



# For Better Understanding on China–Pakistan and CPEC

## Gleanings from the National & Chinese Press

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September 01-15, 2024

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**September 01, 2024**

**The Express Tribune**

**Chinese firm plans to invest in clean energy**

Will set up first manufacturing unit for inverters, batteries

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Board of Investment, Privatisation and Communications Abdul Aleem Khan on Saturday got assurance from Chinese group Hexing Electrical that it would make heavy investment by establishing a new industrial unit, especially in the renewable energy sector.

Hexing Electrical Chairman Liangzhang Zhou, along with a delegation, met the minister for investment and informed him that it would be the first such industry in Pakistan that would manufacture inverters and batteries following injection of massive capital.

Khan, while welcoming the company's decision, stressed that there were vast opportunities for investment and substantial results could be achieved in current circumstances where business environment was among the best.

He said that investors from other countries, including China, would be ensured provision of extraordinary facilities, adding that the establishment of new factories would increase employment and exports as well as give a boost to the economy.

The minister emphasised that transfer of industries from China and the setting up of new factories on a large scale would be a very welcome step.

Assuring full cooperation to the business delegation, the federal minister remarked "Pakistan values investment from China and will take relevant ministries on board to make this step possible, for which stakeholders will also be consulted."

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2492592/chinese-firm-plans-to-invest-in-clean-energy>

**The News**

**Chinese group to launch Pakistan's first inverter and battery plant**

*Israr Khan*

ISLAMABAD: A Chinese investment group has expressed a strong interest in establishing Pakistan's first industry dedicated to manufacturing inverters and batteries. The proposed investment is set to boost Pakistan's emerging electronics sector, potentially driving technological advancements and job creation. Liangzhang Zhou, Chairman of the Chinese business conglomerate Hexing Electrical Group, led a delegation to Islamabad, where he met with Abdul Aleem Khan, Federal Minister for Board of Investment, Privatization, and Communications. Chairman Hexing Electrical Group said that his organization is serving in 90 countries with a workforce of 7,000 while Hexing Group has established factories in 20 countries. On the same pattern, it will set up a factory in Pakistan as well. CEO of Hexing Group Xu Guoneng and Director of Sales Ma Zuo teng also briefed the federal minister on

their investment plan in Pakistan. Director HR Europe of Hexing Group Junaid Hussain threw light on the proposed project and activities of his group. Minister Khan welcomed the initiative, highlighting Pakistan's readiness to offer a conducive environment for foreign investors. He emphasized the potential benefits of this investment, including job creation and a boost to exports, which could invigorate the country's economic prospects. Khan reassured the Chinese delegation of comprehensive support from relevant ministries and stakeholders, aiming to facilitate the establishment of these new factories. Minister welcomed the planned transfer of industries from China to Pakistan, calling it a significant step. He assured the Chinese business delegation of full cooperation, emphasizing that Pakistan values the investment and will involve relevant ministries and stakeholders to facilitate the process. Following the prime minister's recent visit to China, Khan noted that increased joint ventures reflect strong confidence from Chinese investors. He committed to acting as a goodwill ambassador for Chinese investors and highlighted the importance of foreign investment in the electrical sector for Pakistan's development.

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=338360>

### Express News

#### سی پیک کے گیارہ منصوبے، 2 کھرب سے زائد کی لاگت آئیگی

کھرب 76 ارب روپے کی لاگت سے سی پیک کے گیارہ زیر تعمیر ترقیاتی منصوبوں کی تفصیلات ایکسپریس نیوز کو موصول ہو گئیں۔ 2: اسلام آباد

تفصیلات کے مطابق 146 ارب روپے کے پانچ ترقیاتی منصوبے رواں سال مکمل کرنے کا ہدف مقرر کر دیا گیا، 31 ارب سے زائد تین سی پیک منصوبے آئندہ سال کی تعمیر 2027 تک مکمل ہوگی۔ 7 ارب سے زائد کی لاگت سے کھنڈی موسی خیل 103 کلومیٹر سی M-8 مکمل کئے جائیں گے، 32 ارب روپے کی لاگت سے شروع پیک روٹ کی تعمیر بھی رواں سال مکمل ہوگی۔

ارب 93 کروڑ کا سکی کناری پاور پراجیکٹ کی رواں سال تکمیل متوقع ہے، سندھ میں 6 ارب 17 کروڑ روپے کا دھاتیجی منصوبہ بھی رواں سال مکمل ہوگا۔ 79 علامہ اقبال انڈسٹریل سٹی 5 ارب 97 کروڑ سے آئندہ سال، ہوشاب آواران خضدار سیکشن ایم-328 ارب 24 کروڑ روپے سے 2027 میں مکمل ہوگا، دس سالوں میں سی پیک کے تحت 25 ارب ڈالر سے زائد 37 منصوبوں کی تکمیل ہو چکی۔

<https://www.express.pk/story/2696096/1/>

## K2 Daily

بہا ہے جس میں ممالک مسلم کے بھائے جیتی، نماز آرائی کے بھائے بات چیت، تجارت کے بھائے تعاون اور گنت پاپار کے حالات کے بھائے جیت جیت نتائج کا انتخاب کریں۔ اس مصلحت کے حصول کے لیے تمام ممالک کو اقوام متحدہ کے چارٹر کے مقاصد اور اصولوں کو برقرار رکھنا چاہیے، بین الاقوامی تعلقات کو چلانے والے عالمی سطح پر تسلیم شدہ بنیادی اصولوں کا تحفظ کرنا چاہیے اور حقیقی تیز رفتاری پر عمل کرنا چاہیے۔ اس کے کوئی فرق نہیں پڑتا کہ بین الاقوامی منظر نامہ کس طرح تبدیل ہوتا ہے، لیکن ہمیشہ تاریخ کی درست سمت میں گڑا رہا ہے اور انصاف اور شفافیت کو برقرار رکھے ہوئے ہے۔ دنیا بھی تسلیم کرتی ہے کہ بین الاقوامی امن کا مضبوطی مہم، عالمی ترقی میں حصہ دار اور بین الاقوامی نظم و نسق کا محافظ رہے گا۔ لیکن ہمیشہ یہ موقف اپنایا ہے کہ وہ انصاف اور شفافیت کو برقرار رکھے گا، حقیقی تیز رفتاری کی پاسداری کرے گا، اقوام متحدہ کے دائرہ کار اور کردار کا تحفظ کرے گا، عالمی گورننس کے ڈھانچے کو زیادہ متوازن اور موثر بنانے کا اور ایک مساوی اور منظم کثیر قومی دنیا کی تعمیر کرے گا۔ حالیہ برسوں میں دنیائے جنوبی مشاہدہ کیا ہے کہ کیسے لیکن نے بین الاقوامی امور میں مسلسل عدول و انصاف کو برقرار رکھا ہے جبکہ اہم مسائل کا حل تلاش کرنے کے لیے بات چیت اور مشاورت کا حقیقی راستہ اپنایا ہے۔ لیکن کے نزدیک مساوات اور انصاف کو فروغ دینے کی کوششیں دیرپا امن و استحکام کی کلید ہیں۔ اس کی ایک تازہ مثال اردن برس تیس مئی کو چینی صدر شی جن پینگ کا لیکن عرب ممالک تعاون فورم کی دسویں وزارتی کانفرنس کی افتتاحی تقریب سے کلیدی خطاب ہے۔ انہوں (ہائی صنف 6 بجہ نمبر 30)



**چین کا کھلا دوستانہ رویہ**  
شاہد افرا خان

یہ ایک حقیقت ہے کہ انصاف اور شفافیت کو برقرار رکھنا چینی سفارت کاری کی ایک عمدہ روایت اور غیر حرجل عزم رہا ہے۔ 70 سال قبل پر امن بنانے باہمی کے پانچ اصولوں کو سامنے لانے سے لے کر نئے دور میں ایک نئی قسم کے بین الاقوامی تعلقات اور نئی نوع انسان کے ہم نصاب سماج کی تعمیر کو فعال طور پر آگے بڑھانے تک، لیکن نے عالمی امن کے تحفظ اور مشترکہ ترقی کو فروغ دینے میں اپنی طاقت کا کردار ادا کرنے کے لیے شہس اقدامات اٹھائے ہیں۔ بین الاقوامی تعلقات کو فروغ دینے میں، لیکن تمام بڑے یا چھوٹے ممالک کے درمیان مساوات کے لیے پرعزم ہے اور انصاف کو ترجیح دیتے ہوئے باہمی مفادات کے حامل تعلقات کو جوڑنے کے اصول پر عمل پیرا ہے۔ لیکن بڑی طاقتوں کے مساوات یا غیر افغانی سیاسی اثر و رسوخ کا غور نہیں ہے۔ یہ دوسرے ممالک کے اندرونی معاملات میں مداخلت نہیں کرتا ہے یا انہیں فریق لینے پر مجبور نہیں کرتا ہے۔ بروقت ہوئی بالادستی اور اقتدار کی سیاست کا سامنا کرتے ہوئے لیکن ہمیشہ انصاف کا دفاع کرتا رہا ہے۔ اس نے بین الاقوامی معاملات پر غلبہ حاصل کرنے کی کوششیں نہیں کی ہیں۔ اس نے ہنس پشت ڈال دیا ہے، عالمی سطح پر امن کے نظام میں ترقی پزیر ممالک کی نمائندگی اور آواز میں اضافے کا مطالبہ کیا ہے، افریقی ممالک کے ساتھ ہونے والی تاریخی نا انصافیوں کو ترجیح کے طور پر حل کرنے کی حمایت کی ہے اور تمام غیر قانونی مداخلتوں کو ہٹانے پر زور دیا ہے۔ ان کوششوں سے لیکن نے ترقی پزیر ممالک کے مشترکہ اور جائز حقوق اور مفادات کو منظمی سے برقرار رکھا ہے اور بین الاقوامی نظام کو زیادہ منصفانہ اور شفاف بنایا ہے۔ تسلط

یہند طاقتوں کی طاقت کا دفاع یعنی طور پر لیکن کی خود بخاری، قومی وقار اور علاقائی سلطنت کے تحفظ کے بارے میں بھی ہے۔ بیرونی مداخلت اور اشتعال انگیزی کا سامنا کرتے ہوئے لیکن نے ثابت قدمی اور طاقت کے ساتھ جواب دیا، غیر منصفانہ جبری مختلف کارروائیوں کے جواب میں، لیکن نے جائز اور معقول جوابی اقدامات اٹھائے۔ بین الاقوامی امور میں لیکن مسلسل عدول و انصاف کو برقرار رکھے ہوئے ہے جبکہ اہم مسائل کے حل کے لیے ہمیشہ کوشاں ہے۔ اس طرح لیکن نے مساوات اور انصاف کو فروغ دینے کی کوشش کی ہے اور دیرپا امن و استحکام میں اپنا کردار ادا کیا ہے۔ لیکن گلوبل ساتھ ساتھ ساتھ برابری، کھلے ہیں، شفافیت اور شمولیت کی بنیاد پر بڑا ہوا ہے، جس سے بین الاقوامی برادری میں انصاف اور شفافیت کی طاقت کو تقویت ملتی ہے۔ گلوبل ساتھ کے ایک اہم رکن کی حیثیت سے لیکن بین الاقوامی معاملات کو سنبھالنے وقت پرستے سے بڑے نتائج کی بنیاد پر اپنا موقف کھیل دیتا ہے، بین الاقوامی تعلقات کے بنیادی اصولوں کی پاسداری کرتا ہے، اور تمام ممالک، خاص طور پر ترقی پزیر ممالک کے جائز حقوق اور مفادات کا تحفظ کرتا ہے۔ اسی طرح لیکن نے توسیع شدہ برکس اور شنگھائی تعاون تنظیم کے تحت تعاون کو گہرا کرنے کی حمایت کی ہے اور برازیل اور پیرو کو پانچ ترقی پزیر ممالک کے سربراہ اجلاس اور انڈیا پینک اکنامک کوآپریشن اقتصادی رہنماؤں کے اجلاس کے انعقاد میں مدد فراہم کی ہے تاکہ

**بقیہ 30**

میں شریک ممالک کے رہنماؤں نے مسئلہ لیکن کے مضامین اور دوک سو وقت کو سراہا۔ انہوں نے فروغ میں کلیدی اور انسانی بحران کو کم کرنے میں مدد کے لیے لیکن کے ساتھ مل کر کام کرنے پر آمادگی کا اظہار کیا۔ اسی طرح چار براہ راست کوئی جن مکتب نے آستان کا زقطان میں شنگھائی تعاون تنظیم پلاس کے اجلاس میں شرکت کے دوران اہم خطاب کیا، جہاں انہوں نے عدول و انصاف کے مشترکہ گہری ترقی پر زور دیا۔ شنگھائی تعاون تنظیم کے سربراہ اجلاس میں آستان ملامیہ اور انصاف ہم آہنگی اور ترقی کے لیے عالمی اتحاد سے متعلق شنگھائی تعاون تنظیم کا اقدام جاری کیا گیا ہے۔ یہ سب دور کا ایک مضبوط پیغام تھا، جو تیسرا عالمی آرائی اور بالادستی کے بھائے جیتی تعاون اور انصاف کا مطالبہ کرتا ہے۔

[https://epaper.dailyk2.com/Home?Issue=NP\\_ICT&Page=Classified&Date=2024-09-01](https://epaper.dailyk2.com/Home?Issue=NP_ICT&Page=Classified&Date=2024-09-01)

## Nawaiwaqt News

### سی پیک کا بیانیہ

چین پاکستان اقتصادی راہداری (سی پیک) کی تعمیر و ترقی میں جہاں چینلینجز درپیش ہوئے وہاں اُس سے زیادہ اُس کا مثبت بیانیہ قائم رکھنا دشوار ہوا۔ سی پیک پاکستان اور چین کے درمیان اقتصادی ترقی اور تعاون کا ایک بڑا منصوبہ ہے جو نہ صرف پاکستان کے بنیادی ڈھانچے کی تعمیر اور معاشی ترقی میں اہم کردار ادا کر رہا ہے بلکہ اُمید کی جا رہی ہے کہ یہ مستقبل میں علاقائی سطح پر ابطوں اور تجارت کو بھی فروغ دینے میں اہم کردار ادا کرے گا۔ پاکستان کے لیے سی پیک اِس لیے اہم ہے کہ یہ پاکستان میں بنیادی ڈھانچے کی بہتری، توانائی کے منصوبوں کے قیام، صنعتی ترقی اور گورڈر بندرگاہ کی ترقی کے ذریعے مجموعی اقتصادی ترقی کو فروغ دینے کا اہم ذریعہ ہے۔ اِس منصوبے سے نہ صرف پاکستان کے مختلف علاقوں میں ترقی کے مواقع پیدا ہو رہے ہیں بلکہ یہ چین کے لیے بھی بیچہ عرب اور باقی دنیا تک رسائی کا آسان اور مختصر راستہ فراہم کرتا ہے۔

بیانیہ کے حوالے سے میڈیا کا کردار اہم ہے کیوں کہ میڈیا نہ صرف معلومات کو عوام تک پہنچانے کا ذریعہ ہے بلکہ عوام کی رائے اور حکومتی پالیسیوں پر مثبت اور منفی طور پر اثر انداز ہونے کی صلاحیت بھی رکھتا ہے۔ سی پیک کے حوالے سے بھی میڈیا کا کردار اہم رہا ہے کیونکہ یہ عوام کو سی پیک کے حوالے سے آگاہ کرتا رہا ہے اور اِس کے بہت سیمعاشی، سیاسی اور سماجی پہلوؤں پر آزادانہ تجزیے بھی پیش کرتا رہا ہے جس سے سی پیک کے معاشی، سماجی اور ثقافتی اثرات کو سمجھنے میں مدد ملی۔

اگرچہ بڑی تعداد میں میڈیا نے سی پیک کے حوالے سے مثبت کردار ادا کیا اسکے باوجود کچھ چینلینجز اور مسائل بھی سامنے آئے۔ بعض اوقات میڈیا نے معلومات کو غلط انداز میں پیش کیا ہے جس کی وجہ سے مختلف شکوک و شبہات اور غلط فہمیاں پیدا ہوئیں۔ اِسکے علاوہ میڈیا کے کچھ حلقے مخصوص مفادات کے تحت ایک خاص بیانیہ تشکیل دینے کی کوشش کرتے رہے جس سے نہ صرف عوام کو صحیح معلومات تک رسائی میں مشکلات پیش آئیں بلکہ کچھ ایسے پہلو سامنے آئے جن کا حقائق سے ذور تک تعلق بھی نہ تھا۔ یہی وجہ ہے کہ سی پیک پر ہونے والی روزمرہ گفتگو میں تو اترا سیکچھ ایسے الفاظ در آئے جو سی پیک کا منفی بیانیہ مضبوط کرتے رہے۔

سی پیک کے بیانیہ کی جنگ درحقیقت مختلف فریقین کے درمیان اِس منصوبے کے بارے میں رائے اور خیالات کی جنگ ہے۔ اِس منصوبے پر منفی اور مثبت رائے رکھنے والے لوگ ہیں۔ مثبت رائے کے حامل لوگ اِس منصوبے کو خطے کے لیے بالعموم اور پاکستان کے لیے بالخصوص ایک مثبت قدم سمجھتے ہیں جبکہ منفی سوچ کے حامل لوگ سی پیک کو خطے میں چین کی تزویراتی سکیم کا ایک اہم جزو سمجھتے ہیں۔ پاکستان کی حکومت اور سی پیک کے حامی اِس منصوبے کو پاکستان کی معاشی ترقی کے لیے اہم اور فائدہ مند قرار دیتے ہیں۔ وہ سمجھتے ہیں کہ سی پیک کے تحت تعمیرات، توانائی کے پروجیکٹس اور صنعتی ترقی سے ملک میں روزگار کے مواقع پیدا ہوں گے اور ملک معاشی ترقی کی

جانب گامزن ہو گا جبکہ ناقدین کا خیال ہے کہ سی پیک کی وجہ سے پاکستان چین کے قرضوں کے جال میں پھنس جائے گا اور آئیو الے وقت میں اِس سے پاکستان کی اقتصادی خود مختاری پر منفی اثرات مرتب ہوں گے۔ چین مخالف عالمی طاقتیں بھی سی پیک کو چین کے خطے میں اثر و رسوخ کو بڑھانے کیلئے ایک منصوبے کے طور پر دیکھتی ہیں۔ اِس بیانیہ کے تحت سی پیک کو صرف اقتصادی نہیں بلکہ ایک جیو پالیٹیکل منصوبہ بھی سمجھا جاتا ہے جو خطے میں چین کی قوت کو بڑھانے کی کوشش ہے۔ پاکستان میں کچھ ناقدین کا خیال ہے کہ سی پیک کے تحت کی جانے والی ترقی کا زیادہ فائدہ پاکستان کے مخصوص علاقوں کو ہو گا جبکہ بہت سے علاقے نظر انداز ہو جائیں گے۔ جبکہ اِس کے

برعکس سی پیک کے حامیوں کا خیال ہے کہ اِس منصوبے کا پورے ملک کو فائدہ ہو گا اور پاکستان کی مجموعی ترقی کو فروغ ملے گا۔ سی پیک پر بیانیہ کیسیہ جنگ میڈیا، سوشل میڈیا، اور مختلف تحقیقی اور سیاسی پلیٹ فارمز پر گزشتہ دس برس سے جاری ہے جہاں سی پیک موافق اور مخالف نظریات اور نقطہ ہائے نظر کا مسلسل ٹکر اُو نظر آتا ہے۔

مستقبل میں سی پیک بیانیہ کے حوالے سے حکومت، میڈیا، سوشل میڈیا، تعلیمی اداروں اور تھنک ٹینکس کا کردار بہت اہم ہو گا۔ سب سے اہم کام حکومت کا ہے اِس لیے کہ حکومت کسی بھی بیانیہ کو ریگولیت کرنے کی پوزیشن میں ہوتی ہے۔ سی پیک سے متعلق حقائق سے آگاہ کرنا متعلقہ حکومتی اداروں کی ذمہ داری ہے اور اگر حقائق

ذست ہوں گے تو منفی بیانیہ بنانے میں مشکل پیش ہوگی۔ حکومت کو سی پیک پر میڈیا کو اعتماد میں لینے کی ضرورت ہے۔ میڈیا کو بھی سی پیک کے معاملات پر ذمہ داری کا

ثبوت دینا ہو گا اور کسی بھی منفی پروپیگنڈا کی صورت میں میڈیا کو نہ صرف منفی پروپیگنڈا کا جواب دینا چاہیے بلکہ سی پیک پہ مثبت بیانیہ کی تشکیل اور مثبت بیانیہ کا فروغ بھی میڈیا کی ذمہ داری ہے۔ میڈیا کو چاہیے کہ وہ غیر جانبدارانہ اور تحقیق پر مبنی رپورٹنگ کرے تاکہ عوام کو درست معلومات فراہم کی جاسکیں۔ پاکستان میں سی پیک کے سب سے اہم سٹیک ہولڈرز نوجوان ہیں۔ اس لیے ضرورت اس امر کی ہے کہ تعلیمی اداروں میں سی پیک پر آگاہی کا انتظام ہو۔ تھنک ٹینکس کا کردار بھی بہت اہم ہے جو بیانیہ کی کمزوریوں پہ تحقیق کر سکتے ہیں اور ان کی نشاندہی کر سکتے ہیں اور ایسے اقدامات تجویز کر سکتے ہیں جن کی روشنی میں منفی پروپیگنڈا کا حل تلاش کیا جاسکتا ہے۔ یہ بات درست ہے کہ سی پیک کی تکمیل کی راہ میں مسائل ہیں اور بہت سی کوتاہیاں بھی حائل ہیں اور ان مسائل اور کوتاہیوں کی نشاندہی کرنا بھی از حد ضروری ہے۔ لیکن سی پیک کا بیانیہ اس خیال کے گرد گھومنا چاہیے کہ سی پیک پاکستان کی معاشی ترقی کے لیے ایک تاریخی موقع ہے۔ سی پیک پاکستان کے معاشی افق پر ایک کلیدی کردار ادا کر سکتا ہے۔ اور ہمیں ہر صورت میں سی پیک کے طے شدہ اہداف کو طے شدہ وقت میں مکمل کرنا ہے۔

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2024-09-02/page-6/detail-1>

## September 02, 2024

### Express News

#### سی پیک کی اپ گریڈیشن کیلئے ملکر کام کرنے کا چینی قیادت کا ویژن لائق تحسین ہے، وزیر اعظم

وزیر اعظم محمد شہباز شریف نے کہا ہے کہ پاک چین دوستی وقت کی ہر آزمائش پر پورا اترتی ہے اور چین نے ہر مشکل وقت میں پاکستان کا غیر مشروط: اسلام آباد ساتھ دیا ہے۔

پاکستان میں تعینات چینی سفیر جیانگ زیڈانگ سے ملاقات میں وزیر اعظم شہباز شریف نے کہا کہ پاک چین اسٹریٹجک تعلقات میں مسلسل بہتری اور چین پاکستان اقتصادی راہداری کی اپ گریڈیشن کے لیے مل کر کام کرنے کا چینی قیادت کا ویژن لائق تحسین ہے۔

انہوں نے مزید کہا کہ پاک چین دوستی دونوں ممالک کے ساتھ ساتھ خطے اور عالمی امن اور ترقی کے لیے ناگزیر ہے، پاک چین دوستی وقت کی ہر آزمائش پر پورا اترتی ہے اور چین نے ہر مشکل وقت میں پاکستان کا غیر مشروط ساتھ دیا ہے۔

شہباز شریف نے چینی وزیر اعظم سے گفتگو میں مزید کہا کہ پاکستان چین کے ساتھ انفارمیشن ٹیکنالوجی، مصنوعی ذہانت، جدید زراعت و دیگر شعبوں میں اشتراک کے فروغ کا خواہاں ہے۔

ملاقات میں نائب وزیر اعظم وزیر خارجہ اسحاق ڈار، وزیر اعظم کے معاون خصوصی طارق فاطمی اور متعلقہ افسران بھی موجود تھے۔

<https://www.express.pk/story/2697132/1/>

#### سی پیک پر کام کرنے والے غیر ملکیوں پر حملوں کی تفصیلات سامنے آگئیں

وزارت داخلہ نے سی پیک منصوبے پر کام کرنے والے غیر ملکیوں پر حملوں کی تفصیلات قومی اسمبلی میں پیش کر دیں۔: اسلام آباد

اسپیکر ایاز صادق کی زیر صدارت قومی اسمبلی کے اجلاس میں وزارت داخلہ نے سال 2020 تا 2024 کے درمیان چینی غیر ملکی اور جاپانی باشندوں پر حملوں کی تفصیلات پیش کیں۔ جس کے مطابق سندھ میں چینی اور جاپانی باشندوں پر تین دہشتگرد حملے ہوئے، جس کے نتیجے میں پانچ غیر ملکیوں سمیت پانچ افراد جاں بحق ہوئے۔

وزارت داخلہ کے مطابق بلوچستان میں چینی باشندوں پر 2 حملے ہوئے، جس میں تین افراد زخمی ہوئے جبکہ خیبر پختونخوا میں چینی باشندوں پر 2 حملے ہوئے، جس میں دو سیکورٹی اہلکار شہید جبکہ 17 چینی باشندے جاں بحق اور خیبر پختونخوا میں 19 مقامی لوگ شہید ہوئے۔

دستاویز کے مطابق سال 2024 کی پہلی سہ ماہی میں خفیہ معلومات پر 2208 آپریشن کیے گئے، خفیہ آپریشنز میں 89 دہشت گرد ہلاک ہوئے اور 328 کو گرفتار کیا گیا۔ وزارت داخلہ نے تحریری جواب میں بتایا کہ افغانستان سے عسکریت پسندوں کے داخلے کو روکنے اور دہشت گرد تنظیموں کے استعمال میں آنے والے اسلحے اور مواد کی منتقلی کو روکنے کے لیے اقدامات کیے جا رہے ہیں۔

وزارت داخلہ نے بتایا کہ سرحد پر ہانڈلنگ کا عمل جاری ہے جبکہ سنسن راستوں کی نگرانی کی جا رہی ہے، انسداد پر تشدد انتہا پسندی کی قومی پالیسی 2024 کا مسودہ تیار ہو چکا ہے، انسداد پر تشدد انتہا پسندی کی قومی پالیسی کی کے مسودے کی منظوری کا بیسے سے لی جائے گی۔

<https://www.express.pk/story/2696955/1/>

## Jang News

### چینی و جاپانی باشندوں پر 5 سال میں کتنے حملے ہوئے؟ تفصیل سامنے آگئی

قومی اسمبلی اجلاس میں چینی اور جاپانی باشندوں پر 5 برس کے دوران ہونے والے حملوں کی تفصیلات جاری کر دی گئیں۔

وزارت داخلہ نے قومی اسمبلی میں 2020-24 کے درمیان چینی اور جاپانی باشندوں پر حملوں کی تفصیل پیش کی۔

تفصیل میں بتایا گیا کہ سندھ میں چینی اور جاپانی باشندوں پر 3 دہشت گرد حملے ہوئے، جن میں 5 غیر ملکی اور 5 مقامی افراد جاں بحق ہوئے۔

وزارت داخلہ نے بتایا کہ بلوچستان میں چینی باشندوں پر 2 حملے ہوئے، جن میں 13 افراد زخمی ہوئے، خیبر پختونخوا میں چینی باشندوں پر 2 حملے ہوئے۔

قومی اسمبلی کو بتایا کہ کے پی میں چینی اور جاپانی باشندوں پر حملوں میں 2 سیکیورٹی اہلکار شہید ہوئے، 17 چینی باشندے جان کی بازی ہار گئے جبکہ 19 مقامی لوگ شہید ہوئے۔

وزارت داخلہ نے تفصیل میں بتایا کہ سال 2024 کی پہلی سہ ماہی میں خفیہ معلومات پر 2208 آپریشن کیے گئے، خفیہ آپریشنز میں 89 دہشت گرد ہلاک ہوئے اور 328 کو گرفتار کیا گیا۔

قومی اسمبلی کو بتایا گیا کہ عسکریت پسندوں کا داخلہ روکنے کے لیے اقدامات کیے جا رہے ہیں، دہشت گرد تنظیموں کے لیے اسلحہ اور مواد کی منتقلی روکنے کے اقدامات کیے جا رہے ہیں۔

<https://jang.com.pk/news/1386707>

## September 03, 2024

### Pakistan Observer

### **Xinjiang, Balochistan and FATA**

*Qamar Bashir*

IN Pakistan, we often adhere to the belief that force is the primary solution for dealing with terrorists, extremists, separatists, insurgents and even civil unrest, whether it involves political, religious parties, students, or civil society. The prevailing notion is that if force doesn't achieve the desired outcome, more force should be applied. In contrast, China's approach in Xinjiang, where separatism, Pan-Islamism and Pan-Turkism were significant



issues since 1949, has been to respond with development. When challenges arise, China has chosen to accelerate development further. These two philosophies—force versus development—are starkly opposed and have yielded opposite results.

The insurgencies in Xinjiang, Balochistan and Pakistan's erstwhile Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA) have distinct historical, ethnic and geopolitical contexts, yet they share similarities in grievances but differ markedly in the governmental responses. The narratives of the insurgencies in Xinjiang, Balochistan and FATA share more similarities than differences. In Xinjiang, the Uyghur insurgency is driven by claims of cultural and religious repression, economic disenfranchisement and ethnic discrimination. The insurgents frame their struggle as a fight for cultural survival and autonomy, often invoking the idea of an independent "East Turkestan."

The Baloch insurgency, while lacking a religious element, is fueled by economic exploitation, particularly in natural resources like gas and minerals, political marginalization and human rights abuses. As one of Pakistan's least developed regions, many Baloch feel excluded from their own wealth, seeking greater autonomy or independence, citing historical grievances and ongoing exploitation. In FATA, the insurgency stems from resistance to Pakistan's military operations, perceived interference in local customs and the impact of the war on terror. The TTP, in particular, framed its struggle in religious terms, opposing the Pakistani state's alignment with the US and seeking to impose their version of Sharia law. When comparing the narratives of these three ethnic groups, the Uyghur and Taliban in FATA share more similarities, particularly in their use of religious connotations to justify their struggles for autonomy or independence. In contrast, the Baloch narrative is distinctive due to its focus on economic and political grievances, without a religious dimension.

Consequently, the Baloch narrative may be easier to address or counter compared to the more deeply rooted and ideologically driven narratives of the TTP and Uyghurs. To counter the Baloch insurgency and integrate the Baloch people into the national mainstream, the government only had to adopt a holistic approach to address the root causes of the conflict, including economic marginalization, political exclusion and cultural grievances by investing in local development, ensuring fair resource distribution and enhancing political representation while granting greater administrative autonomy to Balochistan. On the contrary, the government response to deal with insurgency in Balochistan is normally perceived exactly the opposite. The propaganda war has inculcated the impression albeit without any conclusive evidence that the response of Pakistan's government included military operations, targeted killings, enforced disappearances. The media is rife with reports that tens of thousands of people, including insurgents, civilians and security personnel, have been killed in the ongoing conflict making this conflict as one of Pakistan's deadliest.

Similarly the response of the Government to erstwhile FATA is perceived primarily kinetic. Reportedly, the Pakistani government has conducted numerous military operations (e.g., Operation Zarb-e-Azb) to dismantle militant networks. The insurgency and counter-insurgency operations have led to tens of thousands of deaths, including militants, security forces and civilians. Displacement and destruction of infrastructure have also been significant. Contrastingly, in Xinjiang, the Chinese government primarily pursued the policy of

development which worked like magic. The region has purposefully made a lynchpin of China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). During the 13th Five-Year Plan period (2016-2020), China invested over \$100 billion in Xinjiang's development. The substantial investment has also been made in infrastructure, industry, IT and modern agriculture, as part of its broader strategy to integrate the region more closely with the rest of the country and to address the underlying economic disparities that contribute to unrest. Xinjiang now boasts a state of art modern transportation network, including railways, highways and airports connecting it to major cities in China and neighbouring countries. Notable projects include the Urumqi-Hami section of the Lanzhou-Xinjiang high-speed railway, which links Xinjiang to the eastern provinces. The total investment in these transportation projects over the years runs into tens of billions of dollars. Cities like Urumqi, Kashgar have been developed on ultramodern lines including the construction of modern residential areas, commercial centres and public facilities and development of "new towns" to accommodate the growing population and improve living standards.

Xinjiang has become a hub for energy production, particularly in coal, oil and natural gas. The region is also a significant producer of cotton and textiles, beside adorning industrial parks and zones for petrochemicals and mining and Kashgar Economic Development Zone and the Urumqi Economic and Technological Development Zone. In addition, IT parks, advanced surveillance technologies, data centres, technology parks, 5G networks, cloud computing and big data technologies have been developed to attract domestic and foreign investment.

In the agriculture sector China has introduced modern water management, crop genetics and mechanization to substantially enhance the yield of cotton, grapes and melons production, besides setting up of large-scale farms, processing plants and distribution networks. These investments are part of China's broader strategy to stabilize the region, boost economic growth and integrate Xinjiang more closely with the rest of the country and the global economy, particularly through the Belt and Road Initiative. Contrarily the investments in FATA and Balochistan pale in comparison to the scale of investment made by China in Xinjiang. While China's investments in Xinjiang have transformed the region's infrastructure and economy, Pakistan's investments in FATA and Balochistan are insignificant and are plagued by issues like governance challenges, security concerns and underutilization of funds no matter how meagre.

China's investments in Xinjiang are part of a strategic focus on integrating the region into the national economy and the Belt and Road Initiative. In contrast, Pakistan's investments in FATA and Balochistan have often been reactive, addressing immediate security concerns rather than being part of a long-term strategic vision for regional development. If we genuinely aim to reintegrate FATA and Balochistan into the national mainstream, we must adopt the Chinese philosophy of development and more development. Without this focus on economic and social progress, the cycle of violence from both the government and insurgents will persist, leaving the regions mired in conflict and instability. Development offers the only sustainable path to peace and inclusion.

<https://pakobserver.net/xinjiang-balochistan-and-fata/>

## The Express Tribune

### **Shehbaz seeks enhanced collaboration with China**

PM hails fall in inflation rate to 9.6%

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif said on Monday that Pakistan aimed at enhancing its collaboration with China in areas such as information technology (IT), artificial intelligence (AI), modern agriculture, and other sectors.

Talking to Chinese Ambassador Jiang Zaidong during a meeting at the Prime Minister's Office, Shehbaz remarked that the friendship between Pakistan and China had endured and remained strong throughout the years.

The prime minister highlighted that China provided unwavering support to Pakistan during every challenging period.

He praised the Chinese leadership's vision to consistently enhance Pakistan-China strategic relations and collaborate on upgrading the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

"The friendship between Pakistan and China is essential not only for both nations but also for regional and global peace and development," Shehbaz said.

Deputy Prime Minister Ishaq Dar, Special Assistant to Prime Minister Tariq Fatemi, and other officials were also present in the meeting.

#### **Inflation down**

According to a separate statement issued by the Prime Minister's Office, Shehbaz expressed satisfaction with the new data issued by the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) that said that inflation had come down to single-digit in August 2024.

The prime minister attributed this decrease in the inflation to 9.6% – the lowest rate in the last three years – to the hard work of the government's economic team.

"This decrease in inflation is a reflection of the government's effective measures to improve the economy," Shehbaz said.

According to the Finance Ministry's Economic Outlook Report, the inflation rate was predicted to be between 9.5% and 10.5% in August 2024.

Economic experts forecast a further decrease in inflation in September, which the prime minister hailed as good news for the nation.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2493143/shehbaz-seeks-enhanced-collaboration-with-china>

## The News

### **‘Proactive approach required to counter propaganda against CPEC’**

*Rasheed Khalid*

Islamabad: Experts have said that there was a need to shift from a reactive portrayal of CPEC to a proactive approach for countering negative media propaganda against CPEC.

The experts were speaking during a roundtable discussion on “Narratives on the CPEC and role of media” hosted here by Institute of Regional Studies (IRS). Dr Yasir Masroor, former director, Media and Publications, Ministry of Planning, said that the negative narrative was aimed not just at creating misperceptions, but also at keeping Pakistan entangled in a geostrategic quagmire. He urged the government to move beyond a reactive stance so to counter the pervasive propaganda.

Ehtisam ul Haq of China Media Group emphasised the importance of showcasing CPEC's success stories and noted that social media can effectively promote its positives. Dr Tahir Mumtaz Awan, former Director China Study Centre, Comsats University, also raised concerns about insufficient response to negative propaganda regarding CPEC and emphasised the importance of increased engagement with international media to neutralise such misconceptions.

Dr Talat Shabbir, Director, IRS, said that there were challenges in developing CPEC and crafting a positive narrative about it. He stressed that all stakeholders, including China, must work to counter Indian propaganda.

Earlier, in his opening remarks, Jauhar Saleem, president, IRS, highlighted the misinformation being spread about CPEC and emphasised the need to showcase its contributions to Pakistan's economy to counter such propaganda. He also urged the media to perform its twin roles of informing as well as educating by adopting an objective and constructive approach.

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=338787>

### **PM for enhancing collaboration with China in key sectors**

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Monday said that Pakistan aims to enhance its collaboration with China in areas such as information technology, artificial intelligence, modern agriculture, and other sectors.

In a conversation with Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan Jiang Zaidong, the prime minister remarked that the friendship between Pakistan and China has endured and remained strong throughout the years.

He stated that the friendship between Pakistan and China has withstood the test of time, with China providing unwavering support to Pakistan during every challenging period. The prime minister praised the Chinese leadership's vision to consistently enhance Pakistan-China strategic relations and collaborate on upgrading the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

He emphasised that the friendship between Pakistan and China is essential not only for both nations but also for regional and global peace and development. Deputy Prime Minister Muhammad Ishaq Dar, Special Assistant to Prime Minister Tariq Fatemi, and other relevant officials were also present in the meeting.

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=338969>

### Nawaiwaqt News

#### قومی اسمبلی: امن وامان کی صورت حال بگڑ رہی، چینی، غیر ملکی باشندوں سے متعلق ایس وی پیز تبدیل: وزارت داخلہ

اسلام آباد (خبرنگار خصوصی + نوائے وقت رپورٹ) وزارت داخلہ نے قومی اسمبلی میں اعتراف کیا ہے کہ ملک میں امن وامان کی صورت حال بگڑ رہی ہے، پرتشدد انتہا پسندی کی روک تھام کی قومی پالیسی 2024 کا مسودہ تیار ہو چکا ہے جس کی منظوری وفاقی کابینہ دے گی۔ وزارت داخلہ کے مطابق ملک بھر میں گزشتہ 4 سال میں غیر ملکیوں پر 8 دہشت گرد حملے ہوئے جن میں 22 غیر ملکی ہلاک ہوئے۔ ملک بھر میں دہشت گردی کے ایک ہزار 214 واقعات میں 1930 افراد جاں بحق اور ایک ہزار 992 زخمی ہوئے۔ سال 2024 کی پہلی سہ ماہی میں خفیہ معلومات پر دہشت گردوں کے خلاف 2 ہزار 208 آپریشنز میں 89 دہشت گرد ہلاک اور 328 کو گرفتار کیا گیا۔ قومی اسمبلی میں وقفہ سوالات کے دوران وزارت داخلہ نے تحریری جواب میں بتایا پرتشدد انتہا پسندی کی روک تھام کی قومی پالیسی 2024 کا مسودہ تیار ہو چکا ہے جس کی منظوری وفاقی کابینہ دے گی، سرحد پر باڈلگانے کا عمل جاری ہے، سنسان راستوں کی نگرانی بھی کی جا رہی ہے۔ سی بیگ اور دیگر منصوبوں پر کام کرنے والے چینی، غیر ملکی باشندوں کے بارے میں ایس او پیز پر نظر ثانی کی گئی ہے۔ سال 2024 کی پہلی سہ ماہی میں خفیہ معلومات پر 2208 آپریشن کیے گئے جن میں 89 دہشت گرد ہلاک اور 328 کو گرفتار کیا گیا۔ سال 2020 سے 2024 کے دوران سندھ میں چینی اور جاپانی باشندوں پر 4 دہشت گرد حملے ہوئے جن میں 5 غیر ملکی اور 5 مقامی افراد جاں بحق ہوئے۔ بلوچستان میں چینی باشندوں پر 2 حملے ہوئے، خیبر پختونخوا میں بھی چینی باشندوں پر 2 حملے ہوئے، 2 سیکورٹی اہل کار شہید اور 17 چینی باشندے جان کی بازی ہار گئے جبکہ 19 مقامی لوگ شہید ہوئے۔ وزارت داخلہ کے مطابق گزشتہ برس جنوری سے دسمبر 2023 کے دوران ملک بھر میں دہشت گردی کے واقعات میں 1930 افراد جاں بحق اور 1992 زخمی ہوئے۔ خیبر پختونخوا میں 558 واقعات میں 580 افراد شہید، 1447 زخمی ہوئے، شہید ہونے والے 402 جبکہ زخمیوں میں 1054 اہل کار تھے۔ بلوچستان میں 626 واقعات میں 1315 افراد شہید اور 477 زخمی ہوئے، 148 اہلکار شہید جبکہ 198 زخمی تھے۔ سندھ میں دہشت گردی کے 19 واقعات میں 14 افراد شہید اور 31 زخمی ہوئے، 8 اور زخمیوں میں 126 اہل کار تھے۔ پنجاب میں 2023 میں دہشت گردی کے 8 واقعات میں 12 افراد شہید اور 11 زخمی ہوئے، شہداء میں 11 اہلکار شہید اور 9 زخمی تھے۔ گلگت بلتستان میں گزشتہ برس دہشت گردی کے 3 واقعات میں 9 افراد شہید اور 26 زخمی ہوئے جبکہ اس دوران اسلام آباد میں دہشت گردی کا کوئی واقعہ نہیں ہوا۔ قومی اسمبلی میں جھگ کا کنٹرول اور انضباطی اتھارٹی کے قیام کا بل کثرت رائے سے منظور کر لیا گیا۔ بل وفاقی وزیر دفاع خواجہ آصف نے پیش کیا۔ قومی اسمبلی میں ٹیلی کمیونیکیشن ایبلٹ ٹریبونل اتھارٹی کے قیام کا بل منظوری کیلئے پیش کر دیا گیا۔ بل وزیر مملکت شرفاظمہ خواجہ نے پیش کیا۔ رکن قومی اسمبلی زبیر خان کے سوال پر وفاقی وزیر اطلاعات نے کہا کہ سیکرٹری داخلہ کو بھی ہدایت کرتا ہوں کہ دوسری تھیلیوں کی طرح جنوبی وزیرستان کی برل اور کلین میں بھی نادر اسینٹر قائم کئے جائیں۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ جنوبی وزیرستان میں مجموعی طور پر آٹھ نادر امر اکڑ ہوں گے۔ رکن قومی اسمبلی شاہد رحمانی کے سوال کے جواب میں وفاقی وزیر اطلاعات نے کہا کہ ہاؤسنگ سوسائٹیوں کو ماسٹر پلان کے مطابق اجازت دی جاتی ہے۔ رکن قومی اسمبلی شرمیلہ فاروقی کے سوال پر وفاقی وزیر اطلاعات نے کہا کہ پی ڈیو ڈی سمیت جو وزارتیں ختم ہو رہی ہیں ان کے کچھ ملازمین کو رکھا جائے گا یا انہیں گولڈن ہینڈ شیک دیا جائے گا۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ اسی طرح ایف آئی اے کی نئی انوسٹی گیشن ایجنسی کی منظوری دی گئی ہے، انہوں نے کہا کہ یہ دیکھا جائے گا کہ کون سے ایف آئی اے کے ملازمین کو اس میں ضم کیا جائے گا، سردار نبیل گبول کے سوال پر عطا اللہ تارڑ نے کہا کہ ایف آئی اے کے سائبر کرائم کے تحت کیسز ختم نہیں ہوں گے، وفاقی وزیر اطلاعات نے کہا کہ نیٹفیک کی تنظیم نو کی جا رہی ہے، رکن قومی اسمبلی آسیہ ناز تنولی کے سوال پر وفاقی وزیر نے کہا کہ ٹینٹھ ایونیو کی تعمیر وقت کی ضرورت تھی، رکن قومی اسمبلی شہزادہ محمد گتاسب خان کے سوال پر وفاقی وزیر نے کہا کہ ججز کی سیکورٹی پر 34

گاڑیاں، بیورو کریٹس کے ساتھ چھ اور وزرا کے ساتھ سیکورٹی کی چار گاڑیاں مامور ہیں، مجموعی طور پر 44 گاڑیاں اور 532 پولیس اہلکار ان شخصیات کے ساتھ سیکورٹی پر تعینات ہیں۔ اس موقع پر سپیکر قومی اسمبلی نے کہا کہ میرے خیال میں پارلیمنٹ لاجز اور پارلیمنٹ ہاؤس کی صفائی ستھرائی کی دیکھ بھال کو آٹوٹ سورس کیا جائے۔ سی ڈی اے کو جتنا فنڈ ملتا ہے وہ نصف سے زیادہ ملازمین کی تنخواہوں میں چلا جاتا ہے۔ شرمیلا فاروقی اور رعنہ انصر کے سوال کے جواب میں وفاقی وزیر اطلاعات نے کہا کہ جینڈر بیسڈ کرائمز اور بچوں سے زیادتی کے معاملات کے حوالے سے ایک کمیٹی قائم ہے۔ ظاہر جعفر اور کرچی میں خاتون کی جانب سے لوگوں کو کچل دینے کے معاملات میں عدالتی اصلاحات کی ضرورت ہے۔ ایم این اے اسد قیصر اور عمر ایوب کے سوالات کے جواب میں وفاقی وزیر اطلاعات نے کہا کہ امن وامان کی موجودہ صورتحال کے پیش نظر وفاقی دارالحکومت میں پولیس چیک پوسٹیں ختم نہیں ہو سکتیں، اگر کسی بھی چیک پوسٹ پر پولیس اہلکار بدتمیزی کرے یا سپیڈ بریک لے تو ہمیں درخواست دیں، یقین دلاتا ہوں کہ متعلقہ پولیس اہلکاروں کے خلاف سخت کارروائی ہوگی۔ بڑے بڑے عہدوں پر رہنے والوں کو یہ تک نہیں معلوم کہ چیک پوسٹوں کو چھاپوں کے لئے استعمال نہیں کیا جاتا۔ قومی اسمبلی نے چار بل منظور کر لئے۔ اعظم نذیر تارڑ نے غیر ملکی سرکاری دستاویزات کے قانونی جواز کے خاتمے پر کنونشن کو موثر بنانے کا بل ایوان میں پیش کیا جسے منظور کر لیا گیا۔ وزیر دفاع خواجہ آصف نے بھنگ کے کنٹرول اور انضباطی اتھارٹی کا بل 2024، ٹیلی کمیونیکیشن ایپلیٹ ٹریبونل کے قیام کا بل 2024 اکثریت نے منظور کر لیا۔ نجکاری کمیشن آرڈیننس 2000 میں مزید ترمیم کرنے کا بل ایوان میں پیش کیا جسے منظور کر لیا گیا۔ آڈیٹر جنرل پاکستان، سیٹ بینک کی سالانہ رپورٹ 2023-24، سیٹ بینک کے بورڈ آف ڈائریکٹرز کی ششماہی رپورٹ، نیشنل کمیشن فار چائلڈ رائٹس کی سالانہ رپورٹ برائے سال 2023-24 بھی ایوان میں پیش کر دی۔

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2024-09-03/page-1/detail-40>

**September 04, 2024**

**Pakistan Observer**

**CPEC: Gateway to Economic Prosperity**

*Gulab Umid*

In mid-August 2024, Pakistan celebrated a significant milestone in its ambitious collaboration with China through the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). The successful integration of the Suki Kinari Hydropower project's first unit into the national grid marks a turning point in Pakistan's energy sector. Set to be fully operational by year-end, this project promises to deliver approximately 3.2 billion units of clean electricity annually, powering over one million households. This advancement signifies a major leap in modernizing Pakistan's energy infrastructure and reducing carbon emissions.

The benefits of the Suki Kinari project extend well beyond its immediate contribution to electricity supply. By replacing 1.3 million tonnes of coal with renewable energy, it is poised to cut 2.5 million tonnes of CO2 emissions annually. This shift aligns perfectly with Pakistan's broader strategy to combat climate change and meet international environmental commitments. The project represents a significant stride towards reducing the country's dependency on fossil fuels and addressing energy shortages that have hindered its economic and industrial growth.

Since its inception, CPEC has been transformative for Pakistan. The first phase, supported by a \$25.4 billion investment from China, was pivotal in reshaping Pakistan's infrastructure landscape. This phase resulted in approximately 155,000 jobs, 510 kilometers of new

motorways and expressways, and over 8,200 megawatts of additional power capacity. The focus was on developing energy and transport infrastructure, laying a strong foundation for Pakistan's economic growth and integration into the global economy.

With the advent of CPEC's second phase, or "CPEC 2.0," the focus is shifting from large-scale infrastructure projects to fostering business-to-business cooperation. This phase sets ambitious targets, including the creation of new sub-corridors focused on growth, innovation, and environmental sustainability. CPEC 2.0 aims to stimulate economic activity, enhance productivity and increase exports. The vision for this phase is to strengthen economic ties between China and Pakistan through innovation, green development and sustainable growth. By creating a more dynamic business environment, CPEC 2.0 seeks to unlock new opportunities for collaboration and economic advancement.

A testament to CPEC's transformative potential is its role in enhancing regional connectivity and economic integration. The corridor has not only facilitated the flow of goods and investment between China and Pakistan but also positioned Pakistan as a pivotal player in the broader regional trade network. By linking key economic hubs and creating a network of trade routes, CPEC is fostering greater regional cooperation and opening new markets for Pakistani businesses. This enhanced connectivity is expected to drive economic diversification, boost local industries and attract further international investment. As CPEC continues to evolve, its impact on regional integration and economic stability will likely become even more pronounced, reinforcing its status as a cornerstone of Pakistan's economic strategy and its partnership with China.

One of the most significant undertakings in CPEC 2.0 is the upgrade of the ML-1 railway track, linking Peshawar to Karachi. This project is crucial for enhancing Pakistan's transportation infrastructure and stimulating economic growth nationwide. However, it has faced substantial delays, increasing costs and complicating its execution. To ensure success, Pakistan must address critical issues, including fostering a conducive business environment, reducing bureaucratic hurdles, and expediting investor facilitation.

The development of Special Economic Zones (SEZs) is crucial in this regard. These zones are designed to attract foreign investment, stimulate industrial growth, and generate employment. Their success depends on the government's ability to eliminate investment barriers and provide a stable, predictable regulatory environment. Without significant improvements, the potential benefits of SEZs may remain unrealized, undermining the broader objectives of CPEC 2.0.

Security concerns have emerged as a major obstacle to CPEC's progress. Recent terrorist attacks targeting Chinese workers have heightened fears, prompting President Xi Jinping to address these issues directly with Prime Minister Sharif. Liu Jianchao, head of the International Department of the Communist Party of China, publicly expressed concern over the deteriorating security situation in Pakistan, which is eroding the confidence of Chinese investors. This acknowledgment underscores the urgency for Pakistan to enhance security measures to ensure the safety of foreign investors and restore confidence.

Improving security is not just about protecting assets; it's about creating an environment where investors feel secure and valued. Liu's emphasis on political stability and a "CPEC-friendly" media environment highlights the importance of maintaining a stable and secure business atmosphere. For CPEC to continue attracting investment and achieving its objectives, Pakistan must prioritize these security concerns and work to rebuild investor trust.

To navigate these challenges and unlock CPEC 2.0's potential, Pakistan must address security issues, improve the business climate, and fulfill commitments to Chinese investors. This requires a concerted effort to enhance security, streamline regulatory processes, and honor agreements. Failure to adequately address these concerns risks turning CPEC from a beacon of economic opportunity into a mere mirage of potential.

While CPEC remains a crucial avenue for Pakistan's economic revitalization, its future is fraught with challenges. Recent milestones, like the successful integration of the Suki Kinari Hydropower project, highlight the potential benefits of this collaboration. However, to fully capitalize on these opportunities, Pakistan must confront security issues, improve its business environment, and meet its commitments to Chinese investors. Only through decisive action and strategic management can Pakistan hope to transform CPEC from a grand vision into a tangible, long-term success.

<https://pakobserver.net/cpec-gateway-to-economic-prosperity/>

## **BRI and FOCAC 2024: A Partnership of Equals**

*Dr Mehmood Ul Hassan Khan*

With the start of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) 2024 western political hyping and propaganda in Wall Street Journal, The Financial Times, CNBC, The Economists and Voice of America have been purposefully hunted and haunted, terming the BRI a source of debt trap, metals & minerals off shoring and plundering of African natural resources. On the other hand, the FOCAC is the "magnetic" force of immense socio-economic integration, "stimulator" for sustained trans-regional connectivity and, notably, a "positive" energy to eradicate poverty, generate jobs and biggest unconditional support to African countries' achieving their dreams of a "qualitative" life through the BRI and other meaningful mega projects.

The western new hybrid media war has now included nickel, cobalt, lithium and many precious minerals, labelling it plummeting agents of African prosperity by China which does not have any substance however, the western past history witnessed the massive exploitation of African resources for the sake of their lust, comfort, food security and personal glory indulged in severest violation of human rights, personal freedom and economic free choice.

Despite "perpetual" hoopla, the BRI successfully built numerous grand dams, whistling trains, bustling stadiums, magnificent parliament buildings and various factories which vividly reflects strategic importance of the FOCAC transforming their nature, ecology, resources, human capitals and, most importantly, brightening their prospects of socio-economic prosperity and economic stability and sustainability reducing chances of conspiracy theories and encircling of geopolitics. Obviously, the BRI revolutionized their states, societies and



systems, agriculture sectors, infrastructure development, connectivity, industrial development and capacity building mitigating western chronic impediments of Chinese debt traps.

The Lekki Port in Nigeria and the Nairobi Expressway in Kenya have been completed over the past three years. Over the past 10 years, Chinese companies have signed more than US\$700 billion worth of contracts for projects in Africa showing both parties' commitments of achieving a prosperous future. Additionally, in Sudan, the China International Water and Electric Corporation (CWE) facilitated the construction of the Merowe Dam, Roseires Dam Heightening Project and Dam Complex of Upper Atbara Project, which have become "China-Arab friendly landmarks." The Merowe Dam, standing 67 meters high and stretching about 9.7 kilometres long, is the world's longest dam.

Even, most recently published white paper, titled "China and Africa in the New Era: A Partnership of Equals" verified that the Chinese companies over the last quarter century have helped African countries build or upgrade more than 10,000 kilometres of railways, nearly 100,000 kilometres of highways, roughly 1,000 bridges, almost 100 ports and 66,000 kilometres of power transmission and distribution lines showing unstoppable journey of industrial up-gradation, world class infrastructure development, balanced economic growth and diversification of energy mix helping the African states and societies to live a decent and comfortable lives.

The BRI has also modernized the African railways and with the completion of projects, including the Mombasa-Nairobi railway, the Addis Ababa-Djibouti railway and the Benguela railway, the transportation efficiency between coastal and hinterland areas has been significantly improved. Moreover, the Kribi Deep Seaport in Cameroon can accommodate vessels that carry more than 10,000 tonnes of cargo, bringing development opportunities for landlocked countries.

In terms of modernization, digitalization and the ICT, the Chinese companies have helped build more than half of Africa's wireless sites and high-speed mobile broadband networks, providing service for more than 900 million African people and signing of the 52 African countries and the African Union Commission with the BRI showing and striving to break their respective development bottlenecks.

It seems that under the flagship project of the BRI, China stands ready to continue striving forward together with Africa on the road of win-win cooperation and common development, seek greater synergy between the BRI and the Agenda 2063 of the African Union as well as African countries' respective development strategies, thus future prospects of a high-quality China-Africa cooperation on the BRI is high and healthy.

It is good omen that the FOCAC has further enhanced China-Africa development to new heights, and the 2024 summit will definitely strengthen deeper cooperation as well as collaborative development among China, African countries and the Global South. Hopefully, it will enhance cooperation on agricultural technologies, advance the "green silk road" to support Africa in leveraging its rich green-energy resources to combat climate change, improve its health system through the "health silk road," and expand its global market access via the "digital silk road."

Moreover, knowledge sharing, prioritizing development and exploring people-centred paths based on mutual respect and learning will also be further consolidated building a fair and multipolar world to foster common development, support inclusive economic globalization and reform the international financial system to address development gaps.

Definitely, it will reinforce high-quality and sustainable development, activate domestic growth through effective markets and proactive governance and address both traditional and non-traditional security threats to create a secure development environment.

Critical analysis of global power politics reveals that as African leaders converge in China, rhetoric surrounding artificial intelligence and competition over resources has intensified. Western propaganda portrays it as a battle between survival and sedition, development and destruction, cooperation and conspiracy, and prosperity and persecution.

However, it is clear that China's involvement in Africa is not for geopolitical manipulation or offloading industrial overcapacity. Instead, China is partnering with Africa to enhance traditional industries, introduce high-tech innovations, and build future-oriented green projects for mutual benefit.

The BRI has significantly boosted Africa's infrastructure, with China constructing 66,000 km of power transmission lines and 150,000 km of communication networks across the continent.

By June 2024, China had eliminated tariffs on 98% of products from 27 of Africa's least developed countries, signed bilateral investment protection agreements with 34 African nations, and eliminated double taxation with 21 others.

These efforts reflect the BRI's role in strengthening trade relations, with China-Africa trade reaching a record \$282.1 billion in 2023.

China's direct investment in Africa also exceeded \$40 billion by the end of 2023, and aid projects have benefited over 10 million people in areas like food security, healthcare, and education.

Despite misleading claims from reports like Boston University's 2024 analysis on BRI debt traps, regional economists have debunked this theory.

China's commitments to green transformation, industrialization, and renewable energy projects in Africa underscore a partnership of equals.

Since 2000, China-Africa cooperation has reached new heights, with infrastructure projects transforming the continent.

The discovery of a 2,492-carat diamond in Botswana, a BRI partner, highlights the intersection of global power politics.

However, the FOCAC partnership is expected to counter Western narratives.

<https://pakobserver.net/bri-and-focac-2024-a-partnership-of-equals/>

## The News

### **Chinese premier to visit Pakistan in October**

*Azaz Syed*

ISLAMABAD: In a significant development, Chinese Premier Li Qiang will embark on a three-day official visit to Pakistan next month.

According to diplomatic sources, Premier Li will arrive in Islamabad on October 14 for a bilateral visit, followed by his participation in the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) summit on October 15 and 16. This will be the first visit by a Chinese Premier in 11 years, marking a significant milestone in the bilateral relations between the two countries. During his visit, Premier Li is expected to hold talks with Pakistani leadership on various aspects of Pakistan-China relations, including trade, economy and security.

Diplomatic sources suggest that several agreements are likely to be signed during the visit, further strengthening the bilateral strategic partnership.

The visit is seen as a testament to the strong bonds between the two nations and is expected to usher in a new era of cooperation and collaboration.

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=339251>

## **September 05, 2024**

### **Business Recorder**

#### **China seeks RMB pilot project at Gwadar Free Zone**

ISLAMABAD: China has asked Pakistan to establish RMB internationalization pilot project in Gwadar Free Zone to promote trade settlement and reduce foreign exchange conversion costs and risks between the two sides, well-informed sources told Business Recorder.

This proposal was floated during the 7th meeting of Joint Working Group (JWG) on Gwadar under China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) amid serious concerns on security situation in Gwadar, the sources added.

Both sides appreciated the efforts made by the Government of Pakistan in routing public sector bulk cargo through Gwadar Port which has been very helpful in operationalisation Gwadar Port; and has greatly promoted the development of local logistics industry while creating a large number of jobs. The Pakistani side will continue to promote the development of this business in Gwadar Port.

According to sources both sides believe that Afghanistan's transit trade business is the main growth point of the bulk cargo throughput of Gwadar Port. Both sides agreed to strive to build Gwadar Port into an important port for transit trade of landlocked countries in Central Asia through Pakistan.

Both sides believe that the ocean fishing transshipment business at the Gwadar Port is beneficial to significantly reduce the transportation costs of ocean fishing. Therefore, both sides should enhance the attractiveness of the Port as an ocean fishing transshipment port,

and significantly expand its throughput, through more policy support for this business from the Pakistani side.

Both sides believe that the development and construction of the Free Zone is key to the subsequent development of Gwadar Port, and strengthening industrial cooperation is an important direction for the development of the North Free Zone. The two sides conducted preliminary discussions on developing mining industries.

The sources said Chinese side emphasized the great importance of freshwater and electricity supply for project operation of Gwadar port, and suggested the Pakistani side promote the connection of power grids to Gwadar Port and South Free Zone as soon as possible, with relevant supporting projects in place.

China Overseas Port Holding Company (COPHC) emphasized the importance of RMB internationalization in promoting trade settlement, and reducing foreign exchange conversion costs and risks between the two sides. It suggested establishing RMB internationalization pilot projects in the Gwadar Free Zone, by encouraging Chinese and Pakistani banks to conduct business in the Free Zone, jointly carry out RMB counter listing, exchange, and cash services, and fully realize the pricing, circulation and settlement of RMB in the Free Zone. Support from the Pakistani side is anticipated in this regard.

The Chinese side emphasized that the security situation around Gwadar has a significant impact on the development of projects in Gwadar Port and the Free Zone. It requested Pakistani side to further enhance the security level of the Gwadar Port, promote the construction of Gwadar Security City, and strengthen counter-terrorism cooperation between the two sides.

The Chinese side emphasized that the inland connectivity to Gwadar Port is still underdeveloped, leading to high transportation costs, and suggested the Pakistani side build the M8 highway as soon as possible to ensure connectivity between Gwadar and economically developed regions.

The Pakistani side stated that long awaited provincial tax exemptions have been obtained and electricity and water problems will be solved by 30th June 2024.

The Pakistani side emphasized that the COPHC Free Zone Company may fast track the development of North Free Zone to relocate potential Chinese industries in the zone.

**New Gwadar International Airport:** It was stated that currently, construction of the New Gwadar International Airport Project (NGIA) has entered the final stretch, with the completion ratio reaching passing 90%.

Targeting on the revised completion time in August, 2024, the Chinese side is actively coordinating workers, material, and machinery for implementing of the remaining work including mechanical and electrical installation and commissioning, interior decoration, outdoor engineering etc., with a view to realizing the smooth completion and hand-over of the NGIA Project on time.

Since March 2024, several terrorist attacks have occurred in Gwadar and other regions, which result in greater security risks and limited movement for Chinese personnel thus affecting the Project's smooth implementation.

The Chinese side appreciates all security measures taken by the Pakistani side to ensure the security of the Project and staff, and requests the Pakistani side to step up security of the Project.

The Central Substation of NGIA was successfully and completely energized from the 132kV/11KV grid station on 8th 4th April 2024, and the Chinese side appreciates all the efforts taken by the Pakistani side in this regard.

Mechanical and electrical installation and commissioning is the top priority of the Project at this stage, and uninterrupted and stable power supply 24-7 is the precondition for the smooth commissioning of all systems.

Thus the Pakistani side is requested to make every effort to guarantee the power supply of the 132kV/11KV grid station, in order to avoid any influence imposed on commissioning or equipment damage due to unstable power supply.

As the completion time in June August draws close, the Pakistani side is requested to fulfill their obligations in accordance with the mutually agreed schedule, including telecommunication, power and water supply facilities at the PCAA complex, flight-testing preparation, etc., so as to ensure the completion and hand-over of NGIA on time.

Dredging of Berthing Areas & Channels: The Chinese side stated that the sixth meeting of the Joint Working Group on Gwadar approved the launch of the feasibility study work on the project, which was originally planned to be completed by June 2023.

Currently, the feasibility study of the project is still in the implementation stage. The Chinese side desired that the Pakistani side could accelerate the feasibility study.

The Pakistani side noted that the joint feasibility study of Capital Dredging of Berthing Areas & Channel for additional terminal was carried out in June 2023, to facilitate port expansion plan and to accommodate large vessels. The Pakistani side further stated that the preparation of PC-1 of the project is underway.

The Chinese side pointed out that the current channel of Gwadar Port can only meet the needs of the fully-loaded one-way navigation of 50,000-ton container ships, and suggested that with the construction of the second phase of berths, the existing channel would not be able to meet the needs of ships entering and exiting the newly-built terminal, therefore it is necessary to expand the existing channel.

The Pakistani side proposed the project to be included in the scope of preferential financing within the framework of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, and said it would submit the necessary documents to the Chinese side as soon as possible.

The two sides will make concerted efforts in actively seeking financing support for the above-mentioned project in accordance with relevant requirements.

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2024/09/05/1-page/1006071-news.html>

## Pakistan Observer

### **I visited Xinjiang and so should you!**

*Abdullah Gauhar Malik*

FROM the use of the Uyghur language on public buses to passing beautiful mosques on my night time walks to interacting with local taxi drivers and objectively asking about their lives, Xinjiang was everything but what I imagined. Having spent the last five years of my life in Europe and consuming information from primarily Western outlets, my thoughts, understanding, and perception of Xinjiang, China was one-directional, nuanced, and biased. I would often find myself hesitant to talk about the region because terms like ‘concentration camp’ and ‘genocide’ would take the rounds in my head and with such a strong reference to the Holocaust I did not see the logic and reason for ever being in the province.

Despite all these negative thoughts and emotions, I landed in Urumqi in the wee hours of the day and was welcomed by the same glistening sun I had said hello to just two hours earlier across the border, in Pakistan. I had a ton of questions and I wanted answers. The only silver lining I saw to this trip was that I would get to see and experience everything I had heard with my own eyes and that would thereby reinforce all my negative emotions towards Xinjiang, closing the China door for me, forever.

In this light, I first embarked on exploring the infamous ‘Xinjiang problem’. China’s decision to place people in facilities for language and political education. I wanted to know why. To explore I headed to the Xinjiang Islamic Institute. A facility with 1000+ students, this state-of-the-art institution was nothing short of an experience. With a multi-story library with over 50,000 printed books, 29,000 electric books, an on-site mosque, classrooms, and world-class dormitories that I, myself, visited ... I was confused but certain that this is not what concentration camps look like by any stretch of imagination.

Through interactions with locals, I quickly learned that in its attempt to combat terrorism and protect Xinjiang’s safety, the state did revise some cultural products, texts, and practices in the province. But did that mean that the Peoples Republic clamped down on people? Well that seemed like a big misconception that quickly started gaining clarity in my otherwise Westernized and rather confused mind. The state made effective immediate changes after some 200-plus terrorist attacks since the 1990s.

Again I had read multiple reports in the last couple of years suggesting that people within these education centres could and would be there indefinitely. Keeping this in mind I spoke to locals: young and old, men and women alike who all said that the vast majority of attendees have “picked up a skill, completed the program, and gone home”. I travelled the length and breadth of Xinjiang; from Urumqi to Yining and met several people. One of them Rukiya Yakup, 26, spent 10 months in the education center where she perfected her Mandarin skills and studied sales. Now she is a real estate sales agent earning over 8000 RMB or over 1100 USD per month... way above the local average. In her own words she said, “I feel much happier now, I’m earning money and have learned new skills. I can now also support my aging parents”.

As aforementioned my main source of gathering China-related news had been Western outlets. I remember seeing the #StillNoInfo trend on social media claiming that many Uyghur students were missing even after the training programs had ended. I asked local government officials and local people about this. I then learned that there were around 100 plus “missing” Uyghurs. Half of them were not verifiable due to incomplete information such as misspelling of names and a third of them are under criminal investigation or are convicted criminals. The rest are actually living normal lives and many of them have never been to the education centres in their lives including 67-year-old Henimhan Tudi (local resident).

Prior to embarking on the trip I had also read and learned that China has detained one to three million Uyghurs, a figure repeated so many times internationally that it is now almost considered a “fact”. However, upon reaching I learned that according to The Grayzone – an independent agency dedicated to investigative journalism, these figures and these claims are largely based on two highly questionable “studies”.

The first study formed its estimate by interviewing a grand total of eight people – perhaps not the most accurate sample size. The second study relied largely on media reports and speculation whose founder has famously been quoted as saying “led by god” on a “mission” against China.

Going one step forward I also learned that when it comes to Xinjiang there is not just misinformation but also disinformation.

A video I saw a few months ago that got millions of views on X of a supposedly Chinese policeman beating a Muslim for reading the Quran in his house was also on my mind. When I asked local journalists about the same, they told me that the video was actually that of an Indonesian police officer beating a local thief. They also told me that pictures available online that are purported to showcase Uyghur Muslims in detention camps have more than once turned out to be doctored photos; some during a protest in Turkey and others from a migrant shelter in Thailand.

While I explored Xinjiang for myself, I also stumbled upon the most beautiful mosque I have seen in a very long time.

This exquisite mosque known as the Shaanxi mosque took roughly 20 years to be built in a Chinese palace architecture style without a single nail in the entire construction of the structure. I later also made my way to the Kazanqi ethnic street to visit the homes of local families. It definitely felt like a homecoming with doors opened with love, care, warmth, and affection. Love, care, warmth, and affection are exactly the feelings I felt while being in Xinjiang for over a week. The people, the culture, the history, and the technological development of the region each require a separate article for there is so much to talk about and so much to debug. Xinjiang opened the multi-ethnic, multi-cultural, and multi-religious China door for me. It is only a matter of time before the world discovers this extremely beautiful but equally misunderstood region.

<https://pakobserver.net/i-visited-xinjiang-and-so-should-you/>

## **The Express Tribune**

### **ML-1 financing under scrutiny**

Cabinet members concerned over rising Chinese debt

ISLAMABAD: Cabinet members have expressed reservations regarding the acquisition of foreign currency debt from China for the implementation of Phase 1 of the Main Line-1 (ML-1) project.

Sources told The Express Tribune that the Ministry of Railways had presented a proposal to the cabinet concerning the Financing Commitment Agreement between the National Railway Administration of China and the Ministry of Railways of Pakistan.

During a cabinet meeting, a member suggested that the Hyderabad-Karachi segment of the project should be financed using domestic resources.

Another member stressed the need for stringent monitoring of any increase in foreign currency debt.

The cabinet was briefed on the framework agreement signed in 2017 between the National Railway Administration of China and the Ministry of Railways of Pakistan for the ML-1 project.

The agreement had been reached in July 2023 to implement the project in phases, with Phase 1 covering the Karachi to Multan segment, including the Pakistan Railways Academy in Walton. Phase 2 would focus on the Multan to Peshawar segment.

The Ministry of Railways explained that in June 2024, during the prime minister's visit to China, he highlighted the importance of commencing work on Phase 1 as soon as possible.

Following this, Chinese experts visited Pakistan in July-August 2024 and confirmed their readiness to start work on the Karachi-Hyderabad section of Phase-1, pending endorsement from the Pakistani side.

The prime minister, upon receiving a briefing on the Chinese experts' visit, was informed of their proposal.

After thorough discussions, it was decided that the Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives, along with the Secretary of Railways, would review the proposal and explore options for securing a financing commitment for the entire Phase-1.

The matter was subsequently placed before the cabinet for consideration.

A draft financing commitment agreement was prepared and shared with relevant ministries, including the Economic Affairs Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Planning, Development and Special Initiatives, and the Finance Division.

The Law Division also vetted the draft agreement.

The Ministry of Railways underscored that ML-1 is a strategic and financially viable project. The Financial Committee of China and Pakistan on Mainline 1, led by the Deputy Chairman



of the Planning Commission, had designed the project under the agreed framework and analysed its returns and viability.

The cabinet was asked to approve the initiation of negotiations for the Financing Commitment Agreement.

As per the Rules of Business, 1973, it was recommended that approval be granted for negotiations at this stage, with the draft agreement to be submitted to the cabinet for final approval upon the conclusion of negotiations.

It was also suggested that representatives from the Ministries of Finance, Economic Affairs, and Law and Justice be involved in the negotiation process.

Ultimately, the cabinet approved the initiation of negotiations on the Financing Commitment Agreement with China's National Railway Administration, directing the Ministry of Railways to include representatives from the Ministries of Finance, Economic Affairs, and Law and Justice in the negotiations.

The finalised draft agreement will be submitted for the cabinet's approval once negotiations are completed.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2493683/ml-1-financing-under-scrutiny>

## The News

### **113 students of NAVTTC selected to study in China**

Islamabad: The names of 113 students of the National Vocational and Technical Training Commission (NAVTTC) selected for scholarships to study at top universities and receive training at industrial institutions in China have been announced, says a press release. The National Vocational and Technical Training Commission (NAVTTC), in collaboration with the Chinese-Commercial Culture- Technical Training Employment (CCTE), organised an international China scholarship ceremony at the Centre of Excellence H-9, Islamabad, aimed at enhancing youth skills and employment. The purpose of the event was to equip the youth with technical skills through the Pak-China joint degree/diploma program, which is part of the Chinese-Commercial Culture-Technical Training Employment (CCTE) initiatives. Through this program, high-quality Pakistani skilled talents will be trained for industrial cooperation between the two countries, and the career development level of Pakistani youth will be enhanced. Under this programme, 113 students undergoing training in various fields across the country, under the National Vocational and Technical Training Commission, were selected after various exams. In the first phase, these students were given an 8-month Chinese language course at the local level, after which Chinese teachers conducted their online test.

The 113 students who passed the test were selected for one-year training in China. Among these students, 11 are female. These 113 students will first receive top-notch training in their respective fields at the best universities in China, followed by practical training at leading industrial institutions in China, and those who meet their standards will be offered employment there.

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=339353>

## Nawaiwaqt News

### چین کی اعلیٰ یونیورسٹیوں میں تعلیم و تربیت کیلئے 113 طلبہ کا انتخاب

اسلام آباد (وفاقی ڈسٹرکٹ) نیشنل ووکیشنل اینڈ ٹیکنیکل ٹریننگ کمیشن (این اے وی ٹی ٹی سی) کے 113 طلبہ کی چین کی اعلیٰ یونیورسٹیوں میں تعلیم و صنعتی اداروں میں تربیت کیلئے سکا لرشپ کیلئے سلیکشن کے بعد ناموں کا اعلان کر دیا گیا۔ نیشنل ووکیشنل اینڈ ٹیکنیکل ٹریننگ کمیشن نے چینی-کمرشل کلچر-ٹیکنیکل ٹریننگ ایسوسی ایشن کے تعاون، اسلام آباد میں بین الاقوامی چین سکا لرشپ کی تقریب کا انعقاد کیا گیا۔ چیئر مین نے H-9 سے نوجوانوں کی مہارتوں کے فروغ اور روزگار کے لیے سینٹر آف ایکسیلنس بتایا کہ یہ سکا لرشپس، جو کہ پاکستان اور چین کی حکومت کی جانب سے پیش کی گئی ہیں، نوجوان پاکستانیوں کو مختلف شعبوں جیسے کہ ٹیکنالوجی، انجینئرنگ، اور ووکیشنل ٹریننگ میں مہارت کے فروغ اور روزگار کے لیے مدد فراہم کرنے کا مقصد رکھتی ہیں۔

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2024-09-05/page-1/detail-13>

**September 06, 2024**

## Business Recorder

### **Tessori, Chinese ambassador discuss bilateral relations**

KARACHI: Governor Sindh Kamran Khan Tessori hosted a meeting at the Governor House with the Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan, Jiang Zaidong, to discuss a range of topics, including Pak-China bilateral relations, the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), and Chinese investments in Sindh.

During the meeting, Governor Sindh emphasised the strength of the Pak-China friendship, describing it as “higher than the Himalayas and deeper than the sea.” He expressed Pakistan’s desire to benefit from China’s development model, highlighting the significance of the completion of the Karachi Circular Railway under the CPEC project for regional progress.

Tessori further noted that sustained peace in the province is proving highly conducive for investment, particularly in the field of information technology. He stressed that China’s support in the IT sector would ensure rapid development.

Ambassador Jiang Zaidong commended the initiatives launched under Tessori’s leadership, reaffirming China’s commitment to collaborate on various projects. The ambassador mentioned that Hexing Group is keen to invest in renewable energy and aims to establish the first Chinese company in Pakistan to produce inverters and batteries.

In a gesture of friendship, Governor Tessori presented the Chinese Ambassador with a traditional Jinnah cap and shawl.

Ambassador Jiang also participated in the tree plantation campaign at Governor House, planting a tree to mark the occasion.

Speaking to the media alongside the ambassador, Governor announced that the Governor House would play a pivotal role in facilitating cooperation between investors from both countries. Ambassador Jiang Zaidong has instructed the Chinese Consul General to maintain close contact with the Governor House for this purpose.

Governor Sindh emphasised the shared vision of Prime Minister and Chief of Army Staff for national economic progress, expressing confidence in China's continued support. He highlighted the importance of accelerating the completion of CPEC projects, adding that Ambassador Jiang assured further Chinese investment and collaboration.

Addressing security concerns, Governor Sindh pledged comprehensive measures to safeguard Chinese investors, aligning with the vision of the country's leadership to ensure a secure environment for increased investment and business growth.

Governor Sindh Kamran Khan Tessori also underscored the deep-rooted relationship between Pakistan and China, stating that it extends beyond governmental ties to a strong and stable bond at the public level. He added that Ambassador Jiang lauded the IT classes and various other initiatives under the Governor's leadership.

Ambassador Jiang Zaidong, in his remarks, expressed his delight in visiting Sindh, referring to Karachi as the economic hub of Pakistan. He promised full cooperation to strengthen bilateral ties and acknowledged the historical importance of visiting Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah's room at the Governor House, noting the respect the Chinese nation holds for Pakistan's founding father.

The ambassador concluded by reaffirming China's commitment to bolstering bilateral relations in line with the visionary leadership of both nations.

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2024/09/06/14-page/1006361-news.html>

### **The Express Tribune**

#### **Chinese lenders agree on daily SOFR**

NEPRA proceedings discuss transition from LIBOR to Secured Overnight Financing Rate

ISLAMABAD: Chinese lenders to the independent power producers (IPPs) have refused to accept the Term "Secured Overnight Financing Rate" (SOFR) but have agreed on transitioning from the London Inter-bank Offered Rate (Libor) to daily SOFR.

The issue was taken up during suo motu proceedings on Thursday on the subject of shifting from Libor to SOFR for calculating the borrowing cost. The public hearing was informed that 22 IPPs had not yet submitted their response and they would give the reply sometime later. It was asked whether it would impact any decision of the National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (Nepra).

It was revealed that the Chinese lenders did not want to opt for Term SOFR in order to avoid the US Treasury benchmark for the IPPs set up under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). However, they were willing to accept the daily SOFR.

During the hearing, it was suggested to carefully review the daily SOFR to examine its impact on the government and consumers. When asked about its impact, Power Division officials said there would not be any impact in the long run.

It was recalled that the Ministry of Energy (Power Division) had announced on February 16, 2024 that the Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) had approved the transition from

Libor to SOFR. The decision came in the backdrop of a proposal submitted by the Power Division on January 23, 2024. According to the approved summary, all power projects with foreign financing were given two options for the transition.

First, the daily Simple SOFR plus the relevant International Swaps and Derivatives Association (ISDA)-recommended credit adjustment spread (0.26161% for three months and 0.42826% for six months). Second, the Term SOFR plus the relevant ISDA-recommended credit adjustment spread.

The Chinese lenders to the IPPs agreed on the daily SOFR. A total of 23 power projects requested the transition while five projects namely Metro, Gul Ahmed, Jhimpir, Hawa and Master asked Nepra to exercise its suo motu powers. Recently, the Pakistan Wind Energy Association and several development finance institutions (DFIs), through letters dated July 20 and July 30, 2024, respectively, urged Nepra to expedite the process by applying its suo motu powers.

All power projects with foreign lending linked to Libor, either wholly or partly, were directed to submit a written confirmation of the option selected by September 5, 2024.

The options included the daily Simple SOFR plus the relevant ISDA-recommended credit adjustment spread, and the Term SOFR plus the relevant ISDA-recommended credit adjustment spread.

The key issues for discussion in the proceedings for projects opting for daily Simple SOFR included determining a uniform look-back period for all relevant power projects and addressing any other concerns that may arise with approval of the authority. So far, 53 power projects have submitted their written confirmation. Some 11 projects have opted for daily SOFR and 37 projects have selected Term SOFR. Three project sponsors have requested both options for different loans.

Additionally, two IPPs – Uch-II Power and Laraib Energy – want to continue to use the synthetic Libor for the remaining term of their debt, which is set to expire in 1.5 years and one year, respectively. Several projects have yet to submit their confirmation.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2493886/chinese-lenders-agree-on-daily-sofr>

### **Pakistani fruit, juice exports to China surge**

Beijing's growing appetite for high-quality fruits, juices provides lucrative opportunity

Pakistan has witnessed a significant increase in its fruit and juice exports to China this year. According to the latest data from the General Administration of Customs of China (GACC), during the January-July period of 2024, Pakistan's frozen orange juice exports to China reached unprecedented levels, showcasing the growing demand for Pakistani produce in the Chinese market.

Pakistan Embassy Commercial Counsellor Ghulam Qadir said that the surge in exports can be attributed to the China-Pakistan FTA as well as concerted efforts by the Pakistani government and exporters to diversify and expand their international markets. He added that

China's growing appetite for high-quality, nutritious fruits and juices has provided a lucrative opportunity for Pakistani producers to capitalise on the market.

"From January-July 2024, exports of fruit juices and other related items to China crossed \$1.546 million, an increase of 226% as compared to the same period of last year. Frozen orange juice exports crossed \$1.54 million," he said. Pakistani fresh mangoes are also gaining popularity in the Chinese market and in the first seven months of this year, 4,214 kg of mangoes were imported by Chinese enterprises. Pakistan's PM has also gifted mangoes to the Chinese leadership and Chinese enterprises this year.

The commercial counsellor said that the robust export growth underscores the immense potential for further collaboration and trade between Pakistan and China in the agriculture sector.

Wei Ling Chen, Regional Director of Direct Access Chinese enterprise, told CEN that this year her company imported three to five tons of Pakistani mangoes, and before confirming import of mangoes, MERAPC Solutions conducted a lot of research and came to know that Pakistan, as the birthplace of mangoes, has more than 300 varieties. They chose Sindhri and Chaunsa, which are known as the best mangoes, and promoted these two varieties in the Chinese market so that more domestic consumers can taste the characteristics of Pakistani mangoes. "To ensure the quality of mangoes, we choose to cooperate with high-quality mango orchards and choose the best varieties, planting techniques, picking and packaging. In particular, Pakistani mangoes are naturally grown therefore the size is not uniform, and the skin is not so bright and beautiful, but the pure mango flavour is delicious."

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2493889/pakistani-fruit-juice-exports-to-china-surge>

## The News

### **Pak-China collaboration revolutionises arid agriculture**

Islamabad:China-Pakistan collaboration helps to revolutionise Pakistan's arid agriculture. As per the report, adopting China's advanced agricultural technologies and water-saving practices, especially in arid regions, Pakistan stands on the brink of a transformative opportunity. Enhanced agricultural productivity could not only bolster food security but also elevate Pakistan to a global exporter of agricultural products, according to a report published by Gwadar Pro on Friday. Agriculture remains the backbone of Pakistan's economy and plays a crucial role in driving the country's modest recovery in FY2024, with GDP growth reaching 2.38%. The sector itself expanded by 6.25%, a remarkable improvement from the 2.27% growth recorded in FY2023. This surge in agricultural productivity was driven by double-digit growth in major crop yields. However, despite these gains, Pakistan is yet to unlock the full potential of its agricultural landscape. Of its 54 million hectares of cultivable land, less than half is being utilised. However, by adopting China's advanced agricultural technologies and water-saving practices, especially in arid regions, Pakistan stands on the brink of a transformative opportunity. <https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/1227544-pak-china-collaboration-revolutionises-arid-agriculture>

**September 07, 2024**

**Daily Times**

### **Pakistan's desert blooms with Chinese ingenuity**

China-Pakistan collaboration helps to revolutionize Pakistan's arid agriculture, according to a report published by Gwadar Pro on Friday.

As per the report, adopting China's advanced agricultural technologies and water-saving practices, especially in arid regions, Pakistan stands on the brink of a transformative opportunity. Enhanced agricultural productivity could not only bolster food security but also elevate Pakistan to a global exporter of agricultural products.

Agriculture remains the backbone of Pakistan's economy and plays a crucial role in driving the country's modest recovery in FY2024, with GDP growth reaching 2.38%.

The sector itself expanded by 6.25%, a remarkable improvement from the 2.27% growth recorded in FY2023. This surge in agricultural productivity was driven by double-digit growth in major crop yields.

However, despite these gains, Pakistan is yet to unlock the full potential of its agricultural landscape. Of its 54 million hectares of cultivable land, less than half is being utilized.

However, by adopting China's advanced agricultural technologies and water-saving practices, especially in arid regions, Pakistan stands on the brink of a transformative opportunity.

Enhanced agricultural productivity could not only bolster food security but also elevate Pakistan to a global exporter of agricultural products.

Federal Minister for Planning and Development, Ahsan Iqbal, emphasized the importance of modernizing Pakistan's agriculture in a meeting held on Wednesday in Islamabad.

He revealed that 1,000 experts will be sent to China to receive training in advanced agricultural techniques including water-saving agriculture in arid areas.

"Modernizing agriculture is a critical need of the hour, and agricultural education and research are among the government's top priorities," he stated. Iqbal further expressed confidence in Pakistan's resources, stating, "Pakistan possesses excellent resources and brilliant minds, and with the use of modern technology in the agricultural sector, there can be a significant increase in production.

I am hopeful that these 1,000 individuals, who will be trained in China, will become the architects of an agricultural revolution in the country."

Pakistan's arid regions continue to rely on outdated farming methods, with rudimentary techniques for crop cultivation and water management still in practice.

This has resulted in large swaths of fertile land remaining underutilized, limiting the country's agricultural growth.

In contrast, China has made remarkable strides in arid-region agriculture, particularly in its northwestern areas, where once barren lands have been converted into productive landscapes.

During a recent visit to Shaanxi, China, I witnessed China's pioneering water-saving agricultural technologies, along with advanced research on soil, seeds, and crops.

These innovations have set global benchmarks and are empowering nations to achieve sustainable agricultural growth in challenging environments.

A beacon of these advancements is the Institute of Water-Saving Agriculture in Arid Areas of China at Northwest A&F University.

Established in 2010, the institute stands as a global leader in transforming arid landscapes into fertile grounds through cutting-edge water-saving practices.

Spread over 260 mu (approximately 42.82 acres), the institute is equipped with state-of-the-art research facilities including an irrigation hydraulics hall, crop root system observation fields, and an artificial rainfall simulation system, among others.

The institute has established specialized research centers for crop water demand regulation, water-saving cultivation, irrigation technology, and soil and water resource management.

Its advanced test platforms and scientific instruments are recognized as leading both domestically and internationally.

The facility has also become a training hub for experts from Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) countries and is currently collaborating with nations like Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan.

The China-Uzbekistan Water-Saving Park is one of its landmark achievements, exemplifying China's commitment to sustainable agricultural partnerships.

Xu Jinghui, Deputy Director of the Laboratory of National Water-Saving Efficiency in Arid Areas, told Gwadar Pro that Pakistani students are currently pursuing advanced degrees at the institute.

"We are open to future cooperation with Pakistan. At present, Pakistani students are pursuing Master's and PhD programs here, and their country stands to benefit from the knowledge and experience they will bring back," said Mr. Jinghui.

He emphasized that Pakistan stands to gain significantly from this collaboration, noting existing partnerships in seed research and the potential for future water-saving projects.

In addressing the challenges of uneven rainfall distribution, inadequate water supply, and low precipitation utilization, the institute has developed an innovative "four-in-one" system.

This system integrates water-blocking dams, photovoltaic-powered water lifting, water storage in cellars, and water-saving irrigation, revolutionizing crop yields and water efficiency in dry regions.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1224230/pakistans-desert-blooms-with-chinese-ingenuity/>

## Pakistan Observer

### **China's rise: Human capital and innovation**

*Qamar Bashir*

TWELVE years ago, I visited China as a participant in a Seminar on Press and Publication for Developing Countries, alongside participants from over twenty nations. During our month-long training and informative visit, we toured many leading organizations, departments, and industrial undertakings. At that time, China was still grappling with the challenge of opening up to the world while maintaining its one-party structure and socialist ideals, all while striving for nationwide progress and development. In the industrial sector, we observed strict government control. Although industrial and manufacturing processes had begun to improve, the focus was still largely on quantity rather than quality. However, it was evident that the leadership recognized the need to adopt modern management and administrative methods. These practices were just starting to take root in the industrial sector but had not yet reached the desired level of effectiveness.

To accelerate progress and create a highly skilled workforce capable of transforming the industrial and manufacturing sectors, the government established numerous institutes across the country to teach English at the school level. Additionally, they began sending hundreds of thousands of students to universities in the US and Europe to acquire critical knowledge, skills, and leadership abilities necessary for modernizing Chinese enterprises. At that time, the organizations we visited used conventional methods to present their performance, focusing primarily on numbers without emphasizing customer satisfaction, quality control, employee value, or creating an enabling environment for optimal employee performance. There was little emphasis on streamlining industrial and manufacturing processes to achieve high quality and product durability.

After twelve years, upon returning to China, we observed two significant changes. The most important was the government's recognition of the critical need to develop high-quality human resources, starting from the grassroots level. The government rightly understood that all state resources should be directed toward empowering and educating the people. Their goal was to ensure that the populace was happy, confident, knowledgeable, and highly skilled. This approach would not only enhance the quality, style, and dignity of work processes but also enable each skilled individual to create more wealth and contribute higher taxes, ultimately enriching the state.

With increased financial resources, the state would gain the financial space necessary to further invest in human resource development. As the state becomes wealthier and more prosperous, it would earn respect, dignity, and value in the international community. This financial space could then be used to secure raw materials from around the world and invest in research and development, fostering a culture of innovation that would allow China to compete globally by producing high-quality products that rival those of other nations.

Over the past decade, China has significantly increased its investment in developing high-quality human capital, aiming to make its people happier and more prosperous. In education, spending rose from USD 349 billion in 2013 (4% of GDP) to USD 870 billion in 2023 (5.3%



of GDP), with a strong emphasis on vocational training, digital literacy, and STEM education to create a more skilled and adaptable workforce. Healthcare investment similarly grew from USD 357 billion (5.5% of GDP) to USD 1.1 trillion (7% of GDP), focusing on improving access to modern healthcare services, addressing public health challenges, and ensuring better overall well-being. Additionally, the widespread adoption of WeChat has revolutionized how people meet their obligations toward the government and manage everyday tasks, from making purchases to accessing public services, further enhancing convenience and efficiency in daily life. China's per capita income also saw a substantial increase, rising from approximately USD 7,000 in 2013 to over USD 12,000 in 2023, reflecting the overall improvements in living standards and economic prosperity driven by these investments.

The second major transformation in China over the past decade has been the adoption of ultra-modern management, administration, and marketing practices across all sectors, both government and private. Ten years ago, Chinese companies focused mainly on manufacturing and cost efficiency, often lagging in advanced management and innovation. In 2013, China's corporate sector was emerging on the global stage, struggling with best practices in customer focus, quality assurance, and innovation. Emphasis was on scale and production capacity rather than management quality. Research and development (R&D) spending was around 2% of GDP, mainly in state-owned enterprises (SOEs).

By 2023, China's corporate sector has dramatically transformed. Companies now embrace best management practices, including customer-centric strategies, quality assurance, marketing, and automation. R&D spending has surged to 2.5% of GDP, with private companies playing a significant role. This shift has elevated Chinese companies to global competitiveness.

For example, China had only two companies in the top 100 of the Fortune Global 500 list in 2013. By 2023, this number grew to 14, with many gaining international recognition for innovation and quality.

The adoption of technologies like AI, big data, and automation has further propelled Chinese firms. Companies like Huawei and Alibaba are now global leaders, and Chinese electric vehicle manufacturers are challenging traditional automakers worldwide.

Pakistan can learn from China's transformation. Shifting from an export-led growth model to a balanced, high-value economy is crucial. Upgrading industries to compete globally by adopting best practices in management, quality assurance, and innovation is essential. Government-led initiatives and increased funding for R&D, along with incentives for private sector growth, are key. Embracing technological advancements, investing in STEM education, and addressing urbanization challenges will enhance efficiency and global competitiveness. Sustainable practices and environmental compliance can also provide a competitive edge in both domestic and international markets.

<https://pakobserver.net/chinas-rise-human-capital-and-innovation/>

## **The Express Tribune**

### **Chinese envoy lauds working of Confucius Institute**

Says KU plays significant role in cultivating talent in IT, AI

KARACHI:

Chinese Ambassador Jiang Zaidong on Friday said education is a core component in bilateral cooperation.

During his visit to the University of Karachi (KU) with a delegation, Zaidong praised the Chinese language teaching at the Confucius Institute.

The ambassador recognized Pakistan's growing IT sector and emphasised the significant role KU plays in cultivating talent that contributes to both local and global business success.

The Chinese delegation led by Ambassador Zaidong met with Vice Chancellor Professor Dr. Khalid Mahmood Iraqi and other officials. Dr Iraqi highlighted KU's longstanding partnership with Sichuan Normal University,

which has played a vital role in running the Confucius Institute (CI) on the KU campus.

Dr. Iraqi also underscored the importance of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) for Pakistan's economic development, affirming that despite internal challenges, both governments remain committed to its success.

Ambassador Jiang Zaidong praised the university's contribution to Pak-China relations, particularly acknowledging

Dr. Iraqi and CI's Pakistani Director, Professor Dr. Muhammad Nasiruddin Khan, for their efforts in advancing the Confucius Institute's development.

He noted KU's large student body of around 50,000, which is uncommon even globally, and highlighted the role of education in national progress.

He expressed China's commitment to supporting KU's growth, offering scholarships and further assistance to promote education in IT, artificial intelligence, and agriculture.

During Pakistani Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif's visit to China, both nations agreed to enhance educational collaboration, focusing on developing talent for key sectors.

The ambassador also commended the resilience of the Confucius Institute at KU, which continued its work following a terrorist attack in 2022.

Despite challenges, the institute has remained dedicated to promoting Chinese language and culture in Pakistan.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2494192/chinese-envoy-lauds-working-of-confucius-institute>

## The News

### **Chinese team, Romina discuss green mobility solutions**

Islamabad: A high-level Chinese delegation called on Coordinator to Prime Minister on Climate Change Romina Khurshid Alam and discussed with her its plan to help Pakistan provide world-class transport service to the people while achieving environmental sustainability and climate resilience goals.

The delegation, comprising senior-level officials of the Chongqing CRRC Hengton Vehicle Company and Chongqing Public Transport Group Company, PowerChina International and Daewoo Pakistan Express, apprised the PM's climate aide of Pakistan Green Transport Project (PGTP), an ambitious initiative that aims at transforming the country's public transport system to become more environmental-friendly and sustainable.

"Basically set up under the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) framework, PGTP is a consortium of Pakistani and Chinese transport companies working to bring zero-emission, green transport in the country, which would benefit the common man in the country, reduce the country's petroleum import bill, ensure optimal utilization of the power generation capacity and above all improve the environmental conditions across the country," said Faisal Ahmed Siddiqui, CEO Daewoo Pakistan Express group, who led the delegation.

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=339913>

**September 08, 2024**

## Daily Times

### **Huawei to train 300,000 young Pakistanis in ICT skills**

Chairman of the Prime Minister's Youth Programme (PMYP) Rana Mashhood Ahmed Khan, visited the office of Huawei on Saturday to discuss the modalities of an extensive training program aimed at equipping 300,000 young Pakistanis with advanced skills in Information and Communication Technology (ICT).

The meeting, which followed crucial technical discussions held on September 4th and 5th, marked a pivotal step in integrating Huawei's advanced training resources into Pakistan's educational framework. The initiative guided by the directives of Prime Minister Mian Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, seeks to enhance technical education by leveraging Huawei's global expertise and cutting-edge training materials. This strategic partnership is expected to substantially elevate the quality and reach of technical education throughout Pakistan, fostering skill development and innovation. The National Vocational and Technical Training Commission (NAVTTTC) will act as the implementation partner under the Prime Minister's Youth Skill Development Programme. The collaboration builds upon the foundation established during Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's visit to Huawei's office in China, underscoring the commitment to advancing Pakistan's technical education landscape.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1224547/huawei-to-train-300000-young-pakistanis-in-ict-skills/>

## **Chinese Ambassador makes historic visit to Karachi Nuclear Power Plants**

Chinese Ambassador Jiang Zaidong visited the operational Karachi Nuclear Power Plants K-2 and K-3 on Saturday, following his predecessor Sun Wei Dong's attendance at the groundbreaking ceremony for the Karachi Nuclear Power Plants (NPPs) in November 2013.

While giving brief to Ambassador it was highlighted that K2&K3 Nuclear Power Projects commenced their production in May 2021 and April 2022, respectively with the combined capacity of generating 2200 MW clean & cost effective energy to national grid, according to a press release.

Ambassador appreciated the joint work done by Chinese Power Company and PAEC experts on completion of these Projects. He also thanked Chairman PAEC for ensuring foolproof safety & security in coordination with LEAs for Chinese workforce employed at KNPGS.

While speaking on the occasion, Chinese Ambassador also stressed the need of promoting Pak-China Strategic & Bilateral cooperation in wide range of activities, involving various segments of the society. He stressed that Chinese power companies may not be restricted only to CPEC Projects but also to contribute in non CPEC and power sector for strengthening Economic Foundations already laid between the two countries.

While talking on the forthcoming C5 NPP, he appreciated the ongoing negotiations between both the countries and assured complete support for execution of the project which will ultimately enhance Nuclear Power potential of Pakistan.

Ambassador further emphasized upon furthering Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiatives for local population around KHI NPPs and assured Chinese support for such activities as well.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1224666/chinese-ambassador-makes-historic-visit-to-karachi-nuclear-power-plants/>

### **Pakistan Observer**

#### **China a Beacon of hope and South-South cooperation**

*Engr Qaiser Nawab*

the China-Africa partnership is its potential to address what President Xi Jinping has termed the “four deficits” facing humanity: the governance deficit, trust deficit, development deficit and peace deficit. These deficits represent some of the most pressing challenges of our time and the collaboration between China and Africa offers a unique opportunity to develop solutions tailored to the specific needs of developing countries.<sup>1</sup> The Governance Deficit. The governance deficit refers to the challenges many countries face in establishing effective, transparent and accountable systems of governance. Weak governance structures have hindered development and contributed to instability in many parts of the world. Through its partnership with Africa, China has supported efforts to strengthen governance by sharing its experiences and providing assistance in public administration and capacity building. China's approach respects the sovereignty of African nations, recognizing that each country must find its path to good governance. By providing support without imposing a specific model, China

allows African nations to develop governance systems responsive to their unique challenges.

2. The Trust Deficit. The trust deficit refers to the lack of trust that often exists between nations, particularly between developed and developing countries. Historical inequalities have left many Global South countries wary of external intervention. The China-Africa partnership helps bridge this trust gap by demonstrating that inter-national cooperation can be based on mutual respect and shared goals. The relationship between China and Africa is built on trust, reinforced by the tangible results of their collaboration, which have positively impacted millions of lives across the continent.

3. The Development Deficit. The development deficit manifests in stark disparities in wealth, infrastructure and quality of life between the Global North and South. China's involvement in Africa has been transformative in addressing this deficit, particularly through investments in infrastructure, education and technology.

China has played a pivotal role in constructing major infrastructure projects across Africa, including highways, railways and ports, which have facilitated trade and improved access to markets. Additionally, China's investments in education and technology transfer have helped build local capacity and promote sustainable development. By focusing on long-term development rather than short-term aid, China is helping African nations build the foundations for self-sustaining economic growth.

4. The Peace Deficit. The peace deficit refers to the prevalence of conflict and instability in many parts of the world, which hinders development and exacerbates poverty. Africa has been particularly affected by this deficit, with conflicts leading to loss of life, displacement and economic disruption.

China has been an important partner in efforts to promote peace and stability in Africa. Through initiatives such as peacekeeping missions and conflict resolution support, China has demonstrated its commitment to helping African nations achieve lasting peace. By addressing the root causes of conflict, such as poverty and lack of opportunity, the China-Africa partnership contributes to a more peaceful and stable world.

### A Model for South-South Cooperation

The China-Africa partnership is a powerful example of South-South cooperation, which refers to the collaboration between developing countries in the Global South to achieve common development goals. This model of cooperation is based on the principles of solidarity, mutual benefit and respect for sovereignty, offering a viable alternative to the traditional North-South model of development assistance.

China's engagement with Africa is a testament to the potential of South-South cooperation to drive global development. By working together, China and Africa demonstrate that developing countries can lead in addressing the world's most pressing challenges, from poverty to climate change. This partnership also helps shift the balance of power in the international system, giving a stronger voice to the Global South and promoting a more equitable and inclusive global order. China's engagement in Africa is more than a bilateral relationship; it is a beacon of hope for the Global South and a model for future international cooperation. By working together, China and Africa are addressing some of the most pressing challenges facing humanity, from governance and trust to development and peace. Their

partner-ship is a powerful example of how countries can collaborate to create a more just, inclusive and sustainable world.

As the global landscape evolves, the China-Africa partnership will play a crucial role in shaping the future of international relations. By promoting South-South cooperation and building a community with a shared future for humanity, China and Africa are leading the way toward a new era of global development.

The author currently serves as the President of the Belt and Road Initiative for Sustainable Development (BRISD), an international think-tank based in Islamabad. <https://pakobserver.net/china-a-beacon-of-hope-and-south-south-cooperation/>

### **launch of book on Chinese culture**

*Sultan M Hali*

“Cheeni Saqafat kay Tabinda Nuqoosh” (Gleaming Gems of Chinese Culture)—my latest book—was launched at the Institute of Strategic Studies, Islamabad in a solemn ceremony where literary luminaries including this scribe’s son Dr. Shafei Moiz Hali, currently the Head of Department of Government and Public Policy at the National Defence University reviewed the book.

The book is a comprehensive account of the various aspects of the rich Chinese Culture, numerous traditions, customs and mores and is a study of the ancient roots of the diverse history of the tradition and culture whose specimens are still prevalent.

“Cheeni Saqafat kay Tabinda Nuqoosh” is divided into thirteen chapters, which cover the diverse aspects of Chinese culture in full detail. The chapter on Art comprises research on Chinese Embroidery, its various forms, symbolism and representation. Four traditional styles have been discussed: Suzhou, Hunan (Zhiangzhio), Guangdong (Youzhio) and Sichuan (Shuzhio).

The art of traditional Chinese painting, its linkage with the art of calligraphy, classic presentation of landscape which differs from region to region has been deliberated upon. Renowned 5th Century Chinese critic, historian and academic Xie He’s book “The Classification of Ancient Chinese Artists” has been quoted, which talks of six rules of painting: firstly the “depth of the spirit” i.e. unless the artist paints with his true feelings, he can never reach the heights of creating a masterpiece. Second rule pertains to the “Bone Method” which teaches the correct use of the paintbrush and the relationship between painting and calligraphy. The third rule is “In accordance with the subject”. Art must be close to the subject while the shades, texture and form must have conformity. The fourth rule is “Accordance to the type” and the fifth rule is “Classification of art and planning”. The final rule is “Lessons from the Past”.

Calligraphy, painting and poetry are interrelated while the artist authenticates his creation with his seal. The art and history of cutting seals has also been discussed in detail. Wood carving is an ancient Chinese art, which was perfected many centuries ago and has been carried on by master wood carvers, who have created masterpieces.

The Scholar's Four Treasures receive special mention. Chi-Pao—the traditional dress of Chinese women, its origin, development, different styles and conformity with fashion have been brought out. Art of Chinese Knot-making is specific to ancient China. The various designs, their symbolism and significance are essential to appreciate the Chinese knot-making as an art form. Dragon and Lion have a significant position and status in Chinese Traditions thus they receive their due notation in various forms of traditional Chinese art, including embroidery, painting, wood carving, sculpture and cuisine.

Chinese lanterns, their significance, origin and various types and New Year paintings continue to be a part of Chinese culture. The art of making dough figures has an interesting background and continues to enthrall old and young alike. Chinese furniture is in great demand in the west but it has special significance in Chinese culture and modern Chinese also seek forms of traditional furniture.

Hand fans depict a specific part of tradition. Their origin, various types and uses other than fanning, which includes its use as a prop for story tellers or by traditional Chinese dancers, is a fascinating description. The chapter on traditional Cuisine is interesting because various forms of Chinese cuisine form an essential part of culture. Menshi and hot pot as well as the use of chopsticks draw the attention of the reader. Traditional tea ceremony, its significance in Chinese society in both ancient and modern times, the origin of tea, its medicinal properties and various types have been brought out. Traditional Festivals, including the Chinese Lunar Year, Chinese Spring, Lantern, Chinming, Duanwu and the Chongyang Festival; their importance, background and symbolism as well as philosophy have been explained. Traditional Chinese Medicine and how it differs from western medicine, what are the different types of treatment has been amply elucidated.

Traditional Chinese Musical Instruments, their place in Chinese culture and origin makes for interesting reading. Opera is a very important part of Chinese culture, its ethos, the different types, specific make up; their symbolism, opera masks and the use of shadow puppets have been painstakingly researched and described in the book.

China has scores of historical tourist attractions but six of them have been described in this book, including the Great Wall, Giant Buddha of Lashan Dafu, Stone Statues of Dazu and the traditional Hutongs of Beijing. Any discussion on Chinese culture would be incomplete without a mention of its traditional dances.

Chinese ethnic minorities have been encouraged by the Chinese government to maintain their rich traditions, dress in their finery and showcase their culture to tourists. A whole chapter has been dedicated to this which includes their specific customs including wedding ceremonies.

Keeping crickets as pets is specific to China and was practiced in ancient times by royalty and is still a popular practice among Chinese.

Deliberately, I have dedicated a chapter to discuss Chinese Etiquette, which is essential for visitors to China, while meeting or greeting them, dining in their homes or bringing gifts. Some social taboos have also been presented. Moreover, China's cultural history is incredibly

rich and offers numerous insights into its national psyche. China's long history of dynastic changes, invasions, and internal conflicts has fostered a strong sense of resilience and adaptability. The ability to rebuild and innovate after periods of turmoil is a recurring theme. Traditional Chinese culture places a high value on family and community. Confucianism, which emphasizes social harmony and respect for hierarchy, has deeply influenced Chinese social structures and relationships. China also has a long history of technological and scientific advancements, such as the invention of paper, gunpowder, the compass, and printing. This tradition of innovation continues to be a source of national pride. My endeavour to introduce the various aspects of Chinese culture in Urdu was essential because the majority of Pakistan loves its 'Iron Brother' China but knows little about it.

<https://pakobserver.net/launch-of-book-on-chinese-culture/>

### **The News**

#### **Chinese envoy visits Karachi nuclear power plants**

*Israr Khan*

ISLAMABAD: Chinese Ambassador Jiang Zaidong on Saturday became the first Chinese ambassador to visit an operational nuclear power plant in Pakistan. His visit to the Karachi Nuclear Power Plants K-2 and K-3 reactors marks a milestone in Pakistan-China cooperation on nuclear energy. The ambassador's visit follows the groundbreaking ceremony for the Chinese-designed nuclear power plants, held in November 2013 and presided over by then ambassador Sun Weidong. The K-2 and K-3 projects began generating electricity in May 2021 and April 2022, respectively, with a combined capacity of 2,200MW of clean, cost-effective energy added to the national grid. During the visit, Ambassador Jiang praised the collaboration between the Chinese power company and Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission (PAEC) for their successful completion of the projects. He also thanked PAEC chairman for ensuring the safety and security of the Chinese workforce, in coordination with law enforcement agencies. In his remarks, Ambassador Jiang emphasized the importance of expanding Pak-China strategic and bilateral cooperation, not only in the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) but also in non-CPEC projects, particularly in the power sector. He highlighted that Chinese power companies should play a broader role in strengthening Pakistan's economic foundations. The ambassador also touched on the ongoing negotiations for the 1,200MW Chashma Nuclear Power Plant Unit 5 (C-5) in Mianwali, expressing full support for its execution. He stressed that the project would further enhance Pakistan's nuclear power potential. Additionally, Jiang underscored the need for Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiatives benefiting local communities around the Karachi nuclear power plants and promised continued Chinese support in this area. He noted that the Chinese commercial counselor would soon visit the K-2 and K-3 sites to assess operations and coordinate CSR efforts. The ambassador was accompanied by key officials from the Chinese consulate and embassy in Karachi, signaling China's commitment to bolstering Pakistan's clean energy ambitions. The envoy's visit came before the expected visit of Chinese PM to Pakistan in October.

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=340308>



**September 09, 2024**

**Daily Times**

## **New Dimension in China-Africa Cooperation**

*Muhammad Asif Noor*

The Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) held in Beijing has emerged as a significant milestone in the ever-evolving relationship between China and the African continent. This summit, marked by the presence of over 50 African leaders, represents more than just a diplomatic gathering. It is a powerful symbol of China's deepening ties with Africa and its commitment to fostering a shared future.

The forum, which has grown in stature and importance since its inception in 2000, reflects China's strategic vision of positioning itself as the development partner of choice for the Global South. In a world increasingly defined by geopolitical shifts and economic uncertainties, the outcomes of this summit carry profound implications not only for Africa but for the global order at large.

At the heart of this forum lies the promise of modernization—a term that resonates deeply within the narratives of both China and Africa. Chinese President Xi Jinping, in his keynote address, emphasized that the modernization of China and Africa is not just a regional necessity but a global imperative. With one-third of the world's population residing in China and Africa, their joint progress is seen as pivotal to the broader global modernization process.

This perspective is not merely rhetorical; it reflects a strategic alignment between China's developmental trajectory and Africa's aspirations for economic growth and social progress. By aligning their goals, China and Africa are not only shaping their destinies but also contributing to a more balanced and inclusive global development landscape.

The significance of this summit is further underscored by the announcement of ten partnership actions that China and Africa will jointly pursue over the next three years. These actions span a wide range of areas, from mutual learning among civilizations to trade prosperity, industrial chain cooperation, and green development.

The breadth and ambition of these initiatives are a testament to the comprehensive nature of China-Africa cooperation. For instance, China's commitment to providing 360 billion yuan in financial support, along with the creation of one million jobs in Africa, reflects a deep-seated commitment to fostering economic resilience and sustainable development across the continent. This approach is not merely transactional; it is a strategic effort to build enduring partnerships that go beyond immediate economic gains.

One of the most notable aspects of this forum is its emphasis on mutual respect and equality – a departure from the traditional donor-recipient dynamics that have often characterized Africa's relations with other global powers. China's approach, as articulated by President Xi, is rooted in the principle of treating African countries as equal partners, with the right to pursue their paths to modernization. This perspective is particularly resonant in a continent that has long grappled with the legacies of colonialism and external intervention. By

emphasizing the importance of local conditions and national realities in shaping development strategies, China is offering an alternative model of cooperation that prioritizes African agency and ownership.

The forum also highlighted the strategic dimension of China-Africa relations, with President Xi proposing the elevation of these relations to the level of an all-weather China-Africa community with a shared future. This proposal is not merely symbolic; it reflects China's recognition of Africa's growing geopolitical significance and its desire to forge a long-term, resilient partnership that can withstand the vicissitudes of international politics.

The commitment to enhancing connectivity, both in terms of physical infrastructure and digital networks, is a clear indication of China's intent to integrate Africa more closely into the global economy. This is particularly important in the context of the Belt and Road Initiative, which has seen substantial investments in African infrastructure projects, from roads and railways to ports and energy facilities.

However, the implications of this deepening relationship extend beyond the economic sphere. The inclusion of green development and common security among the ten partnership actions reflects a broader understanding of the interconnected challenges facing both regions.

China's pledge to launch 30 clean energy projects in Africa and its offer to collaborate on nuclear technology and satellite remote sensing are significant steps towards addressing the continent's energy deficits and enhancing its technological capabilities.

These initiatives are not only crucial for Africa's development but also align with global efforts to combat climate change and promote sustainable growth.

The focus on common security is another critical dimension of the forum's outcomes. In a world marked by increasing instability and geopolitical tensions,

China's offer to provide military assistance and training to African countries is a clear indication of its commitment to supporting regional stability.

This approach, however, is carefully balanced with respect for African sovereignty and a rejection of external interference.

By framing security cooperation within the broader context of the Global Security Initiative, China is positioning itself as a partner in Africa's quest for peace and stability, rather than a hegemonic power seeking to impose its will.

The 2024 FOCAC summit represents a pivotal moment in China-Africa relations. It is a testament to the maturity and depth of their partnership, one that is built on mutual respect, shared interests, and a common vision for the future.

The writer is Director, Centre for Eurasia and Central Asian Studies-Institute of Peace and Diplomatic Studies.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1224942/new-dimension-in-china-africa-cooperation/>

## **China, Pakistan brew up new opportunities with broken tea exports**

Broken tea from China and Pakistan can be blended and make new products for the international market, said He Qingyuan, a senior official of Tea Research Institute, Yunnan Academy of Agricultural Sciences, according to a report carried by China Economic Net (CEN).

“In Pakistan, the demand for broken black tea is high. “Broken black tea is mainly used to make teabags. Its price is not high in China.

Yunnan is also searching for ways to increase its export. Industrial transfer or guidance from Yunnan to Pakistan can be a very effective way for Pak-China tea cooperation.”

Lately, Mr. Manzoor Ali, Counselor of the Pakistani Embassy in China, expressed his expectation of further Pak-China cooperation in tea industry, stating, “with a population of over 200 million, Pakistan is a major consumer of tea.

Our Embassy has signed an MOU with the International Business Advisory Council of the China International Engineering Consulting Association (CAIEC).

Through collaboration with Chinese tea companies in tea production, we aim to not only meet domestic market demand, but also extend to neighboring Islamic countries and even reach European nations.”

“Tea is an embedded part of our culture, joy and conversations. One cannot take tea away from a Pakistani’s life,” said Sadia Khatri, a writer in Karachi. “Any time is a good time for tea.”

Such is the case. As the world’s largest tea importer, Pakistan imported more than USD 600 million (about RMB 4.033 billion) worth of tea last year, while China’s exports of tea to Pakistan were USD 5.76 million during 2023, according to the United Nations COMTRADE database on international trade. The huge gap shows that there is still huge potential for cooperation between China and Pakistan in the tea industry.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1225043/china-pakistan-brew-up-new-opportunities-with-broken-tea-exports/>

### **The Express Tribune**

#### **Correcting West's narrative on Pakistan**

Talk of being in 'deep crisis' due to Chinese loans is far from reality

KARACHI: Pakistan's economy is poised to enter a sustainable growth phase after achieving recent stability. This is evident as renowned global credit rating agencies, including Fitch and Moody's, upgraded Islamabad's credit rating in July and August. These upgrades acknowledge that Pakistan has navigated out of economic and financial dangers, averting a major risk of default on foreign debt repayments between 2023 and 2024.

However, a New York Times opinion piece last month (August 2024) claimed, "Pakistan is mired in a deep economic crisis that it can't climb out of, partly because of the need to pay billions of dollars in loans to China for infrastructure and other projects."

This claim starkly contradicts the facts. Pakistan is no longer in a deep economic crisis but is instead on the verge of transitioning from stability to growth. Inflation has returned to single digits, standing at 9.6% in August 2024 after three years. Foreign exchange reserves have hit a 26-month high of \$9.43 billion, more than triple the amount recorded in February 2023. The rupee-dollar exchange rate has remained stable at Rs278-279/\$ for over five months, with the current account deficit narrowing to breakeven. Workers' remittances have surged, and export earnings are on the rise. The State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) is expected to make its third consecutive significant interest rate cut of 1-1.5 percentage points next week (on September 12) to further support economic activity.

As for the second part of the opinion piece's claim that Pakistan is trapped by billions in loans to China under the Belt and Road Initiative's (BRI) flagship China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) project it's essential to recall that China was the first nation to provide crucial financing during Pakistan's peak economic and financial crisis between January and June 2023. This financing helped Pakistan avert potential default on its foreign debt obligations.

Following this, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), and Qatar committed to bridging the financing gap for FY24 and worked with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to grant Pakistan a short-term \$3 billion loan in late June 2023 to initiate structural reforms.

Thus, Chinese financing proved to be a lifeline for Pakistan in 2023, helping the country embark on a new era of economic and financial stability, which is now poised for growth and development. This isn't the first time China, the world's second-largest economy and Pakistan's neighbour, has come forward to support the nation in difficult times. Earlier, between 2010 and 2015, Pakistan's economy was crippled by frequent power blackouts, with parts of the country experiencing up to 18-hour outages daily. The energy crisis partially shut down industries and slashed economic growth by around two percentage points. During those tough times, China stepped in, providing essential financing and expertise to set up massive power projects under the CPEC framework, initially worth around \$46 billion. Beijing has invested approximately \$25 billion in CPEC's phase-I to date.

CPEC's power and infrastructure projects have been a game-changer for Pakistan, restoring electricity, reviving industries, and driving economic activities. These initiatives also generated significant job opportunities across the country.

Current estimates suggest that Pakistan owes about 20-25% of its total foreign debt of \$130.5 billion (as of June 30, 2024) to China. Speaking to The Express Tribune, Umar Farooq, Senior Researcher at the Pakistan China Institute, pointed out that the average interest rate for CPEC energy projects is 4%, which is lower than the 4.25% rate offered by Western institutions like the World Bank. Furthermore, China has always been responsive to Pakistan's requests for loan rollovers, considering the country's economic circumstances. "So, the idea of Pakistan being in a 'deep economic crisis' due to Chinese loans is far from reality," Farooq asserted.

Prof Zamir Ahmed Awan, Founding Chairman of the Global Silk Route Research Alliance (GSRRA), added that Pakistan owes significantly less debt to China compared to over three-

fourths of its debt owed to non-Chinese, mostly Western financial institutions, including the IMF, World Bank, and Paris Club. "This suggests that Pakistan is not trapped in CPEC debt, but rather in Western debt, if at all."

He further explained that most CPEC projects completed in phase-I are "revenue-generating" rather than "revenue-consuming." Projects like Gwadar Port, as well as power and road initiatives, are not only generating income and profits for shareholders but also helping to repay the debt accumulated during their construction.

These loans will be gradually repaid over 20 to 30 years, after which China will hand over the projects to Pakistan. Most of these commercial loans are long-term and carry relatively low-interest rates. In addition to loans, China has made substantial investments and grants in Pakistan at zero cost.

Awan concluded that the United States is wary of China's growing global influence through its over \$1 trillion BRI projects. As a result, Washington has continued to target Beijing, imposing sanctions on its technology, high-tech, solar, and electric vehicle companies.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2494545/correcting-west-narrative-on-pakistan>

**September 10, 2024**

**Business Recorder**

### **IPPs and capacity payments – how to deal with the challenge**

This is a follow-up piece. The first part appeared on 1st August 2024. Both may be read together.

Let us explore potential solutions and actions that can be taken by the State of Pakistan to mitigate the losses or, more fundamentally, address the challenge of significant capacity payments. We may even convert this challenge into an opportunity, for both the challenges and opportunities come together.

Privatise Discos: Several successive governments have discussed privatizing the distribution companies. The sooner we do it, the better. We are already late. Select feeders can be privatized as the first step, with buyers incentivized to reduce losses. This would create a mutually beneficial transaction.

There has also been a discussion about handing over these companies to the relevant provincial governments. However, I do not believe this would solve the problem; it might instead exacerbate it.

Improve recoveries with the help of provincial governments: It is an open secret that there is chronic electricity theft in the country. Additionally, certain consumers including some public sector entities do not pay their bills regularly. Without the support of provincial governments, these issues may not be resolved. These governments could be offered a share in the recovery or even some free equity in the distribution companies to make them stakeholders in the viability of these entities.

**Extend loan tenors:** All lenders, both local and international, should be approached with a request to extend loan tenors to match the remaining terms of the relevant PPA and EPA agreements. The good news is that Chinese loans are the elephant in the room, meaning significant relief can be obtained by negotiating with the Government of China alone.

**Policy rate reduction:** A substantial portion of debt is lent by local banks, and KIBOR has skyrocketed in recent years. It is astonishing to see such a high policy rate for so many years when the government itself is by far the largest borrower. A reduction in the policy rate would reduce the capacity payment burden. Our policy rate must be in single digit.

The good news is that inflation has reduced to a single digit after 34 months. In any event, there are other ways to address inflation. Keeping the policy rate high for so long does not make sense for Pakistan; it is like shooting oneself in the foot.

**Incentivise electric bikes, rickshaws, and public transport:** Incentivizing the manufacturing and use of electric bikes, rickshaws, and eventually buses and trucks would substantially increase electricity consumption and save precious dollars spent on importing fuel.

**Exclude governmental taxes:** There are several taxes, duties, and levies added to electricity bills. These must be excluded. The State cannot increase the capacity payment burden by adding taxes and then start complaining about a problem that it, at least partially, created.

**Solarisation:** Public sector institutions that consume energy but do not pay their bills should be solarized to reduce the capacity payment burden.

**Retire old GENCOs, the 1994 IPPs, and the 2002 IPPs with mutual agreement:** Projects deemed unnecessary according to the latest iteration of IGCEP or otherwise, or those not dispatched due to high costs, should be terminated with mutual consent. Public sector projects can be terminated overnight, while private sector projects can propose options. I have no doubt that the parties can find a mutually acceptable solution to part ways amicably.

**Electrify motorways and highways:** We do not have electricity available on our motorways and highways. A substantial amount of capacity can be utilized by providing electricity throughout our motorways and highways on a 365-day basis. Travelers can pay extra tolls to account for the electricity available on the road. Brighter roads would make their journeys safer and more enjoyable.

**Pay subsidies directly via the Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP):** We should remove the inefficient subsidy system within our electricity bills. Instead, 'lifeline consumers' should be helped and compensated via social programmes such as BISP.

**Provide cheap electricity to industries that earn foreign exchange, such as IT and textiles:** New and existing industries that either replace imports or increase exports should be incentivized to use more electricity.

**No captive power plants:** Captive power plants using local fuel, whether subsidized or not, should be encouraged and incentivized to draw power from the national grid instead of generating power independently.

Improve the transmission and distribution network: No power plant should remain unutilized due to a lack of transmission or distribution infrastructure, or because the network faces congestion.

Increase fixed charges coupled with decrease in energy price: Fixed charges payable by each consumer may be increased, with cheaper price charged for higher electricity usage.

These are my “fourteen points” for consideration by the powers that be. Collectively, these actions would reduce the capacity payment burden by no less than 50%. Where there is a will, there is a way. In addition, we may convert imported coal to local coal, where possible, via co-mingling. Energy experts have discussed the potential for this conversion. Yes, there are technical issues regarding the quality and transportation of local coal. However, to the extent that it can be used through co-mingling with imported coal or otherwise, it should be used. This would not only reduce electricity prices but also save precious dollars. Although this solution is not directly linked to capacity payments, the possible reduction in electricity prices would help reduce consumers’ overall burden.

My parting advice is to avoid repeating past mistakes. It is crucial to uphold the sanctity of contracts. We must ensure that future investments in capital-intensive projects in Pakistan are not made more expensive by resorting to coercive actions against current investors.  
<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2024/09/10/7-page/1006781-news.html>

### **Daily Times**

#### **Chinese firm installs 8 wind turbines**

Orient Energy Systems, a local renewable solutions company announced completion of erection and installation of a total 38.4 MWs of wind power plants, comprising 8 Goldwind turbines of 4.8 megawatts capacity each.

The development, powered by China’s prominent manufacturer, Goldwind, showcases wind power as another source of clean, green and low-cost energy for captive power market in the country’s Southern port and industrial city of Karachi.

Six of the 8 turbines were installed at Lucky Cement Ltd., Karachi while two of the turbines were installed at Yunus Textile Mills, Karachi, Gwadar Pro reported.

The Goldwind turbine, boasting an impressive hub height of 110 meters, is the largest wind turbine ever installed in the country, Orient Energy earlier said.

The 6\*4.8 MWs Lucky Cement plant is arguably the largest captive wind power plant in the country.

The first captive wind power plant of 2\*4.8 MWs capacity was installed by Liberty Mills, Karachi in March this year. Orient Energy has signed an agreement with the Goldwind for provision of 150 MWs wind power plants for Pakistan’s captive market.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1225167/chinese-firm-installs-8-wind-turbines/>

## Advancing Modernization in China and Pakistan Together

*Jiang Zaidong*

The Third Plenary Session of the 20th Central Committee of the Communist Party of China has attracted widespread attention and is of great significance. Many Pakistani friends care about the implications of this meeting on China-Pakistan cooperation and how Pakistan will benefit from China's high-quality development process. I would like to share some of my thoughts and views on the above topics.

First, guided by the spirit of the Third Plenary Session of the 20th CPC Central Committee, Chinese side stand ready to strengthen exchanges of state governance experiences with Pakistan, and jointly advance modernization in our respective countries.

President Xi Jinping pointed out that "Reform and opening up, China's second revolution if you like, has not only profoundly changed the country but also greatly influenced the whole world. Especially since the 18th National Congress of the Communist Party of China in 2012, China has written a new chapter in its development, achieving the two miracles of rapid economic growth and long-term social stability. With nearly 100 million impoverished rural population lifted out of poverty, China has historically solved the problem of absolute poverty, and built a moderately prosperous society in an all-round way, contributing to over 70 percent of the international cause of poverty reduction, as well as over 30 percent of the global growth for years in a row.

This is fundamentally attributed to the leadership of General Secretary Xi Jinping, as the core of the CPC Central Committee and the whole Party, and the scientific guidance of Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era. In particular, President Xi Jinping, with extraordinary political courage and strong historical responsibility, personally planned and guided the overall design of reforms, coordinated and promoted the overall progress, and provided firm leadership and guarantee for us to make such historic achievements and realize historic changes, and led the Chinese people to embark on a new journey of advancing the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation through Chinese modernization.

It was at this critical time of building China into a great modern socialist country in all respects and advancing the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation on all fronts through the Chinese path to modernization, that the Third Plenary Session of the 20th CPC Central Committee was successfully held in July this year. The most important outcome of this Plenary Session was the review and approval of the "Resolution on Further Deepening Reform Comprehensively to Advance Chinese Modernization", which proposed over 300 important reform measures, and made systematic arrangements for further comprehensively deepening reform and advancing Chinese modernization. At present, over 1.4 billion Chinese people are actively implementing the spirit of the Plenary Session and the Resolution, applying the new development philosophy, building the new development paradigm, and promoting high-quality development, marching towards modernization. This has and will continue to enhance the overall strength of developing countries, bringing about the most progressive major changes in the international circumstances since modern times.



President Xi Jinping has pointed out, the modernization we are pursuing is not for China alone, but we look forward to achieving modernization together with all countries, including the vast developing countries”, and “no one should be left behind on the path to modernization”. We stand ready to provide new opportunities for world development with the new achievements of Chinese modernization, and would like to first share the experience of state governance with our ironclad friend Pakistan, and provide beneficial reference for Pakistan to promote multiple reform agenda and achieve modernization. Recently, at the Beijing Summit of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation, President Xi Jinping delivered an important keynote speech, emphasizing that we should jointly advance modernization that is just and equitable, help ensure equal rights and equal opportunities for all countries; jointly advance modernization that is open and win-win, and build together a model for the delivery of the Global Development Initiative; jointly advance modernization that puts the people first, and ensure that all will benefit from the process; jointly advance modernization featuring diversity and inclusiveness, and strive together for more fruitful outcomes under the Global Civilization Initiative; jointly advance modernization that is eco-friendly, and jointly push for the global transition to green and low-carbon development; jointly advance modernization underpinned by peace and security, and work together to uphold world peace and stability.

This also has important guiding significance for China and Pakistan to jointly advance modernization. We stand ready to work with Pakistan, to learn from each other, support each other, through various methods such as party-to-party exchanges, practical cooperation, and talent training, so as to both share development experiences, and also provide development boost, and jointly write new chapters in the reform and development of our respective countries and contribute China and Pakistan’s efforts to the world modernization.

Second, by taking the implementation of the spirit of the Third Plenary Session of the 20th CPC Central Committee as opportunity, Chinese side stand ready to promote China’s high-standard opening up and accelerate the building of a China-Pakistan community with a shared future.

Under the joint leadership of President Xi Jinping and Pakistani leaders, and through our joint efforts, China-Pakistan cooperation has made comprehensive progress. President Xi Jinping exchanged letters with President Asif Ali Zardari, and also met with Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif during his visit to China. They reached important consensus on advancing China-Pakistan all-weather strategic cooperation and CPEC construction. The relevant authorities of our two countries actively implement the consensus reached by our leaders, and have accelerated forging an “upgraded version” of CPEC while aligning it with Pakistan’s “5Es” Framework.

Efforts are being made to step up the negotiations on the upgradation the ML-1 and realignment of Karakoram Highway, and strive to realize the all year-round function of the Khunjerab-Sost pass at an early date. And we have basically decided on sending 1,000 agricultural talents to China for training, and have started coordinating on IT and AI talent training projects. For example, in Sindh Province, where I just visited, the Power Plant at Port Qasim Karachi provides low-cost and stable electricity, and the Dawood Wind Farm continuously supplies clean energy. The Peshawar-Karachi Motorway (Multan -Sukkur

section) has reduced the travel time between the two places from 11 hours to within 4 hours. The export of dried chili from Sindh Province has become a bright spot in China-Pakistan agricultural cooperation.

The Third Plenary Session of the 20th CPC Central Committee pointed out that opening up is a defining feature of Chinese modernization. It is imperative for China to remain committed to the fundamental national policy of opening to the outside world, pursuing a high-standard opening up, building a multidimensional network to connect countries along the Belt and Road, and making coordinated efforts to advance both major signature projects and “small but beautiful” public welfare projects. This provides new opportunities and injects new momentum for China-Pakistan cooperation.

We stand ready to accelerate energy and infrastructure construction cooperation with Pakistan, speed up the upgradation of the ML-1 and the KKH realignment project, and strive for the early commercial operation of the Suki Kinari Hydropower Project, and to realize the all year-round function of the Khunjerab-Sost pass at an early date, and help Pakistan consolidate its development foundation. We stand ready to strengthen agricultural and mining cooperation with Pakistan in accordance with local conditions, increase the import of high-quality agricultural products from Pakistan, explore the development of oil and gas resources, and help Pakistan leverage its development advantages. We stand ready to strengthen cooperation with Pakistan in new energy, IT, and even the space field, to help Pakistan win the future of development. We stand ready to strengthen the construction of the Gwadar area with Pakistan, complete the construction of the new Gwadar international airport and hand it over within the year, implement more “small but beautiful” projects, such as distributing health kits to students in Balochistan, and help Pakistan narrow the domestic development gap.

Third, by taking the spirit of the Third Plenary Session of the 20th CPC Central Committee as a driving force, Chinese side stand ready to work with Pakistan to promote “Global South” cooperation and effectively safeguard international fairness and justice and the interests of developing countries.

The Third Plenary Session of the 20th CPC Central Committee pointed out that China’s modernization is modernization of peaceful development, which calls for an equal and orderly multipolar world, an universally beneficial and inclusive economic globalization, and getting involved in leading the reform and development of the global governance system. At present, peaceful development and win-win cooperation are where global opinion trends and the arc of history bends. However, there are always some countries that go against the historical trend and the common aspirations of the international community.

They hold Cold War mentality and the obsession with hegemony, pursue unilateralism, provok bloc confrontation, and contain and suppress other specific countries. They pursue domestic priority and winner-takes-all, promote protectionism, build “small courtyards with high walls”, and resort to sanctions and pressure at every turn. In the face of these problems and challenges in the world today, China advocates an equal and orderly multipolar world, which is to insist that all countries, regardless of size, are treated as equals, to reject hegemony and power politics, and earnestly promote the democratization of international

relations, so that every country can find its own place in the multipolar world. And China advocates for an inclusive and universally beneficial economic globalization, which is to comply with the common aspirations of all countries in the world, especially developing countries, and work together to make the “cake” of economic globalization bigger and fairly share it, and to resolutely oppose unilateralism and protectionism, and firmly promote trade and investment liberalization and facilitation, to achieve mutual benefit, win-win results and common prosperity.

In this process, we attach great importance to cooperation with the Global South. In recent years, the Global South stands out with a strong momentum. In the economic field, Global South countries have contributed as high as 80 percent to world economic growth over the past 20 years, and their global share of GDP has increased from 24 percent to more than 40 percent in the past 40 years, profoundly drawing the world economic map. In the political field, the Global South is no longer the “silent majority” on the international stage, but has made their own voices firmly and loudly, regarded as the key force for international order transformation and the hope in the world undergoing profound changes unseen in a century.

To support the development and growth of the Global South, President Xi Jinping put forward the open and inclusive cooperation initiative for the Global South, and announced a series of measures to support Global South cooperation, for example to establish a Global South research center, to provide 100,000 training opportunities to Global South countries in the coming five years, etc.

We stand ready to work with Global South countries including Pakistan, to actively implement the initiative, to inject stronger impetus for the common development, solidarity and cooperation of the Global South, to join hands to take the lead in building a community with a shared future for mankind, and to effectively safeguard international fairness, justice and the national interests of vast developing countries.

The writer is Ambassador of the People’s Republic of China in Islamabad.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1225332/advancing-modernization-in-china-and-pakistan-together/>

### **China to train 3,000 int’l cops, including Pakistanis**

China will train thousands of law enforcement officers from different countries over the next 12 months, its police chief said Monday, as it seeks to cement its role as a global security provider.

Police from China have trained 2,700 officers in the past year and are planning to coach 3,000 more from various countries over the next 12 months, public security minister Wang Xiaohong said in a speech at a conference in eastern China.

“We will (also) send police consultants to countries in need to conduct training to help them quickly and effectively improve their law enforcement capabilities,” Wang said.

The security conference held in the port city of Lianyungang in Jiangsu province drew law enforcement officers from 122 countries, regions, and international organizations including Malaysia, Myanmar, Pakistan and global police body Interpol.

The annual Lianyungang conference is seen as part of the Global Security Initiative (GSI) proposed by Chinese leader Xi Jinping in 2022, which aims to address international issues through cooperation with other countries.

However analysts have described the GSI as a way of expanding China's global influence and chipping away at the current US-led security order.

"It's almost like saying 'if you don't like the Western way of doing things, we've got the Chinese alternative'," Benjamin Ho, an assistant professor at the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies' China Programme, told AFP.

"So certainly, China is trying to highlight some of these (policing) initiatives in a big way, and that's part and parcel of its jostling for influence vis-a-vis the West," Ho said.

Wang said in his speech to hundreds of conference delegates that law enforcement had been "politicized."

"Normal international cooperation has been demonized," Wang said, adding that China "rejects any form of hegemonism and bullying."

He also said that regional security risks continue to "spill over," including from the Ukraine war, the Israel-Palestinian conflict and tensions in the Red Sea.

Rose-gold handcuffs, batons and bulletproof vests were on display for potential overseas buyers at the conference venue.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1225244/china-to-train-3000-intl-cops-including-pakistanis/>

### **Pakistan Observer**

#### **3rd plenum: Priorities to remodel China's economic future**

*Naghmana A Hashmi*

CHINA is aware that its 2035 goal to build a more equitable, innovative and greener economy and 2049 goal of modernization are within reach. However, to realize them, rational but difficult choices must be made and challenges faced head-on now. The third plenary session of the Chinese Communist Party's (CPC) 20th Central Committee in July 2024 came at a critical juncture for China's economic challenges and therefore focused on deepening economic reforms to address a range of pressing issues facing China's economy and society.

The third Plenum, therefore, enacted much awaited and required major structural reforms. China set ambitious long-term policy goals and unveiled a range of economic reforms and policies to address long-standing issues hindering growth and recovery. While reforms are modest, yet comprehensively cover all aspects of economy and governance. These reforms will have a substantial impact on the country's development trajectory and thus their impact should be well understood.

The CCP plenums are quasi-annual meetings held by the Central Committee. After the National Congress, which is held every five years and elects the Central Committee, they are the most important and high-level political gathering in China. Historically, these plenums have been the platform from which the government launches seminal policies and decisions,

such as the “reform and opening up policy” in 1978 and the easing of the One-Child policy in 2013.

Although past plenums have seen major reforms and policy decisions, July 2024 plenum did not announce any drastic pivots and instead put in more granular reforms that align with the country’s current development trajectory. The Central Committee approved decision on Further Comprehensive Deepening of Reforms and Advancing Chinese-style Modernization. The third plenum named “high quality development” as China’s “top priority” and laid out structural reforms to be completed by 2029, the 80th anniversary of the founding of the People’s Republic of China.

This document outlined the planned economic reforms for the coming years and focused in part on policies to promote the “new-type industrialization” policy. This initiative seeks to move China’s industries up the value chain and boost their global competitiveness by focusing on digitization, advanced manufacturing, secure supply chains and developing core and emerging technologies. “High quality development is the primary task of building a modern socialist country in an all-round way,” the statement said.

External factors are anticipated to encourage reinforcement of China’s internal competencies, especially in the technological sector, aiming to enhance the robustness and self-reliance of vital industrial and supply networks. In recent years, the US and the EU, as well as other allies, have increased pressure on China by introducing a variety of policies aimed at countering China’s growing influence in key supply chains. These include the US’s curbs on key technology exports to China and recent tariff hikes as well as the EU’s growing scrutiny of various Chinese imports.

To mitigate this, the Central Committee may prioritize enhancing domestic high-end, intelligent and green manufacturing, consolidating advantageous industries and fostering strategic emerging industries, such as semiconductors, alongside encouraging collaborative innovation across the industrial chain. Decisions have also been taken to help with business matchmaking, location analysis, market entry strategy, market research and supply chain re-engineering.

While technology innovation initiative was first introduced in 2002 during the 16th National Congress, it has become an increasingly important aspect of China’s industrial policy in recent years. In September 2023, China’s President Xi Jinping stressed the “vital role of high-quality development in advancing new-type industrialization,” emphasizing the need to adapt and lead the ongoing scientific and technological revolution.

China views technology innovation as a new growth engine that could help the economy transition from the old model fueled by infrastructure investment and debt expansion. The third plenum announced policies related to promoting high-end, intelligent and green manufacturing processes, consolidating existing industrial strengths and expanding strategic emerging industries and proactively developing industries of the future to stay ahead in global technological and industrial revolutions. Meanwhile, China has been proactively building economic relationships with countries in Southeast Asia, Africa, Latin America and

Eastern Europe to strengthen its supply chain resilience. This strategy is expected to remain steadfast in short term.

Chinese private sector has experienced uneven recovery since the COVID-19 pandemic, with private companies falling behind their public counterparts across measures such as value output and investment. The third plenum announced new policies to support the growth and recovery of the private sector, with initiatives including ensuring equal treatments for state-owned and private enterprises through institutional and legal frameworks, protecting the property rights and interests of private entrepreneurs and supporting the growth of small, medium, and micro-enterprises as well as individual businesses.

Xi's government has also strengthened its national security apparatus in the past decade. The plenum pledged to ensure "security," which means national security concerns could continue to drive policymaking. They also vowed to give "better play to the role of the market," while noting that market forces need to be better managed and retained a previous promise to "unswervingly" develop the state sector.

China also pledged to "improve people's livelihoods" at the plenum, which is essentially a continuation of Xi's "common prosperity" agenda. While previous leaders in post-Mao China were content to let some get rich first, Xi believes the time has come to share the fruits of China's development more widely among its population. The Plenum acknowledged the need to improve "basic and bottom-up livelihood, solve the most direct and realistic interests of the people and continuously meet the people's yearning for a better life." This is the most promising part of the reform agenda, since channeling a greater share of income to households would help advance a much-needed rebalancing toward consumption.

It was also decided to improve job market, social security, education system and the medical system. Likewise, the need to address risks in the property market and other threats to the economy have been heightened with determination to put requisite strategies in place to rectify the problems. Relieving the financial squeeze on local governments that have built up huge amounts of debt after a crackdown on heavy borrowing by property developers pushed the real estate industry into crisis, cutting off a vital source of tax revenues from sales of land-use rights. The urgent need to reform the tax system and better integrate cities and the countryside has also been emphasized.

The leadership also vowed to revamp the fiscal, taxation and financial systems, which signal their concerns about how to address the debt crisis faced by local governments. Debt has piled up at China's municipal governments, after three years of pandemic controls drained their coffers and the property slump led to a sharp decline in land sales, which they rely on for income. That poses risks to the country's banking system and economic growth.

Besides the long-term structural reform priorities, policymakers also promised to achieve short-term economic goals, including a 5% GDP growth target for 2024.

That came days after China released disappointing economic data for the second quarter of this year. GDP grew 4.7% year-on-year in the April-to-June period, marking the weakest growth since the first quarter of last year, according to data from the National Bureau of

Statistics on Monday. The figure slowed from 5.3% in the previous three months and missed the 5.1% increase forecast.

To achieve the annual goals, “China will proactively expand domestic demand” and develop “new-quality productivity forces.”

That could mean channeling resources to favored sectors, such as high-tech manufacturing, while gradually curbing the role of sunset industries like property development, according to Evans-Pritchard from Capital Economics.

Analysts say that the coming months could offer more details on how Xi plans to revive the economy.

Sustainable development remains a cornerstone of China’s policy framework. It has committed to peaking carbon emissions before 2030 and achieving carbon neutrality by 2060.

China has now introduced measures to accelerate this green transition, promoting renewable energy, enhancing energy efficiency and supporting the development of a circular economy. These efforts underscore China’s dedication to combating climate change and fostering a harmonious co-existence between humanity and nature.

The decisions taken at the Third Plenum will propel China in a new era of reforms and prepare it to face the challenges emerging around it that may restrain its development.

China is now determined to ensure it realizes its second millennial Goal of rejuvenation of the motherland by the middle of the century.

It plans to do this by building a high-standard socialist market economy, improving macroeconomic governance, improving the national strategic planning system and policy coordination mechanisms, deepening reform of the fiscal and tax systems, deepening reform of the financial system, improving mechanisms for implementing the coordinated regional development strategy, promoting integrated urban-rural development, pursuing high-standard opening-up, advancing whole-process people’s democracy, promoting socialist rule of law with Chinese characteristics, deepening reform in the cultural sector, ensuring and improving the people’s well-being, deepening reform in ecological conservation, modernizing China’s national security system and capacity, deepening national defence and military reform, improving the Party’s leadership.

So far China has demonstrated its determination to fully implement its short and long-term goals.

Now it is in the final decades of achieving its cherished goal of national rejuvenation of the motherland.

Whether it is able to achieve it will depend on the decisions China is taking today and will continue to need strong and sagacious leadership.

—The writer is former Ambassador, based in Islamabad.

<https://pakobserver.net/3rd-plenum-priorities-to-remodel-chinas-economic-future/>

## Nawaiwaqt News

### شنگھائی تنظیم کا سربراہی اجلاس

اگلے ماہ کے وسط میں شنگھائی تعاون تنظیم کا سربراہی اجلاس پاکستان میں منعقد ہو رہا ہے۔ یہ ہمارے ملک کے لئے ایک بہت بڑا اعزاز ہو گا۔ یہ اجلاس ساری عمر وزیر خزانہ رہنے والے اسحاق ڈار جو اب وزیر خارجہ ہیں، کی ایک کامیاب کاوش ہے۔

ایک یوریشیائی سیاسی، اقتصادی اور عسکری تعاون کی تنظیم ہے جسے شنگھائی میں 2001ء کی (Shanghai Cooperation Organisation) شنگھائی تعاون تنظیم کے اراکین تھے۔ (Shanghai Five) میں چین، روس، قازقستان، کرغیزستان، تاجکستان اور ازبکستان کے رہنماؤں نے قائم کیا۔ یہ تمام ممالک شنگھائی پانچ سوائے ازبکستان کے جو اس میں بعد میں شامل ہوا، تب اس تنظیم کے نام بدل کر شنگھائی تعاون تنظیم رکھا گیا۔ 10 جولائی 2015ء کو اس میں بھارت اور پاکستان کو بھی شامل کیا گیا۔

پاکستان 2005ء سے شنگھائی تعاون تنظیم کا ممبر ملک تھا، جو تنظیم کے اجلاسوں میں باقاعدگی سے شرکت کرتا رہا اور 2010ء میں پاکستان کی جانب سے شنگھائی تعاون تنظیم کی رکنیت کے لیے درخواست دی گئی۔ تنظیم کے رکن ممالک کے سربراہان نے جولائی 2015ء میں اوفاجلاس میں پاکستان کی درخواست کی منظوری دی اور پاکستان کی تنظیم میں باقاعدہ شمولیت کے لیے طریقہ کار وضع کرنے پر اتفاق کیا گیا۔ پاکستان کی شمولیت سے شنگھائی تعاون تنظیم کے رکن ممالک کی تعداد آٹھ ہو گئی۔ پاکستان نے شنگھائی تعاون تنظیم کی رکنیت کے حوالے سے ذمہ داریوں کی یادداشت پر دستخط کر دیئے، جس کے بعد پاکستان تنظیم کا مستقل رکن بن گیا۔ 9 جون 2017ء کو پاکستان اور بھارت کو تنظیم کی مکمل رکنیت مل گئی۔ سربراہان مملکت کی کونسل شنگھائی تعاون تنظیم میں سب سے بڑا فیصلہ سازی کا حصہ ہے۔ کونسل شنگھائی تعاون تنظیم کا اجلاس رکن ممالک کے دارالحکومتوں یا کسی ایک شہر میں ہر سال منعقد ہوتا ہے۔

شنگھائی تعاون تنظیم کا اگلا سربراہی اجلاس 15 اور 16 اکتوبر کو حکومت پاکستان کی میزبانی میں اسلام آباد میں منعقد ہو رہا ہے۔ وفاقی وزیر داخلہ محسن نقوی نے کہا ہے کہ بلوچستان میں سلسلہ وار دہشت گردانہ حملوں کا مقصد شنگھائی تعاون تنظیم کے اگلے سربراہی اجلاس کو ناکام بنانا ہے۔ عسکریت پسند حملوں کو شنگھائی تنظیم سے جوڑنا بتاتا ہے کہ یہ اجلاس پاکستان کے لیے کتنا اہم ہے اور مجموعی طور پر پاکستان کی وسیع تر خارجہ پالیسی کے منظر نامے میں شنگھائی تعاون تنظیم کی کتنی اہمیت ہے۔ بلوچستان کے حملوں کو شنگھائی تنظیم سے منسلک کرنے اور ان حملوں کے مضمرات پر توجہ دینے کا بنیادی اور سب سے بڑا عنصر پاک، بھارت دو طرفہ تعلقات پر مرکوز ہے کیونکہ پاکستان کی جانب سے مدعو کیے جانے کے بعد ابھی تک دہلی نے اپنی شرکت کی تصدیق نہیں کی۔ 2016ء سے پاکستان میں منعقد ہونے والی سارک کانفرنسز میں بھارت نے کبھی شرکت نہیں کی جبکہ شنگھائی تعاون تنظیم کے اجلاس میں بھارت کے اعلیٰ سطح کے حکام کی شرکت، تعلقات کو بہتر بنانے کی کوشش نہ کرنے کی روش کے مصداق ہو گا جو کہ دہلی نے اسلام آباد سے کسی قسم کی بات چیت نہ کر کے اپنائی ہوئی ہے۔ بھارت کی شرکت کرنے سے قطع نظر، علاقائی دہشت گردی سربراہی اجلاس کے ایجنڈا میں سب سے اولین نقطہ ہو گا۔ شنگھائی تعاون تنظیم کی بنیادیں سکیورٹی تعاون سے جڑی ہیں جبکہ یہ تنظیم ”تین برائیوں“ سے نبرد آزما ہے جن میں دہشت گردی، علیحدگی پسندی اور مذہبی انتہا پسندی شامل ہیں۔

حالیہ برسوں میں سکیورٹی اور انسداد دہشت گردی کے مباحثوں میں توجہ اس بات پر مرکوز رہی ہے کہ علاقائی دہشت گردی کو بھڑکانے میں افغانستان کس طرح اپنا کردار ادا کر رہا ہے۔ افغانستان بھی شنگھائی تعاون تنظیم کا رکن ہے لیکن طالبان کی حکومت کو اس کے اجلاس میں مدعو نہیں کیا گیا کیونکہ تنظیم کے رکن ممالک اتفاق رائے نہیں کر پائے کہ افغانستان سے کیسے بات چیت کی جائے۔ تاہم اراکین متفق ہیں کہ افغانستان کا استحکام اور موثر انسداد دہشت گردی خطے کے وسیع تر مفاد میں ہے۔ پاکستان کے دفتر خارجہ کی جانب سے کالعدم تحریک طالبان پاکستان (ٹی ٹی پی) کے ساتھ مذاکرات میں ثالثی کا کردار ادا کرنے کی افغان طالبان کی پیش کش کو مسترد کر دینے کے تناظر میں توقع کی جاسکتی ہے کہ سربراہی اجلاس میں افغانستان کے عسکریت پسند گروہوں سے نمٹنے کے حوالے سے بات چیت ہو سکتی ہے۔

اس سال جولائی میں قازقستان کے دارالحکومت آستانہ میں شنگھائی تعاون تنظیم کی کونسل کے سربراہی اجلاس میں خطاب کرتے ہوئے وزیر اعظم پاکستان شہباز شریف



نے خبردار کیا تھا کہ افغانستان دہشت گردی کے خلاف موثر اقدامات کرے تاکہ اس کی سرزمین کسی دوسرے ملک کے خلاف استعمال نہ ہو۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ 'شنگھائی تعاون تنظیم' (ایس سی او) خطے کے عوام کی سماجی و معاشی ترقی کے لیے اہم کردار ادا کر رہی ہے، ہمارے چیلنجز مشترکہ ہیں، ہمیں مل کر ترقی و خوشحالی کے لیے کام کرنا ہے۔ وزیراعظم شہباز شریف نے کہا ہے کہ افغانستان میں پائیدار امن ہمارا مشترکہ ہدف ہے، افغانستان کی عبوری حکومت کے ساتھ باہمی طور پر بات چیت کرنا ہوگی تاکہ وہاں کے عوام کے مسائل حل ہوں۔

شنگھائی تعاون تنظیم کے اگلے سربراہی اجلاس میں بلوچستان حملے بھی زیر بحث آئیں گے۔ بھارت نے اکثر مواقع پر ڈھکے چھپے الفاظ میں شنگھائی تعاون تنظیم کے فورمز پر علاقائی دہشت گردی میں پاکستان کے کردار کے حوالے سے بیانات دیئے ہیں۔ طویل عرصے سے بلوچ علیحدگی پسندوں کو حاصل بھارت کی پشت پناہی کے بارے میں پاکستان کے خدشات کے پیش نظر پاکستان کو اکتوبر کے سربراہی اجلاس میں جواب دینے کا موقع ملے گا۔ یہی وجہ ہے کہ یہ امکان انتہائی کم ہے کہ شنگھائی تعاون تنظیم میں محض بات چیت سے زیادہ کچھ ہوگا۔ اس حقیقت کے باوجود کہ یہ وسعت اور اہمیت اختیار کر رہا ہے جبکہ کچھ حلقے تو اسے نیٹو کا پوریشن ہم پلہ بھی قرار دے رہے ہیں۔ وزیراعظم شہباز شریف نے اس عزم کا اظہار کیا ہے کہ پاکستان ایس سی او کو متحرک تنظیم بنانے اور اہداف کے حصول میں اپنا بھرپور کردار ادا کرے گا۔ وزیراعظم شہباز شریف نے کہا کہ غربت کے خاتمے کے لیے بھی کام کرنا ہوگا۔ ہمارے چیلنجز مشترکہ ہیں، ہمیں مل کر ترقی و خوشحالی کے لیے کام کرنا ہے۔ خطے کے روشن مستقبل کے لیے ہمیں جغرافیائی سیاسی محاذ آرائی سے خود کو آزاد کرنا ہوگا۔ ان کا کہنا تھا کہ پاکستان اپنے محل وقوع کے اعتبار سے تجارت کی اہم گزرگاہ ہے، سی پیک کے ذریعے ترقی و خوشحالی کی منزل کے حصول کی جانب گامزن ہیں۔ ماحولیات کے تحفظ کے لیے ایس ای او کا اقدام لائق تحسین ہے۔ وزیراعظم نے کہا کہ اس امر میں کوئی شک نہیں کہ ایس ای او خطے کے عوام کی سماجی و معاشی ترقی کے لیے اہم کردار ادا کر رہی ہے۔ گزشتہ ایک سال سے ایس سی او کی چیئر کی حیثیت سے قازقستان نے بہترین کردار ادا کیا۔ آئندہ سال کے لیے صدر شی جن پھنگ کو ایس سی او کی چیئر مین شپ ملنے پر مبارکباد پیش کرتے ہیں۔

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/lahore/2024-09-10/page-5/detail-3>

**September 11, 2024**

**Business Recorder**

**NLC ready to help boost imports thru Gwadar Port**

ISLAMABAD: The government has decided to start 50 percent public sector imports from Gwadar Port destined for upcountry despite security challenges and difference of cost as National Logistic Cell (NLC) is ready to extend its support in this regard, well-informed sources in the Ministry of Maritime Affairs told Business Recorder.

Sharing the details, the sources said in continuation of the meeting of the committee constituted by the Cabinet on Public Sector Imports from Gwadar Port held on September 04, 2024, another meeting of the committee was held on September under the chairmanship of Minister for Economic Affairs and Establishment in the Committee room of Ministry of Commerce. As directed in the first meeting representatives from Private Sector including All Pakistan Shipping Association, Pakistan International Freight Forwarders Association, National Logistics Corporation (NLC) were present.

Secretary Maritime Affairs briefed that the Prime Minister directed that 50% public sector imports be made from Gwadar port to make it operational, which is important for the CPEC and development of Balochistan.

Secretary, MoMA noted that earlier, on the directions of the Prime Minister, a summary was moved for the approval of the Cabinet incorporating input from various Ministries; i.e., Commerce, Finance, Industries and Production, and National Food Security & Research keeping in view, the benefits, cost analysis and freight charges etc. He further noted that all the stakeholders supported the proposal of the summary of 50% Public Sector import from Gwadar Port, in principle. A committee was constituted to review the financial, commercial, logistical, transportation cost and consumer price implications of the proposal.

The Chairman Pakistan Shipping Agents Association highlighted that import from Gwadar is suffering due to security situation therefore improving security should be the prime objective of the government to make Gwadar Port functional. Secondly, the road and rail connectivity should be ensured as soon as possible.

Representative from NLC highlighted that there are security challenges being faced in Balochistan but these can be tackled through increase of business activities. He further informed that previously NLC handled the wheat cargo from Gwadar Port efficiently. He added that NLC has already established its office at Gwadar Port.

The representative from Leeds Logistics said that they are willing to contribute to the operationalisation of Gwadar Port. He also highlighted the security and power challenges at Gwadar. The Chairman PIFFA highlighted the law and order situation and the connectivity issue impeding the promotion of Gwadar Port. He suggested enhancement of Afghan Transit Trade and that the public sector focuses on the transit trade from Gwadar Port.

The Chairman Gwadar Port Authority responded to the suggestions, queries and concerns of the representatives of private sector and apprised that highest-level possible security managed by Pakistan Army and Pakistan Navy is available at Gwadar Port. Last year the cargo was handled safely. He mentioned Coastal Highway, N-85 and M-8 as connectivity corridors for upcountry cargo shipment. The work on M-8 is in progress which will reduce the transportation cost.

The Chairman further explained that 74,000 MT cargo has been handled efficiently at Gwadar Port with zero demurrage. The Gwadar Free Zone (South) is completely developed. The Gwadar Free Zone (North) is under development. Two companies, ie, M/S Agven Fertilizers and M/s Hangeng have already started production in the Gwadar Free Zone.

For water supply facility, 1.2 MGD ROD water Desalination Plant has been completed. The Chairman apprised that 03 x month free storage facility for the bulk cargo is available for businesses. 37,000 MT Warehousing facility is available. There is zero waiting with 0% demurrage charges at Gwadar Port. The offshore/onshore charges at Gwadar Port are comparatively lower than other Pakistani ports. The federal/provincial/local taxes have been exempted in free zones at Gwadar for 23 years. The Secretary, MoMA apprised that new Gwadar International Airport is ready to start operations which would further enhance the air connectivity to Gwadar Port.

The Minister for Economic Affairs and Establishment stated that to develop the Gwadar Port, imports of public sector are to be made from Gwadar Port in the first Phase. Though the Government has financial constraints, coupled with the security challenges and other gaps,

the Government is ready to facilitate with regard to cost of imports to make Gwadar Port functional. He further directed to set out/sort out/determine the modalities of import of commodities from Gwadar Port.

The Chairman, Trading Corporation of Pakistan (TCP) stated that TCP is ready to divert cargo to Gwadar Port and 50% allocation to Gwadar can be managed easily at their end.

The meeting was of the view that although there is difference of cost between Karachi and Gwadar but in order to make Gwadar Port functional, 50% public sector imports should be made from Gwadar Port. Ministry of Maritime Affairs will submit the summary for the Cabinet for consideration and approval of the recommendations of the Committee.—  
MUSHTAQ GHUMMAN

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2024/09/11/1-page/1006864-news.html>

### **Shandong CCI China's delegation visits LCCI**

LAHORE: A high-level delegation from the Shandong Chamber of Commerce & Industry, China visited the Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry. LCCI Vice President Adnan Khalid Butt presented the address of welcome to the delegation that was led by Li Chong. Shahbaz Siddique, Convener of the Standing Committee on "Pak-China Business Relations" was also present.

LCCI Vice President praised the consistent interest of Chinese trade missions in engaging with LCCI, recognizing it as a pivotal hub for enhancing bilateral trade relations. He specifically acknowledged the vital role of Li Chong and his delegation in exploring business opportunities that could further strengthen the economic ties between the two nations.

Adnan Khalid Butt underscored the importance of mutual cooperation in various sectors, including minerals, steel structures, gold mines, salt mines, construction and medical equipment. He emphasized that Pakistani business community is eager to collaborate with Chinese enterprises in these fields, with the aim of fostering long-term partnerships that could lead to significant economic growth.

He also highlighted LCCI's ongoing efforts to facilitate such interactions, noting that the chamber provides a robust platform for policy consulting, technology exchange, market networking, investment consulting, and brand recognition. He expressed his belief that these engagements would not only enhance the visibility of Pakistani industries but also create new opportunities for innovation and investment.

The Chinese delegation, led by Li Chong, expressed their appreciation for the warm reception and shared their enthusiasm for further strengthening Pak-China relations.

Chong highlighted the longstanding brotherly ties between the two countries, emphasizing that the deep-rooted friendship provides a strong foundation for expanding economic cooperation. He pointed out the immense potential for increasing trade and investment, particularly in the sectors of minerals, gold, medical equipment, and steel.

Chong also shared insights into China's recent advancements in these industries and expressed confidence that collaboration with Pakistani businesses could yield mutually

beneficial results. He noted that the Chinese delegation is not only interested in investing in Pakistan but also keen to invite Pakistani investors to explore opportunities in China. The delegation emphasized the need for joint venture projects that would create a win-win situation for both countries, ultimately leading to sustainable economic development.

LCCI and Chinese delegation reaffirmed their commitment to enhancing bilateral trade and exploring new avenues for collaboration. LCCI Vice President reiterated LCCI's readiness to support Chinese companies in navigating the Pakistani market and encouraged continued dialogue between the business communities of both nations. The visit by the Shandong delegation marks another significant step in the ongoing efforts to strengthen Pak-China economic relations, with both sides expressing optimism for a prosperous future built on mutual respect and cooperation.

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2024/09/11/4-page/1006914-news.html>

### **Pakistan Observer**

## **BRI in Action: The Strategic Role of the CKU Railway**

*Engr Qaiser Nawab*

The China-Kyrgyzstan-Uzbekistan (CKU) railway, slated for construction in October 2024, marks a pivotal advancement in Central Asia's transport connectivity. By bridging key economic centres, this project not only enhances regional trade but also integrates Central Asia into the broader system of international transit routes. As the world increasingly turns to infrastructure development as a means of fostering economic growth and cooperation, the CKU railway stands out as a testament to the Belt and Road Initiative's (BRI) role in shaping the future of global trade.

Central Asia has long been a crucial juncture in global trade routes, given its geographical positioning between major economic powers in the East and West. The CKU railway, which will stretch 486 kilometres from Kashgar in China through Kyrgyzstan to Andijan in Uzbekistan, exemplifies the region's growing efforts to diversify trade relations and optimize transport routes. This diversification is not merely about creating new pathways; it's about enhancing the region's role in global trade by making it a critical link in a chain that connects Asia with Europe and the Middle East.

The strategic significance of the CKU railway is multifaceted. First, it will serve as a direct connection between China and the heart of Central Asia, facilitating the movement of goods and bolstering economic ties between the countries involved. This is in line with the broader goals of the BRI, which aims to improve trade connectivity and economic integration across Asia, Europe, and Africa.

The CKU railway is poised to transform Central Asia's transit potential by offering new, more efficient routes for international trade. Currently, the region's landlocked status limits its access to global markets, often requiring longer and more costly routes. The CKU railway will change this dynamic by providing direct access to key markets and reducing transit times and costs.

For instance, the CKU railway could become a vital component of several intercontinental trade routes, such as the Asia-Pacific-China-Kyrgyzstan-Uzbekistan-Turkmenistan-Azerbaijan-Georgia-Europe corridor. This route would enable the seamless movement of goods from China to Europe, passing through Central Asia and the South Caucasus. Additionally, the CKU railway could link with other significant trade corridors, such as the China-Persian Gulf route and the China-Europe route via Iran. These connections would further solidify Central Asia's role as a critical hub in global trade networks.

Moreover, the CKU railway's potential extends beyond just connecting existing routes. It could also pave the way for new corridors that link Central Asia to the Middle East and South Asia. For example, the CKU could connect with the Uzbekistan-Turkmenistan-Iran railway corridor, providing access to Iranian ports on the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman. Alternatively, the CKU could be extended to Afghanistan, creating a corridor that links China, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, and Iran, with access to the Gulf countries. These possibilities underscore the transformative impact that the CKU railway could have on the region's connectivity and economic prospects.

The CKU railway is more than just a transport project; it's a catalyst for regional economic integration. By improving connectivity, the railway will enable the easier movement of goods, services, and people across borders, fostering closer economic ties between China, Kyrgyzstan, and Uzbekistan. This increased economic activity will likely spur investment in infrastructure, logistics, and related industries, creating jobs and driving economic growth in the region.

Furthermore, the CKU railway aligns with the broader objectives of the BRI, which seeks to promote inclusive development through enhanced connectivity. The BRI's emphasis on infrastructure development as a means of economic integration is evident in the CKU project, which will not only connect countries but also integrate them into the global economy. As trade routes expand and diversify, Central Asia's role in international trade will become increasingly prominent, positioning the region as a key player in global economic dynamics.

While the CKU railway presents numerous opportunities, it also comes with challenges that need to be addressed to maximize its benefits. One of the primary challenges is ensuring that the railway is constructed and operated in a manner that is both economically viable and environmentally sustainable. This requires careful planning and coordination among the countries involved, as well as investments in modern technology and infrastructure.

Another challenge is the need to harmonize customs and regulatory procedures across borders to facilitate the smooth movement of goods. The success of the CKU railway depends not only on the physical infrastructure but also on the efficiency of the administrative processes that govern cross-border trade. Streamlining these procedures will be crucial to realizing the full potential of the CKU railway.

Additionally, it is essential to ensure that the benefits of the CKU railway are shared equitably among the countries and communities involved. This includes creating opportunities for local businesses and workers, as well as investing in social and economic development in the regions along the railway. By addressing these challenges, the CKU

railway can become a model for sustainable and inclusive infrastructure development in Central Asia.

The China-Kyrgyzstan-Uzbekistan railway is a landmark project that embodies the spirit of the Belt and Road Initiative. By enhancing transport connectivity in Central Asia, the CKU railway will unlock new economic opportunities, strengthen regional integration, and position the region as a key hub in global trade. As the construction of the railway begins in October 2024, it is crucial to recognize the transformative potential of this project and to work collaboratively to address the challenges and maximize its benefits. In doing so, the CKU railway can become a cornerstone of Central Asia's economic future and a vital link in the global economy.

<https://pakobserver.net/bri-in-action-the-strategic-role-of-the-cku-railway1/>

### **The Express Tribune**

#### **Chinese businesses look for trade in minerals, steel**

Invite Pakistani investors to also explore opportunities in China

LAHORE: Chinese businessmen have underlined the immense potential of increasing trade and investment with Pakistan, particularly in sectors like minerals, gold, medical equipment and steel as Beijing has made advancements in these industries recently. They emphasised that the deep-rooted friendship between the two countries provided a strong foundation for expanding economic cooperation. The businessmen were part of a high-level delegation of the Shandong Chamber of Commerce and Industry, China, which visited the Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI). Delegation head Li Chong shared insights into China's recent advancements in different industries and expressed confidence that collaboration with Pakistani businesses could yield mutually beneficial results. He noted that the Chinese delegation was not only interested in investing in Pakistan but was also keen to invite Pakistani investors to explore opportunities in China. The delegation underscored the need for setting up joint venture projects, which would create a win-win situation for both countries, leading to sustainable economic development. Speaking on the occasion, LCCI Vice President Adnan Khalid Butt praised the consistent interest of Chinese trade missions in engaging with the Lahore Chamber, recognising it as a pivotal hub for deepening trade relations. He acknowledged the vital role of the delegation in exploring business opportunities, which could further strengthen economic ties. Butt underlined the importance of cooperation in sectors such as minerals, steel structures, goldmines, salt mines, construction and medical equipment. He emphasised that the Pakistani business community was eager to collaborate with Chinese enterprises in those fields with the aim of fostering long-term partnerships that could lead to significant economic growth.

He also highlighted the ongoing efforts to facilitate interactions, noting that the Lahore Chamber provided a robust platform for policy consultation, technological exchanges, market networking, investment talks and brand recognition.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2495118/chinese-businesses-look-for-trade-in-minerals-steel>

## Govt accepts IMF bar on new SEZs

Will not set up new special zones, withdraw existing incentives after expiry

ISLAMABAD: In a major development, Pakistan has accepted the International Monetary Fund (IMF) condition that it will not establish any new special economic or export processing zone and tax incentives already availed by the existing zones will not be extended after expiry.

The IMF's condition under the \$7 billion Extended Fund Facility (EFF), which is yet to be approved, will immediately hurt the government's plans to establish an export processing zone (EPZ) on a piece of land of the closed Pakistan Steel Mills (PSM).

Government sources said that the IMF had asked Pakistan that it would not create any new special economic zone (SEZ) or EPZ. The condition will be applicable to both federal and provincial governments. However, Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa has refused to accept it.

Such conditions underscore how deeply the IMF has captured Pakistan's economic and industrial policies, which could adversely impact future growth prospects and the desire to bring Chinese industries to these zones.

The government has accepted scores of IMF conditions, including the imposition of a record Rs1.8 trillion in new taxes and the increase in electricity prices up to 51%. However, despite these harsh measures, along with the conditions that will give control of industrial policies to the IMF, Pakistan has not yet been able to secure a date for approval of the \$7 billion bailout package.

Talks for the EFF had begun in May this year, which culminated with a staff-level agreement in early July. But despite the lapse of two months, there is no clarity about the date of IMF's executive board meeting.

SEZs and EPZs are entitled to special facilities and tax incentives aimed at encouraging businesses to establish clusters of commercial activities. Finance secretary said last month that Pakistan's unemployment rate was over 10.3% while poverty grew to 40%.

Sources said that the IMF condition would adversely impact the government's earlier decision to establish an export zone on PSM land. The Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) has already approved the idea of setting up an EPZ over the land of steel mills.

However, the government of Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa has refused to accept the ban on setting up new economic zones.

Industrial expansion is a provincial subject and backward provinces like Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa need cheap industrial zones, economic zones and export zones to lure industries, Muzammil Aslam, Adviser on Finance to the Chief Minister, told The Express Tribune.

Aslam said that even in the developed world every state had different tax policies and provinces needed to compete with infrastructure and taxation. "The IMF cannot dictate on this front," said the adviser.

The dominance of finance ministry in negotiations with the IMF at the expense of planning ministry's role has led to the acceptance of such conditions that may appear fiscally prudent but carry huge socio-economic costs.

In the past, the Planning Commission used to play an important role in IMF talks but the Ministry of Finance has now sidelined the commission, which is resulting in acceptance of conditions having serious economic implications.

Sources said that the government also agreed that Pakistan would not provide any new fiscal incentives to the new and existing economic zones and would not renew the existing incentives.

Under the SEZ Act, investors are entitled to exemption from income tax for 10 years for zone developers, co-developers and zone enterprises.

There is also a one-off exemption from all customs duties and taxes on the import of capital goods for zone developers, co-developers and zone enterprises.

During the last fiscal year, the government gave Rs7 billion worth of exemptions to the zone developers.

Pakistan had planned to set up nine SEZs under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). So far, it has begun work on two zones – the Rashakai Special Economic Zone in K-P and the Allama Iqbal Industrial City in Faisalabad.

The Dhabeji Special Economic Zone, Sindh and the Bostan Special Economic Zone, Balochistan are at various stages of planning.

The new IMF condition will hit the ICT Model Industrial Zone, Islamabad, Industrial Park on PSM land, Mirpur Industrial Zone, Mohmand Marble City and Moqpondass Special Economic Zone.

Pakistan is still keen to attract Chinese industries to these zones as part of the second phase of CPEC.

This IMF condition may further deepen suspicions that the global lender is targeting Pak-China relations, said government sources.

The SIFC division on Tuesday stated that a high-level Chinese business delegation, comprising representatives of Xinjiang Iron Brothers Co Ltd and four other prominent Chinese business entities, visited the SIFC.

The delegation was given a briefing on investment opportunities in priority sectors including agriculture, livestock, information technology, energy, minerals, tourism, industry and the policy-level measures being undertaken to improve the overall investment climate, it added.

"The delegation was also briefed about the salient features of industrial development in Pakistan and it showed keen interest in investment in key sectors under the SIFC and the relocation of Chinese industries to Pakistan including Gilgit-Baltistan," said the SIFC.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2495112/govt-accepts-imf-bar-on-new-sezs>



## The News

### **Chinese business delegation visits SIFC**

ISLAMABAD: A high-level Chinese business delegation, comprising Xinjiang Iron Brothers Co Ltd with four other prominent Chinese business entities Tuesday visited Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC).

The delegation was headed by Mr Yuan Jianmin, senior and renowned economist, along with members representing various business enterprises, said a press release issued here. The delegation was warmly received by officials of SIFC and comprehensive briefs were given covering potential and investment opportunities in priority sectors including agriculture/livestock, IT, energy, minerals, tourism, industry, and policy level measures being undertaken to improve the overall investment climate in the country. The delegation was also briefed about salient features of industrial development in Pakistan.

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=341221>

## K2 Daily



[https://epaper.dailyk2.com/Home?Issue=NP\\_ICT&Page=Back\\_Page](https://epaper.dailyk2.com/Home?Issue=NP_ICT&Page=Back_Page)

[https://epaper.dailyk2.com/Home?Issue=NP\\_ICT&Page=Classified](https://epaper.dailyk2.com/Home?Issue=NP_ICT&Page=Classified)

**September 12, 2024**

## Business Recorder

### **Pakistan, China agree to explore ways to further enhance trade**

ISLAMABAD: Jam Kamal Khan, Federal Minister for Commerce held a meeting with Chinese Vice Minister of Commerce, on sidelines of the SCO Ministerial Conference.

Senior officials from Ministry of Commerce, Pakistan and Ministry of Commerce, China also were present in the meeting.

Chinese Vice Minister congratulated Pakistan on hosting first-ever Ministerial meeting of the SCO Ministers Responsible for Economy & Foreign Trade and pledged complete support of the People's Republic of China.

During the meeting, both sides agreed to take steps to further explore the ways to enhance trade and to convene a meeting of Committee on Trade in Goods of Free Trade Agreement. Both sides agreed that there is enormous potential for growth in agriculture sector. Chinese side desired its eagerness to import quality products from Pakistan.

Chinese side invited Pakistan to participate in China International Import Exhibition, Shanghai this year and conveyed that the huge space has been reserved for Pakistan. Pakistan side confirmed that the Pakistan is going to participate in the exhibition with 33 companies and also will establish a country pavilion.

It was also agreed during the meeting that the Gwadar Port should be operationalised at optimal capacity at the earliest.

Pakistan side informed that under the directions of the Prime Minister, a high-level committee has just shared its recommendations for making the Port fully operational.

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2024/09/12/3-page/1007030-news.html>

### **Pakistan, China hold productive meeting to boost cooperation**

Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives, Ahsan Iqbal, held a productive meeting with Zhao Chenxin, Vice Chairman of the National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC) of China, at NDRC headquarters to discuss ongoing and future cooperation between the two countries.

The meeting underscored the mutual commitment of Pakistan and China to further strengthening the All-Weather Strategic Cooperative Partnership, according to an official statement. Both sides reaffirmed their commitment to China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), a flagship project of Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), which continues to be a cornerstone of bilateral relations, Gwadar Pro reported on Tuesday. During the meeting in Beijing, both sides reviewed the progress of CPEC with an emphasis on ensuring the timely completion of projects and launching an upgraded version of CPEC as per the agreement reached at the leadership level.

Both sides highlighted significance of CPEC projects in enhancing connectivity, trade, and socio-economic development in the region. It was agreed to fast-track the work on the ML-I project, KKH realignment, for which both sides signed the framework agreement last month, and, the Sukkur- Hyderabad motorway which is the only missing link within the Karachi-Peshawar motorway network. Discussions were also held on expanding the scope of cooperation to new areas such as technology, innovation, education, connectivity, and renewable energy.

The minister reaffirmed Pakistan's strong commitment to revitalizing CPEC in its next phase through the operationalization of the five corridors of growth, livelihoods, innovation, green development, and inclusivity.

The vision of five corridors is well aligned with Pakistan's 5Es Framework (exports, e-Pakistan, environment, equity, energy, and education), said the minister.

Ahsan Iqbal emphasized Pakistan's interest in learning from China's experiences in these sectors to drive sustainable development. NDRC may consider organizing a high-level workshop in Beijing to discuss ways to operationalize the five corridors in alignment with Pakistan's 5Es framework. "Our experts can develop an agenda and share concept notes ahead of this workshop. If necessary, online preparatory meetings can be held," he added. He also discussed ways to bring more predictability in convening meetings of the JWG and JCC mechanisms.

Zhao Chenxin highlighted the potential for increased Chinese investment in Pakistan, particularly in the Special Economic Zones being developed under CPEC. Zhao reaffirmed China's support for Pakistan's development initiatives and expressed confidence in the continued success of the partnership between the two countries. The meeting concluded with both leaders expressing optimism about the future of Pakistan-China relations and their shared vision of prosperity and development for their people.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1209392/pakistan-china-hold-productive-meeting-to-boost-cooperation/>

### **Pakistan Observer**

#### **BRI & Kazakhstan: A Befitting Proposition**

*Dr Mehmood Ul Hassan Khan*

The Republic of Kazakhstan is the origin country of the One Belt One Road Initiative (BRI) thus it has strategic relevance to it. It was launched during Chinese President Xi Jinping's September 2013 visit to Astana, highlighting Kazakhstan's critical transit role in China's pivot to the world and especially Europe.

Undoubtedly, BRI projects are spreading economic feel good gestures and sentiments in the Central Asia Region and look highly promising, in terms of increased connectivity, expanded regional trade and modernize their obsolete transport infrastructure. Thus BRI has been increasing their potential of trade and commerce, integration of socio-economic development and last but not the least eradication of poverty.

Kazakhstan is the largest landlocked country and the 9th largest in the world. It shares a border to the east with China, and borders Russia to the north, Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan to the south, and Iran. Its ideal geographical location facilitates connectivity between China and the West via key routes under the BRI flagship.

Today two of the six economic corridors of BRI pass through Kazakhstan connecting China with Europe, Iran and Western Asia. Mainly the New Eurasian Land Bridge and the China-Central Asia-West Asia Corridor pass through it.

It is good omen that the BRI comprises 51 mega projects of US\$35 billion in Kazakhstan, in which US\$3.5 billion is invested in the International Centre for Border Cooperation Khorgos and a dry port on the eastern border with China. Its investments include the Shalkar-Beyneu Railways, the Zhezkazgan-Suksanl Railways, the Kuryl Seaport, the Unified System of

Management “NOMAD” and Almaty-Sha Railway Line, Almaty bypass railways etc. Thus Kazakhstan is the “jewel” of BRI in Central Asia and beyond.

Moreover, Kuryk Seaport has direct access to railway tracks which has already enhanced its “strategic” value. The port is well located at the intersection of the East-West and North-South trade corridors (Iran, India and Russia) creating one of the fastest multinational routes for cargo delivery. It is meant to perform multi tasks mainly to increase Kazakhstan’s trade activities with Caspian Sea Region (CSR) and transit potential of the Caspian Sea.

The 24th Meeting of the Council of Heads of State of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) held in Astana on July 3-4.

Chinese President Xi Jinping attended the summit which marked his fifth trip to Kazakhstan, following previous visits in 2013, 2015, 2017 and 2022.

For over 30 years since Kazakhstan’s independence, China and Kazakhstan have transitioned from bilateral cooperation to broader multilateral engagements within the frameworks of the SCO and the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).

Their mutual support and shared achievements have charted an extraordinary path of cooperation, setting a benchmark for pragmatic collaboration under the BRI.

With the passage of time China and Kazakhstan have developed their pragmatic cooperation and further enhanced their status of comprehensive strategic partners. Their bilateral trade volume was around US\$370 million in 1992.

By 2023, this figure had surged to over US\$41 billion, a more than 100-fold increase, accounting for 28.3 percent of Kazakhstan’s total trade volume. This achievement surpasses the \$40 billion trade target for 2030 set by the leaders of both nations.

Moreover, between 2005 and 2023, China invested \$25.3 billion in Kazakhstan, solidifying Kazakhstan’s position as China’s largest trading partner in Central Asia and one of its most important economic partners, bringing tangible benefits to both countries.

Critical analysis reveals that within the SCO framework, China and Kazakhstan have aligned their positions on international and regional issues, providing each other with steadfast mutual support.

It is pertinent to mention that jointly they have played a constructive role in the development and expansion of the SCO, fostering cooperation in areas such as institutional building, counter-terrorism, combating crime, regional security, economy, trade, agriculture, energy, science and technology, finance, culture, information, education, transportation, tourism, and environmental protection.

It augurs well that both sides are committed to maintaining regional peace, security and stability, and promoting a new, democratic, just, and rational international political and economic order, thereby contributing to a more representative, democratic, just, and multipolar world order.

Kazakhstan has been an active participant in the BRI since its inception, creatively proposing the integration of the Silk Road Economic Belt with its “Bright Road” economic policy which

offers a new path for collaborative development between China and BRI-participating countries and regions.

The China-Kazakhstan production capacity cooperation has pioneered a new model of pragmatic collaboration under the BRI, providing a template for industrial upgrading and enhancing local employment and poverty alleviation.

It seems that the China-Kazakhstan (Lianyungang) logistics cooperation base has opened a maritime route to the Pacific for Kazakhstan, transforming it from a landlocked to a land-linked country, and expanding the geographical scope of international cooperation for Kazakhstan and other Central Asian nations, significantly altering the geopolitical and economic landscape of Eurasia.

Interestingly, China and Kazakhstan are building a digital Silk Road, a green Silk Road, and a Silk Road of health, setting an example for building a global community of shared future.

In summary, China and Kazakhstan are embarking on a new golden 30 years of bilateral cooperation, advancing into the next vibrant 20 years of the SCO from its youth to maturity, and opening another decade filled with opportunities and hope under the BRI.

Hopefully, the future promises even deeper mutual trust and assistance, enhanced bilateral pragmatic cooperation and a more influential SCO.

China and Kazakhstan will further contribute positivity and productivity in the regional as well as international affairs and play their constructive role in greater regional connectivity, security, development, digitalization, e-commerce, socio-economic integration, infrastructure development, poverty eradication, generation of new jobs, climate change, green transformation, rail and transport connectivity, smart living, agricultural cooperation and last but not least, human capital in the days to come.

There is great potential for mutual cooperation in renewables, solar, wind, lithium battery, EVs, metals & mining, SMEs, services, and qualitative industrialization which must be jointly tapped and pursued.

<https://pakobserver.net/bri-kazakhstan-a-befitting-proposition/>

## **CPEC & Solarized Pakistan: Prospects & Constraints**

*Z.H. Khan*

Undoubtedly, the CPEC has significantly contributed to sustainable development in Pakistan by enhancing infrastructure, boosting energy production and creating economic opportunities. However, many untapped sectors still need to be jointly explored under the flagship project of the CPEC in the country. The development of new highways and railways under CPEC has improved connectivity, facilitating trade and economic growth. Additionally, CPEC projects in renewable energy, such as wind and solar power plants, have increased Pakistan’s energy capacity while promoting cleaner, sustainable energy sources. According to a published

report of the Global Energy Monitor (GEM), China has 180 gigawatts (GW) of utility-scale solar power under construction and 159GW of wind power. This brings the total of wind and solar power under construction to 339GW, well ahead of the 40GW under construction in the US. The researchers only looked at solar farms with a capacity of 20MW or more, which feed directly into the grid. This means that the total volume of solar power in China could be much higher, as small-scale solar farms account for about 40 percent of China's solar capacity. The findings underscore China's leading position in global renewable energy production at a time when the US is increasingly worried about Chinese overcapacity and dumping, particularly in the solar industry. China has experienced a renewables boom due to strong government support, with President Xi Jinping emphasizing "new quality productive forces," including green manufacturing. Between March 2023 and March 2024, China installed more solar capacity than in the previous three years combined and more than the rest of the world for 2023. China is on track to reach 1,200GW of installed wind and solar capacity by the end of 2024, six years ahead of its target. Hopefully, the constructive wave of construction guarantees that China will continue leading in wind and solar installation in the near future, far ahead of the rest of the world. It is a good omen that the Chinese company expressed its willingness to provide Road King with technical support, product optimization, and marketing assistance for solar e-bikes in the country.

Thus, it will jointly create high-quality transportation products that meet local market needs. Optimistically, it will actively promote cooperation with the Chinese side and introduce solar e-bikes to the Pakistani market. The environmental friendliness and high-efficiency performance of solar e-bikes perfectly align with Pakistan's current demand for green transportation.

Moreover, Road King, a leading electric scooter brand in Pakistan, and AGAO Solar Mobility, a China-based startup specializing in solar-powered scooters, recently reached a preliminary cooperation agreement to introduce eco-friendly solar e-bikes to Pakistan.

Solar scooters are eco-friendly electric scooters equipped with solar panels. These panels harness solar energy to charge the scooter's battery, reducing the need for traditional charging.

The combination of solar energy and scooters is dedicated to short-distance travel with zero carbon emissions. During the meeting, both sides engaged in detailed discussions on Pakistan's local transportation market demand, product development trends, and specific cooperation modalities.

The Chinese company expressed its willingness to provide Road King with technical support, product optimization and marketing assistance for solar e-bikes.

The goal is to jointly create high-quality transportation products that meet local market needs.

Eventually, it will actively promote cooperation with the Chinese side and introduce solar e-bikes to the Pakistani market, stated the delegation from Road King, noting that the environmental friendliness and high-efficiency performance of solar e-bikes perfectly align with Pakistan's current demand for green transportation.

Interestingly, a delegation of a Chinese private sector investment group called on Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Sardar Ali Amin Khan Gandapur and discussed with him

matters related to investment in different sectors of the province. The delegation expressed its willingness to invest in the industrial and mineral sectors of the province, saying that the company will submit its viable proposals very soon.

The Chief Minister directed the relevant officials to closely examine the proposals to be submitted by the company and come up with an action plan for further progress.

While highlighting the extensive investment opportunities in different potential sectors of the province, CM Gandapur invited them to invest in agriculture, livestock, solar energy and other important sectors, adding that the government will not only encourage foreign investment but also provide all possible facilities to them.

He said that the provincial government plans to utilize China's advanced technology for the sustainable development of the agriculture sector and looks forward to cooperation in this regard.

In summary, the policymakers of Pakistan should follow the recommendations of Pakistan's National Electricity Policy 2021,

which pledges that a "sustainable renewable energy market shall be developed, with a progressively increasing share in power generation as per the Indicative Generation Capacity Expansion Plan (IGCEP) based on the least cost principle."

As per the World Bank's "Variable Renewable Energy Integration and Planning Study," the US National Renewable Energy Laboratory estimates the theoretical potential for wind generation in Pakistan at 340GW, mainly in Sindh and Balochistan, vividly reflecting the rich potential of renewables in the country.

Unfortunately, no solar or wind projects have been installed in Balochistan despite the immense solar and wind integration potential of 1050MW and 1850MW, respectively, at interconnection-ready sites requiring no grid strengthening and no capacity additions.

According to the World Bank study, Balochistan's realizable solar and wind potential when grid strengthening measures are in place could be as high as 3.5GW and 6GW, respectively, by 2030.

Focusing on hydropower and conventional power sources limits renewable energy opportunities in Sindh and Balochistan.

Urgent action is needed to utilize the renewables potential in these provinces, including grid upgrades and strategic placement of solar and wind power near substations and transmission lines. Policymakers in Pakistan must revisit their renewables policy to ensure a balanced and inclusive energy and economic development approach.

This would enable Sindh and Balochistan to harness their renewable energy potential, driving regional development and contributing significantly to Pakistan's overall energy landscape.

<https://pakobserver.net/cpec-solarized-pakistan-prospects-constraints/>

## The Express tribune

### **Turkmenistan to access Gwadar Port under CPEC**

MOU between Gwadar, Turkmenbashi ports to be inked soon

ISLAMABAD: Turkmenistan is set to become the first Central Asian country to access the Gwadar Port under China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) as both countries are about to ink an agreement in this regard.

Pakistan and Turkmenistan are already venturing various joint projects, including TAPI pipeline, railway track and fibre connectivity to connect two regions - South and Central Asia.

Sources told The Express Tribune the government has formed a committee with a task to vet the draft of the agreement to be signed between Port of Gwadar and Port of Turkmenbashi under the CPEC.

In the recent cabinet meeting, the Planning, Development and Special Initiatives minister was assigned a task to oversee the agreement with the support of the Ministry of Commerce, Ministry of Finance and Ministry of Maritime Affairs.

The agreement shall be placed before the cabinet after it is vetted by the committee and the planning ministry.

According to Ministry of Maritime Affairs the ministries of Foreign Affairs, Defence and Interior have completed the process of due diligence. Besides, the Ministry of Law & Justice has also vetted the draft MoU after making minor changes.

The Ministry of Maritime Affairs informed the cabinet that the objective of the arrangement was to establish regional and international cooperation to utilise the potential capacities of the two ports for transit of goods and containers.

The ministry sought the approval of the cabinet for signing the Memorandum of Understanding between the port authorities of the two countries.

#### Gwadar Port Operations

In the cabinet meeting, a committee was formed to consider the approval of 50% public sector imports from Gwadar Port.

The committee included the ministers for commerce, maritime affairs and economic affairs and the secretaries for commerce, finance, industries and production, national food security and research, power and maritime affairs.

The committee shall review the proposal prepared by the Ministry of Maritime Affairs, taking into account the financial, commercial, logistical, transportation cost and consumer price implications of the proposal. The committee shall also consider the views of the divisions concerned.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2495490/turkmenistan-to-access-gwadar-port-under-cpec>



## The Nation

### **Federal govt to establish Gwadar Blue Economy Centre**

Rs1.5 billion have been allocated for project in PSDP 2024-25

ISLAMABAD - The federal government will establish Gwadar Blue Economy Centre to explore and exploit marine resources and blue economy including port & shipping management which is directly and indirectly associated to China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). An amount of Rs1.5 billion has been allocated for the project of establishment of Gwadar Blue Economy Centre in the PSDP 2024-25, and it is sponsored/executed by Ministry of Maritime Affairs and Gwadar Port Authority, official documents available with The Nation revealed.

In pursuit of optimal utilization of wealthy resources Pakistan is gifted with, there is a need for establishing a ‘ Center for Blue Economy ‘ (CBE’ ) that could be helpful in identifying, developing, implementing, and managing marine resources within a holistic framework that also prioritize sustainability while ensuring measures to conserve marine as well as coastal ecosystem, official documents revealed. According the documents, CBE would also aim at integrating economic and human development, minimizing environmental degradation, and building resilience while fostering mitigation opportunities.

Under the project, a dedicated and well-equipped policy cell would be established within the Center for Blue Economy comprising relevant high/mid/lower-level experts to provide a platform for investment and business friendly policy formulation in the areas relevant to blue economy and its promotion. Under Gwadar Blue Economy Centre, model shrimp hatchery/farms would be set up at Gwadar, Pasni, Ormara, Jiwani, Pishikan, Surbandar Gunz for the production of disease free seed and promotion of shrimp culture in Pakistan.

The prime objectives of the centre will be to develop at least seven model shrimp hatcheries, the pathogen free shrimp seed from using artificial breeding from wild shrimp for shrimp culture development, to establish algal and artemia culture for shrimp feed using modern techniques, to enhance growth and reproductive rate of shrimp using algal und artemia feed, and to supply shrimp seed to public-private sector for the development of shrimp culture. The project is aligned with the objectives set under longterm development plan and government sectoral priorities and the 14th SDG goals, life below water & blue economy.

Effective and efficient development can only be ensured to people of Pakistan by enhancing the institutional and technical capability and capacity of the ocean and blue economy of Pakistan, which in fact is not possible without the well established and elaborate research & study centers in the field of blue economy which has a huge potential in Balochistan and particularly Gwadar. The potential of blue economy in Pakistan is certainly a source of enormous wealth for Pakistan. Pakistan’s coastline of more than 1000 kilometers and an exclusive economic zone of 290,000 kilometers is rich with oceanic wealth and natural resources.

In pursuit of optimal utilization of wealthy resources Pakistan is gifted with, there is a need for establishing a state of the art Gwadar Blue Economy Centre that could be helpful in

identifying, developing, implementing, and managing and preserving marine resources within a holistic framework that also prioritize sustainability while ensuring measures to conserve marine as well as coastal ecosystem. In addition, Gwadar Blue Economy Centre would also aim at integrating economic and human development, minimizing environmental degradation, and building resilience while fostering mitigation opportunities. This could assist in easing the economic pressure and could support creation of new business and job opportunities that could potentially attract huge local and international investments.

Pakistan has great potential for sustainable development, socio-economic growth, business and job opportunities, and addition in its value chain only if it prioritizes blue economy and optimally utilises its resources. It is projected that the return on investment in blue economy can yield Pakistan minimum of five fold return on investment. In order to develop a human resource pool in the field of blue economy and marine resources, the project includes a component for provision of scholarships to the highly talented individuals. These scholarships will be for one- and two-years degree programmes in the specialized fields of blue economy and marine resources, the documents revealed. The merit based scholarships will be fully funded and will be offered to individuals of the Gwadar & Lasbela Districts who pursue their degree programmes in the renowned western universities.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/17-Jul-2024/federal-govt-to-establish-gwadar-blue-economy-centre>

### **Pakistan, China hold productive meeting to boost cooperation**

ISLAMABAD - Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives, Ahsan Iqbal, held a productive meeting with Zhao Chenxin, Vice Chairman of the National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC) of China, at NDRC headquarters to discuss ongoing and future cooperation between the two countries.

The meeting underscored the mutual commitment of Pakistan and China to further strengthening the all-weather strategic cooperative partnership, according to an official statement. Both sides reaffirmed their commitment to China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), a flagship project of Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), which continues to be a cornerstone of bilateral relations, Gwadar Pro reported on Tuesday. During the meeting in Beijing, both sides reviewed the progress of CPEC with an emphasis on ensuring timely completion of projects and launching an upgraded version of CPEC as per the agreement reached at the leadership level.

Both sides highlighted significance of CPEC projects in enhancing connectivity, trade, and socio-economic development in the region. It was agreed to fast-track the work on the ML-I project, KKH realignment, for which both sides signed the framework agreement last month, and, the Sukkur-Hyderabad motorway which is the only missing link within the Karachi-Peshawar motorway network.

Discussions were also held on expanding the scope of cooperation to new areas such as technology, innovation, education, connectivity, and renewable energy.

The minister reaffirmed Pakistan's strong commitment to revitalising CPEC in its next phase through the operationalisation of the five corridors of growth, livelihoods, innovation, green development, and inclusivity.

The vision of five corridors is well aligned with Pakistan's 5Es Framework (exports, e-Pakistan, environment, equity, energy, and education), said the minister.

Ahsan Iqbal emphasised Pakistan's interest in learning from China's experiences in these sectors to drive sustainable development. NDRC may consider organising a high-level workshop in Beijing to discuss ways to operationalise the five corridors in alignment with Pakistan's 5Es framework.

"Our experts can develop an agenda and share concept notes ahead of this workshop. If necessary, online preparatory meetings can be held," he added. He also discussed ways to bring more predictability in convening meetings of the JWG and JCC mechanisms.

Zhao Chenxin highlighted the potential for increased Chinese investment in Pakistan, particularly in the Special Economic Zones being developed under CPEC.

Zhao reaffirmed China's support for Pakistan's development initiatives and expressed confidence in the continued success of the partnership between the two countries. The meeting concluded with both leaders expressing optimism about the future of Pakistan-China relations and their shared vision of prosperity and development for their people.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/17-Jul-2024/pakistan-china-hold-productive-meeting-to-boost-cooperation>

### **China-Laos Railway facilitates fruit transport**

KUNMING - The China-Laos Railway has transported more than 100,000 tonnes of fruits this year as of Thursday, an increase of around 120 percent year on year, local railway authorities said. On Thursday, a batch of 108 tonnes of durians from Thailand transported via the China-Laos Railway was unloaded at Kunming Hongyun international logistics port, surpassing the 100,000-tonne mark.

It took only 29 hours for this batch of goods to reach the unloading area in Kunming, capital of southwest China's Yunnan Province, from the Vientiane south railway station, said China Railway Kunming Bureau Group Co., Ltd.

Thanks to streamlined customs clearance measures, tropical fruits from South Asia and Southeast Asia are continuously transported to China via this railway. Currently, the railway's cross-border customs clearance time has been reduced to no more than five hours, facilitating the transportation of fruits and vegetables, flowers and other goods that require swift transit, said the company. The China-Laos Railway, a landmark project of high-quality Belt and Road cooperation, began operations in December 2021. The 1,035-km railway connects Kunming in China with Vientiane in Laos.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/17-Jul-2024/china-laos-railway-facilitates-fruit-transport>

## The News

### **3rd session of China 20th Central Committee: what to expect?**

*Shakeel Ahmad Ramay*

The Communist Party of China (CPC) is preparing to organise third plenary session of 20th Central Committee. The world is watching it closely, as being the centre of global trade and economy, decisions at the session will have implications for the global economy, trade and development. The world expects major decisions that will set the tune of Chinese economy, society and international economic and diplomatic engagements. It is anticipated modernisation will be the main focus along with governance and deepening reforms as key enablers. The agenda of the meeting can be divided into two categories: long-term goal of modernisation and acceleration of enablers of governance and reforms . Modernisation has been identified as the main instrument of national rejuvenation and sharing prosperity with the world. The present-day Chinese modernisation drive has roots in President Xi Jinping's Thoughts on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics. While delivering a report at the 19th National Congress of the Communist Party of China, President Xi deliberated on the path to modernisation, required actions and China's capacities and capabilities. He highlighted China has self-confidence in the path, self-confidence in theory, self-confidence in the institutions and cultural self-confidence to construct modern socialism and socialist society with Chinese characteristics . Jiang Shigong, a Chinese scholar, argued no doubt modern implementation of modernisation has roots in President Xi's thoughts. But the conceptual journey of modernisation started with Chairman Mao's Ten Great Relationships and kept evolving. Prime Minister Zhou Enlai's four modernisation goals can further strengthen the argument. While speaking at the Conference on Scientific and Technological Work held in Shanghai in January 1963, he urged scientific community to work towards modernising agriculture, industry, defence, science and technology. Later on, the goals were formally adopted by Deng Xiaoping and became the cornerstone of reform era. The Cultural Revolution made it more radical. But reforms introduced by Deng Xiaoping brought China back on the path of modernisation. President Xi is leading the drive towards modernising socialism and the country. It is appropriate to clarify here the path of Chinese modernisation and its philosophy differs from that of West. It has been defined by learning from Chinese civilisation, Marxism, Western civilisation, Muslim civilisation and others. China is not saying its civilisation is superior to others or that it does not need to learn. President Xi reiterated the same message while speaking at the 20th National Congress. He said Chinese modernisation had adopted some unique features in accordance with ground realities of China, guiding the philosophy of society with Chinese characteristics and China's commitment to global development and peace. Thus, Chinese modernisation is different from that of West. It has five distinctive characteristics which make it unique: China strives to serve a huge population (1.4 billion), more than total population of developed world. No other country has experienced modernising of such a population. The success of this drive is expected to change the global dynamics. It will positively impact global production, consumption and trade systems. The spillover effects will also introduce changes in other countries and accelerate growth and development there. It will also push for innovation, as the world will have to produce more

high-quality commodities and products to satisfy the needs of people. Common prosperity would be the core goal of Chinese modernisation drive. It will focus on bringing positive change in the lives of common people and building a prosperous society. It is the cornerstone of socialism with Chinese characteristics. To achieve this objective, China is working to address regional divides, disparities between urban and rural areas and the gap in income distribution. China promotes social fairness and justice, works towards common prosperity for everyone and stands firmly against polarisation between rich and poor. The most prominent example on this front is the Chinese commitment to developing the western region, with a special focus on Uygur Muslims and the community. China also wants to take this drive to the global level and contribute to global development and prosperity. Global Development Initiative, Belt and Road Initiative and Global Civilisations Initiative are a few examples to explain China's commitment to global prosperity. China will be pursuing a balanced model of modernisation.

In President Xi's words, Modernisation balances material and cultural-ethical progress. It upholds the core socialist values, strengthens education on ideals and convictions, spreads splendid traditional culture, boosts people's moral strength and fosters material abundance and well-rounded development of all. China will go for harmonious modernisation. It will stick to the philosophy of harmony between humans and nature and among the humans. President XI said, When we modernise our country, we strive to synergise material and eco-environmental progress and follow a path of sound development that ensures growth, better lives and a good environment.

Otherwise, pressure on resources and environment will become unbearable. It is in line with the philosophy and vision of Ecological Civilisation. Chinese modernisation follows a path of peaceful development. Some old capitalist countries pursued modernisation through violent exploitation of colonies and at the cost of other countries development. In contrast, China modernisation emphasises mutual benefit with other countries, strives for a global community of shared future and works to deliver peace and development to humanity. It is entirely different from the Western model of modernisation. The West colonised countries and committed crimes against humanity.

They killed or enslaved locals and exploited their resources. President Xi and the CPC leadership are convinced modernisation cannot be achieved without reforms and modernising governance system and capacity. Therefore, the leadership will deliberate on modernising governance system and capacity and deepening the reforms. Modernisation of governance and reforms are highly dependent on each other. There is a need to build a quality modern system of governance and modernise the capacity of governance. To achieve this objective, the reform process would need to be expedited.

President Xi is convinced deepening reforms will remain an illusion without modernising governance system, capabilities and capacities. He launched a comprehensive programme and campaign to modernise governance and accelerate reforms. The third plenary session is expected to accelerate reform process and modernise governance system and capacity.

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=325000>

## ‘Pak response to CPEC should be multifaceted’

*Rasheed Khalid*

Islamabad:Renowned columnist Zahid Hussain has said that Pakistan needs to respond to Chinese economic expectations regarding CPEC with an effective and consistent policy.

Mr Hussain was speaking at a discussion on “CPEC: an appraisal” organised here by Institute of Regional Studies (IRS). Emphasising the importance of nurturing existing synergy between the two nations, Mr Hussain highlighted the need for upgrading the skills of the Pakistani workforce to advance high-quality development in the second phase of the CPEC. He added that the recent signing of 27 new projects related to the development of Special Industrial Zones (SIZs), agriculture, tourism and other mutually beneficial initiatives was poised to significantly build on the commercial ties between China and Pakistan, leading to a new era of cooperation within the South Asian region.

In elaborating on the development of Phase 1, he admitted the slow pace but highlighted the instrumental role of several infrastructure projects initiated in the first phase in spurring economic growth of Pakistan. He also underscored the need to address shortcomings of Phase 1 to fully leverage the potential of Phase 2. Speaking on the occasion, Jauhar Saleem, President, IRS, underlined the critical importance of timely completion of CPEC projects, asserting that this would greatly enhance the strategic cooperative partnership between Pakistan and China.

He stressed the multi-dimensional cooperation facilitated by CPEC for enhancing trade, industrial collaboration and connectivity within the region and called upon the need for a fresh approach to capitalise on China's fast-growing economy.

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=325055>

### Express News

#### چینی کمپنی یوٹونگ کا کراچی میں بس مینوفیکچرنگ پلانٹ لگانے کا فیصلہ

ایکسپریس نیوز کے مطابق سندھ کے سینئر وزیر شرجیل انعام میمن کی جانب سے عوام کے لیے بہت بڑی خوش خبری سامنے آئی ہے، دنیا کی سب سے بڑی بس ساز کمپنی یوٹونگ مشرق وسطیٰ کے سی ای او اور دیگر حکام نے کراچی میں سندھ کے سینئر وزیر شرجیل انعام میمن سے ملاقات کی۔

سینئر وزیر شرجیل انعام میمن کی جانب سے جولائی 2022ء میں دی گئی دعوت پر یوٹونگ کمپنی نے کراچی میں پلانٹ لگانے کا فیصلہ کیا ہے۔

شرجیل انعام میمن نے اس حوالے سے بتایا ہے کہ یوٹونگ کی جانب سے کراچی میں پلانٹ لگانے کا کام تین ماہ کے اندر شروع ہو جائے گا، پلانٹ کا کام اگلے سال مکمل ہو جائے گا، یوٹونگ کی انٹراسٹی اور الیکٹریک بسز اب کراچی میں بنیں گی، پلانٹ میں ای وی بسز اور ہائبرڈ ڈیزل بسز تیار کی جائیں گی۔

صوبائی وزیر کے مطابق پلانٹ لگنے سے صنعتوں کو فروغ ملے گا، روزگار کے نئے مواقع پیدا ہوں گے، کراچی میں بسز کی تیاری سے پاکستان کا زر مبادلہ بھی بچے گا، بسوں کی ایکسپورٹ سے پاکستان کو بھی فائدہ ہو گا۔

<https://www.express.pk/story/2669827/1/>

## امریکا کا چینی اداروں پر پاکستانی میزائل پروگرام کی مدد کا الزام، پابندی عائد

امریکا کے اسٹیٹ ڈپارٹمنٹ نے چینی ریسرچ انسٹیٹیوٹ اور متعدد کمپنیوں پر پاکستان کے جوہری میزائل پروگرام کو مواد فراہم کرنے کا الزام عائد کرتے ہوئے واشنگٹن میں پابندیاں عائد کر دیں۔

خبر ایجنسی رائٹرز کی رپورٹ کے مطابق اسٹیٹ ڈپارٹمنٹ کے ترجمان میتھیو ملرنے ایک بیان میں الزام عائد کرتے ہوئے کہا کہ بیجنگ ریسرچ انسٹیٹیوٹ آف آٹومیشن فار مشین بلڈنگ انڈسٹری نے پاکستان کے ساتھ شاہین-3 اور اباہیل سسٹم اور ممکنہ طور پر بڑے نظام کے لیے راکٹ موٹرز ٹیسٹنگ کے لیے کام کیا ہے۔

انہوں نے کہا کہ امریکی پابندیوں کی زد میں چینی کمپنی ہو ہے جو چیننگڈا 11 ٹیلی جینٹ ایکویپمنٹ کمپنی، یونیورسل انٹرنیشنل اور شیان لونگڈے ٹیکنالوجی ڈیولپمنٹ کمپنی کے ساتھ ساتھ پاکستان میں قائم انووینو ایکویپمنٹ اور ایک چینی شہری بھی آگئے ہیں۔

امریکی اسٹیٹ ڈپارٹمنٹ نے مذکورہ کمپنیوں اور شہری پر الزام عائد کیا ہے کہ انہوں نے پابندیوں کے باوجود میزائل ٹیکنالوجی آلات منتقل کر لیا ہے۔

میتھیو ملرنے کہا کہ آج کی پابندیوں سے یہ آشکار ہوتا ہے کہ امریکا ایٹمی پھیلاؤ اور جہاں کہیں بھی ہونے والی مواد کے منتقلی سے متعلق سرگرمیوں کے خلاف اقدامات جاری رکھے گا۔

امریکا نے اکتوبر 2023 میں بھی تین چینی کمپنیوں پر پاکستان کے پروگرام کو مواد بیچنے کے الزام پر پابندیاں عائد کر دی تھیں۔

<https://www.express.pk/story/2703981/10/>

## K2 Daily

<p>دوڑوں ممالک کی جانب سے زرعی شعبے میں تعاون بڑھانے پر زور دیا گیا، گوارا پورٹ کی عملی فعالیت کے لیے پاکستانی مٹی کی سٹارٹ اپس جاری کریں۔</p>	<p><b>بنفٹ</b> 69</p> <p>ملاقات کی - دونوں رہنماؤں کی ملاقات میں جماعتی تعاون کو فروغ دینے پر اتفاق رائے طے پایا ہے جبکہ چین نے پاکستانی مصنوعات کی درآمد میں دلچسپی کا اظہار کیا ہے۔ پاکستان 33 کمپنیوں کے ساتھ چین انپورٹ انیسو میں شرکت کرے گا، گوارا پورٹ کی عملی فعالیت کے لئے جلد اقدامات اٹھائے جائیں گے، چین نے ایشیائی نو وڈز کی اجلاس کی میزبانی پر پاکستان کو مبارکباد دی، پاکستان اور چین کے درمیان آزاد تجارتی معاہدے پر مٹی کا اجلاس طے کرنے پر اتفاق کیا۔ ملاقات میں</p>	<p><b>پاک چین تجارتی تعاون کے فروغ پر متفق</b></p> <p>گوارا پورٹ کی فعالیت کے اقدامات، آزاد تجارتی معاہدے پر کئی اجلاس طے پائیں</p> <p>پاکستان 33 کمپنیوں کے ساتھ چینی پورٹ انیسو میں شرکت کرے گا، جی ڈی کے ملاقات</p> <p>اسلام آباد (آئی این پی) پاکستان اور چین کے درمیان تجارتی تعاون کو فروغ دینے پر اتفاق کیا گیا ہے جبکہ چین نے پاکستان کے ساتھ تجارتی مواقع بڑھانے کے حزم کا اظہار کیا۔ تحصیل کے سطح پر تجارتی ذمہ داریت جام کمال خان نے چینی ڈب ذمہ داریت سے (ہائی سٹو 6 ستمبر 69) نے بی بی آئی رہنماؤں (ہائی سٹو 6 ستمبر 70)</p> <p><b>PTI رہنماؤں کی خلاف ورزی</b></p> <p>کامقدمہ، انویسٹی گیشن میں تکمیل</p> <p>اسلام آباد (آئی این پی) اسلام آباد پولیس نے بی بی آئی رہنماؤں (ہائی سٹو 6 ستمبر 70)</p>
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[https://epaper.dailyk2.com/Home?Issue=NP\\_GB&Page=Back\\_Page](https://epaper.dailyk2.com/Home?Issue=NP_GB&Page=Back_Page)

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## Nawaiwaqt News

### پاکستان اور چین میں تجارتی تعاون کے فروغ پر اتفاق

اسلام آباد (نمائندہ خصوصی) وزیر تجارت جام کمال سے چینی نائب وزیر تجارت نے ملاقات کی۔ پاکستان اور چین کے درمیان تجارتی تعاون کو فروغ دینے پر اتفاق کیا۔ چینی نائب وزیر تجارت نے پاکستان کے ساتھ تجارتی مواقع بڑھانے کے عزم کا اظہار کیا گیا۔ اعلامیہ کے مطابق وزیر تجارت نے کہا کہ پاکستان 33 کمپنیوں کے ساتھ چین امپورٹ ایکسپو میں شرکت کرے گا۔ گوادر پورٹ کی مکمل فعالیت کے لئے جلد اقدامات کئے جائیں گے۔ چین نے ایس سی او وزارتی اجلاس کی میزبانی پر پاکستان کو مبارکباد دی۔ پاکستان اور چین کے درمیان آزاد تجارتی معاہدے پر کمیٹی کا اجلاس بلانے پر اتفاق کیا گیا۔ دونوں ممالک نے زرعی شعبے میں تعاون بڑھانے پر زور دیا۔ آج 12 ستمبر کو ایس سی او وزرائے تجارت کا اجلاس اسلام آباد میں ہوگا۔ اجلاس کی صدارت وفاقی وزیر تجارت جام کمال خان کریں گے۔ 23 واں اجلاس اسلام آباد میں ہوگا۔ پاکستان شنگھائی تعاون تنظیم کے سربراہان کی کونسل کا موجودہ چیئر ہے۔ اجلاس میں تجارت کو بڑھانے اور اقتصادی خوشحالی پر بات ہوگی۔ شنگھائی تعاون تنظیم کے تحت اقتصادی جیلنجوں سے نمٹنے کی حکومت عملی پر بات ہوگی۔ اجلاس کا مقصد خطے میں اقتصادی مواقع سے فائدہ اٹھانے کے طریقے تلاش کرنا ہے۔ پاکستان ایس سی او مالک کیلئے باہمی تجارتی فوائد کی راہیں ہموار کرنا چاہتا ہے۔

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/lahore/2024-09-12/page-1/detail-31>

### چینی کمپنیوں کے تعاون سے پاکستان کے صحرا سبز کھیتوں میں تبدیلی ہوگئے

اسلام آباد (خبرنگار) چینی کمپنیوں کے تعاون سے پاکستان کے صحرا سبز کھیتوں میں تبدیلی ہوگئے۔ گرین پاکستان انیشی ایٹو صحرائے چولستان میں زراعت کی بحالی پر توجہ دے رہا ہے۔ اس منصوبے میں چین سے درآمد کی جانے والی سمارٹ زرعی مشینری متعارف کرائی گئی ہے، پاکستانی کمپنیاں چینی شراکت داروں کے تعاون سے صحرائی علاقوں میں زراعت کو فروغ دے رہی ہیں، 4500 ایکڑ رقبے پر کاشتکاری کی سرگرمیاں جاری ہیں۔

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/lahore/2024-09-12/page-8/detail-16>

## September 13, 2024

### Business Recorder

#### ‘HBL China Story’ session held

KARACHI: HBL hosts the “HBL China Story” session, bringing together colleagues to discuss the significance of the Bank’s journey in China that started in 2005. HBL is the first and only Bank from Pakistan to have branches in Beijing and one of the three banks from South Asia and MENA region to offer end-to-end RMB intermediation in China.

The event was attended by HE Zhang Hao, Acting Consul General of China in Karachi, and Sultan Ali Allana, Chairman – HBL. Wei Cheng, Country Manager China, presented HBL’s journey in China.

With HBL’s growing business in Pakistan and its international footprint, China is the Linchpin and a market that HBL identifies as its second home. The key theme of the session was to explore opportunities for the next chapter of HBL’s growth in China.

Speaking on the occasion, Sultan Ali Allana, Chairman – HBL said, “HBL’s journey to China began in 2005 with the establishment of Representative Office in Beijing. Over the



years China has become the cornerstone of our strategy growing and facilitating trade in the region and promoting business in RMB.

We are immensely proud of the critical role that our China team plays in serving our clients across our network in UAE, Sri Lanka, Maldives, Bangladesh and Bahrain.”

Narrating the HBL China story, Wei Cheng, Country Manager China, said, “HBL’s growth in China is a testament to our strong relationships with local partners and our ability to adapt to the unique needs of this dynamic market. Our continued success will be driven by innovation, collaboration, and a deep understanding of the Chinese market.

By leveraging the strength of our group and our understanding of local dynamics, we are positioned to contribute significantly to the diverse needs of our clients across HBL’s network.”—PR

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2024/09/13/7-page/1007232-news.html>

**September 14, 2024**

**Buisness Recorder**

### **Gwadar: imported coal-fired project faces axe**

Government likely to scrap 300 MW imported coal power project at Gwadar

ISLAMABAD: The government is likely to scrap 300 MW imported coal power project at Gwadar and the Chinese company, M/s CIHC Pak Power Company (Pvt) Ltd (CPPCL) is unwilling to move ahead until further upward revision in tariff, well-informed sources in PPIB told Business Recorder.

Managing Director Shah Jahan Mirza in a letter to CEO of the company gave a deadline of September 18, 2024 for final reply otherwise GoP will adopt its course.

Mirza in his letter in continuation to PPIB’s three earlier letters on this matter, stated that CPPCL was advised to consult Chinese authorities and project sponsors and provide updated status on further development of the project.

CPPCL, he wrote, was issued Letter of Support (LoS) on August 23, 2019, with Financial Closing (FC) date of April 23, 2020.

However, to accommodate various issues including notable delays in obtaining acceptable tariff from Nepra, lenders’ reluctance, issuance of SinSURE policy, execution of Land Lease Agreement with Government of Balochistan and No-Objection Certificate from Balochistan EPA PPIB facilitated CPPCL and approved six extensions in FC thereby extending the FC date till December 31, 2024.

However, despite repeated reminders CPPCL has not obtained extension in FC through amendment to its LoS, due to non-submission of FC date extension fee.

The CPPCL signed Security Package Agreements (IA, SIA and Quadripartite PPA) with the assistance of PPIB on April 8, 2021, with Required Commercial Operations Date (RCOD) of June 30, 2023.

After the ground breaking ceremony in November 2019, it was believed that CPPCL would immediately start construction activities, in order to achieve COD by June 30, 2023; but construction of the project did not start.

However, in order to discuss early start of construction activities at site, a meeting was held in January 2023 between Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives (PD&SI)/Co-Chairman of JCC, Chinese Ambassador and SAPM on Coordination, wherein it was decided that project work must start immediately before FC to complete/energize the project by December 2025.

Consequently, PPIB reminded and held various meetings with CPPCL for resumption of construction at site, however the site activities are still suspended and no palpable development has been made at the project site, since ground breaking.

Regarding, assistance in obtaining a favourable tariff, Government of Pakistan also extended its maximum support in tariff determination process. The Nepra initially determined the tariff of 6.6337 Cents/kWh for the project in 2018, which was revised thrice in response to review petitions filed by CPPCL.

The latest tariff announced by Nepra is 9.0818 cents/kWh, which is much higher, as compared to other imported coal power projects developed under CPEC; but CPPCL is still not satisfied and wants further revision in tariff; however, CPPCL neither approached Nepra's Appellate Tribunal for tariff revision, even after a lapse of four months, nor started construction at site.

In view of GOP's efforts to implement the project, Minister for PD&SI during his visit to China in July 2024 discussed delays in construction of 300 MW Gwadar coal power project with officials of NDRC and representatives of CCCG and clarified that NEPRA has already reviewed tariff for the project thrice, hence tariff may not be reviewed any further.

Accordingly, Chinese side and project sponsors were urged to make decision on Gwadar Coal Power Project or any other alternate project within 15 days.

The same was communicated to CPPCL on July 26 and August 5, 2024, to consult with Chinese Authorities, regarding further course of action and provide its response, however, the response of CPPCL is not satisfactory, and did not address further course of action for development of the project.

In view of the importance of project for development of Gwadar area, Minister for PD&SI, in a CPEC progress review meeting, again desired to seek CPPCL's official position on implementation of the project.

Therefore, CPPCL is once again advised to convey its firm position regarding implementation of the project, at the earliest, but not later than September 18, 2024.

<https://www.brecorder.com/news/40322419>

## Daily times

### **Envoy opens Pakistan Pavilion at China fair**

The Pakistan Pavilion at the prestigious China International Fair for Trade in Services (CIFTIS) 2024 was inaugurated on Friday by Ambassador Khalil Hashmi, accompanied by Zhang Yanqing, Deputy Secretary-General of the People's Government of Pingdingshan City.

CIFTIS, recognized as one of the world's largest platforms for trade in services, presents a unique opportunity for countries to showcase their strengths in the services sector and engage in global trade relations. This year's Pakistan Pavilion sets itself apart by adopting a public-private partnership model in its setup and operations. The aim is not only to inform visitors of the vast investment opportunities in Pakistan but also to offer a practical understanding of how businesses can establish and grow within the country. The pavilion features industrial park operators and development authorities, offering attendees direct access to valuable expertise on infrastructure and investment-ready environment in Pakistan.

Welcoming the attendees, Ambassador Khalil Hashmi highlighted 13 priority sectors for investment in Pakistan, ranging from manufacturing and technology to energy, agriculture, and infrastructure development. He acknowledged the valuable contributions of Pakistani organizations participating in CIFTIS, including the Export Processing Zone Authority (EPZA), Green Pakistan Initiative, Dhabeji Economic Zone, Allama Iqbal SEZ, National Bank of Pakistan, and others, which are pivotal in fostering B2B relationships between Pakistan and China. The Ambassador stated that as part of Pakistan's efforts to further economic engagement with China, the Embassy will also host the Pakistan Investment Conference: Together for a Shared Future during CIFTIS. The conference, alongside panel discussions, interactive sessions, and B2B meetings, is expected to serve as a powerful platform for Pakistani and Chinese businesses to explore new avenues of cooperation and develop meaningful partnerships.

Meanwhile Ambassador Khalil Hashmi represented Pakistan at the 9th Belt and Road Summit in Hong Kong under the theme "Building a Connected, Innovative, and Green Belt and Road." The summit gathered international leaders, business representatives, and industry experts to discuss the Belt and Road Initiative's (BRI) future, emphasizing the importance of global partnerships and sustainable development in leveraging Hong Kong's unique strengths.

The Ambassador of Pakistan expressed how China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) had transformed Pakistan's economic landscape over the past decade. He explained that the project had created significant employment opportunities and added 8,000 MW to the national power grid, while developing 800 km of road networks and transmission lines. He further stated that CPEC's next phase would evolve into a multidimensional corridor focused on growth, innovation, and inclusiveness, aligned with Pakistan's "5Es" strategy, which centers on exports, digital transformation, climate change, energy, and equity.

The Ambassador highlighted Pakistan's burgeoning IT sector, noting its rapid expansion supported by a growing internet user base and cellular connections. He remarked that Pakistan's fintech sector, though nascent, presented substantial opportunities for Hong Kong-based firms to introduce digital banking platforms and blockchain solutions. He emphasized

that while the demand for innovative financial solutions is rising, fintech startups in Pakistan require venture capital investments, which Hong Kong is well-positioned to provide.

The Ambassador also stressed Pakistan's commitment to sourcing 30% of its energy from renewables by 2030. He pointed out the untapped potential in hydropower, solar, and wind, inviting Hong Kong's financial institutions to collaborate in green energy projects. He also mentioned the Special Economic Zones (SEZs) under CPEC as attractive locations for Hong Kong enterprises to explore early-bird investment opportunities, particularly in manufacturing and logistics. During his stay in Hong Kong, the Ambassador also interacted with Hong Kong leadership and media.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1225718/envoy-opens-pakistan-pavilion-at-china-fair/>

### The News

#### **China, S Arabia, UAE helped Pakistan get IMF loan: PM**

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif Friday acknowledged efforts of friendly countries like China, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) for their role in securing the IMF programme for Pakistan.

Talking to Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PMLN) young parliamentarians here, he said the IMF board meeting was scheduled for Sept 25 to approve a loan programme for Pakistan.

He also lauded the efforts by the government's economic team, the army chief, and all those involved in the process of securing loans.

The prime minister wished that the upcoming programme would be the last IMF programme for Pakistan. However, he added, the nation, especially the youth, would have to work hard to achieve the goal. He said the tax net would have to be expanded and there should be a full stop to tax evasion. He said that self-reliance was essential to have an honourable and dignified life.

He noted that seeking loans and rolling over old debt could not guarantee a respectable life. Hence, collective efforts and hard work were the only way forward to attain a prestigious position among the comity of nations.

Shehbaz said that positive indicators like reduction in policy rate and inflation, and increase in remittances from Pakistani expatriates showed that economy was heading in the right direction. He said the policy rate and inflation had decreased, while remittances from expatriates and exports of agricultural goods were on the rise. He said collective efforts by the entire nation, especially by the youth, were vital to make Pakistan self-reliant and debt-free.

The government was striving to promote IT (Information Technology) exports, he said and appreciated the role of Information Minister Attaullah Tarar in amplifying the government's performance. But, he said, many more efforts were yet to be made with unity and a clear mind to regain the lost position.

He told the young parliamentarians including senators and members of the National Assembly (MNAs) that the incumbent government had made a pathway for the country to regain its stature in the comity of nations by rectifying past mistakes.

Calling the country's five million traders to play their part in taxation, he said the government had brought the agro farms under the tax net.

The young parliamentarians presented suggestions with regard to governance and legislation, which the prime minister appreciated.

Separately, PM Shehbaz Sharif Friday directed the authorities concerned to take measures for the capacity building of small and medium enterprises (SMEs) to enhance their profitability.

The PM, who chaired a meeting of the steering committee of Small and Medium Enterprises Development Authority (SMEDA), said steps to boost SMEs exports was inevitable for national economy, according to a PM Office press release.

The meeting was told that the new policy for uplift of SMEs institutions would be formulated on the basis of latest statistics.

Meanwhile, PM Shehbaz Sharif Friday chaired a review meeting to assess the current situation and precautionary measures being taken to prevent the spread of monkeypox (mpox) in the country. He emphasised the importance of vigilance and preparedness, directing authorities to adopt all necessary measures to prevent the virus from spreading within the country.

He also instructed that scanning at all airports, seaports, and land entry points must be strictly enforced to detect any potential cases. He said Pakistan was not currently facing an emergency situation related to monkeypox.

During the briefing, officials informed the prime minister that while the African continent remained the most affected by mpox, Pakistan had so far recorded only five cases, all diagnosed after individuals arrived in the country from abroad.

The detected cases were of the clade-II strain, which was considered relatively less dangerous.

A helpline, 1166, has also been activated to provide guidance on the disease.

Separately, PM Shehbaz Sharif Thursday joined 48 world leaders virtually, to outline their expectations for this month's summit of the Future in New York, underscoring "effective" international cooperation to address global challenges, including the developing nation's rising debt burdens.

"The Summit of the Future represents a great opportunity. We must not lose it," the Pakistani leader told the virtual live event as part of a global call to action to support the once-in-a-generation UN summit, which begins on Sept 22 at the UN Headquarters.

At Thursday's live event, UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres was joined by President of Namibia Nangolo Mbumba and Chancellor of Germany Olaf Scholz, as co-facilitators of the preparatory process.

In a video call from Islamabad, PM Shehbaz Sharif called for collective efforts to deal with acute world problems, saying, "Today, in times of unprecedented global challenges and escalating conflicts, we are at risk of permanently damaging the notion of 'we'." The PM stressed the need for significant reform of international financial institutions to achieve SDGs, saying it required enhanced concessional financing, increased Official Development Assistance (ODA), and greater lending from Multilateral Development Banks.

"Above all," he added, "we need innovative financial solutions to address debt challenges, including climate debt swaps and equitable debt relief mechanisms."

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=342061>

### **HBL hosts 'China story' session**

KARACHI: Habib Bank Limited (HBL) held a special session titled the 'HBL China Story' on Friday, reflecting on its journey and growth in China since 2005.

The event, which underscored HBL's unique position as the first and only Pakistani bank with branches in Beijing and one of the few banks from South Asia and the MENA region offering comprehensive RMB intermediation in China, was attended by key dignitaries including HE Zhang Hao, acting consul-general of China in Karachi, and Sultan Ali Allana, chairman of HBL. The session featured a presentation by Wei Cheng, HBL's country manager for China, who detailed the bank's development and achievements in the Chinese market. The event centred on exploring future opportunities and strategies for HBL's continued expansion and growth in China. Chairman Sultan Ali Allana emphasized the importance of China to HBL's global strategy. "HBL's journey in China began in 2005 with the establishment of a representative office in Beijing. Over the years, China has become a cornerstone of our strategy, significantly contributing to our growth and facilitating trade in the region while promoting business in RMB. We are immensely proud of the critical role played by our China team in serving clients across our network in the UAE, Sri Lanka, Maldives, Bangladesh, and Bahrain," Allana remarked. Wei Cheng, country manager for China, spoke about the bank's successful integration and expansion in the Chinese market. "HBL's growth in China is a testament to our strong relationships with local partners and our ability to adapt to the unique needs of this dynamic market. Our continued success will be driven by innovation, collaboration, and a deep understanding of the Chinese market. By leveraging the strength of our group and our understanding of local dynamics, we are well-positioned to meet the diverse needs of our clients across HBL's global network," Cheng stated. The 'HBL China Story' session highlighted HBL's strategic focus on China as a key market and its commitment to fostering further growth and collaboration in the region.

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=341839>

**September 15, 2024**

**Business Recorder**

**CJCSC meets Chinese military leaders**

ISLAMABAD: General Sahir Shamshad Mirza, Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee (CJCSC), is on an official visit to the People's Republic of China, where he held separate high-level meetings with key Chinese military leaders.

These included General He Weidong, Vice Chairman of the Central Military Commission (CMC), and General Liu Zhenli, Chief of CMC Joint Staff Department.

During these meetings, both sides emphasised the longstanding and historic ties between Pakistan and China, particularly in areas of defense cooperation and strategic partnership. The leaders reaffirmed their mutual commitment to strengthening bilateral relations, ensuring continued collaboration across multiple domains.

General Mirza also delivered a keynote address at the 11th Beijing Xiangshan Forum, focusing on Pakistan's role in promoting regional peace and stability. The Chinese leadership, in turn, reassured their unwavering support for Pakistan's territorial integrity and sovereignty, underscoring the strength of the strategic partnership between the two nations.

<https://www.brecorder.com/news/40322480>

**Daily Times**

**Jam Kamal emphasizes for Pak-Sino strategic partnership**

\* Chinese investors being welcomed to set up their manufacturing in Pakistan

Federal Minister for Commerce, Jam Kamal Khan on Saturday emphasized the strategic partnership between Pakistan and China, often referred to as "iron brothers."

The Commerce Minister highlighted the importance of aligning the two countries' economic cooperation with their strong political and strategic ties. "While our economic partnership has grown significantly, particularly through initiatives like the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and the China-Pakistan Free Trade Agreement (CPFTA), there is still vast untapped potential," the minister noted.

Federal Commerce Minister delivered a virtual keynote address at the Pakistan Investment Conference held during the China International Fair for Trade in Services (CIFTIS), China's second-largest exhibition.

Organized by Pakistan's Embassy in Beijing in collaboration with China's Ministry of Commerce (MOFCOM) and the Beijing Municipal Government, the event aimed to bolster B2B exchanges and foster investment opportunities in Pakistan.

Focusing on Phase II of CPEC, which emphasizes business-to-business (B2B) exchanges and win-win partnerships, the Commerce Minister stressed that since the Prime Minister's visit to China in June 2024, efforts to facilitate Chinese investments in Pakistan have gained momentum.

He assured Chinese businessmen of the Government of Pakistan's support, reaffirming its commitment to creating an environment conducive to investment and industrial growth.

The Commerce Minister outlined the competitive advantages that Pakistan offers to Chinese businesses, including abundant economic resources, investor-friendly policies, and access to major regional and global markets.

He particularly emphasized Pakistan's demographic strength, noting that with a population of over 240 million people and a median age of 21 years, the country offers both a vast consumer base and a cost-competitive, adaptable workforce.

The conference featured top industrial park operators and companies from Pakistan, including representatives from the Pakistan Green Initiative (SIFC), Exports Processing Zones Authority, Dhabeji Special Economic Zone, Gwadar Free Zone, International Innovative Park (EPZ), Netsol, National Bank of Pakistan, JW Group, and Uqab Group. Each of these organizations showcased Pakistan's potential across sectors such as agriculture, industry, ICT, and banking.

High-ranking Chinese officials also attended the event, including Ms. Liu Meiyong, Deputy Secretary General of Beijing Municipal People's Government; Mr. Li An, Deputy Director General of MOFCOM; Ms. Lin Changhua, Deputy Director of SCO Demonstration Area, Qingdao; and Mr. Zhang Yanqing, Deputy Secretary General of the People's Government of Pingdingshan City.

During the conference, two important agreements were signed, including:- A USD 382 million investment contract between COFCO Technology and International Innovation Park Limited (EPZ).

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between IBI and CEO Waetz Asia for Digital Transformation and Supply Chain Optimization of 200 textile factories in Pakistan.

The second half of the conference featured panel discussions on Industrial Park Development in Pakistan and the potential for agriculture and technology cooperation between the two nations.

The panel discussions were held at the Pakistan Pavilion, where an Investment Lounge was set up to facilitate B2B meetings between Pakistani and Chinese enterprises. The Pavilion themed "Invest in Pakistan" will remain operational from September 12 to 16, 2024, with a strong turnout from Chinese companies engaging with Pakistani businesses. Concluding his speech, Commerce Minister urged Chinese businesses to explore the vast opportunities Pakistan offers, stating, "With new developments and emerging opportunities on the horizon, Pakistan is the place to invest, and the time to act is now." He warmly invited all attendees to visit Pakistan to further explore the exciting investment and business prospects awaiting them.

**Manufacturing:** Chinese investors will be welcomed to set up their manufacturing in Pakistan and export products to the European Union.

We have good market in European countries and the Middle East, where we have also finalized the Free Trade Agreement.



This was stated by Pakistani Ambassador to China Khalil Hashmi while taking with China Economic Net (CEN).

“We have a strong foundation to promote China-Pakistan trade cooperation,” Hashmi said, referring to almost 11 years of the construction of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), and the China-Pakistan Free Trade Agreement.

Meanwhile, Pakistan National Pavilion was officially inaugurated here at the 2024 China International Fair Trade in Services (CIFTIS), marking another joint effort made by China and Pakistan to showcase investment opportunities in Pakistan and further promote bilateral trade.

As chief guest of the event, Ambassador Khalil Hashmi stressed the importance of the pavilion in providing business opportunities to Pakistani stakeholders.

“As one of the major fairs for China’s opening up to the world, thousands of enterprises have come here every year.

This also highlights the unique appeal and attraction of Beijing as a capital city-one that draws in talent, capital, and good management practices. By bringing these elements together, the CIFTIS creates a significant impact and adds more value,” the envoy said.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1226084/jam-kamal-emphasizes-for-pak-sino-strategic-partnership/>

### **ISSI, China think-tanks unite on arms control agenda**

The Arms Control and Disarmament Centre (ACDC) at the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) organized an In-House Meeting with a Chinese delegation led by Mr. SUN Xiaobo, Director General, Department of Arms Control, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA), Beijing. Other members of the delegation included:

Mr. Xie Xinxing, Deputy Division Director, Ms. XIAO Yue, Deputy Division Director, and Jiang Yingbo, Second Secretary, Department of Arms Control, MFA; and Mr. Xu Hangtian, Minister Counsellor and Ms. Wanf YiQiu, Third Secretary, Embassy of China, Islamabad.

The Session was attended by distinguished former diplomats, practitioners, academics, and think-tanks experts including: Ambassador Zamir Akram; Ambassador Masood Khalid; Ambassador Tehmina Janjua; Ambassador Ali Sarwar Naqvi; Ambassador Babar Amin; Mr Haroon Rashid, DG SECDIV; Maj Gen (R) Ausaf Ali; Maj. Gen. (R) Naseer Ali Khan; Dr. Salma Malik, QAU; Dr. Shabana Fayyaz, QAU; Air Commodore (R) Khalid Banuri; Mr Kamran Hashmi, NIMA; Dr. Adil Sultan, Air University; Mr. Imran Ahmad Khan and Mr. Rashid Sultan, PAEC; and Dr. Ghulam Mujaddid, NDU. Participants from the ISSI included Director General Ambassador Sohail Mahmood, Chairman BoG Ambassador Khalid Mahmood, Centers’ Directors, and members of the ACDC team. The event was moderated by director ACDC Malik Qasim Mustafa. The participants discussed a wide range of subjects – including global trends and challenges facing arms controls and disarmament regime; challenges posed by emerging technologies; managing the risks of AI; rising major-power competition; militarization of outer space; ongoing Ukraine conflict and the increased risk of nuclear clash; deepening Indo-US strategic partnership; regional and global security dynamics; and China’s Global Security Initiative.

The wide-ranging interaction exuded the spirit of Pakistan-China relationship marked by strategic mutual trust and reinforced common perceptions and convergent positions on security and strategic issues of common interest. At the end, Ambassador Khalid Mahmood presented ISSI shield to the Chinese delegation. Meanwhile, Pakistan and China held the 9th round of bilateral consultations on arms control and non-proliferation in Islamabad, discussing global and regional security, emerging technologies, and bilateral cooperation. The talks were led by Ambassador Tahir Andrabi and Director General Sun Xiaobo, who also met with Foreign Secretary Ambassador Amna Baloch. Both sides agreed to continue regular exchanges and consultations, with the next round scheduled for Beijing next year. The two sides held in-depth discussions on the entire spectrum of arms control & nonproliferation issues; global and regional security; new and emerging technologies; cyber-security; artificial intelligence; outer space; and bilateral cooperation in the peaceful applications of nuclear technology.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1226013/issi-china-think-tanks-unite-on-arms-control-agenda/>

## The News

### **General Sahir meets Chinese military officials**

RAWALPINDI: Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee General Sahir Shamshad Mirza, who is on an official visit to People's Republic of China, held separate meetings with General He Weidong, Vice Chairman of the Central Military Commission (CMC) and General Liu Zhenli, Chief of CMC Joint Staff Department and delivered a talk in the 11th Beijing Xiangshan Forum on the role of Pakistan in regional peace and stability. During meetings, both sides appreciated deep and historic relationship of Pakistan and China in multiple domains and acknowledged assuring progress on the bilateral strategic cooperative partnership and defence cooperation. The Chinese leadership also reaffirmed their unfettered commitment to support Pakistan on its territorial integrity and sovereignty.

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=342359>

## Nawaiwaqt News

### **چینی قیادت کا پاکستان کی سالمیت، خود مختاری کی غیر متزلزل حمایت کا اعادہ**

بیجنگ + اسلام آباد (نوائے وقت رپورٹ + اپنے سٹاف رپورٹر سے) چیئر مین جوائنٹ چیفس آف سٹاف کمیٹی جنرل ساحر شمشاد مرزا چین کے سرکاری دورے پر ہیں، جہاں انہوں نے چین میں وائس چیئر مین سینئر ملٹری کمیشن سے ملاقات کی۔ جوائنٹ چیفس آف سٹاف کمیٹی کی چیف آف جوائنٹ سٹاف ڈیپارٹمنٹ جنرل لیو زینلی سے بھی ملاقات ہوئی۔ آئی ایس پی آر کے مطابق جنرل ساحر شمشاد مرزا نے بیجنگ ٹریانگ شان فورم میں علاقائی امن و استحکام میں پاکستان کے کردار پر گفتگو کی۔ ملاقاتوں کے دوران پاک چین تاریخی اور گہرے تعلقات کو سراہا گیا جبکہ دو طرفہ سٹریٹجک تعاون اور دفاعی تعلقات میں حوصلہ افزا ترقی کا اعتراف کیا گیا۔ چینی قیادت نے پاکستان کی علاقائی سالمیت و خود مختاری کیلئے غیر متزلزل حمایت کا اعادہ کیا۔

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/lahore/2024-09-15/page-1/detail-11>

## پاکستان چین سے سرمایہ کاری کیلئے ہر ممکن تعاون یقینی بنائے گا، عبدالعلیم خان

لاہور (نیوز پورٹ) چین کے دارالحکومت بیجنگ میں انٹرنیشنل فیئر ٹریڈ ان سروسز میں دنیا بھر میں 107 ممالک سے 2000 سے زائد مختلف کمپنیاں شرکت کر رہی ہیں جن میں 150 پاکستانی ادارے شامل ہیں۔ اس ایکسپو کے افتتاحی سیشن سے ورچوئل خطاب کرتے ہوئے وفاقی وزیر سرمایہ کاری بورڈ، نجکاری اور مواصلات عبدالعلیم خان کا کہنا تھا کہ پاکستان میں سرمایہ کاری کے لئے زراعت، لائیو سٹاک، فوڈ پراسیسنگ اور معدنیات کے شعبوں میں خاطر خواہ گنجائش موجود ہے، پاکستان چین سے سرمایہ کاری کیلئے ہر ممکن تعاون یقینی بنائے گا۔ پاکستان کو نئے کے دوسرے بڑے اور تازے کے ساتویں بڑے ذخائر کا حامل ملک ہے۔ پاکستانی کمپنیوں کو چین سے بزنس ٹو بزنس سرگرمیوں میں اضافے کے مواقع مل رہے ہیں اور خود چین کیلئے بھی شمالی امریکہ اور یورپ کے مقابلے میں پاکستان میں صنعتوں کی منتقلی زیادہ آسان ہے جس پر 70 فیصد کم لاگت آئے گی۔ ٹریڈ فیئر سے اپنے ورچوئل خطاب میں وفاقی وزیر عبدالعلیم خان نے بیجنگ میں اس عالمی کانفرنس میں پاکستان سے بھرپور نمائندگی پر پاکستانی سفارتخانے کے عملے کو خراج تحسین پیش کیا۔

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/lahore/2024-09-15/page-10/detail-44>

## Chinese Newspapers

**September 02, 2024**

### **People's Daily**

#### **Pakistani delegation hails China's development, envisions future cooperation**

BEIJING, Sept. 1 (Xinhua) -- A delegation of nine media and think tank representatives from Pakistan recently visited China, traveling from the Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region and Shaanxi Province to Beijing.

Impressed by China's social and economic advancements, they expressed a strong desire to further deepen China-Pakistan cooperation in the future.

During their five-day visit to Xinjiang, the first stop of their China tour from Aug. 19 to 29, the delegation visited the regional capital Urumqi and the Kazak Autonomous Prefecture of Ili. Through direct exchanges with local residents, the members of the delegation experienced a Xinjiang that starkly contrasts with the negative portrayals by some Western media.

"It is my second time here in Urumqi. It has been 10 years since the last visit, and there are a lot of differences here," said Qamar Bashir, former press secretary to the Pakistani president. "The people look much happier and more confident."

During a visit to the Xinjiang International Grand Bazaar in Urumqi, senior PTV journalist Arbab Ali Asghar was visibly excited to meet a Pakistani businessman who shared that he has lived in the region for 30 years and finds the local people very friendly.

"When I visited Xinjiang back in 2014, it was implementing the policy of pulling people out of poverty. Now this is totally transformed, people are living in their own houses, well

protected, given jobs, this is all about humanity," said Mian Abrar Hussain, chief news editor of Pakistan Today. He also engaged in in-depth exchanges with locals in a relocation village in Qapqal Xibe Autonomous County in Ili.

Captivated by the vibrant scenes -- crowds of tourists, people of all ethnic groups dancing joyfully and a dazzling array of goods from various countries -- Maarij Farooq, deputy editor and chief digital editor of the Daily Ittehad Media Group, couldn't resist capturing the beautiful moments with his camera throughout the journey.

Farooq told Xinhua that before visiting the region, he was concerned that the negative propaganda about Xinjiang on social media might be partly true.

"But the truth is totally different. People here are living a very good life," Farooq said. "I would recommend that people themselves visit this beautiful place, and they will see the changes taking place in China."

The trip also unraveled answers to the delegation's lingering questions about Xinjiang. "In English, they say 'the proof of the pudding is in the eating.' Now, I have eaten the pudding," said Murtaza Solangi, chief editor of Stratheia, an online media outlet from Pakistan.

"Before coming here, there were a lot of stories of underdevelopment and backwardness of Xinjiang. But it's a region that's hustling and bustling with energy, technology and new ideas," he added,

expressing the hope that the people of Xinjiang and Pakistan can learn from each other in fighting extremism and terrorism.

During their China tour, the delegation also witnessed the achievements of exchanges and cooperation between China and Pakistan under the framework of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization and the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).

Launched in 2013 as a flagship BRI project, the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) has broadened bilateral cooperation from infrastructure to include new energy and agriculture sectors.

LONGi Green Energy Technology Co., Ltd. (LONGi), a leading global solar technology company in Xi'an, the capital of Shaanxi Province, entered the Pakistani market in 2018. The market share of LONGi's photovoltaic (PV) module in Pakistan exceeded 40 percent this year.

"I got the solar panels on my house. I feel so relieved now because it's a good technology, good for the pocket and also for the environment,"

said Abdullah Gauhar Malik, digital editor of Pakistan Observer, during the delegation's visit to LONGi. "I think there is huge potential for energy cooperation between Pakistan and China."

Speaking about Western accusations of overcapacity in China's PV sector, he said that there was no such thing as overproduction and that current activities were significantly benefiting the environment.

"As long as there is market demand, there is no overcapacity. We should do more."

According to the delegates, with the CPEC now entering its second phase, they anticipate an increase in collaborative projects focused on renewable energy and the green transformation of the economy.

<http://en.people.cn/n3/2024/0902/c90000-20213104.html>

**September 03, 2024**

**Xinhua News**

**Roundup: CPEC's benefits for Pakistan's infrastructure, economy far exceed malicious "debt trap" claims: experts**

*Misbah Saba Malik*

ISLAMABAD, Sept. 3 (Xinhua) -- Loans taken from China under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) have significantly benefited Pakistan as they helped build and transform the country's infrastructure and created jobs and business opportunities for the public, Pakistani experts have said. Addressing a seminar titled "Narratives building on the CPEC and Role of Media" hosted by an Islamabad-based thinktank Institute of Regional Studies, the experts said that labeling CPEC as a debt trap is misguided, emphasizing that unlike Western loans, CPEC has advanced Pakistan's economic development under more favorable terms. Addressing the event, Jauhar Saleem, the president of the think tank, said that when CPEC was launched in 2013. He emphasized the need to showcase CPEC's contributions to Pakistan's economy to counter the negative propaganda of the West and urged the media to perform its twin roles of informing and educating by adopting an objective and constructive approach. Speaking at the event, Tahir Mumtaz Awan, an analyst on China, currently working as a professor at the COMSATS University Islamabad, said that CPEC has brought development through infrastructure development across Pakistan. Talking about the double standards of the West for focusing on Chinese loans to disparage CPEC while ignoring the larger issue of Western debt, the professor stated that the debt from China is "a drop in the bucket" compared to the substantial Western debt that is burdening Pakistan, forcing it to take on new loans to repay old ones. "It is appalling that the countries with the highest carbon emissions criticize the environmental impact of CPEC projects, which have very low emissions, while those burdening Pakistan with massive debt label CPEC as a debt trap," he added. He said that the Pakistani government always rebuts the negative propaganda by presenting facts and figures, urging that the Pakistani media should also play its part in countering the negative propaganda against the development of Pakistan. In his comments, Talat Shabbir, director of the China-Pakistan Study Center at the Islamabad-based think tank, the Institute of Strategic Studies, said that CPEC is the beacon of hope for Pakistan and a

game changer for the country's economy, so it is the utmost responsibility of the media and the state to counter propaganda against it. The event was well attended by a diverse audience, including national and international media personnel, diplomats, academics, researchers and university students. The attendees engaged in lively discussions and exchanged insights on the impact of CPEC, reflecting a broad spectrum of perspectives on its economic and developmental significance.

<https://english.news.cn/20240903/f7fe630020cb472dbbcfc841660aef1f/c.html>

## **September 04, 2024**

### **Global Times**

#### **Pakistan: Embassy of Pakistan in China hosts photo exhibition to promote bilateral tourism, with year 2023 a strong beginning**

The Embassy of Pakistan in China hosted a photo exhibition titled "Pakistan in Frames: A Visual Journey by Chinese Tour Operators" in Beijing on September 3. The impressive photo exhibition showcased the rich cultural heritage and breathtaking landscapes of Pakistan, captured by a group of Chinese tour operators who visited Islamabad, Taxila, and Gilgit-Baltistan in 2023, the year of China-Pakistan Tourism Exchanges. The exhibition was centered around various themes, including Pakistan's Northern Splendor, Gandhara, and China-Pakistan friendship. Pakistani Ambassador to China Khalil Hashmi expressed deep appreciation for the breathtaking photographs taken by the Chinese tour operators. He noted that the photographs not only displayed Pakistan's striking beauty but also reflected the profound cultural and historical ties that enhance mutual understanding between the two countries. The ambassador emphasized that this exhibition symbolized the shared dreams and aspirations of the two peoples. Professor Li Xiguang, director of the Pakistan Culture and Communication Center at Tsinghua University shared his experiences from his frequent travels to Pakistan, including Pakistan's role as the seat of ancient civilizations such as Gandhara and the Indus Valley. The embassy has planned further activities to promote people-to-people exchanges, ties, and contact between the two friendly neighbors. Before the COVID-19 pandemic, the number of Chinese tourists to Pakistan had increased beyond 225,000 a year. The year 2023 saw Chinese tourists returning, as the two countries marked the China-Pakistan Year of Tourism Exchanges. In her remarks on behalf of the group of tour operators, York Feng Yuting from Qyer.com shared her fond memories of Pakistan. She also highlighted Pakistan's tourism potential. Since 2023, the outbound destination options for Chinese tourists have become more diversified, with Europe, North America, and Africa accounting for an increased proportion, while Asian countries still top the list, according to an industry report by the China Tourism Academy in early February. Pakistan is one of the oldest ancient civilizations in history, dating back to 7,000 BC. The country is 1.5 times the size of France and is located on the shores of the Arabian Sea.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202409/1319238.shtml>

**September 05, 2024**

**Global Times**

### **China to include more African members in its lunar research program in latest effort to boost South-South cooperation**

In the latest efforts to advance South-South cooperation in aerospace, China and Africa have agreed to deepen collaboration in deep-space exploration amid the ongoing 2024 Summit of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC). On Thursday, Senegal, along with several African institutions, announced their participation in the China-led International Lunar Research Station (ILRS) program, bringing the total number of participants in the program to more than 10 countries and over 40 international organizations worldwide.

Li Guoping, China National Space Administration's (CNSA) chief engineer, signed an agreement with Maram Kairé, Director General of the Senegalese Space Studies Agency, to engage in cooperation on the ILRS project during the 2nd International Conference on Deep Space Exploration on Thursday, media reported.

In addition to Senegal, CNSA signed Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) with 10 international organizations at the event, including institutions from Serbia, Switzerland, the UAE, Panama, Indonesia, Pakistan, and South Africa, in addition to the Belt and Road Alliance for Science & Technology, the Foundation for Space Development Africa, and the Africa Business Alliance.

The new partnership has added to international organizations aboard the ILRS since China's initial call for international partners in 2017. To date, Venezuela, Belarus, Pakistan, Azerbaijan, South Africa, Egypt, Nicaragua, Thailand, Serbia and Kazakhstan have joined China and Russia as part of the venture.

Wu Yanhua, chief designer of the country's major deep space exploration project, proposed six major cooperation initiatives for the ILRS at the Thursday event, encouraging global partners to join at various stages of the project.

These initiatives cover cooperation in areas including joint demonstrations, mission-level collaboration, system development, ground facilities, scientific research, and education. China also announced plans to establish an international cooperation committee and headquarters to foster a supportive environment for partners, Wu said.

The ILRS is a scientific experimental facility consisting of sections on the lunar surface, in lunar orbit and on Earth. It is designed to be a long-term, autonomous, expandable scientific research station that can support human missions for short durations.

Wu also mentioned at the conference that this lunar facility would provide a wide range of functionalities, including power supply, central command, communication and navigation, Earth-Moon transportation, lunar exploration, and ground support.

China plans to launch three Chang'e lunar probe missions within the next four years, with the goal of completing the basic version of the ILRS by 2035, authorities revealed at a 2024 China Space Conference held in April.

By 2035, the basic version will be centered around the lunar south pole, with comprehensive scientific facilities equipped with basic functions and elements, conducting regular scientific experiments.

By 2045, the expanded version will be completed, with the lunar orbit station as the hub, featuring fully equipped and substantially scaled facilities, stable operations, while conducting comprehensive scientific research on the moon and in-depth resource development and utilization, in addition to conducting technical verification and scientific experiments related to a manned mission to Mars.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202409/1319316.shtml>

**September 06, 2024**

**People's Daily**

### **Pakistan committed to enhancing cooperation with China: foreign office**

ISLAMABAD, Sept. 5 (Xinhua) -- Pakistan has remained committed to deepening cooperation with China in various sectors, including agriculture, the Pakistani Ministry of Foreign Affairs said on Thursday.

Spokesperson of Pakistan's Foreign Office Mumtaz Zahra Baloch emphasized the robust and multifaceted relationship between the two countries.

Baloch said that bilateral cooperation in various sectors, including agriculture, has continued to grow steadily over the years.

"Pakistan and China are all-weather strategic cooperative partners, and our relationship is multifaceted," said the spokesperson.

According to official sources, the Pakistani government is working on training of 1,000 Pakistani agricultural experts in China under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor.

<http://en.people.cn/n3/2024/0906/c90000-20215889.html>



**September 07, 2024**

**People's Daily**

## **China's planned lunar research station ushers in new era of global space collaboration**

\* China's ambitious initiative to construct an international lunar research station (ILRS) is paving the way for a new era of global space collaboration, drawing in developing countries without their own space missions and igniting widespread enthusiasm for participation.

\* The ILRS is a scientific experimental facility designed to be an expandable and maintainable system capable of long-term robotic operation with short-term human participation on the moon.

\* The Chang'e-7 lunar exploration mission, scheduled for launch around 2026, will carry six international scientific instruments. Chang'e-8, targeting a launch around 2028, will offer 200 kilograms of international payload capacity.

HEFEI, Sept. 6 (Xinhua) -- China's ambitious initiative to construct an international lunar research station (ILRS) is paving the way for a new era of global space collaboration, drawing in developing countries without their own space missions and igniting widespread enthusiasm for participation.

In 2017, the China National Space Administration (CNSA) officially launched the ILRS cooperation initiative to the international community. To date, over 40 institutions from across the world have signed cooperation documents with China.

The ILRS is a scientific experimental facility designed to be an expandable and maintainable system capable of long-term robotic operation with short-term human participation on the moon.

The project will be implemented in two phases. The first phase will see a basic facility built by 2035 in the lunar south pole region, while the second phase aims to establish a network connecting the moon's south pole, equator and far side by 2050.

### **CONCERTED EFFORTS**

Wu Weiren, director and chief scientist of Deep Space Exploration Lab (DSEL), said at an ongoing space conference in east China's Huangshan city that the ILRS adheres to the principles of mutual consultation, joint construction and shared benefits to foster collaborative efforts with global partners.

Speaking at the conference, Wu Yanhua, chief designer of the country's major deep space exploration project, extended an invitation to nations worldwide to participate in the two-phase program at various levels, including concept study, equipment, system and even mission levels.

Wu Yanhua also announced that China is planning to establish multiple international organizations, including a cooperation committee, an expert consultative committee, a tech innovation alliance, a science alliance and a coordination headquarters, to enhance global collaboration efforts.

Following the successful operation of payloads from the European Space Agency (ESA), France, Italy and Pakistan in China's Chang'e-6 mission, the country's Chang'e-7 lunar exploration mission, scheduled for launch around 2026, will carry six international scientific instruments. Chang'e-8, targeting a launch around 2028, will offer 200 kilograms of international payload capacity. Chang'e-8 and Chang'e-7 will finally be part of the basic model of ILRS.

Ayman Ahmed, senior director of space program at the Egyptian Space Agency, proudly introduced an AI-enabled camera at a seminar during the two-day conference on Friday. This camera, set to be part of the Chang'e-7 mission, is currently in the testing phase, supported by the Changchun Institute of Optics under the Chinese Academy of Sciences.

ILRS is a space program that aims to provide "a synergy in international lunar exploration on the basis of the set of complex research facilities on and around the Moon," said Dmitrii Zarubin, an engineering fellow of the Space Research Institute of the Russian Academy of Sciences. Russia's payload PmL-Ch7 is slated to be brought into orbit by Chang'e-7, according to Zarubin.

"Free riding plus data sharing is the selection principle and cooperation philosophy," said Han Siyuan, an official of the CNSA, on Friday.

#### PASSIONATE PARTNERS

Senegal is a new partner in the ILRS cooperation initiative. On Sept. 5, the CNSA and its counterpart in Senegal signed an agreement, following a joint statement released earlier this week that emphasized deepening bilateral relations and establishing a high-level China-Senegal community with a shared future.

During the conference, the DSEL inked memoranda of understanding with 10 institutions from countries including Serbia, Indonesia, Pakistan, Panama and South Africa. Among the institutions are the Belt and Road Alliance for Science & Technology, the Foundation for Space Development Africa, and the Africa Business Alliance.

Adriana Marais, director of the Foundation for Space Development Africa, expressed her excitement about the collaboration between China and Africa at the educational, scientific and partnership levels for lunar exploration.

Marais, a visiting scientist in the southern Chinese city of Shenzhen, is advancing her Africa2Moon Project, which aims to send Africa's first mission to the moon. She is now particularly focused on the Chang'e-8 mission and considers it a significant opportunity.

Wiphu Rujopakarn, deputy director general of the National Astronomical Research Institute of Thailand, said that space cooperation with China will benefit the people of his own country.

"This year, we have collaborated with the Shanghai Astronomical Observatory to connect our radio telescope in Thailand with Chinese ones, forming a very long baseline interferometry observation network," Rujopakarn said.

Thailand has also worked on the development of a science payload set to enter the lunar orbit with Chang'e-7. "If the collaboration is successful, it could also serve as a model to demonstrate to other ASEAN members," Rujopakarn added. Among Asian nations involved in China's lunar exploration programs, Pakistan has already begun to reap the benefits. In May, China delivered data provided by a cube satellite aboard its Chang'e-6 spacecraft to Pakistan.

The cube satellite, ICUBE-Q, developed by Pakistan's Institute of Space Technology and China's Shanghai Jiao Tong University, was sent to space, together with the Chang'e-6 orbiter, to carry out exploration activities such as capturing images of the moon.

China and Pakistan have also signed a cooperation agreement on the ILRS and China has already received Pakistan's application for payload cooperation on the Chang'e-8 mission.

#### EDUCATION FOR FUTURE

Nurturing young talent for future space exploration is equally crucial, if not more, for numerous nations in the Global South.

"Our population may not yet fully realize the importance of developing lunar exploration or space programs," said Maram Kaire, director-general of the Senegalese Space Studies Agency, noting that the country is still facing challenges in power supply and space education.

China's lunar exploration initiatives could be "one of the best ways for Senegal to seize the opportunity to cultivate young space scientists and simultaneously build the necessary infrastructure," Kaire said.

Highlighting Africa's large youth population, Marais said that space education collaboration with China can "prepare the next generation of humans to become excited about space exploration and to share knowledge, skills, infrastructure and capabilities."

"The idea of looking back at Africa from the moon with African designed, African-built mission, in partnership with China, will be a huge inspiration for young people for years to come," Marais said.

Jing Guifei, deputy director of the regional center for Space Science and Technology Education in Asia and the Pacific affiliated to the United Nations, outlined the goals of ILRS education and training. The goals include nurturing specialized engineering technicians and project management experts for developing countries in areas such as short-term projects, space law and policy, and the design of micro and cube satellites.

Relying on this UN institution, China has trained nearly 1,000 space professionals, according to a white paper released by the country in 2022.

China deems the peaceful exploration, development and utilization of outer space as rights equally enjoyed by all countries, the white paper stressed.

"As a major spacefaring nation, it is our country's responsibility to provide a platform for scientists and peers from countries around the world," Wu Weiren said.

"Space is a shared domain, a common dream, and a collective treasure for humanity," said Chinese astronaut Zhai Zhigang who made history as the country's first person to conduct a spacewalk. "Our aspiration to build and seek new homes in space is a testament to the unity and relentless efforts of global space pioneers."

<http://en.people.cn/n3/2024/0907/c90000-20216290.html>

**September 09, 2024**

**People's Daily**

### **Pakistani scholars hail China's modernization, envision CPEC cooperation**

*Tang Binhui*

KARACHI, Pakistan, Sept. 7 (Xinhua) -- The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is beneficial for both countries as it creates many trade opportunities and helps Pakistan to speed up the industrialization drive, Nadira Panjwani, chairperson of the Karachi-based Karachi Council on Foreign Relations (KCFR), has said.

Addressing a seminar hosted by KCFR on Friday, the chairperson said the CPEC was a flagship project symbolizing tremendous potentials that exist for trade and regional connectivity.

The expert said friendship between Pakistan and China is unbreakable, adding that as the world undergoes transformative changes and the global geopolitical landscape evolves, the two countries need to strengthen cooperation and strive to build a more interconnected, peaceful and sustainable world.

Talking to Xinhua on the occasion, Habib Paracha, a member of KCFR and a film producer, said that China's modernization shows the world how a populous country alleviated poverty.

"Pakistan should make good use of its resource advantages and learn from China's experience to solve the problem of unbalanced development and gradually move toward modernization," he said.

Paracha said that agricultural cooperation between Pakistan and China should be broader, adding that it would benefit the Pakistani people, and the two countries should continue to strengthen cultural exchanges to promote mutual understanding.

Speaking at the event, Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan Jiang Zaidong said that China is willing to strengthen exchanges on state governance with Pakistan and work together to promote the modernization of both countries.

Launched in 2013, the CPEC, a flagship project of the China-proposed Belt and Road Initiative, is a corridor linking 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 the new phase expands to agriculture and livelihood, among others.

<http://en.people.cn/n3/2024/0909/c90000-20216745.html>

## **African nations see China as reliable partner**

*Edith Mutethya, Chen Weihua and Xu Weiwei*

The pledge by President Xi Jinping to work with Africa to implement the 10-point partnership action plan to advance modernization has reaffirmed the country's commitment to Africa, according to experts.

Xi made the pledge in his keynote speech at the 2024 Summit of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation in Beijing on Thursday.

The speech also depicted China as a reliable development partner for the continent, the experts said.

Shakeel Ahmad Ramay, CEO of the Asian Institute of Eco-civilization Research and Development in Pakistan, called the speech a ray of hope for African people amid challenging times.

He said that President Xi has proposed a way to assist Africa in solving the problems of poverty and food insecurity, improve healthcare, and pave the way for a peaceful, prosperous, and future-oriented society.

China is ready to assist Africa with concrete programs and financing resources without any strings attached or lectures, Ahmad said.

He added that the partnership action plan is designed to be inclusive and respect diversity in terms of governance systems, cultures, and preferences, ensuring that all African nations are considered and respected in the partnership.

Alex Vines, director of the Africa program at the Chatham House think tank, lauded the 10 priority areas of the action plan including health, agriculture, employment, and security, saying they are all important for Africa.

China pledged 360 billion yuan (\$50.7 billion) of financial support to Africa over the next three years, higher than the amount pledged at the 2021 FOCAC Summit. Vines said the increase is good news for the continent.

Michael Borchmann, former director-general for international affairs of the German state of Hessen, said he was impressed by President Xi's words that "the friendship between China and Africa transcends time and space, surmounts mountains and oceans and passes down through generations".

Citing examples of African nations helping the People's Republic of China restore its lawful seat in the United Nations in the early 1970s, and China helping to build the Tanzania-Zambia Railway, Borchmann said, "There are many examples of close and fruitful cooperation, including under the framework of the Belt and Road Initiative."

"One basic reason that China is so much appreciated in Africa is mutual respect," Borchmann said.

"A former Chad president expressed it with fitting words: China does not behave to Africa as a know-it-all teacher, but with deep respect. And this is appreciated in Africa very much," he added.

Tarek Saidi, editor-in-chief of the Echaab Journal of Tunisia, said that modernization accounted for a significant portion of Xi's speech, underscoring China's strong focus on the issue.

"Chinese modernization is built on mutual help, solidarity, and community, in stark contrast to the Western model, which is rooted in colonization and individualism," he said. "The speech called for advancing modernization, featuring diversity and inclusiveness, which I think holds great importance, as they reflect the universal values of mankind."

Saidi said the speech also highlighted China's commitment to supporting African countries through the partnership action plan, including development cooperation and people-to-people exchanges.

"The two sides have large room for collaboration, as the Belt and Road Initiative could spur synergy with the African Union's Agenda 2063, with an aim to foster a new form of modernization that is just and equitable," he said.

Deniz Istikbal, an economics researcher at the Foundation for Political, Economic and Social Research in Turkiye, said that in partnership with Africa, China focuses on mutually beneficial cooperation, by which it imports natural resources from Africa and exports processed goods back to the continent. Istikbal said that China has established itself as the largest foreign trade and investment partner of the African continent, with its direct investment in Africa exceeding \$40 billion by the end of last year.

The trade volume between China and Africa reached \$282 billion in 2023, reflecting the deepening of economic ties, he said.

Istikbal said that China also plays a crucial role in financing the continent's development needs, offering a significant alternative to Western financial institutions.

<http://en.people.cn/n3/2024/0909/c90000-20216482.html>

**September 11, 2024**

**Xinhua News**

**Interview: Pakistan's cooperation with China on AI education to boost global competitiveness, says senior official**

*Misbah Saba Malik, Jiang Chao*

ISLAMABAD, Sept. 10 (Xinhua) -- Pakistan is in the process of introducing advanced artificial intelligence (AI)-based education in schools, with cooperation from China to play a vital role in this initiative, Mohyuddin Ahmad Wani, secretary of Pakistan's Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training, has said.

Pakistan is gearing up to send 1,000 faculty members to China for PhD education in AI, and upon return, they will serve in Pakistan and train students in AI, enabling the country to excel in AI technologies in the next decade, Wani told Xinhua in a recent interview.

He said that Chinese language learning has also been introduced in schools, and currently, the first batch was underway in which 1,000 students were learning Chinese language in different schools in the capital.

The students are very enthusiastic about learning the new language, which is also a pathway for them to pursue higher education in China, he said.

"Chinese language is not a language, but a skill, (and) it will not only help young students to have an extra tool for communication but also enhance their cognitive abilities and global opportunities," he added.

The official said that Chinese language will help Pakistani students to understand the culture of China, and bring them closer to their neighboring country.

"Currently, those who have visited China have first-hand knowledge of the country, and by learning the language, young students will be excited to explore even more about China, its values, culture and environment. This cultural understanding will bring Pakistan and China closer together, and these students will become future ambassadors of Pakistan-China relations," he added.

Talking about literacy rate in Pakistan, Wani said that about 60 percent of the population were literate in the country, and the government's target is to raise this rate to 99 percent, for which the National Education Emergency has been declared to address the challenges.

"Under the initiative, learning quality is being improved, and we are emphasizing skill education because skill leads to more employability, more economic development," he added.

He said that the government is embedding technology in primary and middle schools so that kids can have more offline and online access to globally acceptable quality learning material for better learning outcomes in the coming months and years.

"We have introduced a school meals program to ensure that children receive better nutrition, which in turn helps improve their learning outcomes. Additionally, we have implemented a sports education initiative and designed an AI-based computer curriculum for both primary and secondary schools," he said.

The measures being taken will have far-reaching effects, and after 10 years or so, Pakistani students of public schools will be able to compete with international students in the fields of information technology, science and math, he said.

<https://english.news.cn/20240911/3004da1e994d4f6b9f548255db8e92c0/c.html>

**September 12, 2024**

**Global Times**

### **Eastern Economic Forum 2024 Recap (Part II)**

The Forum was attended by 1,515 media representatives from Russia and 10 other countries, namely (Bosnia and Herzegovina, the UK, Vietnam, Italy, China, Malaysia, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Switzerland, and Japan.

#### Agreements

At the Forum, 313 agreements were signed for a total of RUBLE 5.569 trillion (approximately \$61 billion, including agreements whose amount is not a commercial secret, and non-public agreements between the Far East and Arctic Development Corporation and the Ministry for the Development of the Russian Far East and Arctic for a total of RUBLE 3.825 trillion), including 27 agreements with foreign organizations, 15 with ministries and agencies, and two during the Falcon Day International Forum.

Additionally, the Roscongress Foundation and RUSAL, Russia's aluminum giant, reached an agreement to offset the carbon footprint of the EEF 2024. The company donated part of the carbon units it received as a result of a project to protect forests against fires in the Krasnoyarsk Territory. The carbon footprint of the EEF 2024 will be offset using the Thread of Nature platform, which can conduct transactions with carbon units and quota fulfillment units based on a marketplace principle.

#### Far East street exhibition

On the embankment of Ajax Bay, 11 regions of the Far East presented their key projects and achievements in various fields. The Ministry of Sport of the Russian Federation pavilion and Sports Arena hosted the "Developing the Far East!" joint exposition of the Far East and Arctic Development Corporation and the Ministry for the Development of the Russian Far East and Arctic, while the Tourism.RF regional development corporation had its own pavilion as well.

The Falcon House pavilion introduced guests to birds of the falcon family, their habitats, behavioural features, threats to the population, and measures being taken by the government to preserve these predators. For the second year, the exhibition included the Arab Village



exposition, which was timed to coincide with the second Falcon Day International Forum. The exposition is dedicated to the culture and specific features of the Arabian Peninsula. In addition, for the first time, the Primorsky Territory opened a Fish Market at the Far East Street exhibition, where guests were presented with Far Eastern cuisine, including signature dishes made from pollock, scallop, crab, and mussels.

The “Time to Live in the Far East” flash mob was held as part of the opening ceremony.

The exhibition was organized by the Roscongress Foundation with the support from the Office of the Plenipotentiary Representative of the Russian President in the Far Eastern Federal District.

In addition, the “Welcome to the Far East” exhibition took place with the attendance of nine federal executive bodies and the Republic of Tatarstan.

#### BRICS Creative Innovation Forum

The EEF also hosted the BRICS Creative Innovation Forum, which was organized by the Innosocium Foundation, the social platform of the Roscongress Foundation. Nine discussion sessions were held on how to develop a human-based approach to innovation that combines consumer demand, technological capabilities, and the needs of businesses. In light of Russia’s BRICS chairmanship, all the main focuses of the Forum programme were prepared with an emphasis on how to thoroughly intensify interaction with BRICS countries in culture and art. The key event was the plenary session “New Russian Cultural Code: The Art of Preserving, Rethinking, and Transforming.”

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202409/1319716.shtml>

### **China calls for pooling strength for peace at Beijing Xiangshan Forum**

Chinese military practices GSI, promotes pragmatic, open co-op

*Liu Xuanzun, Wang Qi and Li Aixin*

The 11th Beijing Xiangshan Forum entered its second day on Friday with an official opening ceremony highlighted by a congratulatory letter from Chinese President Xi Jinping and a keynote speech by Chinese Defense Minister Dong Jun, as the keyword "peace" became the dominant theme of the event.

In his congratulatory letter, Xi pointed out that in the face of global changes of a magnitude not seen in a century and the expectations of people around the world for security and stability, China has been practicing the Global Security Initiative, continuously consolidating consensus among all parties, promoting the elimination of the root causes of international conflicts, improving global security governance and making unremitting efforts to build a world of lasting peace and universal security.

He expressed the hope that the current forum will continue to uphold the spirit of equality, openness, inclusiveness and mutual learning; foster broad consensus and deepen mutual trust; and make new and greater contributions to collectively addressing global security challenges

and promoting the building of a human community with a shared future.

Dong said in the keynote speech that in the face of the changes of a magnitude not seen in a century, we must embrace mutual respect and sincerity, seek common ground while reserving differences, foster an open and inclusive environment, and achieve win-win cooperation and mutual success, collectively exploring a long-term path for harmonious coexistence.

Within an inseparable security community, we should share responsibilities, pursue common development, promote security through unity and mutual assistance, and seek a new security approach based on the greatest common denominator rather than the interests of small groups, said the Chinese defense minister in the speech on Friday.

Facing turmoil and conflict, we must maintain our confidence in political solutions, uphold an objective and fair stance, and adopt a holistic approach to addressing both symptoms and root causes, Dong said, calling for the accumulation of positive strength for peace and stability and the common advocacy for a multipolar world characterized by equality and order.

The Chinese military firmly practices the Global Security Initiative and is willing to join hands with armed forces from all countries to build a new type of security partnership, advance pragmatic and open military cooperation, enhance security governance in emerging fields, and jointly provide safeguards for high-quality development, so as to make new and greater contributions to building a community with a shared future for mankind and to maintaining world peace and security together, Dong said.

#### Positive atmosphere

The security and defense forum being held in Beijing from Thursday to Saturday has been well received by participants from different countries, which find themselves supporting the ideas of the China-proposed Global Security Initiative, as the forum provides a positive atmosphere to discuss common challenges.

Lye Liang Fook, a senior fellow at the ISEAS-Yusof Ishak Institute from Singapore, told the Global Times at the forum that he was impressed by Dong's speech, as the Chinese defense minister emphasized the importance for countries in the region to collaborate based on their own national interests.

Lye noted that Dong did not address specific disputes in his speech, and his message was instead about focusing on the bigger picture. While existing disputes do exist, responsible countries should manage them and work to keep tensions low. This approach would open up more opportunities for cooperation based on common interests, of which there are many, Lye said.

"Hopefully the world is coming together more and agrees on more things in order to be able to tackle common challenges, and we need common solutions, and we need to work together. And I think global initiatives are really what is needed to do that," Lampros Stergioulas,

UNESCO Chair in AI and Data Science for Society and a professor of Data Science at The Hague University of Applied Sciences, the Netherlands, told the Global Times at the forum.

I Gusti Agung Wesaka Puja, Executive Director of the ASEAN Institute for Peace and Reconciliation and a former permanent representative of Indonesia to the UN, said he sensed how China is trying to contribute to peace, not just with its neighboring countries, but globally. "From my observations, this forum plays a crucial role in fostering dialogue, which is fundamental for building understanding and mutual trust. Dialogue and mutual understanding are, I believe, the essence of peace. From what I observed, the communication at this forum has been very positive, creating a vibrant and creative atmosphere. During this forum, discussions are very open, which is crucial for ensuring that no aspect is overlooked," Puja told the Global Times. Adeel Jamaluddin Khan, visiting professor of the National Defense University of Pakistan, noted that the Global Security Initiative is inclusive to the developing world. "For us in the Middle East and in South Asia, like I am from Pakistan, it is very relevant, it is important to us, whereas if you compare it with the rest of the security forums, they discuss the issues of the Western world alone." Over 1,800 guests are attending the forum, including official representatives from more than 100 countries and international organizations, as well as experts, scholars, and observers from various nations.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202409/1319818.shtml>

**September 14, 2024**

**People's Daily**

### **Senior Chinese military official meets foreign guests attending Beijing Xiangshan Forum**

BEIJING, Sept. 13 (Xinhua) -- He Weidong, vice chairman of the Central Military Commission, on Friday met with foreign guests from Myanmar, South Africa and Pakistan, who are in Beijing for the ongoing 11th Beijing Xiangshan Forum.

While meeting with Tin Aung San, Myanmar's deputy prime minister and union minister for defense, He said that the Chinese military is willing to work with the Myanmar side to enhance pragmatic cooperation and safeguard the security and stability of the two countries' border areas.

During his meeting with Angie Motshekga, South Africa's minister of defense and military veterans, He said that the two countries' militaries should engage in deeper, more solid cooperation and work together to protect global fairness and justice.

When meeting Sahir Shamshad Mirza, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee of the Pakistan Army, he pledged to work with Pakistan to shield the two countries' strategic interests, as well as regional peace and stability.

<http://en.people.cn/n3/2024/0914/c90000-20219275.html>

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### **Global South plays larger role in world peace, security**

BEIJING, Sept. 14 (Xinhua) -- The Global South, including China, is playing an increasingly pivotal role in world peace and security, according to officials, strategists and scholars from around the world who participated in the 11th Beijing Xiangshan Forum this week.

At a time when the world faces increasingly interconnected challenges, the theme of this year's forum, "Promoting Peace for a Shared Future," is a "powerful reminder of our collective responsibility" in the world security system, which includes the responsibility of the Global South, said Kamal Gunaratne, defense secretary of Sri Lanka, at the forum.

In recent years, the collective rise of the Global South countries has gained remarkable momentum, playing a pivotal and constructive role in advancing human progress and serving as a key force for global peace and development. This year's Beijing Xiangshan Forum was attended by more than 1,800 guests from over 100 countries and international organizations, including many from the Global South countries.

"Asia, Africa and Latin America have all put forward important initiatives to strengthen political and economic cooperation, promote stability, and foster prosperity. The Global South is now more important than ever," said Cambodian Deputy Prime Minister and Defense Minister Tea Seiha.

The Global South also faces many common challenges. The United States emphasizes absolute security and employs strategies that pressure other countries to take sides, placing many Global South countries under strain, said Jia Qingguo, a professor with the School of International Studies at Peking University.

"The Global South nations are increasingly safeguarding their common interests through strengthened cooperation, becoming more prominent in the global security system and playing an increasingly important role," said Jia.

In 2023, the Group of 20 (G20) members agreed to accept the African Union (AU) as a new member in an effort to give a greater voice and more representation to developing countries. Six countries, namely Argentina, Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, were invited to become new BRICS members, an expansion marking a historical milestone in strengthening both the momentum of BRICS cooperation and the solidarity of the Global South.

"There are too many armed conflicts in the world today. When it comes to humanitarian issues, the Global South is strongly engaged with the Red Cross and playing a more and more important role," said Andrew Carswell, a delegate of the International Committee of the Red Cross.

In the face of the expectations of people around the world for security and stability, China, a member of the Global South, has been practicing the Global Security Initiative (GSI), continuously consolidating consensus among all parties, promoting the elimination of the root causes of international conflicts and improving global security governance.

"The GSI proposed by China helps the Global South build a balanced, effective and sustainable security framework, thereby achieving universal security and common security," said Jean Christophe Iseux von Pfetten, chairman of the Institute for East-West Strategic Studies in Britain. He has lived in China for a long time and believes that China is a crucial force in promoting world peace and security.

"China has been continuously playing a significant role in various fields, including security within the Global South," said Joseph Kahama, secretary general of the Tanzania-China Friendship Promotion Association. Over the years, Kahama has frequently traveled between China and Africa annually, witnessing how China and Africa achieved win-win cooperation and tackled challenges together.

At the 2024 Summit of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) last week, 10 partnership actions for modernization to deepen China-Africa cooperation, including one on promoting common security, were announced. Kahama noted that the actions demonstrate China's commitment to contributing to the common security of the Global South.

"Connectivity and communication are crucial for enhancing stability and security. The Belt and Road Initiative proposed by China exemplifies this, especially through the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, which has brought significant benefits to Pakistan and underscores China's important role in the Global South," said Zafar Nawaz Jaspal, a professor of politics and international relations at Pakistan's Quaid-i-Azam University.

"If the three key initiatives proposed by China, namely the Global Development Initiative, the GSI and the Global Civilization Initiative, can be well implemented, I believe the world will become more harmonious and orderly, with fewer conflicts and more win-win cooperation," Jaspal added.

"Hosting the Beijing Xiangshan Forum demonstrates China's open and inclusive attitude. Although some international conflicts may not directly be resolved at the forum, China provides a platform for dialogue and communication, allowing different countries to understand each other's positions. This, in itself, is a significant contribution to global peace and security," said David Chen, an affiliated researcher of the Asia Society Policy Institute's Center for China Analysis.

<http://en.people.cn/n3/2024/0915/c90000-20219852.html>