



# For Better Understanding on China-Pakistan and CPEC

## Gleanings from the National Press

An Online Publication of PICS

<https://su.edu.pk/gleanings-from-national-press>

August 01-15, 2022

A pilot project of PICS

## Table of Contents

01: August 01, 2022.....	03
02: August 02, 2022.....	16
03: August 03, 2022.....	23
04: August 04, 2022.....	35
05: August 05, 2022.....	43
06: August 06, 2022.....	49
07: August 07, 2022.....	51
08: August 08, 2022.....	56
09: August 09, 2022.....	60
10: August 10, 2022.....	62
11: August 11, 2022.....	64
12: August 12, 2022.....	70
13: August 13, 2022.....	73
14: August 14, 2022.....	82
15: August 15, 2022.....	83

*Data collected and compiled by Rabeeha Safdar, Alishba Aslam and Zohaib Sultan*

*Disclaimer: PICS reproduce the original text, facts and figures as appear in the newspapers and is not responsible for its accuracy.*

**August 01, 2022**

**Business Recorder**

**CPEC activities resumed with renewed vigour**

ISLAMABAD: China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) project is once again kicking off after a decelerated stage during previous few years as the present government reiterates resolve to resume the pace of work as witnessed during 2013-2018.

The Pakistan Muslim League – Nawaz (PML-N) led coalition government initiated China Pakistan economic Corridor had experienced sluggish advancement during Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf government with number of projects under the Corridor delaying due to unknown reasons. The ministry of Planning, Development and Special Initiatives under the supervision of its minister Prof. Ahsan Iqbal has resumed the activity and started interacting with the Chinese concerned authorities to expedite work especially on the stalled projects and include new avenues in the mega project.

Both Pakistan and China are engaged in finalizing the agenda of 11th Joint Coordination Committee (JCC) on CPEC where number of new projects in sectors like agriculture, information technology, tourism and others would be considered besides reviewing work on the ongoing projects.

According to sources in ministry of planning, the 11th JCC is likely to be held by next month. Although, the venue has not yet been finalized yet most probably it would be held in Beijing, China.

Both Pakistan and China are also mulling over extending the scope of CPEC to Afghanistan and the matter was also discussed at a meeting chaired by Ahsan Iqbal.

Foreign Secretary Sohail Mahmood, gave a detailed briefing on the third-party participation and extension of CPEC to Afghanistan.

There is also possibility of holding the meeting of Joint Working Group in Energy between Pakistan and China during first week of August where the issues of 1124 MW Kohala and 700.7 MW Azad Pattan hydro power projects as well as 1320 MW Thar Coal power plant project would be taken up with the Chinese side.

A joint study for the future development of Thar Coal had also been made part of the agenda. Two key run of the river hydropower projects have recently completed under the umbrella of CPEC. The 720 MW Karot Hydropower project has already started its commercial operation while production of electricity from the 880 MW Suki Kenari hydro power project would start soon.

“CPEC is back on track and measures are underway to provide sufficient power for Gwadar city,” said Ahsan Iqbal at a meeting held to review preparations for 11th JCC meeting and stressed the need for renewable energy projects for the city’s development.

According to Daily China Net, exports have been set in motion for the first time in the Gwadar Free Zone in the backdrop of exemption from taxes and customs duties for a period of 20 years.

Along with exports to foreign countries, the Gwadar Free Zone (GFZ) – both south and north – has also kick-started supply of trade articles and manufacturing items to the local market of Pakistan.

Both phenomenal steps, aligned with the e-Custom (Web-based One Custom – WeBOC) system are aimed at helping Pakistan realise its dream to become a high-performing export-oriented country in the international trading landscape.

Agvon, an enterprise incorporated into the Gwadar North Free Zone that deals in fertilizers import and processing, said it would sell 20,000 tons of potassium sulphate to Pakistani and international markets.

The company is expected to start its production facility by the start of next year. For this purpose, Agvon has already acquired 10 acres of land and the manufacturing setup is under construction.

Moreover, another industrial concern operating in the Gwadar Free Zone, HK Sun Corporation, will export its consignment to the tariff area in Pakistan.

Talking about overall progress of CPEC, an official in the planning ministry informed that under first phase of the CPEC, numerous major energy projects including hydro, wind and solar projects were executed.

“The second component of the CPEC is infrastructure, highways, waterways and bridges which have been built across Pakistan, improving the communication and road infrastructure,” he added.

The important part of physical infrastructure was laying the fiber optic link from Chinese border to Pakistan to help the communication network.

The official said that the third important component of the first phase was the Gwadar port which was almost functional.

Another infrastructure project, the East Bay Express has been recently inaugurated besides progress on International Airport in Gwadar and many of the allied infrastructure and industrial development projects.

About special Economic Zone (SEZs) being set up in Gwadar, the official said, a large number of Chinese companies were setting up their businesses at SEZs.

The country was entering into phase two that is even more important and focused on industrialization, agriculture, social well-being of the people, poverty alleviation and green economy.

“Under the Green Corridor, the government is focusing on agriculture and food security and digital corridor to fully utilize China’s experience and expertise in IT and industrial sectors,” the official said.

Pakistan is currently developing five out of nine SEZs nominated under CPEC including Allama Iqbal Industrial City in Faisalabad, Punjab, Dhabeji SEZ in Sindh, Rashakai SEZ in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Boston SEZ in Balochistan.

Another fast-track SEZ is Gwadar Free Zone as its phase at an area of 60 acre land is already fully functional and the mighty second phase spanning over 2200 acres is under construction. Dozens of Chinese firms are operating at Pakistan's various economic zones as both the governments were actively engaged to carry forward the SEZ projects and making them operational at the earliest possible.

Meanwhile, the government is also keen to attract foreign direct investment in textile, IT, agriculture, science and technology and mining sectors to boost exports and bridge the gap between imports and exports.—APP

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2022/08/01/4-page/938686-news.html>

### **Daily Times**

#### **China Power Hub to purchase local coal for power generation**

The 1,320 MWs China Power Hub Generation Co. (CPHGC) has invited tenders for the supply of local coal in Pakistani currency, Gwadar Pro reported on Sunday. The company has sought proposals from firms registered in Pakistan for the supply of 40,000 tons of local coal per month at a fixed price in Pakistani rupees. CPHGC is a joint venture between China Power Int'l Holding and Pakistan's Hubco under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) framework. The power plant is situated in Hub, Balochistan.

The plant was operating with South African and Indonesian coals but is now shifting to local coal as per the government's policy after skyrocketing prices of imported coal. Masood Khan Nasar, owner of a coal supplier company, welcomed the move and said that it will benefit the country and local coal traders in many ways. The price of Indonesian coal has reached Rs 95,000 per ton while coal imported from Afghanistan reaches Karachi at around Rs 75,000 per ton. However, the local coal is available for Rs 40,000 per ton.

Regarding the availability and quality of the local coal, Masood said that coal mines in the Duki and Harnai districts of Balochistan could produce as many as 6-8 thousand tons of coal per day. "We are already supplying coal to the Sahiwal coal-fired power plant", he added. Shifting to local coal will not only save precious foreign reserves but also reduce costs, an energy economist said. Moreover, it will also increase employment and business opportunities for Pakistani workers and traders, he added.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/975294/china-power-hub-to-purchase-local-coal-for-power-generation/>

## The Express Tribune

### **Is the West punishing Pakistan because of China?**

IMF is taking time to release the next tranche and attaching tough preconditions is linked to the China factor

The rupee against the dollar regained its value by 57 paisa when markets closed on Friday. This came after the local currency was battered by the US dollar for 15 days. Since PML-N lost in the bye-elections, the rupee in the inter-bank lost its value by Rs29. Overall, since the government led by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif took charge the rupee has lost Rs56 or 30% of its value. This happened despite the fact that Pakistan has reached a staff-level agreement with IMF.

The staff-level agreement should have sent a positive signal to the markets but the rupee continued to lose its value against the dollar. The ministers in charge of the finance ministry are trying to allay fears of a potential default yet it has made little impact on the ground. Also worrying is that international rating agencies have downgraded Pakistan's rating from stable to negative. Mody has done it before the IMF staff-level agreement, which was understandable, but Fitch and S&P have done it despite Pakistan being close to securing the \$1.2 billion installment.

The worsening economic crisis has pushed the government to resort to desperate measures. For example, recently Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif sent his key aide to Washington in what appears to be part of efforts to seek early IMF installment. Tariq Fatami, Prime Minister's Special Assistant, met US Deputy Secretary of State Wendy Sherman at the State Department. The purpose, according to sources, was to seek the Biden Administration's help for expediting the IMF process. Following the meeting, Army Chief General Qamar Javed Bajwa and US Deputy Secretary of State spoke via telephone.

The foreign media claimed that the call was meant to seek US help to push IMF to release the installment immediately. Following the telephone call, the US Ambassador in Islamabad met the Finance Minister while the civil and military leadership also sat on the table to discuss a way out of the deteriorating economic situation. What worries the government and other stakeholders is that any delay in the release of the IMF installment would only put further pressure on the rupee.

The IMF Executive Board is supposed to meet in the third week of August to formally approve the staff level agreement allowing the Fund to release the next tranche. But, given the current market situation and uncertainty, the rupee will further lose its value. That is why Pakistan is now making desperate attempts to get the installment at the earliest. Whether the government is able to achieve that objective remains to be seen.

The situation highlights that international financial institutions backed by the West are now increasingly giving Pakistan a tough time, partly because of our past record and partly because of geo-strategic reasons. That IMF is taking time to release the next tranche and attaching tough preconditions is linked to the China factor. As Pakistan's options become limited with a looming economic crisis, Western powers, through IMF, are putting pressure on Islamabad to revisit its

ties with Beijing. This puts Pakistan in a tight situation. But even if Pakistan makes some adjustments under Western pressure, the country's economic woes will be far from over. Even with IMF releasing the next tranche and Pakistan selling shares of national assets while getting assistance from friends, it will only provide us with some breathing space.

If 2022 was a tough year 2023 could be even worse amid the backdrop of international recession. Bangladesh, one of the fastest growing economies in the world, has reached out to IMF for a bailout program. This occurred despite the fact that Bangladesh has \$40 billion foreign reserves — enough to cover 5 months of imports. There is no crisis like situation there but that's how countries move proactively. In Pakistan, unfortunately, we have yet to realise the gravity of the situation.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2368859/is-the-west-punishing-pakistan-because-of-china>

### **The Nation**

#### **China To Organise Extensive Course On BRI Progress For Pakistan**

BEIJING – The International Cooperation Centre (ICC) of China National Development and Reform Commission will organise an extensive course on BRI Progress for Pakistan from August 3 to August 23. As many as 25 government officials, scholars and businessmen will take part in the online classes, a document states, China Economic Net (CEN) reported. The participants will learn from China development experience in advancing the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), promoting multilateral cooperation in more fields under China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) framework, and making greater contribution to BRI progress. The participants are experts in planning and development, in cooperation, infrastructure construction, trade promotion and related fields. During the course, the trainers will share their experience and lessons learnt in infrastructure construction with the participants, providing a reference for the latter to draw inspiration from. With resources and experience at hand, ICC is willing to promote multilateral cooperation under BRI, and provide support to enhancing their capability in improving people living standards, the document states. The course includes presentation of the national conditions of China, Chinese traditional culture, China development strategy and the opening-up initiative, interpretation of the 14th Five-Year Plan, China new development concept to build a modern economic system and the success stories in China growth.

The participants will also learn about the prospects of climate change and in cooperation under BRI to mitigate its effects, green industry development under BRI, China cooperation in renewable energy, as well as sustainable development of BRI, and infrastructure interconnectivity.

The trainees will learn about Chinese cities and infrastructure construction, China high-speed trains, international capacity cooperation and trade, BRI cooperation on technology and innovation, social risk management of the investment environment and an overview of CPEC. The participants will also discuss the BRI strategies and development.

<https://nation.com.pk/2022/08/01/china-to-organise-extensive-course-on-bri-progress-for-pakistan/>

## **The News**

### **Closure of 969 MW Neelum-Jhelum hydropower project: Chinese contractor mobilised at the site**

*Khalid Mustafa*

ISLAMABAD: The 3.5-kilometer tailrace tunnel of the 969 MW Neelum-Jhelum hydropower project got de-watered after a blockage appeared on July 06, 2022. However, the upstream blockage is yet to be de-watered, top official sources at Wapda told The News. The dewatering process of the tailrace tunnel began on July 10, 2022.

“Apparently, it is a geological failure in the tunnel, but the real cause will be traced once the dewatering process is completed. The project may take six months to generate cheaper electricity and in the meanwhile, countrymen will have to pay an extra amount of Rs60 billion. Reliance on power generation for 969 MW electricity per day will be increased on power plants based on costly imported fuel.”

Mohammad Arfan, Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Neelum-Jhelum Hydropower Project Company Limited (NJHPCL), when contacted, confirmed that downstream blockage in the tailrace tunnel had been dewatered but the upstream part was yet to be dewatered. He said that in the tunnel, there was darkness while teams were busy in clearing the tunnel from water.

The CEO said that the Chinese contractor CGGC-CMEC (Gezhouba Group), which constructed not only the Neelum-Jhelum project but also made it fully operational four years back, was partially mobilised eight days back to the site of its machinery to start reconstructing the tailrace tunnel.

Though the authorities, insiders said, managed some rates for the reconstruction of the tailrace tunnel, the unit rates have not yet been finalised. It is yet to be determined as to what needs to be reconstructed. “So far there is no access to what happened in the tailrace tunnel on July 6, 2022. Once the upstream blockage in the tailrace tunnel is de-watered, then the authorities will be able to know why the blockage appeared in the tunnel.” Sources also said that Stantec, the US-based consultant, is also on board.

The sources also disclosed that the machinery has been improvised to prevent any debris from falling while clearing the blockage but the magnitude of the blockage will only be ascertained once the upstream of blockage in the tailrace tunnel was cleared from water.

The authorities at the level of policy decision have taken up the issue with NICL (National Insurance Company Limited), asking it to pay the cost to be incurred on reconstructing the tunnel. The Neelum-Jhelum Hydropower Company Limited (NJHPCL) four years back signed an agreement with NICL for insurance of the project and to this effect, NJHPCL pays every year Rs1.3 billion to the insurance company.



“We have to look at what has been covered under insurance and if the whole parts of the projects are covered, then the NICL has to pay the full cost.” Sources also explained that NICL has a 7 percent share and a group of Chinese companies 93 percent in the insurance amount. “And they will share the cost to be incurred on making the project operational.”

The Neelum-Jhelum hydropower project was executed at the cost of Rs430 billion and it started functioning from April, 2018 under the deep mountains in the AJK where geology is neither predictable nor readable.

The project is one of its kind as 10 percent of the dam portion of the project is on the surface and 90 percent is underground with a waterway system comprising 52-km of tunnels. The project had generated electricity for four years at the cost of Rs9.1 per unit, but it came to a grinding halt on July 06, 2022, when its important underground tailrace tunnel was blocked.

The project seeks diversion of Neelum waters through tunnels at Nauseri about 41 kms upstream of Muzaffarabad and outfall in Jhelum River near Chatter Kalas in AJK, where the powerhouse is located. The project generates 5.15 billion units annually and has so far contributed 18.2 billion units with annual revenue of Rs50 billion.

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=113246>

### **SCO in its third decade — a growing force for a better world**

*Yi Fan*

From 28 to 29 July, Pakistani Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari attended the Meeting of the Council of Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Foreign Ministers in Tashkent, Uzbekistan. This is the fifth attendance of the Pakistani Foreign Minister under this mechanism.

The SCO, originally the Shanghai Five, is in its third decade. It is now the largest regional cooperation organization in terms of geographical coverage and population — three-fifths of the Eurasian continent and two-fifth of the world’s population.

In the past twenty years, it has blazed a cooperation path that suits the region’s reality, became a stabilizer of the Eurasian continent, and accumulated precious experience for establishing a fair and equitable regional and international order. It has traversed a fruitful journey, one of solidarity and cooperation, toward greater stability and prosperity.

It has created and practiced the Shanghai Spirit. As the undergirding values of the SCO and a key driver for its continued progress, the Shanghai Spirit advocates mutual trust, mutual benefit, equality, consultation, respect for diversity of civilizations and pursuit of common development. This sends a strong message of rejecting Cold-War mentality, zero-sum game or “clash of civilizations”, and of upholding a new model of partnership and dialogue, rather than alliance or confrontation. It also presents a new approach to handling state-to-state relations and meeting challenges of the times.

It has prioritized security cooperation on non-traditional security challenges. SCO members have continued to strengthen the pillars and architecture of regional security cooperation. In 2020

alone, competent authorities of SCO member states destroyed more than 50 terrorist groups and prevented more than 40 terrorist attacks, effectively cracking down on the “three forces”, i.e. terrorism, separatism and extremism, as well as drug trafficking and other transnational organized crimes.

SCO cooperation has also expanded to areas such as cyber security, information and infectious diseases, which all testify to its commitment to the vision of common, comprehensive, cooperative and sustainable security.

It has continued to uphold openness and inclusiveness. Keeping its door open, the SCO began to enlarge its membership in 2004 when Mongolia was admitted as its first observer state. Pakistan joined the SCO family as a full member in 2017. The organization, from the “Shanghai Five” to a big family of 21 with eight member states, four observers and nine dialogue partners, will gain even greater dynamism with Iran’s membership in the pipeline.

Apart from strengthening cooperation with regional countries, it has maintained close contact and cooperation with the United Nations, ASEAN, the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO) and the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA), among other international and regional organizations.

It has championed integrated economic development across the region. An array of economic cooperation frameworks have been implemented under the SCO, covering such areas as finance, transportation, science and technology, energy, agriculture, e-commerce, etc. According to the Report on Trade Development over 20 Years Since the Establishment of SCO released in February 2022, the total trade volume of SCO member states increased from \$667.09 billion in 2001 to \$6.06 trillion in 2020; and the share in global trade rose from 5.4% in 2001 to 17.5% in 2020.

More documents for economic cooperation are expected to be adopted in the forthcoming meeting of the SCO Council of Heads of State in Samarkand, Uzbekistan, in September.

In the past two decades, improving global governance has always been a main focus of the SCO. Today, the international order is undergoing profound and complex changes. The SCO confronts not only traditional threats, but also emerging challenges. How to build on its success and adapt to this changing world? Apart from its founding mission of combating the “three forces” and addressing non-traditional security issues, the SCO now has a much bigger playground. It is an indispensable part of international cooperation against COVID-19; it works for Afghanistan to adopt moderate and prudent domestic and foreign policies and to take a path of peace, stability and development; it provides strong safeguards to the smooth, unimpeded operation of regional industrial and supply chains; and it is a strong force for true multilateralism and the principle of extensive consultation, joint contribution and shared benefits, and against hegemony and bullying practices.

Pakistan has played an irreplaceable role in SCO activities since its accession in 2017, whether on security matters or for economic collaboration. The anti-terror exercise held at Pabbi last year is a good case in point. Besides, with Pakistan's favorable geographical location and resources, development initiatives such as the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor are becoming a centerpiece of regional economic cooperation. Pakistan is capable of providing other regional countries in its neighborhood, especially central Asian countries and the west of China, with vital gateways to low-cost maritime transportation, and may even be a game-changer in global trade.

The growing SCO family is in the prime of development. With the joint efforts of Pakistan, China and other regional countries, the SCO will continue to be a builder of world peace, contributor to global development and defender of the international order, and make greater contributions to stability and development of the region, and the world at large.

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=113244>

### **Allegation by Fazl: One Gulf state sponsored Imran to wreck CPEC**

*Yousaf Ali*

PESHAWAR: Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) President Maulana Fazlur Rehman Sunday alleged that a Gulf state sponsored Imran Khan to ruin CPEC [China-Pakistan Economic Corridor] and sinking the Gwadar Port project.

Talking to the media after attending a Jirga of tribal elders from North Waziristan district here, the Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam-Fazl (JUIF) head claimed that the PTI destroyed the new pillars of the country's economy. China's investment was one such pillar, he said, adding that CPEC was not a mere road, it was a complete economic package.

"Gwadar is the second largest deep-sea port in Asia. Some countries were feeling a threat from Gwadar. It would have been the most useful port for trade. The PTI inflicted serious damages on the project," he added.

Fazlur Rehman said that the Financial Times exposed the real face of PTI. The money given to Abraaj Group also included a huge chunk from a Gulf state, which was aimed at sinking the Gwadar Port project. "Now we can see that the depth of the sea has reduced to just 11 feet," he claimed.

Fazl said the PDM, by coming to power, actually accepted the challenge. He said the government would give a detailed briefing to the PDM over the economic situation of the country on Tuesday and Wednesday and ministers had been called to the meeting for the purpose. After that, a strategy would be devised for economic stability, he added.

Fazl said the ruling alliance would field a joint candidate in the by-election for all seats, falling vacant due to resignations of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) MNAs. He said the runners-up of the 2018 general elections would be the unanimous candidate of the PDM in the by-elections.

He urged his party workers to run an effective campaign for the by-elections so that the PTI could not enter the parliament again. The JUIF activists should consider all the candidates of the

PDM component parties as a candidate of their own party and run a strong election campaign in their support, he added.

He brushed aside the reports about alleged differences among the PDM component parties. “Look, the PDM leaders met for the first time after coming to power. They must have expressed their opinions during the meeting. But those opinions can’t be called differences. The meeting unanimously decided to hold elections on time and the government will complete its tenure,” he added.

He said the PTI government had pushed the country to a quagmire and it was not an easy job to get it out of the mess. “They have made such agreements that I can show you the statements of responsible people of the PTI, who said that they have sold out the country,” the Maulana remarked.

The PTI leaders used to say during the last days of their rule that they had mortgaged the country with the International Monetary Fund (IMF). “Had we not taken the government and ousted PTI from the power corridors, the country would have split into pieces,” he claimed.

The Maulana suggested that the government should work out short-term projects for the economic revival and well-being of people. “For long-term projects, we should wait for the next government,” he added.

Fazlur Rehman expressed serious concerns over the target killings in North Waziristan. He said that a number of leaders of JUIF, social workers and others had been killed so far. He said there was no writ of enforcers in the southern districts and the target killers were roaming free.

He said the sit-in of the Uthmanzai tribe was still in progress. “I would take up the issue with the prime minister in my meeting with him this week,” he said. The JUIF chief said that gas had been explored in North Waziristan, and urged the government to provide gas to the local population first and the local elders should be made a part of the survey teams for exploration of natural gas.

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=113124>

## **SCO partnership for peace and prosperity**

*Shakeel Ahmad Ramay*

The Council of Foreign Affairs Minister of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) just concluded its meeting in Tashkent. Foreign ministers deliberated on; how cooperation among the member states can be enhanced and finalised documents for the upcoming Heads of States’ meeting. It was good to note that member states stressed the need for more close collaboration in diverse fields, including economy, climate change, development, security, and others. Member states also showed their satisfaction on the progress of the SCO and ponder on the expansion and future role of the SCO.

State Councillor and Foreign Minister of China Mr. Wang Yi’s speech provided a blueprint of deliberations and China’s intentions to further strengthen the SCO. He started by narrating

current global context. He highlighted that we are facing challenges like pandemic and new hotspot of conflicts, which are putting pressure on global system. He described the situation as, the world is entering into troubled times, which will lead to transformation. He praised President Xi Jinping for comprehending the situation fully and truly and introducing initiatives like Global Development Initiative and Global Security Initiatives. Both initiatives are an attempt to share Chinese wisdom, public good and prosperity with the world to solve the unprecedented challenges.

Foreign ministers of all participating member states supported the positive role played by the SCO to strengthen mutual trust, economic linkages and spirit to work for common good. They also discussed the possibility to establish the SCO Development Bank and expansion of membership in orderly manner. The foreign ministers also showed their commitment to give a push to mutually beneficial cooperation, regional connectivity and recognised positive role of the SCO in maintaining global production and supply chain stability.

The discussion at the SCO indicates that the SCO is conscious of global situation and required actions. The SCO also showed interest to contribute to combat the challenges by sticking to fundamental principle of win-win cooperation. Moreover, the SCO is pushing partnership-based approach to fight challenges. It is a positive sign that a big organisation is willing to contribute, through the principles of cooperation and partnership. It is the need of the time. As, we know, the world is going through the toughest days of its history. Pandemic has shaken the whole global economic and social systems. It has weakened the countries' capability and capacity to tackle existing challenges of poverty and food insecurity. Simultaneously, climate change has put the future of planet at stake, and challenge is becoming severe with every passing day.

In this context, the role of partnership based, and cooperation organisations has become vital because it is only cooperation, which can help countries to combat challenges. Fortunately, the SCO is one of such organisations, which is promoting cooperation and equality through the partnership methodology. Therefore, it is getting world attention. President Xi also echoed same sentiments, while addressing the Head of State council, last time. He said Shanghai spirit is required to tackle the issues and strengthen the cooperation. He asked all countries to work for enhancing cooperation by building mutually beneficial partnerships, because it is only way out to come out of crisis.

President Xi, at multiple occasions, also emphasized that China, as a lead country of partnership should play its role and contribute, especially in the fields of economy and technology. President Xi Jinping, as he likes to walk the talk, have already launched two specific initiatives to promote economic linkages and technological cooperation. First, he introduced the "China-SCO Local Economic and Trade Cooperation Demonstration Zone". It is a dedicated initiative for the SCO countries, which is offering multiple opportunities in the fields of trade, investments, technology, tourism etc. It is an excellent opportunity for the SCO countries to invest in Chinese market and attract funding from China for their ventures. The initiative can also help member states recover from Covid-19 impacts.

Second, President Xi is cognizant of the fact that technology is leading force of connectivity and will play critical role in the development of countries in the coming decades. Hence, he has announced that China will be working to deepen technological cooperation with all SCO members and share the technological dividend with all member countries, especially to enhance the use of technology for economic activities. China in 2021 organised China-SCO Forum on the digital economy industry. It was a step in right direction, especially by keeping in mind the effects of Covid-19 and importance of technology to combat the challenges. It is expected that the cooperation will be a good opportunity for all members to benefit from the Chinese technological development. As, we know China is a leading player in many technological fields like 5-G, quantum computing, space technology and artificial technology etc.

In the conclusion, it is good to note that the Shanghai Spirit is alive and founding and new members are committed to spirit and member states are working to strengthen the cooperation by adhering to principles of partnership. Further, it is extremely satisfying that the SCO is not showing any intent to become an alliance-based organisation, rather it is looking for ways to further strengthen the partnership based approach. Lastly, member states are committed to achieving the goals of sustainable peace and prosperity and China is taking lead on this front.

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=113233>

### Jang News

#### GHQ میں چینی پیپلز لبریشن آرمی کی 95 ویں سالگرہ کی تقریب

چینی پیپلز لبریشن آرمی کے قیام کی 95 ویں سالگرہ کی تقریب جی ایچ کیو راولپنڈی میں منعقد ہوئی جس میں آرمی چیف جنرل قمر جاوید باجوہ مہمان خصوصی تھے۔ پاک فوج کے شعبہ تعلقات عامہ (آئی ایس پی آر) کے مطابق پاکستان میں چینی سفیر اور چینی سفارت خانے کے حکام نے تقریب میں شرکت کی۔ چینی سفیر نے تقریب کی میزبانی پر آرمی چیف کا شکریہ ادا کیا اور کہا کہ پاکستان اور چین میں برادرانہ تعلقات ہیں اور دونوں ممالک اسٹریٹجک شراکت دار ہیں۔ انہوں نے بتایا ہے کہ پاک چین مشترکہ تعاون کی کمیٹی کا اجلاس حال ہی میں منعقد ہوا ہے، یہ اجلاس باہمی تعلقات میں نئی پیش رفت ہے۔ چینی سفیر نے یہ بھی بتایا کہ اجلاس میں پاک چین فوجی تعاون کے فروغ کے لیے نیا سٹیٹ اپ بنایا گیا ہے، یہ نظام فوجی رابطوں میں فروغ کے لیے اہم پلیٹ فارم ثابت ہو گا۔ اس موقع پر آرمی چیف جنرل قمر جاوید باجوہ نے کہا کہ دونوں ممالک کے تعلقات کی جڑی گہری ہیں۔ انہوں نے چین کے دفاع، سلامتی اور قومی تعمیر میں پی ایل اے کے کردار کو سراہتے ہوئے کہا کہ پی ایل اے اور پاک آرمی برادرانہ آرمز ثابت ہوئے ہیں۔

<https://jang.com.pk/news/1118609>

### Nawaiwaqt News

#### پاکستان، چین تعلقات منفرد، مضبوط، دونوں نے ہر چیلنج کا کامیاب سے سامنا کیا: آرمی چیف

اسلام آباد (خبرنگار خصوصی) پاک فوج کے سربراہ جنرل قمر جاوید باجوہ نے پیپلز لبریشن آرمی چین کے قیام کی 95 ویں سالگرہ پر مبارکباد پیش کرتے ہوئے کہا ہے کہ پاک چین تعلقات منفرد اور مضبوط ہیں، دونوں ممالک نے کامیابی سے ہر چیلنج کا سامنا کیا۔ آئی ایس پی آر کے مطابق چینی پیپلز لبریشن آرمی (پی ایل اے) کے قیام کی 95 ویں سالگرہ پر

جی ایچ کیو اور اوپنڈی میں تقریب منعقد ہوئی جس کے مہمان خصوصی پاک فوج کے سربراہ جنرل قمر جاوید باجوہ مہمان خصوصی تھے۔ پاکستان میں چین کے سفیر ٹونگ روئنگ، چینی سفارت خانے کے حکام اور پاکستان کی تینوں مسلح افواج کے افسران نے تقریب میں شرکت کی۔ اس موقع پر خطاب کرتے ہوئے چین کے سفیر نے پیپلز لبریشن آرمی کی 95 ویں سالگرہ کے موقع پر خصوصی تقریب کے انعقاد پر آرمی چیف جنرل قمر جاوید باجوہ کا شکریہ ادا کیا۔ چینی سفیر نے کہا کہ چین اور پاکستان آئرن برادرز، آل ویدرفریینڈز اور سٹریٹجک پارٹنر ہیں۔ چینی سفیر نے کہا کہ چین میں منعقدہ مشترکہ تعاون کمیٹی نے فوجی تعاون کے لیے ایک اہم پلیٹ فارم قائم کیا ہے جو دونوں ممالک کے درمیان ملٹری ٹو ملٹری تعلقات کے لیے موثر طریقے سے کام کرے گا۔ پاک فوج کے سربراہ جنرل قمر جاوید باجوہ نے چین کے دفاع، سلامتی اور قوم کی تعمیر و ترقی میں پیپلز لبریشن آرمی چین کے کردار کو سراہا۔ دونوں ممالک، افواج اور عوام کے درمیان گہرے تعلقات کے مختلف پہلوؤں کو اجاگر کرتے ہوئے آرمی چیف جنرل قمر جاوید باجوہ نے کہا کہ پاک چین تعلقات منفرد اور مضبوط ہیں۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ پیپلز لبریشن آرمی اور پاک فوج کے آپس میں گہرے تعلقات ہیں، ہمارے تعلقات ہمارے اجتماعی مفادات کے تحفظ میں اپنا کردار ادا کرتے رہیں گے۔ دریں اثناء آرمی چیف سے ہالینڈ کے سفیر نے الوداعی ملاقات کی۔ باہمی دلچسپی کے امور اور علاقائی سیوری صورتحال سمیت مختلف شعبوں میں تعاون پر بھی تبادلہ خیال کیا گیا۔ آرمی چیف نے کہا کہ پاکستان ہالینڈ کے ساتھ تعلقات کو خصوصی اہمیت دیتا ہے۔ انہوں نے باہمی تعلقات کے فروغ کیلئے ہالینڈ کے سفیر کی کاوشوں کو سراہا۔

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/lahore/2022-08-02/page-1/detail-28>

### سی پیک: ایم ایل ون، کراچی سرکلر ریلوے کو جلد بحال کیا جائیگا: ظفر الدین محمود

اسلام آباد (آئی این پی) سی پیک کے تحت ریلوے لائن ایم ایل ون اور کراچی سرکلر ریلوے کو جلد از جلد بحال کیا جائے گا، کرونا وباء کی وجہ سے گواڈر انٹرنیشنل ایئرپورٹ اور گواڈر کول پاور پلانٹ پر بھی کام سست روی کا شکار رہا، چین کے خود مختار پاور پروڈیوسرز کو ادا نیگیوں کے مسئلے کا طویل مدتی حل تلاش کرنے پر بھی کام جاری۔ رپورٹ کے مطابق حکومت پاکستان نے امید ظاہر کی ہے کہ چین پاکستان اقتصادی راہداری کے تحت منصوبے کو ویڈ کی وبا کے پھیلنے کی وجہ سے تھوڑی تاخیر کے باوجود کامیابی سے مکمل ہو جائیں گے۔ سی پیک کے تحت متعدد منصوبوں پر کام وبائی امراض کی وجہ سے تاخیر کا شکار ہوا جس کی وجہ سے عالمی بندش ہوئی۔ ریلوے لائن ایم ایل ون اور کراچی سرکلر ریلوے سمیت سی پیک کی چند اسکیموں پر کام مکمل طور پر رک گیا جب کہ گواڈر انٹرنیشنل ایئرپورٹ اور گواڈر کول پاور پلانٹ پر کام سست روی کا شکار رہا۔ منصوبوں کی کامیابی سے بحال کے بارے میں سی پیک پرویز اعظم کے معاون خصوصی ظفر الدین محمود نے کہا کہ ہم چین کے خود مختار پاور پروڈیوسرز کو ادا نیگیوں کے مسئلے کا طویل مدتی حل تلاش کرنے پر بھی کام کر رہے ہیں۔ وہ سی پیک اور پاکستان میں کام کرنے والی چینی کمپنیوں کے لیے اپنی حمایت ظاہر کرنے کے لیے دوبار گواڈر جا چکے ہیں۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ درحقیقت گزشتہ چند سالوں کے تجربے کی بنیاد پر پاکستان میں اب بھی کچھ شکوک و شبہات موجود ہیں۔

لیکن اس کے خلاف لڑنا ضروری ہے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ مجھے یقین ہے کہ سی پیک کے تحت ریلوے لائن ایم ایل ون اور کراچی سرکلر ریلوے کو جلد از جلد بحال کیا جائے گا۔ طویل عرصے کے بعد مشترکہ تعاون کمیٹی کا اجلاس آئندہ دو ماہ کے اندر متوقع ہے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ مخلصانہ اور حقیقی کوششیں کی جا رہی ہیں اور یہ پہلے کھوئی ہوئی رفتار کو دوبارہ حاصل کرے گی۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ چین کی طرف سے پاکستان کو فراہم کردہ گرانٹس کی بڑی تعداد کو دیکھتے ہوئے حکومت سے قرض پر سود دو فیصد سے بھی کم ہے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ چین نے اپنا پیسہ خرچ کر کے 198 ملین ڈالر کی لاگت سے گواڈر کی گہری بندرگاہ تیار کی ہے۔ اسی طرح وہ گواڈر میں 250 ملین ڈالر کی لاگت سے ایک بین الاقوامی ہوائی اڈہ قائم کر رہا ہے۔ اس کے علاوہ ملک بھر میں شروع کیے گئے کئی دیگر سماجی و اقتصادی منصوبوں کی فہرست الگ ہے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ گواڈر ایئرپورٹ کو آپریشنل کر دیا گیا جس سے مقامی آبادی کے لیے روزگار کے بے پناہ مواقع پیدا ہوں گے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ چینی سرمایہ کار گواڈر فری انڈسٹریل زون بھی تیار کر رہے ہیں جو کہ

سرمایہ کاروں کے لیے مراعاتی پیکیج کو حتمی شکل دینے میں ہماری ناکامی کی وجہ سے تاخیر کا شکار ہے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ پانی اور بجلی کی دستیابی بھی ایک بڑا مسئلہ ہے۔ چینی سرمایہ کاروں نے گوادر میں فوڈ پروسیسنگ یونٹ، ماربل ریفاٹری اور فیش پروسیسنگ فیکٹری قائم کی ہے۔ یہ سی پیک منصوبوں کی کامیابی کی نشاندہی کرتا ہے جو پاکستان کو اپنی معیشت کو موجودہ بحران سے نکالنے میں مدد فراہم کرے گا۔

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/Lahore/2022-08-02/page-10/detail-15>

**August 02, 2022**

**Daily Times**

### **China's SEDA, Pak STZA join hands to cooperate in technology sector**

Shenyang Economic and Technological Development Area (SEDA) of China and the Special Technology Zones Authority (STZA) of Pakistan have signed a Letter of Intent (LOI) to boost technology sector cooperation between the two organizations.

Established in 1988, SEDA is a production hub of major biotech & automobile organizations including BMW Group, Neusoft, Pfizer, NCR and IKEA. Speaking at the virtual ceremony, the Director of the Management Committee of SEDA Zhao Yongsheng highlighted their successes, says a press release received here on Monday.

Elaborating further, he revealed that SEDA hosts the largest manufacturing facility for BMW in the world, while 84 fortune 500 companies from all over the globe are operating in SEDA in high-tech manufacturing, automotive, research and development areas, and next-generation information technologies. He hailed the strong relationship between China and Pakistan and pledged his organization's resolute support to cooperate with STZA in areas of innovation, entrepreneurship, human capital development and digital economy through the integration of science, technology and economy. Speaking on the occasion, the Chairman of STZA Amer Hashmi stated that Pakistan's technology sector due to its rapid growth offers globally competitive opportunities for Chinese partners and investors. He highlighted that Pakistan has a unique demographic advantage, as almost 64pc of its population consisted of youth and sees great potential in working with SEDA through STZA's dedicated China Desk to streamline cooperation with the Chinese technology sector.

He expressed his gratitude to Moin ul Haque, Pakistan's Ambassador to China and the leadership of SEDA for enabling cooperation between STZA and SEDA and expressed his support for implementing the shared vision. Gao Wei the Vice Mayor of Shenyang Municipal People's Republic stated that China and Pakistan are strategic partners, with a long history of peaceful cooperation in various development sectors. He also explained that Shenyang is creating hubs for scientific, industrial and technological growth – with a special focus on fintech.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/975926/chinas-seda-pak-stza-join-hands-to-cooperate-in-technology-sector/>



### **US, China, UK remain top 3 destinations of Pakistani exports during FY2022**

United States (US) remained the top export destinations of Pakistani products during the twelve months of fiscal year (2021-22), followed by China and United Kingdom (UK).

Total exports to the US during July-June (2021-22) were recorded at \$6798.982m against the exports of \$5030.724m during July- June (2020-21), showing a growth of 35.14pc, according to State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) data. This was followed by China, wherein Pakistan exported goods worth \$2781.480m against the exports of \$2043.887m during last year, showing an increase of 36.08pc. UK was the at third top export destination, where Pakistan exported products worth \$2200.007m during the months under review against the exports of \$2048.293m, showing growth of 7.40pc, SBP data revealed.

Among other countries, Pakistani exports to UAE stood at \$1842.961m against \$1488.127m during last year, showing an increase of 23.84pc while the exports to Germany were recorded at \$1747.967m against \$1512.776m last year, the data showed. During July-June (2021-22), the exports to Holland were recorded \$1486.798m against \$ 1118.342m whereas the exports to Italy stood at \$1085.675m against \$774.658m. Pakistan's exports to Spain were recorded at \$1149.474m against the exports of \$801.702m while the exports to Afghanistan were recorded \$552.518m against \$983.314m during last year.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/975927/us-china-uk-remain-top-3-destinations-of-pakistani-exports-during-fy2022/>

### **Dawn News**

#### **Pakistan, Chinese armies 'brothers in arms': COAS**

RAWALPINDI: Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Qamar Javed Bajwa on Monday said the Peoples Liberation Army (PLA) of China and the Pakistan Army were brothers in arms and their relationship would continue to contribute towards safeguarding their collective interests.

General Bajwa was the chief guest at ceremony to mark the 95th anniversary of the founding of the PLA at the General Headquarters (GHQ). The ceremony was also attended by Chinese Ambassador Nong Rong, embassy officials and officers from the tri-services.

According to a statement by the Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR), the COAS felicitated the PLA and lauded its role in China's defence, security and nation building.

The COAS said that the relationship between Pakistan and China was "unique and robust and has proven its resilience in the face of challenges."

Speaking on the occasion, Ambassador Rong said that China and Pakistan were iron brothers, all-weather friends and strategic partners.

"The recent meeting of China-Pakistan Joint Committee of Cooperation has set up an important platform for military collaborations, which will serve effectively for military-to-military relations between the two countries," the ambassador added.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1702790/pakistan-chinese-armies-brothers-in-arms-coas>

### **Pakistan Observer**

#### **Sino-Pak FMs meetings fully demonstrate close ties: Zhao Lijian**

A Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson said on Monday that three bilateral meetings between Chinese State Councilor Wang Yi and Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari in three months fully demonstrated the close ties between China and Pakistan. “You are rightly saying that.

This fully demonstrates the close ties between China and Pakistan,” Zhao Lijian said during his regular briefing while responding to a question about the meeting between Wang Yi and Bilawal Bhutto on the sidelines of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) council of foreign ministers meeting held in Tashkent, Uzbekistan last week.

He said that at the SCO foreign ministers meeting State Councilor Wang Yi met with Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto.

The two foreign ministers had an in-depth exchange of views on deepening our all-weather strategic cooperative partnership, advancing political cooperation, pursuing high-quality Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) cooperation, China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) cooperation and stepping up cooperation in various fields, including in multilateral occasions, he added.

<https://pakobserver.net/sino-pak-fms-meetings-fully-demonstrate-close-ties-zhao-lijian/>

#### **Propaganda against Chinese investment**

At a time when the new Government in Pakistan is striving hard to accelerate the pace of implementation of various projects under China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), some segments of Western and Indian media have started unleashing intensive propaganda linking the prevailing economic downslide in Sri Lanka and Pakistan to Chinese investment in these countries.

In a write-up titled ‘Fair weather ally? ’ How Sri Lanka, Pakistan fell into Chinese debt trap, an attempt has been made to cast aspersions on the highly imaginative Belt and Road Initiative of the Chinese President describing it part of the so-called ‘debt diplomacy’ despite the fact that the United States and some other Western countries are trying unsuccessfully to come out with a rival plan to Chinese BRI that is instrumental in accelerating socio-economic progress in the participating countries.

There is no doubt that apart from the negative impact of the Covid-19, global inflation and Russia-Ukraine war, many countries of the world have become vulnerable to economic weaknesses because of years of unsustainable loans but absurdity of the allegation that the Chinese loans under BRI or CPEC are the main cause of the economic problems for countries like Sri Lanka and Pakistan is evident from the fact that Chinese loans are just fraction of the total loans that these countries owe to other bilateral and multilateral donors.

It is also a fact that in the majority of cases the repayment of the Chinese loans has not yet started and, therefore, it would be unfair to blame Beijing for the 'debt trap'.

As for Pakistan, the entire Chinese investment under CPEC is centred on projects that are economically or socially beneficial for people of Pakistan and are contributing their share in enhancing Pakistan's ability to pay back its loans.

The Chinese provided valuable funds for the establishment of much-needed power plants in the backdrop of chronic electricity shortage which hindered economic growth and badly affected production and exports.

Similarly, investment on different projects in Gwadar is worth-making as the deep seaport is destined to become hub of regional trade and connectivity once infrastructure projects are completed to make it attractive for investors and link it with other parts of the country and the region.

No one can dispute the fact that motorways, highways, airports and water reservoirs funded by China have improved intra-country connectivity and created enormous economic and employment opportunities.

Again, plans to modernize agriculture would help boost our efforts aimed at achieving food security while ML-I would go a long way in unleashing the true potential of Pakistan Railways to complement socio-economic development in the length and breadth of the country.

Pakistan has a vision to become a manufacturing hub and China is offering meaningful assistance for establishment of special economic zones and dozens of Chinese companies have already expressed their keen desire to make investment in these zones.

Experts are convinced that CPEC is a big game changer that will influence the geo-strategic, geo-economic and geo-political dimensions of Central Asia, the great Middle East Region and South Asia.

It is because of the great potential of the initiative to spur economic growth that several regional countries are eager to join and benefit from this highly cooperative venture.

It may also be pointed out that China is also in the forefront of those countries that are offering valuable assistance in overcoming the prevailing economic challenges for which people of Pakistan are indebted to the great neighbours.

In fact, CPEC is a harbinger of a real change in Pakistan and that is why forces inimical to Pakistan are hatching conspiracies to create obstacles in the way of its smooth implementation.

However, people of Pakistan and their leadership are determined to foil all such attempts and this is confirmed by the sharp focus of the present government on CPEC projects and programmes.

We are convinced that the all-round cooperation of China and its willingness to transfer technology would bring about a genuine socio-economic revolution in Pakistan that would ultimately help the country come out of the existing messy situation.

Pakistan and China are aiming to develop infrastructure, trade, energy, transportation, IT and telecom, agriculture and industry and results of this enviable cooperation would emerge in years to come.

<https://pakobserver.net/propaganda-against-chinese-investment/>

### **The Express Tribune**

#### **Pak refuses to revisit China ties**

COAS says PLA, army to contribute towards safeguarding ‘collective interests’

RAWALPINDI: Despite apparent pressure by certain Western countries on Pakistan to revisit its ties with China, Islamabad is keen to deepen its partnership with Beijing.

In a clear sign that Pakistan is in no mood to review its relationship with China, the 95th anniversary of the founding of Chinese Peoples’ Liberation Army (PLA) was commemorated at the GHQ Rawalpindi. Army chief General Qamar

Javed Bajwa was the chief guest while Ambassador of China to Pakistan Nong Rong, officials from Chinese Embassy and officers from tri-services of Pakistan attended the event.

The event signals that Pakistan sees its future with China despite facing tremendous pressure from the West which is pushing Islamabad not to get too close to Beijing.

Observers believe that in fact one of the reasons that the International Monetary Fund (IMF) is reluctant to immediately release the next tranche is because of the China factor.

The Western countries, it is said, through the IMF, are putting pressure on Pakistan to review its ties with Beijing.

Pakistan is trying to address the Western countries’ concerns, particularly that of the US, but it is evident that it will not antagonise China.

The strong statements made by both the Chinese ambassador and the army chief indicated that both the countries were not deterred by outside pressure.

“The Chinese ambassador said that China and Pakistan are iron brothers, all-weather friends and strategic partners,” an official handout issued by the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) said.

The Chinese ambassador said that the recent meeting of China- Pakistan Joint Committee of Cooperation held in China has set up an important platform for military collaborations which will serve effectively for military-to-military relations between the two countries.

The army chief felicitated the PLA, lauding its role in China’s defence, security and nation building.

“Highlighting various facets of the deep-rooted ties between the two states, militaries and the people, the COAS said Pakistan-China relationship is unique and robust that has proven its resilience in the face of challenges,” according to the military’s media wing.

“The COAS said PLA and Pakistan Army are brothers in arms and our relationship will continue to contribute towards safeguarding our collective interests,” Gen Qamar concluded.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2368896/pak-refuses-to-revisit-china-ties?amp=1>

### **Chinese firm urged to resettle Thar Coal project affectees**

CM says Shanghai Group should work towards completing residential colony construction to rehabilitate flood affectees

KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah said that the Shanghai Group working in Thar Coal Block-I should expedite the construction of the residential colony so that the affected people can move there. He said this in a meeting with the delegation of Shanghai Electric Group led by its President Liu Ping at CM House.

Present on the occasion, Energy Minister Imtiaz Shaikh informed the chief minister that two villages have been affected by the work started in Block-I.

Murad said that the project has affected families. He said that the Thar Coal Block-I affected people will be settled properly by establishing their colonies to be equipped with all the facilities. He said that his government will provide affected families with well-planned and built houses in a colony. Imtiaz Shaikh told the chief minister that the Shanghai Group has made a 50% payment for the construction of the houses for the affected people, while as the work progresses, the company will pay the remaining 50% amount.

Liu Ping told the chief minister that the land acquisition has not been completed. At this Imtiaz Sheikh said "Most of the land acquisition matters have been solved and only 660-acre of Naqboli land is pending due to some issue.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2368975/chinese-firm-urged-to-resettle-thar-coal-project-affectees>

### **Chinese firms to supply PV panels**

NEPRA gives licence for setting up solar power plant in Punjab

ISLAMABAD: Chinese companies Jinko Solar and JA Solar, together with another company, will provide photovoltaic cells/ panels and other related equipment for establishing a solar photovoltaic power plant with installed capacity of 1.931 megawatts peak (MWp) in Punjab.

The National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (Nepra) on July 29 granted a generation licence to Gsolar Power (Private) Limited (GSPPL) for its photovoltaic-based solar plant in Mauza Bahuman under Pindi Bhattian tehsil of Hafizabad district in Punjab.

GSPPL will supply/ sell the electricity to Crescent Bahuman Limited as the bulk power consumer.

“The Authority has observed that the company plans to install PV cells/ panels from tier-I manufacturers including Jinko Solar, JA Solar (and) Renesola,” said Nepra documents.

Jinko Solar Holding Co is one of the world's largest solar panel manufacturers, headquartered in Shanghai. Similarly, JA Solar Holdings is another solar development company based in Shanghai.

The feasibility study shows that the company will be installing a total of 3,576 panels/ modules of 540 Wp each. GSPPL has confirmed that a deal for the purchase of PV cells has been "locked with Jinko Solar".

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2369055/chinese-firms-to-supply-pv-panels>

## **Pakistan, China aim to boost tech cooperation**

### **Ink Letter of Intent to create world-class technology ecosystem**

ISLAMABAD: Shenyang Economic and Technological Development Area (Seda) of China and the Special Technology Zones Authority (STZA) of Pakistan have signed a Letter of Intent (LOI) to boost cooperation in technology sector between the two organisations.

Established in 1988, Seda is a production hub of major biotech and automobile organisations including the BMW Group, Neusoft, Pfizer, NCR and Ikea.

Speaking to a virtual ceremony, Seda's Director of Management Committee Zhao Yongsheng highlighted the company's successes, according to a press release issued on Monday.

Seda hosts the largest manufacturing facility of BMW in the world, while 84 Fortune 500 companies from all over the globe are operating in Seda's hi-tech manufacturing, automotive, research and development areas.

Zhao hailed the strong relationship between China and Pakistan and pledged his organisation's support and cooperation with the STZA in the areas of innovation, entrepreneurship, human capital development and digital economy through the integration of science, technology and economy.

Speaking on the occasion, STZA Chairman Amer Hashmi stated that due to its rapid growth, Pakistan's technology sector offered globally competitive opportunities for Chinese partners and investors.

He highlighted that Pakistan had a unique demographic advantage, as almost 64% of its population consisted of youth, and saw great potential in working with Seda through the STZA's dedicated China Desk to streamline cooperation with the Chinese technology sector.

He praised Pakistan's Ambassador to China Moinul Haque and the leadership of Seda for enabling cooperation between the STZA and Seda and expressed his support for implementing the shared vision.

Shenyang Municipal People's Republic Vice Mayor Gao Wei stated that China and Pakistan were strategic partners, with a long history of peaceful cooperation in various development sectors.

He explained that Shenyang was creating hubs for scientific, industrial and technological growth, with special focus on fintech.

He vowed to support cooperation between Seda and the STZA, saying that the technology sector represented a new avenue for potential cooperation between the two friendly nations.

Ambassador Haque highlighted the longstanding ties between the two countries and appreciated the STZA chairman and his team for their efforts to foster the knowledge economy in Pakistan.

He affirmed the commitment of Pakistan's embassy in China to facilitating the ongoing engagements between the STZA and the technology ecosystem in China and called the LOI a step forward towards strengthening linkages and relationship between the two countries.

He hoped that both sides would increase their cooperation under a joint working group to practically implement the shared vision of creating a world-class technology ecosystem in Pakistan, creating jobs and empowering the youth through the technology-led economic transformation.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2369046/pakistan-china-aim-to-boost-tech-cooperation>

**August 03, 2022**

**Business Recorder**

**Chinese investors**

**SECP starts 'WeChat service'**

ISLAMABAD: The Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) becomes the first-ever regulatory body and public sector organization to enable WeChat service.

The WeChat service will help the Chinese investors in making informed investment decisions and easily incorporate companies in Pakistan. Through WeChat, users can instantly get information from SECP personnel regarding name availability and company incorporation in Mandarin language. This initiative is part of SECP's ongoing efforts to build a culture of digitalization and enhance user experience.

The use of WeChat is already prevalent in jurisdictions including Singapore, Malaysia and it is paving its way into Europe and South America. With China becoming a global financial powerhouse, it is more important than ever to enable communication with Chinese investors as it is one of Pakistan's top trading partners.

SECP's WeChat Service will enable users to exchange messages, documents, images and payments for complete support and solution. The service can be accessed at any time, on the stated number "03069365625" or WeChat ID "SECPAK" to directly connect with SECP facilitation officer.

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2022/08/03/2-page/938938-news.html>

## Dawn News

### **China eager to support Pakistan in pursuing its uplift goals: envoy**

*Malik Asad*

ISLAMABAD: China is eager to support Pakistan in pursuing development goals and ready to expand cooperation in the area of governance.

This was stated by Nong Rong, Ambassador of China to Pakistan, at a dialogue on ‘Global development & governance’ themed on ‘Governance experience exchange between Pakistan and China’ which was organised by Pakistan-China Institute (PCI) and the Academy of Contemporary China and World (ACCWS).

The ambassador said China was eager to support Pakistan in pursuing its development model appropriate for the circumstances on the ground because the two countries were all-weather friends. Through CPEC, China is also eager to expand its exchanges in the area of governance such as lowering poverty levels and raising peoples’ standards of living.

He praised the Communist Party of China (CPC), whose initiatives have profoundly changed China.

He said the upcoming 20th congress of CPC would make plans for the future and set new objectives that would be accomplished by working together to benefit all peoples. China and Pakistan are strategic allies that have consistently stood by one another through tough times.

The dialogue was moderated by Mustafa Hyder Sayed, Executive Director PCI, and Lin Kun, Vice President ACCWS.

Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed, Chairman of the Defence Committee of the Senate and PCI, extended congratulations to China on the 95th anniversary of the founding of the People’s Liberation Army (PLA) which was specially celebrated at the GHQ as a gesture of goodwill. He lauded the close cooperation between Pakistan Army and the PLA, including the comments by COAS General Qamar Javed Bajwa that both armies are ‘brother in arms’.

Referring to US House of Representatives Speaker Nancy Pelosi’s visit to Asia and tentative plans for a journey to Taiwan, Senator Mushahid said this would be an unnecessary and unwarranted provocation, adding such a high level visit by an American official violate the One-China Policy agreed to by the United States and China in the Shanghai Communique.

He said such provocations had the potential to destabilise Asia and generate a new type of confrontation, something Asia cannot afford in these challenging times. Pakistan, he said, is firmly committed to the One-China Policy and preserving, promoting and protecting the strategic partnership with China.

He also discussed President Xi Jinping’s Belt and Road Initiative, which he termed the 21st century’s most important development and diplomatic initiative. He said that CPEC, the BRI’s



flagship undertaking, was progressing admirably since it has modernised the nation's infrastructure and raised the socioeconomic standing of its citizens.

He quoted two studies by the Harvard University. The first study, 'Understanding CCP resilience: surveying Chinese public opinion through time, was published by the Ash Centre for Democratic Governance and Innovation of Harvard University in July 2020. The study found that there was very high satisfaction with the central government in China. The second study by Graham Allison of Harvard University was titled "The great tech rivalry: China vs the US."

The study shows that China has replaced the US as the world's top high-tech manufacturer, producing 250 million computers, 25 million automobiles and 1.5 billion smartphones in 2020. Moreover, it says that beyond becoming a manufacturing powerhouse, China has become a serious competitor in the foundational technologies of the 21st century: artificial intelligence (AI), 5G, quantum information science (QIS), semiconductors, biotechnology, robotics and green energy.

Gao Anming, Vice President and Editor-in-Chief of China International Communications Group (CICG), stressed deepening high-quality cooperation under the Belt and Road Initiative and actively promoting the construction of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor. Global development is inseparable from connectivity and open cooperation. The joint construction of the "Belt and Road" pursues development, advocates win-win results, and conveys hope. As a landmark project in the joint construction of the "Belt and Road," the construction of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor is a practical example of win-win cooperation between the two countries.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1702911>

### Dunya News

#### **Pakistan's exports to China likely to touch \$4 billion mark this year**

BEIJING (APP) - Pakistan's exports to China have registered 11% increase in the first half of this year and with this momentum it is likely to reach \$4 billion by the end of this year.

Pakistan's export to China crossed \$1.918 billion in the first half of this year, up 10.97 percent from \$1.728 billion in the same period of the previous year, which continue to increase on yearly basis, shows the official data from the General Administration of Customs of the People's Republic of China (GACC).

According to State Bank of Pakistan (SBP), Pakistan exported goods worth \$2.78 billion during the twelve months of fiscal year 2021-22 against the exports of \$2.04 billion during last year, showing an increase of 36.08 percent.

According to sources, despite the epidemic of COVID-19, bilateral trade has increased significantly.

In the first half of this year, the total volume of trade between China and Pakistan increased nearly 15 percent amounting to \$ 14.39 billion as compared with the same period in 2021 which was \$12.55 billion due to COVID-19.

Compared with data of the first half of 2021, this year Pakistan's exports to China in January increased by 17.80% amounting to \$382.22 million; in February it was up by nearly 30% crossing \$287.65 million; in March it increased 7.23% amounting to \$367.71 million; COVID-19 impacted Pakistan's exports in April causing a decrease of 21.15% standing at \$283.53 million; in May it increased nearly 3% reaching \$280.97 million while in June it increased by nearly 54% crossing \$316.36 million.

An economic expert said that China has opened up its market for Pakistani goods. The two countries can benefit from long-term relationships and Pakistani traders can export more goods to China which is the second largest economy in the world.

Pakistan can become a food basket for China because the Chinese market is huge and has good buying power, therefore Pakistan should take advantage of its good relationship and China can help relocate its industries and technologies to Pakistan to increase its exports to China and around the globe, he added.

[https://dunyanews.tv/en/Business/662239-Pakistan-exports-to-China-likely-to-touch-\\$4-billion-mark-this-year](https://dunyanews.tv/en/Business/662239-Pakistan-exports-to-China-likely-to-touch-$4-billion-mark-this-year)

### **Iqbal for taking measures to boost exports to China up to \$30 billion**

ISLAMABAD (Dunya News) – Federal Minister for Planning Development and Special Initiatives Professor Ahsan Iqbal has said that time has come to approach the market-driven approach keeping in view the global trend, while directing the officials to identify China's market where Pakistan can tap its products.

In this regard, a detailed briefing was given to the Minister who asked the concerned officials to increase the import volume.

The Minister also directed the stakeholders to step up the export with China from current trade of \$3 billion to \$30 -40 billion per year.

He further stated that the Ministry of Commerce should align with other departments to devise a strategy on increasing trade with China.

The Minister further observed that potential in Chinese markets can be tapped by phasing the market where Pakistan enjoys comparative advantage and in this respect a market driven approach should be put into practice by fulfilling the global trends and demands.

Meanwhile, the Minister also reviewed the projects of the Ministry of Planning Development and Special Initiatives under Public Sector Development Programme (PSDP).

The Minister directed the officials to remove all bottlenecks in the execution of projects which includes Center of Excellence for China Economic Corridor Support Project, Competitive Grants

for Policy Oriented Research, Green Line Rapid Transit System, National Initiative for SDGs on Nutrition, Operationalization of Green Line BRTS and Installation of Integrated Intelligent Transport System Equipment, Strengthening of Civil Service Registration and Vital Statistics CRVS System and the Construction of Pakistan Institute of Development Economic PIDE Campus at H-8.

[https://dunyanews.tv/en/Business/662282-Iqbal-for-taking-measures-to-boost-exports-to-China-up-to-\\$30-billion](https://dunyanews.tv/en/Business/662282-Iqbal-for-taking-measures-to-boost-exports-to-China-up-to-$30-billion)

### **Pakistan Observer**

#### **Pakistan mango festival 2022 held in Shanghai**

As part of the efforts to introduce and promote mango in the region, the Pakistan Consulate General organized a two-day Pakistan Mango Festival in Shanghai, China.

The Consul General participated in the opening ceremony of the event held at Hualong Building Bund, Shanghai and delivered a keynote speech highlighting the importance and potential of exports of Pakistani mango and other fruits to China.

The Mango Festival was jointly organized by Consulate General of Pakistan Shanghai and China-Europe Association for Technical Cooperation (CEATEC) Shanghai and Shanghai Global Economic Development LCC.—INP

<https://pakobserver.net/pakistan-mango-festival-2022-held-in-shanghai/>

### **CPEC: Social Development and Regional Stability**

*KAMRAN KR*

The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) has not only contributed to the socio-economic development of Pakistan, but the flagship project has also further strengthened the strategic partnership between the two countries through joint initiatives in diverse sectors of economy, investment, joint venture, agriculture, infrastructure development, energy, defence production and, above all, people-to-people contact.

Furthermore, it is evident that the flagship project has contributed to regional stability, security, socio economic and geo-political development in the country because economic stability and sustainability is directly correlated with political stability.

In this regard, phase-I of the flagship project has done a great job in transforming the energy outlook of the country initiating, implementing and completing numerous energy small, medium and mega projects in the country. This has contributed to substantially reducing the energy deficiency of the country.

Similarly, Phase 1 & Phase 2 of the project have significantly improved and modernized the transportation infrastructure of Pakistan which also led to the generation of new jobs for local people which has been effective means to eradicate poverty in the far flung areas in the country.

According to economic survey (2021-2022), Pakistani workforce, in a large number, were employed to numerous projects of the CPEC which ensured timely completion of the infrastructure projects and launched new projects such as Sukkur-Hyderabad Motorway (M-6), Peshawar-DI Khan Motorway (M-14), KKH Alternative Route (Gilgit-Shandor-Chitral), Swat Expressway (Phase-II), Dir Expressway, and Karachi Circular Railways. This has brought prosperity to the construction and service industry of Pakistan.

The second phase of the project focuses upon the development of various sectors including agriculture, manufacturing, industrialization, textiles, logistics and last but not the least, the construction of industrial parks.

In this connection, rigorous mutual consultations, collaboration and coordination at the highest political, diplomatic, official, bureaucratic and last but not the least, ministerial levels have been geared up between the two brotherly countries for the further development of CPEC in the country.

Hopefully, the constant and paramount cooperation between Pakistan and China in related fields can drive Pakistan's economic growth and there has been cooperation between the two countries for poverty reduction in Pakistan.

The industrial cooperation between Pakistan and China through complementary advantages will greatly promote Pakistan's economic development and poverty reduction and bring remarkable economic and social benefits.

CPEC has also contributed to significantly improving the business environment of Pakistan by the construction of Special Economic Zones (SEZs).

It has further helped Pakistan getting direct and indirect foreign investment, especially from the Middle Eastern countries along with that many Central Asian countries have also showed keen interest in joining the flagship project & the expansion of the CPEC, the project will surely benefit relevant countries and the people of Pakistan, China and other countries in the region.

Even most of the ASEAN countries have also shown great interest to participate in the ongoing projects of the CPEC, especially SEZs, infrastructural development, digitalization and health etc.

The CPEC has been contributing to Pakistan's realization of the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and has already helped Pakistan achieve its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGS) which is good omen for achieving the desired goals of social development, education, health, safe drinking water, empowerment of women, end to gender discrimination and, above all, poverty elimination and generation of new jobs in the country.

Developing countries like Pakistan are in need of financial assistance for the completion of sustainable development goals, CPEC has proven to be the best economic resource for Pakistan.

Pakistan has long faced the threat of terrorism which has led to reduce exports and foreign investment inflows, among other economic losses.

During this critical and most difficult period, it was China that stepped forward and proposed the CPEC to Pakistan and ready to invest more than US\$65 billion in the different sectors, especially in the energy and infrastructural development in the country.

Obviously, the CPEC will help promote poverty alleviation in Pakistan and neighbouring countries and promote economic prosperity through regional connectivity with advanced and high-level infrastructure.

The priority of CPEC is to increase regional and world trade and accelerate foreign direct investment into Asia from around the world.

It is also evident that CPEC will also help Pakistan in achievement of the SDGs, the goals of the UN Agenda as they are directly, indirectly linked with the flagship project.

CPEC is the effective instrument for greater regional connectivity which may connect South Asia to Central Asia through Middle Corridor, Afghanistan.

In this context, most recently, the government of Pakistan, China and even Afghanistan thoroughly discussed different ways and means for the further strengthening of inflows of FDIs, joint ventures, trade & commerce and greater regional connectivity. All parties are in agreement to achieve these desired goals through the different projects of CPEC.

Pakistan-Afghanistan-Uzbekistan trans-regional railway projects would be a game and fate changer for achieving the long awaited dreams of greater regional connectivity. Thus amalgamation of CPEC ML-I and trans-regional railway project is must.

The incumbent government has been striving hard to complete the pending projects of the CPEC as soon as possible.

Hopefully, early completion of CPEC Phase-I and initiation of CPEC Phase-II would further strengthen the bilateral trade between strategic partners. It would foster agriculture development in the country.

<https://pakobserver.net/cpec-social-development-and-regional-stability-by-kamran-kr/>

## **BRI and World Canvas of Geopolitics**

*Dr Mehmood Ul Hassan Khan*

Despite hue and cry of the western media's fake reports and false narratives of paid agents, the Chinese One Belt & One Road Initiative (BRI) has now become new economic "stabilizer" and "reliable driver" to achieve the desired goals of greater regional connectivity, socio-economic prosperity, green industrialization and last but not the least, infrastructural development in all the member countries.

According to many published reports of the World Bank (WB) and International Monetary Fund (IMF), world economy is shrinking because of many complex and complicated "protective" and "coercive" economic policies of the US/EU, inhuman and unilateral geopolitical sanctions

against Russia and imbalanced geostrategic maneuverings of the US, allied forces, especially the NATO eastern expansion have badly derailed and disturbed the regional as well as global supply chains.

It fears that follies of the West may push countries to another international war on energy & food security in the near future.

Central Asia, especially the Republics of Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan are the main hubs of Chinese BRI due to which the western plotters have been in the dirty politics to create political chaos, social uncertainty, and economic instability to decompose BRI projects for greater regional connectivity in the region and beyond since long.

Sponsored acts of social unrest of Kazakhstan in January 2022, manipulated political misunderstanding in the Republic of Karakalpakstan July 2022, and last but not least schemed ethnic division in Tajikistan have produced devastated consequences and political pandemonium proved anti-productive for the ongoing projects of the BRI in these countries.

But thanks to visionary leaderships of these countries who initiated numerous people's friendly policies to mitigate the poisonous campaigns and schemes of the West against China and of course BRI. Thus Chinese BRI has been bringing drastic changes in the lives of common people, communities, societies and states alike in the Central Asian Region. The states and societies have been the main recipients of the Chinese BRI projects in these countries which is good omen for inter-regional trade & commerce and intra-regional connectivity too.

Frankly speaking, it has become one of the inspiring sources to bring an agricultural revolution in Kazakhstan where lots of mutually beneficial projects are being carried out in the country.

It has further increased business/economic potential and regional connectivity of Uzbekistan which has now become one of the important countries for integrated transport hub in the region.

Undoubtedly, it has become a source of hope for a good life and prosperous economy in Tajikistan. So, common denominators of a qualitative life are being further revolutionized by Chinese BRI in the entire Central Asian Region.

Even South Asia, especially Sri Lanka has been under the stealth radar of imperialistic forces due to its increasingly developed economic ties with China.

The Western powers have been dubbed Chinese investments under the BRI as its outreach to the backyard of India in the Indian Occasion and dissimilated all kinds of false, fake and fictional news about economic fragility, political high risks and social division.

In this connection, the deadly and sponsored terrorist's attacks in Sri Lankan churches was instigated by the West and its sleeper cells in the region proved unfortunately last nail in its coffin because its macro-economy heavily depends upon international tourism which became inoperative and hostage to Western schemers afterward.

Moreover, the Russia-Ukraine conflict has further weakened its economic capacity to avoid recession, economic meltdown, inflation and price hike.

Moreover, persistent weak economic indicators because of incapacity to avail benefit from Chinese FDI under the flagship BRI further derelict its social fabrics.

Ultimately political instability proved terminal. Thanks now political insanity is getting better and it is recovering from socio-economic deprivation and political divide.

Having said this, the Chinese government has been supporting the Sri Lankan government to come out of this complicated situation.

Most recently, China said that it firmly supported Sri Lanka in defending its national sovereignty and offered to upgrade the Belt and Road projects.

A huge consignment of rice and other essential food items has been dispatched to Colombo to lessen some social worries of the Sri Lankan government and people alike. Moreover, China's investment of an estimated \$1.4 billion in Sri Lanka's Colombo Port City project is the largest single foreign investment in the island nation's history.

China poured huge investments in the Hambantota and Colombo ports. However, it raised serious concerns to India which considered it as a Chinese heavy presence in its backyard in the Indian Ocean.

With sovereign defaults looming on the horizon, Sri Lanka is now desperate for new investment or aid.

China has empathy for Sri Lanka's economic plight and is keen on helping it, there ought to be an early start of the negotiations and signing of a China-Sri Lanka Free Trade Agreement, so as to enhance mutually beneficial cooperation.

The proposed FTA has been under negotiation since 2015. Sri Lanka is ready to strengthen cooperation with China in finance, economy, trade and tourism and advance the negotiation of the bilateral free trade agreement. A Sri Lanka-China FTA would eradicate much of these dubious practices.

China has invested billions of dollars in Sri Lanka, building ports, airports, roads and power stations since 2013, as part of its BRI.

Chinese loans account for 10.5 percent of Sri Lanka's foreign debt. However, Beijing feels that there is no appreciation of this in the governmental and political domain.

Projects such as the Colombo Port City, Hambantota Port and other BRI investments have been delayed and are not yet ready for cash flow generation because of indecisiveness of its political leadership.

To conclude, the syndrome of Cold War-II has been again disseminated against China. The anti-China theory has been reactivated.

Heavy presence of the US naval fleets in Indo-Pacific, 5th US arms sale to Taiwan/ Nancy Pelosi's rumoured plan for a trip to Taiwan, nasty activities in South China Sea, propagation against Pacific Island development program, QUAD, AUKUS and emerging socio-economic partnerships all clearly indicate the US and its ally's high levels of frustration against China's economic growth and friendly role in the global governance.

Moreover, the announcement of the G7-sponsored Build Back Better World (B3W) of US\$ 600 billion and the EU Global Gateway €300 billion plan to counter China's BRI have started a new battle in the world.

It has further divided the world into two distinctive pools. It seems that since China's BRI is the mega project of the 21st century, all member countries, communities and continents alike have outclassed other competitors.

Therefore G7 B3W and EU (GGW) do not have any comparison with China because both are of political specifications.

It is bitter reality that right from the beginning, the United States of America has been assisting other countries with harsh conditions which always ruined their social fabrics, political domains and economic spheres/independence around the globe.

Its more than 835 military bases around the globe has been one of the main concerns of regional and global insecurity.

Moreover, the US latest confession of "Regime Change Doctrine" has now started a hot debate in the world and most of the countries now consider it dangerous for the principles of globalization, national sovereignty, territorial integrity and international laws.

Unfortunately, the Russia-Ukraine conflict has once again increased traditional security threats which have further widened the peace deficit, US-China trade war, ultimately shaken the foundation of global governance.

Moreover, non-state security threats in terms of terrorism, climate change, financial crisis, energy crisis, food crisis, and large-scale contagious diseases are increasingly rambling, bringing exceptional challenges to global governance. In net shell, the US/EU constant superior mentality phobia and hegemonic inertia has further worsened the global governance system and produced serious faulty lines.

In this connection, planned distortion in the domestic affairs of other so-called opponent countries, supply of conditional loans, imposition of economic sanctions and intentionally ignoring the genuine security concerns of main stakeholders (China, Russia, Pakistan etc.) are creating serious issues of security, connectivity, socio-economic prosperity, human survival, quick economic recovery, further consolidation of globalization, economic equality, corporate equity and social justice. A new but imminent currency war between the Dollar and the Yuan is on the card.



In this connection, Chinese BRI is the way forward for achieving the desired goals of greater regional connectivity, increase of trade & commerce activities, FDIs, infrastructural development, eradication of poverty, immense social development, eradication of poverty and generation of new jobs in all the participatory countries and others alike.

<https://pakobserver.net/bri-and-world-canvas-of-geopolitics-by-dr-mehmood-ul-hassan-khan/>

### **China stands by Pakistan in these difficult times: Rong**

Ambassador of China, Nong Rong has said China was eager to support Pakistan in pursuing its development model appropriate for the circumstances on the ground because the two countries were all-weather friends.

The Chinese Ambassador who had his first public engagement following his return to Pakistan, delivered his opening remarks at a dialogue organised by Pakistan-China Institute and Academy of Contemporary China and World Studies on ‘Global Development & Governance’ themed on ‘Governance Experience Exchange Between Pakistan and China’ with speakers from Pakistan and China, a news release said.

Ambassador Rong said through China Pakistan Economic Corridor, China was also eager to expand its exchanges in the area of governance, such as lowering poverty levels and raising peoples’ standards of living.

He said that the upcoming 20th Congress of CPC would make plans for the future and set new objectives that would be accomplished by working together to benefit all peoples. China and Pakistan are strategic allies that have consistently stood by one another through tough times.

Chairman of the Defense Committee of the Senate and Chairman of Pakistan-China Institute, Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed at the outset, extended congratulations to China on the 95th Anniversary of founding of the People’s Liberation Army (PLA) which was specially celebrated at the GHQ as a gesture of goodwill.

Pakistan, he said, was firmly committed to the One-China Policy and to preserving, promoting and protecting the strategic partnership with China.

Vice President and Editor-in-Chief of China International Communications Group, Gao Anming stressed deepening high-quality cooperation under the Belt and Road Initiative and actively promoting the construction of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor.

After the opening remarks, a joint research publication titled “Pakistan’s View On Governance Of China In The New Era (2012-2022): Perception & Inspiration” was released by Ambassador (R) Aizaz Ahmed Chaudhry, former Foreign Secretary and currently DG, Institute of Strategic Studies. While presenting the paper, Aizaz Chaudhry said that China had climbed the ladder of development much faster than other countries. Under Mao Zedong, China focussed on three key areas: universal education, mobilization of women in the workforce, and mobilization of people in the workforce.

President of Academy of Contemporary China and World Studies, Yu Yunquan said that in the report, many Pakistani experts believe that there are two reasons why China can achieve “good governance” in the new era: One is the wise leadership of President Xi Jinping whose thoughts on governing the country have been highly recognized by the international community.

<https://pakobserver.net/china-stands-by-pakistan-in-these-difficult-times-rong/>

### **‘One-China’ policy: Pakistan expresses firm support for China’s sovereignty, territorial integrity**

Islamabad: Pakistan once again reaffirmed its strong commitment to the “One-China” policy and expressed firm support for China’s sovereignty and territorial integrity.

The foreign ministry spokesperson, Asim Iftikhar, said in a statement that Pakistan was deeply concerned over the evolving situation in the Taiwan Strait, which has serious implications for regional peace and stability.

“The world is already reeling through a critical security situation due to the Ukraine conflict, with destabilising implications for international food and energy security. The world cannot afford another crisis that has negative consequences for global peace, security and the economy,” the statement read.

Emphasizing the need for mutual respect in inter-state relations, the statement added that Pakistan always believed in non-interference in internal affairs and the peaceful resolution of issues by upholding principles of the UN charter, international law and bilateral agreements.

China – U.S. relations

The statement comes amid Nancy Pelosi’s visit to Taiwan, which led to the deterioration of relations between China and the United States.

China furiously condemned the highest-level U.S. visit to Taiwan in 25 years as House of Representatives Speaker Nancy Pelosi hailed the self-ruled island as “one of the freest societies in the world” in a speech to the parliament in Taipei on Wednesday.

Beijing demonstrated its anger with Pelosi’s presence on an island that it says is part of China with a burst of military activity in the surrounding waters, and by summoning the U.S. ambassador in Beijing, and announcing the suspension of several agricultural imports from Taiwan.

<https://pakobserver.net/one-china-policy-pakistan-expresses-firm-support-for-chinas-sovereignty-territorial-integrity/>

### **The Express Tribune**

#### **'Govt committed to unlock full potential of CPEC', PM tells Chinese envoy**

Premier Shehbaz also appreciates China’s support for Pakistan’s sovereignty, territorial integrity and development

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday underlined the government's commitment to unlocking the full economic and connectivity potential of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor through expedited and high-quality development of CPEC projects.

He emphasised the importance of key projects like Main Line One (ML-1) and Karachi Circular Railway (KCR) in Pakistan's development plans and expressed a desire to move towards the finalisation of these projects in the upcoming 11th meeting of the CPEC Joint Cooperation Committee. The prime minister expressed these views as he received Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan Nong Rong at the PM House in Islamabad, a statement issued by the PM Media Office said.

Expressing satisfaction on the upward trajectory of high-level exchanges between Pakistan and China, the premier recalled his comprehensive and wide-ranging discussions with Premier Li Keqiang in a telephone call on May 16, 2022, and their consensus to further deepen and strengthen Pakistan-China All-Weather Strategic Cooperative Partnership.

He underscored that Pakistan and China were best friends, staunchest partners and iron brothers, adding that the two nations had always stood by each other through fair weather and times of challenges, and extended support on key issues of core interest.

PM Shehbaz appreciated China's support for Pakistan's sovereignty, territorial integrity and development, including in dealing with the emerging economic challenges and volatility in global supply chains and commodities.

Sharing Pakistan's focus on the early development of CPEC Special Economic Zones (SEZs), he welcomed the increased investments of Chinese enterprises, especially in the country's industrial development. Referring to the increasing bilateral trade volumes and Pakistan's record exports of \$3.6 billion in 2021, the prime minister emphasised that enhanced market access for Pakistani exports to China would help realise the full potential of the Pakistan-China Free Trade Agreement.

The premier was accompanied by Minister for Planning Ahsan Iqbal, Finance Minister Miftah Ismail, Minister of State Foreign Affairs Hina Rabbani Khar and special assistants to PM Tariq Fatemi, Zafarullah Mahmood and Jehanzab Khan.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2368337/govt-committed-to-unlock-full-potential-of-cpec-pm-tells-chinese-envoy>

**August 04, 2022**

**Daily Times**

### **PCJCCI for more copper export to China**

China imports around 51 per cent of copper from various countries which includes Pakistan too. There is a lot more potential in this sector to further enhance trade by introducing contemporary technology and techniques.

This was stated by Pakistan-China Joint Chambers of Commerce and Industry (PCJCCI) President Wang Zihai during a session, held at the Chambers Secretariat, here on Wednesday. He said that export of copper and other copper-related products from the country could help boost local industry. He mentioned that four years back, exports of copper from Pakistan were of only \$106m; however, in the year 2021, copper exports to China have risen to \$600m.

Wang Zihai added that it was to be noted that mining and processing of copper requires a high-end technology and the expertise of Chinese copper processing companies like MCC have played a vital role to develop the Saindak copper mines since 1995 onwards. He said that Saindak Copper-Gold Project is designed to produce and process 12,800 tons of copper ores per day (4.25m tons per year); currently, the output of copper blister is about 13,000 tons annually.

PCJCCI Senior Vice President Ehsan Choudhry said that the current rise in exports is seen through the largest copper reserves of Pakistan ‘Reko Diq project’, which is now functional and would prove to be a game-changer for Pakistan. “If the agreement goes smoothly, then one of the biggest players in the copper industry of China, Metallurgical Corporation of China (MCC) that is mining in Saindak mines, expects to take the export to \$10b per year. ” He added that in addition to Reko Diq and Saindak, Chitral region of northern Pakistan is also very rich in copper reserves, but unfortunately, a huge number of mines in that area are not producing due to lack of modern technology.

PCJCCI Vice President Sarfraz Butt said that over the past 19 years of operation, the project had been making steady profits and paid over \$468m in taxes, fees and profits to the governments of Pakistan and Balochistan and the owner and created more than 1,900 jobs, procured about of various production and living materials worth \$1.1b and contributed to the development of local trade, transportation, logistics and other industries and provided the livelihood to thousands of families in the surrounding areas. He added, “We should work upon the managerial and technical training of our Pakistani workers to improve their capacity so that they can get more benefits from this project.”

PCJCCI Secretary General Salahuddin Hanif highlighted that there is much more potential in the Reko Dik project similar to that of Saindak Copper Gold Project. “We hope that our government will conduct international tenders for these projects as soon as possible and are eager to increase the exports of copper to China,” he added.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/977060/pcjcci-for-more-copper-export-to-china/>

### **Dawn News**

## **Formation of Pak-China research centres proposed**

*Iftikhar A. Khan*

ISLAMABAD: Formation of a consortium of Pakistan-China research centres has been proposed to foster strong collaboration among the academic sector to promote educational ties between the two countries.

This was proposed during a webinar titled '71 years of China Pakistan Research and Development Cooperation: Way Forward'. It was proposed that consortium members would be from China and Pakistan to prepare a road map for collaboration in research.

The consortium would also give recommendations to governments on both sides to consider moving ahead in addressing regional and international challenges.

Institute of Peace and Diplomatic Studies (IPDS) President Farhat Asif said educational collaboration was important between China and Pakistan and this webinar was organised to review research and development progress and build a way forward.

Step aimed at paving the way for educational collaboration, official says

Prof Tang Jun said various joint research programmes between China and Pakistan contributed towards promoting collaboration on issues of mutual interest and there was a growing opportunity for both sides to share research and intellect in various fields.

Ambassador of Pakistan to China Moinul Haq, in his video message, said Pakistan and China's friendship was defined by resilience, trust and active partnership.

The ambassador highlighted the role of research centres and think tanks in exploring the complex matrix of politics, economies and socio-cultural areas of cooperation between Pakistan and China.

ECO Science Foundation President Prof Dr Manzoor Hussain Soomro said Pakistan and China might learn from each other's experience and there were various avenues that could be explored between the two countries in exchange of knowledge and technology.

In the academic session, Dr Zhang Jiegen explained in depth dynamics of geo-strategy, geo-economic and geo-security compulsion that were offering challenges and opportunities for both China and Pakistan.

Prof Dr Zahid Anwar, pro vice-chancellor and director, China Study Centre, University of Peshawar, mentioned various agreements between research centres of China and Pakistan and said these were active agreements that were regular and robust.

Prof Dr Song Zhihui, director, Pakistan Study Centre, Sichuan University, said China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) was an important milestone in China-Pakistan relations and both sides might work together to remove negative propaganda through robust media research and cooperation.

Dr Chen Ruihua, director, China-Pakistan Economic Corridor Research Centre, Kashi University, said Afghanistan and Central Asian states must also be incorporated into the CPEC project as they play a crucial role in integrating the region.

Dr Tahir Mumtaz Awan, head of China Study Centre at Comsats University, Islamabad, mentioned that study institutes are essential towards bridging relations between China and Pakistan for research and development cooperation.

Prof Jin Qiang, assistant director, Intercultural Communication Research Centre, Hebei University in his in depth presentation said that both countries' media have to play a role in refuting negative propaganda of western powers against the Pak-China friendship.

Dr Samina Sabir, coordinator, CPEC Centre, University of Azad Jammu shared about progress in Paksitan-China relations. A large number of students, faculty members from both China and Pakistan participated in the webinar.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1703102/formation-of-pak-china-research-centres-proposed>

### **Pakistan Observer**

#### **China praises PM Shehbaz for pushing ahead building of CPEC**

China on Wednesday highly appreciated Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif for pushing ahead building of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) with new 'Pakistan speed' and acknowledged his untiring efforts for advancing practical cooperation between the two countries.

"We highly appreciate the prime minister's statements. He (Shehbaz Sharif) has done so much for practical cooperation between the two countries," Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying said during her regular briefing in response to a media question.

Shehbaz Sharif in a recent meeting with Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan, Nong Rong underlined his commitment to unlock full economic and connectivity potential of CPEC through expedited and high-quality development of CPEC projects.

The spokesperson remarked that Prime Minister Sharif valued Pakistan's relations with China, adding, "Shehbaz Sharif has many times reaffirmed that Pakistan will push ahead the building of CPEC with new Pakistan speed."

She said that after he took office, Prime Minister Sharif had visited Gwadar port twice and hosted seminar between the Pakistani side and Chinese companies and he had done so much for our practical cooperation.

"So with the guidance of the leaders of both countries and with our concerted efforts, we are seeing a lot of progress being made on CPEC," he added.

Hua Chunying said, "We are ready to further implement well the understandings between the leaders of our two countries and building on what we have achieved and current projects."

She went on to say that the two countries would further focus on industrial development, people's livelihoods, agriculture, Science and Technology and Information Technology etc. to make CPEC into a demonstration project for high quality Belt and Road cooperation.

"This will go a long way for China-Pakistan relations and the China-Pakistan community with a shared future and also the well-being of the two countries and the people around the region," she added.

During the meeting held at PM House last week, the prime minister had emphasized the importance of key projects like Main Line One (ML-1) and Karachi Circular Railway (KCR) in Pakistan's development plans and expressed desire to move towards finalization of these projects in the upcoming 11th meeting of the CPEC Joint Cooperation Committee.—NNI

<https://pakobserver.net/china-praises-pm-shehbaz-for-pushing-ahead-building-of-cpec/>

### **China: A trusted friend**

DELIVERING his opening remarks at a dialogue titled Global Development and Governance held at Pakistan-China Institute and Academy of Contemporary China and World Studies in Islamabad, Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan Nong Rong stated that his country stands by Pakistan in these difficult times as the two countries are strategic allies which stood by each other in the face of all challenges.

The very sentiments expressed by the Chinese envoy are also strongly cherished and valued by a common man in Pakistan.

This bilateral relationship is a unique example in the world which is more than just diplomatic relations as it rests in the hearts of Pakistani people despite cultural and language differences.

Over the years, Beijing has proved to be a true and tested friend of Pakistan. It has always remained at the forefront whenever Pakistan is faced with any economic challenge.

Most recently it rolled over its loan worth over two billion dollars whilst the way Chinese friends extended support to Pakistan in the form of provision of vaccine after the breakout of Covid-19 is also fresh in the minds of Pakistani people.

We have no doubt in saying that there is no other country that Pakistan can trust the most than China.

The people of Pakistan are greatly inspired with the vision of shared prosperity espoused by Chinese President Xi Jinping.

Propelled by that vision is the multibillion dollar CPEC project which has helped Pakistan address its infrastructure and electricity needs.

There are also expectations that this project will also transform Pakistan's industrial, IT and agriculture sectors.

There is a dire need to remove all the bottlenecks in the way of Chinese investment in the SEZs.

Our public and private sector organizations need to enhance the level of engagement with their Chinese counterparts to attract investment in these zones which are of pivotal importance to take the country towards self-reliance and create job opportunities for the youth.

We also need to learn a lot from the Chinese experience to uplift the agriculture sector for enhanced production.

Cooperation in these vital areas will further bring the peoples of two countries close to each other and further strengthen their bonds.

<https://pakobserver.net/china-a-trusted-friend/>

### **China-Pakistan JWG on IT meets virtually to discuss broad-based cooperation**

The first meeting of China- Pakistan Joint Working Group (JWG) on Information Technology Industry was held virtually on Wednesday and discussed avenues for cooperation between the two countries in the Information and Communications Technology (ICT) sector.

The Pakistani side was led by Additional Secretary (Incharge), Ministry of IT and Telecommunication, Mohsin Mushtaq, while the Chinese side was headed by the Vice Minister of Industry and IT of China, Zhang Yunming.

Addressing the meeting, Incharge Secretary, MOITT, Mohsin Mushtaq said both Pakistan and China will benefit from this Joint Working Group and the initiatives that will be completed under this relationship.

This new Joint Working Group on IT under the CPEC will open exciting opportunities for Pakistani tech companies, and facilitate launching of 5G technology in Pakistan, he added.

The meeting was attended by Additional Secretary MoITT, Ms. Aisha Humera Moriani, Member International Coordination, Ajmal Anwar Awan and other senior officers of the Ministry.

<https://pakobserver.net/china-pakistan-jwg-on-it-meets-virtually-to-discuss-broad-based-cooperation/>

### **The News**

#### **China rolls over \$2bn loan for a year**

*Mehtab Haider & Erum Zaidi*

ISLAMABAD/KARACHI: China has rolled over \$2 billion loan in safe deposits for cash-strapped Pakistan's economy amid dwindling foreign exchange reserves, The News has learnt.

Earlier, Pakistan's battered currency appeared robust as it closed at 229 against dollar compared with 240.50 on Tuesday, gaining Rs11.50. It was reported that some exchange companies were selling dollars as low as Rs218 in panic.

"China has rolled over three SAFE deposits. The first deposit of \$500 million was due on June 27, 2022, the second \$500 million matured on June 29, 2022 and the third \$1 billion was due on July 23, 2022. China's State Administration Foreign Exchange (SAFE) deposits of \$2 billion have been rolled over for one year," a top official of the Finance Division confirmed while talking to The News here on Wednesday.



So far in totality, China has rolled over a \$4.3 billion loan, including \$2.3 billion in commercial loans and now \$2 billion in SAFE deposits, making it possible for Islamabad for bridging the external financing gap with a whopping amount of \$35.9 billion for the current fiscal year.

The IMF has linked the possibility of holding a planned tentative Executive Board meeting by end of August 2022 once adequate financing assurances are confirmed.

However, Pakistani authorities have been awaiting for confirmation from friendly countries, especially from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA), Qatar, and the UAE for bridging the financing gap of \$4 billion identified by the IMF for materialising the gross external financing requirements of \$35.9 billion for the current fiscal year.

Saudi Arabia might confirm jacking up the oil facility on deferred payments of \$1.2 billion, making the total oil facility to the tune of \$2.4 billion. Pakistan and the IMF are also discussing the possibility of one billion Special Drawing Rights (SDRs) for conversion into the US dollars for Islamabad. But this conversion of the SDRs facility might take some time because it was just an option for which the mechanism would have to be devised. The UAE might show its interest in getting shares of state-owned enterprises (SOEs), especially in the oil and gas sector but it will take a few months for materialising such commercial transactions. The possibility of gas and RLNG on deferred payment from Qatar is likely to be materialised soon as discussions are underway on this subject. The selling out of RLNG power plants to one friendly country will also take some time but it could fetch \$2-\$3 billion into the national kitty.

All these developments have occurred at a time when the foreign exchange reserves have depleted at an accelerated pace. The foreign exchange reserves held by the State Bank of Pakistan stood at \$20 billion in August 2021 but it nosedived to \$8.5 billion on July 22, 2022. During the week ended on 22-Jul-2022, the SBP's reserves decreased by \$754 million to \$8.5 billion due to external debt and other payments.

On the other hand, it appeared that Pak currency hadn't given up the fight, posting its largest one-day gain ever on the back of higher inflows from exporters and decreased import payments, with hopes that the cash-strapped country was getting closer to securing a bailout from the International Monetary Fund boosting sentiment.

The rupee strengthened to its highest level in nearly two weeks. The local unit closed at 228.80 per dollar versus its previous close of 238.38. It rose by 9.6 rupees, a record highest recovery in absolute terms. The daily surge of 4.19 per cent was the best performance for the rupee since 1999.

The rupee slumped 14.4 percent in July, the biggest monthly fall since 1972. It has depreciated by 23 per cent this year, weighed down by shrinking foreign reserves and concerns over a delay in the IMF loan programme amid political turmoil in the country. The State Bank of Pakistan's foreign exchange reserves fell to \$8.6 billion as of July 22 from \$9.8 billion in June 2022. The reserves are enough to pay for hardly six weeks of imports.

Analysts said the positive statement from the International Monetary Fund, the soft dollar demand from importers to make payments and high greenback selling interest by exporters in anticipation of further strength in the rupee's value in the coming days helped shore up the troubled currency. "Confidence boosting comments from the IMF team have improved sentiment and significant sale of dollars by exporters," said Komal Mansoor, the head of research at the Tresmark, a web-based terminal for financial markets.

The latest trade numbers reduced pressure on the rupee, improving the outlook for the country's fragile current account balance. The country's trade deficit fell 47 per cent month-on-month to \$2.6 billion in July driven by a drop in imports. Total imports dropped to \$4.9 billion in July 2022 from \$7.9 billion in the previous month, the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics reported. The decline in imports was attributed to a ban on some items and lower petroleum imports.

The IMF resident representative in Islamabad, Esther Perez Ruiz, said Pakistan had completed prior actions for the combined seventh and eighth reviews of the Extended Fund Facility, following the increase in petroleum development levy on July 31. This signalled a resumption of the bailout, boosting investor confidence in stabilising the economy.

However, the IMF linked the holding of its Executive Board meeting, which has been planned for late August, with the confirmation that Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates would give an expected \$4 billion loan to the country after the IMF releases its tranche.

Analysts see a sustained rebound in the rupee in the days ahead. "The rupee is likely to continue its appreciating trend due to expected inflows from the IMF and the external assistance from friendly countries. The improvement in the current account deficit amid a decline in imports will help the rupee gain further in the coming days," said Tahir Abbas, the head of research at the Arif Habib Limited. "We expect a smaller current account deficit of \$300-400 million in July, compared with \$2.2 billion in June," Tahir added.

Meanwhile, the State Bank of Pakistan waged a crackdown on exchange firms and banks to arrest the rupee's fall and ensure availability of the foreign currency in the market. "In view of recent volatility in the exchange rate and the difference between the interbank rate and the rate offered by Exchange Companies (ECs) and banks to their customers, the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) has increased the monitoring of the foreign exchange operations of ECs and banks," it said in a statement.

In this respect, the SBP started inspections of a number of Exchange Companies and banks since Monday (August 1, 2022). On Tuesday (August 2, 2022), the SBP suspended the operations of four branches of two ECs (Galaxy Exchange Co and Al-Hameed International Money Exchange Co) for violation of SBP regulations.

The SBP has also imposed monetary penalties on some ECs in the recent past. Besides, due to violations of SBP instructions, arrangements of 13 franchises have been terminated by six different ECs in the recent past.

“The SBP has also started conducting a mystery shopping exercise throughout Pakistan to investigate the apprehensions that some ECs are not selling foreign currency to their customers. A meeting of the Exchange Companies Association of Pakistan has also been called on August 4, 2022,” it said. “If needed, the SBP would augment its enforcement actions on the ECs and banks in light of findings of the ongoing inspections and mystery shopping.”

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=114168>

### Nawaiwaqt News

#### چین، پاکستان کے درمیان شمسی توانائی میں تعاون ناگزیر ہے: چینی میڈیا

اسلام آباد (آئی این پی) چین اور پاکستان کے درمیان شمسی توانائی میں تعاون ناگزیر ہے، چین نے دنیا بھر میں سولر فوٹو وولٹیکس (پی وی) کی لاگت کو کم کرنے میں اہم کردار ادا کیا ہے، سولر پی وی پلانٹس میں 144 ملین ڈالر کی غیر ملکی سرمایہ کاری میں سے 125 ملین ڈالر چین کی ہے۔ پاکستان اور اس کے نجی شعبے کو چین کے ساتھ شمسی توانائی تعاون کو مزید مضبوط بنا کر سنہری موقع سے فائدہ اٹھانا چاہیے۔ چینی کمپنیاں پاکستان کی حکومت اور اس کے نجی شعبے کی شمسی توانائی کی تنصیب اور پیداوار میں مدد کر رہی ہیں۔ رپورٹ کے مطابق حکومت پاکستان کو چاہیے کہ وہ چین سے توانائی کے خسارے پر قابو پانے کے لیے مدد حاصل کرے کیونکہ یہ ملک دنیا میں صاف توانائی خصوصاً شمسی اور ہوا کے سب سے بڑے فروغ دینے والے اور سرمایہ کاروں میں سے ایک ہے۔ گوادرو پروکے مطابق بین الاقوامی توانائی ایجنسی نے کہا کہ چین کی جامع پالیسیوں اور جدت نے شمسی توانائی کو کی لاگت کو کم کرنے میں اہم کردار ادا کیا ہے، جس میں صاف توانائی کی منتقلی کے متعدد فوائد ہیں۔ (PV) مزید سستا بنا دیا ہے، چین نے دنیا بھر میں سولر فوٹو وولٹیکس

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/lahore/2022-08-04/page-10/detail-24>

### August 05, 2022

#### Daily Times

#### **Global documentary week on Chinese intangible cultural heritage kicks off**

Since July 20, China Cultural Center in Pakistan has launched a month-long activities with the theme of “Grand Canal Overseas Tourism Promotion Season 2022” on official Facebook page, Wechat official account, channels and other social media platforms.

The eight provinces (cities) along the Grand Canal, including Beijing, Tianjin, Hebei, Shandong, Henan, Jiangsu, Anhui and Zhejiang have all presented their cultural heritage sites, historical and cultural districts and colorful intangible cultures along the canal in this promotion season. Through video display and graphic introduction, we focus on the tourism and cultural resources along the Grand Canal and tell the story of the Grand Canal to Pakistani people.

The promotion season uses video documentaries as the carrier to record and display the Grand Canal Intangible Cultural Heritage, and presents the cultural memory and historical value it carries.

Global screening of the documentary films provided by the National Radio and Television Administration, not only conveyed the skillfulness and depth of the Intangible items by discovering the centuries-old shadow of Kangjian Guilin, silk rugs making techniques, paper-

cutting art and other intangible cultural heritage items etc., but also recorded the cultural tradition of people revering nature.

In today's digitalization and rapidly changing science and technology, intangible cultural heritage plays an important role in enriching our emotional identity and embodying our way of life, and is the root of our culture and the soul of our nation, as well as an important marker for other peoples to know the Chinese nation.

The promotion season will last until August 20. Welcome to follow "China Cultural Center in Pakistan" on Facebook [www.facebook.com/cccenterinpak](http://www.facebook.com/cccenterinpak) and Wechat official account China cultural center and official Wechat Channels to enjoy the beauty of intangible cultural heritage by touring the thousand-year canal.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/977427/global-documentary-week-on-chinese-intangible-cultural-heritage-kicks-off/>

### **Floods: China comes forward for humanitarian aid in Balochistan**

China has also come forward for humanitarian help in Baluchistan in wake of the devastating flood. According to a report published by Gwadar Pro on Thursday, about 800-1,000 food packs were distributed among the families living in the camps in flood-affected areas. China also provided around 300 solar panels as the rain destroyed electricity lines in many areas, leaving people without electricity for days. Meanwhile, the report added, the government of Balochistan has fast-tracked rescue and relief operations using all the resources available and has been grappling with flash floods since the rainy season commenced this year, which continues to spell disasters for local people and infrastructure.

Around 10,000 small embankments and a number of dams have been damaged. Many bridges and roads linking Quetta to Ziarat, Chaman, and Sibi have also been broken due to torrential rains accompanied by the massive flood. The death toll has risen to 149 and it is feared that more losses of lives may occur. Rain submerged dozens of villages, incurring damages to 13,985 houses in the province since June 14, out of which 10,429 were partially damaged and 3,556 were completely destroyed. Uncounted houses collapsed due to heavy rains in Zhob district, rendering many families homeless. Due to the collapse of bridges and the perishing of roads, the Awaran and Kohlo districts were cut from the rest of the province. As per government estimation, 0.2 million acres of agricultural land came under water.

In response to the natural havoc, the government is in full-scale action to accelerate rescue and relief operations in the affected area of Balochistan. Pakistan Army and Navy troops have also been helping the civil administration in the affected areas. Soldiers have been transporting the people trapped in the inundated villages to safe places through helicopters, while food and medical aid are being provided to the affected population. During the relief mission, an army helicopter carrying six officers crashed. As a result, all officers onboard including Gen. Ali, commander of Quetta Corps, Brigadier Amjad Hanif, Brigadier Muhammad Khalid, Major Saeed Ahmed, Major Talha Manan and Naik Mudassar Fayyaz died. Meanwhile, Prime Minister

Shahbaz Sharif paid a visit to flood-hit areas and announced a relief package. He said that families of those who have lost their members to the flood would receive Rs1 million each; Rs50,000 were announced for people whose homes were destroyed, while owners of houses that suffered partial damage will be given Rs200,000.

The relief package includes, 1,000 tents, 1,000 mattresses, 1,000 hygiene kits, 1,000 blankets, 1,000 quilts, 1,000 tarpaulin sheets, 1,000 mosquito nets, and 20 number of de-watering pumps. The government also announced fundraising to provide maximum help to locals. Chief Minister Balochistan Abdul Quddus Bizenjo, provincial ministers and government spokespersons have announced to give half of their salaries to the fundraising programme initiated for the flood-affected families in Balochistan. Minister for Railways Khawaja Saad Rafique said that the federal government and Pakistan Railways are working with the Balochistan government to provide immediate relief to the flood-affected people. In a press conference, the minister said relief centers have been set up at Pakistan Railways from where people can send relief items to the affected people free of cost. The Minister for Railways announced that officers from 17 to 22 grades will donate one day's salary to the flood-affected people.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/977380/floods-china-comes-forward-for-humanitarian-aid-in-balochistan/>

### **Pakistan Observer**

#### **Exclusive Interview with Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan H.E Nong Rong on Pelosi's visit to China's Taiwan region**

Question 1 : On 2 August, in disregard of China's strong opposition and serious representations, Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives Nancy Pelosi visited China's Taiwan region. What's your comment on that?

Ambassador Nong Rong : Pelosi's visit is a serious violation of the one-China principle and the provisions of the three China-US joint communiqués. It has a severe impact on the political foundation of China-US relations and seriously infringes upon China's sovereignty and territorial integrity. It gravely undermines peace and stability across the Taiwan Straits, and sends a seriously wrong signal to the separatist forces for "Taiwan independence". China firmly opposes and sternly condemns this, and has made serious démarche and strong protests against the United States.

There is but one China in the world, Taiwan is an inalienable part of China's territory, and the Government of the People's Republic of China is the sole legal government representing the whole of China. The one-China principle is a universal consensus of the international community and a basic norm in international relations.

Question 2: What kind of measures would China take to counter Pelosi's visit to the Taiwan region?

Ambassador Nong Rong : The Taiwan Straits is facing a new round of tensions and severe challenges, and the fundamental cause is the repeated moves by the Taiwan authorities and the United States to change the status quo. These moves, like playing with fire, are extremely dangerous.

The position of the Chinese Government and people on the Taiwan question has been consistent. It is the firm commitment of the more than 1.4 billion Chinese people to resolutely safeguard state sovereignty and territorial integrity. No country, no forces, and no individual should ever misestimate the firm resolve, strong will, and great capability of the Chinese Government and people to defend state sovereignty and territorial integrity and to achieve national reunification and rejuvenation.

The Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the National People's Congress, the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, the Taiwan Affairs Office of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China, and the Ministry of National Defense all issued statements or remarks condemning it last night. Vice Foreign Minister Xie Feng summoned U.S. Ambassador to China Nicholas Burns for an emergency meeting, stern representations, and strong protests on the U.S. side against Pelosi's visit to China's Taiwan region. State Councilor Wang Yi also made a statement yesterday morning. China will take all necessary measures to resolutely defend national sovereignty and territorial integrity. The US and the "Taiwan independence" separatist forces will be responsible for all consequences.

Question 3: What's the visit's impact on the China-US relationship?

Ambassador Nong Rong : The Taiwan question is the most important and most sensitive issue at the very heart of China-US relations. The right way for them to deal with each other lies only in mutual respect, peaceful coexistence, no-confrontation, and win-win cooperation. The United States should stop supporting and conniving "Taiwan independence" separatist forces in any form. It should stop distorting, obscuring, and hollowing out the one-China principle. It must take credible actions to observe strictly the one-China principle and the provisions of the three China-US joint communiqués, deliver on the "five noes" commitment made by the US leadership (i.e. not seek a "new Cold War"; not seek to change China's system; the revitalization of its alliances is not against China; not support "Taiwan independence"; not look for conflict with China), and not go further down the wrong and dangerous path.

<https://pakobserver.net/exclusive-interview-with-chinese-ambassador-to-pakistan-h-e-nong-rong-on-pelosis-visit-to-chinas-taiwan-region/>

### The News

#### **China has lent Pakistan \$21.9bn since 2018: report**

BEIJING: China has made nearly \$26 billion in short and medium-term loans to Pakistan and Sri Lanka over the past five years as its overseas lending shifts from funding infrastructure toward providing emergency relief, Bloomberg reported.

Data showing the shift in China's \$900 billion Belt and Road Initiative to loans aimed at easing foreign currency shortages since 2018 was compiled by AidData, a research lab at William and Mary, a university in the US.

China has "pivoted in a significant way away from project lending and toward balance of payment lending, doing emergency rescue lending," said Brad Parks, AidData's executive director.

State-owned Chinese banks have lent \$21.9 billion in short-term loans to Pakistan's central bank since July 2018, while Sri Lanka received \$3.8 billion of mostly medium-term lending since October 2018, according to figures compiled by AidData, based on official documents and media reports.

The loans show China is now playing a similar role to the International Monetary Fund, providing financing during balance of payments crises, rather than World Bank-style concessionary project financing to which BRI lending has generally been compared.

Higher US interest rates and energy prices are leading to foreign currency outflows from developing countries that are part of the BRI, increasing their risk of defaulting on foreign-currency debt. About 60% of China's overseas lending is to countries that are now in debt distress, according to researchers at the World Bank.

The People's Bank of China last year issued a \$300 million emergency loan to bolster foreign exchange reserves of its neighbor Laos. Chile expanded a currency swap with China in 2020 to ease its economy through the pandemic, while Bank of China Ltd. the same year made a \$200 million loan to the African Export-Import Bank for a pandemic relief program.

"Beijing has been operating under the assumption that when BRI borrower countries face significant liquidity pressures, the smart move is to keep these countries sufficiently liquid to weather the storm," Parks said.

The loans are "squarely focused on helping the borrower solve two problems: Number one, repay your old project debts, number two, to try to bolster foreign exchange reserves," he added.

China's emergency lending to Pakistan picked up when it started experiencing problems in balancing its international payments in 2017 as a result of surging import costs and overseas debt. The crisis prompted lengthy negotiations with the IMF, which demanded tax hikes as a condition for loans. About 27% of Pakistan's foreign debt is owed to China, according to IMF data, incurred largely as a result of infrastructure projects.

Sri Lanka's problems servicing foreign debt worsened as a result of the pandemic, when international tourism, a key source of foreign currency, collapsed and reached a crisis point this year as oil prices spiked. It has also been seeking IMF loans and pledged to slash government spending. About 10% of Sri Lanka's foreign debt is owed to China, the government says.

China's emergency loans tend to carry variable interest rates, rather than fixed ones as was typical with infrastructure lending, according to Parks. Maturities are much shorter than the 10-20 years typical for infrastructure loans.

Emergency lending to Pakistan generally carried maturities of 1-3 years and interest rates calculated according to prevailing interbank lending rates in London or Shanghai, plus a one to three percentage point margin, according to AidData.

The lending to Sri Lanka generally carried a maturity of around 10 years, a grace period of 3 years and interest rates calculated according to the LIBOR benchmark rate plus a margin of around 2.5 percentage points.

The loans to Pakistan and Sri Lanka came mainly from the PBOC in the form of currency swaps and loans from China Development Bank, Bank of China and Industrial and Commercial Bank of China Ltd., according to AidData.

The PBOC and central banks in Sri Lanka and Pakistan didn't immediately respond to requests seeking comment. The Chinese banks and State Administration of Foreign Exchange also didn't respond.

Countries with balance of payments issues are increasingly drawing on currency-swap arrangements with the PBOC, providing them with renminbi, which can also be sold for dollars.

While such deals boost countries' foreign-currency reserves in the short run, "in net terms none of the fundamentals have changed, that money goes in and right back out," said Parks. "If there's a solvency problem rather than a liquidity problem you are potentially making things worse."

China's central bank has signed swap agreements with 40 countries and regions worth nearly 4 trillion yuan (\$590 billion), according to an official report. Countries have turned to them during emergencies before, with Argentina drawing on a Chinese swap line in 2014.

Mongolia's liability to China from the swap arrangement, which it started drawing on around a decade ago, has been extended several times and is now worth \$1.8 billion, or 14% of Mongolia's GDP, with a due date of 2023, according to the IMF's most recent report on the country.

China has a record of doubling-down on lending to countries experiencing payment difficulties. When oil price declines made it difficult for Angola to repay debt to China in 2016, China stepped-up lending to the African nation to \$19 billion in a single year rather than allow a major trading partner to default, according to a report by Boston University.

China's BRI lending aims to allow China to earn returns from its more than \$3 trillion of foreign exchange reserves, while filling a huge infrastructure deficit in developing countries. BRI lending has slowed sharply since 2017 for multiple reasons, including slower growth in China, lower commodity prices, a growing number of infrastructure projects facing difficulties and a domestic campaign against financial risks.



China's total financial engagement since the BRI's launch in 2013 is \$931 billion, according to the Green Finance & Development Center, an affiliate of Fudan University in Shanghai. There was \$28.4 billion in financing and investments for BRI projects in the first six months of this year, down 40% on the same period in 2019, it said. Sri Lanka received no new loans over the period.

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=114584>

**August 06, 2022**

**Dawn News**

### **Sindh to partner Chinese firm in bus-making plant**

KARACHI: Having the single largest manufacturing plant in the world, the Chinese bus-making company is considering producing 500 buses annually from its plant it plans to be built in a Sindh city in the next 16 to 20 months.

This was emerged during a meeting between Sindh Transport Minister Sharjeel Inam Memon and Yutong Buses China country manager Paul Zhang.

This was the second such meeting between the two sides since the previous month when the Chinese giant actually announced to set up a public transport plant in either Karachi or Hyderabad.

The fresh meeting reviewed the progress on setting up the public transport manufacturing plant in Sindh.

“The meeting was informed that the plant will be set up on 15 to 18 acres of land, which will have the capacity to manufacture 500 buses annually, while the plant will be set up in 16 to 20 months,” said a statement issued after the meeting. “Mr Memon told the Chinese investors that the Sindh government could share partnership in the manufacturing plant through Sindh Bank and Mass Transit Authority. He also suggested Yutong to bring a local partner from the private sector.”

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1703419>

**The Express Tribune**

### **Envoy promotes industrial relocation from China**

Underscores need for enhancing business-to-business exchanges

ISLAMABAD: Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan Nong Rong on Thursday met with Federal Minister for Board of Investment (BOI), China Affairs and Special Initiatives Chaudhry Salik Hussain and exchanged views on enhancing bilateral business and initiatives in the backdrop of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

The ambassador hosted a dinner reception in honour of the federal minister where BOI Secretary Asad Rehman Gillani, Additional Secretary Khashih Rehman and CPEC-ICDP Project Director Asim Ayub were also present.

The envoy highlighted the need for enhancing business-to-business and people-to-people exchanges in the backdrop of the CPEC IC Framework Agreement and Long-Term Plan, thereby promoting the industrial relocation from China to Pakistan and ensuring the success of second phase of CPEC.

The federal minister expressed hope that the ambassador may continue referring Chinese investors to the BOI. "BOI being the first point of contact for the investors will leave no stone unturned to facilitate and welcome the Chinese brothers in Pakistan," Hussain said.

He told Nong that he had been personally interacting with the Chinese investors on a frequent basis and assured him that he would continue to step in to address the grievances and issues of the Chinese companies, referred to by the ambassador.

BOI officials agreed that renewed efforts to enhance industrial cooperation were the need of the hour and announced that a team had been formed in that regard.

The team will work to take on board local chambers and private sector stakeholders relating to Pakistani and Chinese businesses operating within and outside Pakistan.

It will extend the government's full support for ensuring joint ventures and cooperation between the companies of both countries.

In addition to this, the Chinese Consulates in Lahore and Karachi have also joined hands and will be working vigorously to ensure industrial relocation and cooperation with China.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2369752/envoy-promotes-industrial-relocation-from-china>

### Nawaiwaqt News

#### پاکستان چین سے توانائی خسارے پر قابو پانے کیلئے مدد حاصل کرے: ڈاکٹر محمود الحسن

لاہور (این این آئی) سینئر فار سائو تھ ایشیا اینڈ انٹرنیشنل اسٹڈیز اسلام آباد کے ڈائریکٹر، چین، سی پیک سی اور بی آر آئی کے علاقائی ماہر ڈاکٹر محمود الحسن خان نے کہا ہے کہ حکومت پاکستان چین سے توانائی کے خسارے پر قابو پانے کے لیے مدد حاصل کرے کیونکہ یہ ملک دنیا میں صاف توانائی خصوصاً شمسی اور ہوا کے سب سے بڑے فروغ دینے والے اور سرمایہ کاروں میں سے ایک ہے۔ ایک انٹرویو میں انہوں نے کہا کہ دنیا کے پانچ بڑے قابل تجدید توانائی کے معاہدوں میں سے چار پر 2016 میں چینی نجی کمپنیوں نے دستخط کیے تھے۔ ملک نے جنوری سے جون تک تقریباً 31 گیگا واٹ نئی شمسی توانائی کی صلاحیت کی تعمیر کی جو ایک سال پہلے کے مقابلے میں 137 فیصد زیادہ ہے۔ بین الاقوامی توانائی ایجنسی نے کہا کہ چین کی جامع پالیسیوں اور جدت نے شمسی توانائی کو مزید مستبانہ بنا دیا ہے۔ چین نے دنیا بھر میں سولر فوٹو وولٹیکس کی لاگت کو کم کرنے میں اہم کردار ادا کیا ہے، جس میں صاف توانائی کی منتقلی کے متعدد فوائد ہیں۔ اس طرح حکومت پاکستان اور اس کے نجی شعبے کو چین کے ساتھ شمسی توانائی کے تعاون کو مزید مضبوط کرنے کے لیے اس سہری موقع سے فائدہ اٹھانا چاہیے۔ چین کم کاربنائزیشن اور کاربن نیوٹرلٹی کے ہدف کو حاصل کرنے کے لیے ہو اور شمسی توانائی کے بڑے منصوبے بنانے کا ارادہ رکھتا ہے۔ تجزیے سے پتہ چلتا ہے کہ چین 2021 سے 2025 تک 14 ویں پانچ سالہ منصوبہ کی مدت میں کم از کم 570 گیگا واٹ ہو اور شمسی توانائی کا اضافہ کرنے کے لیے تیار ہے۔ چین

صحرائے گوبی اور دیگر بنجر علاقوں میں وینڈ اور شمسی توانائی کے بڑے منصوبوں کی دوسری کھیپ کی تعمیر کو تیز کرنے کا ارادہ رکھتا ہے جسے پاکستان کے صحرائی علاقوں میں بھی نقل کیا جاسکتا ہے۔ پاکستان کے بورڈ آف انویسٹمنٹ کی تازہ ترین شائع شدہ رپورٹ کے مطابق سولر پی وی پلانٹس میں 144 ملین ڈالر کی غیر ملکی سرمایہ کاری میں سے 125 ملین ڈالر چین کی ہے جو کل کا تقریباً 87 فیصد ہے۔ پاکستان سولر انرجی مارکیٹ میں 2022 سے 2027 تک 2.5 فیصد کمپائڈ اینول گروتھ ریٹ ریکارڈ کرنے کی توقع ہے۔ بد قسمتی سے آپریشنل سولر پی وی پلانٹس کی اوسط یوٹیلائزیشن ریٹ 95 فیصد سے زیادہ استعمال سے تقریباً 19 فیصد دور ہے۔ چین میں شرح ٹیپ کیے جانے کے بڑے مواقع کی نمائندگی کرتی ہے۔ اس لیے دونوں ممالک کو جلد از جلد شمسی توانائی کی پیداوار میں تعاون بڑھانا چاہیے۔

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/lahore/2022-08-06/page-12/detail-25>

**August 07, 2022**

**Daily Times**

### **China's Zonergy provides free solar power plants for hospital**

China's renewable energy solutions conglomerate Zonergy has installed four solar power plants at different buildings of Bahawal Victoria Hospital in Bahawalpur, Gwadar Pro reported on Saturday. The plants, having a total peak generation capacity of 325kW, have been installed by the Chinese company free of cost under its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) agreement with the government of Punjab.

A 40kW solar power plant was set up at the hospital's blood bank, which caters for the whole region. Other plants were installed at the emergency building and cardiac and kidney centres. The solar plants also have storage facilities, which will resolve the issue of power outages at the hospital's critical departments.

The administration of the hospital has recognised and appreciated Zonergy for the completion of the project at one of the key hospitals in a relatively less-developed area of Punjab. Zonergy has completed a 300 megawatts solar power plant project in Bahawalpur under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) initiative. The company will expand the project up to 900 MWs with a total investment of US\$1.5 billion. The project caters for the need of 200,000 households and has created 3,000 jobs for Pakistani youth.

The company's CSR initiative also includes an annual internship programme for two public-sector universities of Bahawalpur, installation of solar power plants (20+25 kW) at two degree colleges, a 15 kW solar power plant at the Bhaili Higher Secondary School, Multan, 5kW solar power plant in emergency departments of two hospitals at Bahawalpur and Multan. The offer also includes development of two resource centres for training on solar and other renewable energy technologies at two universities of Bahawalpur and Multan, installation of 180 kW solar power plant at Nishtar Hospital, Multan and installation of water filtration plant in Bahawalpur.

Meanwhile, according to another Gwadar Pro's report, China Machinery Engineering Corp. (CMEC) successfully commissioned two gas turbines (405 MWs each) of the Punjab Thermal Power Ltd. (PTPL) power plant in the Jhang district. "We have started simple-cycle commercial

operations from the two RLNG-based gas turbines of total 810 megawatts capacity”, PTPL said. Work on the 443 MWs steam turbine is also underway at fast pace to achieve the combined-cycle commercial operations, it added.

CMEC executed the project as the EPC (Engineering, Procurement and Construction) contractor. PTPL has also signed an agreement with CMEC for operating the two gas turbines until the steam turbine is put into commercial operations, after which the two parties will renew the agreement to include the combined-cycle operations as well, an official of the CMEC said.

Work on the steam unit is almost complete but will take around six more months in achieving commercial operations due to complicated pre-commissioning procedures including chemical cleaning of the boiler, the official said. The plant has a total combined-cycle capacity of 1242 MWs, the report added.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/978460/chinas-zonergy-provides-free-solar-power-plants-for-hospital/>

### **Dawn News**

#### **PR team to inspect prototypes of Chinese coaches**

*Khalid Hasnain*

LAHORE: The Pakistan Railways (PR), in near future, is all set to inspect prototype models of the state-of-the-art passenger coaches and high-capacity freight wagons it wants to procure from a leading Chinese company.

Several junior and senior officials will also travel to China soon where some of them will inspect the models (as per specifications, designs etc) and some will take part in training being organised by the Chinese firm as a part of two different contracts to transfer technology of manufacturing modern coaches in Pakistan, Dawn has learnt.

“Under \$140 million contract (Rs31 billion approximately) awarded by Pakistan Railways, a Chinese company is liable to manufacture 230 state-of-the-art passenger coaches, out of which 46 will be provided to us in the form of completely built unit (CBU) and the remaining 184 will be manufactured here in Pakistan by our engineers and technical staff under supervision of the Chinese,” PR’s Chief Mechanical Engineer (CME) Abdul Haseeb explained while talking to Dawn on Saturday.

“The contract of procuring 800 wagons and 20 brake wagons is separate to this contract,” he added.

Officials will visit China for training as a part of technology transfer

The manufacturing of 184 coaches in Pakistan, according to him, is a part of the contract called “Transfer of Technology” after which the PR would not require any help from China for manufacturing of such rolling stock.

To a question, Mr Haseeb said, for the coaches planned to be manufactured in Pakistan (The PR Carriage Factory, Islamabad), the Chinese firm would be responsible to provide spare parts and raw material.

He said the officials proceeding to China included 18 for design inspection, 20 for other sorts of inspections and the rest for participating in the training related to transfer of technology.

To another question, he said the expense to be incurred on travelling, TA/DA, lodging, boarding would be borne by the firm since it is a part of the contract.

According to another contract, the PR is set to procure as many as 800 high capacity wagons and 20 brake vans and a letter of credit has already been opened in March, this year.

Under the contract agreement clause No. 9.3.1 and 14,1.2 and 24, inspectors for a period of 21 days each will visit manufacturers' premises for inspection and training purposes.

“The officers nominated are due to the reason that the design/prototype approval/inspection is carried out by the senior officials being complicated in nature and the officers selected are from the available pool,” reads a letter issued recently.

Meanwhile, the names of the officials proceeding to China soon to inspect the models and get training have been announced by the PR.

The officials (from grade 5 and above) included Shahid Aziz (AGM-mechanical), Salman Sadiq Sheikh (GM, maintenance & service), Adnan Shafai ( PR, rehabilitation), Rahat Mirza (divisional superintendent), Abdul Malik (DG planning), Aqeel Yousaf (MD, Risalpur Loco factory), Iftikhar Hussain (PD), Muhammad Yousaf Leghari (PD), Abdul Haseeb Bhurgri (chief mechanical engineer), Kashif Rasheed Yousfani (DS), Kashif Farooq (Deputy CME), Muhammad Farooq (deputy chief engineer), Hamdan Nazir (deputy chief goods operation), Zulfiqar Sheikh (deputy CM Loco), Imtiaz Hussain Farooqi (director operations), Fahad Masood Janjua (deputy director), Muhammad Fasahatullah (DME), Muhammad Ishtiaq Abbasi (workshop manager), Sarmad Ibrahim (DME), Muhammad Amir (EFO), Rehan Ahmad (train examiner, washing line), Hafiz Muhammad Javed (train examiner), Attaullah Ansari (carriage inspector) and Amanullah Ansari (head train examiner).

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1703637>

### **Pakistan Observer**

#### **China's consistent position**

ON the third anniversary of India's unilateral and illegal actions in illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir in violation of UN resolutions, Spokesperson of Chinese Foreign Embassy Hua Chunying during his regular press briefing on Friday called for the resolution of longstanding dispute peacefully through dialogue and consultations for regional peace and stability.

Whilst always expressing firm support to Pakistan in safeguarding its territorial integrity, sovereignty and independence, China's position vis-à-vis Kashmir dispute has remained very consistent.

It has supported peaceful resolution of the dispute whilst rejecting any unilateral actions that change the status quo or escalate the tensions.

China is only amongst the few voices in the world which has openly supported the oppressed Kashmiri people.

It is also for other major capitals to stand with the oppressed rather than the oppressor which has broken all records of brutalities in the occupied territory and is now bent upon changing its demographic composition to turn Muslim majority into minority by settling the Hindus from India in the disputed territory.

This indeed is in total violation of the UN Security Council resolutions and other international conventions.

The world community, especially those having close links with New Delhi, will have to shun political and economic expediency and use their influence to get human rights violations stopped in occupied Kashmir.

Time has come to heal the wounds of Kashmiri people and fulfill the promises made to them over seven decades ago.

Failure on Kashmir in fact also raises many questions on the human rights mantra that the western countries always speak of.

There should not be double standards on protection of human rights. As regards dialogue on Kashmir, Pakistan has always kept its doors open.

However, ever since the 5th of August's controversial and subsequent provocative steps, onus lies with India to create an enabling environment for it.

History is testimony to the fact that the struggle waged for freedom can never be suppressed through use of force.

India has also been trying relentless force against innocent and armless Kashmiris but this has not shaken their resolve.

It will be better for India to see the writing on the wall and sit with Pakistan and genuine Kashmiri leadership for the resolution of the dispute.

This will also open new vistas of cooperation not only between Pakistan and India but the whole region.

<https://pakobserver.net/chinas-consistent-position/>

## The Nation

### **Gwadar International Airport To Be Operational In Sept 2023: GDA DG**

LAHORE – Director General of the Gwadar Development Authority (GDA), Mujeeb Ur Rehman Qambrani has said that the Gwadar Port is going to be a shining pearl in the entire region, as the largest Gwadar International Airport would be operational next year in September 2023 to connect it to the major cities of Pakistan and the world.

In a presentation to the business community of Punjab’s provincial capital, the GDA DG stated that the seaport was getting ready to anchor the ships of up to 70,000 metric tons. He announced that the Gwadar is now being linked to the national grid by the end of next year, as an agreement of power supply of 100MW has been signed in this regard to lessen city’s dependence on electricity supply from Iran. Moreover, the 300MW coal power plant is also under construction to fulfill the immediate electricity needs of this coastal city. He revealed the GDA was going to have a big investment conference in Gwadar to attract new investment in manufacturing sector in the area.

The director general of GDA informed the businessmen that a chain of International Sea Food is being launched in Gwadar’s West Bay’s kaleidoscopic waters, transforming this site into a major tourist attraction. He revealed in his presentation that a dispute resolution committee was also formed to address the grievances of the new allottees in this area. In the presentation, Mujeeb Qambrani detailed the various other mega activities in Gwadar and glimpsed the future of the geostrategic future corridor of energy, trade, and logistics to center 70% of the world.

With a view to closely interact with the business community of the upcountry, Mujeeb Qambrani visited Lahore’s major industrial associations, textile bodies, auto parts manufacturers, chambers and trade bodies’ representatives, including Pakistan Industrial & Traders Associations Front (PIAF), the Businessmen Panel (BMP), Lahore Chamber of Commerce & Industry, Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry, PAAPAM, Daroghawala Industrial Association, Sunder Industrial Estate and the members of the Transport Association. The GDA DG also participated in the recently-held Pakistan Auto Show 2022 with a view to making liaison with the investors, who had never visited Gwadar to convince them to set up the industrial units in the coastal city. He said that two new dams and desalination plants have been set up to meet the water requirement of the city, which was earlier facing shortage of water. He said that Balochistan is the less developed province of Pakistan. Climate change is showing disastrous impacts on the province. Along with that, people, living in various regions, don’t have access to clean drinking water. In such a situation, desalination plants could be a feasible option not only in Gawadar but also in the whole province. For business and industrial activities, Gwadar was getting a tax holiday; and a special economic zone to remove the hierarchy and introduced the flat-management system to scramble up the decision-making. All is set to opening a single window for the investors.

He reiterated that the whole country attaches great importance to the development of Gwadar Port, which would become a shining pearl of the region. He said Gwadar would enjoy a bright future with the development of port industries, by building export processing zones. By developing the port, the city will be developed as a whole, thus to become a benchmark for harmonious development, as well as a demonstration window for the success of Belt and Road Initiative. He appreciated the efforts made by the armed forces in safeguarding the CPEC projects, underscoring that the safety is the premise of everything. The businessmen, while participating in the presentation, said that Gwadar was the hub of CEPC, which could pull out the country from the economic crises. Unfortunately, Gwadar had to face many podiums, which halted its journey. The trade and industry representatives assured that they were willing to initiate their new ventures in the port city if Balochistan govt can control the law and order situation, provide ease of doing business, eradicate land disputes and start infrastructure development on a fast track.

<https://nation.com.pk/2022/08/07/gwadar-international-airport-to-be-operational-in-sept-2023-gda-dg/>

**August 08, 2022**

**Daily Times**

**CPEC in Limbo**

*Iftexhar A Khan*

Among the national priorities, securing an IMF loan occupied the top position for the last few years. Our economy is dependent on loans. Otherwise, the threat of default looms large over the horizon. Now the terms dictated by the IMF have been met, especially by hiking the utility prices of the government. The decision hit the lower segment of the society hard and the government standing in the public suffered.

Depending on foreign loans to run the economy has gone on for the last many years. The main beneficiaries of the loans are the upper layers of the society addicted to living beyond the national means- the officialdom. Since getting an IMF loan is our absolute compulsion, we have to adhere to the trappings associated with it. Presumably, putting the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor on the backburner is one such before releasing the loan. Even though this precondition is neither declared publically nor spelt out in writing. It's however clearly evident as keeping China at bay at all costs is the pivot of US foreign policy.

The difference between the US and China's foreign policies is that the former makes the poor nations subservient to its dictates by doling out dollars in cash while the latter prefers to carry out development projects in those countries. China's development in Africa and the establishment of the Metro train transport system in Iran are evidence of its performance. Although CPEC was conceived earlier, the real impetus it received was during Nawaz Sharif's tenure in the government.



It's about time to understand that our salvation lies by looking east toward China and Russia, our adjoining neighbours.

As the nation had always been deficient in power supply, Nawaz Sharif convinced China to give top preference to setting up energy projects. Establishing power plants was the cornerstone of his 2013 election policy. It also suited China since it was part of the CPEC plan to set up factories in Pakistan that would need the power to run them. When the PTI government took over, the CPEC development slackened. Some PTI stalwarts even demanded to re-evaluate the cost and feasibility of the projects. It was only meant to create stumbling blocks in the way of progress to tarnish the image of the previous government. Any further progress on CPEC projects suffered, including expansion of the railway system, which aimed at upgrading the Karachi-Peshawar railway track and the signalling system for faster movement of trains. It suited both China and Pakistan.

Moreover, China imports oil from the Gulf States. Presently, its cargo traverses a distance of about 16000 km passing through the Strait of Malacca. The sea route is susceptible to foreign aggression, which could result in the blockage of oil supplies critical to China's economy. On the other hand, the same cargo travelling from Gwadar deep sea port to western China province of Xinxiang will only have to travel 4000 km – a huge saving both in time and money.

CPEC's critics thought that China would reap higher financial benefits on its investment in Pakistan than we would. This argument sickens. Consider, for example, the immense mineral wealth underneath the jagged land of Balochistan. Of what use is it for us if we cannot utilise it to develop the poorest of the provinces and improve the overall economy of the country? For many years we have been hearing the news about how Baluchistan contains minerals and metals, including copper, lithium and gold waiting to be exploited. Why haven't we been able to do it?

Let's admit we neither have the capacity nor the resources and technology to explore and dig out the underground mineral wealth. But whenever a contract is awarded to some foreign companies, the critics of the project begin to holler that we had been defrauded. Former CJP Iftikhar Chaudhry and his two brother judges cancelled the Reko Diq project that cost the country hundreds of millions in fines imposed by an international court of arbitration.

It's about time to understand that our salvation lies by looking east toward China and Russia, our adjoining neighbours. We will neither have to fight wars at the behest of the superpower nor will we be dictated to act as pawns in its overall policy in the region. The loss of thousands of our citizens as a result of the Afghan war should be an enduring lesson for us to stay out of US-instigated wars, which primarily aim at creating US hegemony in the region and benefit its weapon manufacturers. We must divert to CPEC – our economic lifeline. Once considered the game-changer of the economy of this poor nation has been consigned to oblivion. The dazzle of the greenbacks has had the better of the CPEC.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/978781/cpec-in-limbo/>

## The Nation

### **Pakistan Stands With China On ‘One China’ Issue**

*SHAFQAT ALI*

ISLAMABAD – Pakistan has proven its iron-clad friendship with China by standing with the all-weather friend amid Beijing’s tensions with Washington on the Taiwan issue.

The China-US tension worsened after US House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, who is second in line to the Oval Office after the US vice-president, visited Taiwan and reaffirmed her country’s unwavering commitment to supporting Taiwan’s ‘democracy.’

Pelosi’s visit infuriated China as Beijing believes it was a violation of the ‘One-China’ policy, however, the US claims this trip in no way contradicted long-standing US policy on the self-governed island.

Pakistan, which is trying to improve ties with the US, came out to stand with China on the ‘One China’ issue. This was significant when Islamabad awaits release of funds by the International Monetary Fund as part of a bailout package amid dwindling economy.

In a quick response, Pakistan’s foreign office said: “Pakistan is deeply concerned over the evolving situation in the Taiwan Strait, which has serious implications for regional peace and stability.”

It added that the country stands by ‘One-China’ policy and has a strong commitment to it. Citing the situation in Eastern Europe and its fallouts, Pakistan Foreign Office said that the world is already witnessing a security situation and destabilising implications for international food and energy security.

“The world cannot afford another crisis that has negative consequences for global peace, security and economy,” the FO maintained.

The ‘One-China’ policy is the diplomatic acknowledgement of China’s position that there is only one Chinese government. Under the policy, the US recognizes and has formal ties with China rather than the island of Taiwan, which China sees as a breakaway province to be reunified with the mainland one day.

China said that Pelosi’s Taiwan visit was a serious violation of the One-China principle and the provisions of the joint communiqué signed between the two countries. It had also announced live firing as part of its military operations near Taiwan in response to Pelosi’s visit.

House Speaker Pelosi issued a statement in which she described her high-stakes trip to Taipei as a “strong statement that America stands with Taiwan.”

Pakistan’s unwavering support won China’s praise. In various statements, Chinese officials said that Pakistan and China were close friends who were committed to regional progress. International Affairs expert Dr Rizwan Naseer said Pakistan and China have been enjoying

friendly relations for the last many decades. He said China has adopted the policy of ‘Sharing prosperity with the rest of the world.’ He said China wanted to extend its economic policies across the globe. “China is eager to support Pakistan in pursuing its development model appropriate for the circumstances on the ground because the two countries are all-weather friends,” he added.

Last week, Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan Nong Rong said China stands by Pakistan in these difficult times as the two countries were strategic allies which stood by each other in the face of all challenges.

“China is eager to support Pakistan in pursuing its development model appropriate for the circumstances on the ground because the two countries are all-weather friends,” he remarked at an event.

<https://nation.com.pk/2022/08/08/pakistan-stands-with-china-on-one-china-issue/>

### Nawaiwaqt News

#### چین کا مسئلہ کشمیر کو عالمی سطح پر اجاگر کرنا خوش آئند ہے

مسئلہ کشمیر پر جو ملک ہمیشہ پاکستان کے ساتھ کھڑے رہے ہیں اور مختلف علاقائی، بین الاقوامی اور عالمی فورمز پر جنھوں نے پاکستان کے موقف کی بار بار تائید و حمایت کی ہے چین ان میں سے ایک ہے۔ چین کے ساتھ کی وجہ ہی سے بھارت کو کئی اہم بین الاقوامی فورمز پر منہ کی کھانی پڑی ہے۔ اقوام متحدہ کی سلامتی کونسل دنیا میں مختلف بین الاقوامی تنازعات کو زیر بحث لانے اور ان کے حل سے متعلق اہم ترین فورم سمجھی جاتی ہے، چین نے اس فورم پر بھی کئی بار اپنے واضح اور دو ٹوک موقف کے ذریعے عالمی برادری کو یہ باور کرایا کہ وہ بھارت کو خطے میں طاقت کے توازن اور معاملات کو بگاڑنے کے لیے جموں و کشمیر پر اپنا غاصبانہ تسلط قائم رکھنے پر خاموشی اختیار نہیں کرے گا۔ چین کے یہ معاملات اس کی پاکستان کے ساتھ لازوال دوستی کی دلیل بھی ہیں اور خطے میں طاقت کے توازن کو قائم رکھنے کے لیے ایک اہم عامل کے طور پر اس کی مستحکم حیثیت کا اعلان بھی۔

اب ایک بار پھر چینی وزارت خارجہ کی طرف سے کہا گیا ہے کہ پاکستان اور بھارت کو مشورہ دیا ہے کہ مسئلہ کشمیر کو مذاکرات کے ذریعے حل کرنا چاہیے۔ متعلقہ فریقوں کو تحمل اور بردباری کا مظاہرہ کرنا چاہیے۔ خاص طور پر فریقین کو کشیدگی کو بڑھانے والے یکطرفہ اقدامات سے گریز کرنا چاہیے۔ چینی وزارت خارجہ کی خاتون ترجمان ہو اچن ینگ نے کہا ہے کہ مسئلہ کشمیر پر چین کا موقف واضح اور مستقل ہے اور علاقائی امن و استحکام کے لیے دیرینہ تنازعہ کو مذاکرات اور مشاورت کے ذریعے حل کرنا چاہیے۔ ترجمان ہو اچن ینگ نے ایک سوال کے جواب میں کہا کہ کشمیر کے معاملے پر چین کا موقف واضح اور مستقل ہے۔ یہ بھارت اور پاکستان کے درمیان تاریخ کا چھوڑا ہوا ایک مسئلہ ہے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ بین الاقوامی برادری بھی اس مسئلے کے بارے میں ایک مشترکہ نقطہ نظر رکھتی ہے۔ ترجمان نے کہا کہ درحقیقت چین نے تین برس قبل بھی یہی کہا تھا کہ متعلقہ فریقوں کو تحمل اور تدبر کا مظاہرہ کرنا چاہیے اور ان یکطرفہ اقدامات سے گریز کرنا چاہیے جن سے کشیدگی میں اضافے کا خطرہ ہو۔

ادھر، ناروے کے سابق وزیر اعظم کیپل میگنہ بونڈیوک نے مسئلہ کشمیر کے حل کو ناگزیر قرار دیتے ہوئے کہا کہ وہ اس ضمن میں ثالثی کا کردار بھی ادا کریں گے۔ امریکی دار الحکومت واشنگٹن میں واقع پاکستانی سفارتخانے کے زیر اہتمام تیسرے ‘یوم استیصال کشمیر’ کے موقع پر منعقدہ ویڈیو سے خطاب کرتے ہوئے سابق ناروے کے وزیر اعظم نے بتایا کہ مسئلہ کشمیر کے حل کے لیے انھوں نے بھارت سمیت سری نگر، مظفر آباد اور اسلام آباد کا دورہ بھی کیا۔ اس موقع پر پاکستانی سفیر مسعود خان نے کہا کہ اقوام متحدہ کو

مسئلہ کشمیر کے حل کے لیے اقدامات اٹھانے چاہیے اور سلامتی کونسل کے مستقل ارکان کو اس صورت حال کا نوٹس لینا چاہیے اگر مسئلہ کشمیر فوری حل نہ ہو تو یہ تنازعہ بین الاقوامی سلامتی کے لیے خطرہ ہو گا۔ سینیٹر مشاہد حسین نے اس بات پر روشنی ڈالی کہ 5 اگست 2019ء سے اب تک 15000 سیاسی قیدی بھارت کی قید میں ہیں جبکہ معیشت کو 5.3 ارب ڈالر کے نقصان اور اپنا بچ لاکھ ملازمتیں ختم ہوئیں۔ ویسینار میں برطانوی ہاؤس آف کامنز کے ڈپٹی لیڈر برطانیہ کے ایم پی افضل خان، شمیم شال، لارڈ واجد خان اور کشمیری امریکن رضوان قادر نے بھی شرکت کی۔

چینی وزارت خارجہ کا مذکورہ بیان اور واشنگٹن میں ہونے والا ویسینار دونوں ہی بہت اہمیت کی حامل ہیں کیونکہ ان کی وجہ سے مسئلہ کشمیر کے بارے میں دنیا کی آبادی کے ان گوشوں تک بھی آواز پہنچے گی جو اس معاملے کی سنگینی سے پوری طرح آگاہ نہیں ہیں۔ ایسے ویسینار اور دیگر پروگرام ایک تسلسل سے منعقد ہونے چاہئیں تاکہ دنیا کو بھارت کی چہرہ دستیوں اور نپتے کشمیریوں پر ڈھائے جانے والے مظالم سے مسلسل آگاہ کیا جاسکے۔ چین اور دیگر ہم خیال اور دوست ممالک کو ساتھ ملا کر ہم دنیا بھر میں کشمیریوں پر ہونے والے مظالم کا مسلسل چرچا کر سکتے ہیں جس سے دنیا بھر میں بسنے والے لوگوں کو یہ پتا چلے گا کہ بھارت کس طرح ظلم و ستم کر کے کشمیریوں کو ان کے بنیادی حقوق سے محروم کر رہا ہے اور اس کی وجہ سے جموں و کشمیر کا علاقہ اپنے ہی باسیوں کے لیے ایک قید خانہ بن کر رہ گیا ہے۔

اس حوالے سے ایک اہم تجویز یہ بھی ہے کہ پوری دنیا میں جہاں جہاں پاکستان کے سفارت خانے اور توصل خانے موجود ہیں ان کے باہر ایسے کاؤنٹرز نصب کیے جانے چاہئیں جن پر 5 اگست 2019ء سے شروع کر کے دنوں کی گنتی درج ہو جس کے ذریعے دنیا کو یہ بتایا جاسکے کہ بھارت کے غیر قانونی زیر قبضہ جموں و کشمیر میں کب سے کرفیو نافذ ہے جس کی وجہ سے کشمیریوں کے بنیادی حقوق بھی متاثر ہو رہے ہیں۔ دنیا میں کشمیریوں کی آواز جس تسلسل سے پہنچے گی اور ان پر بھارت کی غاصب سکیورٹی فورسز کی طرف سے کیے جانے والے مظالم کا ذکر جس تو اتار سے ہو گا اسی سے یہ طے ہو گا کہ دنیا کشمیریوں کے حق میں بھارت پر دباؤ کیسے ڈالے گی۔ پوری دنیا میں انسانی حقوق کو بہت اہمیت دی جاتی ہے اور ان کے حوالے سے ہر ترقی یافتہ ملک میں عوام بہت حساسیت کا مظاہرہ کرتے ہیں، لہذا ہمیں بھارتی غاصب سکیورٹی فورسز کے ہاتھوں مظلوم کشمیریوں کے حقوق چھینے جانے کا پیغام دنیا بھر میں پہنچانا چاہیے۔

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/lahore/2022-08-08/page-8/detail-10>

**August 09, 2022**

**Daily Times**

### **Pakistani students impressed with Chinese Ganqian culture**

The Chinese Bridge Summer Camp sponsored by Sino-Foreign Language Cooperation and Exchange Center of Ministry of Education and organized by Jiangxi University of Science and Technology, was held online in Nanchang.

“It’s my great pleasure to join the 2021 Chinese Bridge Summer Camp. From this event, I learned more about China’s amazing culture, Chinese modern and advanced technology, which showed me different prosperous faces of China.”

China and Pakistan are iron friends and I hope my country will be better and better like China,” Muhammad Talha, a Pakistani student in China, who participated in the whole session of the “Chinese Bridge” online exchange program “Ganqian Chinese Culture Summer Camp” and acted as an English interpreter in the cloud live broadcasts, said. The camp attracted more than

100 young students from various Pakistani universities, including University of Sahiwal, University of Central Punjab, etc. Some students who have just graduated from Punjab University also attended the event, China Economic Net (CEN) reported.

From the end of July to the beginning of August, the students learned Chinese language, cross-border e-commerce through online live-broadcasting courses, recorded courses and MOOCs on relative platforms.

They also traveled through cloud live broadcasts to experience local Chinese culture. Through multi-module and multi-form language and cultural activities, they are profoundly impressed by the unique local Chinese culture.

Aslan Aziz, a graduate from Punjab University, has a special attachment to the program. This summer camp fulfilled his dream to learn more about China and visit Ganzhou online.

Faiza Afzal was most amazed by Guanxi Closed House, a 195-year-old mansion in Ganzhou, China and quite interested in history and ancient architecture.

This mansion represents the tradition of ancient Chinese architecture. My wish is to visit it physically and learn more about Chinese architecture, he added. The Chinese Bridge online camp aims to carry forward the initiative of Chinese language is a bridge, the world is one family.

More Pakistani students rushed to express their satisfaction with the event, their amazement and love for Chinese culture, and their hope to contribute to China-Pakistan Economic Corridor after studying in China.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/979281/pakistani-students-impressed-with-chinese-ganqian-culture/>

### **Pakistan Observer**

#### **Bidding opens on August 16 to restore Gwadar Port's operational depth**

To restore Gwadar Port's operational depth, more than six companies including Chinese enterprises have come forward as their final applications have been submitted for the official bidding to be opened on August 16.

Gwadar Port Authority (GPA) Project Director (Maintenance of Dredging) Mr Nadeem told Gwadar Pro that the bidding process aims to launch a de-silting operation allowing ships to float well.

“Out of more than six firms including Chinese enterprises, a Belgium-based company has also submitted the application,” he added. The total cost of dredging, he said, will be determined as per cubic meter considering the scale of operation and size of the area to be cleared from siltation.

On a query, he said that around Rs. 1 billion has already been allocated for the dredging process in current budget 2022-23.

“The Gwadar Port Authority (GPA) has invited firms or contractors having sufficient experience in the relevant field, financially sound and suitably qualified in maintenance dredging of the navigation channel in accordance with prescribed tender documents” he added.

GPA Director Marine Operation Capt Gull Muhammad also told Gwadar Pro that expenditure of dredging process will be hinging on many factors including dollar fluctuation, fuel cost and labour charges. He dispelled the impression that Gwadar port functionality to deal with ships has been badly hampered.

He admitted the fact that Gwadar Port lost its 14.5 metre natural operational depth but clarified that the depth has not been depleted to 11.4 metre as claimed.

“Within two weeks, Gwadar port handled a ship with a draught of 11.6 metres easily” he added. He further mentioned that the last time dredging operation got underway in 2015.

China Overseas Port Holding Company (COPHC) official said that undoubtedly, no de-silting activity has taken place in the last 7 years.

However, it would be an overstatement to claim that the depth of the port has shrunk to mere 11.4 meters from 14.5 meters and subsequently faded away its capacity to handle mother vessels.

Indeed, he said that the port continues to berth and process mega-vessels, though with lesser frequency. Recently, two bulk carriers, Bao Quan with a draught of 11.6 meters and Teera Bhum with 10.9 meters draught and a deadweight tonnage of 24,238 tons efficiently berthed at Gwadar port.

Gwadar International Terminal Limited’s (GITL) Terminal official said that since 2015 COPHC came into action, Gwadar Port has hosted and handled more than “366” ships and vessels.

By the end of March, current year, Teera Bhum, a feeder service of COSCO liner, with 12.4 meters of draught berthed alongside, he added.

<https://pakobserver.net/bidding-opens-on-august-16-to-restore-gwadar-ports-operational-depth/>

**August 10, 2022**

**The Express Tribune**

### **Army of PR officers set to visit China for buying bogies**

Department is procuring 230 carriages for \$149m

LAHORE: At a time when Pakistan Railways (PR) continues to face a deficit of more than Rs45 billion, 93 officers and employees of the department will visit China in different groups from August 9 to inspect 230 bogies worth \$149 million being imported from the friendly neighbouring country.

The officials, who also include those retiring next year, will be given a daily travel allowance of \$100 per day. Chief Mechanical Engineer Carriages Abdul Haseeb said the officers visiting China would provide consultancy in the design of the passenger bogies.

He added that special attention would be given to aspects of travel comfort for the passengers in the design of the bogies. Haseeb further said training would also be given to staff for the maintenance of the Chinese bogies.

The engineer said technology from China would also be transferred to Pakistan.

According to details available with The Express Tribune, the officers set to visit China for 10 days include AGM Shahid Aziz, DS Workshop Rahat Mirza, DG Planning Abdul Malik, Loco Factory Risalpur MD Aqeel Yusuf, Mughalpura Workshop Project Director Iftikhar Hussain, Mughalpura Workshop Project Director Muhammad Yusuf Laghari, Chief Mechanical Engineer Abdul Haseeb, Deputy Chief Mechanical Engineer Muhammad Farooq, Deputy Chief Operating Officer Headquarters Hamdan Nazir, Deputy Chief Mechanical Engineer Nawaz Farooq and Deputy Chief Mechanical Engineer Design Zulfiqar Sheikh.

Similarly, Director Operation Imtiaz Hussain Farooqui, Deputy Director M&S Fahad Masood, DME Multan Muhammad Fasahatullah Baig, Mughalpura Workshop Works Manager Muhammad Ishaq Abbasi, Divisional Mechanical Engineer Karachi Sarmad Ibrahim, EFO Workshop Muhammad Amir are also included in the group.

The first group that will visit China for 22 days includes team leader Deputy Chief Mechanical Engineer Risalpur Muhammad Ghufuran Khan, Works Manager Mughalpura Muhammad Ismail, Assistant Mechanical Engineer Hamid Asad and Faqir Gul, FO Production Irshad Ahmed Aman, Muhammad Ali Johar, Irfanullah, Bahrkaram, Marjan Ali, Zafar Hayat and Khadim Shah.

Besides, Head Draftsman Riaz Mohammad, Senior Draftsman Muhibur Rahman, Mohammad Shahid, Anwar Ali, Mohammad Asim Mistry, Khushi Mohammad, Mohammad Jafar and Senior Chargeman Irfanullah are also included in the group.

The second group visiting China for 22 days includes Deputy PEA MS Mughalpura Muhammad Khalid Khan, Works Manager Hyderabad Rajesh Kumar, Proceeds Officer Muhammad Saqlain, HTXR Mughalpura Azhar Hussain, Muhammad Amjad and Naeem Khan, FO Muhammad Riaz, SE Noorullah, Chargeman Abdul Rehman, Sajid Ali Mistry, Muhammad Fayaz, Abdul Manan, Sultan Mehmood, Syed Rehan Arif, Iftikhar Ahmad, Wasim Anjum, Syed Ameer Shah Shahid Hussain and Shabbir.

The third group that will visit China for 22 days includes Deputy DS Karachi Abdul Waqas, Divisional Mechanical Engineer Lahore Obaid Pal, Divisional Mechanical Engineer Kundian Ikram Zaidi, Assistant Mechanical Engineer Sultan Ahmed Soomro, HTXR Rawalpindi Azhar Haque, TXR Rehan Ahmed, Hafiz Muhammad Javed, Amanullah, Abdul Basit, Shabir Qamar, Tanveer Ahmed Khan, Shabir Hussain, Khawaja Taimur, Muhammad Ikram, Waseem Ibn

Abbas, Muhammad6 Abbas, Akhtar Mehdi, STXR Khanewal Allah Dutta Mistry, Paris Khan, Shiraz Khan, Mohammad Irfan and Jamaat Ali.

A list of nine alternate officers has also been prepared.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2370301/army-of-pr-officers-set-to-visit-china-for-buying-bogies>

**August 11, 2022**

**Daily Times**

### **China-Pak animated film screened at Chinese film festival**

The first China-Pakistan co-produced animated film, Allahyar and the Legend of Markhor, has been on display at the 2022 Origin Western Film Festival in China's northwestern city of Xi'an since August 5th, China Economic Net (CEN) reported on Wednesday.

The only foreign film in the 7-day exhibition, Allahyar and the Legend of Markhor is shown in two of the 15 designated cinemas and theatres in Xi'an, with a total of seven showings, according to the official statement of the film festival. It is to be noted that the markhor-themed animated film premiered in China on December 19th, 2021 as part of the activities to celebrate the 70th anniversary of China-Pakistan diplomatic ties and it was set for theatrical release across the Chinese mainland on December 25, 2021.

The film is also the second Pakistani animated film released in China after the Donkey King, which becomes the best-performing Pakistani film with a record box office in China. The animated film is a co-production by Xi'an Bailu Fenghe Tourism Culture Communication Co, LTD, Xinying Jiayin Film Culture Development Co, LTD, Danxi Pictures Culture Media Co, LTD and the 3rd World Studios.

Divided into 10 exhibition themes, the 2022 Origin Western Film Festival involves 31 films with a total of 300 screenings. The film festival was hosted by Western Film Group, Shaanxi Broadcasting and Television Cultural Industry Development Co., Ltd., Shaanxi Film Industry Association, and Xi'an Chenshuo Film Co., Ltd, CEN added.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/980026/china-pak-animated-film-screened-at-chinese-film-festival/>

**Pakistan Observer**

### **Sanjrani reiterates Pakistan's stance of 'One-China' policy**

Chairman Senate Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani has reiterated Pakistan's strong commitment to the 'One-China' Policy and reaffirmed Parliament and the people of Pakistan's unflinching support for China's sovereignty and territorial integrity.

Pakistan is deeply concerned over the evolving situation in the Taiwan Strait, and Parliament of Pakistan believes that it has serious implications for regional peace and stability", he underlined.



Sadiq Sanjrani remarked that the world is already reeling through a critical security situation due to conflicts, with destabilising implications for international food and energy security.

Parliamentarians in Pakistan are of the view that the world cannot afford another crisis after the ongoing conflict in Ukraine that has negative consequences for global peace, security and economy, he added further.

Parliament and the people of Pakistan strongly believe that inter-state relations should be based on mutual respect, non-interference in internal affairs, and peaceful resolution of issues by upholding principles of the UN charter, international law and bilateral agreements, Sanjrani observed.

<https://pakobserver.net/sanjrani-reiterates-pakistans-stance-of-one-china-policy/>

## **CPEC: History, Background, Challenges and Way-Forward**

*Ahmad Jawad*

Pakistan is one of the most important countries, population-wise, in Asia. It is considered the sixth most populous country in the world, with an estimated population of almost 220 million people. Most of the people reside in the four provinces of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP), Punjab, Sindh, and Baluchistan. It will be the fourth most populous country by the year 2050 in the world.

A famous Chinese saying is, “To understand today, one needs to know the history; and to know the future, one needs to review the past.”

### **BALUCHISTAN IS MOST IMPORTANT COMPONENT OF CPEC**

Balochistan is the most deprived province of Pakistan. It is located at the eastern edge of Iran. It is geographically the largest of the four provinces with 347,190 sq km and equates to 42 percent of the total land area of Pakistan. The population density is very low due to the hilly territory and insufficiency of water and other human resources. It has 26 districts and the approximate population of Balochistan is about 15 million.

Balochistan is rich in natural resources. The economy is largely based on the production of natural gas, coal and minerals. The province’s natural resources significantly help meet the energy needs of Pakistan as a whole. Limited farming in the east and fishing along the Arabian Sea coastline are other forms of income and sustenance for the local population. Balochistan is very poor in basic education.

It is expected that 2.0 million people are expected to move to Gwadar within a span of 30 years. The port is not yet functioning, but noticeable signs of progress have been seen. Similarly, new residential areas, hotels, buildings, schools, hospitals and roads are indicative of modern trends. It is also expected to have a positive impact on the rest of the province, which has been neglected for a long time. Gwadar Port is a mega project of CPEC and a vast amount of investment is anticipated in both its infrastructure and extensions.

**HISTORY OF CPEC:**

CPEC is an important project in improving regional connectivity as “strategic partners.” The idea became a reality in 2013 through the visit of Chinese Premier Li Keqiang to Pakistan. The historic memorandum of understanding between the two countries on CPEC was signed on July 5, 2013. In the same year, Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif visited China and signed eight agreements. Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif visited China again and 19 more agreements were signed in 2016.

The CPEC is an important part of One Belt One Road known as BRI. It is a package of infrastructure and energy projects, Its specific purpose is to upgrade and expand Pakistani infrastructure, linking China’s western province of Kashgar with Pakistan’s Gwadar Port on the Indian Ocean. Pakistan is a developing country; the CPEC is a great opportunity to enhance its economy. Through this mega project, Pakistan’s population can reduce its poverty and achieve a higher standard of living.

In April 2015, Chinese President Xi Jinping visited Pakistan. During his visit, approximately 51 agreements were signed between China and Pakistan with a total worth of \$46 billion, which also included the development of the CPEC. The original \$46 billion that China invested in Pakistan under the CPEC has now expanded to approximately \$54 billion. This amount exceeds all foreign direct investment. The result is that, over the last several years, Pakistan has received considerably more aid than it has received from the United States.

**Benefits of CPEC:****Economic Boost:**

The CPEC, on completion, will show a major increase in Pakistan’s economy by increasing trade with China, Central Asia, Russia, Middle East and Europe. Even within the construction phase and completion of the CPEC there will be a visible economic growth in Pakistan by about three percent because of increase in industrial development due to the availability of resources.

**Real Estate:**

Between the construction phase of the CPEC and after the completion of CPEC route the value of the land surrounding is improving significantly and is providing many commercial opportunities to owners and developers of the land.

**Agricultural Growth:**

Due to increase in agricultural production Pakistan will observe a significant agricultural growth with cooperation of China and sharing modern technology and strategies along with our feasible weather conditions.

**Foreign Investment:**

CPEC will promote foreign investment in Pakistan which will ultimately show an increase in our economic growth rate.

**Great opportunities of Import and Export:**

Another major advantage would be the increase in trade from which revenue will be generated, which will be earned from transiting goods to and from other countries.

**Employment Opportunities:**

CPEC would create employment opportunities for the local people to an extent of about two to three million which will contribute towards economic conditions of Pakistan.

**Tourism Development and Promotion:**

The CPEC would provide for ideal tourism conditions in Pakistan, facilitating the flourishing of the tourism and hotel industry of Pakistan by providing a safe route and attractive commercial activity around Gwadar city.

**Pakistan's International role will be more prominent:**

Many regional and extra-regional countries will be joining CPEC; this will improve Pakistan's international stature, our contacts and will create an aura of peace and stability in the region.

**Opportunity to develop and improve relationship with other regional Countries:**

South Asian countries will also prefer CPEC lead geo-economics over geopolitics and resolving major disputes like Jammu & Kashmir will get easier and peace will be achieved successfully. This would also facilitate South Asia's interconnectivity and its connectivity with China, Central Asia, West Asia and Russia.

**Defence Support:**

CPEC will definitely bring vast strategic and economic advantages to Pakistan and regions surrounding it. Not only will CPEC be beneficial for the country but the citizens of Pakistan will also be able to bear fruits of its development on an individual level.

**WAY FORWARD**

The PML-N Government in alliance with PPP is putting the CPEC on track with a high speed. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Minister of Planning and development Ahsan Iqbal are expected to take CPEC to new heights in the coming months.

Defence forces of Pakistan are taking extraordinary measures to provide security to CPEC projects and Chinese nationals working in Pakistan. People of Pakistan are emotionally connected to CPEC and China. Public support in Pakistan will always be the long-term security of CPEC. In future, OBOR will be a global connection and CPEC will be the foundation stone of OBOR.

<https://pakobserver.net/cpec-history-background-challenges-and-way-forward-by-ahmad-jawad/>

## **CPEC progresses despite Indian intervention**

*Sultan M Hali*

NOTWITHSTANDING the attempts at denigration and spreading of fake news regarding the mega venture, the progress on China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) projects, continues smoothly.

Yet, India, which leaves no stone unturned to challenge Pakistan and put impediments in its development projects, has once again made a ridiculous claim directed at CPEC.

On July 26, 2022, Official Spokesperson of the Indian Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), Arindam Bagchi issued a statement objecting to the participation of third countries in CPEC projects. He claimed that such actions directly infringe on India's sovereignty and territorial integrity.

He went on to stress that "India firmly and consistently opposes projects in the so-called CPEC, which are in Indian Territory that has been illegally occupied by Pakistan. Such activities are inherently illegal, illegitimate and unacceptable, and will be treated accordingly by India."

The last part of the statement "will be treated accordingly by India" implies a threat, which is in keeping with Indian belligerence and sabre rattling over trumped-up charges.

The vitriolic outburst from India was with reference to the July 21, third meeting of the Joint Working Group (JWG) on International Cooperation and Coordination under the CPEC held via video link.

The meeting was co-chaired by Chinese Assistant Foreign Minister Wu Jianghai and Pakistani Foreign Secretary Sohail Mahmood, in which both sides agreed to well grasp the general direction of the development of the CPEC, properly cope with risks and challenges to accumulate positive energy for, inject new impetus into, and provide a strong guarantee for the development of the CPEC.

At the end of the meeting, Pakistan's Foreign Office issued a statement that said, "As an open and inclusive platform, both sides welcomed interested third countries to benefit from avenues for mutually beneficial cooperation opened up by CPEC."

It was natural for both the Pakistani and Chinese Foreign Office Spokespersons to firmly rubbish the Indian MEA's slanders hurled on CPEC.

Pakistan categorically rejected the remarks made by the official spokesperson of the Indian MEA on CPEC as "baseless and misguided", calling it an effort to politicise the project.

The Foreign Office spokesperson, in a statement, said CPEC was a transformational project and a harbinger of stability, mutual cooperation and shared development for the region. He went on to add that as a flagship of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and hallmark of the Pakistan-China All-Weather Strategic Cooperative Partnership, CPEC provides a vehicle for the people of the region to break from zero-sum approaches.

It is a hard fact that China's investment in CPEC has helped Pakistan overcome the energy and infrastructural bottlenecks that once constrained growth and development. The attempts to cast aspersions over CPEC demonstrate India's insecurity as well as the pursuit of a hegemonic agenda that has held back socio-economic development in South Asia for decades.

Islamabad rejects India's fallacious assertion that CPEC impinges on its "sovereignty and territorial integrity" because in reality, it is in fact India that is illegally occupying the state of Jammu and Kashmir for over seven decades while perpetrating gross and widespread human rights violations and effectuating blatant territorial and demographic changes in the occupied territory in complete contravention of international law and relevant UNSC resolutions.

The saddest aspect of the gory drama is that India has made the life of Kashmiris in Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK), miserable, has tyrannized the residents with extra-judicial killing, rape and incarceration.

On the other hand, CPEC is a development project, which will bring prosperity to the residents of Azad Jammu and Kashmir. India's attempts to mislead the international community about the status of Jammu and Kashmir and to hide its atrocities against the Kashmiri will not succeed.

Zhao Lijian, the Spokesperson for the Chinese Foreign Ministry echoed similar commitments in his regular briefing.

Referring to the third meeting of the JWG on International Cooperation and Coordination under CPEC, he resolutely stated that both sides exchanged views and reached common understandings on the participation of third parties in CPEC and exchanges among media and think tanks, including promoting cooperation schemes involving third parties in line with existing consensus and extending CPEC projects to Afghanistan.

The two sides also agreed to continue to deepen media cooperation and do a good job in telling "CPEC stories", and innovate and expand cooperation among think tanks to provide more public support and insights for the development of CPEC.

The Chinese FO Spokesperson affirmed that China stands ready to work with Pakistan to follow through on the important consensus reached by the leaders of the two countries and push forward all CPEC projects in a safe, smooth and high-quality manner to better benefit the two countries and two peoples.

The Indian spokesperson's contentions about Jammu and Kashmir being the so-called "integral and inalienable part" of India and an "internal affair" are a laughable fiction, totally contrary to historical and legal facts and in violation of the relevant UN Security Council resolutions.

India's self-serving claims regarding Jammu and Kashmir, including the parts which are under illegal Indian occupation, have no basis whatsoever. India has no locus standi on the issue – historical, legal or moral. The regurgitation of false claims by India can neither change facts nor divert attention from its state-terrorism in the IIOJK and its egregious violations of human rights of Kashmiri people.

CPEC is the principal pivot of Sino-Pak ties and the flagship project of BRI. Numerous detractors have tried to disparage the mega-venture, to which over a hundred nations around the globe are signatories. CPEC, despite its name, is not confined to China and Pakistan alone but is meant to provide development and prosperity to the entire region.

Because of its myopic tunnel vision, India tries to impede CPEC, by sending saboteurs like senior RAW operative Kulbhoshan Jadhav in the province of Balochistan and spread falsehood through its equally acerbic media instead of examining the prospects of joining BRI, which can usher relief to its teeming hungry millions. CPEC, on the other hand, will progress despite Indian intervention and machinations.

<https://pakobserver.net/cpec-progresses-despite-indian-intervention-by-sultan-m-hali/>

**August 12, 2022**

**Daily Times**

### **Pakistan-China agri cooperation to help tackle climate change**

China and Pakistan have agreed to further strengthen cooperation on natural disasters prevention and mitigation to build a China-Pakistan community with a shared future which will ensure a stable platform for preservation of natural resources, according to a report published by Gwadar Pro on Thursday.

It was believed that mainly cooperation in agriculture needed to counter climate change. This year Pakistan has experienced the hottest summer in the last thirty years which has badly affected its people, crops and fruits alike. The heat was intensified, prolonged and widespread and coupled with below-average rainfall, impacting hundreds of millions of people in the country.

According to an official study (2020-2021), rice crops would be badly affected in the country due to alarming high temperature. Even wheat and rice yields will decrease by 6 percent and 15-18 percent respectively across Pakistan, except for the northern areas.

Climate change also geared-up water shortage in the country even “metropolitan cities” like Lahore, Karachi, Islamabad, Rawalpindi and many others are facing the bitter reality of water depleting situation. Life has become more vulnerable and miserable in big cities in the country.

Cholistan is one of the most affected areas, which is going through acute shortages of water. People are suffering and losing their sources of livelihood, e.g. livestock.

Sixty percent of the population of Pakistan is directly or indirectly reliant upon rain-fed agriculture that depends on predictable weather patterns. Global climatic change affects its agriculture and its impacts seem to increase daily.

Therefore, Pakistan should seek cooperation with China on diverse sectors of agriculture production, climate change, water conservation, cultivation of hybrid crops, scientific cooperation to mitigate spillover ramifications of climate change in the country.

The ongoing cooperation between Faisalabad Agriculture University and Chinese universities should be further strengthened, highlighting new areas of mutual and befitting cooperation. In this regard, the establishment of a Special Agriculture Technology Zone (SATZ) in Faisalabad should be built as soon as possible and invite Chinese counterparts and enterprises for this project.

The China Machinery Engineering Corporation (CMEC) showed keen interest in setting up an Agriculture, Science and Technology Transferring Center in Pakistan to boost cooperation in agriculture mechanisation for the improvement of crops' yield and seeds' quality in the country which is good omen for the development of mechanized agro-production, economy an industry alike in the country.

Even, Pakistan Agricultural Research Council (PARC) and Chinese Yunnan Academy of Agricultural Sciences (YAAS) signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to promote agricultural cooperation between Pakistan and China.

Hopefully, it will further enhance agriculture cooperation in diverse sectors of research, plantation and production in the country. Moreover, plant protection and pest control will be increased manifold and cross-border agricultural pest research, talent cultivation and scientific and technological training will also be further strengthened and streamlined.

The Joint Working Group on Agriculture under CPEC is working on Joint Action Plan and recently China-Pakistan Green Corridor was also launched to further streamline cooperation in the areas of food security, new seed development, crops yield, corporate farming, irrigation etc.

Furthermore, the Chinese partners' contract-based chili farming in the country is about to cultivate a cumulative 5,000 acres. Even onion exports to China are recent dividends of deepened agricultural trade. Likewise, Pakistani fish and rice have gained a significant place in Chinese markets.

China's comprehensive and timely support to counter locust swarms helped avoid a food crisis in the country's southern areas. These are a few examples of recent developments observed under improved business-to-business and people-to-people contracts between the two countries, which has further strengthened bilateral agriculture cooperation between two brotherly countries.

Collaborations in precision agriculture and early warning systems should be further strengthened to boost crop productivity, climate resilience, water management and help fight natural calamities like locust infestation.

Seeking support in climate-smart agriculture could be of greater interest to Pakistan as China's digital agro-economy is about to grow over \$ 100 billion. Thus, integrating advanced information technology could help bring a third green revolution.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/980453/pakistan-china-agri-cooperation-to-help-tackle-climate-change/>

### **The Express Tribune**

#### **Chinese man rescued at sea fell off merchant ship**

PMSA says Zuo Xiang Wei fell from Xin Shang Hai vessel near Karachi port

KARACHI: A Chinese seafarer, Zuo Xiang Wei, rescued on Wednesday had fallen off a Chinese merchant ship near the Karachi port, the Pakistan Maritime Security Agency (PMSA) said on Thursday.

According to a PMSA spokesperson, Zuo Xiang Wei, was sighted by local fishermen swimming near Phitti Creek.

Al Madina launch captain Abdullah and his team of fishermen were out for a catch from the Ibrahim Hyderi Jetty when they found a Chinese citizen swimming near Bundal Island. According to the Fisherfolk Forum spokesperson Kamal Shah, Abdullah directed the vessel towards the Chinese national and hauled him aboard.

The launch crew then sent a distress call to the PMSA base Sadaqat, which responded in time.

AS per PSMA the Chinese sailor was safely recovered in coordination with a local fishermen. Initially, first aid was given to him at the PMSA base at Ibrahim Hydri. Later he was transferred to the PMSA headquarters for a detailed medical checkup.

It was later confirmed that Zuo Xiang Wei had fallen off a merchant vessel, identified as Xin Shang Hai (IMO 9307231) of the Cosco Shipping on August 10, 2022 in near approaches to Karachi harbour.

The coordinated efforts of Pakistani fishermen and PMSA ensured the rescue of the Chinese national which was highly appreciated by the Consulate General of China in Karachi.

According to the spokesperson, timely response by its assets is a clear manifestation of the PMSA resolve that it remains committed to safety of lives at sea.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2370571/chinese-man-rescued-at-sea-fell-off-merchant-ship>

#### **CPEC opens doors to Chinese auto companies**

Automakers will provide more options to customers in Pakistan

LAHORE: The automobile industry is an integral part for the development of highways, roads and other infrastructure and it has great significance in CPEC-related projects, said Wang Zihai, President Pakistan-China Joint Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCJCCI).

“CPEC (China-Pakistan Economic Corridor) projects are strategically important and beneficial for the economies of both countries and Pakistan’s automobile industry is one of the main



beneficiaries of CPEC,” he noted while speaking at a think tank session held at the PCJCCI Secretariat.

China-Pakistan automobile cooperation was a win-win choice as new Chinese auto sector entrants in Pakistan would bring more options to local customers, Wang added.

China’s Belt and Road project has now been developed through which Pakistan is importing automotive parts and completely knocked down (CKD) kits from China at cheaper costs.

Owing to unemployment, Pakistan had a low labour cost, therefore, the country could develop Chinese-origin vehicles with little investment, he said.

“If sold at economical prices, these vehicles can capture the domestic market,” Wang stressed, adding that due to the high rate of inflation, the government should initiate low-cost vehicle manufacturing for the comfort of people.

Speaking on the occasion, PCJCCI Senior Vice President Ehsan Choudhry shared that CPEC had opened doors for Chinese companies, which were willing to invest in Pakistan’s automobile sector.

He added that one of the automobile giants of China, Chery, launched its new RHD (right hand drive) strategy in 2019 and selected seven countries as its key potential markets, including Pakistan.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2370699/cpec-opens-doors-to-chinese-auto-companies>

**August 13, 2022**

**Daily Times**

### **Xinjiang cotton has comparative advantage for Pakistan: report**

Xinjiang cotton has comparative advantage and befitting lessons for Pakistan, says a report published by Gwadar Pro on Friday.

Furthermore, adopting Chinese techniques of intercropping and double cropping is the way forward for Pakistani cotton farmers.

Quoting Dr. Mehmood Ul Hassan Khan, Director of the Center for South Asia & International Studies (CSAIS), the report stated, mechanical harvesting in Xinjiang saved 50 percent consumption of water and 30 percent of fertilizer. It also reduced the labour cost by 30 percent while enhanced the yield by the same percentage. Thus close Pak-China mechanical harvesting cooperation will further strengthen cotton yields in the country.

Development of new types of cotton seeds, and getting assistance from the Chinese molecular biology to introduce such new seeds that adapt to climate in the country should be encouraged. Luckily, the Punjab government has provided two agro-based industrial zones in Vehari and Bhalwal that offer several incentives to Chinese firms including tax waivers which should be used for forming a corridor of knowledge between two countries.

Cotton is one of the largest crops in Pakistan but its unit yield is far behind that in Xinjiang. Pakistan and Xinjiang are adjacent to each other and have similar natural conditions; it is easier for many Xinjiang companies to breed high-yield and high-quality cotton seeds suitable for planting in Pakistan.

Natural gold fiber cotton may have push-over economic stimulation under CPEC in the country. Moreover, joint efforts and close cooperation in cotton production would further accelerate the prospects of joint ventures in garments projects in the days to come. Thus Xinjiang and Pakistan cotton production cooperation is the way forward which should be executed as soon as possible.

With constant “structural reforms” especially in the economy, agriculture, agro-machinery, investments, and infrastructure development, Xinjiang region has become a “hub” of global cotton production. Now it has specific “comparative advantage” in the world cotton production.

Xinjiang is the largest cotton growing region in China, ranking first nationally in total output, per unit production and planting area for the last two decades. In 2020, the total cotton planting area in Xinjiang reached 2.51 million hectares, nearly the same as in 2019. Xinjiang is expected to see another bumper harvest this year which is good omen for the national economy and exports of the country.

Moreover, the China Cotton Association (CCA) statistical data upholds that more than half of farmers in Xinjiang usually grow cotton, with the majority being ethnic minorities. Cotton farming is the major source of local agricultural income in south Xinjiang. It is true that cotton fields bring handsome income to growers, but also provides substantial employment opportunities to many migrant workers. In this regard, nearly 4,000 people in the Aral township in Aksu Prefecture joined the migrant cotton-picking community year, earning an average of nearly RMB 6,000 (about \$895) per capita in two months, with the champion cotton picker pocketing RMB 23,000. Over 90 percent of north Xinjiang cotton fields are now harvested using machinery. The practice is also becoming popular in south Xinjiang.

Xinjiang’s cotton output accounts for about a fifth of the world total, while China’s textile and apparel exports make up about one third of the global value. Moreover, to propel the industry’s growth, Xinjiang has shared its cotton growing expertise with other areas such as some central Asian countries. The cotton growers of Pakistan should learn valuable lessons from it.

China has certain comparative advantage in cotton research and industrialization with advanced biological breeding technology for cotton, high-quality cotton seed production technology and high-yield and high-efficiency cultivation and management technique for cotton, which should be shared with the Pakistani cotton growers under CPEC in the country.

<https://dailymtimes.com.pk/981116/xinjiang-cotton-has-comparative-advantage-for-pakistan-report/>

## Dawn News

### **Progress on Sino-Pak collaborations reviewed**

ISLAMABAD: A Board of Investment (BoI) mission on Friday held a meeting with the Chinese consul general in Karachi, Li Bijian, to review the progress on enhancing collaboration between Pakistani and Chinese enterprises.

In the ambit of the recently signed 'Framework Agreement on Industrial Cooperation' provided by the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) initiative, the two countries have now sped up the process of creating a conducive environment for business-to-business, joint ventures, and match-making to bridge the gap between private sectors.

For its part, the BoI has circulated a list of thirty Chinese projects that are ready for investment in Pakistan to the major chambers of commerce and industry in the country. As a follow-up, BoI officials have also held meetings with the Chinese and Pakistani associations in Karachi.

BoI Executive Director General Kashishur Rehman proposed building a government-to-government special economic zone (SEZ) between Pakistan and China in order to facilitate the influx of Chinese industries relocating to Pakistan.

The Chinese diplomat was appreciative of the BoI's move to circulate ready-to-invest projects in Pakistan's trade and industry circles, and told BoI officials that he had offered to encourage the Chinese companies to be even more forthcoming in sharing collaboration opportunities.

The meeting resolved that with the support of BoI, Chinese missions in Pakistan and PCBIF, meaningful match-making and joint ventures could be concluded between the private sectors of the two countries.

Mr Rehman informed the Chinese envoy about the commitments made by the National Development and Reforms Commission of China to engage provincial and local governments of China in promoting industrial cooperation at all levels. He said BoI has already simplified the work visa process and visit visas and encouraged Chinese investors and enterprises to apply for work visas.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1704561/progress-on-sino-pak-collaborations-reviewed>

## Dunya News

### **Pakistan, China agree to enhance business and economic relations**

KARACHI (Web Desk) - Pakistan and China have agreed to enhance the business and economic relations and industrial cooperation for joint ventures.

The consensus was reached at a meeting between the Board of Investment delegation led by Additional Secretary and the Chinese Consul General, Li Bijian in Karachi.

The Consul General, Li Bijian appreciated BOI for meeting the Chinese and Pakistani associations in Karachi, and bridging the gap between the private sector of both countries.

The Additional Secretary of BOI apprised that the Government of Pakistan has proposed to build a G2G SEZ in Pakistan in collaboration with China, in order to facilitate the influx of Chinese industries relocating to Pakistan.

He informed that BOI has simplified the work visa process and visit visa and encouraged the Chinese investors and companies to apply for the work visa.

<https://dunyanews.tv/en/Business/663420-Pakistan-China-agree-to-enhance-business-and-economic-relations>

### **Pakistan Observer**

#### **First China-Pakistan dual degree program will be launched soon: Dr. Mukhtar**

“The Higher Education Commission is formulating and improving the policy for dual degree programs in Pakistan. I look forward to the first China-Pakistan dual degree program officially approved by HEC which will be launched at Karakoram International University”.

This was stated by Mukhtar Ahmed, Chairman of Pakistan’s HEC in a meeting with a delegation from Tang International Education Group led by Director & Executive President Max Ma, according to China Economic Net.

There are 57 universities and colleges in Pakistan that are committed to vocational education. In the future, more will be transformed into vocational institutes.

It is expected that the first China-Pakistan dual degree program officially approved by HEC will be launched at Karakoram International University to train talent in mining engineering, which will become a model for other Pakistani universities in providing more practical knowledge and experience in cooperation with Chinese universities. HEC Chairman added, that the Commission highly values the role of vocational education in training and developing skillful technical talents in Pakistan to meet future needs. He expects that more Chinese disciplines will continue to be introduced to Pakistan through the program to enhance the local vocational and technical education capacity.

Among the over 700 vocational education majors in China, Tang International Education Group has selected 210 most needed ones to be introduced to Pakistan under “CCTE” model.

Mr. Que Haitao, Vice Director of Overseas Operation Center, Tang International Education Group told China Economic Net (CEN) that in a most recent development, the program between the University of Faisalabad and Bailie Vocational College has started recruiting students.

<https://pakobserver.net/first-china-pakistan-dual-degree-program-will-be-launched-soon-dr-mukhtar/>

## Geo-economy of South China Sea

*Dr Mehmood-ul-Hassan Khan*

IT seems that geo-economy is making huge inroads in the deep waters of the South China Sea and all parties are now committed to maintaining peace and stability in the region, making it the sea of peace and stability.

Thus the western false, fake and fictional propaganda is flushing out. Most recently, while addressing the opening ceremony of a seminar commemorating the 20th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea (DOC) by video, the Chinese State Councillor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi termed peace and stability in the South China Sea as important prerequisites for regional development.

The DOC is the first political document signed by China and ASEAN countries on the South China Sea issue which establishes the basic principles and common norms for all parties/countries to handle the South China Sea issue Wang added.

Wang stressed that regional countries are the real parties that are responsible for properly handling the South China Sea issue.

He called on all parties to continue to maintain peace in the area. He urged that all sides should firmly support all efforts that are supportive to peaceful settlement and management of disputes, by opposing any words and deeds that create tension and provoke confrontation in the region.

Wang also emphasized the need to further improve bilateral and multilateral maritime-related dialogue mechanisms by establishing and advancing the cooperation mechanism between coastal countries, actively promoting practical cooperation in scientific research, environmental protection, search and rescue and other fields, and the discussion of the joint development of resources.

He highlighted that stronger institutional guarantees must for managing differences and promoting cooperation.

He assured China's commitment and termed that the principle of amity, sincerity, mutual benefit and inclusiveness in its neighborhood diplomacy, and work with ASEAN countries will be foremost priority to defend maritime peace, a build maritime order, a promotion of maritime cooperation, and a contributor to maritime development.

Ours is the age of diversification of land and sea connectivity due to which the development of sustainable blue economy has become the mantra of every country in the world.

Seas have now become new engines of easily sailed routes for the imports & exports of merchandized commodities throughout the world and South China Sea is not any exception.

Even seaports have become strategic arteries for shipping vessels in the region as well as in the world alike.

Obviously, the peace and stability of the South China Sea is directly correlated with the socio-economic integration, immense imports & exports development, FDI's inflows and last but not the least greater regional connectivity of the entire region.

Thus all regional countries should not pollute the deep waters of the SCS by borrowing any foreign idea or plan.

Comparative analysis reveals that the South China Sea (SCS) has rich in marine resources. It has huge quantity of nutrient-laden waters.

It has numerous species of fishes and is the main source of animal protein for the Southeast Asian countries.

It is full of tuna, mackerel, croaker, anchovy, shrimp and shellfish. It is also one of the main contributors of maintaining biodiversity and aqua purity.

According to many published reports large reserves of oil and natural gas have been discovered in the SCS which has further increased its strategic importance and utility.

It is an ideal connecting hub which has strategic location too. It contains some of the world's most important shipping lanes.

The main route to and from Pacific and Indian Ocean ports is through the Strait of Malacca and the SCS.

In this regard, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) estimates that roughly 80% of global trade by volume and 70% by value is transported by sea. 60% of maritime trade passes through Asia, with the SCS carrying an estimated one-third of global shipping which shows its strategic importance.

It has multiplier socio-economic effects and its waters are particularly vital for many regional countries especially China, Taiwan, Japan and South Korea, all of which rely on the Strait of Malacca, which connects the SCS and by extension the Pacific Ocean with the Indian Ocean.

Interestingly, China being the second-largest economy in the world with over 60% of its trade in value traveling by sea, its economic security is closely correlated with SCS.

Moreover, the SCS is an important artery of trade for many of the world's largest economies.

Many regional as well as international published reports indicate that US\$5.3 trillion worth of goods transits through the SCS annually, with \$1.2 trillion of that total accounting for trade with the US.

United States trade through the SCS is US\$208, China US\$1470 and Japan US\$240. It has now become an essential maritime crisscrossing for trade for many regional as well as trans-regional economies in the world.

According to official statistical data over 64% of China's maritime trade transited the waterway in 2016, while nearly 42 % of Japan's maritime trade passed through the South China Sea in the same year.

Conversely, the USA is less reliant on the SCS with just over 14 % of its maritime trade passing through the region however, always acts as a self-acclaimed champion and main stakeholder of it.

Right from the beginning, China has been very vocal for peace and stability of the SCS. However, certain disruption in Strait of Malacca encouraged the Chinese policy makers to devise an alternative sea route for easy and smooth sailing of its finished goods.

In this connection, Beijing is always inclined to take integrated steps to preserve the free flow of trade in the SCS than it is to disrupt regional trade flows as wrongly depicted by the western countries.

To conclude, South China Sea has vital significance in the region as well as indo-pacific geopolitics.

SCS is one of the world largest and semi enclosed seas. It is full of natural resources like gas, oil, coral lime, high Silicate, sand, quality gem, natural pearls, fish, birds and sea slugs.

Thus the SCS is the hub of the resources. According to different estimations it has rich in numerous industrial minerals like zircon, Ilmenite, cassiterite, arenaceous quartz and monazite etc.

There are many salt mines in it. It is estimated that the SCS gives 604,000 ton annual output of the salt.

These natural resources have immensely increased the importance of the SCS. Furthermore, it is one of the busiest trade routes in the world.

It links the Pacific Ocean with the Indian Ocean due to which it has great importance in the world trade routes.

The SCS partakes the 50 % of the global trade shipping and marine passage. It is the passage of five trillion dollars trade every year.

Therefore the Chinese State Councillor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi has rightly stressed the need to maintain peace and stability in the SCS for mutually befitting propositions for collective socio-economic prosperity, greater regional connectivity and last but not the least post COVID-19 economic recovery in region and beyond.

—The writer is Director, the Centre for South Asia & International Studies Islamabad & regional expert, China, CPEC & BRI.

<https://pakobserver.net/geo-economy-of-south-china-sea-by-dr-mehmood-ul-hassan-khan/>

## **The Express Tribune**

### **Pakistan, China join hands to achieve food security**

Chinese investors investing more and more in agriculture sector

SANYA, CHINA: Factors of production in the agriculture sector of Pakistan and China can be complementary to each other. Both countries need to strengthen cooperation in agriculture and food security to achieve a win-win solution.

These remarks were made by Rabbia Nasir, Third Secretary of the Embassy of Pakistan in China, while attending the 2022 China Seed Congress and the Nanfan Agricultural Silicon Valley Forum recently.

As good neighbours and all-weather strategic cooperative partners, Pakistan and China have been working together to ensure food security with food being one of the major sources of trade between the two countries.

According to Chinese customs statistics, Pakistan exported \$610 million of agricultural products to China in the first half of 2022, up 30.85% year-on-year. Among them, rice exports amounted to \$345 million.

Chinese investors are also investing more and more in Pakistan's agriculture sector. Both countries are engaged in agricultural cooperation under the Belt and Road Initiative and the Global Development Initiative.

To further enhance agricultural cooperation and food security, "we should make the most of the complementary factors of production in agriculture of both countries," Nasir affirmed.

For instance, Pakistan could contribute a friendly policy of affordable factors of production, abundant agricultural products and investment in food processing, she cited and highlighted that China could share its experience with Pakistan in training, agricultural modernisation, cold chain technology, logistics, seed technology and agricultural demonstration areas.

As per data of the World Economic Forum, the global food security challenge is straightforward as by 2050 the world must feed nine billion people. The demand for food will be much greater than it is today.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2370892/pakistan-china-join-hands-to-achieve-food-security>

## **The News**

### **China Window marks Pakistan 75th anniversary**

PESHAWAR: A colourful ceremony was organized here on Friday at the China Window, a Chinese Cultural Centre, in connection with the 75th Independence Anniversary of Pakistan.

A former World Squash Champion and presidential award winner Qamar Zaman, a distinguished writer and poet Professor Nasir Ali Syed, Prof Dr Gulzar Ahmad Jalal, Head of English



Department of the Edwardes College Peshawar, industrialist Imtiaz Ali and a number of people from different walks of life were in attendance.

The guests cut a cake to mark the 75th anniversary of the establishment of Pakistan.

National songs were sung and a video message from Chinese Ambassador Mr Nong Rong was shown to the audience.

The ambassador greeted the people of Pakistan and reiterated the cooperation with Pakistan.

Qamar Zaman said Pakistan had honoured him and every Pakistani, including the players, felt proud whenever the national flag was hoisted at the top of the playing fields.

Prof Nasir Ali Syed, a recipient of the Tamgha-e- Imtiaz award, said great sacrifices were offered to achieve freedom.

Prof Dr Gulzar Ahmad Jalal and Imtiaz Ali said that the efforts made by Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah and others for winning an Islamic state and the sacrifices made by our forefathers are unforgettable. Speakers urged the youth to play their due role in making Pakistan an ideal country.

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=117152>

### Nawaiwaqt News

#### جشن آزادی کل، انوکھے پرچم تیار چین میں دستاویزی فلم کی رونمائی

اسلام آباد/لاہور (خبرنگار، شہنشاہ، این این آئی) پاکستان کا 75 واں یوم آزادی کل (اتوار) 14 اگست کو قومی جذبے اور ملی جوش و خروش کے ساتھ منایا جائے گا۔ دن کا آغاز مساجد میں نماز فجر کے بعد ملک و قوم کی سلامتی، خوشحالی اور دہشتگردی کے خاتمے کیلئے دعاؤں سے ہو گا۔ وفاقی دارالحکومت میں 31 اور صوبائی دارالحکومتوں میں 21، 21 توپوں کی سلامی دی جائے گی۔ ملک بھر میں مختلف مقامات پر پرچم کشائی کی تقریبات منعقد کی جائیں گی جن میں اہم حکومتی اور سرکاری شخصیات شرکت کریں گی۔ ملک بھر میں جشن آزادی کے سلسلہ میں سیمینارز اور دیگر تقریبات کا انعقاد کیا جائے گا جن میں مقررین جدوجہد آزادی کی تحریک میں دی جانے والی قربانیوں پر روشنی ڈالیں گے۔ حکومتی، سرکاری شخصیات اور پاک افواج کے افسران، بانی پاکستان قائد اعظم محمد علی جناح اور شاعر مشرق علامہ اقبال کے مزار مبارک پر حاضری دیں گے اور پھولوں کی چادریں چڑھانے کے بعد فاتحہ خوانی کریں گے۔ اسلام آباد میں پاکستان کے 75 ویں یوم آزادی کی مناسبت سے منعقد کردہ تقریب میں 5 ہزار سے زائد طلباء و طالبات اور سیاسی و سماجی شخصیات نے دس ہزار سکوارفٹ کا انسانی جھنڈا بنا دیا۔ دوسری طرف جشن آزادی کی مناسبت سے پی ایچ اے نے پاکستان کا دوسرا بڑا پرچم دو سو فٹ اونچا، 50 چوڑائی، 75 فٹ لمبا چوڑا جیلانی پارک میں لگائے گی۔ 13 اور 14 اگست کی درمیانی شب گریٹر اقبال میں آتشبازی کا شاندار مظاہرہ بھی کیا جائے گا۔ ڈی جی پی ایچ اے عمر جہانگیر نے جشن آزادی کی مناسبت سے جیلانی پارک میں بننے والے پاکستان کے دوسرے بڑے پرچم کے تعمیراتی کام کے جائزے کے موقع پر میڈیا کے نمائندوں سے گفتگو کرتے ہوئے کہا کہ زندہ قومیں اپنی آزادی کا جشن بھرپور طریقے سے مناتی ہیں، اسی سلسلے میں پی ایچ اے پاکستان کا دوسرا بڑا پرچم جیلانی پارک میں لگا رہا ہے۔ پاکستان کی آزادی کی ڈائمنڈ جوبلی منانے کے سلسلے میں چین میں پاکستانی سفارت خانے کی جانب سے چینی سوشل میڈیا پلیٹ فارمز پر سات چھوٹی دستاویزی فلموں کی سیریز میں تین کو جاری کر دیا گیا۔ چائنا کنٹاک نیٹ کے مطابق ہر ایک فلم کا دورانیہ تقریباً دو منٹ ہے۔ ویڈیوز نے پاکستانی کھانوں، دستکاری اور تہواروں، باسستی چاول سے لے کر قالینوں اور مارخور پر مبنی مجسمے تک، کھانا پکانے اور ہاتھ سے بنی نایاب چیزوں کی پیش کش کے ساتھ آرٹسٹ، کوکنگ اور ہاتھ سے اشیاء بنانے کے عمل کو بھرپور اجاگر کیا گیا۔

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/lahore/2022-08-13/page-1/detail-11>

**August 14, 2022**

**Daily Times**

### **RMB settlement to encourage industrial transfer to Pakistan**

To encourage industrial transfer from China and to ease the pressure on other foreign exchange currencies, Li Bijian, Chinese Consul General in Karachi, has advocated the adoption of RMB settlements. During a meeting with BOI Additional Secretary Khashih ur Rehman and Project Director, China- Pakistan Economic Corridor Industrial Cooperation Development Project (CPEC-ICDP) Asim Ayub, Mr. Bijian appreciated the B2B CPEC Investment Conferences organized by BOI in Karachi, Lahore and Peshawar and invited BOI to take these endeavors to China for promoting the bilateral investments, according to a report carried by Gwadar Pro. While suggesting BOI arrange delegations to China for enhancing the business-to-business and people-to-people exchanges, Mr. Li Bijian said, “The Chinese Consulate General in Karachi will provide all-out facilitation for issuing the visas and arranging road shows in China”. He also appreciated BOI for meeting the Chinese and Pakistani associations in Karachi and bridging the gap between the private sector of both countries.

Li Bijian said that through platforms like Pakistan Business and Investment Forum, the issues of the Chinese companies can be resolved as well as enhancing collaboration between Pakistani and Chinese enterprises. The Consul General praised the BOI’s Honorary Investment Counselor, Yiman Li for arranging a charter plane for 163 Pakistani Businessmen to Yiwu, China in collaboration with the Yiwu Government. Khashih ur Rehman informed the Consul General about BOI’s commitments with the National Development and Reform Commission of China for engaging the provincial and local governments of China for promoting Industrial Cooperation at all levels.

“The Government of Pakistan has proposed to build a G2G SEZ in Pakistan in collaboration with China, in order to facilitate the influx of Chinese industries relocating to Pakistan,” said Mr. Rehman, adding that BOI had simplified the work visa process and visit visa and encouraged the Chinese investors and companies to apply for the work visa. Asim Ayub apprised Mr. Li Bijian that BOI had submitted to local chambers a list of 30 Chinese projects ready for investment in Pakistan.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/981410/rmb-settlement-to-encourage-industrial-transfer-to-pakistan/>

**Pakistan Observer**

### **Pakistan exported \$610m of agricultural products to China in first half of 2022**

Pakistan exported \$610 million of agricultural products to China in the first half of 2022, up 30.85 percent year on year. Among them, rice exports to China amounted to \$345 million.

This was stated here by a diplomat of Pakistan Embassy Rabbia Nasir, while attending the 2022 China Seed Congress and the Nanfan Agricultural Silicon Valley Forum, according a report carried by Gwadar Pro. Quoting Chinese customs statistics, she said Chinese investors are also investing more and more in Pakistan’s agricultural sector. Both countries are conducting agricultural cooperation under the Belt and Road Initiative and the Global Development Initiative.

To further enhance agricultural cooperation and food security, “We should make the most of the complementary factors of production in agriculture of both countries,” Rabbia Nasir said.

For example, she added, Pakistan can contribute a friendly policy of affordable production factors, abundant agricultural products and investment in food processing.

And China can share experience with Pakistan in training, agricultural modernization, cold chain technology, logistics, seed technology, agricultural demonstration areas, etc. As per data from World Economic Forum, the global food security challenge is straightforward: by 2050, the world must feed 9 billion people. The demand for food will be much greater than it is today.

The United Nations has set “ending hunger, achieving food security and improved nutrition, and promoting sustainable agriculture” as the second of its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for the year 2030.

To achieve these objectives, as Rabbia Nasir put it, requires addressing a host of issues, from gender parity and ageing demographics to skills development and global warming. “Agriculture sectors have to become more productive by adopting efficient business models and forging public-private partnerships.

And they need to become sustainable by addressing greenhouse gas emissions, water use and waste,” she explained. Moreover, countries must work together through bilateral and multilateral cooperation. The 2022 China Seed Congress and the Nanfan Agricultural Silicon Valley Forum held in Sanya, Hainan, China has brought together more than 2,000 scientists, experts and field workers from different countries to discuss challenges.—INP

<https://pakobserver.net/pakistan-exported-610m-of-agricultural-products-to-china-in-first-half-of-2022/>

**August 15, 2022**

**Business Recorder**

**Resolution of key issues awaited**

*MUSHTAQ GHUMMAN*

Chinese power companies still facing stumbling blocks

ISLAMABAD: Chinese imported-coal fired power companies are reportedly still facing stumbling blocks in resolution of their key issues with government’s different organisations

despite clear instructions of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, well informed sources told Business Recorder.

The overdue amount of Chinese coal-fired power plants is over Rs 350 billion due to which they are unable to buy coal - a commodity whose price has increased manifold.

Prime Minister has also been informed that Port Qasim project is able to use RMB to buy coal to support Pakistan's pressure due to a shortage of US dollars, requesting SBP to support Port Qasim to exchange RMB.

Only July 28, 2022, representatives of Chinese companies held a detailed meeting with Finance Minister and highlighted the following issues: (i) tariff adjustment issue;(ii) liquidity damages;(iii) opening of revolving account;(iv) provision of foreign exchange ; and (v) payment issues.

The meeting was attended by Minister for Power, Khurram Dastgir Khan, Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives, Ahsan Iqbal, Minister of State for Finance, Dr. Aisha Ghaus Pasha, SAPM, Tariq Fatimi, SAPM, Zafar uddin Mahmood, Special Secretary Finance, Awais Manzur, Chairman NEPRA, Tauseef. H. Farooqi, CEO/ CFO, CPPA-G Rehan Akhtar, CEO China Power Hub Generation Company, Ren Lihui, Executive Assistant to CEO China Hub, Li Hualin, CEO, PQEPC, Guo Guang lin, CEO, HSR, Li Xin, VP HSR, Fan Jinde, Secretary PQEPS, Rong Hong Cheng and VP HSR, Li Hu.

According to sources, representatives of Chinese companies were of the view that upfront tariff policy 2014 must be followed.

The sources said, Finance Minister directed that monthly payments may be provided to Chinese IPPs to meet their operational cost and foreign exchange cover may be provided to the Chinese companies.

Chinese companies were given assurance that the issue of revolving account, pending since years will be resolved soon.

The meeting decided that Finance Minister and Power Minister will talk to the PM regarding liquidity damages issues.

The sources said that Chinese companies complained that they are not getting positive response from NEPRA with respect to tariff adjustments as their cost have increased manifold. Chinese companies have written several letters to power regulator in this regard which, according to them, remained unattended. These letters were also shared with Chinese embassy. The meeting decided that Chinese companies would approach NEPRA and discuss tariff adjustment issues separately.

According to a tweet of Chinese ambassador to Pakistan Nong Rong “had a good discussions and in-depth exchanges with Chairman NEPRA. Committed to further explore the potential of cooperation in power sector and promote high quality development of CPEC.”

Chinese coal power plants have also requested Ministry of Energy and NEPRA to allow the additional cost of exchanging RMB to be passed through to CPPA-G.

Official documents available with Business Recorder reveal that the issues discussed in the meeting with Prime Minister have not been resolved.

China Power Hub Generation Company, in its recent letter of August 11, stated that its receivables have accumulated to a worrisome high-level, as on August 10, 2022, total receivables stood at whopping Rs 81.91 billion including overdue receivables of Rs 66.01 billion. M/s China Huaneng of Sahiwal Coal Power Plant in its letter of August 7, 2022 said that more than 0.5 million tons of South African coal is stored at the port, waiting for clearance because no funds have been paid to the coal supplier.

CEO, Port Qasim Electric Power Company (PQEPC), Guo Guangling, in a letter to Minister for Finance stated that due to SBP constraining the use of foreign exchange based on USD foreign reserves, the company as an imported coal project, had to postpone the settlement process between it and coal contractor which has negative impact on the guarantee to consecutive coal supply.

The company maintains that as per Prime Minister's direction on May 30, 2022 with Chinese enterprises and Minister for Finance Minister on July 29, 2022 joint meeting both parties have evolved consensus that the capacity payment deductions shall be exempted due to fuel shortage incurred by huge overdue amount.

The sources said, during meeting with Chinese companies on July 28, 2022, Prime Minister maintained that when overdue payments are not being made to the power companies, how liquidity damages can be imposed.

Zhang Jun, Chairman Energy Investment of All-Pakistan Chinese Enterprises Association (APCEAP), in a letter to top government authorities, also accused the CCPA-G of breaching the provisions of agreements. Chinese power sector investors, saying huge amount of arrears, coupled with the accelerated depreciation of the PKR in recent years, has significantly reduced the nominal return on investment, which has exposed such Chinese enterprises to high audit risks in the future, besides greatly dampening the enthusiasm of other Chinese investors to invest in Pakistan.

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2022/08/15/4-page/939955-news.html>

### **Daily Times**

#### **Flag hoisting ceremony held in Beijing to mark Pakistan independence anniversary**

An impressive flag hoisting ceremony was held at Pakistan Embassy in Beijing on Sunday to commemorate Pakistan's 75th Independence Day. The event began with the recitation from the Holy Quran, followed by Pakistan Ambassador to China Moinul Haque raising of the national

flag. On the occasion, messages by the president and prime minister of Pakistan were also read out. President Dr Arif Alvi in his message paid homage to Quaid-e-Azam and other leaders of the Pakistan Movement. He also reaffirmed nation's resolve to uphold Pakistan's ideology and make Pakistan an ideal modern Islamic welfare nation-state. The president reiterated Pakistan's continued support for the just Kashmiri struggle for self-determination as enshrined in the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) resolutions. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif in his message said that the 75th independence anniversary was a watershed moment praising the unflinching resolve and single minded devotion of Quaid-e-Azam that led to the creation of Pakistan. The prime minister expressed his resolve to fully realize the dreams of socio-economic justice, rule of law and formation of an egalitarian society. The prime minister stated that Pakistan's greatest strength was its people, and he had full faith in them. Addressing the event, Ambassador Moinul Haque congratulated the Pakistani community on the 75th independence anniversary of Pakistan. He complimented the leaders of Pakistan Movement and their struggle and sacrifices. He stated that it was now the collective duty of all Pakistanis to fulfill the vision of the founding fathers to make Pakistan a peaceful and strong country.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/981772/flag-hoisting-ceremony-held-in-beijing-to-mark-pakistan-independence-anniversary/>

### **Pakistan Observer**

#### **PFC to participate in China Eurasia expo at Urumqi**

Pakistan Furniture Council ,in collaboration with Chenone,will participate in “ China-Eur Asia expo being held at Urumqi China on August 25-30 to showcase Pak products and identify new global markets besides luring foreign investments.

Chief Executive Officer PFC Mian Kashif Ashfaq while talking to a delegation of exporters led by Ahmad Waqar Ch said here Sunday that 6-day expo starting will provide an opportunity to present a world class range of Pak products and all other allied services.

He said it is platform for import and export mainly with various and flexible pattern of trade. He said nearly sizeable number of other top Pakistani companies are likely to participate which he added will help determine market potential.—APP

<https://pakobserver.net/pfc-to-participate-in-china-eurasia-expo-at-urumqi/>

### **The Express Tribune**

#### **Countering growing propaganda against CPEC**

Facts entirely different from claims Chinese firms bringing labour from China

ISLAMABAD: The announcement of 20th National Congress of the Communist Party of China has triggered a new wave of propaganda and smear campaign against Beijing.

International media, in collaboration with think tanks, is targeting different initiatives of China and the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is one of them. It is the most favourite punching bag for the opponents, as they want to achieve multiple goals by targeting CPEC.

Although the campaign against CPEC started even before the launch of the programme, in recent months we have witnessed unprecedented acceleration. Thus, it is necessary to present facts and data to counter the propaganda.

CPEC started at a time when Pakistan was entangled in multiple problems including terrorism, load-shedding, energy shortages, declining FDI, increasing debt and shrinking economic and livelihood opportunities.

Pakistan was paying the price of being the frontline ally in the war on terror. Regrettably, our allies disowned us and let us to suffer. Rather, they ran campaigns to malign Pakistan and paint image of an unsafe country for investment.

Pakistan lost 70,000 citizens and many more sustained lifelong disabilities. Economic cost crossed \$100 billion. Pakistan needed \$1.5 billion to rehabilitate the transport infrastructure, which deteriorated due to NATO supplies.

Apart from these, energy crisis brought the economy to its knees as the country was losing \$4-5 billion annually. Through CPEC, Pakistan has built an extensive network of infrastructure like Peshawar-Karachi Motorway, Multan-Sukkur Section (392 km), KKH Phase-II Havelian-Thakot and Orange Line Metro in Lahore, which are major achievements of the first phase.

There are also a good number of projects that are near completion which include Khuzdar-Basima N-30 (46%), Awaran-Hoshab Section of M-8, Eastbay Expressway (84%) and the motorway from Burhan-Hakla on M-I to DI Khan (85%).

Fibre optic and Digital Terrestrial Multimedia Broadcast are major milestones on the digital front for improving the connectivity infrastructure.

CPEC has created 85,000 direct jobs and much more indirect jobs. A majority of the beneficiaries of job creation are from Pakistan.

For instance, China Overseas Port Holding Company created more than 4,000 jobs during the first phase. The count of local employees was 3,800 while Chinese employees were only 200. Sahiwal plant created 8,436 jobs during the construction phase and the ratio of Pakistani and Chinese employees was 63:37. Now, it is employing 1,683 people and the proportion is 61:39. China also trained 245 engineers and 377 officers and lower staff.

Port Qasim project helped to create 4,000 jobs during the construction phase and employed Pakistani and Chinese employees in the proportion of 75:25.

Moreover, China trained 600 engineers and 2,000 officers and lower staff. Now, it is employing 1,270 employees with the proportion of 76:24.

These facts are entirely different from the propaganda that claims Chinese companies are bringing labour from China.

Under CPEC, Pakistan and China have expanded cooperation in agriculture and signed specific MoUs. The agreed areas of work are technology transfer and collaboration in R&D, enhancing agricultural trade, cooperation in agro-industry, and livestock and dairy.

There is special focus on marginalised areas and Balochistan has been identified as a priority region.

Both governments are also working to establish eight research centres for joint research across Pakistan through government-to-government cooperation.

These research centres and laboratories will be equipped with state-of-the-art machinery and technology. Each research centre will take care of specific research areas according to the needs of Pakistan and agro-ecological zones.

The practical implementation of projects has started. For example, this year rice and cotton crops have shown excellent growth in productivity, which is due to the provision of better quality seeds through this cooperation.

Moreover, during the last fiscal year, the export of agricultural commodities from Pakistan to China almost touched \$1 billion.

Energy is another area where CPEC has helped Pakistan immensely. Prior to CPEC, Pakistan was going through the worst energy crisis. Therefore, both countries selected energy as the top priority. Chinese companies, in cooperation with Pakistani institutions, launched a series of energy projects.

It is satisfactory to note that Sahiwal Coal Power Plant, Port Qasim plant, Hubco plant, Engro Thar Coal Power Plant and Mine, Hydro China Dawood Wind Farm, Quaid-e-Azam Solar Park, UEP Wind Farm, Sachal Wind Farm, Three Gorges Second and Third Wind Power Project and Karot Hydropower Project have been completed.

These projects have immensely contributed to managing load-shedding and reviving the industry and economy.

In 2019, the World Bank published a series of studies including Common Transport Infrastructure, A Quantitative Model and Estimates from the Belt and Road Initiative, The Belt and Road Initiative Economic, Poverty and Environmental Impacts, The Belt and Road Initiative Economic Opportunities and Risks of Transport Corridors to decode the potential benefits of BRI and CPEC.

These reports highlighted that CPEC would help Pakistan to accelerate economic growth and development, especially in low developed areas like Balochistan.



China is cognisant of the fact that Pakistan needs assistance in the social sector, especially in the field of skills development. Hence, it offered \$1.1 billion for social development, especially for skills development. Moreover, China is building a skills development institute in Gwadar.

There should be no doubt about the potential of Gwadar. It will not only act as a hub of connectivity, but it will also help Pakistan to attract foreign investment through the Special and Free Economic Zones.

In the end, we can draw four lessons. First, the propaganda against CPEC has no ground in the face of credible data. Second, CPEC is a long-term programme and its full potential will be realised after completion of the programme. Third, do not mix Gwadar Port with Gwadar city development, because the city is the responsibility of Pakistan. Fourth, Gwadar should not be discussed in isolation.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2371195/countering-growing-propaganda-against-cpec>