belt and Road Initiative. In an important development, visible progress has been made on the otherwise slow-moving ML-I project with Beijing agreeing to provide financing for the phase-I of the project i.e. from Karachi to Hyderabad section. Security has been a matter of concern both for China and Pakistan in the context of increased terrorist attacks on CPEC projects and manpower. As part of the plan to beef up security arrangements for unhindered execution of all developmental projects, the two sides agreed to maintain a security environment for development. China has expressed willingness to provide six bullet-proof vehicles to support national security and economic and social development of Pakistan. China has successfully tamed its unruly rivers that had been inflicting harm for centuries and is ready to share its experience with Pakistan in river training to help mitigate impact of disasters in vulnerable regions. It is hoped that the MoU on this subject will be translated into a tangible agreement soon to benefit from Chinese experience in harnessing the water resources, especially floods, for economic development. The two countries have also signed another important MoU on information and communication cooperation aimed at enhancing digital infrastructure, promoting projects such as cloud services, smart classrooms, and green energy solutions for higher education. This is pivotal for Pakistan's digital transformation and competitive standing in the global market and will help realize the true potential of the sector. Major fire incidents in Pakistan exposed weaknesses of the country in combating such disasters and with this in view the Chinese offer to provide 19 fire trucks, a multi-functional rescue vehicle, and a rescue excavator will surely boost Pakistan's emergency response capabilities. In short, the outcome of the visit has proved once again that China cooperates in areas that either help overcome sufferings of the people or promote their welfare.

<https://pakobserver.net/sino-pak-complete-understanding/>

China's role in SCO tapestry

INFUSING spirit of unity, peace and development across the region with cherishing the status of a responsible global leader, China has transformed Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) as the best therapy to cure regional economic crunches, security challenges cultural gaps, people to people concerns and mutual development crisis. Since its inception till game-changing SCO summit being held on October 15-16 in Pakistan, by virtue of China's anchoring stimulus, SCO member states have been witnessing inclusive trade growth, infrastructure upgradation, security improvement and sustainable development upbeat in diverse sphere of life.

At the time when developing countries had lost hope to keep pace with world and plunged into whirlpool of mayhem due to vested interests of superpowers, China came up with

guiding light of the SCO that navigated SCO member states that cover about three-fifths of the Eurasian continent, with a combined population of about a half of the world's total, to grow and thrive as one united force on the basis of equity, respect, brotherhood. Economic cooperation has always been an important element of SCO cooperation. Since the establishment of the SCO, the member states have been actively integrating into global trade cooperation despite global headwinds. "The Report on Trade Development over 20 Years since the Establishment of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO)", released in 2022, shows that the total trade value of SCO member states increased from \$667.09 billion in 2001 to \$6.06 trillion in 2020, representing nearly a 10-fold increase over 20 years. SCO's share of total global trade value grew from 5.4 percent in 2001 to 17.5 percent in 2020, and the influence of SCO member states on global trade has continued to increase.

Central Asia is the traditional geographical area of the SCO. China's cooperation with the five Central Asian countries has been deepening, and the trade volume has been growing rapidly. China is already the top trading partner and a major source of investment for the five Central Asian countries. Data shows that China's trade volume with the five Central Asian countries reached \$89.4 billion in 2023, up 27 percent year on year, hitting another record high.

As a SCO member state, Pakistan also saw robust economic growth under CPEC framework, signature project of BRI initiated by China. Pakistan's export of goods and services to China witnessed an increase of 42.02 per cent during the first eight months of the current fiscal year (2023-24) as compared to the exports of the corresponding period of last year, State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) reported. Since the launch of CPEC in 2013, China has become the largest source of investment for Pakistan for 10 consecutive years with \$25.4 billion investment in direct projects in the country.

Energy and infrastructure cooperation is central to SCO economic and trade partnerships. Large-scale crude oil and natural gas pipelines among member states have created mutual benefits, with China becoming a key energy partner. Railway infrastructure improvements have also spurred the growth of the China-Europe Rail Express (CERE). Since its first departure through Alashankou in 2011, CERE has expanded for 13 consecutive years, now reaching 21 countries and cities.

As of April 2024, the Alashankou terminal had operated over 36,000 train trips on 118 routes, transporting more than 200 types of goods, with more foreign commodities entering China via the railway. On June 6, the China-Kyrgyzstan-Uzbekistan railway agreement was signed, accelerating SCO economic cooperation. In Pakistan, over 90% of passenger traffic and 96% of freight depend on road transport, with 1,622 km of CPEC motorways completed or under construction, accounting for 40% of the country's total motorway mileage. These motorways connect key ports like Karachi, Port Qasim, and Gwadar, enhancing cross-border trade.

Under the SCO spirit ignited by China, member states welcomed the adoption of the concept of cooperation among the SCO member states in developing ports and logistics centres, as well as the outcomes of the SCO International Transport Forum held at Tashkent, 1 November 2023. In order to underpin economic trajectories, China motivated member states

to expedite the implementation of the Agenda for Sustainable Development until 2030 and fostering inclusive economic globalisation accessible to all.

Now SCO member states aim to eliminate barriers and formulate unified approaches to trade facilitation. As of 2023, the SCO is primarily centred on security-related concerns, describing the main threats like terrorism, separatism and extremism. At SCO summit, held in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, on 16–17 June 2004, the Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure (RATS) was established. On 21 April 2006, the SCO announced plans to fight cross-border drug crimes under the counter-terrorism rubric.

In October 2007, the SCO and Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO) signed an agreement in Dushanbe to enhance cooperation on security, crime, and drug trafficking. By 2010, the SCO opposed cyberwarfare, deeming harmful information to states' spiritual, moral, and cultural spheres a "security threat." A 2009 accord defined "information war" as efforts to undermine political, economic, and social systems. A 2017 media report noted that SCO foiled 600 terror plots and extradited 500 terrorists through RATS.

At the July 2024 Astana summit, the SCO advocated for a multipolar world order based on the UN's role, international law, and sovereign cooperation. Led by China, member states emphasized people-oriented collaboration to enhance well-being, while prioritizing the implementation of the Programme of Multilateral Trade and Economic Cooperation and the SCO Economic Development Strategy until 2030.

Cultural and humanitarian cooperation was also highlighted, with a focus on preserving heritage and promoting multilingualism for peace and prosperity.

China's leadership in the SCO further emphasized enhancing e-commerce and digital economy cooperation, with a commitment to narrowing the digital divide and addressing related challenges.

Member states welcomed the outcomes of the SCO Digital Forum and the inaugural Technopark and Innovation Cluster meeting in February 2024.

Financial support for projects was also stressed, with continued discussions on establishing the SCO Development Bank and Fund to maximize investment potential.

In alignment with the Green SCO agenda, members focused on environmental cooperation, promoting safety, resource management, and climate change adaptation through technology transfers and resource mobilization.

They approved joint approaches for addressing environmental issues and launched a plan to implement the Green Belt Programme for 2024-2026, including protected territories and environmental tourism initiatives.

<https://pakobserver.net/chinas-role-in-sco-tapestry/>

The Nation

Pakistan, China agree to further deepen strategic cooperation

ISLAMABAD - Pakistan and China Tuesday reaffirmed their commitment to further deepen strategic cooperation across key areas, including the economy, investment and regional connectivity. This was discussed during a meeting between President Asif Ali Zardari and the visiting Chinese Premier Li Qiang in Islamabad today.

Both sides also emphasized the need to expedite the implementation of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor projects. Welcoming the delegation, the President emphasized that Pakistan's friendship with its all-weather partner remains a cornerstone of the country's foreign policy. He stressed the importance of exploring new avenues for cooperation as there is more space to expand bilateral relations. He also underscored the need to enhance connectivity through all-weather road networks to strengthen trade and people-to-people linkages. He said Chinese companies should benefit from the investment opportunities in Pakistan by investing in the Pakistan Stock Exchange. 'Pak-China joint statement'

Pakistan and China on Tuesday agreed to continue to deepen cooperation in various fields and accelerate efforts to build an even closer Pakistan-China community with a shared future in the new era. "The two sides noted that in a transforming and turbulent world where major changes are unfolding at a faster pace, the Pakistan-China relationship is of strategic significance, and any attempt to disrupt or undermine Pakistan-China cooperation is bound to fail. Pakistan and China enjoy an all-level, cross-board and high-quality relationship. The Chinese side reiterated that the China-Pakistan relationship is a priority in its foreign relations. The Pakistani side underscored that the Pakistan-China relationship is the cornerstone of its foreign policy while the Chinese side highlighted that the China-Pakistan relationship is of special significance in China's foreign policy," a joint statement between the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and the People's Republic of China, shared by Foreign Office Spokesperson on Tuesday, said. The two sides expressed grave concern over the protracted conflict in Gaza and the dire and rapidly deteriorating humanitarian situation, and urged for an immediate and permanent ceasefire as well as efforts to ensure unimpeded humanitarian assistance. The two sides reaffirmed their support for the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination, including their right to establish an independent State of Palestine. Both sides expressed support for resuming the process of political settlement and their readiness to work with the rest of the international community to promote a comprehensive, just and lasting settlement of the Palestinian question.

"The two sides expressed grave concern over recent Israeli aggression on Lebanon, which further escalated the tension in the region. We oppose practices that violate the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, the violation of Lebanon's sovereignty, security and territorial integrity and oppose moves that fuel antagonism and escalate tensions. Pakistan and China call on the international community, especially major countries with influence, to play a constructive role and avoid further turmoil," it was added. Pakistan and China reaffirmed their commitment to an upgraded version of China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) by jointly building a growth corridor, a livelihood-enhancing corridor, an

innovation corridor, a green corridor and an open corridor, and develop CPEC into a demonstration project of high-quality Belt and Road cooperation. “The two sides agreed to further synergize China’s eight major steps for supporting Belt and Road cooperation with Pakistan’s 5Es framework based on Exports, E-Pakistan, Environment, Energy, and Equity & Empowerment.” The Pakistani side positively assessed the visit by the Chinese working team on economic cooperation, and expressed its willingness to continue experience-sharing on development in various areas with the Chinese side. At the invitation of Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, Chinese Premier Li Qiang paid an official visit to Pakistan from October 14 to 17. The two sides underscored that since the establishment of diplomatic ties, Pakistan-China relations have withstood the test of times and have remained rock-solid. Since President Xi Jinping’s historic state visit to Pakistan in 2015, the All-Weather Strategic Cooperative Partnership between the two countries has made significant progress. After Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif’s successful official visit to China in June 2024, the two countries have enjoyed even stronger political mutual trust, more vibrant cooperation, and closer strategic coordination. Both sides expressed satisfaction with the momentum of Pakistan-China relations and agreed to further strengthen the ironclad friendship and cooperation between the two countries. The Pakistani side highly commends and firmly supports major visions and propositions put forth by President Xi Jinping, such as fostering a community with a shared future for mankind, the Belt and Road Initiative, the Global Development Initiative, the Global Security Initiative, and the Global Civilization Initiative. Both sides advocate for an equal and orderly multipolar world and a universally beneficial and inclusive economic globalization, and are committed to working together with all countries around the world for a bright future of peace, security, prosperity and progress.

The two sides agreed to maintain the momentum of exchanges under the strategic guidance of the top leaders for the development of bilateral relations. They agreed to further strengthen exchanges and cooperation at all levels and across various fields between governments, legislative bodies and political parties. The Pakistani side expressed warm congratulations on the 75th anniversary of the founding of the People’s Republic of China and the successful conclusion of the Third Plenary Session of the 20th Central Committee of the Communist Party of China and highlighted that China’s endeavor to further deepen reform comprehensively and advance high-standard opening up will bring new development opportunities for Pakistan and all other countries around the world. The Chinese side commends the new achievements attained by Pakistan in economic reform and development under the leadership of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif. The two sides reaffirmed their firm support to each other in independently choosing a development path that suits their respective national realities, and agreed to strengthen exchanges of governance experience and foster greater synergy between their development strategies. The two sides reaffirmed their unyielding support for each other on the issues concerning their respective core interests and major concerns. Both sides stressed that the authority of the U.N. General Assembly Resolution 2758 brooks no question or challenge.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2024-10-16/page-1/detail-1>

China will continue supporting Pakistan, says PM Li Qiang

Chinese Premier says CPEC will fulfill dream of sustainable development, prosperity in the region.

Islamabad - Chinese Premier Li Qiang has said that China will continue its cooperation with Pakistan in economic and social sectors, besides expressing confidence that the completion of CPEC would fulfill the dream of sustainable development and prosperity in the region. He made these remarks in a meeting with Speaker of the National Assembly, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq, here on Tuesday. During the meeting, both sides discussed parliamentary and economic relations, as well as matters of mutual interest. Both countries agreed to further expand parliamentary and economic ties.

Welcoming the Chinese Premier to Pakistan, the Speaker expressed confidence that the Premier's visit would serve as a significant milestone in strengthening bilateral relations. He lauded the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) summit being hosted in Pakistan, stating that it was a great honor for the country. The Speaker emphasized that China is a trustworthy and sincere friend of Pakistan, and the country takes great pride in its everlasting friendship with China. He expressed hope that the SCO summit would enhance regional cooperation and strengthen regional stability. He reiterated that Pakistan attaches great importance to the SCO platform and that the summit would help project Pakistan's positive image on the global stage. He also affirmed Pakistan's commitment to working for regional development through the SCO platform. Highlighting the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) projects, the Speaker noted that CPEC holds special significance for both nations and that its completion would usher in a new era of development and prosperity in the region. The two leaders agreed to make joint efforts for regional peace and stability. The Speaker highlighted the vast opportunities for investment in various sectors in Pakistan and stressed the need to further expand cooperation in education and science between the two countries. The discussion also touched on the importance of joint projects in the energy sector and the need to enhance collaboration in technology and the digital economy. Emphasizing the significance of parliamentary diplomacy, the Speaker reaffirmed the commitment to enhancing cooperation between Pakistan's National Assembly and China's People's Congress and to promoting future exchanges of parliamentary delegations. Chinese Premier Li Qiang appreciated the Speaker's goodwill towards the Chinese leadership and people. He reiterated that Pakistan holds great importance in China's foreign relations. The Premier agreed with the Speaker's proposal to strengthen bilateral parliamentary contacts, stating that enhancing ties at the parliamentary level could play a key role in bringing the two friendly nations closer. Premier Li Qiang expressed his happiness over visiting Pakistan and extended his gratitude to the Pakistani government and people for the warm welcome and immense hospitality. He also conveyed his best wishes for the successful hosting of the SCO summit in Pakistan.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2024-10-16/page-2/detail-2>

Pakistan committed to ensuring safety of Chinese nationals: Gilani

ISLAMABAD - Senate Chairman Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani extended a warm welcome to Chinese Premier Li Qiang in a meeting held here on Tuesday. This engagement is aimed at deepening the bond of friendship and enhancing bilateral cooperation between Pakistan and China, particularly in the fields of economics, trade and investment, said a statement issued by the Senate Secretariat. Chairman Gilani emphasised the historic ties between the two nations, tracing back over 2,000 years to the Silk Road, which served as a bridge of friendship linking ancient civilizations.

Addressing the vital issue of security, Senator Gilani condemned terrorism in all its forms and reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to ensuring the safety of Chinese nationals working on development projects within the country. He expressed that attacks on Chinese citizens would be seen as attacks on Pakistan itself, underscoring the solidarity between the two nations in combating extremism and terrorism.

He also highlighted the robust defence cooperation that underpins the relationship, noting significant joint projects like the production of the JF-17 Thunder fighter jet. He expressed gratitude for China's support in enhancing Pakistan's defence capabilities. He acknowledged the longstanding amity that had characterized Pakistan-China relations since the establishment of diplomatic ties in May 1951, highlighting that Pakistan was among the first countries to recognize the People's Republic of China.

The chairman paid tribute to the vision of the architects of this enduring relationship, including former prime ministers Zulfikar Ali Bhutto and Benazir Bhutto, as well as the leadership of China.

He reaffirmed that Pakistan considers China as one of its closest friends, with both nations committed to mutual trust, respect and goodwill.

Recalling his own history of fostering Pak-China relations during his tenure as prime minister, the Senate chairman noted high-level interactions and discussions that have consistently strengthened ties.

He reiterated the importance of parliamentary cooperation, citing recent visits by Pakistani delegations aimed at furthering this essential partnership.

On the economic front, the chairman discussed the progress made under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), which serves as a pivotal framework for enhancing trade relations.

He reported that bilateral trade volume has shown commendable growth, with imports from China reaching \$13.50 billion and exports to China increasing to \$2.707 billion in the ongoing financial year.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2024-10-16/page-2/detail-3>

China, Pakistan to jointly build growth corridor: Chinese envoy

ISLAMABAD - China to work with Pakistan to jointly build a growth corridor, a livelihood-enhancing corridor, an innovation corridor, a green corridor and an open corridor, said Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan Jiang Zaidong.

As for the temporary difficulties faced by CPEC construction and even the entire China-Pakistan practical cooperation, there are both constraints from Pakistan's security environment and the impact of the global economic downturn. He told reporters here that the first thing to solve is not what to do, but how to look at it. The key is to hold confidence.

“For example, Pakistan's new government has only assumed office for a few months, and Pakistan's GDP has returned from negative growth and achieved a positive growth of 2.4%.”

Pakistan's CPI has dropped from 28.7% at the beginning of this year to 6.9% last month, reaching a new low in 44 months.

As for the long-standing foreign exchange reserve issue, Pakistan's foreign exchange reserves rose to nearly \$16 billion last month, reaching the highest over the past several years.

Therefore, when he visited Karachi and Lahore recently, I especially told Chinese and Pakistani entrepreneurs will thank the efforts made by Pakistani government under the leadership of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, and to have confidence in your country's development prospects.

The better Pakistan develops the more favourable conditions China and Pakistan have to promote cooperation.

As President Xi Jinping pointed out, conditions are not static. If you actively strive for them, they may get better. If you don't work hard, they will definitely get worse. This is called “the matter depends on the individual.”

Sharing some personal opinions about Sino-Pak friendship, Ambassador Jiang said, “We are all-weather strategic cooperative partners and ironclad friends.”

Over the past 11 years, CPEC has indeed made outstanding contributions to Pakistan's economic development. Pakistani friends often call CPEC a “game changer” for Pakistan. President Zardari and Prime Minister Shehbaz also spoke highly of CPEC, believing it to be the “cornerstone” of Pakistan's development.

CPEC has brought to Pakistan a total of \$25.4 billion in direct investment, created 236,000 jobs, and helped Pakistan add 510 kilometres of motorways, 8,220 megawatts of electricity and 886 kilometres of national core transmission grid.

During Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's visit to China in June this year, President Xi Jinping and Premier Li Qiang reached important consensus with him, emphasising the need to promote the aligning of high-quality “Belt and Road” cooperation with Pakistan's development plan, and to forge an “upgraded version” of CPEC, which further pointed out the direction for CPEC construction in the new stage.

As Premier Li Qiang pointed out at a recent symposium held in China domestically, we should both recognize the general trend and strengthen our confidence, and also face up to the

difficulties and respond to them positively. Of course, I am not blindly optimistic, but there are facts to support my views.

For example, Pakistan is a major agricultural country, and its cotton, mango and wheat production respectively ranks fifth, sixth and seventh in the world. Pakistan is also the world's fourth largest producer of dairy products, but its modernisation level needs to be improved.

For this, one of our Chinese companies are cooperating with Pakistani side to establish a modern high-efficiency water-saving agriculture demonstration base covering an area of 660 thousand square meters, and will train 1,000 technical and management personnel and talents for Pakistani agriculture sector.

Another Chinese company has established buffalo embryo lab in Pakistan, and has exported buffalo embryos to China, and has also successfully launch dairy products production in Pakistan, exporting 4,000 tons to China each year.

Another company has developed new rapeseed varieties in Pakistan, increasing the rapeseed oil content by 20% and the oil yield by 10%. This year, it will promote the planting by 66 thousand hectares.

These are all proactive actions, trying to find a way out at the end of the road and open up a new chapter in the predicament.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2024-10-16/page-11/detail-3>

Nawaiwaqt New

!!!شنگھائی تعاون تنظیم اجلاس اور غزہ میں غذائی قلت

محمد اکرم چوہدری

شنگھائی تعاون تنظیم کا اجلاس اسلام آباد میں ہو رہا ہے۔ خطے میں ہر وقت سامنے آنے والی تبدیلیوں اور پاکستان کے اندرونی حالات اور بیرونی دنیا سے پاکستان کے تعلقات کو دیکھتے ہوئے شنگھائی تعاون تنظیم کا اجلاس بہت اہمیت رکھتا ہے۔ پاکستان میں بد قسمتی سے اس بین الاقوامی سرگرمی سے قبل جو حالات رہے ہیں وہ اتنے اچھے نہیں، آج بھی سیاسی گفتگو وہ نہیں ہو رہی جو ہونا چاہیے لیکن تمام تر سیاسی عدم استحکام، احتجاج اور مظاہروں کے باوجود حکومت پاکستان نے جس عزم کے ساتھ شنگھائی تعاون تنظیم اجلاس کے انعقاد کو سامنے رکھتے ہوئے کام کیا ہے وہ قابل تعریف ہے۔ دیکھیں آپ سیاسی انداز سے، سیاسی سوچ و حکمت عملی سے اختلاف کر سکتے ہیں لیکن جہاں ملکی مفاد کا معاملہ ہو، جہاں بیرونی دنیا سے بہتر تعلقات کا معاملہ ہو، سفارتی تعلقات، بین الاقوامی سطح پر ملک کی ساکھ کا مسئلہ ہو وہاں ملکی مفاد کو ہی ترجیح دینی چاہیے، ملکی مفاد کو ہی اولین ترجیح دینی چاہیے۔ ایسے مواقع سیاسی پوائنٹ سکورنگ یا سیاسی مفادات کے لیے استعمال نہیں ہونے چاہیں۔ قطع نظر اس کے کہ حکومت کس جماعت کی ہے، وزیر اعظم کون ہے، صدر کون ہے یا کسی بھی صوبے کا وزیر اعلیٰ کون ہے۔ جہاں ملکی مفاد ہے وہاں سب سیاسی و ذاتی مفادات ایک طرف ہو جاتے ہیں۔ ایسے معاملات میں صرف اور صرف ملکی مفاد ہی سب سے پہلے آنا چاہیے۔ بہر حال اب شنگھائی تعاون تنظیم کا اجلاس ہو رہا ہے۔ ہمیں امید رکھنی چاہیے اجلاس کے انعقاد اور تنظیم کے رکن ممالک کے ساتھ پاکستان کے تعلقات مزید مضبوط ہوں گے۔ پاکستان معاشی استحکام کی طرف بڑھے گا اور ملک میں سرمایہ کاری کے مواقع پیدا ہوں گے۔ بالخصوص چین اور روس کے ساتھ پاکستان کے تعلقات مزید مضبوط ہوں گے۔ یہ دوستانہ تعلقات کاروباری تعلقات کا رخ اختیار کریں گے اور پاکستان قرضوں کے جال سے نکل کر خود مختاری کا سفر شروع کرے گا۔ شنگھائی تعاون تنظیم کے اجلاس میں شرکت کے لیے روس کا 76 رکنی وفد پاکستان آیا ہے یہ غیر معمولی تعداد ہے۔ پاکستان اور روس کو

تعلقات مضبوط بنانے اور تجارتی تعلقات کو وسعت دینے پر توجہ دینا ہوگی۔ یہی وہ وقت ہے جب پاکستان اپنی جغرافیائی اہمیت کا بہت بہتر انداز میں استعمال کر سکتا ہے۔ چین کا پندرہ رکنی وفد شنگھائی تعاون تنظیم اجلاس میں شرکت کے لیے اسلام آباد پہنچا ہے۔ آج اور کل یعنی دو روزہ ایس سی او کانفرنس میں شرکت کرنے والوں میں چینی وزیر اعظم لی چیانگ اپنے وفد کی قیادت کریں گے۔ بھارتی وزیر خارجہ سبرامنیہم بے شک بھارتی وفد کی قیادت کریں گے۔ ایرانی وفد کی قیادت ایرانی اول نائب صدر محمد رضا عارف جب کہ بیلاروس کے وزیر اعظم رومان گولوف چین کو اپنے ملک کے وفد کی سربراہی کریں گے۔ قازقستان کے وزیر اعظم اولٹاس بیک تیوف اور کرغزستان کے چیئر مین کیبنت آف منسٹر زٹاپاروف اپنے وفد کی قیادت کریں گے۔ تاجکستان کے وزیر اعظم کوہر رسول زادہ، ازبکستان کے وزیر اعظم عبداللہ اریپوف بھی پاکستان آنے والوں میں شامل ہیں۔ ترکمانستان کے ڈپٹی چیئر مین آف کیبنت منسٹر زراشد میریدوف پاکستان آئیں گے۔

اس اہم کانفرنس کے تناظر میں پاکستان کے لیے سب سے اہم امن وامان کی صورت حال کو برقرار رکھنا ہے۔ ملک بھر میں کہیں بھی ایسے مظاہرے اور احتجاج یا کسی بھی قسم کے ناخوشگوار واقعات سے بچنا ہے۔ پاکستان میں قانون نافذ کرنے والے اداروں میں یہ اہلیت موجود ہے کہ وہ شنگھائی تعاون تنظیم اجلاس کے موقع پر دشمن کی ہر قسم کے مذموم عزائم کو ناکام بنائیں۔ ملک بھر سے امن کی خبر آئے اور اس اجلاس میں شریک غیر ملکی مہمان خوشگوار یادوں کے ساتھ پاکستان سے واپس جائیں۔ شنگھائی تعاون تنظیم اجلاس کے موقع پر پاکستان اور چین کے مابین دیرینہ اور مضبوط تعلقات میں ایک نئے باب کا اضافہ ہو رہا ہے۔ چینی وزیر اعظم پاکستان پہنچے ہیں۔ ان کا شاندار استقبال کیا گیا ہے۔ موجودہ حالات میں چینی وزیر اعظم کا دورہ پاکستان نہایت اہمیت کا حامل ہے۔ کیونکہ سی بی کے وجہ سے دونوں ممالک کے تعلقات اور سی پیک کو نقصان پہنچانے کے لیے دشمن متحرک ہے۔ درحقیقت چین اور پاکستان کا دشمن ایک ہی ہے اور وہی دشمن پاکستان میں امن کا دشمن بھی ہے۔

چین کے وزیر اعظم لی چیانگ اور پاکستان کے وزیر اعظم میاں شہباز شریف نے نئے گوادرنٹرنیشنل ایئر پورٹ کا ورچوئل افتتاح کر دیا ہے۔ نیو گوادرنٹرنیشنل ایئر پورٹ کی تکمیل کی تقریب اسلام آباد میں ہوئی۔ اس موقع پر چینی وزیر اعظم کا کہنا تھا کہ گوادرنٹرنیشنل ایئر پورٹ کی تکمیل اہم سنگ میل ہے، منصوبے کی تکمیل کیلئے پاکستان اور چین کی افرادی وقت کی کاوشیں قابل ستائش ہیں۔ گوادرنٹرنیشنل ایئر پورٹ کی ترقی کا محور ہونے کے ساتھ دونوں ملکوں کی مضبوط دوستی کا بھی عکاس ہے، پاکستان کی ترقی کیلئے چین اپنا کردار ادا کرتا رہے گا۔ وزیر اعظم میاں شہباز شریف نے کہا کہ گوادرنٹرنیشنل ایئر پورٹ پاکستان کیلئے چین کا تحفہ ہے۔ اس دوران پاکستان اور چین کے درمیان مختلف شعبوں میں تعاون کی مفاہمیتی یادداشتوں کا تبادلہ بھی ہوا ہے جن میں دونوں ملکوں کے درمیان سمارٹ کلاس رومز، سی پیک کے تحت گوادرنٹرنیشنل ایئر پورٹ اور کنگ گروپ کے اجلاس کے نکات کی دستاویز اور سی پیک ورکنگ گروپ سے متعلق مفاہمیتی یادداشت کا تبادلہ کیا گیا۔ پاکستان اور چین کے درمیان انسانی وسائل کی ترقی، اطلاعات، مواصلات، آبی وسائل اور دونوں ملکوں کے درمیان سلامتی کے شعبے میں تعاون بڑھانے کی دستاویز کا بھی تبادلہ ہوا جبکہ پاکستان اور چین کے درمیان غذائی تحفظ کے شعبے میں بھی مفاہمیتی یادداشت پیش کی گئی۔ پاکستان اور چین کے درمیان کرنسی کے تبادلے کا معاہدہ بھی ہوا، کرنسی تبادلے کا معاہدہ اسٹیٹ بینک اور پیپلز بینک آف چین کے درمیان طے پایا ہے۔ یہ سرگرمیاں خوش آئند ہیں اور ان کے تسلسل کی ضرورت ہے۔ بلوچستان میں ہونے والے احتجاج اور مظاہروں کے پیچھے وہ قوتیں ہیں جنہیں پاکستان میں سی پیک منصوبے ہضم نہیں ہو رہے۔ ان سب سازشوں کو ہم متحد ہو کر ہی ناکام بنا سکتے ہیں اور نئی نسل کو ایک بہتر، ترقی یافتہ اور قرضوں کے چنگل سے آزاد پاکستان دے سکتے ہیں۔

فلسطین میں اسرائیلی جارحیت جاری ہے، وہاں دہشتگردی کا سلسلہ جاری ہے، مظلوم فلسطینی اپنے خون سے نئی تاریخ رقم کر رہے ہیں اور دنیا کے دوہرے معیار کو بھی بے نقاب کر رہے ہیں۔ دنیا بھر میں اسرائیلی مظالم کے خلاف احتجاج ہوتے ہیں، مختلف ممالک میں امن پسند لوگوں نے اسرائیلی افواج کی درندگی کی مخالفت کر رہے ہیں لیکن جو ممالک، حکمران اور ادارے دنیا میں امن قائم رکھنے کے ذمہ دار ہیں وہ ناصرف خاموش ہیں بلکہ اسرائیل کے ظلم کی حمایت میں ہیں۔ فلسطین میں لوگ بھوک سے مر رہے ہیں لیکن عالمی امن کے علمبردار خاموش ہیں۔

برطانوی فلاحی تنظیم آکسفیم کی نمائندہ بشری خالد کہتی ہیں کہ شمالی غزہ میں لوگ بھوک سے مر رہے ہیں۔ اسرائیلی فوج نے دس دن سے شمالی غزہ میں خوراک کی فراہمی روک رکھی ہے، شمالی غزہ میں اسرائیل کی ناکہ بندی سے خوراک کی شدید قلت پیدا ہو چکی ہے۔ لوگ بھوک سے مر رہے ہیں اور چارہ، گدھے اور گھوڑے کھانے پر مجبور

ہیں۔ شمالی غزہ کے زیادہ تر فلسطینی جنوبی غزہ کی طرف "ڈیٹھ مارچ" کے بجائے اپنے گھروں میں مرنے کو تیار ہیں، نہیں جانتی شمالی غزہ میں لوگ کیسے زندہ رہیں گے، یا تو بھوک سے مر جائیں گے۔ شمالی غزہ میں لوگ قتل عام سے مریں گے یا جنوب کی طرف نقل مکانی کی کوشش میں مرادینے جائیں گے، غزہ میں تباہی کی یہ سطح پہلے نہیں دیکھی۔ فلسطین میں گذشتہ بارہ میں اب تک تینتالیس ہزار سے زائد فلسطینی شہید اور ایک لاکھ سے زائد زخمی ہو چکے ہیں۔ کاش کہ دنیا جاگے اور مسلمانوں کے بہتے خون کو بند کرنے کے لیے اقدامات کرے۔

آخر میں قمر جلالوی کا کلام

اے میرے ہم نشین چل کہیں اور چل،

اس چمن میں اب اپنا گزارہ نہیں

بات ہوتی گلوں تک تو سہہ لیتے ہم،

اب تو کانٹوں پے بھی حق ہمارا نہیں

آج آئے ہو تم، کل چلے جاؤ گے،

یہ محبت کو اپنی گوارہ نہیں

غمر بھر کا سہارا تو بنو،

دو گھڑی کا سہارا سہارا نہیں

دی صدا دار پر اور کبھی طور پر

کس جگہ میں نے تم کو بکا را نہیں ہے

ٹھو کریں یوں کھلانے سے کیا فائدہ

صاف کہہ دو کہ ملنا گوارہ نہیں

گُلستاں کو لہو کی ضرورت پڑی

سب سے پہلے ہی گردن ہماری کٹی

پھر بھی کہتے ہیں مجھ سے یہ اہل چمن،

یہ چمن ہے ہمارا، تمہارا نہیں

ظالمو اپنی قسمت پہ نازاں نہ ہو،

دور بدلے گا یہ وقت کی بات ہے

وہ یقیناً نئے گا صدا ئیں میری،

کیا تمہارا خدا ہے ہمارا نہیں

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/lahore/2024-10-16/page-3/detail-3>

گواڈر ایئرپورٹ اور سی پیک 2 سے خوشحالی کی نئی راہیں کھلیں گی: احسن اقبال

اسلام آباد (این این آئی) وفاقی وزیر برائے منصوبہ بندی و ترقی احسن اقبال نے کہا ہے کہ گواڈر ایئرپورٹ اور سی پیک ٹو سے پاکستان کے لیے خوشحالی کی نئی راہیں کھلیں گی۔ وفاقی وزیر احسن اقبال نے نجی ٹی وی سے گفتگو کرتے ہوئے کہا کہ چینی وزیر اعظم گیارہ سال بعد پاکستان کا دورہ کر رہے ہیں، ہم چین کی مدد سے سی پیک 2 شروع کرنے جا رہے ہیں۔ احسن اقبال نے مزید کہا کہ چین کے تعاون سے مستقبل قریب میں پانچ اقتصادی راہداری بھی کھولی جائیں گی، بلوچستان کے لوگوں کے لئے کاروباری سرگرمیاں بڑھانے کے لئے گواڈر میں کارگو ہب قائم کیا جاسکتا ہے۔ وفاقی وزیر نے علاقائی رابطے کے لئے شنگھائی تعاون تنظیم کے کردار پر تبصرہ کرتے ہوئے کہا کہ ریل اور سڑک کے رابطے وسطی ایشیائی ریاستوں اور یورپ کے ساتھ کاروباری تعلقات کو مضبوط بنائیں گے۔ ایک سوال کے جواب میں انہوں نے کہا کہ خطے کے اس حصے میں اقتصادی سرگرمیوں کو بڑھانے کے لئے گواڈر اور عمان کے روٹس کو بحال کیا جاسکتا ہے۔

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Jang News

شنگھائی تعاون تنظیم کی سربراہی روس کو سونپ دی گئی

شنگھائی تعاون تنظیم کی سربراہی روس کو سونپ دی گئی، اب روس ایس سی او کی سربراہی 2025ء تک سنبھالے گا۔ وزیر اعظم شہباز شریف نے ایس سی او کی سربراہی ملنے پر روس کو مبارکباد دی۔ بھارتی وزیر خارجہ جے شنکر نے ایس سی او کانفرنس کے اعلامیہ پر دستخط کر دیے اور ایس سی او کے رکن ممالک نے تنظیم کے بجٹ کی بھی منظوری دے دی۔

افغان سر زمین کا دہشت گردی کے لیے استعمال روکنا ہوگا: وزیر اعظم

وزیر اعظم شہباز شریف نے اجلاس سے افتتاحی خطاب کرتے ہوئے کہا ہے کہ شنگھائی تعاون تنظیم اجلاس کا انعقاد ہمارے لیے اعزاز ہے۔

شہباز شریف کا کہنا ہے کہ ایس سی او ممالک دنیا کی آبادی کا 40 فیصد ہیں، پائیدار ترقی کے لیے علاقائی تعاون اور روابط کا فروغ ضروری ہے۔

انہوں نے کہا کہ معاشی ترقی، استحکام اور خوش حالی کے لیے مل کر آگے بڑھنا ہے، ہم نے اپنے لوگوں کو بہتر معیار زندگی اور سہولتیں فراہم کرنی ہیں۔

وزیر اعظم کا کہنا ہے کہ یقین ہے کہ اجلاس میں سیر حاصل گفتگو کے دور رس نتائج ملیں گے، عالمی منظر نامے میں تبدیلی اور ارتقاء کا سامنا کر رہے ہیں، موجودہ صورت حال اجتماعی اقدامات کی متقاضی ہے۔

انہوں نے کہا کہ اجلاس رکن ممالک کے ساتھ تعلقات کے فروغ کا موقع فراہم کرے گا، ہمیں اجتماعی دانش کو بروئے کار لاتے ہوئے آگے بڑھنا ہے، پاکستان خطے میں امن و استحکام چاہتا ہے، تجارتی روابط کے فروغ کے لیے کاوشیں ضروری ہیں۔

شہباز شریف کا کہنا ہے کہ عالمی برادری افغانستان میں انسانی بنیادوں پر امداد پر توجہ دے، افغان سر زمین کا دہشت گردی کے لیے استعمال روکنا ہوگا، پاکستان پرامن، مستحکم اور خوش حال افغانستان کا خواہاں ہے۔

وزیر اعظم نے کہا کہ سیاحت، روابط، گرین بیلٹ کے شعبوں پر توجہ کی ضرورت ہے، غربت معاشی نہیں بلکہ اخلاقی مسئلہ بھی ہے، موسمیاتی تبدیلیوں سے درپیش خطرات چیلنج ہیں، مشترکہ مستقبل کے لیے اقتصادی استحکام ہماری ضرورت ہے، قدرتی آفات سے نمٹنے کے لیے مل کر کام کرنا ہوگا۔

کی صدارت پر مبارکباد SCO بھارتی وزیر خارجہ کی پاکستان کو

ایس سی اوسر براہی کا فرانس سے خطاب کرتے ہوئے بھارتی وزیر خارجہ جے شنکر نے کہا ہے کہ پاکستان کو ایس سی او کی صدارت سنبھالنے پر مبارکباد پیش کرتا ہوں، بھارت نے اس صدارت کو کامیاب بنانے کے لیے اپنی مکمل حمایت فراہم کی ہے۔

جے شنکر کا کہنا ہے کہ ہم ایک ایسے وقت میں مل رہے ہیں جب دنیا بھر میں حالات پیچیدہ ہیں، دو بڑے تنازعات جاری ہیں، جن کے عالمی اثرات مختلف ہیں۔

انہوں نے کہا کہ کوویڈ نے ترقی پذیر ممالک کو سخت نقصان پہنچایا ہے، شدید موسمی واقعات، سپلائی چین کی غیر یقینی صورت حال اور مالیاتی عدم استحکام ترقی کی راہ میں حائل ہیں۔

بھارتی وزیر خارجہ کا کہنا ہے کہ قرض کا بوجھ ایک سنگین مسئلہ ہے، دنیا پائیدار ترقی کے اہداف حاصل کرنے میں پیچھے ہے۔

جے شنکر نے کہا کہ دنیا کثیر قطبی نظام کی طرف بڑھ رہی ہے، عالمگیریت اور توازن ایسی حقیقتیں ہیں جن سے فرار ممکن نہیں، ان تبدیلیوں نے تجارت، سرمایہ کاری، رابطہ کاری اور دیگر تعاون کے شعبوں میں مواقع پیدا کیے ہیں، اگر ہم ان مواقع سے فائدہ اٹھائیں تو ہمارا خطہ بہت زیادہ ترقی کر سکتا ہے، نہ صرف ہم، بلکہ دوسرے بھی ہماری کاوشوں سے تحریک لے سکتے ہیں۔

ان کا کہنا ہے کہ ہمارا تعاون باہمی احترام اور خود مختاری کی برابری پر مبنی ہونا چاہیے، ہمیں ایک دوسرے کی علاقائی سالمیت اور خود مختاری کا احترام کرنا چاہیے، یہ تعاون حقیقی شراکت داری پر مبنی ہو، نہ کہ یکطرفہ ایجنڈوں پر، ترقی اور استحکام کا دارومدار امن پر ہے، امن کا مطلب دہشت گردی، انتہا پسندی اور علیحدگی پسندی کے خلاف سخت رویہ اختیار کرنا ہے۔

بھارتی وزیر خارجہ نے کہا کہ سرحد پار دہشت گردی، انتہا پسندی، علیحدگی پسندی جیسی سرگرمیاں جاری رہیں گی، تو تجارت اور عوامی سطح پر رابطے کا فروغ مشکل ہو جائے گا، سوچنا چاہیے حالات مختلف ہوں تو ہم کتنے بڑے فائدے حاصل کر سکتے ہیں، آج اسلام آباد میں ہمارے ایجنڈے سے ہمیں ان امکانات کی ایک جھلک ملتی ہے۔

انہوں نے کہا کہ صنعتی تعاون سے مسابقت میں اضافہ ہو سکتا ہے اور روزگار کے مواقع بڑھ سکتے ہیں، ایم ایس ایم ای کے درمیان تعاون سے روزگار پر مثبت اثرات مرتب ہو سکتے ہیں، ہماری مشترکہ کوششیں وسائل میں اضافے اور سرمایہ کاری کو فروغ دے سکتی ہیں، کاروباری برادری کو بڑے نیٹ ورکس سے فائدہ ہوگا۔

جے شنکر کا کہنا ہے کہ لاجسٹکس اور توانائی کے شعبوں میں بڑی تبدیلیاں آسکتی ہیں، ماحولیاتی تحفظ اور موسمیاتی تبدیلیوں پر اقدامات کے لیے تعاون کے وسیع مواقع ہیں، متعدی اور غیر متعدی امراض کا علاج سستی اور قابل رسائی دوا سازی کے ذریعے بہتر ہو سکتا ہے، صحت، خوراک اور توانائی کی سیکورٹی کے شعبوں میں ہم سب مل کر بہتر نتائج حاصل کر سکتے ہیں۔

وزیر خارجہ جے شنکر نے کہا کہ ہمارے عالمی اور قومی اقدامات ایس سی او کے لیے بہت اہم ہیں، بین الاقوامی سولر الائنس قابل تجدید توانائی کو فروغ دیتا ہے، مشن لائف ایک پائیدار طرز زندگی کی وکالت کرتا ہے، گلوبل بائیو فیول الائنس توانائی کے شعبے میں منتقلی کی کوششوں کو تسلیم کرتا ہے۔

ان کا کہنا ہے کہ انٹرنیشنل بگ کیٹ الائنس ہماری حیاتیاتی تنوع کی حفاظت کرتا ہے، ہم نے ڈیجیٹل انفراسٹرکچر اور خواتین کی قیادت میں ترقی کے اثرات کو کامیابی سے پیش کیا ہے، ہم سب اپنی اپنی جگہ پر کام کر رہے ہیں، لیکن عالمی نظام اپنے اجزاء سے زیادہ بڑا ہے، جیسے جیسے دنیا بدل رہی ہے، عالمی اداروں کو بھی اسی رفتار سے خود کو بدلنا ہوگا۔

انہوں نے کہا کہ اقوام متحدہ کی سلامتی کونسل کی اصلاح کی ضرورت وقت کے ساتھ بڑھتی جا رہی ہے، سلامتی کونسل میں جامع اصلاحات ضروری ہیں، جولائی 2024ء میں آستانہ میں ہم نے تسلیم کیا تھا کہ اقوام متحدہ کی ساکھ اور موثریت کا دارومدار ترقی پذیر ممالک کی نمائندگی پر ہے۔

بھارتی وزیر خارجہ کا مزید کہنا ہے کہ حالیہ اقوام متحدہ کی جنرل اسمبلی میں ہمارے رہنماؤں نے سلامتی کونسل کی اصلاحات پر اتفاق کیا، ایس سی او کو اس اہم معاملے پر آگے بڑھنا چاہیے، وقت ہے ہم اپنے عزم کو پھر سے تازہ کریں تاکہ ایس سی او کے مقاصد کو حاصل کیا جاسکے، ہمیں موجودہ رکاوٹوں کو پہچانا ہو گا اور آگے بڑھنے کے لیے مشترکہ مفادات پر مبنی ایجنڈا تیار کرنا ہو گا، یہ بھی ممکن ہے جب ہم چارٹر کے اصولوں کی مکمل پاسداری کریں۔

بے شکرنے یہ بھی کہا کہ ایس سی او دنیا میں تبدیلی لانے والی قوتوں کی نمائندگی کرتا ہے، دنیا ہم سے بڑی توقعات وابستہ کیے ہوئے ہے، آئیے ہم اپنی اس ذمہ داری کو پورا کریں، رابطے کا فروغ نئی کارکردگی کو جنم دے سکتا ہے۔

اجلاس میں وزیراعظم نے مہمانوں کا پر تپاک استقبال کیا

اس سے قبل اجلاس کے لیے کونشن سینٹر میں مہمانوں کا وزیراعظم شہباز شریف اور نائب وزیراعظم اسحاق ڈار نے پر تپاک استقبال کیا۔

چین، روس، قازقستان، منگولیا، ترکمانستان اور بیلاروس کے وزراء نے اعظم، ایران کے وزیر معدنیات اور بھارتی وزیر خارجہ بے شکرا ایس سی او اجلاس میں شریک ہیں۔ اجلاس سے قبل شرکائے اجلاس نے گروپ فوٹو بنوایا۔

اجلاس میں معیشت، تجارت، ماحولیات اور سماجی و ثقافتی روابط کے شعبوں میں جاری تعاون پر تبادلہ خیال ہو گا۔

وزیراعظم کا مہمانوں کے اعزاز میں عشائیہ

گزشتہ روز شنگھائی تعاون تنظیم کے مہمانوں کے اعزاز میں وزیراعظم ہاؤس میں عشائیہ دیا گیا تھا۔

عشائیے میں چین، روس، تاجکستان، کرغزستان، قازقستان، بیلاروس اور ترکمانستان کے قائدین سمیت مہمانوں نے شرکت کی تھی۔

وزیراعظم شہباز شریف نے مہمانوں کو خوش آمدید کہا، اس دوران بھارتی وزیر خارجہ سہرا مہم بے شکرا اور وزیراعظم شہباز شریف کے درمیان مصافحہ اور خوش گوار جملوں کا تبادلہ ہوا۔

شہباز شریف نے اجلاس میں شرکت پر ان کا خیر مقدم کیا اور شنگھائی تعاون تنظیم کے اصولوں اور مقاصد کو آگے بڑھانے کے عزم کا اعادہ کیا۔

مہمانوں نے ایس سی او سربراہی اجلاس کے کامیاب انعقاد پر وزیراعظم شہباز شریف کو مبارکباد دی۔

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شنگھائی تعاون تنظیم کا سربراہی اجلاس آج، وزیراعظم افتتاحی خطاب کریں گے

شنگھائی تعاون تنظیم اجلاس کا باقاعدہ آغاز آج صبح ہو گا، اجلاس میں شرکت کے لیے روسی وزیراعظم اور ایرانی وزیر معدنیات محمد اتابک بھی پاکستان پہنچ گئے۔

شنگھائی تعاون تنظیم اجلاس میں شرکت کے لیے ازبکستان کا وفد آج صبح اسلام آباد پہنچے گا۔ وزیراعظم شہباز شریف افتتاحی خطاب کریں گے۔

اجلاس میں معیشت، تجارت، ماحولیات اور سماجی و ثقافتی روابط کے شعبوں میں جاری تعاون پر تبادلہ خیال ہو گا۔

شہباز شریف کے بعد غیر ملکی وفد کے سربراہان خطاب کریں گے جس کے بعد دستاویزات پر دستخط کیے جائیں گے۔

گزشتہ روز شنگھائی تعاون تنظیم کے مہمانوں کے اعزاز میں وزیراعظم ہاؤس میں عشائیہ دیا گیا۔

عشائیے میں چین، روس، تاجکستان، کرغزستان، قازقستان، بیلاروس اور ترکمانستان کے قائدین سمیت مہمانوں نے شرکت کی۔

وزیر اعظم شہباز شریف نے مہمانوں کو خوش آمدید کہا، اس دوران بھارتی وزیر خارجہ سہرا نیم جے شکر اور وزیر اعظم شہباز شریف کے درمیان مصافحہ اور خوشگوار جملوں کا تبادلہ ہوا۔

وزیر اعظم نے اجلاس میں شرکت پر ان کا خیر مقدم کیا اور شنگھائی تعاون تنظیم کے اصولوں اور مقاصد کو آگے بڑھانے کے عزم کا اعادہ کیا۔

مہمانوں نے ایس سی او سربراہی اجلاس کے کامیاب انعقاد پر وزیر اعظم کو مبارکباد دی۔

<https://jang.com.pk/news/1401249>

October 17, 2024

Dawn News

SCO backs China's Belt & Road Initiative

- PM Shehbaz chairs sitting; eight documents regarding bloc's budget, secretariat, counterterror actions signed
- Participants reject Western sanctions, call for use of national currencies in mutual settlements
- Joint communique seeks augmented talks for setting up SCO bank, cooperation in fields of politics, security
- India says cross-border terror activities can't encourage trade, connectivity

ISLAMABAD: Leaders of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) on Wednesday reaffirmed their strong support for China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), despite India blocking a consensus on the sweeping infrastructure project.

However, all member states unified in the criticism of Western unilateral sanctions and protectionist trade practices.

A joint communique issued at the end of the 23rd Council of Heads of Government meeting of SCO member states said that Belarus, Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Russia, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan "while reaffirming support for the People's Republic of China's One Belt, One Road (OBOR) initiative noted ongoing work on joint implementation of the project, including efforts to bridge the Eurasian Economic Union and OBOR".

The meeting was held to discuss and agree on strategies for enhancing regional cooperation and promoting connectivity and economic growth.

The summit was attended by Russian Prime Minister Mikhail Mishustin, Chinese Premier Li Qiang, Belarusian PM Roman Golovchenko, Tajik PM Qohir Rasulzoda, Kazakh PM Olzhas Bektenov, Kyrgyz PM Akylbek Japarov, Uzbek PM Abdulla Aripov, and India's External Affairs Minister Subrahmanyam Jaishankar.

Iran was represented by Minister for Trade and Industry Seyyed Muhammad Atabak, after First Vice President Aref Reza withdrew due to escalating tensions with Israel.

The leaders placed strong emphasis on enhancing connectivity and improving transport links as crucial drivers of regional cooperation and economic growth. Development of railway systems, multimodal transportation, port and logistics infrastructure, and the digital transformation of the transport sector were highlighted as key priorities.

By renewing support for BRI, the SCO member states acknowledged the Chinese initiative's potential to transform the economic landscape by building transport networks, energy infrastructure, and trade corridors.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, who presided over the meeting, in his opening remarks called for expansion of BRI.

“Investment in regional infrastructure projects, such as transport and energy corridors, is crucial for economic integration. To this end, projects such as the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and International North-South Corridor (INSC) can be expanded to improve connectivity, focusing on roads, railways, and digital infrastructure,” he said while cautioning against viewing such projects through the narrow political prism.

“Let us work together for a well-integrated and prosperous region that benefits all member-states,” said PM Shehbaz, whose country plays a crucial role in the BRI through the CPEC.

Prime Minister Mishustin, according to Russian newswire TASS, emphasised that improving transport connectivity among SCO countries and developing reliable logistics routes is a top priority.

“By maximising the transit potential in both East-West and North-South directions, we can boost cargo flows and make travel more convenient for citizens,” he said, while speaking about Russia's efforts to build the North-South International Transport Corridor in collaboration with Iran and other Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) countries.

Premier Li, meanwhile, called for improved “regional trade and investment facilitation and connectivity” and maintaining “the stability and smoothness of the industrial chain and supply chain”.

Iranian Minister Atabak stressed “strengthening (of) transit corridors and communication lines” for expansion of regional cooperation.

Sanctions, protectionism

The participating leaders, according to the joint communique, took a unified stance against unilateral sanctions and protectionist trade practices, which were seen as barriers to open trade and economic collaboration.

They argued that sanctions not only undermine the sovereignty of countries, but also disrupt global economic relations. They advocated for multilateral cooperation under which countries openly trade and respect for international law takes precedence over unilateral actions.

“The heads of delegations emphasised that the unilateral application of sanctions is incompatible with the principles of international law and has a negative impact on third countries and international economic relations,” according to the communique.

They also opposed protectionist actions and trade restrictions that undermine the multilateral trading system and impede global sustainable development.

Two of the SCO members, Russia and Iran, have been the major victims of the Western sanctions that have significantly affected their economies, restricted access to international markets and stifled growth.

“Russia is under increasing pressure, but the authors of the sanctions will not achieve their goals. We are focused on unlocking our internal potential, supporting key areas of the national economy and enterprises,” PM Mishustin said.

Iran’s Atabek likened the sanctions on his country as “economic terrorism” and hoped that SCO will “stand with one voice against the unilateralism and economic terrorism of the United States against the people of developing countries, including Iran, and its member countries that are affected by these illegal actions.”

Development bank, funds

SCO leaders decided to expedite consultations on the establishment of financial institutions for boosting economic cooperation among member states.

“Pursuant to the SCO CHS Decision of 4 July 2024 on the mechanisms of financial support for project activities of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation, the heads of delegations instructed the authorised Ministries and Departments of the Member States to intensify consultations on the establishment of the SCO Development Bank, the SCO Development Fund (Special Account) and, in the format of the interested parties, the SCO Investment Fund,” the communique read.

These institutions are expected to contribute to economic integration, trade facilitation, and regional connectivity. The proposed SCO Development Bank is planned to provide financing for infrastructure projects, while the SCO Development Fund is intended to support economic development initiatives. The SCO Investment Fund, after materialising, will likely focus on investments in key sectors, such as energy, transportation, and telecommunications.

By providing alternative financing options, the SCO aims to reduce dependence on external financial institutions and promote economic growth among its member states.

In a move aimed at reducing reliance on the US dollar and other foreign currencies, the SCO also called for prioritising the use of national currencies in mutual settlements.

These decisions are seen as a strategic effort to reduce the dominance of Western currencies in global trade, positioning member states to have more control over their economic interactions and financial policies.

“Pakistan also supports the proposal to create an SCO alternative development funding mechanism, to give the needed impetus to various stalled development initiatives.

We also welcome the timely decision of the SCO Council of Heads of State on the mechanisms of financial support to project activities of SCO,” Prime Minister Shehbaz said and noted that there was “a clear understanding among all SCO member-states about the need for settlement in mutually acceptable currencies.”

Premier Li asked member-states to “actively prepare for the establishment of the SCO Development Bank”.

Security

Regional security and stability were key priorities throughout the meeting, with member-states addressing shared challenges such as terrorism, extremism, and organised crime.

The communique pointed to the desire for developing cooperation in the spheres of politics and security.

One of the four suggestions put forward by China’s Li for strengthening cooperation among the member states was to “strengthen joint actions to combat the three forces — separatism, terrorism, and extremism — and speed up the construction of a comprehensive centre for responding to security threats and challenges, a drug control centre, etc.”

PM Shehbaz also made a reference to the cross-border terrorism it was facing from Afghanistan as he called on the member states to press the Taliban administration to prevent its territory from being used by various entities for terrorism against its neighbours.

Interestingly, Prime Minister Shehbaz also urged the SCO members to press the Taliban to ensure political inclusivity in their governance.

Despite the SCO’s prohibition on discussing bilateral issues, Mr Jaishankar subtly criticised Pakistan, making veiled references that were seemingly directed at the host country.

“If activities across borders are characterised by terrorism, extremism and separatism, they are hardly likely to encourage trade, energy flows, connectivity and people-to-people exchanges in parallel,” he said.

“If trust is lacking or cooperation inadequate, if friendship has fallen short and good neighbourliness is missing somewhere, there are surely reasons to introspect and causes to address,” he further said.

Leaders also acknowledged the need for joint action on climate change and called for stronger cooperation on environmental protection and efforts to build climate resilience.

Cultural diversity and people-to-people diplomacy were recognised as essential components of the SCO’s mission. The summit concluded with the signing of eight important documents, addressing the organisation’s budget, the functioning of the SCO secretariat, and regional counterterrorism initiatives.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1865753>

Pakistan, China vow to speed up ML-1 project

LAHORE: Pakistan and China have reaffirmed their commitment to advancing the upgrade of the Main Line-1 (ML-1) railway project, agreeing to prioritise the construction of the Karachi-Hyderabad section as part of phase one, in line with the phased approach for the project's implementation. In a joint statement issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, both nations pledged to refine and optimise the construction plan for ML-1's Karachi-Hyderabad section and to formulate feasible and sustainable plans for financing and implementation. Pakistan expressed its deep appreciation for China's continued support in maintaining fiscal and financial stability. Both countries also praised the extension of the China-Pakistan Bilateral Currency Swap Arrangement and agreed to further strengthen cooperation in the financial and banking sectors. They pledged to support each other within regional and international multilateral financial platforms. The joint statement followed an official visit to Pakistan by Chinese Prime Minister Li Qiang, who was invited by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif. During the visit, which took place from Oct 14 to 15, Premier Li held talks with PM Sharif and also met President Asif Ali Zardari. Both sides underscored that Pakistan-China relations have remained resilient and steadfast through the years, with their all-weather strategic cooperative partnership continuing to deepen since President Xi Jinping's historic state visit to Pakistan in 2015. After PM Shehbaz's official visit to China in June 2024, the two countries enjoyed even stronger political mutual trust, more vibrant cooperation, and closer strategic coordination, the statement said. "The Pakistani side highly commends and firmly supports major visions and propositions put forth by President Xi Jinping, such as fostering a community with a shared future for mankind, the Belt and Road Initiative, the Global Development Initiative, the Global Security Initiative, and the Global Civilisation Initiative," it said. The two sides noted that in a transforming and turbulent world where major changes are unfolding at a faster pace, the Pakistan-China relationship is of strategic significance, and any attempt to disrupt or undermine Pakistan-China cooperation is bound to fail. Both countries agreed to maintain the momentum of exchanges under the strategic guidance of the top leaders for the development of bilateral relations. The Pakistani side also expressed congratulations on the 75th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China. The two sides reaffirmed their commitment to an upgraded version of CPEC by jointly building a growth corridor, a livelihood-enhancing corridor, an innovation corridor, a green corridor and an open corridor, and developing CPEC into a demonstration project of high-quality Belt and Road cooperation. They also agreed to seek financial support to realign the Karakoram Highway's Raikot-Thakot section under the Framework Agreement. Recognising Gwadar Port as a critical hub for regional connectivity, the two sides expressed readiness to accelerate the development of auxiliary infrastructure to attract more cargo shipments. They also aimed to resolve water and power supply issues at the port as soon as possible. Both the nations agreed to strengthen industrial cooperation suited to local conditions, and promote international cooperation on industrial and supply chains besides showing willingness to actively encourage Chinese companies to engage in investment and cooperation in Pakistan's mining industry. <https://www.dawn.com/news/1865730>

Pakistan Observer

Pak broadens SCO's spectrum of shared future

Syed Qamar Afzal Rizvi

THE currently held Islamabad summit of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (Oct. 15-16) reflects promising signs and synchronicities regarding the much strengthened soft power bonds among its members where the leitmotif of collaboration, not competition remained at the heart of the summit. The Islamabad summit: 'Strategic Opportunity or a Diplomatic Challenge' aimed at strengthening regional stability, addressing ongoing regional and global conflicts, thereby focusing on security and economic cooperation in the Central Asian region. This summit also provided a significant opportunity for Pakistan to promote its sustainable economic future via SCO member states' cooperation. The Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO)—formerly known as the Shanghai Five—is an intergovernmental, cross-regional bloc, co-founded by China and Russia in 2001—plays a significant role as a regional force, contributing to stability and cooperation among its member states. Through policies and collaborative initiatives, the SCO enhances soft power by promoting and shaping regional identities and fostering a positive image internationally. The dynamic leadership of China's President Xi Jinping transformed the SCO forum into an interregional strategic magnet. Pakistan prestigiously hosted the 23rd meeting (a diplomatic milestone) as the incumbent chair of the SCO Council of Heads of Government(CHG), the second highest SCO forum that deals with strengthening mutual trust and neighbourliness among the member states, promoting their effective cooperation in areas of energy, trade, the economy, research, technology , culture, education, transport, tourism, environmental protection, including the humanitarian issues,thereby broadening its links with international UN's agencies/organizations: ESCAP, UNDOC, UNESCO, and FAO. The Islamabad summit—presided over by the Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif—garnered a significant global attention, especially given current global challenges. The Islamabad SCO summit has been richly espoused with great attendance of several high-profile leaders. Additionally, as a host of summit, Pakistan not only provided foolproof safety and security to foreign participants and delegates but it also extended the norms of traditional hospitality to foreign delegates. This event was further galvanized by representation of four neighbouring nuclear powers Russia, China, India and Pakistan. Noteworthily, SCO member states were represented by the Prime Ministers of China, Russia, Pakistan, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan as well as the First Vice President of Iran. Moreover,Prime Minister of Mongolia, Deputy Chairman of the Cabinet of Ministers and Foreign Ministers of India and Turkmenistan (Special Guest), including the SCO Secretary General also participated in the meeting. Pakistan is committed to the 'Shanghai Spirit' that stands for mutual trust and respect for shared prosperity and development in the geo-political, geo-economic and geo-strategic arenas. As Chair of SCO Council of Heads of Government (CHG) since 26 October 2023, Pakistan has hosted "Conference on Transport Connectivity for Regional Prosperity" on 22 November 2023, and the expert-level meeting of the Special Working Group on Poverty Alleviation entitled "Leveraging Digital Technologies to Enhance Social Safety Nets in SCO Member States" on December 3, 2023. Currently, the SCO consists of 10 member

states: the Republic of Kazakhstan, the People's Republic of China, the Kyrgyzstan Republic, the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, the Russian Federation, the Republic of Tajikistan and the Republic of Uzbekistan, India, Pakistan, Iran and Belarus. While Islamic Republic of Afghanistan and Mongolia hold the observer status, 16 states are its dialogue partners. In July 2023, Iran and in July 2024, Belarus joined the SCO. In the future, Turkey and Saudi Arabia, presently its dialogue partners, may also be given full membership. In June 2017, the SCO took a major step forward by formally admitting Pakistan and India as full voting members. With the entry of India and Pakistan, the SCO now represents approximately 32% of the world's GDP and about 42% of the world's population. Moreover, the SCO region is rich in natural resources collectively possessing approximately 25% of the world's oil reserves, over 50% of the world's gas reserves, 35% of the world's coal reserves, and roughly 50% of the world's known uranium reserves. With its strategic geographical location and growing trade potential, Pakistan profoundly gravitates its bilateral partnership with the CARs. Further, New Delhi's pragmatic decision to send its Foreign Minister Jaishankar is profoundly reflective of the fact that Indian political leadership cannot refute the expanding significance of the SCO moot in Islamabad amid the ongoing regional and international challenges. True, because of a dysfunctional SAARC, the SCO also holds great significance for the South Asian region. And, Pakistan relations with SCO's founding member, Russia hold paramount importance in bilateral relations through increased trade, energy and defence cooperation. Through the CPEC working group, Pakistan and China signed several MOUs—marked by the virtual inauguration of the new Gwadar international airport (Oct. 14). Since 2013, China has helped Pakistan restructure its energy sector via an investment of \$ 20b, thereby bringing in mega energy projects, including coal, solar, hydro and nuclear projects. And importantly, promotion of regional connectivity remained one of prime objectives of the SCO. Thus, the SCO member countries have undertaken several mega-projects to enhance regional connectivity such as the Belt and Road Initiative, China-Central Asia-West Asia Corridor and China-Kyrgyzstan-Uzbekistan Railway. Recently, the iron brothers – Pakistan and China – have started phase-2 of the CPEC. Needless to say, defence and security cooperation in traditional, non-traditional security sphere is a major driving force for the SCO's development. Traditional security cooperation mainly includes ensuring border security, military exchanges, military exercises and other military mutual trust practices. While meeting with the Pakistani military leadership, China's premier Li Qiang applauded the role of Pakistan security forces in curbing terrorism. Nevertheless, the rising evil of ideological extremism— RAW-backed Hindutva, separatist tendencies-Balochistan Liberation Front (BLF), East Turkmenistan Liberation Movement (ETLM) and terrorist groups such as Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) –poses a scowling regional threat to SCO's credo of rooting out terrorism. While combating against the forces of terrorism and extremism, the SCO member states are also committed to making a crackdown on drug trafficking, transnational crimes and illegal immigration. To conclude, by hosting this mega event in Islamabad, Pakistan has positively utilized its diplomatic endowment to broaden the SCO's soft power spectrum of shared future.

<https://pakobserver.net/pak-broadens-scos-spectrum-of-shared-future/>

Pakistan's pivotal role in SCO summit

M Abdullah Hamid Gul

CURRENTLY, Islamabad asserts its role as the diplomatic hub of South Asia by hosting the SCO Summit, signalling a new chapter in Pakistan's foreign policy and regional integration efforts. As a crucial member of the SCO, Pakistan spearheads this significant assembly of Asian nations committed to enhancing economic, political and security cooperation. The presence of leaders from member States, including Russia's Prime Minister Mikhail Mishustin and China's Premier Li Qiang, underscores Pakistan's geostrategic significance in facilitating critical discussions on trade, security and cultural exchanges. Pakistan's diligent preparations have fostered an environment conducive to effective and positive negotiations. By hosting this Summit, Pakistan reaffirms its strategic importance in the region and its commitment to regional prosperity. This gathering in Islamabad represents a shift towards deeper integration and connectivity, advocating a unified vision for Asia's future, with Pakistan playing a central role.

Summit's agenda: It's seen as a way to bring people from different cultures together, bring their economies together or make the region safe. This year's Summit aims to improve business cooperation between member countries. It plans to strengthen the trade interchange's infrastructure and look into possible energy projects to help the area's economy reach a new level. Another big topic of conversation is security, including ways to fight terrorism, make the area more stable and strengthen the cooperative defence program of SCO member states. The Summit also wants to improve cultural exchange, which will help people from different countries better understand each other within the SCO and make the organization more robust. Good things about this Summit, which is attended by heads of state and government and other top officials from SCO member countries. This shows that the SCO is an important place to meet. They are also a sign of how vital the Summit is diplomatically and that Pakistan is ready to host critical foreign talks whenever it wants to. The most influential leaders in the region need to be at this meeting to support and push for reaching the big goals set at the Summit, make sure that the changes that are being made have the support they need to be successful across the region and encourage a lot of cooperation.

Pakistan's role and strategic importance: Since joining the SCO, Pakistan's place within this organization has been diplomatic weightage and geopolitical location, making the country an irreplaceable part of the SCO system. It is located in a strategic position and provides a direct link between the South Asian and Central Asian regions for transit and trade. This position makes it possible for Pakistan to improve and play a strategic role in the transit of goods, energy and people across two vibrant regions as an active member of SCO in developing economic corridors like the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor. This corridor positively contributes to Pakistan's economy and gives other SCO member states more direct access to international markets. In diplomacy, Pakistan uses its SCO membership to expand relations with other large neighbours, including China and Russia, and to navigate the tensions between India and the Central Asian republics. Thus, hosting the SCO Pakistan also signals that it is able and willing to take a leading role in regional problems, confirming its role as a mediator and cooperative partner in managing regional issues. It strengthens Pakistan's

diplomacy and shapes other regional policies and cooperation processes that benefit all members within the framework of the SCO.

Government initiatives and praise: It is pertinent to appreciate the efforts made by the government of Pakistan and state institutions to prepare for the event and host the SCO Summit. Several measures undertaken to create a conducive environment for productive discussions reflect Pakistan's desire and its responsibility as the host of the SCO and its active members. Hosting such a credible international event speaks volumes about Pakistan's management abilities to host and facilitate discourse on pertinent regional and global issues. With this in view, the government has adopted stringent security and logistical measures to enhance the holding of the Summit. Security measures include hiring thousands to ensure the venue and the surroundings are safe. These measures eliminate any security threats that may threaten the dignitaries and the delegates at the Summit so that the maximum focus can be achieved on the productive sessions of the Summit. The future of regional cooperation: The SCO Summit in Islamabad will undoubtedly drastically impact the further development of cooperation within the organization. It can establish an innovative plan for interstate relations for years ahead. The expected outcome of this Summit includes further discussions and decisions aimed at increasing economic cooperation, the development of security cooperation, and cultural interaction in the region. One of the main topics of the Summit is a resolution of the essential disturbances affecting the area, including trade restrictions, security risks, and cultural concerns, to create a stable foundation for enhanced Asian connections.

As the host of the SCO Summit, Pakistan has played a pivotal role in setting the pace for this crucial event in Islamabad.

The opening meetings have brought together leaders and representatives from across the region, demonstrating Pakistan's capability to manage and facilitate significant multilateral negotiations.

The successful execution of this large-scale event highlights Pakistan's commitment to fostering regional interaction and harmony. Moving forward, the Summit is expected to have a lasting impact on both Pakistan and the region, strengthening ties among SCO member states and advancing cooperation in economic, security and cultural spheres. For Pakistan, this successful organization enhances its international standing, offering new opportunities for economic growth and diplomatic engagement. The Summit not only boosts Pakistan's recognition globally but also positions it as a key player in regional integration, enabling the country to strengthen its role in shaping the economic and strategic landscape of Asia. This event serves as a platform for Pakistan to deepen its involvement in the regional economy.

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<https://pakobserver.net/pakistans-pivotal-role-in-sco-summit/>

The Express Tribune

Chinese firm to invest \$1b in PRL

Seeks independence from govt control; refinery to double output with upgrade

Zafar Bhutta

ISLAMABAD: A Chinese investment corporation has agreed to provide \$1 billion to Pakistan Refinery Limited (PRL) for its upgradation project, a move aimed at transforming the refinery's production capacity.

However, the Chinese firm has made it clear that it does not want any government role involved in the deal and expects PRL to repay the amount in dollars without any government control or intervention.

At present, the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) permits the private sector, including refineries, to retain dollars for investment purposes.

However, the Chinese company has stated that such controls should be eliminated to ensure smooth repayment of the loan. The firm stressed that there should be no obstacles in remitting dollars back to China.

Sources within the Petroleum Division revealed that PRL has assured the Chinese Investment Corporation that it will generate the required dollars through the export of petroleum products, which will then be used to repay the Chinese firm.

Additionally, China Export & Credit Insurance Corporation (SINOSURE), which is a state-funded insurance company established to promote China's foreign trade and economic cooperation, has also insisted on no government interference regarding the provision of dollars.

PRL is currently engaged in an upgradation project aimed at doubling its production capacity from the current 50,000 barrels per day to 100,000 barrels per day.

The refinery has already signed an agreement with China's United Energy Group (UEG) to embark on this significant expansion and modernisation endeavour.

The primary objectives of this project are to meet domestic consumer demand, transition from a basic hydro-skimming process to a deep-conversion process, and produce Euro 5 compliant high-speed diesel (HSD) and motor spirit (petrol). In doing so, the refinery will phase out the production of furnace oil, which has been incurring losses.

This strategic move aligns with PRL's commitment to producing cleaner, environmentally friendly fuels that cater to the growing market demand. Currently, PRL produces 250,000 tonnes of motor spirit annually. Following the expansion, this output is expected to increase to 1.5 million tonnes. Similarly, HSD production is projected to rise from 600,000 tonnes per year to around 2 million tonnes. PRL and UEG formalised their collaboration by signing a memorandum of understanding (MoU) on October 18, 2023, in China.

Under this MoU, both companies expressed their intent to establish a strategic cooperation relationship based on mutual interests in Pakistan's energy sector.

This collaboration is expected to have a profound positive impact on the growth and development of the energy industry in Pakistan, contributing to a sustainable and environmentally responsible energy landscape. In a recent development, PRL has signed licensing agreements with global industry leaders Honeywell UOP and Axens to produce gasoline and diesel that meet Euro 5 specifications. Additionally, PRL, along with other refineries, was set to sign a supplemental agreement with the Oil and Gas Regulatory Authority (Ogra) under the new refinery policy. However, the Cabinet Committee on Energy (CCOE) granted an extension for refineries to sign the implementation agreements required for their upgrades. Previously, the deadline for signing these agreements was set for April 22, 2024. Three refineries—Attock Refinery Limited (ARL), National Refinery Limited (NRL), and PRL—had agreed to sign the agreements by the deadline, while two other refineries, Pak Arab Refinery (Parco) and Cnergyico PK, requested additional time. ARL, NRL, and PRL plan to invest a total of \$3 billion in upgrading their plants, with the combined investment reaching \$6 billion once Parco and Cnergyico join the project. The amended "Pakistan Oil Refining Policy for Up-gradation of Existing/Brownfield Refineries 2023" has already been notified for implementation. This policy aims to upgrade existing refineries to produce Euro-V fuels while reducing furnace oil output.

To achieve these goals, the policy offers a 2.5% incremental incentive on HSD in addition to the current 7.5% and a 10% incentive on petrol in the form of deemed duty for a period of seven years. The deemed duty will be deposited in an escrow account maintained by Ogra, from which refineries can withdraw funds to cover up to 27.5% of the cost of plant upgrades after achieving financial close and meeting expenditure milestones.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2503332/chinese-firm-to-invest-1b-in-prl>

Rashakai SEZ to help spur economy

Project development will generate lots of job opportunities, high-scale investment

ISLAMABAD: Rashakai Special Economic Zone (SEZ) Director of Utilities Ashraf Orakzai starts his work early in the morning in this industrial estate in Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa (K-P) no matter how tough the weather is since he considers his job crucial for Pakistan's future.

Orakzai, who belongs to K-P and has been working at Rashakai SEZ and the industrial park, part of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) framework, since mid-2022, is highly motivated towards the development of this project as it is going to generate a lot of employment opportunities along with high-scale investment and economic activity not just in his own province but the entire country, Xinhua news agency reported.

Launched in 2013, 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, which highlights energy, transport, and industrial cooperation in the first phase, while in the new phase expands to the fields of agriculture and livelihood, among others.

"As a Pakistani, we all want our country to develop and progress, and such projects, I believe, would play a defining role in economic development and specifically in poverty alleviation," he said.

The SEZ has a complete infrastructure of more than a dozen individual buildings, seven km of roads, and a variety of complete network facilities, including water, drainage, power supply, and communication.

Invested and implemented by China Road and Bridge Corporation (CRBC), the project is divided into three phases, covering a total area of around 1,000 acres.

The first phase, covering an area of 247 acres, was implemented from June 2021 to March 2023, in which over 60% of land has been leased out, mostly, to Pakistani and Chinese enterprises.

There are 10 different types of industries under construction in the zone, including steel, pharmaceutical, surgical and mobile accessories' factories, Orakzai told Xinhua. Rashakai, as CPEC's first SEZ, is positioned to vigorously promote the next step of industrial cooperation between Pakistan and China under CPEC, said Wu Yuxing, Project Manager of CRBC at Rashakai.

All infrastructural facilities are designed according to Chinese standards, including the establishment of a complete operation support team, he said.

"At the same time, the overall scale of the park and subsequent operation and maintenance, and services for the entire industrial chain of enterprises are also of top quality," he added.

The zone is located around 90 km from the federal capital, Islamabad, and nearly 60 km from Peshawar, the provincial capital of K-P, which brings the two major cities within reach of one to two hours. A motorway, railway network and Afghan port are also within its vicinity. Orakzai said one of the things specifically focused at Rashakai was the ease of doing business, adding "we have a one-window operation facility with all the relevant departments as well as a facilitation centre."

Javed Iqbal Khattak, Chief Executive Officer of K-P Economic Zones Development and Management Company, a partner of Rashakai SEZ management, said that four new industries, including medicine, sulphuric acid, electric cables and pharmaceuticals, are expected to start operations this year.

Negotiations have almost been finalised with an electric bike and scooter manufacturing company of young engineers as well, and they are also expected to join later on, he said. These industries will act as a catalyst to attract others, Khattak added. He said the SEZ focuses on promoting export-oriented and import-substitution industries, which would impact Pakistan's overall economy.

"As per the agreement, 80% of employment will be given to the locals, which will be a big boost to the development of K-P," Khattak said.

The local industry will get a chance to learn best practices in the manufacturing sector from the well-established multinational corporations, he said, adding that K-P's local vendor industry, most importantly, will flourish with the development of Rashakai.

SEZs are significant for industrial development in a country in today's world, said Syed Wajid Bukhari, CEO of the Pakistan Association of Large Steel Producers, which has member companies of the Pakistan Business Council and the country's largest private-sector businesses and conglomerates including multinationals.

Rashakai is very important symbolically as well because its success would send a good message to foreign investors, he said.

"This development will be a positive signal for CPEC since industrial development was one of the main targets of CPEC for which massive infrastructure was developed in its first phase," according to Bukhari.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2503337/rashakai-sez-to-help-spur-economy>

The Nation

Rashakai SEZ under CPEC begins to contribute to industrial development

ISLAMABAD - Ashraf Orakzai, director of utilities at Rashakai Special Economic Zone (SEZ) in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) province, starts his work early in the morning no matter how tough the weather is since he considers his job crucial for the country's future.

Orakzai, who belongs to KP and has been working at Rashakai SEZ and the industrial park, part of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) framework, since mid-2022, is highly motivated towards the development of this project as it's going to generate a lot of employment opportunities along with high-scale investment and economic activity not just in his own province but the entire country. Launched in 2013, CPEC, a flag-ship project of the China-proposed Belt and Road Initiative, is a corridor linking the Gwadar Port in Balochistan province with Kashgar in northwest China's Xin-jiang Uygur Autonomous Region, which highlights energy, transport, and industrial cooperation in the first phase, while in the new phase expands to fields of agriculture and livelihood, among others.

"As a Pakistani, we all want our country to develop and progress, and such projects, I believe, would play a defining role in economic development and specifically in poverty alleviation," he said. The SEZ has a complete infrastructure of more than a dozen individual buildings, 7km of roads, and a variety of complete network facilities, including water, drainage, power supply, and communication. Invested and implemented by China Road and Bridge Corporation (CRBC), the project is divided into three phases, covering a total area of around 1,000 acres. The first phase, covering an area of 247 acres, was implemented from June 2021 to March 2023, in which over 60 percent of the land has been leased out, mostly to Pakistani and Chinese enterprises. There are 10 different types of industries under construction in the zone, including steel, pharmaceutical, surgical and mobile accessories factories, Orakzai told Xinhua.

Rashakai, as CPEC's first SEZ, is positioned to vigorously promote the next step of industrial cooperation between Pakistan and China under CPEC, said Wu Yuxing, project manager of CRBC at Rashakai. All infrastructural facilities are designed according to Chinese standards, including the establishment of a complete operation support team, he said. "At the same time, the overall scale of the park and subsequent operation and maintenance, and services for the entire industrial chain of enterprises are also top quality," he added. The zone is located around 90km from the federal capital, Islamabad, and nearly 60km from Peshawar, which brings the two major cities within reach of one to two hours. A motorway, railway network and Afghan port are also within its vicinity. Orakzai said one of the things specifically focused at Rashakai was the ease of doing business, adding that "we have a one-window operation facility with all the relevant departments as well as a facilitation center." Talking to Xinhua, Javed Iqbal Khattak, chief executive officer of KP Economic Zones Development and Management Company, a partner of Rashakai SEZ's management, said that four new industries, including medicine, sulphuric acid, electric cables and pharmaceuticals, are expected to start operations this year.

Negotiations have almost been finalized with an electric bike and scooter manufacturing company of young engineers as well, and they are also expected to join later on, he said. These industries will act as a catalyst to attract others, Khattak added.

He said the SEZ focuses on promoting export-oriented and import-substitution industries, which would impact Pakistan's overall economy. "As per the agreement, 80 per-cent of the employment will be given to the locals, which will be a big boost to the development of KP," Khattak said. The local industry will get the chance to learn the best practices in the manufacturing sector from the well-established multi-national corporations, he said, adding that KP's local vendor industry, most importantly, will flourish with the development of Rashakai.

SEZs are significant for industrial development in a country in today's world, said Syed Wajid Bukhari, CEO of the Pakistan Association of Large Steel Producers, which has member companies of the Pakistan Business Council and the country's largest private-sector businesses and conglomerates including multi-nationals. Rashakai is very important symbolically as well because its success would send a good message to foreign investors, he said. "This development will also be a positive signal for CPEC since industrial development was one of the main targets of CPEC for which massive infrastructure was developed in its first phase," according to Bukhari.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2024-10-17/page-10/detail-4>

October 18, 2024

Dawn News

CPEC catalysing sustainability, growth in Pakistan: speakers

ISLAMABAD: China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) has transformed the landscape from the lengths and breadths of Pakistan over the decade. The collective approach to CPEC has significantly changed and uplifted the diverse economic and social sectors at all levels.

These views were expressed by the speakers sharing insights about the Book “China-Pakistan Economic Corridor: A Decade of Transformation across Pakistan: Regional Impacts and Progress” published by the Centre of BRI and China Studies - Institute of Peace and Diplomatic Studies (IPDS) along with Pakistan research center at Inner Mongolia College of Arts and Sciences, during the launch ceremony hosted in collaboration with Riphah Institute of Public Policy, Department of Riphah International University.

They noted that collaboration between intellectuals and significant policy inputs has shifted the course of implementation of this game-changing project. They said despite the challenges, Pakistan has gained the dividends of CPEC, and its economy has moved on a positive course.

They stressed the need for intellectuals and think-tanks from both sides to continue cooperation and enhance understanding amongst scholars, faculty members, and students from both sides.

Dr Farhat Asif, President of IPDS, opened the ceremony by sharing the book’s aims and objectives, which highlight the decades of transformation that CPEC has done in various areas of Pakistan.

She said that the book encompasses eight chapters with diverse viewpoints from intellectuals around Pakistan, including Sindh, Punjab, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, and Azad Jammu and Kashmir.

Prof. Tang Jun, Pakistan Research Center Inner Magnolia Honder College of Arts and Sciences, said the book is offered uniquely by scholars from different regions of Pakistan.

He said the book is an intellectual contribution to enhancing understanding about the decade of impacts of CPEC.

During the ceremony, Chief Guest Rana Ihsan Afzal Khan, Coordinator to the Prime Minister of Pakistan on Implementation and Monitoring, emphasised that CPEC is catalyzing growth. Despite economic stagnation, the Pakistani nation has achieved a moment of stabilization for effectively executing the project.

He further emphasised that, in addition to transforming the economic landscape, the B2B component of CPEC guarantees the proper execution of CPEC initiatives. He said that high-level visits from both sides have resulted in extensive coordination between the two nations, particularly in transferring industrial knowledge.

Prof. Dr. Attaullah Shah Bukhari, Vice Chancellor of Karakoram International University, said there is huge potential for collaboration between Pakistan and China among universities, incubation centers, research, and youth training.

Professor Guo Yaling, Head of the Pakistan Study Centre at Hebei Normal University, remarked the book is a significant representation of scholars from Pakistan and proposed further cooperation between scholars from both sides.

Prof. Jin Qiang, Director of The Research Centre for Organisation of Islamic Cooperation at Hebei University, said there should be collaboration between media and language translation of the intellectual work for greater understanding.

Prof. Dr. Samina Sabir, Director of Kashmir Institute of Economics, University of Azad Jammu and Kashmir, discussed the CPEC and its impact on the Kashmir region and shared that there is a need for opening new opportunities for the region to help the locals to uplift the economy.

Dr. Liaqat Ali Shah, Head of Policy (CPEC) at the Centre of Excellence for CPEC M/o Planning, Development, and Special Initiatives, said there is a pressing need for enhanced scholarly collaboration to effectively tackle the challenges for both nations and CPEC.

The book is available for the general public, faculty members, academia and anyone interested in the CPEC and its progress in various regions of Pakistan.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1865880>

Pakistan Observer

SCO summit boosts Gwadar port's regional significance: Minister

Federal Minister for Maritime Affairs Qaiser Ahmed Sheikh Thursday praised SCO summit as a resounding success, highlighting its potential to unlock new regional connectivity, opportunities and expressed optimism that exports will receive a significant boost through Gwadar Port, particularly as China relocates its industries to Pakistan. Federal Minister expressed optimism about Gwadar Port's potential to drive Pakistan's economic growth while speaking to news channel. He emphasized that the port's success is crucial for the country's economic progress, he added. China's decision to relocate its middle industries to Pakistan is expected to significantly boost the country's economy, he further mentioned. This strategic move will not only improve economic growth but also create numerous job opportunities for the local workforce, ultimately enhancing the overall standard of living, he said. Responding a query, he said the SCO summit's successful conclusion has earned Pakistan widespread appreciation for its exceptional hospitality.

It is an honor to have hosted this prestigious event, showcasing our country's capability to organize high-profile international gatherings seamlessly, he added.

Pakistan and China's relationship has been a cornerstone of regional cooperation, and their bilateral trade has witnessed significant growth over the years, he highlighted.—APP <https://pakobserver.net/sco-summit-boosts-gwadar-ports-regional-significance-minister/>

23rd meeting of SCO's Heads of Government

Dr Muhammad Khan

PAKISTAN has magnificently conducted the 23rd Meeting of the Council of Heads of Government of Member States of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization on October 15-16, 2024 at Islamabad. It was a great event in the recent history of Pakistan and indeed a great test for the incumbent Government. The Government, the State, State's institutions and specially the masses deserve compliments on this great achievement. This event has restored trust of the Pakistani state and its Government at international and regional level on many aspects. Upon successful conclusion of the Meeting, a Joint Communiqué, agreed upon by all member states, was issued. The joint communiqué stressed for pursuance of two significant aspects; a) the SCO's initiative "On World Unity for a Just Peace, Harmony and Development" and b) the dialogue about "One Earth. One Family. One Future".

World unity for a just peace, harmony and development is a joint proposal of the SCO member states for adaptation through a UN General Assembly Resolution. The basic idea behind this proposal is demand for establishment of international unity which is considered as a precursor for just peace and peace is essential for promotion of harmony among global society. All these aspects are essentially required for a collective development of international society including the nation states. This proposal must be presented and adopted by the UN General Assembly for the common good of the international community. The contemporary international community must take this proposal very seriously for the common benefit of every individual, irrespective of religion, region, caste or creed.

It is in line with the Islamic teachings of the Holy Quran and Sunnah. Besides, it is in line with what was agreed during the Peace Treaty of Westphalia in 1648. Peace and harmony is the most needed aspect of the contemporary world, since there are scores of conflicts going on at the level of intra-state, inter-state and at regional and global level. Europe and America must understand this glaring requirement, since most of the conflicts originated because of power politics among major powers. Since Russia and China are the originators of this concept from the forum of SCO, therefore, the United States and major European states need to support the proposal.

The second aspect, "One Earth, One Family, One Future" is indeed a continuation of the first proposal. This idea is asking for the introduction of a new and most needed form of international relations, which should revolve around cooperation based on the common destiny of the entire world. Since all human beings inhabit the same earth, all are inter-dependent as one family, thus need to pursue a common future with optimism for peace, harmony and development. This idea has resemblance with the Chinese Belt and Road Initiative (BRI); the common destiny for all. This will be a new peace international agreement based on "mutual respect, justice, equality and mutually beneficial cooperation, as well as the formation of a common vision of the idea of creating a community of common destiny of mankind and the development of dialogue".

On World Unity for Just Peace and Harmony, aims at strengthening confidence-building measures and maintaining stable development of all countries of the world. It is worth

mentioning that at the time of international crises, this initiative from the SCO is a sincere attempt for ending the conflicts and promoting cooperation and peace. This initiative from the SCO forum will greatly help the world in understanding the true objectives of this organization (SCO) and its future roles towards international peace and harmony by ending the conflicts through hard power. It is worth mentioning that SCO member states have almost over 40% of the global population, 27 % of world's GDP and about 80% of Eurasian landmass.

By virtue of its geopolitical location, Pakistan is in the vicinity of world's major economies and emerging regional markets. Besides, it occupies a strategic location viz-a viz great powers and their strategic interests. Therefore, "Pakistan can utilize economic tools like trade, energy and investment, infrastructure development to further its geopolitical and geo-economic objectives in a befitting manner. For Pakistan, the SCO is the most vital cooperative forum. Through this forum, Pakistan can boost trade and commerce from the member states of SCO. Being an emerging security bloc against terrorism, SCO can greatly help Pakistan in reducing its traditional and non-traditional security threats.

SCO member states are fully cognizant of the contribution and sacrifices Pakistan has rendered for the global peace and security by combating terrorism in the first two decades of the 21st century.

Besides, Pakistan desires that the SCO should play a decisive role towards resolution of the unresolved disputes like Jammu and Kashmir and Palestine.

SCO is not a military alliance, yet it seeks to address major security threats in the region and establish a peaceful environment that boosts trade and cooperation among the member states. It offers an opportunity to deliberate on the pressing energy, trade and economy issues and take steps towards desired outcomes.

23rd Meeting of SCO's Heads of Government, Pakistan mainly stressed to strengthen the existing SCO mechanisms while addressing global issues such as food security, climate change, international peace and counter-terrorism.

Pakistan visualized SCO for galvanization of the Shanghai Spirit to strengthen the mandate of the forum while reducing the risks of conflict, fostering confidence and promoting stability. As a host member state for the 23rd Meeting of SCO's Heads of Government, Pakistan earned a lot of respect and goodwill from the rest of SCO member states.

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<https://pakobserver.net/23rd-meeting-of-scos-heads-of-government/>

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Dawn News

CPEC's eastern route found most beneficial for regional connectivity

ISLAMABAD: The eastern route of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) has been found to be the most advantageous in terms of provincial representation, regional and trans-border connectivity, tourism, and socio-economic benefits, while Islamabad and Dera Ismail Khan have been identified as the top economic and transport hubs due to their strategic locations and interconnectivity.

This was the crux of a consultative session on transformation of transport corridors into economic corridors presided over by Minister for Planning and Development Ahsan Iqbal.

The eastern route is the most viable and shortest travel time option, according to member infrastructure Waqas Anwar. This route connects Gwadar, Karachi, Hyderabad, Sukkur, Multan, Islamabad, Haripur, Mansehra, Chilas and Gilgit, terminating at Khunjerab on the Pakistan-China border.

The session noted that while the shortest travel time route combines elements of both the central and eastern routes, it fails to adequately represent provincial interests, particularly underrepresenting Sindh.

The central route includes Gwadar, Turbat, Quetta, Shikarpur, D.G. Khan, D.I. Khan, Islamabad, Haripur, Mansehra, Chilas, Gilgit, and Khunjerab, while the western route passes through Gwadar, Turbat, Quetta, Qilla Saifullah, D.I. Khan, Charsadda, Mardan, Haripur, Mansehra, Chilas, Gilgit, and Khunjerab.

In contrast, the eastern route demonstrates a more equitable distribution of infrastructure — 34 per cent in Punjab, 17pc in Sindh, 24pc in Balochistan, 13pc in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and 12pc in Gilgit-Baltistan — while also aligning with the population distribution of 78.1 million across the provinces.

Moreover, Islamabad and D.I. Khan have been recognised as suitable transport hubs with potential for special economic zones, also serving as logistics centres for warehousing activities. Also, Islamabad's central location enhances its strategic importance within the network, particularly as it features the shortest travel time route.

The session highlighted that, aside from the Khunjerab Pass and Gwadar, Gilgit poses a significant risk to network robustness, affecting inter-city connectivity under adverse conditions or emergencies. The eastern route is also seen as more robust and operationally efficient.

The planning minister emphasised the government's commitment to leveraging Pakistan's existing transport infrastructure as a foundation for broader economic growth, stating that the future of the nation is tied to transforming these corridors into thriving economic zones. "Our vision is to harness the power of our transport networks to drive industrial growth, regional integration, and sustainable development," he said, adding that transport corridors must serve as economic lifelines, fostering opportunities for trade, investment and regional collaboration.

The session underscored that transport corridors should not merely focus on constructing roads and railways but also on establishing economic zones that integrate industrial and commercial activities, thus becoming hubs for industrial development and facilitating growth in sectors like manufacturing, agriculture, and services.

A key theme of the discussion was the necessity for comprehensive business planning. The planning minister urged the participants to develop detailed business plans that outline a clear roadmap for establishing economic zones along these transport corridors. “We must conduct thorough feasibility studies, identify potential industrial hubs, and create financial models that will attract both domestic and international investment. This is the way forward for creating sustainable economic opportunities,” he said.

The meeting acknowledged that effective planning could unlock substantial value along these routes, particularly through the integration of tourism, agriculture, and agri-processing activities, thereby enhancing the value-added output of agricultural products and improving competitiveness in global markets.

The minister also stressed the importance of human capital development, asserting that infrastructure alone is insufficient. He called for equipping the workforce with the necessary skills for emerging industries through vocational training centres and technical education programs along these corridors, ensuring that local communities can directly benefit from economic growth.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1866169>

Pakistan Observer

ISSI in collaboration with Xinhua host Hong Ting Forum dialogue

Deputy Chief of Mission (DCM) of the Embassy of China, Mr Shi Yuanqiang has termed Premier Li Qiang’s recent visit to Pakistan another significant step in strengthening the China-Pakistan All Weather Strategic Cooperative Partnership.

The continuous reforms and opening up have opened up new avenues of development and opportunities for the people and the government of China, said he.

Mr Shi expressed these views while addressing the Hong Ting Forum: Dialogue in Islamabad titled ‘Understanding China-Pakistan All-Weather Strategic Cooperative Partnership and Chinese-Style Modernization Development Path’ here on Friday.

The China Pakistan Study Centre (CPSC) had organized the event at the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) in collaboration with Xinhua News Agency. Pakistan’s former Ambassador to China Masood Khalid also addressed the audience. The event highlighted China’s unique national modernization and the importance of the China Pakistan All Weather Strategic Cooperative Partnership. Participants included experts from the diplomatic community, academia, think tanks and civil society.

DCM Shi Yuanqiang informed the audience that the leadership of both China and Pakistan had agreed on supporting and promoting the three Initiatives: The Global Development Initiative, Global Security Initiative, and the Global Civilization Initiative. This new

collaboration, he said was in addition to promoting the CPEC and people-to-people relations between both countries. He also added that any attempt to undermine cooperation between both countries by acts of terrorism would be dealt with iron hand and there was no room for weakening this bond of enduring partnership.

Ambassador Masood Khalid, former Ambassador of Pakistan to China, in his keynote address stated that China had made significant developments to the world including building the Great Wall, introducing meritocracy and building the great canal system. China's development journey has been marked with the economy growing from \$2.286 trillion in 2005 to \$18 trillion today.

<https://pakobserver.net/issi-in-collaboration-with-xinhua-host-hong-ting-forum-dialogue/>

SCO 3Gs and Pakistan: An expert opinion

Dr Mehmood Ul Hassan Khan

MANIFESTLY, the successful hosting of the 23rd Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) has decisively tilted the regional geometry, geopolitics, and geo-economics in favour of Pakistan. The country has emerged as a connecting hub for economic cooperation, trans-regional connectivity, and socio-economic integration. Furthermore, it serves as a centre for meaningful diplomatic and political consultations aimed at addressing emerging issues related to security, terrorism, poverty eradication and job creation. The recent SCO summit has become a big diplomatic victory of Pakistan. The rigorous participation of India, visit of the Chinese Premier Li, the largest business delegation from Russia, wholehearted engagements of the Central Asian Prime Ministers and, above all, Pakistan's systematic persuasion to realize the member countries and global power brokers about Afghanistan's constant support to regional terrorism and sanctuaries has indeed boosted Pakistan's confidence to fight against anti-human and anti-development elements in the region and beyond.

It augurs well that Pakistan has succeeded in convincing the member countries to move beyond cosmetic statements and stereotype pledges and signing of meaningful MOUs and the joint declaration covering core issues of the SCO's budget, the operations of its Secretariat and regional counterterrorism efforts, security, trade and economic development. The summit, chaired by Pakistan's Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, also saw member states reaffirm their dedication to promoting regional peace, political stability and socio-economic cooperation. In addition, the leaders recognised the need for enhanced cooperation in science, technology, digital economy and information security.

The advocacy for the right of peoples to independently and democratically choose their political, social and economic development—emphasizing mutual respect for sovereignty, independence, territorial integrity, equality, mutual benefit, non-interference and the non-use of force—forms the basis for sustainable international relations. This is one of the main outcomes of the recently concluded SCO summit in Islamabad. Their commitment to promoting diplomacy, dialogue and development reflects a firm belief in peaceful conflict resolution, constructive foreign policy and support for a new economic charter of cooperation among member countries. Furthermore, the joint declaration's emphasis on proposing a UN

General Assembly Resolution in connection with the SCO Initiative “On World Unity for a Just Peace, Harmony, and Development” is significant in countering false propaganda that portrays the SCO as a military group which is entirely untrue.

The confirmation of initiatives to promote interaction in building a new type of international relations in the spirit of mutual respect, justice, equality and mutually beneficial cooperation, as well as the formation of a common vision of the idea of creating a community of common destiny of mankind and the development of dialogue on the idea of “One Earth. One Family. One Future” showcases holistic and comprehensive spirits of the SCO and shades of the Chinese wisdom of international cooperation, economic globalization, transparency, openness and above all global shared prosperity for all. The joint persuasion of further develop cooperation in the spheres of politics and security, trade, economy, finance and investment, and cultural and humanitarian ties in order to build a peaceful, safe, prosperous and ecologically clean planet Earth to achieve harmonious coexistence of man and nature is a remarkable development moving all the member countries towards a true multiculturalism and new system of economic cooperation and investments.

It is a positive sign that the joint declaration highlights the strategic importance of information technology, digitalization, artificial intelligence, virtual/digital assets, and e-commerce. The member states expressed concern over challenges that have reduced investment flows, disrupted supply chains, and created uncertainty in global financial markets due to protectionist measures and other trade impediments. Addressing these protectionist trade measures contrary to WTO rules, while strengthening a non-discriminatory, open, equitable, inclusive, and transparent multilateral trading system, is a crucial step forward. Their support for multilateral trading systems and facilitation of global sustainable development reflect the SCO’s commitment to achieving regional economic recovery and global economic revival.

In summary the author suggest that the SCO should comprehensively activate scope, utility, functionality and importance of the RATS i.e. Regional Anti-Terrorism System among all the member countries guaranteeing regional peace, stability, harmony and development. There should be full-fledged SCO Information Bank promoting projects of information technology, Artificial Intelligence, digitalization and ICT among all the member countries in the days to come. The formation of a SCO Bank is the need of hour consolidating potential of achieving the desired goals of qualitative industrialization, science & space cooperation, and the last but not least, inching towards new emerging technologies i.e. EVs, lithium batteries, AI in all the member countries.

The building of a prosperous SCO through qualitative human capital, growth of SMEs, MSMEs, disaster management, crisis management, swapping of local currencies, banking & financial integration and above all SCO Climate Change Bank would be value addition further strengthening the Shanghai Cooperation Spirits. The formation of a SCO Energy Bank with its own Energy Charter Treaty would promote energy security mechanisms in all the member countries. The institutionalization of the SCO Hybrid Agriculture Bank would gear real agricultural potential of all the member countries in the days to come.

The policy makers of the SCO should consider polling of the member countries' seaports, strategic railways and integrated transport system to further accelerate regional trade, commerce, investment, and joint ventures in the days to come. The Gwadar Seaport, Gwadar Airport and Karachi dry port are ready to facilitate all the member countries in this regard. The inauguration of CPEC Phase-2 will hopefully facilitate all the member countries in terms of regional connectivity, productivity and meaningful participation. The SCO main Secretariat badly needs experts of international marketing, international communications, conflict resolution, applied economists, experts of allied social growth and community development and above all experts of international law to safeguard the vested interests of the SCO mainly regional peace, stability, harmony, development, regional connectivity, and services of humanity.

<https://pakobserver.net/sco-3gs-and-pakistan-an-expert-opinion/>

The Express Tribune

Pakistan in talks with China for security mechanism

Hopes of clinching infrastructure, energy deals remain unmet

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan confirmed on Friday that it was in discussions with China for a joint security mechanism, as its hopes for clinching major infrastructure and energy deals during the visit of Chinese Prime Minister Li Qiang largely remained unfulfilled.

The major outcome of the visit was limited to signing pacts for the provision of six bulletproof vehicles and about 20 fire-fighting trucks.

Both sides also signed two agreements for currency swap and drama production and five memoranda of understanding (MoUs) for the provision of security and fire-fighting vehicles, cooperation in the areas of establishing laboratories, human resources training and water conservancy.

However, they did not sign any agreement on setting up a joint security company for the protection of Chinese interests in Pakistan and the restructuring of Chinese energy debt.

China last month demanded the setting up of a joint security company to protect its citizens and assets. It was Pakistan's desire to at least sign an MoU for energy debt restructuring.

"Discussions on establishing a joint security mechanism are ongoing within the framework of our joint working group on security, where details will be thoroughly addressed and finalised," said Planning Minister Ahsan Iqbal in response to the written questions sent by The Express Tribune.

The minister stated that security cooperation between Pakistan and China remained a top priority and both countries were fully committed to ensuring the safety of Chinese nationals and installations.

Days before the scheduled visit of Chinese prime minister, a suicide bomber hit a convoy of Chinese nationals working on a power plant, killing two and injuring one. Pakistan last week approved payment of \$516,000 in compensation for the families of every deceased.

A statement of the Prime Minister's Office said that Pakistan and China signed an MoU on security cooperation.

Under the MoU, China International Development Cooperation Agency (CIDCA) is "willing to provide six bulletproof vehicles to support national security and economic and social development in Pakistan".

Details showed that both countries agreed that a peaceful and secure environment for development was an important guarantee for deepening development cooperation, and agreed to further strengthen counter-terrorism and security cooperation.

Replying to a question, Ahsan Iqbal said that the bulletproof vehicles were arranged based on the need, adding that private enterprises made their own arrangements.

The final number of vehicles may vary based on the security assessment and specific regional requirements, said Iqbal while responding to a question on whether six bulletproof vehicles were sufficient for the security of Chinese nationals.

However, there was no breakthrough on the issues of signing commercial financing agreements on the Karachi-Hyderabad section of Mainline-I project and the loan agreement for the construction of Raikot-Thakot section of Karakoram Highway.

Iqbal said that Pakistan and China agreed to prioritise the Karachi-Hyderabad section of ML-I project as the first phase. He added that discussions on technical specifications, timeline and financing would be finalised with a team of Chinese experts, which would soon follow the Chinese PM visit.

According to a letter of exchange on human resources development, the Chinese government will organise training workshops for Pakistan, including workshops on enhancing law and order capabilities in Balochistan, workshops on the construction of China-Pakistan Export Processing Zones, workshops on the construction of industrial parks along the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and workshops on trade facilitation.

International travel expenses, transit fee, training fee, accommodation expenses and transportation fee for Pakistani participants attending the training workshops will be provided by the Chinese government.

Both sides also signed an MoU on strengthening cooperation in the field of information technology. "CIDCA is willing to explore the implementation of information technology and telecommunications related projects in Pakistan, such as cloud services, smart government, smart classroom phase-II, green energy solutions for higher education institutions, and capacity building through skill enhancement to support Pakistan to continue to improve its competitiveness in the global market, according to the pact.

A letter of exchange was also signed for aiding the fire and rescue vehicles in Islamabad. China will provide 19 fire trucks, one multi-functional rescue vehicle and one multi-functional rescue excavator and supporting services. Beijing will pay 72.31 million renminbi for these vehicles. Both sides also signed an MoU to explore Chinese willingness to discuss the social and livelihood projects in agriculture, healthcare, vocational training and other fields related to CPEC to support the development of the corridor.

Islamabad had proposed about 41 deliverables for the Chinese PM visit and out of those about 13 deals were signed.

Ahsan Iqbal said that Pakistan had successfully met all the mutually agreed deliverables.

But details showed that there was no agreement on a proposal to sign a loan agreement for the realignment of \$2 billion worth of Thakot-Raikot project of Karakoram Highway.

China also did not support the proposal to finalise four road projects –DI Khan-Zhob road, Mirpur-Muzaffarabad-Mansehra road, Karachi-Hyderabad Motorway and Babusar Top tunnel.

There was no announcement about another proposal to sign the loan agreement for Pakistan Space Centre.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2503852/pakistan-in-talks-with-china-for-security-mechanism>

October 20, 2024

Pakistan Observer

Successful SCO Summit & Islamabad's torment

Sultan M Hali

ISLAMABAD hosted the 23rd Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Summit on October 15-16, 2024. Several key decisions were taken at the Summit attended by Belarus, China, India, Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Pakistan, Russia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. The SCO is a permanent intergovernmental international body founded on June 15, 2001, in Shanghai, China. The organisation expanded to nine member countries with the inclusion of India and Pakistan in 2017. Russia had pitched for India's inclusion as a strategic partner, while China supported Pakistan to maintain a balance of power in the region.

Spanning about 60% of the Eurasian landmass, the SCO includes over 40% of the world's population. It features major economic powers like China and Russia, along with four nuclear states: China, Russia, Pakistan and India. The SCO offers an alternative to Western-led forums. Several key decisions were taken at the 2024 Summit to enhance cooperation among the member states. Notable among them were Development Strategy, World Unity Initiative and Counterterrorism Cooperation. Development Strategy entailed the approval of the draft for the plan of the SCO pertaining to development until 2035. It also included the adoption of the Initiative on World Unity for Just Peace and Harmony. The Summit called for the Implementation of the Programme of Cooperation in Countering Terrorism, Separatism and Extremism for 2025-2027. The convention introduced the SCO Anti-Drug Strategy for 2024-2029. Strategy for the Development of Energy Cooperation among SCO Member States until 2030 was also approved.

These decisions reflect the SCO's pledge to foster regional security, economic cooperation, and sustainable development. In a joint communiqué, the SCO member states reaffirmed commitment to further develop mutual cooperation in different spheres, including security,

trade, economy, investment and cultural and humanitarian ties to build a peaceful, safe, prosperous and ecologically clean planet Earth. SCO Summit 2024 witnessed the visit of the Chinese Premier to Pakistan after nine years and the Indian Minister for External Affairs Dr Subrahmanyam Jaishankar. The Indian delegate again highlighted the issue of alleged cross-border terrorism but he was less vitriolic than his address to the UN General Assembly last month. While India remained the only SCO member to not endorse China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), Jaishankar also flagged India's concerns about China and Pakistan in a veiled manner. Referring to Pakistan, Jaishankar said, "If activities across borders are characterised by terrorism, extremism and separatism, they are hardly likely to encourage trade, energy flows, connectivity and people-to-people exchanges in parallel."

In what is being seen as a reference to China and the BRI, the Indian Foreign Minister stressed that "Cooperation must be based on mutual respect and sovereign equality. It should recognise territorial integrity and sovereignty. It must be built on genuine partnerships, not unilateral agendas. It cannot progress if we cherry-pick global practices, especially of trade and transit." Prior to his visit, he had ruled out any bilateral talks with Pakistan but during the official lunch, he was seated next to his Pakistani counterpart and some unofficial discussion did take place, the contents of which have not been disclosed. The SCO and especially the presence of the Indian External Minister in Islamabad saw heightened security measures. Islamabad was virtually sealed off except for the dignitaries. This scribe returned from Skardu by air after a tour of the Northern Areas on October 15 at midday. Attempts to enter my home in Islamabad via the Grand Trunk Road, Islamabad Expressway, Golra More and Murree Road failed. Ultimately, my family and I had to spend the night with relatives in Chaklala. The next day too there was no let up till 7 PM.

When we had arrived at Islamabad International Airport from Skardu, there were a large number of foreign tourists, whose destination was also Islamabad but they too were locked out of the Federal Capital. To add to the misery of the residents of Islamabad, all shops and businesses were shut down on both days. Labourers, menial staff and workmen found no restaurant or eating place open and had to virtually starve for two days. Having toured the world, including major capitals in the world like Washington DC, Beijing, Moscow, London, Prague, Vienna and locations where major conventions and summits are organized, I have never seen the whole city turned into a virtual fortress. Contrarily, in Islamabad, business houses not only incurred monetary losses but reportedly, were harassed when they were forcibly shut down by law enforcing agencies.

Respecting Pakistan's sovereignty, the United States, in a statement through the State Department Spokesperson Matthew Miller on the eve of the Summit, made it clear that Islamabad has the autonomy to align with any regional groupings but advised that such associations must "strictly adhere to international law and not violate the sovereignty of other nations." During a press briefing, the US emphasised the importance of compliance with global norms, stating, "The United States respects each country's sovereign right to associate groupings of its own choosing." Pakistan faces the challenge of balancing its SCO engagement with relationships with Western powers, notably the US, which remains a vital economic partner. Internal political dynamics could also pose obstacles for Islamabad in fully

leveraging the summit's opportunities. Pakistan, which is facing immense challenges through political turmoil, terror attacks, energy shortages and a dwindling economy, needs to balance its relationship with the west and China, Russia and the Middle East. Conflicts in Gaza, Lebanon, Ukraine and possible showdown between Israel and Iran, make it imperative for Pakistan to ensure a well thought foreign policy to maintain its sovereignty and avoid being dragged into superpower rivalry. The SCO Summit opened doors for Pakistan for increased trade and investment. Its active participation in initiatives focused on improving transport links, energy cooperation, and digital connectivity to integrate it into the regional economy. It is hoped that future summits hosted by Pakistan will have adequate security arrangements but not torment its own citizens.

<https://pakobserver.net/successful-sco-summit-islamabads-torment/>

SCO 2024: Dawn of a new era

Engr Muhammad Usman

PAKISTAN hosted the two-day 2024 Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Summit in Islamabad, with dignitaries from China, Russia, India, Iran, Tajikistan, Belarus and Kazakhstan. Established by China and Russia in 2001, SCO strengthens regional bonds through cooperation in politics, economy and security. Adhering to the “Shanghai Spirit”—mutual trust, equality, respect for cultures and shared development—the summit marked one of the highest-profile events in Pakistan following years of political and security challenges. SCO aims to strengthen mutual trust and cooperation among its member states to ensure regional stability and security. The platform is focused on addressing a wide range of activities on political, economic, defence and security matters within the Eurasian region. The central theme of the 2024 SCO Summit, “Strengthening Multilateral Dialogue-striving Towards Sustainable Peace and Prosperity,” highlights the organizations’ commitment to fostering peaceful cooperation amidst the escalating global tensions. Amid ongoing terror threats, the summit reinforced the long-standing China-Pakistan friendship. Both nations are committed to addressing security concerns, particularly in areas impacted by extremism and strengthening joint counterterrorism efforts, especially for Chinese nationals on CPEC projects. Despite challenges, the Pak-China relationship remains strong, reaffirming their shared vision for regional stability, development and prosperity. At the October 15-16 summit, China’s Premier Li Qiang and Pakistan’s Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif reaffirmed their commitment to expanding cooperation under CPEC’s second phase. Both leaders praised progress, emphasizing CPEC’s strategic importance and the need for timely completion of industry, agriculture, science and technology projects to drive regional growth. Sharif assured Li of Pakistan’s commitment to the safety and security of Chinese nationals working on CPEC, addressing concerns over potential threats.

The milestones achieved by CPEC were also under observation during bilateral meetings held during the summit. The two sides assessed the achievements of Pakistan-China energy cooperation under CPEC and agreed to continue to promote the CPEC energy cooperation in a practical, prudent and orderly manner. Using scientific research and friendly consultation, the two sides will jointly explore solutions for specific issues concerning energy. The two

sides also agreed to strengthen professional exchanges in order to improve the efficiency and management of the power system of Pakistan.

The Chinese side further expressed its willingness to support and improve the well-being of Pakistani people, aiming to ensure the extension of development benefits in all regions of the country. With numerous development projects already completed, including the China-Pakistan Friendship Hospital, the China-Pakistan Technical and Vocational Institute and the desalination plant in Gwadar, both sides agreed to strengthen their cooperation even further under CPEC's socio-economic cooperation.

<https://pakobserver.net/sco-2024-dawn-of-a-new-era/>

A new dawn in Pak-China coop

Gulab Umid

THE historic visit of Chinese Premier Li Qiang to Pakistan has opened a promising new chapter in the ever-evolving relationship between the two nations. Marking the first visit by a Chinese Premier in over eleven years, this momentous occasion not only rekindled diplomatic ties but also set the stage for transformative projects that promise to reshape Pakistan's development trajectory. With a range of new agreements signed and discussions on expanding Chinese investment and relocating industries to Pakistan, it is clear that a vibrant, active phase of collaboration is now underway. This renewed partnership holds the potential to drive Pakistan into a new era of growth, fuelled by China's strategic support.

Over the past few years, China's cautious approach to projects like the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) had left many wondering about the future of this landmark initiative. Starting around mid-2018, concerns over security and other challenges led to a cooling period. However, the recent visit signals a dramatic shift. The fears that once hindered progress have now been addressed and both countries are ready to embark on the next phase of CPEC with renewed vigour. The visit, part of Premier Li's participation in the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) summit, brings with it a commitment to accelerating the region's shared vision of prosperity. Premier Li's delegation, comprising top ministers and senior officials, sent a clear message of China's continued commitment to Pakistan's progress. The first day of his visit alone saw the signing of 13 crucial memorandums of understanding in sectors ranging from security, education and agriculture to industry, human resource development and science and technology. These agreements underscore the broad scope of cooperation and signal the dawn of a more robust partnership.

One of the highlights of the visit was the virtual inauguration of Gwadar International Airport, a symbol of the long-standing friendship between Pakistan and China. Described by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif as a "game-changer" for Pakistan's economy, the airport stands as a testament to the shared ambition of both nations to turn Gwadar into a regional hub for trade and development. Premier Li reaffirmed China's unwavering commitment to Pakistan, emphasizing that the prosperity of the Pakistani people remains a heartfelt goal of Chinese leadership. Yet, alongside these promising developments, serious challenges remain—particularly regarding the security of Chinese workers and experts in Pakistan. Over the years, several tragic attacks on Chinese nationals have occurred, the most recent being a

suicide bombing near Karachi Airport. These events have understandably cast a shadow on Pakistan's security environment, especially for Chinese personnel working on vital projects like CPEC. However, it is a testament to China's resilience and trust in Pakistan that, despite these setbacks, Premier Li's visit moved forward with renewed optimism and determination.

For Pakistan, the security of Chinese workers is not just a diplomatic obligation but a national priority. Prime Minister Sharif has emphasized the need for airtight security measures, acknowledging that incidents like the Karachi attack cannot be allowed to recur. Beyond immediate security concerns, however, lies a deeper issue: why are individuals being drawn into violent extremism? Addressing this question requires more than security measures—it calls for an understanding of the socio-economic conditions that make individuals susceptible to radicalization. The discontent and grievances that push people towards such destructive paths need to be addressed at their root.

Achieving lasting peace and stability will require more than just security operations; it demands engagement. Closing the doors to dialogue with disaffected groups is counterproductive. Rather, a well-considered approach of open communication, coupled with efforts to address legitimate grievances, offers a path toward long-term peace. By ensuring that the benefits of development projects like CPEC reach all levels of society, Pakistan can alleviate some of the frustrations that drive individuals to such extremes. Premier Li's visit symbolizes far more than a ceremonial gesture. It represents the dawn of a new, revitalized era of cooperation—one that holds the promise of vast economic transformation for Pakistan. But for this partnership to succeed, it must be built on a foundation of mutual trust, secure environment and a commitment to equitable growth. As the fruits of this cooperation begin to ripen, it is vital that development benefits are distributed fairly, ensuring that prosperity is shared by all, not just a privileged few.

<https://pakobserver.net/a-new-dawn-in-pak-china-coop/>

Xinhua News

Symposium held in Islamabad on China-Pakistan cooperation to drive modernization

ISLAMABAD, Oct. 19 (Xinhua) -- The Hong Ting Forum themed "Understanding China-Pakistan All-Weather Strategic Cooperative Partnership and Chinese-style Modernization Development Path" has been held in Pakistan's federal capital city of Islamabad.

The symposium held on Friday drew about 100 participants, including diplomats, scholars, and media representatives. It was co-convened by Xinhua News Agency and the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI), an Islamabad-based think tank.

Speaking at the event, Shi Yuanqiang, minister of Chinese Embassy in Pakistan, said that China is ready to share development opportunities with the rest of the world.

"China and Pakistan are good neighbors and all-weather strategic cooperative partners, and mutually beneficial cooperation benefits both countries," he added.

Masood Khalid, former Pakistani ambassador to China, said the third plenary session of the 20th Communist Party of China Central Committee has adopted a grand strategic blueprint for Chinese-style modernization.

"Pakistan greatly value our time-tested relationship with China, and both countries are tied in a relationship which is unbreakable," Khalid said, adding that Pakistan should learn from the development model of Chinese-style modernization to embark on the path of self-reliance and better benefit both nations and regional development.

Mudassar Iqbal, deputy director of Associated Press of Pakistan, said that China's approach to modernization is not only benefiting its own people but also contributing to global development.

"The ironclad friendship between Pakistan and China will enable the two countries to stand and move forward side by side and forge a future of shared prosperity and unshakable friendship," he added.

Hassan Daud Butt, senior advisor at the China Study Center of the Sustainable Development Policy Institute, an Islamabad-based think tank, said that Pakistan should fully utilize the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) to expand cooperation with China in various fields such as industry, agriculture, science and technology, digital economy, green energy and technological innovation.

On the occasion, Khalid Mahmood, chairman of the ISSI Board of Governors, said efforts should be stepped up by the media and think tanks of Pakistan and China to contribute to deepening the all-weather strategic cooperative partnership between the two countries.

Masood Khalid, former Pakistani ambassador to China, speaks at the Hong Ting Forum held in Islamabad, Pakistan, Oct. 18, 2024.

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The Hong Ting Forum is held in Islamabad, Pakistan, Oct. 18, 2024.

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Hassan Daud Butt, senior advisor at the China Study Center of the Sustainable Development Policy Institute, an Islamabad-based think tank, is pictured during his speech at the Hong Ting Forum held in Islamabad, Pakistan, Oct. 18, 2024.

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<https://english.news.cn/asiapacific/20241020/d6a97ff2fd0a41709b3677077cdcd581/c.html>

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Pakistan observer

The SCO and what it entails

Waqar Hassan

COOPERATION and integration among regional countries have always been essential for prosperity. Europe's prosperity is mainly attributed to European countries putting aside their conflicts and focusing on mutual growth, leading to the creation of the European Union. The people of Europe have been benefiting socially, politically and economically from this union. Eurasian region has yet to establish a regional set-up that enables all nations to benefit from collaboration, despite the potential for a regional alliance. The Shanghai Cooperation Organization offers member states a great opportunity to establish a beneficial mechanism. SCO members are part of a regional framework that fosters economic growth, combats terrorism and encourages cooperation to reduce reliance on external countries. The benefits of reinforcing the pillars of SCO are beyond imagination.

The Shanghai Cooperation Organization, with 80 percent of the Eurasian landmass and 40 percent of the world's population, holds the largest regional cooperation globally. The SCO's control encompasses 20% of the GDP, 20% of the world's oil reserves and 44% of natural gas. "The leaders seated at this negotiation table are representatives of half of humanity," as stated by the former president of Kazakhstan. This emphasizes the colossal significance of this organization. The SCO serves as a key foundation for maximizing the gains from joint anti-terrorism initiatives undertaken by its members. Creating the Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure (RATS) is an essential measure to ensure that terrorists are unable to exploit any opportunities to carry out their harmful intentions. Over the last few decades, the Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure (RATS) has achieved encouraging results by successfully countering

various terrorist threats in the region. The SCO's objective is to enhance energy cooperation among its members for state energy security. The SCO Energy club was founded in 2013 within this context. The CARs, with their vast oil and gas reserves, can be a major source of energy relief for member states. This collaboration is obligatory as it will result in cost-effective energy for member states and have a positive impact on their economies. SCO holds immense potential for regional connectivity development. By facilitating regional connectivity, member states can strengthen trade links and foster social bonds, essential for promoting regional integration and achieving collective prosperity. The goal of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization is to strengthen relationships and promote cooperation among member states.

The West understands the great importance of SCO. China, Russia, Pakistan and India, the key states in the SCO, are of great importance. Together, these states can revolutionize the global power dynamics. Yet, there are specific obstacles that require urgent attention for SCO to reach its full potential. Regional integration necessitates tolerance among residing states. Tolerance provides room for states to find solutions to conflicts. The organization's full potential is hindered by the deep-rooted conflicts among a few SCO members. The territorial conflicts between China and India and India and Pakistan, pose obstacles to collaboration across all sectors within the SCO. Resolving these conflicts is crucial for SCO to become a major regional organization. Furthermore, the SCO member states are limited in their ability to fully engage Iran due to international sanctions.

The integration of Iran with SCO members will bring benefits to all states due to its oil and gas reserves. The goals of this organization are hindered by the security dilemma in Afghanistan. The constant terrorism risks from Afghanistan hinder SCO's expansion in the region. Furthermore, the SCO states need substantial investment to overcome the geographical barriers and establish connectivity. Connecting with CARs for trade and energy cooperation demands significant capital investment, which restricts member states from connecting. Furthermore, the presence of global bloc politics limits SCO member states from fully cooperating. International lobbying prevents SCO members from resolving their insecurities about other member states.

The Shanghai Cooperation Organization has the potential to become the world's most influential organization, but only if member states understand that regional prosperity requires sacrificing personal interests for the collective good. It is important for SCO member states to refrain from practicing bloc politics in the international arena as it does not benefit this region. The SCO members seek to bring maximum benefits to the region's people through harmony, not an alliance against the world. By collaborating on education, SCO states can become a global hub for intellect and technology. Economic cooperation within the SCO would enable member nations to break free from their dependence on international players. Member states can better handle their global relationships and maintain their integrity by reducing the impact of international donors after acquiring economic cooperation.

Through a collective and trusted integration program, SCO members can effectively counter non-state actors and ensure peace across the region and states. Through mutual trade

agreements, the SCO can enhance its influence in the international trade system and provide member states with greater leverage in global markets. SCO member states need to move past their deep-seated issues for a more prosperous future, akin to what European nations accomplished in the past. The recent SCO summit in Pakistan highlights Pakistan's paramount importance in this setup and the intention of member states to strengthen the bond among SCO members. Through efficient resolution of conflicts, promotion of sustainable development and fostering regional integration, SCO can outperform any other regional organization. To achieve their desired objectives, the leaders of SCO states must foster this vision with wholehearted commitment and dedication. Failing to seize this opportunity would be tantamount to criminal neglect of future generations.

<https://pakobserver.net/the-sco-and-what-it-entails/>

The Express Tribune

Meat exports to China reach \$3.37m in Jan-Sept

Pakistan's meat exports to China hit \$3.37 million in 2024, boosted by rising demand for quality meat.

BEIJING: Pakistan's meat exports to China reached an impressive \$3.37 million from January to September 2024, according to the General Administration of Customs of China.

Pakistan Embassy Trade and Investment Counsellor in Beijing Ghulam Qadir told China Economic Net that Chinese consumers were becoming more adventurous in their culinary choices and were increasingly interested in trying high-quality meat from countries like Pakistan.

The country's rich tradition in meat production, particularly in beef and mutton, aligns well with preferences of Chinese consumers. This demand is not merely a trend; it is part of China's broader goal to diversify its meat sources and enhance food security.

"How did Pakistan achieve this milestone? It comes down to hard work and strategic planning. The government has been supportive, implementing policies to boost export capabilities," he said.

"Additionally, Pakistani meat exporters have demonstrated their ability to meet China's strict quality standards. Whether ensuring hygiene or delivering consistent supply, they have proven they can compete on an international level."

Mongolia and Pakistan are the top exporters of boiled meat to China, with Pakistan exporting 694 tons worth \$3.371 million from January to September 2024, while Mongolia exported 2,410 tons valuing at \$10.24 million in the same time period.

It is worth noting that the General Administration of Customs of China permitted Pakistani companies to export boiled meat last year, and so far, three Pakistani companies have registered with the customs administration for this purpose.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2504418/meat-exports-to-china-reach-337m-in-jan-sept>

October 23, 2024

Business Recorder

GITEX Global: PTCL, China Mobile team up to enhance international connectivity

KARACHI: Pakistan's largest telecommunication and integrated ICT services provider, Pakistan Telecommunication Company Limited (PTCL) and global telecom and ICT player, China Mobile International Limited (CMI) entered a partnership at GITEX Global 2024 in Dubai, UAE for global network resources sharing. The collaboration allows the two leading players to boost connectivity for their respective customers in the country and across the world.

Waqar Ahmed, Group Director Enterprise Solutions, PTCL & Ufone 4G and Alex Lee, Managing Director, China Mobile International Middle East signed the agreement during GITEX 2024 in the presence of investors, innovators, business leaders and top management on both sides.

The historic collaboration brings together the expansive PTCL and CMI networks to deliver seamless and high-quality connectivity solutions to their respective user bases. PTCL's vast fiber network spanning over 65,000 kilometers across Pakistan, combined with CMI's global reach through 305 overseas Points of Presence (PoPs), will enable the delivery of robust and scalable connectivity for businesses and individual consumers alike.

Speaking on the significance of the partnership, Sayyed Muhammad Imran Ali, Group VP B2B Strategy & Product Management, PTCL & Ufone 4G, said: "We are glad to partner with one of the leading operators to further strengthen the country's footprint in the digital landscape.

By leveraging the combined strengths of PTCL and CMI, we will provide businesses and consumers with unmatched access and service quality in Pakistan and beyond to open avenues for unrestrained enablement and opportunity."

Alex Lee, Managing Director of China Mobile International Middle East, stated: "We are thrilled to embark on this collaboration with PTCL to benefit our individual and enterprise customers globally.

By combining our strengths, we believe we can significantly enhance our capabilities on both sides.

Together, we aim to introduce innovative solutions to the market, driving forward the digital landscape and providing greater value to our customers."

<https://www.brecorder.com/news/40328453/gitex-global-ptcl-china-mobile-team-up-to-enhance-international-connectivity>

Pakistan Observer

Gwadar Airport as the Catalyst for CPEC's Next Phase

Gulab Umid

The inauguration of the New Gwadar International Airport on October 14, 2024, marks a historic moment in the ever-evolving relationship between China and Pakistan, underscoring the deepening ties fostered through the ambitious China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). This key infrastructure achievement was celebrated in a grand ceremony attended by Chinese Premier Li Qiang and Pakistani Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif. The event was not just a ribbon-cutting ceremony—it was a bold statement of intent, reinforcing the shared commitment of both nations to turn Gwadar into a global hub for trade and development, further cementing their strategic partnership.

CPEC, the crown jewel of China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), has transformed Pakistan's landscape since its launch in 2013. With multibillion-dollar investment flowing into Pakistan is a lifeline for Pakistan's economic aspirations. Over the past decade, this transformative corridor has tackled Pakistan's long-standing infrastructure deficits, introduced modern highways, power plants and special economic zones, and helped create thousands of jobs. The New Gwadar International Airport is now poised to play a crucial role in this grand vision, offering a new gateway for trade, tourism and connectivity.

Speaking at the ceremony, Premier Li Qiang expressed China's enthusiasm for working hand-in-hand with Pakistan to elevate CPEC into a "demonstration project" of high-quality Belt and Road cooperation. He acknowledged the enormous progress CPEC has made so far, hailing the new airport as a symbol of the two nations' unwavering friendship. For China, the success of CPEC is not just an economic endeavor but a strategic goal that aligns with the broader vision of fostering sustainable, green development across the region. Li's remarks made it clear that China sees the potential of Gwadar to become a cornerstone for regional connectivity and the new airport represents an important step in making that vision a reality.

But the significance of the New Gwadar International Airport goes beyond bricks and mortar. It is the heartbeat of Gwadar Port's transformation from a quiet coastal town into a vibrant nexus for regional trade and commerce. Situated at the crossroads of the Middle East, South Asia and Central Asia, Gwadar's strategic location holds the promise of reshaping regional trade routes, making it a vital artery in the global supply chain. The airport will enable Gwadar to handle larger volumes of cargo and passenger traffic, making it a critical link in connecting China's Xinjiang region to the Arabian Sea and beyond. For Pakistan, this represents an unprecedented opportunity to attract investment, create jobs and drive economic growth.

The project also symbolizes the enduring bond between China and Pakistan, a relationship often described as being "higher than the mountains and deeper than the sea." Premier Li Qiang referred to this special relationship as "ironclad," one that has stood firm in the face of changing global dynamics. In a world where alliances are often tested, the China-Pakistan relationship has not only endured but flourished, thanks in large part to the mutual trust and respect that has been built through projects like CPEC. Li's words struck a chord when he

emphasized that the partnership has been guided by the shared principles of consultation, contribution and shared benefits.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, for his part, echoed the sentiment of friendship and collaboration. He pointed out that the New Gwadar International Airport would unlock vast potential for Pakistan, particularly for the Gwadar region, which has often been underdeveloped and overlooked. By providing better connectivity and boosting trade, the airport is set to transform the economic landscape of Pakistan, ushering in a new era of prosperity. Shehbaz hailed the airport as more than just a piece of infrastructure—it's a gateway to opportunity, one that will help Pakistan realize its dream of becoming a key player in the global economy.

For Pakistan, CPEC is not just an investment in infrastructure—it's an investment in the future. The corridor has the potential to link Pakistan not only to China but to the broader region, including Central Asia, the Middle East and even Africa. The construction of roads, railways and pipelines between China and Pakistan is creating new trade routes that will reduce transport costs, increase trade volume and bring new investment into the region. With Gwadar now functioning as a key port, Pakistan is strategically positioned to become a logistical hub that connects multiple regions, enhancing its role in global trade.

The relationship between China and Pakistan, often referred to as an “all-weather strategic cooperative partnership,” is unlike any other in the region. Premier Li's remarks at the airport inauguration highlight China's long-term commitment to Pakistan's development and prosperity. CPEC is not just about economic gains—it is also about fostering deeper political and cultural ties. The corridor has come to symbolize the mutual respect and shared goals of the two nations, built on a foundation of trust that has endured through decades of political and economic challenges. Looking ahead, both Premier Li and Prime Minister Shehbaz reaffirmed their commitment to taking CPEC to new heights. China, Li emphasized, is keen to push forward with an “upgraded version” of CPEC, focusing on sectors such as renewable energy, agriculture and technology. These next steps reflect the ambition to create sustainable, inclusive development that benefits people on both sides. The two leaders expressed optimism that the next phase of CPEC will bring even greater prosperity, not only for China and Pakistan but for the entire region. It is quite heartening that the New Gwadar International Airport is thus not just an endpoint—it's the beginning of a new chapter in the CPEC story. It stands as a beacon of the progress that has been made and the potential that still lies ahead. For China and Pakistan, the airport is more than just a transportation hub—it's a symbol of their shared vision for the future, one that promises greater economic growth, deeper cooperation and lasting friendship. As both nations work together to build a brighter tomorrow, the CPEC framework will remain at the heart of their journey, driving progress, prosperity and peace for the region and as China and Pakistan continue to collaborate under CPEC, the possibilities for economic growth, regional integration and sustainable development are limitless. The airport is not only a gateway to Gwadar but a gateway to a brighter, more interconnected future for the region and beyond.

<https://pakobserver.net/gwadar-airport-as-the-catalyst-for-cpecs-next-phase/>

CPEC PHASE 2 and Befitting Cultivation of Mushrooms: A Way Forward

Dr Mehmood Ul Hassan Khan

OFFICIALLY the CPEC Phase-II has been started in the country which has further brightened the prospects of development of hybrid agriculture and cultivation of the cashable crops like mushroom crops. Pakistan's agricultural sector directly or indirectly employs between 62 percent and 64 percent of the population, which translates to roughly 99 million to 103 million people. Contributing approximately 18.5 percent to 22.35 percent of Pakistan's GDP, the agricultural sector holds immense potential for growth and hopefully cultivation of the mushroom crops will further increase the share in the GDP.

It is predicted that CPEC Phase-II would easily double its efficiency and productivity to a staggering 37 percent to 44.7 percent, significantly bolstering the national economy. This remarkable surge would be diversification of cashable crops mainly cultivation of mushrooms, fuelled by increased output, reduced waste, export opportunities and job creation across various industries underscoring agriculture's crucial role in the nation's economy and the livelihoods of its citizens.

It seems that the mushroom business in Pakistan is growing rapidly, with many entrepreneurs and farmers investing in its cultivation. The demand for mushrooms is increasing, driven by their nutritional value and culinary popularity. Obviously, the mushroom business in Pakistan has the potential to become a significant contributor to the country's economy. With the right support, infrastructure, and expertise, Pakistan can become a major player in the global mushroom market in the future in which the CPEC Phase-II would play an important role. The Sun-Gold Farms situated in Bhalwal is transforming traditional methods of the native agriculture towards smart food security, crop diversity, organic cultivation, profitable hybrid orientation and gearing towards healthier food staples in the country. It is the biggest farm in the country and among the best in Asia with its own spawn production lab and equipped with modern facilities. It has an annual production capacity of 2000-2500 tons, and is producing 3-4 tons daily. It has one of the largest mushroom farms in the country promoting rural development, community development and above all generation of new jobs and eradication of poverty in the adjacent areas. The policy makers of Pakistan should positively consider including mushroom crops in the CPEC Phase-II to make the country food sufficient with lots of health benefits. Mushroom crops have low calories, high in essential nutrients, and known for their medicinal properties. Incorporating mushrooms into a diet can boost the immune system, aid digestion, and support overall well-being. Thus cultivation of mushroom crops is a befitting proposition for the local farmers. In a conversation with Shahid Sultan, the owner of Sun-Gold Farms, he emphasized the strategic importance of mushroom crops in the country. However, he also identified several impediments, including limited awareness and training. Entrepreneurs often lack knowledge about mushroom cultivation and business management, while insufficient facilities for spawn production, storage, and transportation hinder the industry's growth, creating challenges for the development of these cashable crops. Sultan shared that limited access to markets, high labour costs, extreme temperatures, humidity and weather conditions can impact mushroom growth, which should be mitigated through government incentives and a smooth supply of loans. Highlighting numerous

opportunities, he showcased the growing demand for mushrooms in local and international markets which would be further enhanced under CPEC Phase-II. He was hopeful that Pakistan could tap into the global mushroom market, leveraging its favourable climate and resources as an additional income source for farmers and entrepreneurs. Sun-Gold Farms urged the government to consider mushroom farming and arrange training for locals at the grassroots level, along with meaningful export incentives. Inclusion of hybrid agriculture in the CPEC Phase-II would be a game changer to achieve the desired goals of food security, diversity, efficiency and enhanced productivity in the country. Last but not least, cultivation of mushroom crops would facilitate empowerment of women and real rural communities, providing opportunities for women and rural communities to engage in entrepreneurship. It augurs well that many private organizations, entities and corporate sectors are providing training to local communities showing positive results by diverting attention of a number of people towards this source of livelihood benefiting people of all ages and gender and contribution of Sun-Gold Farm is remarkable. It has certain short, medium and long term plans of its cultivation inching towards exports to many regional countries in the days to come. China and Pakistan have a strong cooperative relationship in the agricultural sector, established through a Joint Working Group formed by signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in November 2018. This initiative aims to enhance agricultural productivity, promote technology adoption, and increase value addition, ultimately leading to food security and economic prosperity. In summary, mushroom crops need serious attention to reduce the initial cost and farmer friendly policies. The entry of big facilitating companies in the local market that help the farmers in terms of equipment and spawn can be supportive for the local farmers. The author suggests that the government should discourage the import of mushrooms by enhancing import duties and taxes, which would help increase the prospects of locally cultivated mushroom crops in the country. Additionally, the government should facilitate local growers by reducing taxes, subsidizing farmers for various machinery and providing credits for starting businesses to achieve the desired goals of food security and economic diversity. The Government of Pakistan should seek help from the Chinese National Engineering Research Centre for Juncao Technology of the Fujian Agriculture and Forestry University (FAFU) because Juncao technology has revolutionized mushroom cultivation for smallholder farmers by using dried, chopped grasses instead of traditional wood-based methods. With personal commitment and support from Chinese President Xi Jinping, Juncao technology has been introduced to over 100 countries and regions worldwide, and African countries have widely applied this promising, environment-friendly technology to achieve food security.

To truly revitalize Pakistan's agricultural sector, the government must adopt a broader strategy alongside CPEC Phase-II. The focus should be on cultivating cashable crops like mushrooms, water-efficient, high-value crops like fruits, vegetables, and nuts. These crops not only cater to the demands of water-scarce Middle Eastern countries, South East Asia and European Union but also provide lucrative export opportunities.

<https://pakobserver.net/cpec-phase-2-and-befitting-cultivation-of-mushrooms-a-way-forward/>

October 25, 2024

Business recorder

Third Belt & Road Ministerial Conference: Leghari, Chinese energy cos hold fruitful discussions

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Power, Sardar Awais Ahmad Khan Leghari held meetings with Yao Huan, Vice-President of Power China and Ni Zhen Deputy Secretary of the Party Committee and General Manager of the Energy China on the sidelines of the Third Belt & Road Ministerial Conference in Qingdao, China.

During these meetings, the Federal Minister engaged in fruitful discussions aimed at strengthening energy cooperation between Pakistan and these leading Chinese energy companies.

According to an official statement, recalling historic visit of Premier Li Qiang to Pakistan, Minister for Power conveyed Pakistan's desire to modernize power dispatch and transmission systems, aimed at line cutting and other losses.

At the meeting with Vice President Yao of Power China, both sides explored the possibility of establishing a state-of-the-art research and development centre in Pakistan to facilitate the integration of advanced technologies and best practices in the country's energy framework. Minister for Power noted that the proposed centre would not only enhance operational performance but also contribute to sustainable energy solutions benefiting both Pakistan and its partners.

During the meeting with President Ni of Energy China, both sides expressed their views on the future trajectory of energy cooperation under second phase of CPEC, including enhancing energy mix and advancement of new technologies into the power generation and dispatch systems.

The Minister also met with the Iranian Energy Minister Abbas Ali Abadi on the sidelines of the Third Belt & Road Ministerial meeting.

Leghari underscored the importance of cross-border energy projects in boosting connectivity and trade. Both sides discussed future collaboration, particularly focusing on the development of electricity projects in Gwadar, Balochistan.

Exchanging views on the need for enhanced energy connectivity amongst the regional countries, both sides underlined the importance of strengthening energy cooperation in power plants operations and maintenance. They emphasized the need for regular coordination and communication. Both the Ministers also maintained that effective plant management is essential for sustaining energy output and meeting the growing demands of the region.

<https://www.brecorder.com/news/40328843>

Dawn News

CPEC promoting modernisation, growth: study

ISLAMABAD: The Institute of Peace and Diplomatic Studies (IPDS) has released a comprehensive report on the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), showcasing its role in promoting modernisation, industrial growth, and bilateral cooperation between China and Pakistan.

According to the report, CPEC is a transformative initiative with the potential to drive Pakistan's economic and social progress for decades to come.

By fostering innovation, improving infrastructure, and promoting sustainable development, CPEC continues to serve as a model for economic cooperation between China and Pakistan, said the report.

It said the Pakistan-China partnership has steadily evolved, culminating in the strategic upgrading of relations in 2015 to an "all-weather strategic cooperative partnership".

As the flagship project of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), CPEC has emerged as a key driver of regional development, contributing significantly to Pakistan's infrastructure, industrial, and socio-economic growth, while strengthening the bond between the two nations.

While drawing on the contributions of several prominent scholars and research institutions, this report provides a detailed analysis of CPEC's impact on various sectors.

Dr Liaquat Ali Shah's study emphasises the critical role of infrastructure and energy synergies under CPEC, highlighting how the construction of major roads and the development of Gwadar Port have "boosted connectivity" and reduced transportation costs. His research claimed that an \$8.9 billion investment in transport infrastructure transformed Pakistan's economic landscape by linking major cities, such as Islamabad, Karachi, and Lahore, with regional trading hubs like Kashgar in China.

The report noted that energy projects, particularly coal and hydropower plants, alleviated Pakistan's power crisis, though challenges remain regarding environmental sustainability.

Dr Attaullah Shah's research focused on the industrial and technological advancements brought about during the second phase of CPEC, spanning from 2021 to 2025.

His study explored the creation of special economic zones (SEZs) and the promotion of industrial growth as key goals of this phase, aiming to attract local and foreign investment.

With a strong emphasis on innovation, sustainability, and job creation, industrial expansion under CPEC is set to position Pakistan as a regional leader in manufacturing and technological advancements, it claimed.

On the environmental front, the report presented insights from Prof Dr Zahid Anwar and Tanzeelur Rehman, who focused on agricultural development and the integration of tourism as tools for promoting sustainability.

They highlighted the environmental challenges posed by coal-based energy projects but noted the ongoing efforts by both China and Pakistan to adopt greener practices. The report underscored the importance of technology transfer and modern agricultural techniques to boost productivity while mitigating environmental risks.

The researchers advocated for the adoption of agri-tourism as a strategy to diversify rural economies, enhance job creation, and promote environmental stewardship.

The strategic importance of Gwadar Port was a recurring theme in the report. Dr Muhammad Munir and Muhammad Abdul Rafay Shaffi's research emphasised the 'transformative potential' of Gwadar in facilitating regional trade and developing Pakistan's blue economy.

However, the researchers cautioned that security issues and infrastructure limitations must be addressed to fully capitalise on the port's potential as a driver of regional trade and economic growth.

Dr Abdul Sattar's work on human development highlighted CPEC's contribution to skill development, healthcare, and education in Pakistan.

The report emphasised the critical role that human capital played in sustaining the long-term benefits of CPEC and underscored the importance of continued knowledge sharing between China and Pakistan.

The report has several key recommendations, including enhancing transparency and governance, improving security measures for personnel and projects, and focusing on environmental sustainability.

The researchers called for greater investment in underdeveloped sectors, such as agriculture and tourism, promoting small and medium enterprises, and strengthening regional connectivity.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1867423/cpec-promoting-modernisation-growth-study>

October 26, 2024

Express News

چینی پاور کمپنیوں کے واجبات کی ادائیگی میں تیزی

اسلام آباد (رپورٹ: شہباز رانا) پاکستان نے چینی پاور کمپنیوں کے واجبات کی ادائیگی کو تیز کر دیا ہے، جس کے بعد چینی پاور کمپنیوں کے واجبات کم ہو کر 1.4 ارب ڈالر (391 ارب روپے) رہ گئے ہیں، پاکستان چینی پاور کمپنیوں کے واجبات کی مکمل ادائیگی کے اپنے وعدے پر عمل پیرا ہے، جس پر عملدرآمد کیلئے حکومت کو اضافی بجٹ درکار ہو گا، یا پھر دیگر پاور پلانٹس کی ادائیگیوں میں کٹوتی کرنا ہو گی، وزارت توانائی کے حکام کے مطابق رواں مالی سال کی پہلی سہ ماہی کے اختتام پر سی بیک کے تحت قائم چینی پاور کمپنیوں کے واجبات کم ہو کر 391 ارب روپے رہ گئے ہیں، جو کہ گزشتہ مالی سال کے اختتام پر موجود واجبات کے مقابلے میں 2.5 فیصد کم ہیں، ڈالر میں یہ رقم 1.4 ارب ڈالر رہ گئی ہے، جو کہ اس سے قبل 1.8 ارب ڈالر تھی، چینی شہریوں کے تحفظ کے بعد چینی سرمایہ کاروں کے ایکویٹی اور منافع کی ادائیگی چین کے لیے بڑی تشویش تھی، گزشتہ مذاکرات میں پاکستان نے چین کو چینی کمپنیوں کے تمام واجبات ادا کرنے کی یقین دہانی کرائی ہے، قبل ازیں پاکستان 8020 میگا واٹ گنجانٹس کے حامل چین کے 17 پاور پلانٹس کی 88 فیصد انوائسز کلیئر کر رہا تھا، جس کو 100 فیصد تک لانے کے لیے اضافی وسائل کی ضرورت پڑے گی، جبکہ چینی پاور کمپنیوں کے واجبات کی ادائیگی کیلئے بجٹ میں رکھی گئی رقم ناکافی ہے، واضح رہے کہ پاکستان نے چین کو پاور کمپنیوں کے قرضہ جات ری اسٹرکچر کرنے پر کنونینس کرنے کی کوشش کی ہے، لیکن

چین نے اس حوالے سے کوئی حوصلہ افزاء جواب نہیں دیا ہے، جبکہ چینی کمپنیوں نے اپنے منافع جات میں کسی بھی قسم کی کٹوتی اور پاور پراجیکٹ 2015 میں کسی بھی تبدیلی کرنے سے انکار کر دیا ہے۔

<https://www.express.pk/story/2730079/cheeni-power-companiyon-ke-vajbat-ki-adaigi-mein-taizi>

چینی سفیر کی پریس کانفرنس بہت غیر معمولی ہے، شہباز رانا

تجزیہ کار شہباز رانا نے کہا کہ چین کے وزیر اعظم کے دورہ پاکستان کے بعد چینی سفیر کی پریس کانفرنس بہت غیر معمولی ہے، عام طور پر جب ایسا کوئی دورہ ہوتا ہے تو اختتام پر میڈیا کو اہم باتیں بتادی جاتی ہیں۔

مغربی سفیروں کے برعکس چینی عوامی طور پر بات نہیں کرتے، چینیوں کے بارے میں ایک اور بات یہ ہے کہ وہ پاکستانی حکومت کو عوامی سطح پر شرمندہ بھی نہیں کرتے، اگر انہوں نے سخت سے سخت پیغام بھی دینا ہوتا ہے تو وہ نجی طور پر اپنے تلے الفاظ کا چناؤ کر کے دیتے ہیں، چینی سفیر نے جس تشویش کا اظہار کیا وہ بالکل درست ہے، چین کے دو بہت بڑے ایشوز ہیں، سب سے بڑا ایشو تو سیکورٹی کا ہے، دوسرا سی بیک فریم ورک کے تحت جتنے بھی منصوبے ہیں، ان پر عملدرآمد ہے، انفراسٹرکچر اور انرجی لائن ٹرین کے دو بڑے منصوبوں کے علاوہ کئی منصوبوں میں ہم نے اپنے وعدے پورے نہیں کیے۔

گواڈرپورٹ کی ٹائم لائن پر عمل نہیں ہوا، دس سال گزرنے کے بعد بھی گواڈرپورٹ بجلی سے محروم ہے، گواڈرپورٹ کو جوڑنے والی سڑکیں اور ریل لائنز مکمل نہیں کی جاسکیں ہیں، گواڈرپورٹ اتھارٹی نے فری زون کو زمین دینے کا وعدہ پورا نہیں کیا، چین اس پر ناراض ہے اور اس نے پاکستان کی وعدہ خلافیوں پر تیرہویں مشترکہ کمیٹی میں تحفظات کا اظہار کیا ہے، اور گواڈرپورٹ کو مکمل فعال بنانے کا مشورہ دیا ہے۔ تجزیہ کار کامران یوسف نے کہا کہ پاکستان میں چین کے سفیر نے ایک غیر معمولی پریس کانفرنس کی ہے، عام طور پر چین کا سفیر اس طریقے سے پریس کانفرنس نہیں کرتے، پریس کانفرنس کا بنیادی فوکس وزیر اعظم کا دورہ پاکستان تھا کہ اس میں کیا کچھ ڈسکس ہو اور اس وقت چین کے لیے کیا کیا بڑے ایشوز ہیں۔

چینی سفیر نے زیادہ تر وہی باتیں کیں جو مشترکہ اعلامیے میں کہی گئی تھیں، چینی سفیر کا کہنا تھا کہ سی پیک جتنا اعلیٰ سطحی منصوبہ ہے اس کی اتنی ہی اعلیٰ سطحی سیکورٹی بھی ہونی چاہیے، انہوں نے زور دیا کہ چینی شہریوں کی سیکورٹی کے لیے پاکستان کو ٹھوس اور حقیقی اقدامات کرنے ہوں گے۔

کامران یوسف نے مزید کہا کہ اس ہفتے روس کے شہر قازان میں برکس کے رکن ممالک کا سربراہ اجلاس ہوا، اس کی اہمیت یہ تھی کہ یہ اجلاس روس میں ہو رہا تھا، روس، چین کے صدور، بھارت کے وزیر اعظم اور برکس کے دیگر رکن ممالک کے سربراہاں موجود تھے، روسی صدر پوٹن امریکا اور مغرب کو یہ دکھانا چاہتے تھے کہ یوکرین کی لڑائی کے بعد شاید وہ یہ سمجھتے ہیں کہ روس بین الاقوامی سطح پر تنہا ہو گیا ہے تو ایسی بات بالکل نہیں ہے۔

<https://www.express.pk/story/2730082/cheeni-safer-ki-press-conference-bohat-ghair-mamooli-hai-shahbaz-rana>

K2 Daily

بقیہ
 ہے۔ اس ٹیڑھی سے صرف 10 حصے کے پارٹی پر
 280 کلومیٹر سے زائد تک گاڑی چلائی جا سکتی
 ہے۔ سڑکی دالے بڑی سولہ ایم آئی اور بیس ایم آئی
 ٹیڑھیوں کا مجموعہ ہے۔ برقی توانائی کی گاڑیوں کے کم
 دھیر حرارت کے مسائل حل کرتے ہوئے انہیں
 اچھلی سردیوں میں بھی قابل استعمال بنائی ہیں۔ یہ
 ٹیڑھیوں کو سہولت کے لئے 40 ڈگری سینٹی گریڈ
 اور ری چارج کے لئے 30 ڈگری سینٹی گریڈ
 تک کے دھیر حرارت میں بھی کام کرتی ہیں۔ زیادہ
 تر بجلی سمارٹن گاڑیوں کو پسند کرتے ہیں
 جس کی وجہ سے ان کی ای وی کے متعلقہ میں زیادہ
 فاصلے کو گزرنا ہموار ہے۔ بچنے والی گاڑیوں کے
 متعلقہ میں فریج کم ہو گا ہے۔ چار ماہ کی ٹیسٹنگ
 آف آٹوموبائل میگزین ہیرالڈ کے اعداد و شمار کے
 مطابق وہیں سال کے پچھلے 9 ماہ میں گاڑیوں
 گاڑیوں کی فروخت 33 لاکھ 20 ہزار بیس تک
 بھٹی گئی ہے۔ جو گزشتہ سال کی نسبت 84.2 فیصد
 زیادہ ہے۔

**چینی کمپنی سی اے ٹی ایل نے
 پامیر گاڑیوں کیلئے نئی پیٹری
 متعارف کرا دی**
 بیجنگ (پامیر) ٹیڑھیوں والے دالے گاڑیوں کی
 سرکردہ چینی کمپنی سی اے ٹی ایل نے پامیر گاڑیوں کو
 (سی اے ٹی ایل) نے پامیر گاڑیوں کے لئے
 چار ماہ کی ٹیڑھی متعارف کرا دی ہے۔ سی اے
 ٹی ایل کے پامیر گاڑیوں کی بیس کے بیس کے بیس
 ٹیڑھی دیا گیا ہے۔ پامیر گاڑیوں کے لئے
 کلومیٹر سے زائد پھلے اور تیز ترین چارجنگ کی
 صلاحیت کی مال (پاتی سطر 6 بیس 5)

https://epaper.dailyk2.com/Home?Issue=NP_ICT&Page=International%20/%20Local%20News&Date=2024-10-26

https://epaper.dailyk2.com/Home?Issue=NP_ICT&Page=Classified&Date=2024-10-26

شکستہائی تعاون، تنظیم، تعاون اور رابطے
 شاہد فراز خان

عہد حاضر میں شکستہائی تعاون تنظیم کا بڑھتا ہوا
 تعاون اور رابطوں کو بڑھانے کا عزم اور
 ترقی کی ایک مشہور مثال ہے۔ جو مل کر کام
 کرنے کے ذریعے حاصل کی گئی ہے۔ یہ تنظیم
 ملنے کو ملحوظ بنانے پر زور دیتی ہے اور ان کو متحدہ
 کے پائیدار ترقیاتی اہداف کے مطابق عالمی
 اس کو شکستہائی اور ملتی جلتی ترقی میں اہم کردار
 ادا کر رہی ہے۔ 2001 میں چین کے شہر
 شکستہائی میں اپنے تمام کے بعد سے شکستہائی
 تعاون تنظیم ایک علاقائی تنظیم سے ایک بین
 الاقوامی تنظیم میں تبدیل ہو چکی ہے جس میں
 10 ملل رکنان، 2 ممبر ممالک اور 14
 ممالک کے شراکت دار شامل ہیں، جو پورے
 لینڈ ماس کے 60 فیصد سے زیادہ اور دنیا کی
 تقریباً نصف آبادی کا احاطہ کرتے ہیں۔ یہ تنظیم
 معمولی ترقی پذیر اقتصادی تعاون کو فروغ دینے اور
 مشترکہ پیمانوں سے نکلنے کے لئے ایک پائیدار
 فارم کے طور پر شکستہائی تعاون تنظیم کی اہمیت کو
 اجاگر کرتی ہے۔ ایک ایسی دنیا میں جو بڑھتی
 ہوئے چابک گرد اور شکستہائی کے رجحانات سے
 نمودار آ رہا ہے، شکستہائی تعاون تنظیم رابطے اور
 تعاون کے ساتھ ساتھ ملنے ہیں اور شمولیت کے
 لئے ایک ثابت قدم ممالک کے طور پر کھڑی
 ہے۔ شکستہائی تعاون تنظیم کا اعلان رابطے
 بڑھانے اور تعاون کو گوارا کرنے کے نعرے سے
 وقت بچانے پر اقدامات کی سہولت فراہم کرتا

ہے۔ مثال کے طور پر علاقائی اتحاد اور
 گلوبل ڈیجیٹل جس کا صدر دفتر جاپان
 اور پاکستان میں ہے، تعاون کی سلامتی کے لئے
 تنظیم کے عزم کی عکاسی کرتا ہے، مشترکہ
 مشنوں، اعلیٰ سطحی مشاورت کے چارے اور
 دہشت گردی، ملوثی پندرہ اور اچھا پندرہ کا
 مقابلہ کرنے کے لئے مربوط کوششوں کے
 ذریعے شکستہائی تعاون تنظیم علاقائی سلامتی اور
 استحکام میں اضافہ کر رہی ہے۔ اس تعاون تنظیم
 کی سرکردہ ترقی فریم ورک نے تنازعات کے
 امکان کو کم کیا ہے اور تمام رکن ممالک کے
 لئے ایک محفوظ ماحول کو فروغ دیا ہے۔ چین
 علاقائی تعاون کے میکانزم کے طور پر شکستہائی
 تعاون تنظیم نہ صرف سلامتی بلکہ اقتصادی
 رابطوں پر بھی توجہ مرکوز کرتی ہے۔ یہ دوہری
 توجہ دہندہ اور بین الاقوامی سطح میں ایک تنظیم اور
 فوٹوال ماحول میں کردار ادا کرتی ہے، پائیدار
 ترقی کی حوصلہ افزائی کرتی ہے اور فوٹوال
 لئے معیار زندگی کو بہتر بناتی ہے۔ برسوں سے
 شکستہائی تعاون تنظیم کی بیس کوٹس اور بیس
 اور ایک کسٹومر جیسے اقتصادی اقدامات
 نے اپنے رکن ممالک کے درمیان تجارت اور
 اور اقتصادی تعاون کے ذریعے بگاڑنے رکن
 فراہم کرتا ہے۔

ممالک کے مابین باہمی فہم کو بڑھا کر علاقائی
 حرکات کی تکمیل میں اور کئی بڑا کردار ادا
 کرنے کے لئے تیار ہے۔ تنظیمی چیلنوں،
 سہولت اور ٹیکنالوجی ترقیات کو فروغ دینے کے
 شکستہائی تعاون تنظیم مختلف ٹیکنالوجی کے درمیان
 رکنوں کو فروغ دینے اور ترقی کرنے میں مدد
 دیتی ہے۔ شکستہائی تعاون تنظیم کے رکن ممالک
 کی پورے دنیا کے ایک ایسے گلوبل ہے جو
 حقیقی اور تنظیم اور تعاون کرتے ہیں، ایسی ہی
 پورے دنیا کا تصور ہے اور پیشہ وارانہ ماحول میں
 اضافہ کر رہا ہے اور تنظیم کے رکنوں کے
 درمیان ملتی جلتی تعاون اور ترقی کو بڑھانے
 کو یہاں چھوڑا رہا ہے۔ تنظیمی طور پر، اس
 ماحول کو فروغ دینے کے لئے شکستہائی
 تعاون تنظیم کے عزم کو اجاگر کیا ہے اور شکستہائی
 تعاون تنظیم کے بنیادی اصول شکستہائی اسپرٹ
 کی دوبارہ تازگی کو اجاگر کیا ہے، جس میں
 باہمی احترام، باہمی فائدہ، مساوات،
 مشاورت، توجہ دہندہ کے حقوق کا احترام اور
 مشترکہ ترقی کی تلاش شامل ہے۔ ایک ایسے
 وقت میں جب دنیا کو بے مثال چیلنجز کا سامنا
 ہے، شکستہائی تعاون تنظیم کا رابطہ کاری، تعاون
 اور ترقی باہمی کے لئے بڑھتی ہوئی ضرورت ہے
 آج کل اور فوٹوال تنظیم کے لئے امید کی گئی
 فراہم کرتا ہے۔

https://epaper.dailyk2.com/Home?Issue=NP_ICT&Page=Editorial&Date=2024-10-31

October 28, 2024

Business Recorder

Chinese university names research centre after Iqbal Choudhary

ISLAMABAD: Hunan University of Medicine (HNUM) China, has named its newly inaugurated research building, after the esteemed Pakistani scientist, Prof. Dr. M. Iqbal Choudhary.

It was announced during an event held at Hunan University of Medicine (HNUM), a reputed Chinese institution, said a press release.

This groundbreaking facility spans 13,000 square feet and will house 17 full-time researchers dedicated to advancing scientific collaboration between Pakistan and China, a press release said.

Founded in 1912 by renowned medical educator Yan Fuqing, HNUM, has established itself as one of the leading national public medical universities in China.

It operates under the auspices of the Hunan Provincial Department of Education and has grown to encompass two campuses, Jinxi and Jinhai, covering a total area of 945,300 square meters.

With a dedicated faculty of 4,642 and 14,425 full-time students, HNUM offers 20 comprehensive undergraduate and graduate medical programs.

The naming of the new research building after Prof. Choudhary is a historic milestone, marking the first time a Pakistani scientist has been honoured in this manner at HNUM.

Prof. Choudhary's contributions to various scientific endeavours, particularly his strategic role in establishing Sino-Pak research centres, have been instrumental in fostering collaborative projects between Chinese and Pakistani scientists.

A distinguished figure in the scientific community, Prof. Choudhary is the recipient of numerous prestigious awards, including the Mustafa (PBUH) Prize, Civil Awards (Hilal-i-Imtiaz, Sitara-i-Imtiaz, and Tamgha-i-Imtiaz),

the Friendship Award from China (2022), and the Golden Silkball Friendship Award.

He serves as Vice President of TWAS (The World Academy of Sciences) for Central & South Asia and is a Fellow of several esteemed scientific organizations, including the Academy of Sciences for the Developing World (TWAS) and the Royal Society of Chemistry (London).

The establishment of this facility represents a significant step in strengthening collaboration between China and Pakistan in scientific research.—APP

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2024/10/28/4-page/1013233-news.html>

UHS team represents Pakistan at SSAMESA annual conference in China

LAHORE: A delegation from the University of Health Sciences (UHS) Lahore, led by Vice Chancellor Prof. Ahsan Waheed Rathore, represented Pakistan at the Annual Conference of the South and Southeast Asia Medical Education and Service Alliance (SSAMESA) held from October 24-27, 2024.

The event was hosted by Kunming Medical University (KMU) and has brought together prominent policymakers and medical education leaders from across South and Southeast Asia, including countries like Malaysia, Nepal, and Thailand.

The UHS delegation comprised Prof. Ahsan Waheed Rathore (Vice Chancellor, UHS), Prof. Nadia Naseem (Pro-Vice Chancellor, UHS), Prof. Sidrah Saleem (Director R&D, UHS), and Prof. Allah Rakha (Head of Forensic Medicine, UHS).

The conference commenced with an official pre-conference dinner on October 24, which provided an opportunity for networking and fostering cultural exchange among South Asian and Southeast Asian medical experts. On the first day of the conference (October 25), the UHS Vice Chancellor participated in a consultative meeting with other university heads and vice-chancellors, chaired by SSAMESA President Prof. Xia Xueshan. During the meeting, Prof. Rathore proposed the nomination of focal persons from each member country to enhance collaborative efforts in medical education and research. He also suggested a unified approach to expand research and academic exchange programs, aiming to strengthen collective capabilities in addressing regional health challenges. As a gesture of goodwill, the Vice Chancellor presented shields to Prof. Xia and other SSAMESA country representatives.

The following day (October 26), the UHS delegation engaged in a one-on-one meeting with the President and Vice President of SSAMESA, alongside senior officials from KMU's Public Health and International Affairs departments. The discussion centered on formalizing ties through a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for academic and research collaboration, particularly in public health, nursing, and maternal and child health. A student exchange program was also agreed upon, with the initial step being the invitation of a Pakistani student delegation to China for academic and technical exposure. The scientific segment of the conference saw Prof. Sidrah Saleem presenting a research paper titled "Molecular Detection and Phylogenetic Analysis of Mcr Gene Carrying Gram-Negative Bacteria – A One Health Approach", co-authored by Prof. Rathore. The presentation was well-received, with the scientific committee commending the findings of the Pakistani research team. The 52-member alliance has collaborated successfully in various areas such as talent cultivation, academic exchanges, epidemic prevention cooperation, and medical technology training. The alliance has become an important platform for communication and cooperation in medical education and healthcare between China and South Asian and Southeast Asian countries. It plays an increasingly significant role in promoting the construction of a regional health community. UHS is the founding member of the alliance.

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2024/10/28/4-page/1013237-news.html>

Pakistan Observer

Pakistan keen to learn from China's innovation: Khalil

The 31st Yangling Agricultural High-Tech Expo, themed “New Quality Productive Forces: A New Future for Agriculture”, commenced on October 25 in Yangling, Shaanxi and will span five days.

Pakistan, honoured as this year's guest country, held its pavilion's inauguration ceremony on Friday morning. Ambassador of Pakistan to China Khalil Hashmi and Shaanxi Vice Governor Dou Jingli jointly presided over the ribbon-cutting ceremony.

During his address, Ambassador Hashmi remarked, “In June, during Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's delegation visit to Yangling, we engaged in substantial discussions on collaborative opportunities between Pakistan's relevant agencies and different sectors in Yangling and Shaanxi province.

“Since then, all parties have worked diligently towards realising these objectives. Our return to Yangling for the 31st Agricultural High-Tech Expo further underscores the strengthening of our bilateral cooperation.”

“Agriculture forms the cornerstone of Pakistan's economy, accounting for over 20% of our GDP and supporting approximately 40% of our national employment. Through this expo, we aspire to learn from the Yangling Demonstration Zone and Shaanxi province in critical technological areas, including agricultural innovation, high-tech applications within the sector, high-yield seed cultivation, and more. This platform provides an opportunity to engage with experts,” he added.

To foster productive exchanges, the Pakistan pavilion has set up a dedicated exhibit space showcasing Chinese enterprises with notable achievements in agricultural investment and development in Pakistan.

This exhibit facilitates meaningful dialogue between company representatives, potential collaborators, and agricultural experts.—Agencies

<https://pakobserver.net/pakistan-keen-to-learn-from-chinas-innovation-khalil/>

New Gwadar Int'l Airport to attract local and international investment

China-aided New Gwadar International Airport (NGIA) is set serve as strong transportation link to attract local and international investment.

Equipped with the spirit of inclusive connectivity with state-of-art airway features, NGIA is going to serve a dynamic precursor for spin-off effects on development horizons of Gwadar as well as Balochistan.

One of impactful roles of NGIA in the development lies in attracting local and international investment. Since inception of Pakistan, Balochistan and Gwadar areas have direly needed modern air connectivity.

Scattered businesses' locations afflicted by lack of air transportation system have also marred the development pace in Gwadar and Balochistan.

Indeed, good air transport links play a role to influence where companies choose to invest.

Since many projects have been completed to revamp airways, roadways and railways under CPEC framework, Balochistan has seen improvement in investments, signaling the region's potential for growth. Infrastructure projects, including NGIA, have chartered new course of connectivity to help link Balochistan more effectively with the rest of Pakistan and neighbouring countries.

Owing to its geostrategic and geoeconomic position, NGIA is also set to furnish a positive role in boosting international trade. It will create a crucial link between businesses and various global markets, greatly expanding their potential customer base.

This is especially important for tech-driven, knowledge-based industries and time-sensitive product suppliers.

By reaching more customers through air travel at NGIA, companies will achieve abundant economic gains. Increased exposure to global competition also pushes local businesses in Gwadar and Balochistan to improve their efficiency to stay competitive.

Many industries use air transport to support their 'just-in-time' production processes, providing flexibility in the supply chain and cost savings by reducing the need for large inventories.

<https://pakobserver.net/new-gwadar-intl-airport-to-attract-local-and-international-investment/>

China, Pakistan & Russia alliances and India

Dr Akram Zaheer

ASIA offers a wide range of opportunities and options for global powers, making it a valuable resource. Pakistan's strategically important location is a magnet for regional powers. In the field of geopolitics, ties are prone to change depending on the options at hand, often resulting in substantial swings in power influence. Russia, specifically, is realizing the possibility of becoming a dominant power in the region. Although Pakistan and Russia have not historically had friendly relations, the current strategic circumstances have led to a favourable change that is advantageous for both Islamabad and Moscow. Despite their prior enmity, Pakistan and Russia are currently embracing the notion of constructing and enhancing their partnership. The China-Pakistan-Russia triangle is becoming increasingly comprehensible as it becomes evident that all three nations are highly compatible with each other. China, Pakistan and Russia are all nuclear-armed nations. Additionally, China holds significant economic influence, while Russia boasts sophisticated military technology. Pakistan, in return, provides the benefit of the Gwadar Port to augment its exports and imports. The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) has attracted substantial investment.

Moscow, through its strategic alliance with Beijing, membership in the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) and BRICS and its dedication to the "One Belt, One Road" initiative and Eurasian Economic Union (EEU), can play a role in strengthening China-Russia cooperation and promoting multinational collaboration in the future. Islamabad and Moscow maintain amicable relations with Beijing to further their national goals through regionalism and open diplomacy. China wields economic power in the former Soviet Union region and is seen as a

shareholder in CPEC. However, it is improbable that China will meddle in Pakistan-Russia relations because Russia is known for supplying energy to China's allies. Despite Russia's efforts to foster a favourable connection with India, India remains cautious about Russia's participation in the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) due to the enduring conflicts between Delhi and Islamabad and its historical territorial disagreements with China. Incorporating Russia into the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor will alleviate global worries and India's unwarranted unease regarding supposed Chinese threats. Russia's participation in the CPEC project is driven by its own economic, security and geopolitical objectives. India, as an emerging force in South Asian regional geopolitics and the United States, as a global power, face a problem due to this circumstance. India is apprehensive about the strengthening alliances between Pakistan, China and Russia. Conversely, India is actively broadening its economic and commercial interactions with China and Russia, thereby strengthening its defensive capabilities. The strategic placement of South Asia at the intersection of key global trade routes, including the Indian Ocean and the Arabian Sea, is of great significance.

The area plays a major role in the global economy, with countries such as India and Bangladesh functioning as vital industrial centres and exporters of goods. To accommodate its increasing population and thriving economy, South Asia acknowledges the crucial necessity of constructing extensive infrastructure. Investing in contemporary transportation infrastructure, such as highways, railways and ports, may efficiently promote both regional and worldwide trade, thereby promoting economic expansion, creating job prospects and improving living standards. Furthermore, the presence of communication infrastructure, such as fast internet connectivity, can greatly enhance economic growth and promote social unity. It enables inhabitants in the region to obtain information, communicate and actively engage in the digital economy.

The implementation of renewable energy infrastructure, such as solar and wind power, has the potential to significantly decrease the region's dependence on fossil fuels, mitigate the negative impacts of climate change and foster sustainable economic growth. The water management infrastructure that includes irrigation systems and water treatment plants has a crucial function in reducing water scarcity and improving the quality of water resources. This, in turn, promotes agricultural production and sustainable development. Tackling poverty and inequality is a top strategic objective for South Asia. This goal can be accomplished by promoting equitable economic expansion, guaranteeing access to essential services such as education, healthcare and clean water and making significant expenditures in infrastructure advancement and employment generation.

The chapter on Pakistan-Russia strategic relations and their implications for the geopolitics of South Asia reveals a complex interplay of historical alliances, contemporary strategic interests and regional dynamics. The evolving partnership between Pakistan and Russia, once distant during the Cold War era, has transformed into a strategic collaboration marked by mutual interests in areas such as defense, energy and regional stability. This relationship, while viewed with apprehension by India due to perceived security implications, underscores Pakistan's efforts to diversify its international partnerships beyond traditional allies. The Pulwama crisis and subsequent events have highlighted the sensitive nature of these relations,

particularly in the context of Kashmir and broader regional security concerns. Despite challenges and differing perspectives on international issues such as Crimea and Afghanistan, Pakistan and Russia's convergence of interests reflects a shifting geopolitical landscape in South Asia, characterized by a multipolar approach and nuanced diplomatic manoeuvring. As Afghanistan navigates its security challenges, Russia's diplomatic objectives underscore its role as a key player in shaping regional stability, influencing security dynamics and promoting multilateral engagements in South Asia.

<https://pakobserver.net/china-pakistan-russia-alliances-and-india-2/>

October 29, 2024

Pakistan Observer

C-Level maintenance for Unit 1 of Sahiwal coal power plant completed

The Sahiwal Coal-Fired Power Plant has achieved a significant milestone with the successful completion of C-Level maintenance for its 660 MW Unit 1. This achievement not only underscored the plant's commitment to operational excellence but also highlighted the effective collaboration among various departments, including operations, maintenance, and health, safety, and environment (HSE), said a press release issued here Monday. The maintenance was conducted in a systematic manner that ensured all tasks were completed ahead of the timeline set by the National Power Construction Corporation (NPCC), demonstrating the effectiveness of proactive planning and teamwork. The operations department played a pivotal role in supporting the maintenance department throughout this process. Their proactive approach was characterized by meticulous planning and real-time monitoring of equipment performance leading up to the maintenance period. By analyzing operational data and identifying potential issues, the operations team was able to provide valuable insights to the maintenance department. This early identification of issues allowed for a smoother maintenance process, minimizing downtime and ensuring that maintenance teams could focus on their designated tasks without being burdened by unexpected operational challenges. Furthermore, the operations department conducted a series of pre-maintenance checks to ensure that all the systems were functioning optimally before the maintenance began. Their readiness and strategic planning ensured that the maintenance department had all the necessary resources and information at their disposal, significantly contributing to the overall efficiency of the maintenance operations. The Health, Safety, and Environment (HSE) Department also played an integral role in ensuring the safety and compliance of maintenance activities. Throughout the month of October, the HSE team was vigilant in enforcing safety rules and principles, conducting thorough inspections, and providing continuous monitoring of the work environment. They established clear safety protocols and conducted daily safety briefings to educate staff on potential hazards associated with maintenance tasks. This dynamic approach not only ensured adherence to safety regulations but also promoted a culture of safety awareness among all personnel engaged in the maintenance tasks.

<https://pakobserver.net/c-level-maintenance-for-unit-1-of-sahiwal-coal-power-plant-completed/>

The News

Educationists visit Chinese university, sign MoU for cooperation

Islamabad: A delegation of nine Pakistani education leaders, known as the ‘Chinese Bridge’ Pakistani vice-chancellors (VC) delegation visited here Jiangxi University of Science and Technology (JXUST). The delegation, which included notable figures from Pakistani universities and educational institutions, signed 4 cooperation framework agreements with JXUST during its stay, covering fields such as economic management, life sciences, environmental engineering, and research on China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), Gwadar Pro reported on Monday. “We are delighted to be in China and have the opportunity to strengthen our ties with Chinese educational institutions, while also exploring new areas of collaboration,” said Dr. Muhammad Younus, VC of the University of Veterinary and Animal Sciences (UVAS) in Lahore. The School of Life Sciences at JXUST and the Centre of Excellence in Molecular Biology at Punjab University both expressed their commitment to academic development and cooperation in the MoU. JXUST and Punjab University have enjoyed years of cooperation in the field of Confucius Institutes and other areas. During the visit, JXUST also hosted the 2024 Annual Council Meeting of the Confucius Institute at Punjab University. Additionally, the Centre for Security, Strategy, and Policy Research at the University of Lahore and the Centre for Pakistan Study at JXUST plan to organise joint events, projects, and initiatives aimed at supporting international student recruitment and building brand awareness. During their visit, the delegation engaged in extensive exchanges with JXUST faculty and staff, visited various departments and participated in a series of academic activities. Prof Liao Chunfa, member of the university party committee and vice president of JXUST, met with the delegation and welcomed them warmly. “We hope to jointly strengthen multi-party cooperation, support the Belt and Road Initiative, and serve the construction of CPEC,” said Prof. Liao. One of the key highlights of the visit was the signing of the cooperation agreements.

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=354552>

October 30, 2024

Business Recorder

Agriculture, renewable energy, industrialisation under focus

Dar describes CPEC as a ‘remarkable gift from China’

NUZHAT NAZAR

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar praised the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) as a remarkable gift from China to Pakistan, expressing Pakistan’s commitment to advancing the project to expand cooperation in sectors such as agriculture, industrialisation, renewable energy, and more. He made these remarks on Tuesday at the international conference, “China at 75: A Journey of Progress, Transformation, and Global Leadership.” Senator Dar highlighted Pakistan’s appreciation for

China's support on longstanding issues, including Kashmir and Palestine, and reiterated Pakistan's unwavering support for the One-China Policy.

He emphasised that, as a symbol of China-Pakistan cooperation, CPEC has been instrumental in alleviating Pakistan's energy infrastructure challenges, helping reduce the impact of load-shedding for the public. Additionally, he noted that Pakistan has been working to implement China's offer to train 1,000 Pakistani students in agricultural technology.

The deputy prime minister praised China's remarkable achievements over the past 75 years, saying that China has crossed significant milestones on its path to becoming a major global economy, with a GDP exceeding \$17 trillion. He acknowledged China's progress across diverse fields, from space exploration to artificial intelligence, medical sciences, green development, and advanced technology, and expressed optimism that China will soon emerge as the world's largest economy. He further commended China's contributions to multilateral diplomacy and its role in promoting peace and stability on the global stage.

He also highlighted Pakistan's successful hosting of the recent SCO summit, which received commendations from leaders including the prime ministers of China and Russia.

Discussing the case of Dr Aafia Siddiqui, Senator Dar mentioned the Pakistani government's efforts to advocate for her clemency before US leadership, although these efforts have yet to yield a positive outcome. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif also appealed to US President Joe Biden, requesting clemency for Dr Siddiqui on humanitarian grounds, given the tradition of US presidents granting pardons before leaving office. Furthermore, a three-member committee has been formed to lobby US Congress members for Dr Siddiqui's release and return to Pakistan.

Addressing the atrocities in Gaza, the deputy prime minister reiterated Pakistan's strong support for the Palestinian people, condemning the genocide and calling for an end to violence in line with UN Security Council resolutions and International Court of Justice rulings. Senator Dar reported that, to date, over 48,000 innocent Palestinians have lost their lives, with 80,000 injured, most of whom, are women and children. He also expressed concern over attacks in Lebanon and Iran and shared that Pakistan has sent 10 major consignments of relief supplies to Gaza. Pakistan has additionally begun hosting Palestinian students in government and private medical colleges to complete their studies.

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2024/10/30/3-page/1013473-news.html>

Pakistan Observer

Pakistan-China B2B investment meeting on fisheries held

The first 'Pakistan-China B2B Investment Meeting' on Fisheries was organized in Qingdao, Shandong province, on 29 October 2024. The event was the first in a series of sector-specific meetings to foster joint ventures and partnerships between Pakistani and Chinese companies. The event is a follow-up to Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's visit to China in June 2024 to further promote trade and investment between the two countries. Forty-five Chinese companies and twenty-eight Pakistani companies participated in the event.

Mr Sun Huanjiang, Committee Member of CPC, Qingdao Municipal Marine Development Bureau, in his remarks, reiterated the historic All Weather Cooperative Partnership between Pakistan and China. He stated that China was willing to strengthen science and technological exchanges, industrial cooperation, trade and investment, and cooperate in Pakistan's development of the blue economy. Secretary of the Board of Investment Rahim Hayat Qureshi appreciated the strong collaboration between China and Pakistan across various sectors. He urged for increased partnership among businesses from both countries to foster mutually beneficial cooperation. Additionally, he delivered a comprehensive presentation detailing the fisheries sector in Pakistan and the incentives offered by the Pakistani government for Chinese investors.

Highlighting Pakistan's vast marine resources, the Ambassador called on Chinese companies to take advantage of Pakistan's enormous natural resources, low labour costs, and strategic location and explore long-term mutually beneficial joint ventures and partnerships in aquaculture expansion, food processing, and export opportunities.

The event concluded with the signing of eleven MoUs and one contract between Pakistani and Chinese companies worth \$64 million. An MoU between the Pakistan Fishery Exports Association and the Seafood Specialized Committee of China was also signed to enhance further B2B exchanges, Joint Ventures and trade and investment in the fisheries sector.

The event was part of six planned events to facilitate business-to-business interactions and offer platforms for dialogue and partnership to enhance trade and investment between Pakistan and China.—PR

<https://pakobserver.net/pakistan-china-b2b-investment-meeting-on-fisheries-held/>

Role of New Gwadar International Airport in Balochistan's growth

Yasir Habib Khan

Equipped with BRI's spirit of inclusive connectivity with state-of-art airway features, China-aided freshly-inaugurated New Gwadar International Airport (NGIA) is going to serve a dynamic precursor for spin-off effects on development horizons of Gwadar as well as Balochistan.

The aviation sector is a major contributor to the global economy, accounting for more than \$3.5 trillion of GDP. Being a new feather in the cap of air transport industry in Pakistan, NGIA carries all potentials to contribute Balochistan's economy and its GDP growth in the backdrop of Rs 321 billion development budget set for 2024-25.

One of the impactful roles of New Gwadar International Airport (NGIA) in the development lies in attracting local and international investment. Since the inception of Pakistan, Balochistan and Gwadar area have direly needed modern air connectivity. Scattered businesses' locations afflicted by lack of air transportation system have also marred the development pace in Gwadar and Balochistan. Indeed, good air transport links play a role in influencing where companies choose to invest.

Given the fact, operationalization of the new Gwadar International Airport unveiled by Chinese Premier Li and Pakistan PM Shehbaz Sharif, potential investors will enjoy cutting-

edge air travelling quality that will boost their confidence once for all. According to a Civil Aviation Authority survey, 56 percent of companies consider international transport links to be an essential factor for locating businesses. It also found that 18 percent of businesses' past investment decisions were directly affected by the absence of good air transport links, especially in high tech sectors. Around 28 percent of companies believe that innovation and investment in research and development would be very badly or fairly badly affected if air transport services were constrained, the survey said.

Since many projects have been completed to revamp airways, roadways and railways under CPEC framework, Balochistan has seen improvement in investments, signaling the region's potential for growth. Infrastructure projects, including new Gwadar International Airport has chartered a new course of connectivity to help link Balochistan more effectively with the rest of Pakistan and neighbouring countries. Such developments open doors to new investment opportunities, offering a chance for the province to leverage its vast resources for economic growth.

The New Gwadar International Airport has a substantial role in Balochistan Comprehensive Development and Growth Strategy (BCDGS) 2021-2026 launched by government of Balochistan which aims to achieve inclusive and sustainable development and growth in all sectors of the provincial economy by creating opportunities for local people for livelihood and improved living standards.

Owing to its geostrategic and geo-economic position, NGIA is also set to furnish a positive role in boosting international trade. It will create a crucial link between businesses and various global markets, greatly expanding their potential customer base. This is especially important for tech-driven, knowledge-based industries and time-sensitive product suppliers. By reaching more customers through air travel at New Gwadar International Airport, companies will achieve abundant economic gains. Increased exposure to global competition also pushes local businesses in Gwadar and Balochistan to improve their efficiency to stay competitive.

Many industries use air transport to support their 'just-in-time' production processes, providing flexibility in the supply chain and cost savings by reducing the need for large inventories. The NGIA stands prepared to meet such trends in a befitting manner.

Moreover, New Gwadar International Airport has an anchoring role in stimulating the tourism industry in the region. Airports are vital for growing tourism. They are crucial in promoting the tourist industry because flying is the main way people travel internationally. Airports attract visitors by providing excellent facilities, reasonable prices, and easy access to various places.

Besides good transportation, properties near NGIA will come with various appealing perks. Because NGIA sits on a large land area, businesspeople will get advantage to create unique property offerings that are hard to replicate elsewhere, like in central business districts (CBDs). Major international airports are surrounded by childcare facilities, business parks, office spaces, supermarkets, shops, and eateries. Many previously undervalued suburbs around airports are now highly desired due to the range of services available at the airport.

All such benefits are abundantly available for investors around New Gwadar International Airport (NGIA).

A well-connected airport significantly promotes infrastructure and real estate growth. Demand for housing, offices, and commercial spaces near airports surges, leading to a boom in real estate development. NGIA is playing a significant role in inspiring diverse enterprising businesspersons especially stakeholders in the property market.

The convenience offered by NGIA has already led to property value appreciation. It will also contribute to government revenue through taxes, customs duties, fees, and other charges. These funds can be reinvested in infrastructure, education, healthcare, and public services, further amplifying their positive economic impact.

Meanwhile, the economic impact of NGIA also goes beyond its immediate boundary. Local businesses like hotels, restaurants, vehicle rental agencies, and taxi services will benefit significantly from NGIA's presence resulting in more job opportunities and higher wages in these sectors.

Also, the growth of nearby infrastructure like hotels and commercial centres boosts the construction and real estate sectors, leading to more jobs for construction workers, architects, engineers, project managers, and related professionals. The job prospects stemming from airports usually offer attractive pay packages and benefits, enhancing living standards within the community. Consequently, this stimulates domestic spending, thereby strengthening the overall regional economy in Balochistan. NGIA will also help improve the labour market by making it easier for companies to attract high quality employees from around the globe.

<https://pakobserver.net/role-of-new-gwadar-international-airport-in-balochistans-growth/>

CPEC offers great opportunities for Afghanistan: Mawlawi

While emphasizing that Afghanistan will not allow its soil to be used by terrorist groups against Pakistan, Mawlawi Sardar Ahmad Shakeeb, the Chargé d'Affaires of Afghanistan said that China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) created many opportunities for the region which could benefit Afghanistan as well.

He was speaking at a seminar titled "Strengthening Economic Ties between Pakistan, Afghanistan, and Central Asia" organized by the Institute of Regional Studies (IRS) in Islamabad Tuesday.

Mawlawi Shakeeb also stated that Afghanistan's involvement in the Belt and Road Initiative would not only enhance investments in its infrastructure. but also bring the regional countries closer. "We believe that trilateral cooperation among Afghanistan, Pakistan, and China can usher in a new era of regional collaboration."

Terming Pakistan as one of the leading trade partners of Afghanistan, he expressed Afghan interim administration's commitment to enhancement of trade and investment between the two countries. He acknowledged the recent challenges in trade and economic relations between the two countries but felt that Afghanistan was striving to revitalize the economic relations.

Besides the security-related issues, Mawlawi Shakeeb highlighted the Western sanctions, frequent closures of crossing points, limited customs facilitation, sudden and unilateral increases in tariffs, and frequent checking of loaded vehicles as major obstacles to trade flows.

He underlined the need for the two countries to invest in trade infrastructure, streamline customs processes, strengthen trade facilities, develop transportation links, build mutual trust, and enhance diplomatic dialogues for achieving long-term trade benefits.

While calling for greater collaboration on economic policies and expansion of transportation and transit projects between Pakistan and Afghanistan, Mawlawi Sahkeeb emphasized the desirability of sustained diplomatic engagement among the regional countries and joint efforts for peace and security to provide a sustainable foundation for regional economic cooperation. He also underpinned the need to refrain from imposing economic restrictions and other policies that hinder regional economic cooperation.

The Afghan Chargé d'Affaires highlighted the importance of Afghanistan as a bridge between South and Central Asia.

He shared that the Afghan interim administration had already started work on the Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India (TAPI) gas pipeline and added that Kazakhstan had expressed interest in joining the project

<https://pakobserver.net/cpec-offers-great-opportunities-for-afghanistan-mawlawi/>

President to visit China in November

President Asif Ali Zardari is set to undertake a significant bilateral visit to China in the first week of the next month.

According to diplomatic sources, the visit is expected to take place from November 4 to 7, during which President Zardari will hold talks with Chinese President Xi Jinping.

The discussions between the two leaders will focus on Phase Two of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, Pak-China bilateral relations, and regional and global security issues.

Additionally, President Zardari is scheduled to attend the Shanghai World Expo on November 5 as part of his visit.

<https://pakobserver.net/president-to-visit-china-in-november/>

BRI and Geo-economics of Uzbekistan: A Way Forward

by Dr Mehmood Ul Hassan Khan

The Republic of Uzbekistan joined the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and the Asian International Investment Bank (AIIB) in 2015, subsequently signing over 100 bilateral agreements with China that have significantly strengthened their economic cooperation. Over the past 30 years, China-Uzbekistan bilateral trade has surged by an astounding 140 times, increasing by 21.8 percent to nearly US\$9.78 billion in 2022-2023. In 2023, this trade reached 98.85 billion Yuan (approximately \$13.93 billion), marking a year-on-year increase of 53.2 percent.

The Uzbek presidential visit to China in 2024 marked the beginning of a stronger partnership, as both countries upgraded their bilateral ties to an all-weather comprehensive strategic partnership for a new era. This enhanced cooperation is anticipated to yield win-win outcomes under the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). Uzbekistan has expressed keen interest in collaborating with China on electric vehicles, the new energy industry, and digital initiatives. Additionally, the Qamchiq Tunnel has revolutionized regional connectivity, further facilitating these collaborative efforts.

Uzbekistan holds strategic importance in the development of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) as two of its routes pass through the country within the China-Central Asia-West Asia BRI Corridor, connecting Uzbekistan to China and Iran. Its ideal positioning also facilitates connections in the Kazakhstan-Uzbekistan-Turkmenistan Corridor and maintains a key role in the Kyrgyzstan-Uzbekistan-Turkmenistan-Iran Corridor, encompassing cities like Tashkent, Samarkand, and Andijan. Additionally, all four corridors of the China-Central Asia gas pipeline traverse Uzbekistan. Alongside a 25-year bilateral contract for natural gas sales, plans for a fifth route to transfer gas from Turkmenistan to Uzbekistan are also under serious consideration.

The World Bank projects Uzbekistan's GDP growth in 2024 at six percent. The Asian Development Bank projected the country's GDP increase in 2024 at six percent in October. The IMF also predicted GDP up to six percent. The European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) also upgraded the GDP which would increase at six percent showing great confidence in the national economy of Uzbekistan. Moreover, over the past seven years, Uzbekistan has attracted US\$78bn in foreign investment and it is poised to join the world's top 60 economies by 2024.

Critical analysis of its economy confirms the country's improved business environment and examines global best practices. It introduced a stability rating for business entities, incentivized law-abiding entrepreneurs, and cancelled 132 licenses and permits. The value-added tax (VAT) rate is reduced from 20 percent to 12 percent, and the business registration process is now significantly streamlined.

Uzbekistan's economic growth has remained strong, with a growth rate exceeding 5 percent annually since 2017. The country's GDP has surpassed US\$100bn for the first time, further signalling its emergence as a key player on the global economic stage.

The Uzbek government launched over 1,000 projects and the production of 1,800 new types of goods. These efforts have contributed to the country's economic diversification and modernization.

According to reliable Uzbek information 366 large-scale projects worth US\$140 billion are currently being implemented in the country contributing good things to its economy. Each year, approximately US\$15 billion is spent on importing equipment, raw materials, and construction supplies for these projects. President Mirziyoyev emphasized the importance of increasing the share of locally produced goods in these initiatives to further boost domestic industry and reduce dependency on imports. In the energy sector, Uzbekistan plans to construct 164 facilities by 2030, with an investment of US\$36 billion. Of these, 88 projects

will be developed through public-private partnerships. Additionally, the mining industry is set to benefit from a US\$1.2 billion program aimed at expanding its capacity and output. The President also stressed the need for Uzbekistan to produce more competitive products and increase exports. Recently, investment projects totalling US\$30 billion were approved, which include programs in transportation, social infrastructure, and utilities. The number of self-employed individuals in Uzbekistan has seen remarkable growth, reaching 4.08 million by October 1. This marks an increase of 1.89 million, or 86.8 percent compared to the same period last year. In the third quarter alone, 532,000 more people registered as self-employed inching towards self-reliance contributing to the national economy. The government's strategy to diversify the economy traditionally dependent on energy is now producing results, with increased investments in key sectors such as agriculture, textiles, and technology. This shift is also contributing to a positive trend in the labour market. The unemployment rate is projected to decrease from 6.8 percent in 2023 to 6.3 percent in 2024, with further projections indicating a drop to 5.8 percent by 2025. In summary, the BRI has benefited the macro-economy of Uzbekistan which is now among the three fastest growing economies in Europe and Central Asia in 2024. The World Bank now forecasts that Uzbekistan's GDP will grow 6 percent in 2024, 5.8 percent in 2025 and 5.9 percent in 2026. It is suggested that the government of Uzbekistan should timely launch planned projects, development of transport and logistics, information technologies, agricultural and financial services in the country further consolidating the economy and contributing community development also. There is an urgent need for financial sector reforms to align Uzbekistan's banking supervision with international standards. Therefore, the policy makers of Uzbek should continue gradually phasing out directed lending practices, which would improve the efficiency of credit allocation while increasing access to credit for the private sector. The Uzbek Central Bank should also take appropriate measures to monitor financial stability, such as defaults by major borrowers, economic downturns, liquidity shortages, declines in real estate prices, and risks associated with climate change. There should be a holistic and comprehensive road map for the reduction of the shadow economy through tight monitoring and concessions. Last but not the least, further diversification of economy (metals, mining), green transformation, qualitative industrialization, hybrid agriculture, hydrogen-power generation, lithium batteries, EVs, SMEs, technical education and openness, modernization, digitalization and artificial intelligence in which the BRI would play an important role in the days to come. Currently, more than 2,400 Chinese-funded enterprises are involved in investment and business activities in the country, spanning multiple sectors including petroleum, natural gas, rail, telecommunications, agriculture, chemicals, machinery and equipment, the electrical grid, and engineering contracting. With the launch of China-Europe freight trains has elevated the importance of Central Asian countries, including Uzbekistan, as crucial transportation hubs connecting East and West. The early construction and launch of the railway project linking China, Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan would be a significant achievement. The project, as part of the China-proposed Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), is expected to enhance both hard and soft connectivity, while helping Uzbekistan further transition from a landlocked country to a land-linked country. <https://pakobserver.net/bri-and-geo-economics-of-uzbekistan-a-way-forward/>

Express News

چینی شہریوں کی سیکیورٹی کے بغیر سی پیک نہیں چل سکتا حملے ناقابل قبول ہیں، چینی سفیر

پاکستان میں چین کے سفیر جیانگ زائی ڈونگ نے کہا ہے کہ چینی شہریوں کی سیکیورٹی سی پیک کو آگے بڑھانے میں سب سے بڑی رکاوٹ ہے، اس کے بغیر یہ نہیں چل سکتا، 6 ماہ میں 2 مہلک حملے ناقابل قبول ہیں،

حکومت پاکستان کو چین مخالف دہشت گردوں کے خلاف کریک ڈاؤن کرنا ہو گا۔ جب تک محفوظ ماحول فراہم نہیں کیا جاتا یہ پروگرام آگے نہیں بڑھ سکتا۔ منگل کو ”سیمینار سے خطاب کرتے ہوئے چینی سفیر نے کہا انھیں امید ہے کہ پاکستان چینی شہریوں، اداروں اور 75 China at پاکستان چائنہ انسٹیٹیوٹ کے زیر اہتمام“ منصوبوں کی سیکیورٹی کو مضبوط بنائے گا۔

پاکستان کو ان لوگوں کو سخت سزا دینی چاہیے جو چینی شہریوں پر ہونے والے مہلک حملوں میں ملوث ہیں۔ چینی سفیر کا کہنا تھا کہ ان کے صدر ژئی جن پنگ اپنے شہریوں کی سلامتی کے بارے میں بہت فکر مند ہیں، وہ اپنے لوگوں کی زندگیوں کو باقی ہر چیز پر فوقیت دیتے ہیں۔

جب کبھی بھی ان کی پاکستانی قیادت سے ملاقات ہوتی ہے تو انہوں نے پاکستان میں موجود چینی شہریوں، اداروں اور پرائیویٹ سیکٹرز کی سیکیورٹی کے بارے میں بات کی ہے۔

واضح رہے کہ پاکستان میں گزشتہ چھ ماہ کے دوران چینی شہریوں پر دو مہلک حملے ہو چکے ہیں۔ ان میں پہلا حملہ مارچ اور دوسرا اکتوبر میں اس وقت کیا گیا جب چینی وزیر اعظم کے دورہ پاکستان میں صرف 10 دن باقی تھے۔ چینی سفیر نے کہا صدر لی نے بھی اپنے حالیہ دورہ میں پاکستانی قیادت سے ملاقاتوں کے دوران اقتصادی ترقی اور تعاون کیلئے سیکیورٹی کی اہمیت پر زور دیا ہے۔

چین پاکستان کے ساتھ اقتصادی تعاون کو مزید گہرا کرنا چاہتا ہے، لیکن ہمیں امید ہے کہ پاکستانی حکومت اس معاملے میں چینی شہریوں کیلئے مناسب ماحول بھی فراہم کرے گی۔ صدر ژئی نے ہمیشہ کہا ہے سیکیورٹی ترقی کی ضامن اور ترقی سیکیورٹی کی ضامن ہے۔ ہم مل کر ان دہشتگردوں کے خلاف کریک ڈاؤن کر سکتے ہیں۔

اس سے قبل ڈپٹی وزیر اعظم اور وزیر خارجہ اسحاق ڈار نے اپنے خطاب میں کہا کہ پاکستانی حکومت چینی شہریوں پر حملوں میں ملوث دہشتگردوں کے خلاف کارروائی کر رہی ہے اور اس حوالے سے کیے جانے والے اقدامات سے اگلے ماہ صدر آصف زرداری اپنے دورہ چین کے دوران چینی ہم منصب ژئی جن پنگ کا آگاہ کریں گے۔

پاکستان میں چینی شہریوں پر ہونے والے حملوں کا تذکرہ کرتے ہوئے اسحاق ڈار نے کہا یہ حملے اس لیے ہو رہے ہیں کیونکہ بعض قوتوں کو پاک چین دوستی ہضم نہیں ہو رہی۔ انہوں نے کہا ان تمام چینلوں کے باوجود حالیہ ملاقاتوں میں دونوں ملکوں کی قیادت نے سی پیک کے اگلے مرحلے کو آگے بڑھانے کا فیصلہ کیا ہے۔ اس مرحلے میں تجارت، صنعتکاری، ڈیجیٹل اکاؤنٹی، زراعت اور قابل تجدید توانائی کے شعبے شامل ہیں۔

اس موقع پر وزیر خارجہ نے امریکہ پر بھی تنقید کی اور کہا کہ وہ چین کو عالمی اقتصادی طاقت بننے نہیں دیکھ سکتا۔ لیکن امریکہ کی طرف سے چینی مصنوعات پر 200 فیصد ٹیرف عائد کرنے سمیت تمام حربوں کے باوجود چین دنیا کی سب سے بڑی اقتصادی طاقت بننے کی منزل پالے گا۔ انہوں نے کہا چینی مصنوعات پر بھاری ٹیرف سیاست کے سوا کچھ نہیں۔

اسحاق ڈار نے تحریک انصاف کی سابق حکومت اور آئی ایس آئی کے سابق چیف لیفٹیننٹ جنرل (ر) فیض حمید پر بھی شدید تنقید کی اور کہا دہشتگردی کی موجودہ لہر کے ہم خود ذمہ دار ہیں، ہم نے سینکڑوں دہشتگردوں کو جیلوں سے نکال دیا، ساڑھے تین سے چار ہزار کو پاکستان واپس آنے دیا اور چائے کا کپ پینے کا بل پہنچ گئے۔

ڈاکٹر عافیہ کے معاملے پر گفتگو کرتے ہوئے اسحاق ڈار نے کہا موجودہ حکومت انہیں معافی دلا کر رہا کرنے کی کوشش کر رہی ہے، وزیر اعظم شہباز شریف نے صدر جو بائیڈن کو انسانی بنیادوں پر ڈاکٹر عافیہ کو رہا کرنے کیلئے خط بھی لکھا ہے۔

امریکی صدر اپنی مدت ختم ہونے کے وقت اکثر ایسی معافیاں دے دیتے ہیں۔ لیکن ہماری طرف سے کی جانے والی کوششوں کا بھی کوئی نتیجہ سامنے نہیں آیا۔ اب ہم نے ایک تین رکنی کمیٹی تشکیل دی ہے جو امریکی ارکان کانگریس سے مل کر اس ضمن میں لابی کرے گی اور ڈاکٹر عافیہ کو معافی دلا کر پاکستان واپس لانے کی کوشش کی جائیگی۔

غزہ جنگ کا ذکر کرتے ہوئے انہوں نے اسے اسرائیلی بربریت قرار دیا اور کہا پاکستان ان ممالک میں شامل ہے جنہوں نے اس جنگ میں کھل کر فلسطینیوں کی حمایت میں آواز بلند کی ہے۔ ہم نے اس جنگ کو بند کرنے، اقوام متحدہ کی جنرل اسمبلی کی قراردادوں اور عالمی عدالت انصاف کے فیصلوں پر عملدرآمد کا مطالبہ کیا ہے۔

انہوں نے کہا اس جنگ میں 48 ہزار فلسطینی جن میں زیادہ تعداد بچوں اور خواتین کی ہے شہید 80 ہزار زخمی ہو چکے ہیں۔ پاکستان اب تک فلسطینیوں کی امداد کیلئے سامان کی 10 کھسیں غزہ روانہ کر چکا ہے۔ پاکستان فلسطینی میڈیکل طلبہ کو پاکستان میں اپنے تعلیم مکمل کرنے کی سہولیات بھی فراہم کر رہا ہے۔ وزیر خارجہ نے لبنان پر اسرائیلی حملوں اور ایران، اسرائیل کشیدگی پر بھی گہری تشویش کا اظہار کیا۔

<https://www.express.pk/story/2730669/chinyon-ki-security-ke-baghair-cpec-nahi-chal-sakta-hamlay-na-qabil-qubool-cheeni-safeer>

Nawaiwaqt News

پاکستان اور چین کا تعلیمی موازنہ

پاکستان کی 1947ء میں آبادی 34 ملین تھی جبکہ تعلیم کی شرح 16 فیصد تھی۔ پاکستان کی چین کی نسبت معاشی حالت بہتر تھی۔ پاکستان کی فی کس آمدنی 100 ڈالر تھی جبکہ چین کی فی کس آمدنی 50 ڈالر تھی۔ 28 ملین افراد کو تعلیم کے زیور سے اراستہ کرنا پاکستان کیلئے کوئی مشکل کام نہیں تھا۔ چین 1949ء میں آزاد ہوا۔ اس وقت اس کی آبادی 500 ملین تھی جبکہ تعلیم کی شرح 20 فیصد تھی اور اس کیلئے 400 ملین افراد کو تعلیم دینا بہت بڑا چیلنج تھا۔ چین کے عظیم لیڈر ماوزے تنگ نے تعلیم کو قومی ترجیحات میں شامل کیا۔ ہیومن ریسورس پر سرمایہ کاری کی جس کا نتیجہ یہ نکلا کہ آج چین میں فی کس آمدنی 12738 ڈالر ہے جبکہ پاکستان کی فی کس آمدنی 1650 ڈالر ہے۔ چین میں تعلیم کی شرح کم و بیش 100 فیصد ہے جبکہ پاکستان میں تعلیم کی شرح 60 فیصد ہے۔ آئین کے آرٹیکل 25 اے میں یہ وعدہ کیا گیا تھا کہ 6 سے 16 سال تک کے بچے کو لازمی تعلیم دی جائے گی۔ افسوس اس آرٹیکل پر عمل درآمد نہ کیا گیا جس کا نتیجہ یہ نکلا ہے کہ آج 26 ملین بچے سکولوں سے باہر ہیں۔ جنرل ایوب خان نے اقتدار سنبھالنے کے بعد جب قومی ترجیحات کا فیصلہ کرنے کے لیے اعلیٰ سطح کا اجلاس بلایا تو اس اجلاس میں ایک ڈپٹی سیکرٹری نے کہا کہ ہمیں تعلیم کو اپنی پہلی ترجیح بنانا چاہیے۔

جنرل ایوب خان نے کہا کہ آپ یہ چاہتے ہیں کہ پاکستان کے لوگ پڑھ لکھ جائیں اور میرے خلاف اٹھ کھڑے ہوں۔ 10 سالہ اقتدار کے بعد جب پاکستان کے عوام جنرل ایوب کے اقتدار کے خلاف اٹھ کھڑے ہوئے تو معتبر شہادت کے مطابق جنرل ایوب خان نے کہا کہ مجھ سے بڑی غلطی ہوئی کہ میں نے لوگوں کو تعلیم نہ دی جس کی وجہ سے ان کا شعور ہی بلند نہ ہو سکا۔ پاکستان میں 43 ہزار دینی مدارس ہیں جن میں اپنے اپنے مسلک کے مطابق بچوں کو مفت تعلیم بھی دی جاتی ہے اور ان کو قیام و طعام کی سہولتیں بھی فراہم کی جاتی ہیں۔ دینی مدارس کا اپنا نصاب ہے جو مارکیٹ کے تقاضوں کے مطابق نہیں ہے۔ پاکستان میں ہزاروں پبلک سکول موجود ہیں مگر ان میں معیاری تعلیم نہیں دی جا رہی اور سکولوں میں بچوں کو ہاتھ روم اور بجلی جیسی بنیادی سہولتیں بھی فراہم نہیں کی جاتیں۔ ایک رپورٹ کے مطابق بلوچستان میں 85 فیصد سکولوں میں ٹائلٹ اور بجلی کی سہولتیں موجود نہیں ہیں۔ تازہ رپورٹوں کے مطابق پاکستان کے مختلف صوبوں میں پبلک سکول یا تو بند کیے جا رہے ہیں یا ان کی نجکاری کی جا رہی ہے۔

پاکستان میں ایسے پرائیویٹ سکول بھی ہیں جہاں پر تعلیم کا معیار تو اچھا ہے مگر ان کی فیسیں اس قدر زیادہ ہیں کہ لوئر ملڈ کلاس کا کوئی گھرانہ اپنے بچے کو ان سکولوں میں تعلیم دینے کا سوچ نہیں سکتا۔ ایک مقامی تنظیم کی رپورٹ کے مطابق پانچویں جماعت کے 45 فیصد بچے دوسری جماعت کی اردو اور انگریزی کی کتاب نہیں پڑھ سکتے۔

پاکستان میں انگلش میڈیم سکول تجارتی ادارے بن چکے ہیں

پاکستان میں 244 رجسٹرڈ یونیورسٹیاں ہیں جن میں 145 پبلک اور 99 پرائیویٹ ہیں۔ افسوس کی بات یہ ہے کہ ان میں سے کوئی ایک بھی یونیورسٹی دنیا کی 100 بہترین یونیورسٹیوں میں شامل نہیں ہے۔ پاکستان کے تعلیمی نظام میں سب سے بڑی خرابی یہ ہے کہ دو کیشل ٹریننگ اور ٹیکنالوجی کی تعلیم پر بہت کم توجہ دی جا رہی ہے۔ پاکستان

میں تعلیم کا بجٹ بہت کم ہے۔ 2022ء-2023ء کی اکنامک سروے رپورٹ کے مطابق وفاق اور صوبائی بجٹ میں تعلیم پر صرف پانچ بلین ڈالر خرچ کیے گئے جو جی ڈی پی کا 1.5 فیصد بنتے ہیں۔ اس تعلیمی بجٹ کا قابل ذکر حصہ کرپشن کی نذر ہو جاتا ہے۔ پاکستان کے مقابلے میں چین نے گزشتہ 70 سالوں کے دوران تعلیم پر منظم طریقے سے بہت زیادہ سرمایہ کاری کی ہے۔ چین نے 2020ء میں تعلیم پر 657 بلین ڈالر خرچ کیے جو جی ڈی پی کا 4.22 فیصد بنتے ہیں۔ اسی سال چین نے اپنے دفاع پر 178 بلین ڈالر خرچ کیے جو تعلیمی بجٹ کا ایک چوتھائی بنتے ہیں۔ چین کے تعلیمی نظام کے مطابق ہر بچے کو نو سال مسلسل لازمی تعلیم حاصل کرنی پڑتی ہے جو پرائمری اور سیکنڈری سکول تک ہوتی ہے۔ ہر بچے کو پہلے نو سال کے دوران اخلاقی ذہنی اور جسمانی تعلیم دی جاتی ہے۔ ہر بچے کو چینی زبان ریاضی فزکس کیمسٹری اور ایک غیر ملکی زبان سکھائی جاتی ہے جبکہ ریاضی پر خصوصی توجہ دی جاتی ہے تاکہ تمام بچوں کی تعلیمی بنیادیں مستحکم بنائی جاسکیں۔ سرکاری سکولوں میں 90 فیصد طلبہ و طالبات کو مفت تعلیم دی جاتی ہے جبکہ باقی دس فیصد بچے پرائیویٹ سکولوں میں تعلیم حاصل کرتے ہیں۔ تمام سکولوں کا ایک ہی نصاب ہوتا ہے جسے وزارت تعلیم منظور کرتی ہے اور یکساں نصاب کی وجہ سے قومی ہم آہنگی اور یکجہتی پیدا ہوتی ہے۔ چین میں تین ہزار بارہ یونیورسٹیاں ہیں جن میں 75 فیصد سرکاری ہیں اور 25 فیصد پرائیویٹ ہیں۔ یونیورسٹیوں میں داخلے سے پہلے بچوں سے ٹیسٹ لیے جاتے ہیں اور ان کا تعلیمی معیار جانچا جاتا ہے۔ چین کی درجنوں یونیورسٹیوں کا شمار دنیا کی بہترین یونیورسٹیوں میں کیا جاتا ہے۔ پاکستان چین کے کامیاب تعلیمی تجربے سے بہت کچھ سیکھ سکتا ہے۔ چین کے کامیاب تجربے سے سیکھتے ہوئے پاکستان کو ہیومن ریسورس پر بہت زیادہ توجہ دینی چاہیے اور اس پر زیادہ سے زیادہ سرمایہ کاری کرنی چاہیے تاکہ پاکستان کے نوجوان ہنرمند بن سکیں اور مارکیٹ کے تقاضوں کو پورا کر سکیں۔ خواتین کی تعلیم و تربیت پر خصوصی توجہ دینی چاہیے کیونکہ ماہیں اگر مثالی ہوں گی تو نسلیں بھی مثالی بن سکتی ہیں۔ پاکستان کو چین کی طرح ریاضی فزکس کیمسٹری اور ٹیکنالوجی کی تعلیم پر توجہ دینی چاہیے اور ہائر ایجوکیشن میں آئی ٹی کو پہلی ترجیح بنانا چاہیے۔ پاکستان کو چین کے ساتھ پاک چین ایکنامک کوریڈور کے بعد پاک چین ایجنڈا کو ریڈور کا معاہدہ بھی کرنا چاہیے۔ پاکستان میں تعلیم کی پسماندگی کی بنیادی وجہ جاگیر دارانہ اور سرمایہ دارانہ نظام ہے پاکستان کے جاگیر دار اور سرمایہ دار ہر گز نہیں چاہتے کہ غریبوں کے بچے اچھے سکولوں میں تعلیم حاصل کر کے ان کے بچوں کے مقابلے میں کھڑے ہو جائیں اور ان کی پاکستان پر جو اجارہ داری ہے وہ خطرے میں پڑ جائے۔ پاکستان کے غریب محروم اور مظلوم عوام متحد اور منظم ہو کر ہی اپنے بنیادی حقوق حاصل کر سکتے ہیں۔ پاکستان کے بانی قائد اعظم محمد علی جناح پاکستان میں لازمی تعلیم پر زور دیتے تھے مگر ان کی رحلت کے بعد پاکستان پر کلونیل ذہنیت بالادست ہو گئی جس کی وجہ سے سوچے سمجھے منصوبے کے تحت تعلیم کو اہمیت نہ دی گئی۔ تعلیمی پسماندگی کی وجہ سے آج پاکستان ہر شعبے میں زوال پذیر ہے

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/lahore/2024-10-30/page-5/detail-5>

October 31, 2024

Pakistan Observer

Mushahid welcomes China rise as dawn of Asian Century

Jiang terms Terrorism as ‘unacceptable’

Pakistan-China Institute, chaired by Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed, hosted an international conference “China at 75: A Journey of Progress, Transformation and Global Leadership,” celebrating 75 years of the founding of People’s Republic of China, where Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar was the Chief Guest. Distinguished participants included China’s Ambassador to Pakistan, Jiang Zaidong; renowned economist and former Governor of the State Bank of Pakistan, Dr. Ishrat Hussain, and Qaiser Ahmed Sheikh, Federal Minister for Maritime Affairs. The conference was uniquely marked by international representation from South Asia, featuring Mahub Alam, Leader of Bangladesh Nationalist Party; Ahmed Thariq, Member of Parliament from the Maldives; and Achyut Prasad Mainali, Member of the Federal Parliament of Nepal.

In his introductory remarks, Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed, highlighted some unique aspects of China, emphasizing the nation's peaceful rise without invasion, aggression, occupation or colonisation—reflecting the essence of China's 5000-year-old civilization. He described Pakistan-China relations as unique as these are neither transactional nor tactical but rooted in deep strategic cooperation. Reflecting on China's recent history, Senator Mushahid Hussain summed up China's 75 years in what he termed were '3 R's': Revolution under Chairman Mao, Reform under Deng Xiaoping and now peaceful Rise under President Xi Jinping. Analysing reasons for China's rise, he listed quality of leadership, continuity in policy, unique ability to make course corrections and humility in learning from others plus peaceful foreign policy.

Ambassador Jiang Zaidong, Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to Pakistan expressed heartfelt gratitude to Senator Ishaq Dar for his attendance, despite his 32-hour journey from Samoa, underscoring the significance attached to the event'.

Ambassador Jiang celebrated the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), now joined by over 150 countries, as a testament to China's commitment to shared prosperity. He further emphasized the pivotal influence of President Xi Jinping's Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics, which has guided China's progress and resilience in this new era. Expressing appreciation for hosting China's Prime Minister at the recent SCO summit, Ambassador Jiang advocated for deeper, more comprehensive cooperation among Global South nations to foster equitable development and shared progress.

He outlined Chinese concerns for security of its personnel and projects in Pakistan, terming terrorist attacks as 'unacceptable', and urging Pakistan's government to take 'effective remedial measures to prevent recurrence of such terror acts and ensure that perpetrators are identified, caught and punished'.

Dr. Ishrat Husain, Economist/Former Governor, State Bank of Pakistan highlighted China's extraordinary journey, achieving unprecedented progress through strategic shifts from a rural to an urban economy and transitioning from a command-driven to a market-oriented system.

Mumtaz Zahra Baloch, Spokesperson of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs emphasized Pakistan's commitment to South-South cooperation, underscoring its importance for capacity building among developing nations in pursuit of shared objectives.

Drawing inspiration from China's development journey, she advocated for a Global South-led agenda to harness the full potential of South-South cooperation, which has yet to be fully realized due to a lingering dependency on external support in many developing countries.

Dr. Baloch noted that China's active involvement in areas like economic exchange, climate change, and diplomacy has bolstered South-South cooperation, with China emerging as a leader in Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) among Global South-South Cooperation.

<https://pakobserver.net/mushahid-welcomes-china-rise-as-dawn-of-asian-century/>

The News

Chinese delegation meets CDA chairman

Islamabad: A meeting chaired by Chief Commissioner Islamabad and Chairman of the Capital Development Authority (CDA) Muhammad Ali Randhawa on Wednesday, reviewed the policy for open spaces in Islamabad, the condition of graveyards in the city, and the Islamabad Beautification Plan.

The meeting was attended by the relevant senior officers. It was decided to automate the procedure for allocating open spaces in Islamabad. CDA chairman instructed that a plan be presented for the allocation of open spaces according to categories. He directed improvements in the fee collection system for open spaces by adopting modern technology. He also instructed that a comprehensive system for open space allocation be developed by the Law, BCS, and DMA departments.

Meanwhile, a Chinese delegation met CDA chairman at CDA headquarters and discussed establishment of tier four data centres. On the occasion, the CDA chairman pointed out that the organisation desires to benefit from Chinese experience in field of big data centres. He mentioned that the CDA was looking for suitable place to establish big data centre in Islamabad. He said that CDA will soon initiate feasibility study to establish data centre in the federal capital.

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=355078>

Pakistan-China B2B meeting drives \$64m in fisheries investments

KARACHI: Agreements totalling \$64 million were signed at the inaugural Pakistan-China business-to-business (B2B) investment meeting on fisheries, held in Qingdao, China, on Tuesday.

Sponsored by the Trade Development Authority of Pakistan (TDAP), the first-ever investment meeting marked the beginning of a series of sector-specific meetings designed to promote joint ventures and partnerships between Pakistani and Chinese companies.

The meeting followed Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's visit to China in June 2024, aimed at strengthening trade and investment ties between the two countries. Forty-five Chinese companies and 28 Pakistani firms participated in the event.

In his remarks, Sun Huanjiang, a member of the CPC committee from the Qingdao municipal marine development bureau, highlighted the enduring 'all-weather cooperative' partnership between Pakistan and China. He affirmed China's commitment to enhancing scientific and technological exchanges, industrial collaboration, trade and investment to support Pakistan's blue economy initiatives.

Board of Investment Secretary Rahim Hayat Qureshi praised the robust cooperation between Pakistan and China across various sectors. He encouraged deeper collaboration between businesses from both countries to create mutually beneficial opportunities.

Qureshi also delivered a detailed presentation on Pakistan's fisheries sector, outlining government incentives available to Chinese investors.

Pakistan's ambassador highlighted the country's extensive marine resources, inviting Chinese companies to capitalize on Pakistan's abundant natural assets, affordable labour and strategic location. He advocated for long-term partnerships in areas such as aquaculture, food processing and export development.

The meeting concluded with the signing of 11 memoranda of understanding (MoUs) and one contract between Pakistani and Chinese companies, amounting to \$64 million. An MoU was also signed between the Pakistan Fishery Exports Association and the Seafood Specialized Committee of China to further promote B2B exchanges, joint ventures and trade in the fisheries sector. This meeting is the first of the six planned events aimed at fostering business-to-business dialogue and expanding trade and investment between Pakistan and China.

Following this event, 20 Pakistani seafood companies will participate in the upcoming China Fisheries & Seafood Exhibition (CFSE) under the TDAP platform.

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=355031>

Express News

سی پیک کے قرضوں کا جال ہونے کا تاثر غلط، اسحق ڈار

نائب وزیر اعظم اسحق ڈار نے کہا ہے کہ سی پیک منصوبہ چین کی جانب سے ایک شاندار تحفہ ہے، یہ تاثر درست نہیں کہ یہ منصوبہ قرضوں کا جال ہے۔

چینی جمہوریہ کے قیام کے 75 سال مکمل ہونے پر پاک چائنا انسٹیٹیوٹ کے زیر اہتمام ایک تقریب سے خطاب میں انھوں نے کہا کہ چین کی تیزی سے ترقی جدید انسانی تاریخ میں ایک غیر معمولی مثال ہے، موسمیاتی تبدیلی کے خلاف چینی پالیسی بھی قابل ستائش ہے جس نے ایک دہائی سے کم وقت میں بیجنگ جیسے آلودہ شہر تبدیل کر کے رکھ دیا۔

انہوں نے کہا کہ پاکستان کی جانب سے ایک چین پالیسی کی حمایت اٹل ہے، ہم چین کے کشمیر پر موقف پر اس کے شکر گزار ہیں۔ تقریب سے خطاب میں سینیٹر مشاہد حسین سید نے کہا کہ جارحیت یا نوآبادیاتی تسلط کے بغیر چین کے پرامن طور پر ایک معاشی طاقت بن کر ابھرنے سے اس کی پانچ ہزار سال پرانی تہذیب کی عکاسی ہوتی ہے۔

پاک چین روابط اس لحاظ سے منفرد ہیں کہ گہرا سٹریٹجک تعاون ان کی بنیاد ہے۔ انہوں نے معیاری قیادت، پالیسی کے تسلسل، اصلاح و دوسروں سے سیکھنے کی منفرد صلاحیت اور پرامن خارجہ پالیسی کو چین کے ایک بڑی معیشت بننے کی وجہ قرار دیا۔

چینی سفیر جیانگ ژانینگ نے مشترکہ ترقی کیلئے گلوبل سائو تھ کے ملکوں کے مابین جامع تعاون پر زور دیتے ہوئے کہا کہ چینی شہریوں پر دہشت گرد حملے ناقابل قبول ہیں۔

تقریب سے سابق گورنر اسٹیٹ بینک ڈاکٹر عشرت حسین، وفاقی وزیر سمندری امور قیصر احمد شیخ، ترجمان وزارت خارجہ ممتاز زہرہ بلوچ نے بھی خطاب کیا، تقریب میں بنگلہ دیش، مالدیپ اور نیپال کے ارکان پارلیمان بھی شریک ہوئے۔

<https://www.express.pk/story/2730845/cpec-ke-qarzon-ka-jaal-honay-ka-ta-assur-ghalat-ishaq-daar>

Chinese Newspapers

October 16, 2024

People's Daily

China, Pakistan to strengthen communication, coordination on Afghanistan issue

ISLAMABAD, Oct. 16 (Xinhua) -- China and Pakistan will strengthen communication and coordination on the issue of Afghanistan, said a joint statement issued here on Tuesday during Chinese Premier Li Qiang's official visit to Pakistan.

In the statement, both sides urged concerted efforts of the international community to encourage the Interim Afghan Government to build an inclusive political framework, adopt moderate policies and pursue good-neighborliness.

The two sides also called for strengthening counter-terrorism cooperation at bilateral and multilateral levels to support Afghanistan in taking comprehensive measures to eradicate terrorism and called on the Interim Afghan Government to take visible and verifiable actions to dismantle and eliminate all terrorist groups based in Afghanistan which continue to pose a serious threat to regional and global security,

and to prevent the use of Afghan territory against its neighbors, the region, and beyond.

They also agreed to play a constructive role in helping Afghanistan achieve stable development and integrate into the international community.

<http://en.people.cn/n3/2024/1016/c90000-20230188.html>

China, Pakistan to enhance connectivity of Gwadar Port

ISLAMABAD, Oct. 16 (Xinhua) -- China and Pakistan agreed to solidly enhance connectivity between the Gwadar Port and other parts of Pakistan, said a joint statement issued here Tuesday during Chinese Premier Li Qiang's official visit to Pakistan.

Recognizing the significance of the Gwadar Port as a key hub for cross-regional connectivity, the two sides reaffirmed

their readiness to speed up the development of the auxiliary infrastructure of the Gwadar Port and to steadily attract more cargo shipments to the port.

They also agreed to find a solution to inadequate water and power supply at an early date, to accelerate the development of the port's industrial zone and to solidly enhance connectivity between the port and other parts of Pakistan.

<http://en.people.cn/n3/2024/1016/c90000-20230172.html>

Any attempt to disrupt, undermine China-Pakistan cooperation bound to fail: joint statement

ISLAMABAD, Oct. 16 (Xinhua) -- The China-Pakistan relationship is of strategic significance, and any attempt to disrupt or undermine China-Pakistan cooperation is bound to fail, said a joint statement issued here on Tuesday during Chinese Premier Li Qiang's official visit to Pakistan.

China and Pakistan enjoy an all-level, across-the-board and high-quality relationship, said the statement.

The Chinese side reiterated that the China-Pakistan relationship is a priority in its foreign relations. The Pakistani side underscored that the Pakistan-China relationship is the cornerstone of its foreign policy while the Chinese side highlighted that the China-Pakistan relationship is of special significance in China's foreign policy.

The two sides agreed to continue to deepen cooperation in various fields and accelerate efforts to build an even closer China-Pakistan community with a shared future in the new era.

<http://en.people.cn/n3/2024/1016/c90000-20230166.html>

China to strengthen legislative exchanges, cooperation with Pakistan, says premier

ISLAMABAD, Oct. 15 (Xinhua) -- China is ready to strengthen exchanges and cooperation with Pakistan's legislative bodies, learn from each other regarding law-based governance, legislative supervision and improvement of people's livelihood, and promote bilateral friendship, Chinese Premier Li Qiang said here Tuesday.

Li made the remarks when meeting with Pakistan's Senate Chairman Yousuf Raza Gilani and National Assembly Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq.

Li said that since the establishment of diplomatic ties 73 years ago, bilateral relations have maintained a sound development momentum.

China is willing to continue to work with Pakistan to implement the important consensus reached by President Xi Jinping and Pakistani leaders, carry forward the traditional friendship, consolidate political mutual trust, expand practical cooperation, elevate China-Pakistan relations and bring more tangible benefits to the two peoples.

Li pointed out that China is willing to maintain high-level exchanges with Pakistan, strengthen strategic communication and firmly support each other.

Mutually beneficial cooperation between China and Pakistan is promising, Li said. The two sides should continue to make joint efforts to translate their economic complementarity into practical cooperation results, he noted.

Li also expressed his hope that the Senate and the National Assembly of Pakistan will provide a sound legal environment for the development of bilateral relations and cooperation.

The Pakistani side said that Pakistan-China friendship has a time-honored tradition and the development of friendly relations with China enjoys broad and profound public support in Pakistan.

Pakistan deeply admires the great achievements China has made under Xi's leadership and sincerely thanks China for its valuable assistance to Pakistan's development over the years.

Pakistan highly appreciates and actively participates in Belt and Road cooperation. The construction of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor has been carried out smoothly, bringing tangible benefits to the two peoples.

The Senate and the National Assembly of Pakistan are willing to further strengthen exchanges and cooperation with the National People's Congress of China, continuously enhance mutual understanding and trust, and jointly push forward the sustained and in-depth development of Pakistan-China relations.

<http://en.people.cn/n3/2024/1016/c90000-20229950.html>

China ready to work with Kyrgyzstan to consolidate mutual support -- Premier Li

ISLAMABAD, Oct. 15 (Xinhua) -- Chinese Premier Li Qiang said here on Tuesday that China will work with Kyrgyzstan to consolidate mutual support, remain reliable and dependable partners in development and revitalization, and deepen the high-quality Belt and Road cooperation.

Li made the remarks during his meeting with Kyrgyz Prime Minister Akylbek Zhaparov on the sidelines of the 23rd Meeting of the Council of Heads of Government of Member States of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO).

Li noted the meeting between Chinese President Xi Jinping and Kyrgyz President Sadyr Japarov in Astana in July, which laid out plans and arrangements to build a closer China-Kyrgyzstan community with a shared future and to elevate bilateral relations and cooperation to a higher level.

China looks to enhance coordination and cooperation with Kyrgyzstan under the strategic guidance of the two heads of state to cement and deepen bilateral collaboration in various fields, and further promote common development and prosperity, said the premier.

Li said China is ready to work with Kyrgyzstan to set and develop the bilateral relationship from a strategic and long-term perspective, further enhance connectivity, accelerate the improvement of infrastructure such as ports, stimulate trade and investment, and expand cooperation in areas such as new energy, cross-border e-commerce, big data, and artificial intelligence, striving to achieve more tangible cooperation results.

He called on both sides to deepen exchanges in culture, tourism, education, health, and other fields, passing on the friendship between the two countries from generation to generation.

China stands ready to continue implementing the outcomes of last year's China-Central Asia Summit together with Kyrgyzstan, strengthen communication and cooperation within the

SCO framework, encourage all parties to steadfastly promote the "Shanghai Spirit," injecting more certainty and positive energy into regional peace, stability, and development, Li said.

For his part, Zhaparov said Kyrgyzstan and China have long been friendly neighbors, maintaining close high-level exchanges and fruitful economic and trade cooperation. He thanked China for its support and assistance in the economic and social development of Kyrgyzstan.

Noting that Kyrgyzstan attaches great importance to its relations with China, Zhaparov said that Kyrgyzstan looks forward to working with China to implement the important consensus reached by the two heads of state, strengthen the synergy of development strategies, deepen the Belt and Road cooperation, advance the construction of the China-Kyrgyzstan-Uzbekistan railway, deepen cooperation in such fields as port construction, connectivity, finance, mining, education and tourism, so as to inject stronger impetus into the development of the Kyrgyzstan-China comprehensive strategic partnership.

Kyrgyzstan firmly supports the vision of building a community with a shared future for mankind and the three global initiatives proposed by President Xi, and stands ready to work with China to strengthen multilateral coordination, boost cooperation between China and Central Asian countries, and jointly promote regional peace and prosperity.

<http://en.people.cn/n3/2024/1016/c90000-20229862.html>

Li calls for bolstering ties with Pakistan

Zhang Yunbi (China Daily)

Bilateral economic cooperation and the joint fight against terrorism have been high on the agenda of Premier Li Qiang's meetings with Pakistan's leadership over the past two days during his official visit to the South Asian country.

On Tuesday, he met with Pakistani President Asif Ali Zardari, Chairman of the Senate Yousuf Raza Gilani, and Speaker of the National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq.

Li said the two sides should further work together to "constantly convert their complementary economic strengths into tangible results of cooperation".

He expressed the hope that the Senate and the National Assembly will provide a favorable legal environment for the development of bilateral relations and cooperation between the two countries.

The Pakistani leaders told Li that the country highly appraises and actively participates in the joint building of the Belt and Road, and that construction of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor has been carried out smoothly for the benefit of the people of Pakistan and China.

As part of the two countries' efforts in joint building of the Belt and Road, the CPEC has brought a total of \$25.4 billion in direct investment in Pakistan and created 236,000 jobs over the past 11 years.

On Monday, Li met with Pakistani Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, and they jointly attended the ceremony for the exchange of cooperation documents covering fields such as the CPEC, livelihood assistance, science and technology, radio and television, and customs quarantine.

During their talks, Li said that China is ready to work with Pakistan to build an "upgraded version" of the CPEC and accelerate the construction of major projects in areas such as railways, highways, and ports.

Sharif said Pakistan is willing to work with China to create the "upgraded version" of the CPEC within the framework of the Belt and Road Initiative, speed up transportation infrastructure connectivity, and deepen cooperation in fields such as the economy and trade.

Regarding the Oct 6 terrorist attack in Pakistan, which killed two Chinese workers and injured another, Li said it is hoped that Pakistan will continue to provide a good business environment for Chinese companies and try its best to ensure the safety of Chinese personnel, institutions, and projects in the country.

Sharif said the Pakistani government once again expressed its deep condolences over the attack.

Islamabad has pledged to do its utmost to hunt down the perpetrators, fight terrorism, and ensure the safety of Chinese personnel, institutions, and projects in Pakistan, he added.

Counterterrorism efforts

Also on Monday, Li met with the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee of the Pakistan Army Sahir Shamshad Mirza, Chief of Army Staff Asim Munir, Chief of Naval Staff Naveed Ashraf, and Chief of Air Staff Zaheer Ahmad Babar.

Speaking to the military leaders, Li said China supports Pakistan's efforts to combat terrorism and stands ready to deepen counterterrorism cooperation with Pakistan.

Beijing is ready to further pool counterterrorism efforts among countries in the region and jointly safeguard the peace and stability of the two countries and the region, he added.

The Pakistani military leaders said that deepening the ironclad Pakistan-China friendship is a strong consensus across all sectors of Pakistani society.

The Pakistani military will take all necessary measures to ensure the safety of Chinese personnel, institutions, and projects in Pakistan, they added.

<http://en.people.cn/n3/2024/1016/c90000-20229859.html>

China to work with Tajikistan to tap cooperation potential -- Premier Li

ISLAMABAD, Oct. 15 (Xinhua) -- Chinese Premier Li Qiang said here on Tuesday that China is ready to work with Tajikistan, focusing on the high-quality Belt and Road cooperation, to tap the potential of cooperation in various fields and expand cooperation in emerging industries in a bid to inject more impetus into common development.

Li made the remarks during his meeting with Tajik Prime Minister Kokhir Rasulzoda on the sidelines of the 23rd Meeting of the Council of Heads of Government of Member States of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO).

Li said that in July, President Xi Jinping paid a successful state visit to Tajikistan, during which the two heads of state jointly announced the decision to elevate China-Tajikistan relations to a comprehensive strategic cooperative partnership in the new era, and to build the

China-Tajikistan community with a shared future at a higher level, drawing a new blueprint for the development of China-Tajikistan relations and cooperation.

China is ready to work with Tajikistan to further implement the important consensus reached by the two heads of state, carry forward traditional friendship, deepen mutual political trust, firmly support each other on core interests, lift China-Tajikistan all-round cooperation to a new level, and bring more benefits to the two peoples, he said.

China is going to work with Tajikistan to strengthen the synergy of development strategies. Guided by the vision of the China-Tajikistan community with a shared future and focusing on the high-quality Belt and Road cooperation, China stands ready to tap the potential of bilateral cooperation in various fields, advance cooperation in such fields as trade, investment, mining and agriculture, as well as in emerging industries including new energy and digital economy, promote connectivity, and strengthen people-to-people exchanges and cooperation in culture, education and tourism, in a bid to inject more impetus into common development, he said.

China will work with Tajikistan to implement the outcomes of the first China-Central Asia Summit, strengthen multilateral cooperation, jointly carry out the Global Development Initiative, the Global Security Initiative and the Global Civilization Initiative, advocate an equal and orderly multipolar world and a universally beneficial and inclusive economic globalization, practice true multilateralism, and uphold international fairness and justice, Li said.

Rasulzoda said that the traditional friendship between Tajikistan and China is profound, mutual political trust is solid, and bilateral relations are at the highest level in history.

Tajikistan congratulates the People's Republic of China on its remarkable development achievements since its founding 75 years ago, and thanks China for its long-term valuable support for Tajikistan's development, he said, noting that President Xi paid a successful state visit to Tajikistan not long ago, which strongly promoted the comprehensive strategic cooperative partnership between Tajikistan and China to a higher level.

Tajikistan is willing to work with China to fully implement the important consensus reached by the two heads of state of China and Tajikistan, strengthen exchanges at various levels, promote the Belt and Road cooperation, deepen cooperation in such fields as trade, investment, e-commerce, energy, industry, transportation and agriculture, expand cooperation in emerging fields like digital economy and green economy, and deepen cultural and people-to-people exchanges to better benefit the two peoples, he said.

Noting that Tajikistan supports the vision of building a community with a shared future for mankind and the three global initiatives proposed by President Xi, Rasulzoda said Tajikistan expects to work with China to promote cooperation between Central Asian countries and China, deepen cooperation within the framework of the United Nations and the SCO, and jointly uphold regional and global peace, stability and development.

<http://en.people.cn/n3/2024/1016/c90000-20229823.html>

Xinhua News

China, Pakistan to strengthen communication, coordination on Afghanistan issue

ISLAMABAD, Oct. 16 (Xinhua) -- China and Pakistan will strengthen communication and coordination on the issue of Afghanistan, said a joint statement issued here on Tuesday during Chinese Premier Li Qiang's official visit to Pakistan.

In the statement, both sides urged concerted efforts of the international community to encourage the Interim Afghan Government to build an inclusive political framework, adopt moderate policies and pursue good-neighborliness.

The two sides also called for strengthening counter-terrorism cooperation at bilateral and multilateral levels to support Afghanistan in taking comprehensive measures to eradicate terrorism and called on the Interim Afghan Government to take visible and verifiable actions to dismantle and eliminate all terrorist groups based in Afghanistan which continue to pose a serious threat to regional and global security, and to prevent the use of Afghan territory against its neighbors, the region, and beyond.

They also agreed to play a constructive role in helping Afghanistan achieve stable development and integrate into the international community.

<https://english.news.cn/asiapacific/20241016/bef7be8eece74fd2b254738f50abb9a1/c.html>

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They also agreed to find a solution to inadequate water and power supply at an early date, to accelerate the development of the port's industrial zone and to solidly enhance connectivity between the port and other parts of Pakistan.

<https://english.news.cn/asiapacific/20241016/d7919e8082214d55a30ff6fd277535dd/c.html>

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China and Pakistan enjoy an all-level, across-the-board and high-quality relationship, said the statement.

The Chinese side reiterated that the China-Pakistan relationship is a priority in its foreign relations. The Pakistani side underscored that the Pakistan-China relationship is the cornerstone of its foreign policy while the Chinese side highlighted that the China-Pakistan relationship is of special significance in China's foreign policy.

The two sides agreed to continue to deepen cooperation in various fields and accelerate efforts to build an even closer China-Pakistan community with a shared future in the new era

<https://english.news.cn/20241016/f4cf9519a42f4e4cb0a7c9f2402eb2ab/c.html>

1st LD Writethru: China ready to work with Kyrgyzstan to consolidate mutual support -- Premier Li

China looks to enhance coordination and cooperation with Kyrgyzstan under the strategic guidance of the two heads of state to cement and deepen bilateral collaboration in various fields, and further promote common development and prosperity, said Chinese Premier Li Qiang.

ISLAMABAD, Oct. 15 (Xinhua) -- Chinese Premier Li Qiang said here on Tuesday that China will work with Kyrgyzstan to consolidate mutual support, remain reliable and dependable partners in development and revitalization, and deepen the high-quality Belt and Road cooperation.

Li made the remarks during his meeting with Kyrgyz Prime Minister Akylbek Zhaparov on the sidelines of the 23rd Meeting of the Council of Heads of Government of Member States of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO).

Li noted the meeting between Chinese President Xi Jinping and Kyrgyz President Sadyr Japarov in Astana in July, which laid out plans and arrangements to build a closer China-Kyrgyzstan community with a shared future and to elevate bilateral relations and cooperation to a higher level.

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Li said China is ready to work with Kyrgyzstan to set and develop the bilateral relationship from a strategic and long-term perspective, further enhance connectivity, accelerate the improvement of infrastructure such as ports, stimulate trade and investment, and expand cooperation in areas such as new energy, cross-border e-commerce, big data, and artificial intelligence, striving to achieve more tangible cooperation results.

He called on both sides to deepen exchanges in culture, tourism, education, health, and other fields, passing on the friendship between the two countries from generation to generation.

China stands ready to continue implementing the outcomes of last year's China-Central Asia Summit together with Kyrgyzstan, strengthen communication and cooperation within the SCO framework, encourage all parties to steadfastly promote the "Shanghai Spirit," injecting more certainty and positive energy into regional peace, stability, and development, Li said.

For his part, Zhaparov said Kyrgyzstan and China have long been friendly neighbors, maintaining close high-level exchanges and fruitful economic and trade cooperation. He thanked China for its support and assistance in the economic and social development of Kyrgyzstan.

Noting that Kyrgyzstan attaches great importance to its relations with China, Zhaparov said that Kyrgyzstan looks forward to working with China to implement the important consensus reached by the two heads of state, strengthen the synergy of development strategies, deepen the Belt and Road cooperation, advance the construction of the China-Kyrgyzstan-Uzbekistan railway, deepen cooperation in such fields as port construction, connectivity, finance, mining, education and tourism, so as to inject stronger impetus into the development of the Kyrgyzstan-China comprehensive strategic partnership.

Kyrgyzstan firmly supports the vision of building a community with a shared future for mankind and the three global initiatives proposed by President Xi, and stands ready to work with China to strengthen multilateral coordination, boost cooperation between China and Central Asian countries, and jointly promote regional peace and prosperity.

<https://english.news.cn/20241016/bda0f39b088c4d3db070181a38bc914a/c.html>

China to strengthen legislative exchanges, cooperation with Pakistan, says premier

China is willing to maintain high-level exchanges with Pakistan, strengthen strategic communication and firmly support each other, said Chinese Premier Li Qiang on Tuesday.

ISLAMABAD, Oct. 15 (Xinhua) -- China is ready to strengthen exchanges and cooperation with Pakistan's legislative bodies, learn from each other regarding law-based governance, legislative supervision and improvement of people's livelihood, and promote bilateral friendship, Chinese Premier Li Qiang said here Tuesday.

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Mutually beneficial cooperation between China and Pakistan is promising, Li said. The two sides should continue to make joint efforts to translate their economic complementarity into practical cooperation results, he noted.

Li also expressed his hope that the Senate and the National Assembly of Pakistan will provide a sound legal environment for the development of bilateral relations and cooperation.

The Pakistani side said that Pakistan-China friendship has a time-honored tradition and the development of friendly relations with China enjoys broad and profound public support in Pakistan.

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Pakistan highly appreciates and actively participates in Belt and Road cooperation. The construction of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor has been carried out smoothly, bringing tangible benefits to the two peoples.

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<https://english.news.cn/20241016/4db958f97c3f435394e6ead178fa692d/c.html>

Feature: Rashakai SEZ under CPEC begins to contribute to industrial development in Pakistan

Ali Jaswal, Jiang Chao

ISLAMABAD, Oct. 15 (Xinhua) -- Ashraf Orakzai, director of utilities at Rashakai Special Economic Zone (SEZ) in Pakistan's northwest Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) province, starts his work early in the morning no matter how tough the weather is since he considers his job crucial for the country's future.

Orakzai, who belongs to KP and has been working at Rashakai SEZ and the industrial park, part of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) framework, since mid-2022, is highly motivated towards the development of this project as it's going to generate a lot of employment opportunities along with high-scale investment and economic activity not just in his own province but the entire country.

Launched in 2013, 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, which highlights energy, transport, and industrial cooperation in the first phase, while in the new phase expands to fields of agriculture and livelihood, among others.

"As a Pakistani, we all want our country to develop and progress, and such projects, I believe, would play a defining role in economic development and specifically in poverty alleviation," he said.

The SEZ has a complete infrastructure of more than a dozen individual buildings, 7 km of roads, and a variety of complete network facilities, including water, drainage, power supply, and communication.

Invested and implemented by China Road and Bridge Corporation (CRBC), the project is divided into three phases, covering a total area of around 1,000 acres.

The first phase, covering an area of 247 acres, was implemented from June 2021 to March 2023, in which over 60 percent of the land has been leased out, mostly, to Pakistani and Chinese enterprises.

There are 10 different types of industries under construction in the zone, including steel, pharmaceutical, surgical and mobile accessories factories, Orakzai told Xinhua.

Rashakai, as CPEC's first SEZ, is positioned to vigorously promote the next step of industrial cooperation between Pakistan and China under CPEC, said Wu Yuxing, project manager of CRBC at Rashakai.

All infrastructural facilities are designed according to Chinese standards, including the establishment of a complete operation support team, he said.

"At the same time, the overall scale of the park and subsequent operation and maintenance, and services for the entire industrial chain of enterprises are also top quality," he added.

The zone is located around 90 km from the federal capital, Islamabad, and nearly 60 km from Peshawar, the provincial capital of KP, which brings the two major cities within reach of one to two hours. A motorway, railway network and Afghan port are also within its vicinity.

Orakzai said one of the things specifically focused at Rashakai was the ease of doing business, adding that "we have a one-window operation facility with all the relevant departments as well as a facilitation center." Talking to Xinhua, Javed Iqbal Khattak, chief executive officer of KP Economic Zones Development and Management Company, a partner of Rashakai SEZ's management, said that four new industries, including medicine, sulphuric acid, electric cables and pharmaceuticals, are expected to start operations this year. Negotiations have almost been finalized with an electric bike and scooter manufacturing company of young engineers as well, and they are also expected to join later on, he said. These industries will act as a catalyst to attract others, Khattak added. He said the SEZ focuses on promoting export-oriented and import-substitution industries, which would impact Pakistan's overall economy. "As per the agreement, 80 percent of the employment will be given to the locals, which will be a big boost to the development of KP," Khattak said. The local industry will get the chance to learn the best practices in the manufacturing sector from the well-established multi-national corporations, he said, adding that KP's local vendor industry, most importantly, will flourish with the development of Rashakai. SEZs are significant for industrial development in a country in today's world, said Syed Wajid Bukhari, CEO of the Pakistan Association of Large Steel Producers, which has member companies of the Pakistan Business Council and the country's largest private-sector businesses and conglomerates including multinationals. Rashakai is very important symbolically as well because its success would send a good message to foreign investors, he said.

"This development will also be a positive signal for CPEC since industrial development was one of the main targets of CPEC for which massive infrastructure was developed in its first phase," according to Bukhari.

<https://english.news.cn/20241016/81704b0accca4dadbf13d7f9ac9c83de/c.html>

October 17, 2024

Global Times

SCO plays role of stabilizer as world experiences turbulence: observer

Yang Sheng

The 23rd Meeting of the Council of Heads of Government of Member States of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) was held on October 15 and 16 in Islamabad, Pakistan.

During the meeting, Chinese Premier Li Qiang on Wednesday called for deepening and expanding cooperation within the SCO. The SCO is an important platform for safeguarding regional peace and stability and promoting the development and prosperity of all countries, Li noted, adding that at the Astana Summit in July, President Xi Jinping and leaders of SCO member states reached an important consensus on jointly building a common home featuring solidarity and mutual trust, peace and tranquility, prosperity and development, good-neighborliness and friendship, as well as fairness and justice, Xinhua News Agency reported.

Li said that China stands ready to work with all parties to translate the consensus reached by the heads of state into effective actions and turn the vision into reality.

Li put forward four proposals for deepening the SCO cooperation.

First, to strengthen strategic alignment based on missions and tasks. Second, to expand practical cooperation in line with development needs. Third, to focus on major risks and actively respond to them. Fourth, to expand people-to-people exchanges in response to public expectations.

The participants of the meeting said that SCO member states, adhering to the "Shanghai Spirit," have continuously consolidated mutual respect and trust, strengthened good-neighborly friendship and cooperation, and constantly improved the level of regional economic integration, which has strongly promoted regional peace, stability, and development, Xinhua reported.

In the face of a complex and volatile international environment, all parties need to actively implement the outcomes of the Astana Summit, work closely in solidarity and coordination, and strengthen the synergy between the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and the Eurasian Economic Union, they noted.

Chinese analysts said the SCO will keep playing a role of stabilizer to strengthen cooperation and security among countries across Eurasia while the world is experiencing profound changes and turbulence.

Call for cooperation

China has now assumed the rotating presidency of the SCO for 2024-2025. Experts said China will take this opportunity to better promote the development of the organization, boosting counterterrorism cooperation mechanism, expanding traditional cooperation to new areas including the digital economy, green energy and artificial intelligence.

During his trip to Islamabad, Li also met with leaders from other SCO members including Pakistani Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, Russian Prime Minister Mikhail Mishustin, Tajik Prime Minister Kokhir Rasulzoda and Kyrgyz Prime Minister Akylbek Zhaparov, Xinhua reported.

In the bilateral meetings, deepening trade and economic cooperation, particularly under BRI, is frequently mentioned.

Chinese analysts said this shows that the China-proposed BRI has already become a significant part of regional integration and development, as well as a bridge to connect the developments of different countries, and in the future, more and more countries will benefit from it, even though a few certain countries or forces are still trying to stigmatize the initiative.

Li Haidong, a professor from the China Foreign Affairs University, said on Wednesday that during its term in the rotating presidency, China will make efforts to build consensus among SCO members on development and security, to better facilitate the mechanism of cooperation and communication to cope with common challenges and protect the BRI cooperation that benefits everyone.

China has advantages in fields like e-commerce, green energy and infrastructure construction, and the country is willing to share these with its partners to boost joint development for the whole region. This will ensure SCO cooperation can better serve the demand from many developing countries who desperately need not only investment but also technologies, observers said.

Some Western countries are attempting to undermine cooperation among SCO members by stigmatizing the organization.

For example, Bloomberg published an article in July titled "China and Russia are quietly building a NATO rival."

"The SCO and NATO are different in nature. NATO is a military alliance, a legacy of the Cold War, and at the beginning, the SCO is an organization for security and development of the region, now the SCO has higher goals on development, interconnectivity and security for more countries," said Cui Heng, a scholar from the Shanghai-based China National Institute for SCO International Exchange and Judicial Cooperation.

Premier Li signed and issued a joint communique with the participating leaders of SCO member states and approved relevant resolutions related to the development of the SCO.

The Heads of Delegations reaffirmed that the Member States intend to further develop cooperation in the spheres of politics and security, trade, economy, finance and investment, and cultural and humanitarian ties in order to build a peaceful, safe, prosperous and ecologically clean planet Earth to achieve harmonious coexistence of man and nature, according to Pakistani Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202410/1321345.shtml>

People's Daily

China, Pakistan renew currency swap agreement

BEIJING, Oct. 16 (Xinhua) -- China's central bank on Wednesday said that it has renewed a bilateral currency swap agreement with the State Bank of Pakistan.

The total value of the agreement is 30 billion yuan (about 4.21 billion U.S. dollars), or 1.18 trillion Pakistani rupees, the People's Bank of China said in a statement on its website.

The agreement is valid for three years and can be renewed upon mutual consent, according to the statement.

The currency swap arrangement will strengthen financial cooperation between China and Pakistan, expand the use of the two currencies, and promote and facilitate bilateral trade and investment, the statement said.

<http://en.people.cn/n3/2024/1017/c90000-20230617.html>

Full Text: Remarks by Chinese Premier Li Qiang at the 23rd Meeting of the Council of Heads of Government of Member States of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization

ISLAMABAD, Oct. 17 (Xinhua) -- Chinese Premier Li Qiang on Wednesday delivered a speech at the 23rd Meeting of the Council of Heads of Government of Member States of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization.

The following is the full text of the speech:

Remarks by H.E. Li Qiang

Premier of the State Council of the People's Republic of China

At the 23rd Meeting of the Council of Heads of Government of

Member States of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization

Islamabad, October 16, 2024

Your Excellency Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif,

Colleagues,

It is a great pleasure to meet you in Islamabad, the beautiful "city of gardens." At the outset, I wish to express my appreciation to Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and the government of Pakistan for your meticulous preparations and thoughtful arrangements for this meeting. I welcome Prime Minister Roman Golovchenko of Belarus, a new member state of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO).

Over the past year, governments of the member states of the SCO have actively responded to and implemented the common understandings of the Council of Heads of State, carried out solid cooperation in such areas as economy, trade, security and people-to-people exchanges, reached dozens of cooperation documents, and formulated more than 10 reform measures. Fruitful outcomes have been achieved. The member states have forged ahead steadily and

side by side on a collective journey to promote security and development. Unlike most international organizations, the SCO has both a Council of Heads of State and a Council of Heads of Government. As it happens, the specific institutional design, with the Council of Heads of State drawing up the blueprint and the Council of Heads of Government focusing on implementation, has been effective, practical and efficient, and has made the SCO an important platform for maintaining peace and stability in the region and promoting development and prosperity of nations.

At the Astana Summit held last July, President Xi Jinping and fellow leaders of member states reached important understandings on jointly building a common home of the SCO featuring solidarity and mutual trust, peace and tranquility, prosperity and development, good-neighborliness and friendship, and fairness and justice. This endeavor to build a common home is driven by the values we all share; it focuses on the tough issues we all face, and will help create a future we all desire. In my view, this common vision entails efforts in the following five aspects:

First, efforts to build an even more solid political foundation. The fundamental reason why the SCO has stayed vibrant since its inception is that we have upheld the Shanghai Spirit, a vital political consensus, and endeavored to be trustworthy and reliable partners for each other. No matter how the international landscape may evolve, SCO cooperation in various fields will move forward steadily as long as the Shanghai Spirit remains entrenched.

Second, efforts to provide more reliable security safeguards. As we speak, geopolitical conflicts, power politics and acts of bullying continue to undermine regional peace and stability, while on such fronts as cyber security and biosecurity, new threats and new challenges continue to emerge. No country is immune, and the only true security is security for all. Only by further improving the mechanisms and tools to tackle threats and challenges can we provide better safeguards for common development.

Third, efforts to foster closer economic bonds. The SCO's continuous expansion of membership in recent years has created more notable economic complementarity among member states. By deepening our economic ties, resisting external attempts of pulling us apart, and tapping into and pooling our respective strengths in resources, market and industries, we will be able to foster even stronger synergy for development.

Fourth, efforts to cultivate stronger emotional bonds. Our region is home to diverse and splendid civilizations, where different nations and cultures have interacted and converged with each other throughout the course of history and coexisted in harmony. This has been the source of popular support for cooperation among SCO member states. We need to further promote mutual learning among civilizations and cultural exchanges so as to enhance mutual understanding and friendship between the people of SCO member states.

Fifth, efforts to boost coordination in multilateral fora. Embracing 26 countries from three continents, the SCO family is a constructive force that carries important global influence. With our commitment to the purposes and principles of the U.N. Charter, and our enhanced communication and coordinated actions, SCO member states will better rally the developing world in promoting a more just and equitable global order.

As president of the SCO for 2024-2025, China has introduced "Upholding the Shanghai Spirit: SCO on the Move" as our slogan. The goal is to engender effective actions among ourselves to deliver on the agreement of our heads of state and realize the vision of building a common home featuring solidarity and mutual trust, peace and tranquility, prosperity and development, good-neighborliness and friendship, and fairness and justice. In this connection, China proposes the following four points.

First, enhancing strategic synergy for our shared purpose. Pursuing peaceful development is the abiding purpose of the SCO. We should stay grounded in the fundamental and long-term interests of the region, bear in mind the big picture and keep external disruptions at bay. Our best efforts must be directed toward mapping out the SCO's development strategy for the next decade and drawing up roadmaps for cooperation in various areas. Member states should step up strategic communication, bridge differences and boost mutual trust through dialogue, and pool strengths for unity. Second, expanding practical cooperation in line with development needs. The year 2025 will be the SCO Year of Sustainable Development. China stands ready to deepen cooperation with all sides in poverty reduction, digital economy and green development, to generate sustained momentum for development. We should continue to draw impetus from openness and cooperation, boost the region's trade and investment facilitation and connectivity, and maintain stable and smooth industrial and supply chains. Active efforts should be made to establish an SCO development bank in order to provide financing support for countries in their pursuit of development. Third, proactively addressing major risks. Our region continues to face grave security issues. The fight against terrorism, separatism and extremism remains a long-term, arduous task, and various challenges lie ahead in such areas as safeguarding information security and combating transnational organized crime. China stands ready to work with all sides to strengthen intelligence sharing and joint operations, move faster to build a universal center to address the challenges and threats to the security of SCO member states and the Anti-Drug Center, and strive for major outcomes at next year's summit, so that we can put in place new platforms and a new architecture for regional security cooperation.

Fourth, expanding people-to-people exchange to meet popular expectations. We should fully leverage the role of the SCO Committee on Good-Neighborliness, Friendship and Cooperation, develop an effective SCO digital education alliance, organize excellent events under our flagship programs such as the Forum on People-to-People Friendship and the Forum on Friendship Cities, the Forum on Women, and the Art Exhibition of Young Artists, and increase our peoples' participation and sense of fulfillment, to keep people-to-people friendship strong for generations to come.

Colleagues, As an ancient Chinese saying goes, "Those who take real actions are more likely to succeed, and those who hit the road are more likely to reach the destination." Let's continue to carry forward the Shanghai Spirit, pull together, and take practical and determined steps. Let's get on the move to deliver on our responsibility, build prosperity and usher in a better future for our common home.

<http://en.people.cn/n3/2024/1017/c90000-20230593.html>

SCO member states oppose protectionism, unilateral sanctions

The Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) member states on Wednesday expressed their opposition to protectionist measures, unilateral sanctions and trade restrictions that undermine the multilateral trading system and hinder global sustainable development.

ISLAMABAD, Oct. 16 (Xinhua) -- The Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) member states on Wednesday expressed their opposition to protectionist measures, unilateral sanctions and trade restrictions that undermine the multilateral trading system and hinder global sustainable development.

In a joint communique issued during the 23rd Meeting of the Council of Heads of Government of Member States of the SCO, the heads of the delegations said unilateral sanctions violate international law, harm the interests of other countries, and disrupt international economic relations.

They emphasized the importance of leveraging the potential of regional countries, international organizations, and multilateral mechanisms to build a broad, open, mutually beneficial, and equal cooperative space in the SCO region under the principles of international law while considering national interests.

They also expressed the belief that it is crucial to work together in opposing trade protectionism that violates the rules and principles of the World Trade Organization (WTO). They emphasized the importance of continuing to consolidate a non-discriminatory, open, fair, inclusive, and transparent multilateral trading system based on WTO rules and principles.

<http://en.people.cn/n3/2024/1017/c90000-20230555.html>

Chinese premier returns to Beijing from SCO meeting, official visit to Pakistan

BEIJING, Oct. 17 (Xinhua) -- Chinese Premier Li Qiang returned to Beijing on Thursday aboard a chartered plane after attending the 23rd Meeting of the Council of Heads of Government of Member States of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) in Pakistan and paying an official visit to the country.

Li was seen off from the airport by Pakistan's Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Ahsan Iqbal and Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan Jiang Zaidong.

<http://en.people.cn/n3/2024/1017/c90000-20230407.html>

Chinese premier calls for deepening SCO cooperation

ISLAMABAD, Oct. 16 (Xinhua) -- Chinese Premier Li Qiang on Wednesday called for deepening and expanding cooperation within the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) during the 23rd Meeting of the Council of Heads of Government of Member States of the SCO held here.

The SCO is an important platform for safeguarding regional peace and stability and promoting the development and prosperity of all countries, Li noted, adding that at the Astana

Summit in July, Chinese President Xi Jinping and leaders of SCO member states reached an important consensus on jointly building a common home featuring solidarity and mutual trust, peace and tranquility, prosperity and development, good-neighborliness and friendship, as well as fairness and justice.

To build such a common home, a more solid political foundation, more reliable security guarantees, closer economic ties, deeper emotional bond and more coordinated multilateral cooperation are needed, said the premier.

Li said that China stands ready to work with all parties to translate the consensus reached by the heads of state into effective actions and turn the vision of building a common home featuring solidarity and mutual trust, peace and tranquility, prosperity and development, good-neighborliness and friendship, as well as fairness and justice into reality.

Li put forward four proposals for deepening the SCO cooperation. First, to strengthen strategic alignment based on missions and tasks. SCO member states should formulate the SCO's development strategy for the next decade, draw a roadmap for cooperation in various fields, strengthen strategic communication, eliminate differences and enhance mutual trust through dialogue.

Second, to expand practical cooperation in line with development needs. Li urged SCO member states to deepen cooperation in such fields as poverty reduction, digital economy and green development, facilitate regional trade and investment, enhance connectivity, maintain stable and unimpeded industrial and supply chains, and promote the establishment of the SCO Development Bank.

Third, to focus on major risks and actively respond to them. SCO member states should step up joint actions to combat the "three forces," and accelerate the building of a universal center to address the challenges and threats to the security of SCO member states and the Anti-Drug Center, he said.

Fourth, to expand people-to-people exchanges in response to public expectations. SCO member states should give full play to the SCO Committee on Good-Neighborliness, Friendship and Cooperation, build the SCO digital education alliance, organize events under signature programs such as the Forum on People-to-People Friendship, and carry forward and develop the cause of people-to-people friendship, he said.

The participants of the meeting said that SCO member states, adhering to the "Shanghai Spirit," have continuously consolidated mutual respect and trust, strengthened good-neighborly friendship and cooperation, and constantly improved the level of regional economic integration, which has strongly promoted regional peace, stability, and development.

In the face of a complex and volatile international environment, all parties need to actively implement the outcomes of the Astana Summit, work closely in solidarity and coordination, and strengthen the synergy between the Belt and Road Initiative and the Eurasian Economic Union, they noted.

Parties should also deepen cooperation in economy and trade, security, connectivity, energy, finance, green development and poverty reduction, strengthen people-to-people ties, practice genuine multilateralism, and jointly uphold international fairness and justice, so as to promote lasting peace and common prosperity in the region and the world, they added.

Li signed and issued a joint communique with the participating leaders of the SCO member states and approved relevant resolutions related to the development of the SCO.

Attendees of the meeting also included Belarusian Prime Minister Roman Golovchenko, Kazakh Prime Minister Olzhas Bektenov, Kyrgyz Prime Minister Akylbek Japarov, Russian Prime Minister Mikhail Mishustin, Tajik Prime Minister Kokhir Rasulzoda, Uzbek Prime Minister Abdulla Aripov, Indian Foreign Minister Subrahmanyam Jaishankar, Iranian Minister for Industry, Trade and Mining Seyed Mohammad Atabak, and Mongolian Prime Minister Luvsannamsrai Oyun-Erdene.

The guest of the host country, Turkmen Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Rashid Meredov, also participated, with the meeting chaired by Pakistani Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif.

<http://en.people.cn/n3/2024/1017/c90000-20230381.html>

October 18, 2024

People's Daily

Interview: China-Pakistan cooperation thrives via economic corridor

URUMQI, Oct. 17 (Xinhua) -- "China-Pakistan cooperation will be ever-lasting" along their thriving economic corridor, said Sabeen Usman Khattak, executive director of the Associated Press of Pakistan Corporation.

The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), a flagship project under the China-proposed Belt and Road Initiative, serves as a "physical friendship" between both countries, Khattak told Xinhua on the sidelines of the sixth World Media Summit (WMS) held in Beijing and Xinjiang from Oct. 12 to Oct. 17.

Launched in 2013, the CPEC is a corridor linking the Gwadar Port in southwest Pakistan's Balochistan province with Kashgar in northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, which highlights energy, transport, and industrial cooperation and is expanding to the fields of agriculture and livelihood, among others.

Khattak, who has made multiple visits to Gwadar Port, said that in the past, most of the people there were unemployed, but local employment has significantly improved since the launch of the CPEC.

Chinese Premier Li Qiang said on Monday that China is ready to work with Pakistan to build an "upgraded version" of the CPEC, accelerate the construction of major projects in areas such as railways, highways and ports, strengthen industrial integration, deepen practical cooperation in agriculture, mining, information technology, and energy, to ensure bilateral cooperation benefits the people more broadly.

Li made the remarks in his meeting with Pakistani Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif in Islamabad.

Khattak said China, through the CPEC, has not only advanced the development of Gwadar Port but also that of Pakistan as a whole.

This year's WMS has drawn media professionals worldwide to Urumqi, the capital city of Xinjiang. Khattak said she felt a deep sense of connection during her visit to the region.

"China is like a second home to me," she said. "It's not like any other country in the world."

<http://en.people.cn/n3/2024/1018/c90000-20231055.html>

SCO bolsters security cooperation, economic integration among members

Tai Beiping (Xinhua)

BEIJING, Oct. 18 (Xinhua) -- At the just-concluded meeting in Islamabad, Pakistan, government leaders from Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) members called for deepening cooperation in a range of areas including economy and trade, security, connectivity, energy, finance and green development.

Participants to the 23rd Meeting of the Council of Heads of Government of Member States of the SCO agreed that in the face of a complex and volatile international environment, all parties need to actively implement the outcomes of the Astana Summit, work closely in solidarity and coordination.

Since its inception in 2001, the SCO has been committed to strengthening mutual trust, dialogue and cooperation, with its ever-increasing role in bolstering security cooperation and economic integration for its members.

ENHANCING SECURITY, STABILITY

"From the very beginning, the SCO Charter was signed based on the fundamental principle of cooperation in countering the types of threats that are still relevant today -- terrorism, separatism and extremism, as well as drug trafficking, transnational crime and illegal migration," said Evgenia Makhmutova, associate professor at the department of political science of the Financial University under the Government of the Russian Federation.

The member states work on the basis of a list of principles, among which are mutual respect for sovereignty, and non-interference in internal affairs, the scholar told Xinhua.

With effective multilateral cooperation and coordination, the SCO has been playing a positive role in improving security situation of the region over the past more than two decades.

Through its Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure, SCO member countries have been able to enhance intelligence sharing and operational coordination, hence more effective efforts in combating terrorism.

Another important aspect of security cooperation is the exchange of experience and best practices in law enforcement, which encompasses training programs, staff exchanges and technical assistance among member states.

Energy security also holds an important place on the SCO agenda. In recent years, efforts have been directed toward creating a unified energy market and developing joint projects in the energy field.

Under evolving circumstances featuring new geopolitical factors and technological advancements, the SCO is also adapting its activities to new challenges, such as protectionism, cybersecurity and climate change, making the organization more flexible and capable of effectively responding to modern-day threats.

TOWARD ECONOMIC INTEGRATION

Over the years, the SCO has made remarkable achievements in boosting trade and facilitating economic integration among member states.

Sohail Mahmood, former foreign secretary of Pakistan and director general of think tank the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad, said that trade among SCO members had grown significantly since its founding, reflecting the organization's growing influence and global relevance.

As a member state, Pakistan values the SCO mechanism for securing economic cooperation. Amina Masood, professor of the faculty of social sciences of International Islamic University Islamabad, said it's important to take advantage of the SCO meeting in Islamabad to increase the country's trade and technical partnership with Central Asian and South Asian countries.

Economic cooperation has "not only greatly supported socio-economic development in the SCO community, but also contributed to regional and global economic growth and development," the professor said.

The 10-member SCO, which covers over half of the Eurasian landmass, has maintained trade growth and closer economic interactions thanks to better connectivity provided by enhanced infrastructure.

In the region, landmark projects, notably the China-Central Asia Gas Pipeline, the Chinese-built new North-South highway in Kyrgyzstan, the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, the China-Mongolia-Russia Economic Corridor and the Eurasian transport corridor, have greatly facilitated economic exchanges.

At the same time, with a large combined population, the SCO represents vast market potential. Collective economic development of all members helps fuel demand for goods and services, which in turn drives vigorous growth of the region's economies.

GROWING INFLUENCE, VITALITY

Over the past two decades, the SCO has maintained its vitality and become an influential regional and international organization in an international landscape fraught with changes and turbulence.

The Shanghai Spirit ensures that every member state has an equal voice, regardless of economic scale, military potential, or international influence, setting an example of multilateral cooperation. "As the world today is going through a phase of disintegration of the Western-centred system of international security, and the countries of the Global South are

striving for the status of equal and sovereign world players, the potential for the SCO to become a platform for the integration of non-Western forces is noticeably expanding," Makhmutova told Xinhua.

"The growing number of countries interested in this format undoubtedly enhances the status and credibility of the organization," said the Russian scholar.

As its influence grows, the scope of cooperation for SCO, which currently groups China, India, Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Russia, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan and Belarus, with two observer countries and 14 dialogue partners, is also expanding, thereby adding more vitality to the organization.

China, the SCO rotating presidency for 2024-2025, has put forward a central theme of "SCO Year of Sustainable Development."

Under this theme, closer cooperation will be fostered in a wide range of areas, such as poverty alleviation, food security, public health, development financing, climate change and green development, industrialization, digital economy and connectivity.

<http://en.people.cn/n3/2024/1018/c90000-20231213.html>

Xinhua News

World Insights: SCO bolsters security cooperation, economic integration among members

Xinhua writer Tai Beiping

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<https://english.news.cn/20241018/22bae0488e4d48d2811a25a5d93dec04/c.html>

flourishes in Pakistan's Gwadar as symbol of friendship

A China-funded greening project has turned the once-barren land just a few yards away from the bustling Gwadar Port in Pakistan into a vibrant forest. #GLOBALink

<https://english.news.cn/20241018/249ac9fdda284e71ab441428d7e7ef76/c.html>

October 19, 2024

Global Times

Xi to attend 16th BRICS Summit in Kazan, Russia

First one after expansion of BRICS draws attention from intl community

Zhao Yusha

President Xi Jinping will attend the 16th BRICS Summit in Kazan, Russia from October 22 to 24, Foreign Ministry spokesperson Hua Chunying announced on Friday.

During the summit, Xi will attend events including small-group and large-group talks and BRICS Plus Dialogue and deliver important addresses. He will also have in-depth exchanges

with other leaders on the international landscape, the BRICS practical cooperation, the development of BRICS mechanism and important issues of mutual interest, according to Mao Ning, another Foreign Ministry spokesperson.

China stands ready to work with other parties to strive for the steady and sustained development of greater BRICS cooperation, open a new era for the Global South to seek strength through solidarity and jointly promote world peace and development, Mao added.

The BRICS Summit in Kazan is the group's first summit since its expansion, attracting global attention and holding significant importance, Chinese Ambassador to Russia Zhang Hanhui told the Global Times.

Chinese side hopes that this summit can fully reflect friendship and unity, gather consensus from all parties, and outline a development blueprint for the BRICS mechanism. Chinese side supports Russia in hosting this summit and hopes that all member countries will seize the opportunity to send a strong message to the world at this summit, advocating fairness and justice and promoting common development, said Zhang.

This year's BRICS summit, the first since the organization's expansion, will further illustrate its role in upholding true multilateralism and clarifying the prospects for a multipolar world amid a complex geopolitical landscape. Moreover, the increasing number of applications to join the organization not only reflects a growing discontent with a Western-centric order, but also highlights BRICS' appeal to Global South countries by offering a platform that fosters win-win cooperation, encourages equal dialogue, and embraces inclusivity, according to some Chinese experts.

Zhu Tianxiang, executive dean of the Institute of BRICS Studies at Sichuan International Studies University, told the Global Times, that amid the turmoil facing the world, BRICS - a group of countries that constitute 45 percent of the world's population - will place greater emphasis on global governance this year, and aim to facilitate dialogues among its members on pressing global issues to promote true multilateralism.

Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran and the United Arab Emirates became BRICS members on January 1, 2024.

Additionally, countries including Sri Lanka, Cuba, Malaysia, Belarus and Pakistan have expressed the willingness or have applied to join BRICS.

Turkey, a NATO member, has also formally asked to join the BRICS group as it seeks to bolster its global influence, Bloomberg quoted people familiar with the matter as saying in September.

The surge of applications to join BRICS reflects growing discontent with the Western-centric order, Wang Youming, a research fellow at the China Institute of International Studies, told the Global Times.

Global South countries are unwilling to play a supporting role in Western-led organizations, where their contributions and significance are often downplayed, Wang said, noting that in BRICS, these nations not only benefit from the organization's rising economic momentum but also gain access to a platform that promotes equal discussion, win-win cooperation, and inclusiveness.

"BRICS countries are the driver, the powerhouse of economic growth. We see the average growth rates of BRICS economies at present, in 2024-2025, it's 4.4 percent. If we look at G7 countries, this is 1.7 percent. It is clear whose development is more dynamic," Russian media quoted Russian Finance Minister Anton Siluanov as saying earlier this month.

Experts believe that apart from development, other regional and international issues will also be discussed during the Kazan summit.

True multilateralism

International rules must be written and upheld jointly by all countries based on the purposes and principles of the UN Charter, rather than dictated by those with the strongest muscles or the loudest voice. Ganging up to form exclusive groups and packaging their own rules as international norms are even more unacceptable, Xi said when attending the 15th BRICS Summit in Johannesburg, South Africa in 2023.

BRICS countries should practice true multilateralism, uphold the UN-centered international system, support and strengthen the WTO-centered multilateral trading system, and reject the attempt to create small circles or exclusive blocs, said Xi.

The role of BRICS has been clear since its establishment: it does not seek to replace or confront existing organizations, nor does it aim to serve as an alternative, said Wang.

He noted that the fundamental difference between BRICS and Western-led organizations lies in BRICS' emphasis on non-alignment while promoting open cooperation and inclusiveness. This approach allows Global South countries to feel no strategic pressure, which is why many of these nations are eager to join the bloc.

It is safe to say that BRICS has further accelerated the current process of multipolarity, making its prospects clearer. The organization aims to reform and innovate the inequities of the existing global order, striving for a system that is fair and equitable, and advocate for a model of governance characterized by joint decision-making, consultation, and shared benefits, Zhu said.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202410/1321471.shtml>

October 21, 2024

People's Daily

China contributes its part to maintaining world peace, stability

Yu Jinghao, Yu Yichun (People's Daily)

In Wau, Western Bahr el Ghazal state, South Sudan, stands a blue and white brick-and-concrete structure. This is a police station named after a Chinese peacekeeping police officer - Dongxing.

In 2008, Sun Dongxing was sent to Wau on a United Nations peacekeeping mission. The local police station was dilapidated and unusable. Responding to the pleas of local officials, he raised funds, hired a construction team, purchased materials, made renovation designs, and supervised the renovation of the police station.

Over the past 16 years, the Dongxing Police Station has always been a symbol of China's commitment to peace and friendliness.

"China has always been an envoy of peace, helping South Sudan maintain social stability. I'm very grateful to China," said Kon Mel Ayok, a senior police officer with the Western Bahr el Ghazal State Police Department.

In the 75 years since the founding of the People's Republic of China, the country has always followed the path of peaceful development and been a staunch force that safeguards world peace.

China is the only major country that has written peaceful development into the Constitution of the country and the Constitution of the governing party, thus making peaceful development a commitment of the nation.

China is the only country among the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council that has pledged no-first-use of nuclear weapons. It is also the biggest contributor of peacekeepers among the permanent members of the Security Council, and the second largest contributor to the United Nation's regular budget and peacekeeping assessment.

Over the past more than 30 years, China has sent more than 50,000 Chinese soldiers and over 2,700 Chinese police officers to peacekeeping missions in more than 20 countries and regions.

United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said that China's peaceful development is a noble cause in human history, benefiting the peace and progress of all humanity.

In late July, 14 Palestinian factions gathered at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing for a reconciliation dialogue, and signed the Beijing Declaration on Ending Division and Strengthening Palestinian National Unity. It has become a crucial step toward the resolution of the Palestinian question and the realization of peace and stability in the Middle East.

Mahmoud al-Aloul, deputy chief of the Fatah Movement, said at the signing ceremony that China is a beacon of light, and its efforts to promote reconciliation among various factions in Palestine are rare and commendable in the international arena.

In May 2014, Chinese President Xi Jinping put forward the vision of common, comprehensive, cooperative and sustainable security. About eight years later, eyeing the future of mankind, he solemnly proposed the Global Security Initiative (GSI). The initiative gives explicit answers to questions of the times such as what security concept the world needs and how countries can achieve common security. It charts the course for achieving lasting peace and universal security.

So far, the GSI has garnered support and appreciation from over 100 countries and international and regional organizations. The initiative and its core concepts have been written into more than 90 bilateral and multilateral documents on China's cooperation with other countries and international organizations, making it a globally influential international consensus.

China firmly upholds the basic norms governing international relations and safeguards international fairness and justice. It has always decided its position and policy on issues based on their own merits. China respects the sovereignty and territorial integrity of all countries, and stands firmly against all forms of hegemonism and power politics.

China leverages the role of the United Nations with all parties, promotes security cooperation within the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, BRICS cooperation, Conference on Interaction and Confidence-Building Measures in Asia, and other mechanisms.

It continues to build international security dialogue and exchange platforms such as the Beijing Xiangshan Forum and the Global Public Security Cooperation Forum (Lianyungang).

China is also establishing international exchange and cooperation platforms and mechanisms in areas such as counter-terrorism, law enforcement, cybersecurity, emerging technologies, and climate change.

The country has issued position papers on the Ukraine crisis, Palestine-Israel conflict and Afghan issue. It has facilitated the reconciliation between Saudi Arabia and Iran.

Nigerian President Bola Tinubu said China is a powerful force in maintaining world peace and stability, and is committed to resolving conflicts through dialogue and negotiation.

At the recent 2024 Summit of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation held in Beijing, China vowed to help Africa improve its capacity in safeguarding peace and stability independently. It put forward the Partnership Action for Common Security, to prioritize Africa in implementing the GSI, promote mutual reinforcement of high-quality development and greater security, and work together with Africa to uphold world peace and stability.

In countries like Iraq and Pakistan, a large number of projects aided by China or undertaken by Chinese enterprises, such as road construction, power plant establishment, and factory operation, have been successfully implemented. These projects, which bring both economic and social benefits, are effectively addressing the root causes of instability and enhancing the international strength in maintaining world peace.

Dedicated to peace, development, cooperation, and mutual benefit, China will strive to safeguard world peace and development as it pursues its own development, and it will make greater contributions to world peace and development through its own development. Every increase of China's strength is an increase of the prospects of world peace.

<http://en.people.cn/n3/2024/1021/c90000-20231767.html>

October 22, 2024

People's Daily

Afghan businessman eyes more pine nut export to China

KHOST, Afghanistan, Oct. 22 (Xinhua) -- Afghan businessman Afsar Ali Khan is looking forward to exporting up to 3,500 tons of pine nuts to China. He hopes to increase the volume of trade of the precious seeds to the neighboring country.

"The pine nut harvest in Khost and the neighboring Paktia province has been doubled in comparison with the previous year and I am hopeful to be able to export as much as 3,500 tons of pine to China via air corridor this year," Khan told Xinhua.

Describing China as a lucrative market for Afghanistan's pine nuts, the businessman said that 2,500 tons of pine nuts were exported to China last year and each 52 kg of pine nuts sold more than 400,000 afghani (6,000 U.S. dollars) in the neighboring country.

Afghanistan's pine nuts are largely exported to China, followed by Arab countries, India, Pakistan, Canada, and some European nations.

<http://en.people.cn/n3/2024/1022/c90000-20232280.html>

October 28, 2024

Global Times

Sinologists explore Chinese civilization's role in global modernization

Harmony in diversity

Bi Mengying in Nanping

The China-proposed global initiatives are "not only a very good solution to our world's problems, but are also an expression of traditional Chinese culture," noted Australian sinologist Colin Mackerras at the ongoing Second World Conference of Sinologists.

The conference opened Sunday in Nanping, East China's Fujian Province, with a focus on understanding Chinese civilization and promoting global modernization.

Co-organized by the Chinese Association for International Understanding (CAFIU) and the People's Government of Fujian Province, it gathered over 200 representatives from 60 countries across the world.

Rooted in ancient wisdom

The purpose of holding the conference is to actively implement the Global Civilization Initiative (GCI) and promote dialogue and exchanges between Chinese and international civilizations, said Ji Bingxuan, the president of the CAFIU, at the opening ceremony.

Mackerras, who recently celebrated his 60th anniversary of teaching in China, noted in his keynote speech that the essence of Confucian philosophy in China centers around the concept of "harmony." Similarly, Carsten Boyer Thogersen, a former Danish diplomat to China, pointed to the phrase *he er bu tong*, which originates from Confucian thought, as China's ancient wisdom - harmony in diversity.

The three global initiatives proposed by Chinese President Xi Jinping are rooted in traditional Chinese culture, reflect values like harmony in diversity and inclusivity. These principles foster global peace, development, and prosperity, Thogersen told the Global Times.

"All three initiatives have great appeal, especially for the developing countries of the Global South. Many in Pakistan view, as China revives the old Silk Roads under [the] Belt and Road Initiative that the GCI is another chance for China to make greater contributions to the world

and on the other hand it is a great and unique opportunity for the world to understand China better," Zafar Uddin Mahmood, the former special envoy for the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, told the Global Times.

Strong tradition pride

"There is a need that the deep philosophical contours of the GCI be understood, adjusted to the local conditions of each country while remaining focused on the course of modernization based on the aspiration of the people," said Mahmood.

While agreeing with Mahmood, Slovenian sinologist Matej Zima noted that China's modernization not only entails the development of China itself, but the world at large, and especially the Global South."

While cross-cultural interactions have collectively driven social progress and influenced the trajectory of global civilizations, sinologists have often played a unique bridging role in these exchanges, actively contributing to the deepening of the mutual understanding between civilizations, said Ding Jianning, President of Yangzhou University in East China's Jiangsu Province.

To understand China in the New Era, it is essential to grasp how traditional Chinese culture is closely integrated into modern development. The conference held three parallel sessions for sinologists to reflect upon the relationship between Chinese Civilization and Chinese modernization.

Mackerras has made frequent trips to many regions in China with ethnic minority populations such as Northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, Southwest China's Xizang Autonomous Region, and North China's Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region. "I admire the way China uses traditions to advance modernization, as well as for the minority nationalities," Mackerras told the Global Times.

Using his personal observation in Xizang for example, he noted that local ethnic cultures have been very well preserved in various aspects such as language, clothing, food, architecture, and religions.

He noted the trend of Chinese people taking greater pride in their own traditions, especially among the youth, is growing stronger.

"I think a vibrant economy does contribute to this." Mackerras gave some examples, arguing that the passing on of traditional cultures depends on education systems. Money is needed to build a theater in a place where you can promote local performing arts. And the achievements cannot be separated from the government's dedication.

Moving forward

For sinologists to shoulder the responsibility and mission of fostering cultural integration in the global pursuit of prosperity, Ding turned to three key aspects for discussion.

Sinological research should delve deeply into Chinese cultural heritage and compare it with other cultures in the world. Sinology-related education should also be strengthened.

Meanwhile, promoting collaboration among international sinology research institutions and academic organizations is essential.

Argentinian sinologist Gustavo Girado highlighted the importance of promoting sinology and enhancing understanding of China in general within universities. "The goal is to engage more students and ensure they graduate with a genuine understanding of China. Graduates from these programs often go on to work in local and national government institutions, where they play vital roles in deepening understanding and fostering collaboration with China."

Drawing from his journey of being a sinologist, Zima called on sinologists to study China through firsthand experiences of working in and on contemporary China, so they can better serve as bridges between the Chinese civilization and their own cultures. "China is changing rapidly, and sinology is changing rapidly as well," he told the Global Times.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202410/1322017.shtml>

October 30, 2024

Global Times

GCI spreads seeds of harmonious world by connecting cultures

Road to mutual appreciation

Xu Liuliu, Ji Yuqiao, and Bi Mengying

Editor's Note: In an era marked by unprecedented global transformations, the world stands at a critical crossroads, grappling with deepening deficits in peace, development, security, and governance. As humanity faces unparalleled challenges during this tumultuous period, Xi Jinping, general secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee and Chinese president, has put forth a solemn call to action through the Global Development Initiative (GDI), the Global Security Initiative (GSI), and the Global Civilization Initiative (GCI).

The three pivotal initiatives address the pressing issues of our time, offering viable pathways and robust support for the building of a global community of shared future. Rooted in the rich historical experiences of the CPC's century-long struggle and infused with the wisdom of China's traditional culture, these initiatives are expected to unite the world in the pursuit of common progress and stability.

To offer a deeper understanding of the GDI, the GSI, and the GCI, and elaborate on their significance on a global scale, the Global Times is launching a new article series featuring engaging stories and in-depth interviews to provide our readers with a comprehensive insight into the three initiatives.

When Tang Yunpeng took his usual drive to an archaeological site in Uzbekistan with local archaeologists one afternoon in 2019, a terrace, rising several dozen meters in height, subtly discernible on the horizon, grabbed his attention.

Tang and his colleagues surmised that this place had likely been chosen by ancient people as a settlement site. Ancient pottery fragments found scattered on the terrace proved their

conjecture. The Chinortepa ruins site, offering precious first-hand materials for research on the Kushan Empire along the Silk Road, was rediscovered after around 2,000 years.

For thousands of years, people of China and Uzbekistan have maintained communication, trade, and cultural exchanges. Nowadays, they are now growing even closer through various exchanges that benefit both sides. From cultural events to tourism, the two peoples are continuing the close tie along the Silk Road. In 2020, the Chinese-Uzbek center for traditional medicine opened in the Uzbek capital Tashkent to promote traditional Chinese medicine in the Central Asian nation.

From ancient to modern times, China has been on the Silk Road for goods trade and people-to-people exchanges and cooperation.

The stories along the Silk Road have been seen as a vivid reflection of cooperation and mutual appreciation, resonating with the spirit of the Global Civilization Initiative (GCI), which was proposed by Chinese President Xi Jinping. The initiative, inspired by Chinese wisdom and principles of peaceful coexistence, focuses on respect for diversity, mutual learning, innovation, and people-to-people exchanges.

"The Chinese civilization has made significant contributions to the cause of human progress," Somsa Ath Ounsida, a member of the Provincial Committee of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party and vice governor of Khammouan Province, told the Global Times at a dialogue on traditional Chinese culture and cultural exchanges in Beijing in June 2024. "While inheriting China's fine traditional culture, China promotes cultural innovation, providing new ideas for the development of human civilization and the better promotion of dialogue and exchanges between Eastern and Western cultures."

"In today's era of globalization, all countries should uphold the concept of equality, respect each other, and coexist harmoniously. The culture of each country and nation is unique and independent, and together constitute the diversity of world culture. Strengthening cultural exchanges is important and crucial in promoting the prosperity of world culture," he said, while commenting on China's efforts in promoting exchanges.

As today's world grapples with threats and challenges, people with good intentions "must ensure that culture powers cooperation. The world must choose cooperation instead of tension and confrontation," former French prime minister Jean-Pierre Raffarin said in his video speech at the 2024 Beijing Culture Forum in October.

Boosting cultural vitality

People living in present-day Central Asia have gained a deeper understanding of their own civilizations and the significance of cultural exchanges, thanks to the work of Chinese archaeologists.

The Collaborative Research Center for Archaeology of the Silk Roads, where Tang works, brings together a team of the most experienced archaeologists in Shaanxi Province - the starting point of the Silk Road. Together, they have undertaken a series of archaeological projects in collaboration with local research institutes across Central Asia.

Liang Yun, a professor at the Academy of Cultural Heritage at Northwest University and a member of the archaeological team at the research center, told the Global Times that one of the most significant turning points and breakthroughs of research on ancient Silk Road was the discovery of Rabat Cemetery in Boysun City, Uzbekistan.

The excavation of the cemetery, led by Chinese archaeologists and assisted by Uzbek experts, sheds a light on the connotations of ancient culture in the region. The discovery of cultural relics showcasing a blend of diverse civilizations - featuring Chinese patterns and Mediterranean amulets - significantly demonstrates how cultural exchanges have contributed to the flourishing of local civilization, according to Liang.

"When local residents are reminded of the significance of their civilization through these ancient ruins and cultural relics, a deep sense of cultural pride and understanding of the significance of cultural exchanges wells up within them," said Tang, reflecting on his interactions with Uzbek locals.

"This realization serves as powerful evidence that our joint archaeological projects under the guidance of the core spirits of the GCI are revitalizing local culture," Tang observed.

Cultural diversity, mutual respect

The GCI, proposed by Xi when he delivered a keynote speech at the opening ceremony of the CPC in Dialogue with World Political Parties High-Level Meeting in March 2023, is another major public product provided to the world by China after the GDI and the GSI, both put forward by Xi, in 2021 and 2022, respectively, as Xinhua reported.

The initiative has been seen as a gift to the world that will inject fresh and strong energy into the common development and progress of human society in a world fraught with multiple challenges and crises, as confirmed by international scholars.

An increasing number of practices and cultural products are now being embraced within the gift box known as the GCI, shared by the world including China.

United under the theme of exchanges and dialogues, the world has tasted the fruits of cultural diversity and mutual respect, important components of the GCI, through concerts, exhibitions, movies, meetings, and more.

Since the proposal from the Chinese leader, China and other countries have intensified efforts to promote cultural understanding and exchanges. Initiatives include collaborative heritage conservation measures utilizing digital technologies between China and Greece, as well as an exhibition at the Paris 2024 Olympic Games highlighting the beauty of diverse civilizations through artworks, including China's esteemed Ru porcelain.

"Such healthy and positive interactions between civilizations offer opportunities for different cultures to grow and flourish through learning from each other. These civilizational interactive processes require expanded people-to-people exchanges aside from respect for cultural diversity," Zafar Uddin Mahmood, the former special envoy for the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, told the Global Times, expressing his appreciation of the values espoused by the GCI that contribute to the healthy and positive development of the whole world.

The Pakistani scholar noted that the GCI demonstrates that China is a civilizational state which has a deep understanding of the importance of connectivity and interaction among different living civilizations. "China has undertaken arduous efforts to create networks for civilizational connectivity." Ronnie Lins, director of the China-Brazil Center for Research and Business, visited Chinese cities such as Beijing, Kashi, and Urumqi. Through his observation, he noted that China manages to create a harmonious scenario where the preservation of its rich history complements the acceptance of technological innovations, allowing the old and the new to strengthen and enhance each other. The philosophy behind such harmony could benefit other civilizations too. "The GCI offers an 'open-source platform' for civilizations to connect, where each culture represents a unique line of code that adds value to the global system, without one line of code being more important than another," he told the Global Times.

Global consensus

Over seven centuries ago, the young Venetian merchant and explorer Marco Polo embarked on a trailblazing journey along the ancient Silk Road that led him through Central Asia to China. Amid the commemoration of the 700th anniversary of Marco Polo's death and the 20th anniversary of the China-Italy comprehensive strategic partnership, a grand exhibition titled A Journey of Knowledge: The Travels of Marco Polo and its Legacy between East and West, was launched at the China Millennium Monument in Beijing earlier this year.

Guicciardo Sassoli de Bianchi, an art historian and project curator with the Italian Institute of Culture in Beijing, described the Sino-Italian cooperation as "a symbolic way to explain how the exchange of civilizations happened." Robert Walker, a fellow at the Academy of Social Sciences in the UK, told the Global Times that the world "is experiencing enormous tensions. We have to work together to solve common problems" as well as hosting events like the Beijing Culture Forum, a platform for people to share and communicate. In contrast to the Western claims of the "superiority of certain civilizations and a clash of civilizations," China has called for the upholding of the principles of equality, mutual learning, dialogue, and inclusiveness among civilizations. It emphasizes the importance of cultural exchanges transcending estrangement, mutual learning transcending clashes, and coexistence transcending feelings of superiority. Voices from all corners of the world resonate with the wisdom of the ancient Chinese about human civilization, encapsulated in the saying, "Yue Yin Wan Chuan" (literally, the moon shines on multiple rivers). This phrase reflects how the moon takes on countless forms on the surface of the water, just as human civilizations do around the globe. With their unique histories, cultures, and customs, various civilizations have flourished. This rich diversity leads to exchange; exchange fosters integration, and integration drives progress. In this ongoing journey, the GCI acts as a powerful force for advancing the common growth of all human civilizations.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202410/1322150.shtml>

People's Daily

China's unstoppable rise in science and technology

Zamir Ahmed Awan

In an era marked by rapid technological advancements and fierce global competition, China has emerged as a formidable leader in science and technology (S&T). Recent moves by the United States to restrict high-tech investment in China not only risk stunting U.S. growth but also highlight a fundamental misunderstanding of the realities of today's global S&T landscape. Rather than being coerced or contained, China has established a robust foundation in S&T that positions it at the forefront of innovation.

China's achievements in S&T are evident in various metrics, particularly research publications and patent filings. According to the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), China has consistently led the world in patent applications. In 2019, China overtook the U.S. as the top source of international patent applications filed with the WIPO and has since stayed at the top, demonstrating China's unwavering commitment to innovation and intellectual property development.

Moreover, China's research output has also skyrocketed. According to the Nature Index, which tracks high-quality research articles, China surpassed the U.S. in the number of scientific publications in prestigious journals as early as 2016. This trend has continued to grow, with Chinese researchers contributing a significant share of the most-cited papers in fields such as materials science, chemistry, and engineering. This strong research performance is underpinned by substantial investments in education and infrastructure, with China producing about 4 million engineering graduates each year—far exceeding the output of the U.S.

The U.S. decision to impose investment restrictions on Chinese sectors like semiconductors, artificial intelligence, and quantum technology is counterproductive. Such actions ignore the reality that China has developed an impressive S&T base, characterized by world-class research institutions, a highly skilled workforce, and substantial funding. The Chinese government has poured billions into advancing technologies that are crucial for the future, creating an environment where innovation can thrive.

For instance, in the field of artificial intelligence, China is leading the charge with initiatives that prioritize research and development. Reports from the McKinsey Global Institute indicate that by 2030, AI could contribute \$7 trillion to China's economy, making it a significant player on the global stage. This potential is fueled by a vast domestic market and a strong emphasis on R&D, which together create a fertile ground for technological breakthroughs.

Efforts to contain or isolate China technologically will ultimately fail. The entrepreneurial spirit and innovative capabilities that have propelled China's ascent are deeply embedded in its society and economy. The reality is that China has surpassed a stage where it can be easily influenced by external pressures. Attempts to restrict access to advanced technologies will only hinder global collaboration and economic growth.

The U.S. should reconsider its approach and recognize that the path to prosperity lies in cooperation rather than confrontation. Engaging with China as a partner in innovation can lead to mutually beneficial outcomes. Collaborative efforts in research, technology transfer, and shared goals in areas like climate change and public health can create a win-win scenario for both nations and beyond.

Summary

China has firmly established itself as a global leader in science and technology. It is imperative that the narrative surrounding its rise shifts from one of competition to one of collaboration. The rapid advancements China has made in various fields—ranging from artificial intelligence and biotechnology to renewable energy—highlight not only its capabilities but also the potential for meaningful partnerships with other nations.

Recognizing China's strengths is crucial for fostering a cooperative framework that can effectively tackle pressing global challenges, such as climate change, public health crises, and food security. In a world that is increasingly interconnected, collaboration will be key to harnessing innovation and addressing issues that transcend national borders. By working together, countries can leverage their unique strengths and resources, ultimately leading to sustainable growth and shared prosperity.

The future of innovation is not about erecting barriers or drawing lines in the sand; it is about building bridges that connect diverse talents, perspectives, and ideas. Embracing a spirit of collaboration will not only enhance technological advancements but also enrich cultural exchanges, fostering mutual understanding and respect among nations.

As we move forward, it is essential to cultivate environments that encourage dialogue and cooperation rather than division. By doing so, we can create a more inclusive and prosperous future—one where the combined efforts of all nations lead to breakthroughs that benefit humanity as a whole. Embracing collaboration over competition will pave the way for a brighter tomorrow, where innovation thrives in an atmosphere of trust and partnership.

<http://en.people.cn/n3/2024/1030/c90000-20235760.html>