



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

August 01-15, 2023

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August 01, 2023

Business Recorder

‘New model’ to characterize 2nd CPEC phase

ZAHEER ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has stated that the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC)’s second phase will be undertaken under a new model.

Speaking after the signing ceremony of the memorandum of understanding (MoU) between Pakistan and China, the prime minister said on the completion of 10 years of the CPEC, he was grateful for the visit of Chinese Deputy Prime Minister He Lifeng to Pakistan.

The PM said he had no doubt that “we are entering the second phase of CPEC, today and we have signed some important documents which will further enhance our economic cooperation and will undertake [the] second phase of CPEC under a new model”.

He said it would be between B2B, as well as investment in agriculture, in information technology for that Pakistan through Chinese cooperation and support was able to export its items according to the requirement and the standard of Chinese government.

The PM added that Pakistan was ready to contribute to Chinese president’s vision of a shared destiny, progress and prosperity and ML-I was a very important project, Karachi circular was a very important project, and expressed the hope that together in time to come those projects and many others would be successfully completed.

The premier said the CPEC was signed 10 years ago between former prime minister Nawaz Sharif and former Chinese president Xi Jinping and immediately its implementation was started.

He said “thanks to this agreement, today we can say that more than \$25 billion has been invested in the energy, road, infrastructure, public transport, and hydel power sectors in Pakistan.”

He said he was grateful to Xi Jinping for sending the Deputy Prime Minister of China as a special ambassador to Pakistan. “This will send a message to the world that China and Pakistan are linked in a relationship that is unique in the world. We are all-weather friends, iron brothers, and this friendship will continue and will not tolerate any obstacle in its way.” Before the prime minister’s address at the ceremony, MoUs were signed between China and Pakistan.

Earlier, China’s Vice Premier and member of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China Lifeng met Shehbaz Sharif after arriving in Pakistan to attend the ceremony marking the 10th anniversary of the CPEC. He reached the Prime Minister’s House where he was warmly welcomed.

Prime Minister Sharif said in a statement on Twitter that Chinese vice-premier had arrived in Pakistan to attend the ceremony to mark the completion of 10 years of CPEC and to witness the changes brought about by that game-changing initiative. It is my pleasure to warmly welcome the Chinese Vice-Premier He Lifeng and members of his delegation to Pakistan.

They are visiting Pakistan to join us in celebrating the 10th anniversary of CPEC and witnessing first-hand the transformations brought about by this game-changing initiative.

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2023/08/01/1-page/968667-news.html>

Six MoUs inked with China

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and China, on Monday, signed six memorandums of understanding (MoUs) to further enhance bilateral cooperation and promote economic relations between the two countries during the visit of Vice-Premier He Lifeng.

Under the 10-year celebrations of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), Pakistan and China have signed MoUs during a ceremony held at the Prime Minister's Office after a meeting between Prime Minister Shehbaz and Chinese Vice-Premier Lifeng, who is on a three-day visit to Pakistan to mark 10 years of the multi-billion-dollar CPEC.

The signing ceremony was witnessed by the high-level Chinese delegation led by the Chinese vice premier, the prime minister of Pakistan, members of the federal cabinet, and senior officials of the various ministries.

During the signing ceremony, the minutes of the 11th Meeting of the Joint Cooperation Committee (JCC) on CPEC were also signed. This document comprised the decisions and outcomes of the 11th meeting of the JCC on CPEC held on October 27, 2022. It was signed by the Vice Chairman of the National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC) of China Cong Liang and Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Professor Ahsan Iqbal.

The other MoUs include Establishing an Expert Exchange Mechanism within the Framework of the CPEC. The MoU aimed to establish an expert exchange mechanism between the Ministry of Planning and Development, and the NDRC of China, to facilitate knowledge sharing between the two governments. The objective was to obtain intellectual support and consultation for China-Pakistan capacity-building cooperation and conduct in-depth exchanges of Chinese experts with the Pakistani government and enterprises by sharing China's experience, contributing Chinese solutions and helping Pakistan meet international standards more timely and efficiently. This MoU was also signed by Cong Liang, Vice Chairman of the NDRC, and Prof Ahsan Iqbal.

The MoU on the Protocol of phytosanitary requirements for the export of dried chilies from Pakistan to China was also signed. The protocol outlined the phytosanitary requirements for the export of dried chilies from Pakistan to China. The signatories for this protocol were Pang Chunxue, Chargé d'Affaires of the Chinese Embassy in Pakistan, on behalf of the General Administration of Customs of China and Zafar Hasan, secretary, Ministry of National Food Security and Research of Pakistan.

Similarly, the MoU on the Acknowledgement of Receipt of Realignment of KKH Phase-II (Thakot-Raikot) Project Feasibility Study Final Report was also signed. This document acknowledged the receipt of the final report on the feasibility study for the realignment of the KKH Phase-II (Thakot-Raikot) Project. The document was signed by Pang Chunxue, Chargé d' Affaires of the Chinese Embassy in Pakistan, on behalf of the Ministry of Transport of

China, and Asim Ameen, Member Planning, National Highways Authority, Ministry of Communications of Pakistan.

The MoU on “Strengthening Workers’ Exchange Programme” was signed between the All-China Federation of Trade Unions (ACFTU) and the Board of Investment, Pakistan under the ambit of CPEC Industrial Cooperation to foster exchange programmers of the workforce associated with CPEC projects for skill development, technical training, language courses, and Chinese experience sharing in SEZs development by providing a platform to augment meaningful people-to-people exchanges. The MoU was instrumental in strengthening the Pak-China industrial cooperation and the development of SEZs through Chinese intellectual support. It further enhanced the competitiveness of CPEC’s workforce to meet the local industrial requirements and also supported the requirements of skilled labour to attract Chinese industrial relocation envisaged through CPEC industrial cooperation.

Furthermore, an agreement on the Announcement of the Minutes of the 21st Conference of Technical Committees on Promoting the (ML-1) Project was also signed. The ML1 project, a crucial element of the CPEC, held the promise of transforming Pakistan’s transportation system.

Both Pakistan and China had made noteworthy strides in preliminary technical work. In a recent agreement, both sides resolved to push forward the strategic ML1 initiative. By focusing on cost efficiency, justified capital outlays, and maximized economic returns, the ML1 project would unfold in a systematic, phased approach.

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2023/08/01/1-page/968669-news.html>

CPEC plays vital role in addressing power outages: PM

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Monday said the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) played a very important role in addressing crippling power outages that had been affecting industry and agriculture “at that point in time”.

Addressing the celebration of the 10th anniversary of CPEC here on Monday, the prime minister said power outages had a crippling impact on industry and agriculture and the country’s exports were adversely affected because the industry was unable to meet its orders, this was the time when the CPEC came to rescue Pakistan. He said that projects worth \$25 billion were undertaken and this was a game changer. He said that now we are entering the second phase of the CPEC, which is even more interesting and extremely helpful in promoting investment, progress and prosperity in Pakistan and in the region.

“You have highlighted an important area in the second phase of the CPEC which is high quality of development, growth, SEZs, livelihood corridor, innovation corridor, openness and connectivity etc”, the premier added.

There is an effort to bypass Pakistan by some countries in this process of connectivity and I have no doubt that Pakistan and China together will fill in the gap in this corridor, which already has been established in North and South and will extend in many ways to include the entire region and also other parts of the world.

He said Gwadar a few years ago was a small village and today, it is a big city with huge activity. He said that CPEC will ensure Gwadar is one of the busiest ports.

The prime minister said that Pakistan was provided support by China through loans, roll over, safe deposits, and the government is thankful for the support at a difficult time. He said that Pakistan wants to move away from loans and borrowed money and wanted to show to the world that the people of Pakistan are brave to survive in a difficult time.

He said that Pakistan wanted to follow the Chinese growth and this is where Pakistan needs Chinese support and expertise as it is not a joke to pull millions of people out of poverty. He said that today, we agree to announce a joint working group to evaluate this (Chinese) growth model.

The prime minister said that this great journey of friendship was promoted by all the leaders including late Zulfikar Ali Bhutto. This is a unique friendship and relation and people from all walks of life are committed to this great friendship.

He said that in April 2015, the CPEC agreement was signed by then prime minister Nawaz Sharif and Chinese President Xi and then at lightning speed projects were undertaken and completed.

Shehbaz Sharif said that China and Pakistan have to jointly deal with the menace of terrorism as Pakistan has paid a huge price and almost 80,000 Pakistanis laid their life to fight the menace of terrorism. He said that Pakistan defeated it effectively years ago and it has been a great commitment and great manifestation of Pakistan's will to fight this menace till it is wiped out not only from Pakistan but also in this region and in an extended way globally.—
ZAHEER ABBASI

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2023/08/01/1-page/968668-news.html>

Alvi seeks enhanced Chinese investment in SEZs

NAVEED BUTT

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi has called for enhanced Chinese investment in various sectors of Pakistan's economy, particularly in the Special Economic Zones (SEZs) to further strengthen bilateral economic cooperation.

He said that Pakistan was desirous of Chinese cooperation and support to strengthen its agriculture, information technology (IT), transport, and textile sectors.

The president made these remarks while talking to the Special Representative of Chinese President Xi Jinping, and the Vice-Premier of the State Council of China, He Lifeng, who along with members of his delegation called on him, at the Aiwan-e-Sadr, on Monday. The president highlighted that Pakistan and China enjoyed an All-Weather Strategic Cooperative Partnership and always stood by each other in difficult times. He added that Pakistan and China had a unique relationship and the world must learn from the time-tested friendship between the two brotherly countries. He appreciated that bilateral relations between the two countries had continued to expand to new areas of cooperation.

Talking about the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), the president said that CPEC would transform the economic landscape of Pakistan, besides bringing prosperity to the

region. He added that CPEC had considerably helped in overcoming the shortage of electricity in Pakistan. He maintained that Pakistan would continue to extend firm support to China on all its core issues.

The president expressed gratitude for China's principled stance on the Jammu and Kashmir dispute, apart from thanking the Chinese government for providing financial support to Pakistan in difficult times.

The president congratulated the vice-premier on the conferment of the award of Hilal-e-Pakistan on him and appreciated his contributions towards promoting Pakistan-China friendship and successfully overseeing the implementation of CPEC projects.

Conveying his gratitude to the president, the Chinese vice-premier recalled President Dr Alvi's solidarity visit to China in March 2020, saying that the visit would be remembered by the people of China as he undertook it during a difficult time despite the risks of the Covid-19 pandemic.

He noted with delight that the CPEC had brought significant transformation in Pakistan's socio-economic and infrastructural landscape and was now poised to further enhance Pakistan's economic, trade, and connectivity profile in the entire region and beyond.

The vice-premier apprised the president of the measures taken by the Chinese government for the elimination of poverty in China. He thanked the president for the conferment of Hilal-e-Pakistan upon him in recognition of his services.

He also conveyed the best wishes of Chinese President Xi Jinping to President Dr Alvi.

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2023/08/01/2-page/968677-news.html>

Bank of China's branch opens in Islamabad

Chinese banks provided support in turbulent times: Dar

ISLAMABAD: Finance Minister Ishaq Dar has stated that Pakistan was provided support by the Bank of China, ICBC, and Chinese commercial banks, when the country was passing through a difficult time during the last one year.

Addressing the opening ceremony of the Bank of China in Islamabad, the minister said that indeed, it is a matter of great pleasure for him to be at the launching ceremony of a branch of Bank of China in Islamabad. He termed it a historic moment.

The minister said Pakistan is out of the turbulent time which is fairly over and the country is now moving towards growth.

Finance Minister Dar has expressed confidence that economic and diplomatic ties between Pakistan and China will further increase in future.

Dar stated that the RMB is going to become an internationally adopted parallel international acceptable currency soon as five countries (BRICS) have already formalised it and more are in the pipeline.

He said that Pakistan is already benefiting from the RMB and during his last visit to China along with Prime Minister, he requested the Chinese president for enhancing RMB.

Dar said that in the years to come, the benefit of the CPEC will reach the common man.—
ZAHEER ABBASI

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2023/08/01/12-page/968733-news.html>

Dawn News

CPEC moves into second phase with ‘simple’ celebration

Iftikhar A. Khan

ISLAMABAD: China and Pakistan decided to accelerate the second phase of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, hailing the progress on development initiatives in the decade since the project’s launch in 2013.

In a special ceremony held to commemorate 10 years of CPEC on Monday, six new documents were signed for joint cooperation. The celebrations, however, were kept simple out of respect for the victims of the Bajaur terrorist attack.

Earlier in the day, Chinese Vice Premier He Lifeng, who is on an official visit to attend the celebrations as a special representative of President Xi Jinping, was conferred with the Hilal-i-Pakistan award. He also met President Arif Alvi and Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif.

In the ceremony held at the Prime Minister House, officials from both countries signed an agreement on the Joint Cooperation Committee on CPEC, an MoU on establishing an export exchange mechanism within the framework of CPEC, a protocol of phytosanitary requirements for the export of dry chillies from Pakistan to China and a document on the final report on the feasibility study of the Karakoram Highway Phase-II realignment.

PM Shehbaz and Chinese Vice-Premier Lifeng witnessed the signing ceremony.

An MoU on the industrial workers exchange programme as well as minutes of the 21st conference of the ML-1 project’s technical committee were also signed.

In his remarks at the ceremony, the prime minister recalled that 10 years ago, CPEC was started after then prime minister Nawaz and President Xi Jinping signed the agreements and its implementation started swiftly.

“We can claim that under CPEC, over \$25 billion were invested in power, road, hydel and public transport. Now we are entering the second phase,” said Mr Sharif.

“Today, we signed certain important documents which will further enhance cooperation and undertake the second phase of CPEC under a new model.”

The second phase would include B2B investment in agriculture and information technology to enable Pakistan to export its products according to Chinese standards and requirements.

Highlighting the importance of ML-1 — the main railway track connecting Karachi to Peshawar — and Karachi Circular Railway, the PM hoped both projects would be successfully executed to help Pakistan “stand on its own feet through the hard work and untiring efforts of both countries”.

Later, the prime minister hosted a luncheon in honour of Mr Lifeng and his delegation. — APP

PM meets Chinese vice premier

In their meeting before the ceremony, the prime minister and the Chinese vice premier expressed satisfaction with the steady development of CPEC projects and agreed on its centrality for Pakistan's socio-economic development, according to a PM Office statement.

The meeting discussed bilateral ties, including CPEC, as both sides expressed firm commitment to continue working together for realising the shared objectives of CPEC.

It was agreed that the 10th anniversary of CPEC was a fresh starting point to further expand the project as envisaged by the leadership of the two countries.

The two leaders exchanged views on several aspects of the bilateral relationship including CPEC and bilateral economic and financial cooperation.

PM Shehbaz Sharif and State Council of China VP He Lifeng witness the signing ceremony of MoUs regarding cooperation between the two countries, in Islamabad on Monday.—White Star

The prime minister said China and Pakistan were strategic partners and trusted friends who have always stood by each other in difficult times, as evidenced by Chinese support to Pakistan in the aftermath of the Covid-19 pandemic and the devastating floods last year.

In his remarks, Mr Lifeng conveyed President Jinping's message of China's firm support for Pakistan's prosperity and development.

Mr Lifeng underlined that the Pakistan-China friendship was unique and had withstood the test of time. He reiterated that as an iron brother and strategic partner, China would continue its economic and financial support to Pakistan. President confers Hilal-i-Pakistan

President Alvi conferred the Hilal-i-Pakistan award upon Mr Lifeng in recognition of his contribution to the Pakistan-China friendship and the promotion of CPEC.

The award — given to Pakistanis and foreign nationals to recognise their contribution towards Pakistan's national interests — was conferred in a special investiture ceremony held at the Aiwan-i-Sadr. It was attended by PM Shehbaz, services chiefs, the National Assembly speaker, the Senate chairman, federal ministers and parliamentarians.

Following the ceremony, Mr Lifeng held delegation-level talks with President Alvi.

The two leaders agreed that CPEC significantly transformed Pakistan's socio-economic and infrastructural landscape. Mr Lifeng said the project was now poised to further increase Pakistan's economic connectivity in the entire region and beyond.

President Alvi said the occasion called for enhanced Chinese investment in various sectors, particularly in the Special Economic Zones (SEZs) to further strengthen bilateral economic cooperation. The president also thanked China for "its principled stance" on the India-held Kashmir and also for Beijing's financial support to Pakistan in difficult times.

Simple celebrations

The celebrations on Monday were kept simple to mourn those who lost their lives in the terrorist attack in Bajaur on Sunday.

An official statement issued by the Prime Minister's Office said a cultural show, scheduled to take place as part of the celebrations, has been cancelled on the prime minister's directions.

PM Sharif said the entire nation was in a state of mourning, hence, the cultural show should not be held, the statement added.

Renminbi to become parallel currency

The Bank of China (BOC) also opened its second branch in Islamabad on Monday.

Addressing the opening ceremony, Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Ishar Dar said the renminbi would soon become an internationally adopted parallel currency.

The renminbi was going to be internationalised as five countries have already formalised the currency and more countries were planning to do so, the finance minister added. He said it would become a parallel internationally acceptable currency.

With input from agencies and Syed Irfan Raza in Islamabad

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1767780>

Chinese scholars for enhancing regional connectivity

ISLAMABAD: Director Shanghai Institute for International Studies (SIIS) Dr Liu Zongyi has stressed the need for enhancing regional connectivity and fostering a community of shared interests.

While speaking to participants of a roundtable, hosted by the Centre for Aerospace and Security Studies (CASS), he focused on the economic aspects of Pak-China relations and discussed various challenges and opportunities.

He said robust regional connectivity would serve as a fundamental pillar for economic development, enabling optimal utilisation of the myriad opportunities that as yet remain untapped.

According to a statement, Chinese delegation was also comprised of scholars from China Institute of Contemporary International Relations (CICIR) and Sichuan Academy of Social Sciences (SASS) including Dr Wang Shida, Deputy Director and Associate Research Professor at CICIR; Yuan Jianmin, Counsellor of the Government of Xinjiang autonomous region; and Dr Li Jingfeng, Director of Regional and Strategic Research Office at SASS.

The roundtable provided a platform for in-depth discussions on Pakistan-China relations and explored avenues for further enhancing this relationship to yield mutual benefits in a rapidly evolving global order.

Ambassador Jalil Abbas Jilani, former Foreign Secretary and Advisor to President CASS, moderated the roundtable.

Dr Wang Shida contextualised the relationship between the two countries in the evolving geostrategic environment marred by strategic competition. Other speakers raised concerns regarding the volatile security and economic situation in the region.

The participants explored the critical role that Pakistan and China's cooperative relations could play in addressing the multifaceted challenges of the contemporary world.

Both sides agreed that by reinforcing their strategic cooperation and collaborative efforts, the two nations could help shape regional dynamics in the future. Both sides discussed the cooperation between China and Pakistan in the Aerospace domain and laid emphasis on further strengthening cooperation in this area.

In his concluding remarks, retired Air Marshal Farhat Hussain Khan, President of CASS, Islamabad, said such initiatives reflected a commitment to fostering stronger ties between Pakistan and China and lay the groundwork for future meaningful engagements that would contribute to regional stability and progress.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1767703/chinese-scholars-for-enhancing-regional-connectivity>

Pakistan Observer

Pakistan, China resolve to scale new heights through CPEC

Shehbaz says some nations making efforts to bypass Pakistan in this process of connectivity

Pakistan and China on Monday expressed their determination to reach new heights through the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor. Addressing an event planned to mark the 10 years of the CPEC, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif said: "Today is an important day for both countries". He thanked Chinese President Xi Jinping, saying, "When Xi Jinping came to Pakistan, he gifted the CPEC to the country".

PM Shehbaz said that many of the CPEC projects had been completed ahead of schedule. "A few CPEC projects are still in progress and are nearing completion," he added. He praised China for embarking on the "journey of development" with dedication and passion.

Shehbaz Sharif said that China Pakistan Economic Corridor was entering its second phase, but there were efforts by some countries to "bypass Pakistan in this process of connectivity".

"[But] I have no doubt that Pakistan and China will together fill in the gap and this corridor ... will extend in many ways to include the entire region and other parts of the world," he said while addressing a ceremony held to mark 10 years of CPEC.

Chinese Vice Premier He Lifeng, who arrived in Pakistan yesterday for a three-day visit, attended the ceremony as the chief guest. Shehbaz thanked the Chinese vice premier for visiting Pakistan and joining the celebrations.

He said Lifeng was the "lynchpin" in extending cooperation and support for CPEC in its early days and "very helpful" in ensuring the speedy operations of the project. The prime minister thanked China for supporting Pakistan at "this critical juncture" by rolling over loans. "Pakistan wants to move away from loans, aid and handouts and wants to stand on its own feet," he added.

Meanwhile, Chinese Vice Premier He Lifeng expressed his determination to further develop relations between the two friendly countries. Lifeng stressed the need for increasing

cooperation in the fields of industries, culture, and health. “China is committed to increasing investment in various sectors in Pakistan,” Lifeng maintained.

Chinese Vice Premier Lifeng termed CPEC an “important pioneering project” of the Belt and Road Initiative, adding that China and Pakistan had achieved many “early harvests” in the project which led to new impetus to the latter’s socio-economic development and laid the foundation for regional integration and connectivity.

<https://pakobserver.net/pakistan-china-resolve-to-scale-new-heights-through-cpec/>

The Nation

Pakistan absolutely ready for CPEC phase-II, says PM

MATEEN HAIDER

Shehbaz Sharif says Pak-China friendship will not tolerate any kind of obstacle in its way n Second phase of CPEC will feature B2B investment in agriculture, IT n Islamabad, Beijing ink six MoUs and agreements to promote ties. Chinese vice-premier He Lifeng reads special message of President Xi Jinping n Congratulates people of Pakistan on completion of first decade of CPEC n He Lifeng conferred on Hilal-i-Pakistan Award.

ISLAMABAD - Pakistan and China Monday expressed their firm resolve to continue their cooperation for further developing CPEC as a high-quality demonstrable project of Belt and Roads Initiative.

These views were expressed by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Vice Premier of the State Council of China He Lifeng during their speeches in a special ceremony held in Islamabad to celebrate the completion of 1st Decade of CPEC.

Addressing the event, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Vice Premier He Lifeng paid rich tribute to CPEC for its positive contribution to Pakistan's socio economic development, and progress and prosperity of the peoples of the two countries.

They underscored that as the flagship project of President Xi Jinping's Belt and Road Initiative, CPEC has transformed Pakistan's economic landscape by removing infrastructure bottlenecks and eliminating power shortages.

The leadership of Pakistan and China also appreciated the endeavours of Pakistani and Chi-nese experts, engineers and workers for their meritorious contribution to timely completion of all CPEC projects in Pakistan. At the occasion, Vice Premier He Lifeng also read a special message of President Xi Jinping, congratulating the government and people of Pakistan on the completion of the first Decade of CPEC.

High-level leadership attended the event from Pakistan and China, including Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and President Xi Jinping's Special Representative, and the Vice Premier of the State Council of China, Mr. He Lifeng.

Senior Ministers of China and Pakistan, high ranking officials from both countries, and corporate executives of leading Chinese companies working in Pakistan also participated in the event. To mark the significance of the occasion, a special Postal Stamp, Commemorative

Coin and First Day Cover, were also issued. Both sides also unveiled a first Decade of CPEC memento capturing the achievements made and the futuristic vision of CPEC. During the event, special performances were organised to display multiple facets of Pakistan's pluralistic and progressive culture, and to highlight civilizational affinity and fraternal ties between Pakistan and China. It may be recalled that Pakistan and China have kicked off CPEC projects in 2013, after the visit of the Chinese Premier to Pakistan. Under the rubric of CPEC, the two countries initiated and completed multiple projects in the past ten years in the energy, transport infrastructure, port, airport development and digital connectivity. CPEC brought huge dividends to Pakistan as manifested in the creation of over 200,000 jobs, addition of 8000 MW power to national grid, building of 510 kilometers of highways and 932 kilometers of road network, and laying of 820-kilometer long optical fiber line. Under Phase-II of CPEC, both countries have expanded cooperation to new areas including rural revitalization, agricultural development, industrialization, green development and science and technology.

‘CPEC PHASE-II’

Pakistan and China on Monday signed six documents that Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif said would further enhance bilateral cooperation and help undertake the second phase of China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) under a new model. Held at the PM House, the signing ceremony was witnessed by Prime Minister Shehbaz and Chinese Vice-Premier He Lifeng, who, along with a delegation, is visiting here to attend the 10th-anniversary celebrations of CPEC.

Both countries signed document on the joint cooperation committee on CPEC; MoU on establishing an export exchange mechanism within the frame-work of CPEC; a protocol of phytosanitary requirements for the export of dry chilies from Pakistan to China and a Document on the final report on the feasibility study of realignment of KKH Phase-II.

Both sides also signed through diplomatic channels an MoU on the industrial workers exchange program as well as minutes of the 21st conference of a technical committee to promote the strategic ML-1 project. The prime minister, in his remarks at the signing ceremony, expressed pleasure over the signing of documents and thanked Chinese Vice-Premier He Lifeng for visiting Pakistan to celebrate 10 years of CPEC. He recalled that 10 years ago, CPEC was signed between that time Prime Minister Nawaz and President Xi Jinping and implementation was started within no time.

“Today we can claim that under CPEC above \$25 billion investment took place in power, road, hydel power, and public transport. Now we are entering the second phase. Today, we signed certain important documents which will further enhance cooperation and undertake the second phase of CPEC under a new model,” the PM said. He said the second phase of CPEC would feature the B2B investment in agriculture and information technology to enable Pakistan to export its products according to Chinese standards and requirements. The prime minister also thanked Chinese President Xi Jinping for sending his special envoy to Pakistan and showing solidarity for people-to-people friendship and showing to the world that both countries were bound in a great and unique relationship.

‘PAKISTAN ABSOLUTELY READY TO CONTRIBUTE’

“We are all-weather friends and iron brothers. This friendship will continue and will not tolerate any kind of obstacle in its way,” he remarked. He said Pakistan was absolutely ready to contribute to President Xi’s vision of shared prosperity. Highlighting the importance of ML-1 and Karachi Circular Railway, the prime minister expressed the hope that both projects would be successfully executed to make Pakistan stand on its own feet through the hard work and untiring efforts of both countries. “It is the Chinese model, It is President Xi Jinping’s model, and will emulate it under the vision of our Pakistan’s founding father late Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah to promote prosperity and peace in this country,” he commented.

‘REALISING SHARED OBJECTIVES OF CPEC’

Pakistan and China on Monday, expressing satisfaction at the steady development of CPEC projects, agreed on its centrality for Pakistan’s socio-economic development.

The bilateral ties including the CPEC were discussed in a meeting between Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and He Lifeng, Vice Premier of China and Member of the Politburo of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China, a PM Office statement said. At the invitation of the Government of Pakistan, the Special Envoy of President Xi Jinping He Lifeng is visiting here to attend the 10th anniversary celebrations of China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). Both sides expressed their firm commitment to continue working together for realising the shared objectives of the CPEC. It was also agreed that 10th anniversary of CPEC celebrations constituted a fresh starting point to further expand CPEC as envisaged by the leadership of the two countries.

The conversation was marked by traditional warmth and cordiality that has been the hallmark of Pakistan-China All-Weather Strategic Cooperative Partnership. During the meeting, the two sides exchanged views on several aspects of bilateral relationship including CPEC and bilateral economic and financial cooperation. Welcoming Vice-Premier He Lifeng to Pakistan, the prime minister congratulated him on being promoted as the Vice-Premier of China in March this year. In his remarks, Vice Premier He conveyed President Xi Jinping’s message of China’s firm support to Pakistan’s prosperity and development. Vice Premier He Lifeng underlined that Pakistan-China friendship was unique and had withstood the vicissitude of time due to deep fraternal ties between the peoples of two nations. He reiterated that as an iron-brother and strategic partner, China would continue its existing economic and financial support to Pakistan. Welcoming the prime minister’s vision for deepening trade and investment ties, the Chinese vice premier conveyed China’s willingness to enhance Pakistan’s agro and food exports to China.

The Chinese delegation included Guo Wei, Deputy Secretary General of the State Council of China, Sun Weidong, Vice Minister of Foreign Ministry, Cong Liang, Vice Chairman National Development & Reform Commission, Xuan Changneng, Deputy Governor of the People’s Bank of China, Wang Keping, Deputy Governor of the People’s Bank of China, Wang Liping, Director General of the Department of Asian Affairs of the Ministry of Commerce, Pang Chunxue, Charge d’Affaires, Chinese Embassy Islamabad and other senior Chinese officials.

The Pakistan side included Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, Minister for Foreign Affairs, Syed Naveed Qamar, Minister for Commerce, Muhammad Ishaq Dar, Minister for Finance, Rana Sanaullah Khan, Minister for Interior, Marriyum Aurangzeb, Minister for Information, Ahsan Iqbal, Minister for Planning, Khawaja Saad Rafique, Minister for Railways, Hina Rabbani Khar, MOS for Foreign Affairs, Syed Tariq Fatemi, SAPM and senior officials from relevant ministries. After the meeting, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Vice Premier He oversaw the ceremony for signing of agreements, MoUs and other documents, covering areas including agriculture; industrial cooperation; transport connectivity, etc. Later, the prime minister hosted a luncheon in honour of He Lifeng and the accompanying delegation.

PM SHEHBAZ, CHINESE VICE-PREMIER DISCUSS BILATERAL TIES

Chinese Vice-Premier He Lifeng on Monday met with Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif here wherein both discussed bilateral relations and the way to further enhance mutual cooperation.

At the invitation of the Government of Pakistan, the Chinese vice-premier, along with a delegation, is visiting here to attend the celebration of the 10 years of China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). Both sides also deliberated over the implementation of the second phase of CPEC for which both countries also signed documents on the occasion. The signing ceremony was witnessed by Prime Minister Shehbaz and Vice-Premier He Lifeng along with their respective delegations. Earlier, as the foreign dignitary arrived at the PM House, he was warmly received by Prime Minister Shehbaz at the main entrance which followed the introduction of the delegations to each other. Meanwhile, Prime Minister on Monday warmly welcomed the Chinese Vice-Premier He Lifeng and members of his delegation as they arrived here on Sunday for a three-day visit. At the invitation of the Government of Pakistan, the Special Envoy of President Xi Jinping, the Vice Premier of China and Member of the Politburo of the Central Committee of the Communist Party, is visiting here to attend the 10th-anniversary celebrations of China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). “It is my pleasure to warmly welcome the Chinese Vice-Premier H.E. He Lifeng and members of his delegation to Pakistan. They are visiting Pakistan to join us in celebrating the 10th anniversary of CPEC and witnessing first-hand the transformations brought about by this game-changing initiative,” the prime minister wrote on a microblogging site.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2023-08-01/page-1/detail-4>

China-Pakistan varsities’ linkages level gets boost: Diplomat

ISLAMABAD - Education Attaché of Pakistani Embassy in China Afifa Shajia Awais has said that cooperation in the realm of education, be it university to university linkages, academia-industry collaboration or the number of Pakistani students studying in China, are all reflective of the confidence and stability of the unique ties between Pakistan and China.

While speaking at the 2023 “Shared Aspirations, Beyond Khunjerab Pass” Pakistan Theme Day China- Pakistan Education Cooperation Promotion Conference held by Pakistan China Centre at SCO Demonstration Area (SCODA) in Qingdao, Afifa noted that the growing economic ties between the two countries have laid the groundwork for partnerships in the education sector.

According to Gwadar Pro, the number of Pakistani students studying in China stands at a good 26,000 and 25 percent of them are recipients of different types of scholarships offered by the Chinese government.

These students are enrolled in a wide range of disciplines such as medicine, engineering, and information technology, and pursue sub-specialisations and hyper-specializations in specific domains.

Expressing her gratitude to the Chinese government for offering scholarships and facilitation to Pakistani students on a preferential basis, she stated that “the educational institutions are not only providing high-quality education, imparting useful skillset but also providing a unique cultural experience to our youth who will act as ambassadors of goodwill between the two countries in the future.”

The ministries of education of both countries are actively engaged with each other and bringing educational institutions into a network of collaborative paradigms.

Ms Afifa Shajia Awais stated that the recent establishment of the CPEC University Consortium Exchange Mechanism was tantamount to the opening of a new chapter in bilateral exchanges and cooperation.

“It has provided an organisational platform for positive and progressive cohesion of the education institutions. Under its umbrella, the last 5 years have seen surprising registration of more than 100 universities from both Pakistan and China.”

China’s economic prominence has grown globally, making it an important player in world politics. She underlined that Pakistan looks towards China to learn from its miraculous growth and development story as there are great lessons to be learned.

Zheng Shi, president of the SCO Economy and Trade Research Institute, noted that since the inauguration of the China-SCO Institute of Economy and Trade, 11,800 people from 43 SCO countries including Pakistan, and countries along the Belt and Road, have attended the training.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2023-08-01/page-4/detail-2>

Pakistan, China to sign deal to have technical collaboration on hybrid chilli

ISLAMABAD-Pakistan and China will soon sign a deal to have technical collaboration on hybrid chilli and subsequent export of chilli to China under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). Talking to Gwadar Pro, Chairman of Pakistan Hitech Hybrid Seed Association (PHHSA) Shahzad Ali Malik said, “Besides ongoing hybrid rice collaboration between Pakistan’s Guard Agri and China’s Longping, another agreement is going to be signed for the cultivation of hybrid chilli and subsequent export of chilli to China.” He said the signing ceremony will be held during the 1st International Food and Agriculture Exhibition on 10th - 12th August 2023 at Karachi Expo Centre, where Guard is exhibiting along with Longping and Litong Food. “Hybrid chilli seed will be provided by Peppara Seeds along with technical support for commercial cultivation and buyback of dried chilli for export to China will be through Litong Food,” he added. Pakistan-China collaboration in the agricultural sector, particularly in the development of new varieties of hybrid seeds in the

private sector has significant benefits for both countries. Chairman PHSA, who is also visiting China, said that such projects can lead to the creation of tailored hybrid seed varieties that cater to the specific needs of Pakistani farmers and align with the country's agricultural practices and climate. He emphasized that fruitful meetings between agricultural organizations from different countries can be beneficial for exchanging knowledge, technology, and expertise in the field of seed development and agriculture. Hybrid seed development in Pakistan has a significant impact on food security by increasing crop productivity, resilience, and nutritional value. To ensure its effectiveness, there must be continued investment in research, infrastructure, and extension services to facilitate the adoption of hybrid seed technology by farmers across the country.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2023-08-01/page-8/detail-4>

Robust regional connectivity fundamental pillar for Pak-China economic development, untapped opportunities: Experts

ISLAMABAD-The experts at a special talk on Monday said robust regional connectivity would serve as a fundamental pillar for economic development, enabling optimal utilisation of the myriad opportunities that as yet remain untapped for China and Pakistan.

The Centre for Aerospace & Security Studies (CASS) hosted a distinguished Chinese delegation comprising scholars from the Shanghai Institute for International Studies (SIIS), China Institute of Contemporary International Relations (CICIR), and Sichuan Academy of Social Sciences (SASS) led by Dr Liu Zongyi, Director of SIIS, the delegation included Dr Wang Shida, Deputy Director and Associate Research Professor at CICIR; Mr Yuan Jianmin, Counsellor of the Government of Xinjiang autonomous region; and Dr Li Jingfeng, Director of Regional & Strategic Research Office at SASS, a news release said.

The roundtable titled “Forging Stronger Bonds: CASS Welcomes Chinese Delegation for Productive Talks on Pakistan-China Relations and Mutual Cooperation” provided a platform for in-depth discussions on Pakistan-China relations and explored avenues for further enhancing this relationship to yield mutual benefits in a rapidly evolving global order.

Ambassador Jalil Abbas Jilani, Former Foreign Secretary and Advisor to President CASS, moderated the roundtable.

In his talk, Dr Zongyi focused on the economic aspects of Pak-China relations and discussed various challenges and opportunities. He underscored the significance of enhancing regional connectivity and fostering a community of shared interests.

Dr Wang Shida contextualised the relationship between the two countries in the evolving geostrategic environment marred by strategic competition. Other speakers raised concerns regarding the volatile security and economic situation in the region.

The participants explored the critical role that Pakistan and China's cooperative relations could play in addressing the multifaceted challenges of the contemporary world. Both sides agreed that by reinforcing their strategic cooperation and collaborative efforts, the two nations could help shape regional dynamics in the future.

Both sides discussed the cooperation between China and Pakistan in the Aerospace domain and laid emphasis on further strengthening cooperation in this area.

In his concluding remarks, President of CASS, Air Marshal (R) Farhat Hussain Khan extended heartfelt gratitude to the visiting delegation and expressed optimism that such scholarly discussions would lead to a deeper appreciation of each other's perspectives on vital regional and global issues.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2023-08-01/page-13/detail-2>

Strengthening multifaceted ties with China top priority: Ahsan Iqbal

ISLAMABAD-Federal Minister for Planning, Development & Reform Ahsan Iqbal Monday said that Pakistan's top priority was to further strengthen its multifaceted ties in political, trade, and economic spheres with China.

"Pakistan-China economic engagement is multi-dimensional and rapidly growing," he said while talking to a Private news channel.

"Pakistan enjoys strong relations with China and is now further working to explore new and non-conventional areas of bilateral cooperation, focusing on promoting economic, trade and investment ties," he added.

"These relations are built on strong foundations," he said.

"Over the past many decades, both countries have stood by each other, through thick and thin," he added.

"Pakistan and China talk continues to expedite work on ML1 project and launch it as soon as possible," he mentioned.

"Chinese expertise and knowledge will also be shared to enhance Pakistan's export earnings and accelerate special economic zones' development," he added.

"CPEC has effectively helped Pakistan in improving its energy security as well as transport networks from north to south and laid the foundation for a resilient infrastructure including ports, airports, roads, and railway," he added.

"Chinese Vice Premier He Lifeng's visit to Pakistan will be fruitful and explore new avenues for strengthening trade and investment ties between the two countries," the minister added.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2023-08-01/page-13/detail-4>

Express News

چین کا سی پیک کو مثالی بنانے کیلئے پاکستان کیساتھ مل کر کام کرنے کا عزم

کو مثالی منصوبہ بنانے کے لیے پاکستان کے ساتھ مل کر کام کرے گا چاہے بین الاقوامی منظر CPEC صدر شی جنپنگ نے اس عزم کا اظہار کیا ہے کہ چین: اسلام آباد
نامے میں کوئی تبدیلی کیوں نہ ہو۔

چینی صدر شی جنپنگ نے اسلام آباد میں منعقدہ سی پیک کی دہائی کی تقریبات کے موقع پر مبارکباد کے پیغام میں اس عزم کا اعادہ کیا کہ چین ہمیشہ پاکستان کے ساتھ کھڑا رہے گا، چاہے عالمی منظر نامے میں کوئی بھی تبدیلی کیوں نہ ہو جائے۔

کو اعلیٰ معیار کے بیلٹ اینڈ روڈ تعاون کے ایک مثالی منصوبے کو مکمل کر کے اعلیٰ، معیاری (CPEC) چینی صدر شی جن پنگ نے مزید کہا کہ چین پاکستان کے ساتھ مل کر اور پائیدار ترقی و روزگار کے موقع پیدا کرے گا جس سے لوگوں کا معیار زندگی بلند ہو گا۔

صدر شی جنپنگ نے اس بات کی بھی نشاندہی کی کہ سی پیک، بیلٹ اینڈ روڈ تعاون کا ایک اہم منصوبہ ہے۔ 2013 میں اپنے آغاز کے بعد سے چین اور پاکستان وسیع کو آگے بڑھا رہے ہیں اور بہت سی ابتدائی فوائد حاصل بھی کر چکے ہیں۔ CPEC مشاورت، مشترکہ شراکت اور مشترکہ فوائد کے اصول کے تحت چینی صدر نے مزید کہا کہ یہ منصوبہ چین اور پاکستان کے درمیان ہمہ وقت دوستی کا واضح ثبوت ہے اور یہ ایک اہم بنیاد فراہم کرتا ہے۔ نئے دور میں مشترکہ مستقبل کے لیے مل کر کام کرنا ہو گا۔

<https://www.express.pk/story/2518095/10/>

Jang News

سی پیک، گوادر پورٹ سے متعلق تاریخی حقائق اور اہم اعداد و شمار

لاہور (صابر شاہ) جیسا کہ اسلام آباد اور بیجنگ نے پیر کو چین پاکستان اقتصادی راہداری (سی پیک) کی 10 ویں سالگرہ منائی، آرکائیول ریسرچ سے پتہ چلتا ہے کہ اس عظیم اقدام کے پہلے مرحلے میں اب تک پاکستان میں 6,040 میگا واٹ بجلی، تقریباً 886 کلو میٹر ٹرانسمیشن لائنز اور 510 کلو میٹر ہائی ویز شامل ہو چکی ہیں۔

یہ اعداد و شمار پاکستان میں چین کے سفیر لونگ رونگ نے جنوری 2023 میں دی نیوز اور روزنامہ جنگ کو دیے گئے ایک خصوصی انٹرویو میں دیے تھے۔ اس انٹرویو کے دوران چینی سفیر کا کہنا تھا کہ سی پیک نے ان تمام سالوں کے دوران پاکستان میں مجموعی طور پر 25.4 ارب ڈالر کی براہ راست سرمایہ کاری کی ہے

ارب ڈالر ٹیکس ادا کیے ہیں اور پاکستانی عوام کے لئے 192,000 ملازمتیں پیدا کی ہیں۔ سی پیک انڈیپنڈنٹ پاور پروڈیوسرز (آئی پی بیز) پاکستان کو بجلی کی فراہمی 2.12 کا تقریباً 25 فیصد اپنے عروج پر فراہم کرتے ہیں، جو بجلی کی کمی کو بہت حد تک دور کرتے ہیں اور پاکستان کی سماجی و اقتصادی ترقی کے لیے ایک مضبوط بنیاد رکھتے ہیں۔ زیر تعمیر گوادر انٹرنیشنل ایئر پورٹ چین کا اب تک کا سب سے بڑا واحد غیر ملکی امدادی منصوبہ ہے۔ چین نے گزشتہ دو سالوں میں گوادر میں گھرانوں کے لیے سولر پنیلز کے کل 7000 سیٹ فراہم کیے ہیں۔

سولر پنیلز کے مزید 10,000 سیٹ تیاری کے مراحل میں ہیں اور بلوچستان کے غریب لوگوں کے لیے مختص کیے جائیں گے۔ اس کے ساتھ ساتھ پاکستان میں چینی سفارتخانہ بھی بلوچستان کے لوگوں کو گھریلو سولر یونٹس اور دیگر امداد فراہم کر رہا ہے۔

اس سے قبل 31 دسمبر 2022 کو وفاقی وزیر منصوبہ بندی احسن اقبال نے کم و بیش یہی تعداد بتائی تھی۔ بہت سے لوگ اس حقیقت سے واقف نہیں ہوں گے کہ پاکستان نے گوادر کا چھوٹا اور پسماندہ ماہی گیری گاؤں 8 ستمبر 1958 کو اومان سے 5.5 ارب روپے یا اس وقت کے ایک ملین امریکی ڈالر میں خریدا تھا۔

دسمبر 2018 کو ”ڈان“ اخبار نے لکھا تھا کہ وزیر اعظم فیروز خان نون کی حکومت نے 1958 میں اس وقت کے سلطان عمان (سید بن تیمور) کے ساتھ 5.5 بلین 18 روپے میں گوادر کی خریداری پر بات چیت کی تھی۔ اس کے بعد حکومت پاکستان نے پاکستان نیوی کو اپنی نئی ملکیت پر ایک جہاز بھیجنے کا حکم دیا تھا۔

پاکستانی حکومت نے یکم جولائی 1977 کو گوادر کو صوبہ بلوچستان میں ضم کر دیا تھا۔ اسے نومبر 2015 میں 43 سالہ لیز پر چائنا اور سیز پورٹس ہولڈنگ کمپنی لمیٹڈ کے حوالے کیا گیا تھا۔

تحقیق سے پتہ چلتا ہے کہ اس کے افتتاح کے وقت گواڈر پورٹ دنیا کے 196 ممالک میں موجود 4,764 گارگو بینڈ لنگ سہولیات میں نمایاں ہے۔ یعنی 1637 ایکڑ پر محیط گواڈر پورٹ کا باقاعدہ افتتاح 20 مارچ 2007 کو اس وقت کے صدر جنرل پرویز مشرف نے کیا تھا۔

مارچ 2007 تک چین نے گواڈر پورٹ کے 248 ملین ڈالر کے ابتدائی ترقیاتی اخراجات کا 80 فیصد فراہم کیا تھا۔

جنرل مشرف نے گواڈر ضلع کے دیہی علاقوں کے لیے 50 ملین روپے کا اعلان کیا تھا اور وعدہ کیا تھا کہ وفاقی حکومت نئے پورٹ سٹی میں سیوریج، تعلیم اور صحت کی سہولیات کے لیے 10 ملین روپے فراہم کرے گی۔

سی بی کے کا آغاز 20 اپریل 2015 کو کیا گیا تھا جب دورے پر آئے ہوئے چینی صدر شی جن پنگ اور اس وقت کے پاکستانی وزیر اعظم نواز شریف نے 46 ارب امریکی ڈالر مالیت کے 51 معاہدوں اور مفاہمت کی یادداشتوں پر دستخط کیے تھے۔

میں، یہ اعلان کیا گیا تھا کہ گواڈر شہر اور بندر گاہ کو سی بی کے کے تحت 1.62 ارب امریکی ڈالر کی لاگت سے مزید ترقی دی جائے گی جس کا مقصد شمالی پاکستان اور 2015 مغربی چین کو کرہ ارض کی سب سے گہری بندر گاہ سے جوڑنا ہے۔

اس بندر گاہ کو تیرتی مائع قدرتی گیس کی سہولت کی جگہ بھی سمجھا جاتا ہے جو کہ 2.5 ارب ڈالر کی بڑی گواڈر-نواب شاہ ایران پاکستان گیس پائپ لائن کا حصہ تھا۔ اس تناظر میں گواڈر اسپیشل اکنامک زون کی تعمیر جون 2016 میں شروع ہوئی تھی، جسے بندر گاہ سے ملحقہ 12,292 ایکڑ جگہ پر تعمیر کرنے کا منصوبہ تھا۔

اپریل 2017 میں ”بزنس ریکارڈر“ اخبار نے اس وقت کے گورنر سندھ محمد زبیر کے حوالے سے کہا تھا کہ کراچی سرکلر یلوے اور دیگر سمیت نئے منصوبوں کی شمولیت کے بعد سی بی کے کے تحت سرمایہ کاری اب 62 ارب ڈالر تک بڑھ گئی ہے۔

<https://jang.com.pk/news/1253128>

سی بی کے کے دس سال

دنیا کی سیاست اس وقت تبدیل ہونے کے عمل سے گزر رہی ہے۔ جنوب مشرقی ایشیا کا خطہ ان تبدیلیوں کا بڑا مرکز ہے۔ امریکہ، بھارت نے اپنی تمام تر توجہ کامرکز بھارت کو بنا رکھا ہے۔ جس کے باعث بھارتی معیشت کو پر لگ چکے ہیں۔ امریکہ پوری کوشش میں ہے کہ کسی بھی طریقہ سے بھارت کو چین کے مقابلے میں لاکھڑا کیا جائے۔ جبکہ بھارت پاکستان کا ازلی دشمن ہے۔ اس نے ہمسایہ ملک افغانستان میں بیٹھ کر پاکستان کی مغربی سرحد پر بد امنی کے نئے دروازے کھولے ہیں۔ افغانستان کے ساتھ پاکستان کی طویل سرحدی پٹی بھارت کی ریشہ دوانیوں کے باعث غیر محفوظ ہو چکی ہے۔ امریکہ کی سہ نکاتی حکمت عملی کی بدولت اس وقت پاکستان کی دونوں سرحدیں مشکلات میں گھری ہوئی ہیں۔ پاکستان کی کمزور معیشت آئی ایم ایف کے سہارے کھڑی ہے۔ حالیہ دنوں میں آئی ایم ایف نے پاکستان کو قرضہ دینے سے پہلے جس کڑے امتحان سے گزارا وہ امریکی رویے کا شاخسانہ معلوم ہوتا ہے۔ ان حالات میں چین ہی واحد ملک ہے جو اس وقت خطے میں طاقت کا توازن برقرار رکھے ہوئے ہے۔ چین کے "ون بیلٹ ون روڈ" منصوبے نے نہ صرف امریکہ کو ششدر کر رکھا ہے بلکہ اس نے یورپ کیلئے بھی سوچنے کے کئی درتچے وا کر دیے ہیں اور پاکستان اس منصوبے کا کلیدی کردار ہے۔ گزشتہ ایک دہائی کے دوران چین پاکستان کا سب سے بڑا تجارتی شراکت دار بن کر سامنے آیا ہے۔ 2022ء میں چین اور پاکستان کی درمیان باہمی تجارت کا حجم 26.5 ارب امریکی ڈالر تک پہنچ چکا ہے۔ پاک چین اقتصادی راہداری، اس سرمایہ کاری کا ایک بڑا سبب ہے۔ سی بی کے دراصل چینی صدر شی جن پنگ کا آئیڈیا تھا جو انہوں نے وقتاً فوقتاً پاکستانی حکمران کو بتایا۔ صدر جنرل پرویز مشرف کے دور میں اس پر بنیادی گفت و شنید ہوئی۔ صدر آصف علی زرداری نے مسلسل کئی مرتبہ چین کے دورے کئے۔ اور پھر 2013ء میں میاں نواز شریف کے دور حکومت میں اس منصوبے پر کام کا آغاز ہوا۔ اپریل 2015ء میں چینی صدر شی جن پنگ نے پاکستان کا دورہ کیا۔ اس دورے کے دوران سی بی کے کے منصوبوں کا باقاعدہ آغاز ہوا۔ اس منصوبے میں بظاہر تو قدیم شاہراہ ریشم کاروٹ بحال کرنا مقصود تھا تاہم اس کے ساتھ منسلک

منصوبوں نے پاکستان کی معیشت کو نیا خون عطا کیا نیم مردہ معیشت پاؤں پر کھڑی ہو گئی جبکہ امریکہ نے سی بیک اور اس سے جڑے منصوبوں کو روکنے کیلئے کئی ملکوں پر مشتمل اتحاد قائم کئے۔ جدید ٹیکنالوجی تک چینی حکام کی رسائی ناممکن بنانے کی کوشش کی گئی۔ سمندر میں چینی مصنوعات کو دیگر ممالک تک پہنچانے میں مشکلات کا سامنا کرنا پڑا۔ لیکن اس کے باوجود چین نہ صرف اپنے عزم پر قائم رہا بلکہ مسلسل دھمے انداز میں امریکی طاقت کو چیلنج بھی کرتا رہا۔ آج چین معاشی طور پر ایک ایسی حقیقت بن کر سامنے آچکا ہے کہ یورپ اور امریکہ سمیت دنیا کا کوئی ملک اسے نظر انداز کرنے کی جرات نہیں کر سکتا۔ اگر اس منصوبے کو پاک چین دوستی کے تناظر میں دیکھا جائے تو یہ کہنا مناسب ہے کہ یہ منصوبہ پاک چین کی لازوال دوستی کے طور پر دنیا بھر کے لئے ایک مثال ہے۔ سی بیک کے ذریعے پاکستان میں جاری توانائی کے بحران پر قابو پانے میں مدد ملی۔ اس منصوبے کا سب سے اہم حصہ پاکستان کے مختلف علاقوں میں تشکیل پانے والے 19 اسپیشل اکنامک زونز ہیں جہاں چینی کمپنیاں، صنعتیں لگا کر پاکستان میں ٹیکنالوجی ٹرانسفر کر رہی ہیں اور عام لوگوں کو روزگار فراہم کیا جا رہا ہے۔ پنجاب کا اکنامک زون ”علامہ اقبال انڈسٹریل سٹی“ فیصل آباد میں تعمیر کیا جا رہا ہے جس کا 25 فیصد سے زائد کام مکمل ہو چکا ہے۔ اب یہاں پر چین کی 150 سے زائد کمپنیاں اور سرمایہ کار تقریباً ڈیڑھ ارب ڈالر سے زائد کی سرمایہ کاری کر چکے ہیں۔ خیبر پختونخوا میں رشکا اکنامک زون پر 30 فیصد، بلوچستان میں بوستان اسپیشل اکنامک زون پر 20 فیصد، اور سندھ میں دھابھی اسپیشل اکنامک زون پر 5 فیصد کام مکمل ہوا ہے۔ اس سلسلے میں طے شدہ اہداف کے مطابق یہ تمام اکنامک زون 2020ء تک مکمل ہونے تھے تاہم کرونا وائرس اور دیگر وجوہات کی بنا پر ان کی تکمیل میں تاخیر ہوئی تاہم اب ان منصوبوں پر تیزی سے کام جاری ہے۔ اس سال پاک چین اقتصادی راہداری کی 10 سالہ تقریبات منعقد ہو رہی ہیں۔ ان میں شرکت کیلئے چین کے نائب وزیر اعظم لیفنگ خصوصی طور پر چینی حکومت کے خصوصی نمائندہ کی حیثیت سے پاکستان تشریف لائے ہیں۔ پاک چین اقتصادی راہداری کے معاملات میں لیفنگ ایک ممتاز مقام رکھتے ہیں اور انہیں چینی صدر شی جن پنگ کا خصوصی اعتماد بھی حاصل ہے۔ انہوں نے 2017 سے 2023ء تک نیشنل ڈیولپمنٹ اینڈ ریفرم کمیشن کے چیئرمین کی حیثیت سے پاکستان میں سی بیک کی منصوبہ بندی اور اس سے جڑے منصوبوں پر عمل درآمد میں اہم کردار ادا کیا۔ اس سے قبل مئی کے شروع میں چینی وزیر خارجہ چن گانگ نے بھی پاکستان کا دورہ کیا تھا جس میں پاکستان چین اور افغانستان نے ہیلتھ اینڈ روڈ اینڈ اینٹی ایٹو کے تحت سہ فریقی تعاون مضبوط بنانے اور سی بیک کو افغانستان تک وسیع کرنے کے عزم کا اعادہ کیا گیا تھا۔ اس وقت ایک طرف تو سی بیک تیزی سے منزل کی جانب گامزن ہے تو دوسری طرف پاک چین تعلقات میں بھی مزید مضبوطی پیدا ہو رہی ہے پاکستان کی مسلح افواج نے چینی ماہرین اور مختلف منصوبوں پر کام کرنے والے کارکنوں کی حفاظت کا خصوصی بندوبست کر رکھا ہے۔ یوں معلوم ہوتا ہے کہ مستقبل کی نئی صف بندی میں چین دنیا کے ایک بڑے حصے کی قیادت کریگا اور پاکستان اس کا بنیادی پارٹنر ہو گا۔ ان منصوبوں سے بھارت کے توسیع پسندانہ عزائم کو روکنے میں مدد ملے گی اور پاکستان بھی ترقی کے نئے سفر پر گامزن ہو گا۔

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بقیہ 8

ظہار کو ترقی بنیادوں پر دھانکے اور سہولت فراہم کرنے پر جتنی حکومت کا شکر یہ ادا کرتے ہوئے، انہوں نے کہا کہ تعلیمی ادارے نہ صرف اعلیٰ معیاری تعلیم فراہم کر رہے ہیں، منیہ بنیاد فراہم کر رہے ہیں بلکہ ہمارے لیے ایک منفرد تعلیمی تجربہ بھی فراہم کر رہے ہیں۔ نوجوان جو مستقبل میں دونوں ممالک کے درمیان خیر سگالی کے سفر کے طور پر کام کریں گے۔ گوارا پر وہ کے مطابق دونوں ممالک کی وزارت

تعلیم ایک دوسرے کے ساتھ فعال طور پر مصروف عمل ہے اور تعلیمی اداروں کو باہمی تعاون کے ایک جال میں لار رہا ہے۔ منیہ بنیاد فراہم کرنے کے لیے ایک سی پیک یونیورسٹی کنسورشیم، ایچ پی سی کے ذریعے، ہم اہم و تنظیم کو مزید گہرا کر کے آواز کے مزاحف ہے۔ اس نے تعلیمی اداروں کی مثبت اور ترقی پسند ہم آہنگی کے لیے ایک تعلیمی پلیٹ فارم مینا کیا ہے۔ اس کی چھتری کے نیچے، گوارا پورے 5 سالوں میں پاکستان اور چین دونوں کی 100 سے زیادہ یونیورسٹیوں کی حرجت انگیز ریزوشن ہوئی ہے۔ گوارا پورے کے مطابق چین کی اقتصادی اہمیت عالمی سطح پر بڑھی ہے اور اسے عالمی سیاست میں ایک اہم کھلاڑی بنا دیا ہے۔ انہوں نے اس بات پر زور دیا کہ پاکستان اپنی حرجت انگیز ترقی اور ترقی کی کہانی کے لیے چین کی طرف دیکھتا ہے کیونکہ وہاں بہت کچھ سیکھنے کو ہیں۔ گوارا پورے کے مطابق ایس سی او ا کا نوی ایڈ ٹریڈ ریسرچ انسٹی ٹیوٹ کے صدر ڈیکٹی نے بتایا کہ چائنا-ایس سی او انسٹی ٹیوٹ آف اکانومی ایڈ ٹریڈ کے افتتاح کے

چین میں 26 ہزار پاکستانی طلباء تعلیمی نظام میں فعال رہے ہیں

سی پیک یونیورسٹی کنسورشیم، ایچ پی سی کے ذریعے، ہم اہم و تنظیم کو مزید گہرا کر کے آواز کے مزاحف ہے۔ اس نے تعلیمی اداروں کی مثبت اور ترقی پسند ہم آہنگی کے لیے ایک تعلیمی پلیٹ فارم مینا کیا ہے۔ اس کی چھتری کے نیچے، گوارا پورے 5 سالوں میں پاکستان اور چین دونوں کی 100 سے زیادہ یونیورسٹیوں کی حرجت انگیز ریزوشن ہوئی ہے۔ گوارا پورے کے مطابق چین کی اقتصادی اہمیت عالمی سطح پر بڑھی ہے اور اسے عالمی سیاست میں ایک اہم کھلاڑی بنا دیا ہے۔ انہوں نے اس بات پر زور دیا کہ پاکستان اپنی حرجت انگیز ترقی اور ترقی کی کہانی کے لیے چین کی طرف دیکھتا ہے کیونکہ وہاں بہت کچھ سیکھنے کو ہیں۔ گوارا پورے کے مطابق ایس سی او ا کا نوی ایڈ ٹریڈ ریسرچ انسٹی ٹیوٹ کے صدر ڈیکٹی نے بتایا کہ چائنا-ایس سی او انسٹی ٹیوٹ آف اکانومی ایڈ ٹریڈ کے افتتاح کے

تعلیمی ادارے اعلیٰ معیاری تعلیم کے ساتھ منیہ بنیاد فراہم کر رہے ہیں، چین پاکستان تعلیمی تعاون کا نٹرس سے خطاب

چنگ ڈو (آئی این بی) تعلیم کے دائرے میں تعاون، چائے وہ یونیورسٹی سے یونیورسٹی کے روابط ہوں، اکیڈمی اور اڈیشنری میں تعاون ہو گا چین میں ذریعہ تعلیم پاکستانی طلباء کی تعداد، یہ سب احتیاط اور احتکام کے عکاس ہیں۔ پاکستان اور چین کے درمیان منفرد تعلقات کے بارے میں، "چین میں پاکستانی سفارت خانے کی ایچ پی سی منیہ منیہ شایعہ اویس نے روشنی ڈالی۔ گوارا پورے کے مطابق

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بقیہ 31

ظہار ڈاکٹر کے لحاظ سے دنیا کے بہترین آدمیوں میں ہوتا ہے اگر بہتر صحت اعلیٰ اختیار کی جائے تو پاکستانی آدمی کو انٹرنیٹ کر کے اربوں روپے کمائے جاسکتے ہیں۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ چین کے شہروں اور چینی اور سکیانگ میں پانچ روزہ نمائش کا انعقاد کیا جا رہا ہے جس میں پاکستانی آدمیوں کے انٹرنیٹ اور بیورو گروورڈ کو پاکستانی آدمیوں کی نمائش کے لیے بھرپور مواقع دیا جائے گا۔ اس حوالے سے آج معاملات کا تفصیل سے جائزہ لیا جا رہا ہے۔ خصوصی کئی کوئی ڈیپ وزارت کامرس، ایف بی آر، شاہد امیر، معاملات، سول ایوی ایشن کے حکام نے اب تک ہونے والے تجزیوں پر اسے تفصیل سے آگاہ کیا۔ کئی کو بتایا گیا کہ اور چینی میں نمائش 17 سے 21 اگست 2023 کو منعقد ہوگی اس کے لئے چین دن اسلام آباد اور چار دن لاہور سے پروازیں جائیں گی۔ کئی کو بتایا گیا کہ اس پروگرام کا مقصد چین اور دنیا بھر کی مارکیٹوں میں پاکستانی آدمیوں کی طلب کو بڑھانا ہے۔ پاکستانی آدمیوں کی نمائش کے لئے 11 سٹال خریدے جائیں گے۔ 48 ممالک کے لوگ اس نمائش میں شرکت کریں گے۔

پاکستانی آم کی چین میں بڑی نمائش کا فیصلہ

اروچی اور سکیانگ میں ہونیوالی نمائش میں 13 سٹال خریدے جائیں گے

اسلام آباد، لاہور سے 4 روز اور پروازیں چلائی جائیں گی، خصوصی کئی کو برفنگ

اسلام آباد (آئی این بی) چین کے شہروں کنوینر کئی ٹیلیز رانا محمود اہسن کی زیر صدارت اروچی اور سکیانگ میں پاکستانی آدمیوں کی نمائش پارلیمنٹ ہاؤس میں منعقد ہوگی۔ کنوینر کئی نے کہا کہ کے حوالے سے ایمان والا کی خصوصی کئی کا اہلاس پاکستانی آدمیوں کا (باقی صفحہ 6 جیہ نمبر 31)

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بقیہ
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کیا ہے ہی بیک کے 10 سال مل ہونے کی خوشی میں منصفہ یہ تقریب گلبرگ شہر کے گلبرگ سادگی سے منصفہ ہوگی، لیکن کے نائب وزیر اعظم سی لی فینگ کی آمد کے موقع پر گلبرگ منصفہ ہونا تھا، اسلام آباد سے جاری سرکاری اعلامیہ کے مطابق وزیر اعظم نے چائنہ کی کونگم سادگی کی حالت میں سپہ لہذا گلبرگ منصفہ کیا جائے۔

باجوز دھماکہ، سی بیک 10 سالہ تقریبات سادگی سے منانے کا فیصلہ

قوم سوگ کی حالت میں ہے، وزیر اعظم کی ہدایت پر گلبرگ شہر منسوخ کر دیا گیا

اسلام آباد (آئی این پی) وزیر اعظم شہباز شریف نے باجوز دھشت گردی کے واقعے کے سوگ بیک کے 10 سال مل ہونے کی خوشی میں گلبرگ میں سی بیک کی 10 سالہ تقریبات سادگی سے بھی منسوخ کر دیا (پانی صفر 6 بجے نمبر 32)

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بقیہ 47

میں نمایاں کردار ادا کیا ہے، جس میں ہی بیک ایک اہم منصوبہ ہے۔ بیٹھن ڈیٹمنٹ اینڈ ریگولیشن کے چیئر مین کے طور پر انہوں نے پاکستان میں سی بیک کے متعدد منصوبوں کی منصوبہ بندی اور ان پر عملدرآمد میں اہم کردار ادا کیا۔ میگا سی بیک منصوبے کے تحت اپنی حکومت کی کامیابیوں کا شمار کرتے ہوئے انہوں نے کہا کہ اپنے گزشتہ دور حکومت کے تین سالوں کے دوران ہم نے اس فلگ شپ پراجیکٹ کے تحت 25 بلین ڈالر سے زیادہ کی سرمایہ کاری کو راقب کیا۔ اس کے نتیجے میں تقریباً 8000 مچھلات بجلی کی پیداوار مئی ہوئی۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ سی بیک نے قراقرم کو پاکستان کے لیے ایک پیداواری ۱۵۱ ٹاوا بنا دیا جو سستی بجلی پیدا کرنے کا ایک بڑا ذریعہ ہے۔ اس نے ہمارے روڈ انفراسٹرکچر کو مضبوط بنانے میں بھی مدد کی جس نے ہمارے موٹر وے نیٹ ورک کو وسیع کیا اور گواد میں ترقی کی۔ اس اقبال نے کہا کہ ہم نے میگا سی بیک پراجیکٹ کے تحت پاکستان میں 9 صنعتی زونز کا منصوبہ بنایا لیکن بد قسمتی سے کچھ حکومت نے ان مستقل کے منصوبوں کو بر باد کر دیا۔ وفاقی وزیر نے کہا کہ سی بیک نے دونوں ممالک کے درمیان وسیع تر تعاون کو فروغ دیا جس سے تنظیم کے شعبے میں بھی تعاون کو بھترانے میں مدد ملی۔ پاکستان میں سرمایہ کاری کے مواقع کھلنے کے مواقع پر روشنی ڈالتے ہوئے

سی بیک نے زخم کول کو پیداواری اثابہ بنا دیا

فلگ شپ پراجیکٹ کے تحت 25 بلین ڈالر سے زیادہ کی سرمایہ کاری کو راقب کیا جس سے 8 ہزار میگا واٹ بجلی کی پیداوار ہوئی

دونوں ممالک کے درمیان تعاون اور ہم آہنگی بے مثال مواقع اور مشترکہ خوشحالی کی راہ ہموار کریگی، نیوز کانفرنس

اسلام آباد (آئی این پی) وفاقی وزیر منصوبہ اور پالیسی تعاون کو بڑھانے میں مدد ملے گی۔ ایک بین الاقوامی اقتصادی گفتات اور واٹ اینڈ روڈ وزیر اعظم سی لی فینگ کا دورہ اعلیٰ اہمیت کا حامل نیوز کانفرنس سے خطاب کرتے ہوئے، انہوں نے انٹرنیشنل ایڈ کے ٹاڈ (پانی صفر 6 بجے نمبر 47)

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Nawaiwaqt News

چین 6 سبھوتوں پر دستخط، سرمایہ کاری بڑھائیں گے،

اسلام آباد (نمائندہ خصوصی) وزیر اعظم محمد شہباز شریف سے چین کے صدر شی جن پنگ کے خصوصی نمائندہ، چین کے نائب وزیر اعظم اور کیونسٹ پارٹی آف چائنا کی سینئر کمیٹی کے پولٹ بیورو کے رکن ہی لی فینگ نے ملاقات کی۔ ملاقات میں پاکستان اور چین کے تعلقات کے متعدد پہلوؤں، بشمول چین پاکستان اقتصادی راہداری (سی پیک) اور دو طرفہ اقتصادی و مالیاتی تعاون پر تبادلہ خیال کیا گیا۔ پیر کو وزیر اعظم آفس کے میڈیا ونگ سے جاری بیان کے مطابق وزیر اعظم محمد شہباز شریف نے چین کے نائب وزیر اعظم ہی لی فینگ کا وزیر اعظم ہاس پیئنجے پر گرجوشی سے استقبال کیا۔ وزیر اعظم نے ہی لی فینگ کو مارچ میں چین کے نائب وزیر اعظم کے عہدے پر فائز ہونے پر مبارکباد پیش کی۔ چین کے نائب وزیر اعظم ہی لی فینگ نے پاکستان اور چین کی سٹریٹجک شراکت داری اور دوستی اور بھائی چارے پر مبنی تعلقات کو اجاگر کیا اور دونوں ممالک کے درمیان اشتراک میں توسیع پر زور دیا۔ انہوں نے پاکستان کی معاشی و اقتصادی ترقی اور خوشحالی میں چین کے مستقل تعاون کی یقین دہانی کرائی۔ ملاقات میں دونوں ممالک کے رہنما نے چین پاکستان اقتصادی راہداری منصوبے کی پاکستان اور چین کی مشترکہ معاشی اور اقتصادی ترقی میں مرکزیت پر زور دیا۔ وزیر اعظم شہباز شریف نے کہا کہ چین پاکستان اقتصادی راہداری منصوبے کی 10 سالہ سالگرہ اس منصوبے کو از سر نو توسیع دینے کا ایک سنہری موقع ہے۔ ملاقات میں وزیر اعظم محمد شہباز شریف نے چین کو زرعی برآمدات بڑھانے میں پاکستان کی دلچسپی سے آگاہ کیا۔ اس موقع پر پاکستان اور چین کے درمیان زرعی، صنعتی اور مواصلاتی سمیت دیگر شعبوں میں مفاہمتی یادداشتوں پر دستخط کئے گئے۔ دونوں رہنما نے علاقائی مسائل اور اپنے قومی مفادات کے تحفظ پر ایک دوسرے کی حمایت کے عزم کا اظہار کیا۔

دریں اثنا وزیر اعظم محمد شہباز شریف نے چینی نائب وزیر اعظم ہی لی فینگ کے اعزاز میں نظرانہ کا بھی اہتمام کیا۔ علاوہ ازیں وزیر اعظم محمد شہباز شریف نے کہا ہے کہ سی پیک کا شاندار منصوبہ دوسرے مرحلے میں داخل ہو چکا ہے، یہ نہ صرف پاکستان بلکہ خطے کی ترقی میں اہم کردار ادا کرے گا جس میں خصوصی اقتصادی زونز، انوویشن کوریڈور، گرین کوریڈور اور روابط کو فروغ دینے کے منصوبے شامل ہیں، سی پیک منصوبوں سے 25 ارب ڈالر سرمایہ کاری پاکستان آئی، پاکستان میں معاشی ترقی، غربت کے خاتمے اور روزگار کی فراہمی کیلئے چینی ماڈل کو اپنانے کیلئے پاک چین مشترکہ ورکنگ گروپ کے قیام پر اتفاق کیا گیا ہے۔ پیر کو ان خیالات کا اظہار انہوں نے کنوینشن سنٹر اسلام آباد میں سی پیک کے 10 سال مکمل ہونے پر خصوصی تقریب سے خطاب کرتے ہوئے کیا۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ آج پاکستان اور چین کیلئے یادگار دن ہے، دونوں دوست ممالک کے درمیان یہ عظیم سفر 1949 میں چین کی آزادی سے شروع ہوا، انہوں نے کہا کہ سابق وزیر اعظم ذوالفقار علی بھٹو نے پاک چین دوستی کو فروغ دینے میں اہم کردار ادا کیا، انہوں نے کہا کہ اپریل 2015 میں چینی صدر شی جن پنگ نے پاکستان کا دورہ کیا، سی پیک کے معاہدے پر چینی صدر شی جن پنگ اور سابق وزیر اعظم نواز شریف نے دستخط کئے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ سی پیک کے تحت بجلی کے ریکارڈ منصوبے مکمل کئے گئے۔ سی پیک منصوبوں میں 25 ارب ڈالر کی سرمایہ کاری کی گئی، لاکھوں ملازمتوں کے مواقع پیدا ہوئے، پیداوار اور برآمدات میں اضافہ ہوا۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ اب سی پیک دوسرے مرحلے میں داخل ہو چکا ہے، یہ نہ صرف پاکستان بلکہ خطے میں سرمایہ کاری، ترقی اور خوشحالی میں اہم کردار ادا کرے گا، اس میں بڑے منصوبے بشمول خصوصی اقتصادی زونز، اینوویشن کوریڈور، گرین کوریڈور اور روابط کو فروغ دینا شامل ہے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ سی پیک کو مزید توسیع دی جائے گی تاکہ پورا خطہ اور دنیا مستفید ہو سکے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ گوادر شہر ترقی کے سفر پر گامزن ہے، موجودہ حکومت نے گوادر بندرگاہ اور شہر کی ترقی کیلئے ہر ممکن اقدامات اور کوششیں کی ہیں۔ سی پیک سے اس کو خطے کی مصروف ترین بندرگاہ بنانے میں مدد ملے گی، اس مشکل وقت میں ساتھ دینے پر چینی صدر، چینی حکومت اور عوام کا شکریہ گزارا ہوا، انہوں نے کہا کہ ہمیں قرضہ اور امداد پر بھروسہ نہیں کرنا چاہئے، ہمیں خود کو اپنے پاؤں پر کھڑا کرنا چاہئے۔ وزیر اعظم نے کہا کہ ہمیں آگے بڑھنا چاہئے اور اس کا واحد راستہ چین کی ترقی کے ماڈل کو اپنانا ہے۔ آج ہم نے مشترکہ ورکنگ گروپ قائم کرنے پر اتفاق کیا ہے جو اس گروتھ ماڈل کا جائزہ لے گا۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ جلد وہ وقت آئے گا کہ ہم قرضہ نہیں لیں گے اور ملک کو اپنے پاؤں پر کھڑا کریں گے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ ہم چین کی طرح اپنے عوام کی غربت ختم کرینگے، ملازمتیں دینگے اور یہ ہمارے عوام کیلئے بہترین تحفہ ہو گا۔ پاک چین دوستی زندہ باد۔ اس موقع پر وزیر اعظم محمد

شہباز شریف اور چین کے نائب وزیر اعظم ہی لی فینگ نے مشترکہ طور پر گلوب کا مٹن دبا کر 10 سالہ تقریبات کا آغاز کیا اور یادگاری سکہ اور یادگاری ٹکٹ کا اجرا کیا۔ تقریب میں سی پیک سے متعلق تفصیلی ڈاکو میٹری بھی دکھائی گئی۔ باجوڑ دھماکے کے باعث وزیر اعظم محمد شہباز شریف کی ہدایات پر سی پیک کی 10 سالہ تقریبات سادگی سے منائی جا رہی ہیں۔ پیر کو یہاں چین کے نائب وزیر اعظم ہی لی فینگ کی سربراہی میں چین کے اعلیٰ سطح کے وفد کے دورہ پاکستان کے موقع پر وزیر اعظم ہاؤس میں دونوں ممالک کے درمیان مفاہمت کی 6 دستاویزات اور یادداشتوں پر دستخطوں کی تقریب کے موقع پر خطاب کرتے ہوئے وزیر اعظم محمد شہباز شریف نے چینی وفد کا بھرپور خیر مقدم کرتے ہوئے کہا کہ سی پیک کے 10 سال مکمل ہونے پر چین کے اعلیٰ سطح کے وفد کے دورہ پاکستان پر وہ چین کی قیادت کے شکر گزار ہیں۔ وزیر اعظم نے کہا کہ وہ چین کے صدر شی جن پنگ کے شکر گزار ہیں کہ انہوں نے پاکستان کے ساتھ عوامی رابطوں کے فروغ کے لئے نائب وزیر اعظم کو خصوصی ایچی کے طور پر پاکستان بھیجا ہے۔ پاک چین دوستی برقرار رہے گی اور اس میں کوئی رکاوٹ برداشت نہیں کی جائے گی۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ ایم ایل ون اور کراچی سرکلر ریلوے اہم منصوبے ہیں، منصوبے کامیابی سے مکمل ہوں گے۔ ہم بابائے قوم قائد اعظم محمد علی جناح کے وژن کے مطابق ملک میں ترقی اور خوشحالی لانے کے لئے اپنی کوششیں جاری رکھیں گے۔ قبل ازیں وزیر اعظم محمد شہباز شریف اور چین کے نائب وزیر اعظم ہی لی فینگ نے پاکستان اور چین کے درمیان 6 ایم او یوز اور معاہدوں پر دستخط کی تقریب کا مشاہدہ کیا۔ وفاقی وزیر برائے منصوبہ بندی، ترقی و خصوصی اقدامات پروفیسر احسن اقبال اور چین کے قومی کمیشن برائے اصلاحات و ترقی کے وائس چیئرمین سونگ لیان نے جو انٹ کو آپریشن کمیٹی آف سی پیک اور سی پیک فریم ورک میں سپیشل ایڈجسٹنگ آف میکینزم کے معاہدوں پر دستخط کئے۔ سیکرٹری وزارت قومی غذائی تحفظ و تحقیق ظفر حسن اور پاکستان میں چین کی ناظم الامور فانگ جن سوائے نے چین کو سرخ مرچ کی برآمدات سے متعلق دستاویز پر دستخط کئے، این ایچ اے کے ممبر پلاننگ احسن امین اور پاکستان میں چین کی ناظم الامور فانگ جن سوائے نے فرام ہائی وے ری الاائنٹ فیڈ ٹو کی حتمی فنانسنگ کی یادداشت پر دستخط کئے۔ علاوہ ازیں دونوں ممالک نے انڈسٹریل ورکر ایڈجسٹنگ پروگرام اور ایم ایل ون منصوبے پر 21 ویں کانفرنس کی تکنیکی کمیٹی کے منٹس پر بھی دستخط کئے۔

کی دس سالہ سالگرہ کی مناسبت سے اسلام آباد میں خصوصی (CPEC) اسلام آباد + بیجنگ (خبرنگار خصوصی + نمائندہ خصوصی + شہنوا) چین پاکستان اقتصادی راہداری تقریب کا انعقاد کیا گیا۔ تقریب میں چینی صدر شی جن پنگ کے خصوصی نمائندے اور چین کے نائب وزیر اعظم ہی لی فنگ نے بطور مہمان خصوصی شرکت کی۔ وزیر اعظم آفس کے میڈیا ونگ کی جانب سے جاری اعلامیہ کے مطابق وزیر اعظم محمد شہباز شریف اور چینی نائب وزیر اعظم نے پاکستان کی سماجی، معاشی اور اقتصادی ترقی اور دونوں ممالک کے عوام کی ترقی اور خوشحالی میں چین پاکستان اقتصادی راہداری منصوبے کے کردار کو اہم قرار دیا۔ دونوں راہنماؤں نے اس بات پر زور دیا کہ چین پاکستان اقتصادی راہداری منصوبے نے ترقیاتی منصوبہ بندی کی بنیادی رکاوٹوں کو دور کر کے اور بجلی کی کمی کو ختم کر کے پاکستان کے معاشی منظر نامے کو تبدیل کر دیا ہے۔ چین پاکستان اقتصادی راہداری منصوبے کی نمایاں کامیابیوں پر وزیر اعظم محمد شہباز شریف اور چینی نائب وزیر اعظم ہی لی فنگ نے اطمینان کا اظہار کیا۔ دونوں راہنماؤں نے پچھلی دہائی کی کامیابیوں کی بنیاد پر مزید ترقیاتی منصوبہ بندی اور باہمی تعاون کے پختہ عزم کا اظہار کیا۔ پاکستان اور چین کی قیادت نے پاکستان میں سی پیک کے تمام منصوبوں کی بروقت تکمیل میں شاندار کردار ادا کرنے پر پاکستانی اور چینی ماہرین، انجینئرز اور ورکرز کی کوششوں کو بھی سراہا۔ چینی نائب وزیر اعظم نے پاکستانی قوم کو چین کے صدر شی جن پنگ کی جانب سے چین پاکستان اقتصادی راہداری منصوبے کے دس سال مکمل ہونے پر مبارکباد پیش کی۔ سی پیک کے دس سال مکمل ہونے کے موقع پر یادگاری ڈاک ٹکٹ، سکہ اور فرسٹ ڈے کوور جاری کیے گئے۔ اس موقع پر خطاب کرتے ہوئے چینی نائب وزیر اعظم ہی لی فنگ نے کہا کہ سی پیک دونوں ملکوں کے درمیان اہم منصوبہ ہے، سی پیک سے خطے میں سماجی ترقی کا دور شروع ہوا۔ سی پیک چین اور پاکستان کی دوستی کے نئے دور کا آغاز ہے، سی پیک بیلٹ اینڈ روڈ منصوبے کا حصہ ہے۔

انہوں نے کہا کہ پاک چین دوستی ہمالیہ سے بلند اور سمندر سے گہری ہے، پاکستان اور چین کے درمیان تاریخی دوستانہ تعلقات ہیں۔ چینی نائب وزیر اعظم کا کہنا تھا کہ سی پیک کے تحت ابن ریلوے، فابریک آپٹک سمیت مختلف منصوبوں کو عملی جامہ پہنایا گیا، سی پیک نے دونوں ملکوں کے باہمی مفاد کو نئی جلا بخشی، سی پیک پاکستان اور چین کے درمیان فلگ شپ منصوبہ ہے۔ ان کا کہنا تھا کہ توانائی، زراعت، ریلوے، آئی ٹی سمیت مختلف منصوبے شروع کیے، پاکستان میں سی پیک کے تحت سڑکوں کے جال بچھائے گئے۔ چینی نائب وزیر اعظم نے کہا کہ سی پیک کی 10 سالہ تقریبات میں شرکت کر کے خوشی محسوس ہوئی، سی پیک سے پاکستان میں صنعتی ترقی کے دور کا آغاز ہوا،

انڈسٹری، کلچر اور صحت کے شعبوں میں مزید تعاون کی ضرورت ہے۔ چین پاکستان اقتصادی راہداری منصوبے سے پاکستان میں 200,000 سے زیادہ ملازمتیں پیدا ہوئیں، 8000 میگا واٹ بجلی قومی گرڈ میں شامل ہوئی، 510 کلو میٹر ہائی ویز اور 932 کلو میٹر سڑکوں کے نیٹ ورک کی تعمیر مکمل ہوئی اور 820 کلو میٹر طویل آپٹیکل فائبر لائن بچھائی گئی۔ دوسرے مرحلے کے تحت دونوں ممالک میں دیہی علاقوں کی از سر نو بحالی، زرعی ترقی، صنعت کاری، گرین ڈویلپمنٹ اور سائنس اور ٹیکنالوجی سمیت نئے شعبوں میں تعاون کو وسعت دی گئی ہے۔ چین اور پاکستان کے سینئر وزرائی، دونوں ممالک کے اعلیٰ حکام اور پاکستان میں کام کرنے والی معروف چینی کمپنیوں کے کارپوریٹ ایگزیکٹوز نے اس تقریب میں شرکت کی۔ صدر مملکت ڈاکٹر عارف علوی نے پاکستان اور چین کے مابین دو طرفہ اقتصادی تعاون مزید مضبوط بنانے کی ضرورت پر زور دیتے ہوئے کہا ہے کہ پاکستان کی معیشت کے مختلف شعبوں بالخصوص خصوصی اقتصادی زونز میں چینی سرمایہ کاری بڑھانے کی ضرورت ہے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ پاکستان اپنے زراعت، انفارمیشن ٹیکنالوجی (آئی ٹی)، ٹرانسپورٹ اور ٹیکسٹائل کے شعبوں کو مضبوط بنانے کیلئے چین کے تعاون اور مدد کا خواہاں ہے۔ صدر مملکت نے ان خیالات کا اظہار چین کے صدر شی جن پنگ کے نمائندہ خصوصی اور چین کی ریاستی کونسل کے نائب وزیر اعظم لی فینگ سے گفتگو کرتے ہوئے کیا۔ چین کے نائب وزیر اعظم نے اپنے وفد کے ارکان کے ہمراہ ایوان صدر میں صدر عارف علوی سے ملاقات کی۔ وفد کا خیر مقدم کرتے ہوئے صدر مملکت نے اس بات پر روشنی ڈالی کہ پاکستان اور چین کے مابین آل ویدر اسٹریٹجک کوآپریٹو پارٹنرشپ ہے اور دونوں ممالک ہمیشہ مشکل وقت میں ایک دوسرے کے ساتھ کھڑے رہے۔ دنیا کو دونوں برادر ممالک کی دوستی سے سبق سیکھنا چاہیے۔ صدر مملکت نے کہا کہ سی پیک خطے میں خوشحالی لانے کے ساتھ ساتھ پاکستان کے معاشی منظر نامے کو بھی بدل دے گا۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ پاکستان اس کے تمام بنیادی امور پر چین کی بھرپور حمایت جاری رکھے گا۔ صدر مملکت نے مشکل وقت میں پاکستان کی مالی مدد کرنے پر چینی حکومت کا شکریہ ادا کرنے کے علاوہ تنازع جموں و کشمیر پر چین کے اصولی موقف پر اظہار تشکر کیا۔ انہوں نے نائب وزیر اعظم کو ہلال پاکستان کا اعزاز ملنے پر مبارکباد دی۔ چیف آف دی آرمی سٹاف جنرل عاصم منیر سے چینی نائب وزیر اعظم ہی لی فنگ نے پیر کو ملاقات کی۔ پاک فوج کے شعبہ تعلقات عامہ (آئی ایس پی آر) کی جانب سے جاری اعلامیہ کے مطابق پاکستان کے دورے پر آئے ہوئے چینی نائب وزیر اعظم کی آرمی چیف سے ملاقات میں باہمی دلچسپی کے امور اور دفاعی تعاون پر تبادلہ خیال کیا گیا۔ آئی ایس پی آر کے مطابق دونوں رہنماؤں نے تمام شعبوں میں دو طرفہ تعلقات کو مزید بڑھانے اور مضبوط بنانے کی خواہش کا اعادہ کیا۔ چینی صدر شی جن پنگ نے اکتیس جولائی کو چین پاکستان اقتصادی راہداری کے آغاز کی دسویں سالگرہ کے موقع پر منعقدہ تقریب کے نام تہنیتی پیغام بھیجا۔ چینی صدر شی جن پنگ نے اپنے تہنیتی پیغام میں نشاندہی کی کہ چین پاک اقتصادی راہداری بیلٹ اینڈ روڈ انیٹیوا کا اہم ترین اولین منصوبہ ہے۔ جن کی بدولت نہ صرف پاکستان کی اقتصادی و سماجی ترقی کو نئی قوت محرکہ ملی ہے بلکہ خطے میں باہمی رابطے اور انضمام کے عمل کے لئے اچھی بنیاد ڈالی گئی ہے۔ چین پاک اقتصادی راہداری چین اور پاکستان کے درمیان چار موسموں کی دوستی کا جیتا جاگتا ثبوت بن گئی ہے۔ صدر شی جن پنگ نے کہا چاہے بین الاقوامی صورتحال میں کتنی ہی تبدیلیاں رونمایوں نہ ہوں، چین ہمیشہ ثابت قدمی سے پاکستان کے ساتھ کھڑا رہے گا اور ہاتھ میں ہاتھ اور شانہ بہ شانہ ہماری آہنی دوستی کو فروغ دیتے ہوئے ترقی اور سلامتی کو بہتر انداز میں مربوط کرے گا۔ ہم بہتر معیار کے ساتھ وسیع تر تہنیت پر مزید گہرا تعاون کرتے ہوئے چین پاک آل ویدر اسٹریٹجک پارٹنرشپ کو نئی بلندی تک پہنچائیں گے اور دونوں ممالک نیز خطے کے امن و خوشحالی کے لئے مزید خدمات سرانجام دیں گے۔

اعلامیہ

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شاندار خدمات، چینی نائب وزیر اعظم کو ہلال پاکستان سے نوازا گیا

اسلام آباد (نمائندہ خصوصی) صدر مملکت ڈاکٹر عارف علوی نے چینی صدر شی جن پنگ کے خصوصی نمائندہ، چین کی کمیونسٹ پارٹی کی سنٹرل کمیٹی کے پولٹ بیورو کے رکن اور نائب وزیر اعظم ہی لی فینگ کو پاکستان کے لئے گرانقدر خدمات پر ہلال پاکستان کے اعزاز سے نوازا۔ چین کے نائب وزیر اعظم کو اعزاز دینے کے لئے ایک سادہ اور پر قار تقریب پیر کو ایوان صدر اسلام آباد میں ہوئی جہاں صدر مملکت ڈاکٹر عارف علوی نے انہیں ہلال پاکستان کا اعزاز عطا کیا۔ وزیر اعظم محمد شہباز شریف، چیئرمین

سینٹ محمد صادق سنجانی، سپیکر قومی اسمبلی راجہ پرویز اشرف، کابینہ کے ارکان، چیئرمین جوائنٹ چیفس آف سٹاف کمیٹی، مسلح افواج کے سربراہان، چین کے نائب وزیر اعظم ہی لی فینگ کے ہمراہ پاکستان کے دورہ پر آئے ہوئے وفد کے اراکین سمیت اعلیٰ سول و فوجی حکام نے تقریب میں شرکت کی۔ چینی نائب وزیر اعظم کو ہلال پاکستان کا اعزاز دینے کے لئے منعقدہ تقریب میں چین کے نائب وزیر خارجہ اور پاکستان میں چینی ناظم الامور بھی شریک ہوئیں۔ اس سے قبل ایوان صدر آمد پر چین کے نائب وزیر اعظم کا انتہائی پر تپاک استقبال کیا گیا۔ چین کے نائب وزیر اعظم ہی لی فینگ پاکستان کے سرکاری دورہ پر اتوار کو اسلام آباد پہنچے تھے۔

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چین کے نائب وزیر اعظم کا دورہ اقتصادی تعلقات کو فروغ دے گا: افتخار ملک

لاہور (کامرس رپورٹر) سارک چیئرمین آف کامرس اینڈ انڈسٹری کے سابق صدر افتخار علی ملک نے کہا ہے کہ چین کے نائب وزیر اعظم ہی لی فینگ کا موجودہ دورہ پاکستان دو طرفہ تعلقات کو مزید فروغ دینے کے ساتھ ساتھ اقتصادی تعلقات کو مزید فروغ دے گا۔ پیر کو یہاں 'پاکستانی معیشت پر سی پیک کے اثرات' کے موضوع پر گول میز کانفرنس کی صدارت کرتے ہوئے انہوں نے کہا کہ سی پیک پاکستان کی معیشت کے لیے انتہائی اہمیت کا حامل اربوں ڈالر کا انفراسٹرکچر منصوبہ ہے جس کا مقصد گوادار پورٹ کو سڑکوں، ریل اور پائپ لائنوں کے نیٹ ورک کے ذریعے چین کے سے جوڑنا ہے۔ اس سے بلوچستان اور خیبر پختونخوا میں اقتصادی صلاحیت کے فروغ اور سرمایہ کاری کی راہ ہموار ہوگی۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ اس میگا منصوبہ سے چین اور پاکستان کے درمیان روابط اور تجارت کو فروغ ملے گا۔ سیشل اکنامک زونز سے ٹیکنالوجی کی منتقلی، مہارتوں کی ترقی اور روزگار کے مواقع کو فروغ ملے گا۔ افتخار علی ملک نے کہا سی پیک کی کامیابی کا انحصار اس کے موثر نفاذ، سکیورٹی خدشات کو دور کرنے اور اس بات کو یقینی بنانے پر ہے کہ مقامی کمیونٹی بھی ترقیاتی منصوبوں سے مستفید ہوں۔

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چینی نائب وزیر اعظم کا دورہ سی پیک کی پیشرفت کو تقویت دے گا، یونائیٹڈ بزنس گروپ

کراچی (کامرس رپورٹر) یونائیٹڈ بزنس گروپ (یو بی جی) کے صدر زبیر طفیل، سیکرٹری جنرل (سندھ زون) حنیف گوہر، مرکزی ترجمان گلزار فیروز اور سینئر ممبران ملک خدا کے دورہ پاکستان کا پر جوش خیر مقدم کرتے ہوئے اس توقع کا اظہار کیا ہے کہ چینی نائب وزیر اعظم کا (He Lifeng) بخش نے چین کے نائب وزیر اعظم ہی لی فینگ دورہ چین پاکستان اقتصادی راہداری (سی پیک) کی پیشرفت کو تقویت دے گا اور اس کے دوسرے مرحلے (2030) کی تکمیل میں اہم کردار ادا کرے گا۔ یو بی جی رہنماؤں نے امید ظاہر کی کہ چینی نائب وزیر اعظم دورہ پاکستان کے دوران دونوں ممالک کے درمیان کاروبار سے کاروبار کے لیے تعاون کے نئے مواقع تلاش کیے جائیں گے، صنعت کاری اور پہلے سے استعمال نہ کیے گئے شعبوں میں سرمایہ کاری کو فروغ دیا جائے گا۔ مزید برآں چینی ٹیکنالوجی کے استعمال سے وقت کی اہم ضرورت کو پورا کرتے ہوئے زرعی پیداواری صلاحیت میں اضافہ متوقع ہے۔ یو بی جی رہنماؤں نے کہا کہ نائب وزیر اعظم ہی لی فینگ کی موجودگی میں سی پیک کی دس سالہ تقریبات سے دونوں ممالک کی کاروباری برادریوں کے اندر نئی امگلوں کی حوصلہ افزائی اور ایندھن پیدا کرنے کی توقع ہے، جس سے معاشی تعاون اور خوشحالی بڑھے گی۔

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August 02, 2023

Daily Times

Pakistani students laud China's trade training institute

"The China-SCO Institute of Economy and Trade has provided us international students with a broader platform to acquire helpful general knowledge and we have more choices in our

study and career,” said Ahmer Bilal, a Pakistani student who recently completed his Ph.D. in Geology at Shandong University of Science and Technology (SDUST).

During the inauguration ceremony of the International Exchange Center at the China-SCO Institute of Economy and Trade held last week, Ahmer Bilal highly appreciated the joint efforts of the institute and Chinese universities in offering comprehensive and practical training, including language, business, and preparatory courses.

“As a science student, the curriculum was designed to be easily understandable and interesting. My university fellows and I all wish we could attend more of these courses,” he said in an interview with China Economic Net. Inauguration ceremony of International Exchange Center, China-SCO Institute of Economy and Trade

The China-SCO Institute of Economy and Trade was established following Chinese President Xi Jinping’s announcement on September 17, 2021, during the 21st meeting of the Council of Heads of State of the Member States of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization.

President Xi Jinping announced the opening of the institute to promote business and trade cooperation among SCO countries.

It was inaugurated in Qingdao in January 2022. The institute, which is based on the China-SCO Local Economic and Trade Cooperation Demonstration Area, aims to have a national influence and serve SCO countries and the countries along the “Belt and Road” initiative.

Its objectives include nurturing international economic and trade talents, training international officials and technical personnel, conducting research on countries’ economies and trade, fostering international economy and trade exchanges and cooperation, and becoming a top-tier university specialized in cultivating talents in foreign economics and trade.

As of June 2023, the institute had successfully organized 141 training courses on Chinese foreign aid training and economic and trade training, covering topics such as international logistics and transportation, cross-border e-commerce, and more.

These courses benefited 10,512 participants from 43 SCO countries and countries along the Belt and Road initiative. Information in this article comes from third party providers. This website does not provide explicit or implied warranty for such information and is not liable for any losses directly or indirectly caused by using such information.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1119087/pakistani-students-laud-chinas-trade-training-institute/>

UAF signs LoI with QAU to promote Pak-China agri collaboration

The University of Faisalabad (UAF) signed a Letter of Intent (LoI) with Qingdao Agricultural University (QAU) to carry out academic exchange and cooperation in teaching, research, and training for the advancement and dissemination of learning.

Both institutions agree to encourage exchanges of faculty and staff, students, joint research activities, and the exchange of academic materials based on their respective resources and needs, Gwadar Pro reported.

During the signing ceremony, Prof. Dr. Tian Yike, Vice President of QAU, presented an overview of the university's discipline building, personnel training, and international cooperation efforts.

He expressed QAU's willingness to engage in in-depth cooperation and exchanges with UAF to contribute jointly to the implementation of the 'Belt and Road Initiative', especially the construction of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor.

In his video speech, Prof. Dr. Iqrar Ahmad Khan, Vice Chancellor of UAF, praised the achievements made in the construction and development of QAU in recent years.

He expressed his willingness to work with QAU to promote faculty and student exchanges and academic cooperation. He also sincerely invited QAU's university leaders to visit UAF.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1119088/uaf-signs-loi-with-qau-to-promote-pak-china-agri-collaboration/>

Economics of CPEC

Khalid Waleed

In the realm of international trade, few ventures have garnered as much attention and commendation as the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). A confluence of mutual interests and ambitions, this ambitious venture has ignited fervour and the engines of economic growth for both China and Pakistan. In this exposé, we delve into the nuances of this economic symbiosis, utilizing the lenses of various trade theories, the gravity model of trade, and an incisive analysis of CPEC's crucial projects, including the illustrious Special Economic Zones.

At the very foundation of CPEC lies a bedrock supported by the tenets of comparative advantage. Both nations, cognizant of their unique strengths, have adroitly utilized their resources to partake in a mutually beneficial exchange. With a diplomatic savoir-faire, China and Pakistan play to their inherent advantages, yielding a harmonious interplay of trade dynamics. The Heckscher-Ohlin theory, in its analytical splendour, casts its prismatic rays on CPEC, illuminating the interplay of capital and labour. While Pakistan, endowed with a youthful and skilled labour force, engenders the production of labour-intensive goods, China, in its prowess, offers a treasure trove of capital-intensive commodities. This interdependence forms the bedrock of a partnership that blossoms under CPEC's careful cultivation.

Furthermore, the New Trade Theory underscores the dividends accrued from economies of scale. In an economic ballet, CPEC has facilitated the aggregation of demand and production efficiencies, lending further credence to the idea of a virtuous cycle of growth. The pooling of resources and economies ushers both China and Pakistan into a league of global competitiveness, where collaborative innovation is nurtured like a delicate flower.

The gravity model of trade, akin to an astute compass, steers us towards comprehending the trade patterns between China and Pakistan under the aegis of CPEC. Geographical proximity is rendered more accessible through an array of robust infrastructure projects, and seamless logistics coalesce to foster an expedited flow of goods and services. With deft diplomatic strokes, China and Pakistan have positioned themselves as prime trading partners,

surmounting physical barriers with the art of economic diplomacy. The enhanced connectivity ushered by CPEC has cemented their relationship and broadened the horizons of bilateral trade.

With a diplomatic savoir-faire, China and Pakistan play to their inherent advantages, yielding a harmonious interplay of trade dynamics.

The magnetism of the gravity model is further reinforced by the gravitational pull of shared cultures and historic ties between China and Pakistan. As the world looks on, awe-struck by the allure of their amicable partnership, the gravity model underscores that economic ties transcend pure economics; they are a product of shared visions and values.

Embarking on a comprehensive odyssey, CPEC unfurls its impressive projects, where infrastructure and energy epitomize its cornerstone. The expanse of transportation networks, delicately woven to cradle the aspirations of progress, has bequeathed the region with unprecedented connectivity. The Karachi-Lahore Motorway, the Gwadar Port, and the railway lines emanate as arteries pulsating with vitality, connecting economies and aspirations. The dynamic equilibrium of these networks elevates CPEC into an exemplar of diplomatic engineering.

Simultaneously, the bold endeavours in energy generation have provided Pakistan with the much-needed vitality to sustain its growth trajectory. Although lacking a long-term vision of environmental sustainability, The Sahiwal Coal Power Plant, the Port Qasim Power Plant, and the Kohala Hydroelectric Project epitomize judicious short-term energy security. This choreography of energy projects symbolizes a harmonious dance between pragmatism and sustainability, orchestrating the symphony of progress.

Nestled within the contours of CPEC's grand tapestry, the Special Economic Zones stand as beacons of industrialization and innovation. Radiating the diplomatic effervescence of both nations, these zones become incubators of economic rejuvenation. The Rashakai Special Economic Zone heralds a symphony of opportunities, inviting a cascade of investments, technology transfers, and industrial diversification. With its creation, Pakistan carved a new path towards regional economic integration.

Equally, the Dhabeji Special Economic Zone, like a phoenix rising from the desert sands, serves as an oasis of industrial diversity. With a charming allure, this zone beckons foreign investors, offering them a tranquil sanctuary for their ventures. In doing so, Pakistan establishes itself as a haven for industrial diversification, a compelling proposition for international entrepreneurs.

With the Allama Iqbal Special Economic Zone, the flame of technological transference burns bright. Symbolic of a lantern illuminating the way forward, this zone cultivates a culture of research, development, and innovation. China and Pakistan, bound by shared aspirations, traverse a path of technological collaboration, establishing a legacy for future generations.

The Bostan Special Economic Zone, adorned with the verdant embrace of fertile lands, transcends beyond an industrial hub; it becomes a symphony of agriculture and exports. With CPEC as its maestro, this zone orchestrates a melodious harmony of agricultural progress, enriching the lives of farmers and nourishing global markets.

In the diplomatic arena, the Chinese Embassy in Pakistan emerges as an elegant orchestrator of bilateral ties. Like a refined conductor, the Embassy skillfully orchestrates a concerto of collaboration, as China and Pakistan find themselves in harmonious unison. The Embassy's commitment to fostering a bilateral relationship is exemplified through its multifaceted efforts in cultural exchanges, people-to-people connections, and diplomatic engagements. Through this symphony of diplomacy, the Embassy fosters mutual understanding and deepens the roots of friendship between the two nations.

A testament to the vision of collaboration is the unwavering support provided by the Chinese Embassy to China Study Centers. These centres, an intellectual crucible, become a nucleus for academic excellence and a hallowed ground for the exchange of ideas. One such example is the China Study Center at SDPI, which has become a bastion of knowledge, nourishing scholarly pursuits, and kindling the spark of intellectual curiosity.

Venturing forth with sagacity, the path to progress involves charting a course towards a Just Energy Transition Partnership. Like the mariner's compass, this partnership guides both nations toward a sustainable future, where economic growth walks hand-in-hand with environmental responsibility. The imperatives of environmental stewardship, embodied in green initiatives and renewable energy projects, beckon like the Northern Star, illuminating a path towards sustainable growth. The establishment of Just Energy Transition Partnerships becomes a clarion call, signalling the pursuit of a prosperous future while safeguarding the planet.

Embracing Renewable Energy Projects emboldens the vision of a cleaner, greener future, transcending temporal confines. With every wind turbine that turns and every solar panel that glistens, China and Pakistan engrave their legacy as champions of renewable energy. This symphony of sustainable development resounds as a testament to their commitment to a shared prosperous tomorrow.

Operationalizing Special Economic Zones, though an audacious pursuit, necessitates addressing challenges with a tenacious spirit. As CPEC's torchbearers chart their course, navigating through regulatory mazes and bureaucratic hurdles, they paint a portrait of resilience and determination. In the pursuit of operational success, both nations redefine their economic narratives, showcasing the vigour and commitment of their cooperation.

As sirens of investment beckon, attracting Chinese FDI stands as a defining milestone in fortifying economic endeavours. By cultivating a congenial environment for investment, Pakistan asserts itself as an oasis of opportunities for international investors. In this symbiotic dance of capital and enterprise, both China and Pakistan elevate their economic prowess.

Operational financial markets unfurl as a sylvan landscape of possibilities, perpetuating a dance of capital and innovation. The establishment of robust financial mechanisms paves the way for the efficient allocation of resources, further invigorating the economic partnership between China and Pakistan. The crescendo of these financial markets becomes a resounding testament to the maturity of their economic collaboration.

A panacea for environmental ills comes to light with the potentiality of carbon markets in Pakistan. A robust platform for emission mitigation and abatement, this facet exemplifies the

visionary endeavours of both nations in combating climate change. By engaging in carbon markets, Pakistan demonstrates its commitment to a greener future, unlocking new avenues for sustainable growth and green investments. As both nations set sail on this uncharted ocean of carbon markets, they navigate the choppy waters of climate change with a united resolve.

In summation, the saga of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor embarks upon a promising trajectory, replete with diplomatic flair and economic acumen. A marriage of minds, this journey towards prosperity has stoked the embers of collaboration and yielded bountiful fruits of mutual benefit. As these two nations stride hand in hand, they herald an era of economic harmony that transcends borders and cultures, forging a future adorned with shared success and prosperity. In this diplomatic ballet, they beckon the world to witness the grandeur of their shared vision—a vision that echoes the very essence of sustainable progress.

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<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1119126/economics-of-cpec/>

Pakistan Observer

A decade of CPEC development

INSPIRED by President Xi’s vision of regional connectivity and people-centric development model, the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is an important part of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and its flagship project with Gwadar Port as the Jewel in the crown of CPEC.

CPEC is a long-term bilateral economic project encompassing a vast array of short, medium and long-term projects. As a flagship project of the BRI, China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) has already achieved phenomenal success by laying a solid foundation of infrastructure in energy and transport sectors. Building upon this foundation, Phase II of CPEC would now focus on socio-economic development and poverty alleviation for a robust, sustainable and inclusive growth for Pakistan and the whole region at large. The ever-increasing economic and trade integration between Pakistan and China has made our two economies increasingly inter-dependent especially in the context of CPEC.

Traditionally, China and Pakistan have cooperated closely at the strategic and political levels. With CPEC the strategic partners are making efforts to expand their bilateral collaboration economically as well. The construction of the CPEC is a milestone that signifies this shift. CPEC is undoubtedly a “game-changer” not only for Pakistan but the entire region. Connecting Gwadar Port to China’s Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, through a network of highways, railways, pipelines to transport goods, technology, oil and gas and fibre optic cable for flow of knowledge, presents enormous opportunities to people from Gwadar to Kashgar and beyond.

The strategic concept of connectivity between Pakistan and China originated with the decision to build the Karakoram Highway (KKH) to link the two countries through an all-

weather highway. Thus the concept has been in the works for decades however, the two sides inched towards translating the concept into concrete reality with another strategic decision in 2001 to construct a deep sea port at Gwadar. The vision and the financial package for linking KKH to Gwadar port with a network of roads and bridges and reviving the energy sector of Pakistan and project layout of CPEC was agreed during the visit of Chinese Premier Li Keqiang to Pakistan in May 2013.

Today CPEC has become the unambiguous symbol of the enduring friendship between Pakistan and China and holds a pivotal position in the development agenda of Pakistan. CPEC has huge strategic significance for Pakistan and the completion of its first phase has already helped Pakistan lay a strong energy and road infrastructure for subsequent development of industry, agriculture and human resource. So far the implementation of the first phase has provided over a hundred thousand jobs to the local population. In the future, with the completion and full operationalization of the second phase involving the setting up of SEZ's, it is expected to bring prosperity to around 3 billion people of the region, including China, South Asia, Central Asia and Middle East.

Pakistan and China consider these development initiatives a potential source of stability and prosperity for both countries. From a Chinese perspective, cooperation in the areas of security and economics are closely intertwined, and improvements on one side can improve the other. It is almost as though security and economics are two separate wheels on the same vehicle, and both need to be spinning to move things forward. We believe economic development can strengthen Pakistan's internal stability, thus reinvigorating the economy through investment in infrastructure projects as well as the construction of oil and gas pipelines. We hope this will create a certain level of stability within Pakistan and in turn stabilize China's western periphery, particularly the province of Xinjiang.

More broadly, the CPEC has to be understood in the context of Pakistan and China's strategic interests in East Asia and the way the United States has challenged them. Faced with such difficulties, China hopes it can expand its strategic space by heading west and for Pakistan a strategic relationship and connectivity is seen as essential for the socio-economic development of Pakistan. Pakistan serves as a crucial bridge between China and Central Asia, South Asia, and the Middle East. This is why China is willing to pour vast amounts of resources into the economic corridor—based on the logic of improving security through economic development.

CPEC acts as a game-changing opportunity for Pakistan's development and its future role in the region. With the implementation of CPEC and the emerging commercial attractiveness of Pakistan and the South Asia region, Chinese and US economic and security interests in Pakistan and the region are converging. China's logic behind this strategy is that fundamentally improving Pakistan's economy will help alleviate the challenges posed by political extremists, radicals, and jihadists. China and Pakistan share the belief that economic development can help stabilize Pakistan and improve its domestic security situation.

With the first phase of CPEC comprising major infrastructure and energy projects nearing completion, the focus has rightly shifted to the second phase. This includes the development of Special Economic Zones, sustainable development, poverty alleviation, agriculture, health

care and knowledge. Proper establishment and successful running of the SEZs are of critical importance for the second phase of CPEC to take off and contribute to the long awaited socio economic development of Pakistan.

The government needs to take a proactive role to ensure that SEZs are developed to attract the best enterprises from China and foreign countries. Badly developed SEZs will only attract substandard enterprises. Improving the business environment is essential to maintain the attractiveness of SEZs. There is an urgent need to streamline the single-window systems, which would require broader consensus with the state governments and various line ministries

SEZs in Pakistan face several challenges that are easily manageable if a central, clear and uniform policy is adopted for SEZs throughout the country. Presently the barriers faced by SEZs include; Institutional Mechanism and Its Implications; Challenges Related to Land Acquisition; location; Sharing of Infrastructure and the Business Model; Barriers Related to Fiscal Incentives; Challenges Related to Shifting of Existing Units from DTA to SEZ; Challenges Related to Backward and Forward Linkages; It is therefore, important to remember that in order to make SEZs a Success Story Pakistan must address these impediments on war footing.

In short, CPEC offers a number of opportunities, the first of which is economic development. The large influx of investment will work as a strong economic incentive for Pakistan's government and social sectors to improve the business environment and enhance commercial attractiveness for more foreign investment, which will not only benefit Chinese investors engaged in CPEC, but will also benefit all foreign investors in Pakistan, including the United States. Industrialization in Pakistan will also help create jobs for the country's large, under-employed population, turning a social and fiscal burden into an economic and developmental driver.

CPEC could provide enhanced and improved security by stabilization of economic development. With planned infrastructure, energy, and manufacturing investment, CPEC will create more private-sector opportunities and offer a realistic pathway out of poverty for Pakistan's people, especially those extremely poor who otherwise may be tempted to fight as mercenaries for the Taliban and other extremist organizations. Economic development will help maintain domestic stability and enhance security in Pakistan for the medium to long term. Combined with strengthened governance and improved capacity, Pakistan will have greater political willingness and capability to fulfil its security commitment and responsibilities for global counterterrorism.

CPEC could contribute to the further integration of South Asia. The core vision of CPEC is to improve infrastructure to facilitate interconnectivity. The project is expected to eventually connect China, Pakistan, and Iran, Afghanistan, and Central Asian countries together, integrating a market of two billion people and stabilizing the region. CPEC will empower South Asia to enjoy the full benefits of region-wide trade, stretching from Iran to China.

<https://pakobserver.net/a-decade-of-cpec-development/>

Pakistan-China friendship deeper than ocean: Mustafa

Executive Director of Pakistan-China Institute Sayed Mustafa Hyder Monday said that relations between Pakistan and China had remained deeper the ocean over the years and the second phase of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) would prove to be a milestone in promoting regional economic integration. “The present government is committed to the timely completion of CPEC projects to bolster the national economy as well as reduce poverty”, he said while talking to the PTV news channel. “Pakistan is a very important country for China and that is why Beijing is investing huge amounts into the country for its development,” he added. “The second phase now attention is being paid to agriculture, culture and people-to-people exchanges,” he said. “The incumbent government is committed to completing all projects of CPEC on time,” he added. “Chinese Vice Premier is especially visiting Islamabad to celebrate a decade of CPEC,” he said.

<https://pakobserver.net/pakistan-china-friendship-deeper-than-ocean-mustafa/>

CPEC project strengthening bilateral ties

Federal Minister for Climate Change and Environmental Coordination Senator Sherry Rehman on Monday warmly welcomed Chinese Vice Premier He Lifeng on behalf of Pakistan People’s Party to participate in the 10th anniversary celebrations of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

“This historic project (CPEC) has been an important milestone in strengthening our bilateral relations,” the minister said while sharing her heartfelt welcome note on her official Twitter handle account for the visiting dignitary. Senator Rehman said her party was proud of the lasting friendship between Pakistan and China which was founded by Shaheed Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto and Chairman Mao Zedong. The minister accorded the credit of the CPEC as a proud project to President Xi Jinping and former President Asif Ali Zardari. Asif Ali Zardari made his first diplomatic visit to China after assuming the office of President to further strengthen the bilateral relations established by Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto .—INP

<https://pakobserver.net/cpec-project-strengthening-bilateral-ties/>

CPEC gets major push

THE visit to Pakistan of the Chinese Vice Premier He Lifeng as special representative of President Xi Jinping was a resounding success as the two countries took practical measures to take the historic initiative of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) into the second phase for which an understanding already existed. The three-day visit was aimed at signalling China’s firm commitment to the cause of CPEC as the distinguished guest not only participated in the special event to mark 10 years of CPEC but the two sides signed six memoranda of understanding (MoUs) to kick-start the next phase of the mega project. The message that the Chinese President conveyed to Pakistan would surely winch up morale of the people of Pakistan as Xi Jinping vowed that no matter how the international landscape may change, his country will always stand firmly with Pakistan, adding they would build the CPEC into an exemplary project of high quality Belt and Road cooperation.

The success and achievements of the CPEC are not a fairy tale as Pakistan is benefiting from projects and programmes completed under Phase-I of the initiative. China injected 25 billion into Pakistan's economy to help improve infrastructure, connectivity and take the country out of the vicious circle of load-shedding that was seen as one of the major impediments in the way of socio-economic growth. Beijing was more than willing to jack up the investment to the promised \$65 billion and unhindered continuation of the project would have changed the entire landscape of Pakistan but unfortunately it was put on the back-burner after change of the government in Islamabad in 2018. The damage done by the previous regime was so colossal that it could not be repaired despite sincere efforts of the coalition government led by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and the hard work done by Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Prof. Ahsan Iqbal, who actively interacted with the Chinese side to bolster trust and gain the lost momentum of the project. In this backdrop, the agreement of the two countries to revive the second phase of the CPEC, which emerged as a consequence of wide-ranging talks of the Chinese Vice Premier with Pakistani leadership, augurs well for resumption of full-spectrum cooperation under the auspices of the CPEC. It is encouraging that both China and Pakistan have decided to expedite the process of the multi-billion dollar ML-I railway project that is important for accelerating socio-economic development in Pakistan but has been facing delays for years. Another MoU, signed by the two sides, pertained to the establishment of an expert exchange mechanism between the Planning Ministry and the NDRC, within the framework of CPEC, aimed at facilitating knowledge-sharing between the two governments. The objective is to obtain intellectual support and consultation for China-Pakistan capacity-building cooperation and conduct in-depth exchanges of Chinese experts with the Pakistani government and enterprises. Similarly, the understanding to foster exchange programmes of the workforce associated with CPEC projects for skills development, technical training, language courses and Chinese experience sharing in special economic Zones (SEZs) development would go a long way in skill development of Pakistani manpower, enabling it to remain relevant in the era of fast-changing technology. It would enhance the competitiveness of the CPEC workforce to meet local industrial requirements and also support the requirements of skilled labour to attract Chinese industrial relocation envisaged through CPEC industrial cooperation. In fact, Phase-II of the CPEC seeks to expand cooperation to new areas, including rural revitalization, agricultural development, industrialization, green development and science and technology. As pointed out by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, Pakistan and China are entering the second phase of CPEC now, which will feature B2B investment in agriculture and information technology to enable Pakistan to export its products according to the Chinese standards and requirements. This aspect assumes greater relevance and significance as Pakistan has launched another mega initiative to attract massive investment in agriculture and IT, especially from the Gulf countries. As both Pakistan and China are open to collaboration of third countries under the framework of the CPEC, this can justifiably be concluded that the initiative would not only promote investment, progress and prosperity in Pakistan but in the entire region and, therefore, conspiracies against this project must come to an end.

<https://pakobserver.net/cpec-gets-major-push/#:~:text=As%20pointed%20out%20by%20Prime%20Minister%20Shehbaz%20Sharif%2C,products%20according%20to%20the%20Chinese%20standards%20and%20requirements>

CPEC to boost largest foreign direct investment in Pakistan: Sharmila

Pakistan People's Party (PPP) senior leader Sharmila Faruqi Tuesday said that the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) would attract the largest foreign direct investment in Pakistan.

“The project will play an important role in facilitating the development of the country's economy and in creating millions of new jobs in coming years,” she added.

Under CPEC, the two countries initiated and completed multiple projects including energy, transport infrastructure, port, airport development, and digital connectivity, she said while talking to a private news channel.

“Under Phase II of CPEC, both countries will now further expand cooperation to new areas including rural revitalization, agricultural development, industrialization, green development, and science and technology,” she mentioned.

“The friendship of both countries is going to prosper further in the coming years,” she said.

“CPEC is a game changer for the economic and social development of the region.”

It was unfortunate that work on this important project of economic and social development was stalled by the previous government of PTI, she regretted.

Sharmila highlighted that the China was a time-tested and trusted friend of Pakistan who had supported Pakistan in difficult times.

Replying to a question, she said that PPP was the first government that had initiated the multi-billion dollar project CPEC but some elements started negative propaganda against the project but failed to scare our future Chinese partners.—APP

<https://pakobserver.net/cpec-to-boost-largest-foreign-direct-investment-in-pakistan-sharmila/>

The Express Tribune

CPEC phase-II

It was a get-going moment for both the countries as they overcame a decade of challenges and impediments

The bilateral resolve to expedite the mosaic of development was taken to new heights. Chinese Vice-Premier He Lifeng, on a three day visit to Islamabad, assured Pakistan that the BRI's flagship initiative of CPEC will lead the country to high standards of innovation, as well as sustainable and livelihood-enhancing outputs, and certainly deepen cooperation. With \$28 billion already making their way to Pakistan, the second phase of CPEC was kicked off with pride by both the countries. The dignitary, who was bestowed with Pakistan's second-highest civil award, Hilal-i-Pakistan, reiterated that, “...no matter how the regional landscape may change, China will always stand firmly with Pakistan and will continue to work hand in hand and forge ahead with sincerity to carry forward our iron friendship.”

It was a get-going moment for both the countries as they overcame a decade of challenges and impediments. Lifeng, who had been at the vanguard as the multi-billion dollar trans-regional CPEC was initiated in 2013, was pleased to share that the project has achieved many 'early harvests' and has laid the foundation for regional integration and connectivity. This is no small deed as it has come as a lifeline for Pakistan in an age when its economy was in a fix, and international posture was acrimonious. The signing of six new agreements, during the visit, was icing on the cake as socio-economics was cemented with political commitments.

Now with CPEC's second phase seeing industrialisation taking roots, Pakistan has to surely resurrect its internal order. With multi-billion-dollar Main Line (ML)-1 railway project, Gwadar Port and scores of mining and telecommunication projects seeing the light of the day in years to come, what is needed is a streamlined process to make utilities cheaper and ensure bottleneck-free official machinery to galvanise production. This is where CPEC's phase-II will face the litmus test of managerial skills of men at the helm of affairs. Pakistan and China are at the crossroads of knitting the region, and no amount of revulsion at home or abroad should derail the momentum.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2428816/cpec-phase-ii>

The Nation

China renews registration of 279 Pak seafood firms

BEIJING - The General Administration of Customs of the Peoples Republic of China (GACC) has renewed the registration of as many as 279 Pakistani seafood exporting companies enabling them to continue seafood exports to the Chinese markets, Commercial Counsellor, Pakistan Embassy Beijing, Ghulam Qadir said on Tuesday. With the efforts of the Pakistani mission, the concerned authorities of China have renewed the registrations which were going to expire later this month, he told APP. As per official data, Pakistan's seafood exports to China topped \$166.56 million, an increase of 41% by the end of last year.

Ghulam Qadir expressed confidence that the seafood from Pakistan to China will continue to increase in the coming days. China-Pakistan Free Trade Agreement (CPFTA) helped many Pakistani products enter the Chinese market, and Pakistan's seafood exports to China are increasing day by day due to this agreement. Now, many Pakistani seafood exporters enjoy zero-traffic duty on seafood items while they are getting more awareness about CPFTA, he added. Recently, we registered new species under the 2nd phase of CPFTA which helped increase exports to China and we are negotiating with GACC to add more species to our seafood export list under CPFTA, he added. Ghulam Qadir further said that many Pakistani seafood exporters want to increase collaboration with Chinese partners to enhance exports by using China's latest technologies, techniques, and best practices in this field.

It may be mentioned here that Pakistan has already begun seafood export to China via land route through containerized cargo.

It is a major achievement of Pakistan using land routes to export its seafood to China. The seafood shipment took 10 days to reach China while such shipments normally take 28 days by sea route.

As the second largest consumer market in the world, China embraces more Pakistani high-quality goods exported to China.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2023-08-02/page-8/detail-4>

The News

Gateway to prosperity

Sikandar Ali Hullio

Pakistan's new gateway to economic prosperity – the Dhabeji Special Economic Zone – is in the making. Chairperson of the PPP and Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari laid its foundation stone in the suburbs of Karachi last month, with the promise of an industrial revolution in the country and a belief that the worst times for the economy and the country are over.

Dhabeji is a small town in the suburbs of Karachi. Administratively, it falls under the jurisdiction of District Thatta. Those travelling from Karachi to Thatta through the National Highway will find a fast-growing small town of Dhabeji with many new industrial units as soon as they cross the Sassui Toll Plaza. This highway itself is one of the best examples of public-private partnership (PPP) in the province (included by the late Mohtarma Benaizir Bhutto in her 1993 election manifesto), which was successfully launched and completed by the Sindh government in recent years.

The PPP-led provincial government has also successfully constructed the Karachi-Thatta dual carriageway, Jhirk Mulla Katiyar Bridge over the Indus, and launched coal mining in Thar, beside other such project interventions. As a result, the Public Private Partnership Unit of the Sindh government has been recognized as the sixth best-performing unit in Asia by the International Intelligence Unit of The Economist. This is a huge acknowledgement.

To promote public-private partnerships, the Sindh government has established the Sindh Economic Zones Management Company (SEZMC) under the Company's Act, 2017 to institutionally facilitate, promote, encourage and enhance the industrial base. The launch of the Dhabeji Special Economic Zone (DSEZ) is one such SEZ.

The provincial government has also allotted 1,530 acres of land to develop the DSEZ, which has easy access to Port Qasim. This may enable the import of raw material and the export of finished goods without incurring major inland transportation costs and save time. It also has easy access to the Karachi airport – 35km via the National Highway – enabling safe travel of foreign workers and management personnel.

The DSEZ's development work is planned to be completed within 18 months. Situated approximately 10 km from Port Qasim, it can serve as a storage hub for Port Qasim, facilitating efficient logistics. Special packages have also been announced to incentivize people working in the economic zone. These include a one-time exemption from tax and customs duty on the import of capital goods, as well as income tax exemption for a period of 10 years. These measures are designed to promote investment, boost economic activity and attract business.

Most importantly, it is hoped that this DSEZ will attract significant investment, estimated to be around \$5 billion. It will create 150,000 employment opportunities and also contribute to poverty alleviation in the region.

The DSEZ is not only a flagship project of the Sindh government but also a CPEC-priority project. It is one of the six CPEC-proposed SEZs in Pakistan. This year, we are marking the 10th celebration of its launch in Pakistan.

CPEC in actual was pioneered and instrumentalized much before its formal launch, by former president Asif Ali Zardari. He made frequent visits to China as president and negotiated various economic projects for the development of Pakistan, particularly in the industrial and infrastructure, power, and trade sectors. His frequent visits bore fruit in the shape of CPEC projects under which the Thar Coal-fired Power Project already started power generation. Now the Dhabeji SEZ is being developed, while various road projects have been completed.

The DSEZ is a significant component of CPEC and will be linked to the historic Keti Bandar, which connects to the Gwadar Port and other ports. Keti Bandar was constructed ages ago following the closure of the historic Shah Bandar, which was a significant trading hub at the time. Shah Bundar and Keti Bundar have remained historic ports and had immense significance during the Mughal and British era.

The late Zulfikar Ali Bhutto and Benazir Bhutto initiated various projects for the rehabilitation of Keti Bandar and Shah Bandar during their terms. In 1994, Benazir Bhutto also envisioned constructing a power plant using Thar coal and establishing a road network in the area. Feasibility reports were prepared, and plans were made for a power station and a port at Keti Bandar.

Unfortunately, everything was shelved as her second government was dismissed in 1996. Now, her dream projects from the Thar coal project to linking Keti Bundar with the rest of the country are being completed by her proud son; Dhabeji is the latest example and the economic zone is likely to become a dream destination for investors in Sindh.

Sindh has come a long way – from being the harbinger of the Indus civilization to becoming an economic hub of Pakistan. With its glorious past, strong industrial base, developed infrastructure, two international ports and strong financial institutions, Sindh provides an ideal investment opportunity to both local and foreign investors.

As per data available on the DSEZ website, Sindh has approximately 350 km of coastline with thick mangrove forests. Forty-eight per cent of all fish export from Pakistan is from Sindh. Also, 65 per cent of fresh fish resources and 100 per cent of brackish water fish resources are located in Sindh.

Thar in Sindh is estimated to have the largest coal reserves – 185 billion tonnes – in the world. Besides this, around 60 per cent of the country's oil fields and 44 per cent gas fields are located in Sindh. They contribute around 56 per cent of the total oil production and 55 per cent of Pakistan's daily gas production. The province also has a huge potential for renewable energy with a 60 km-wide and 180 km-long wind corridor.

These are some top attractions to invest in Sindh, including the new and emerging base at Dhabeji. Investors, industrialists, and traders should explore the DSEZ, which offers strategic location, meticulously planned infrastructure, supportive policies, and an unparalleled platform for businesses to flourish not only in Dhabeji and Sindh, but also in the rest of Pakistan.

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<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=224626>

Serious business

Initiated in 2013, the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) has been heralded as a game-changer for Pakistan, aiming to connect China's western region to Pakistan's Gwadar Port through a network of highways, railways, pipelines, and other infrastructure projects. Over the years, the potential benefits of CPEC have been outlined by successive governments in Pakistan, while battling out a foreign policy dilemma in the context of a United States that has naturally not been too keen on Pakistan's partnership with China. Encouragingly – and with a show of rare maturity – Pakistan has stuck to its partnership with its Asian neighbour and, strategically, China and Pakistan have enjoyed an understanding that not many neighbours in the world can claim to have. With 10 years of CPEC under their belt, the two countries are marking a decade of CPEC cooperation with a visit by Chinese Vice-Premier He Lifeng to Islamabad. The visit has led to a number of bilateral documents, all meant to strengthen the second phase of CPEC cooperation.

The Chinese premier's visit is not an inconsequential event. With a government just about ready to depart, after a year of possibly the worst economic setbacks the country has seen in years, China's unmitigated support would mean a lot. In this context, Chinese President Xi Jinping's statement on the 10th anniversary of CPEC is instructive, the Chinese president reiterating China's unwavering support to Pakistan – “no matter how the international landscape may change”. The sentiments are evidently mutual, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and his cabinet putting out all stops during the Chinese vice premier's visit. The economy is the main concern at the moment for all of the country's power-wielders, including the army chief who has also asked all stakeholders to contribute to the revival of the country's economic health. At the Pakistan Minerals Summit held in Islamabad on Tuesday, PM Shehbaz Sharif too underscored that Pakistan would rather work with its neighbours than against them, and that war [with India] is not an option and economic competition is a healthier approach to handling our regional issues.

For both Pakistan and China, CPEC is more than just an umbrella under which various development schemes are financed. China sees CPEC as one leg of the larger Belt and Road initiative that encompasses most of Asia and eventually, China hopes, the world. Pakistan wants CPEC to change not just our economic fortunes but allow us to pursue a foreign policy independent of one superpower's dictates – while also being mindful to maintain a strict and sometimes tough balance between the two powers in the globe now: China and the US. For Pakistan, being more closely tied to China has meant not only an increase in aid and investment but having a powerful ally in the region that would keep India in check. Even

more importantly for China, CPEC, along with other projects in the BRI, would extend its influence and reach in the region. That CPEC was a strategic move on China's part was never hidden. China clearly has global ambitions to overtake the US as the largest superpower in the world and its aid to other countries is an integral part of its strategy. For its part, Pakistan must balance the economic benefits of CPEC with addressing social and environmental concerns to ensure the project's long-term success and contribution to the country's sustainable development while also making sure it keeps its other bilateral partners – both in the immediate region and in the West – part of its foreign policy outreach.

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=224621>

Express News

سی پیک، پاکستان کو 10 سال میں 28 ارب ڈالر موصول

سی پیک کے تحت دس سال میں اب تک 28 ارب ڈالر سے زائد پاکستان کو موصول ہوئے۔: اسلام آباد

سی پیک کے تحت بڑے منصوبوں میں گوادرنٹر نیٹھل ایئرپورٹ، اورینٹل لائن میٹروٹرین، پاک چین دوستی اسپتال، گوادرنٹر اسپتال پورٹ سٹی ماسٹر پلان شامل ہیں، گزشتہ دس سال میں اب تک سی پیک کے تحت 95 سے زائد منصوبوں میں سے کچھ مکمل کر لیے گئے جبکہ چین کی جانب سے کل 62 ارب ڈالر پاکستان کیلئے سی پیک منصوبوں کے تحت مختص کیے گئے ہیں۔

گزشتہ دس سالوں میں انرجی سیکٹر کے کل 21 منصوبوں میں سے 14 مکمل 2 منصوبے زیر تعمیر جبکہ 5 منصوبے زیر غور ہیں۔ ٹرانسپورٹ انفراسٹرکچر سیکٹر کے کل 24 منصوبوں میں سے 6 مکمل زیر تعمیر 5 منصوبے 8 منصوبے پائپ لائن میں شامل جبکہ 6 طویل المدت منصوبے شامل ہیں۔

سی پیک کے تحت بننے والے منصوبوں میں گوادرنٹر کے کل 14 منصوبے شامل ہیں جن میں 4 منصوبے مکمل کر لیے گئے جبکہ 6 زیر تعمیر اور 4 منصوبے پائپ لائن میں شامل صنعتی تعاون اور سٹیٹل اکنامک زون کے تحت کل 9 منصوبے ہیں۔

<https://www.express.pk/story/2518482/6/>

چین ہمیشہ ثابت قدمی سے پاکستان کے ساتھ کھڑا رہے گا، چینی صدر

چین کے صدر شی جن پنگ نے کہا ہے کہ بین الاقوامی صورتحال میں کتنی ہی تبدیلیاں رونما کیوں نہ ہوں، چین ہمیشہ ثابت قدمی سے پاکستان کے ساتھ کھڑا رہے گا: اسلام آباد

چین پاکستان اقتصادی راہداری (سی پیک) کی دہائی پر اپنے مبارکبادی تہنیتی پیغام میں انہوں نے کہا کہ چین پاکستان اقتصادی راہداری بیلٹ اینڈ روڈ انیشی ایٹو کا اہم اولین منصوبہ ہے، 2013 میں اس کے افتتاح سے اب تک دونوں ممالک مشترکہ مشاورت، مشترکہ تعمیر اور مشترکہ شیئرنگ کے اصولوں کے مطابق سی پیک منصوبوں کی تعمیر کو آگے بڑھا رہے ہیں۔

چینی صدر نے کہا کہ اس حوالے سے متعدد ابتدائی ثمرات حاصل کئے گئے ہیں جن کی بدولت نہ صرف پاکستان کی اقتصادی و سماجی ترقی کو نئی قوت محرکہ ملی ہے بلکہ خطے میں باہمی رابطے اور انضمام کے عمل کے لئے بھی اچھی بنیاد ڈالی گئی ہے۔

اپنے پیغام میں جسے چین کے نائب وزیر اعظم ہی لی فننگ نے سی پیک کی دہائی کی یاد میں منعقدہ تقریب میں پڑھ کر سنایا۔ صدر شی جن پنگ نے کہا کہ چین پاک اقتصادی راہداری چین اور پاکستان کے درمیان دوستی کا جیتا جاگتا ثبوت بن چکی ہے، یہ راہداری دونوں ممالک کے درمیان نئے دور میں قریب تر چین پاک ہم نصیب معاشرہ تشکیل دینے میں اہم حمایت بھی فراہم کر رہی ہے۔

انہوں نے کہا کہ مستقبل میں چین پاکستان کے ساتھ مل کر اعلیٰ معیاری، پائیدار اور عوام دوست اہداف پر قائم رہتے ہوئے منصوبہ بندی اور انتظامات کو بہتر بنانے اور تعاون کو وسیع دینے کا خواہاں ہے تاکہ سی پیک کو بیلٹ اینڈ روڈ انیشی ایٹیو کے اعلیٰ معیار کے ساتھ مشترکہ تعمیر کے شعبے میں ایک مثالی منصوبہ بنایا جائے۔

<https://www.express.pk/story/2518765/1/>

پاک چین تعلقات نے تمام چیلنجوں میں اپنی مضبوطی کو ثابت کیا ہے، آرمی چیف

آرمی چیف جنرل سید عاصم منیر نے کہا ہے کہ پاکستان اور چین کے تعلقات منفرد اور مضبوط ہیں جس نے تمام چیلنجوں کا مقابلہ کرتے ہوئے اپنی مضبوطی کو: اسلام آباد ثابت کیا ہے۔ پیپلز لبریشن آرمی اور پاکستان آرمی ایک دوسرے کے بھائی ہیں اور ہمارے تعلقات ہمارے اجتماعی مفادات کے تحفظ کے لیے اپنا کردار ادا کرتے رہیں گے۔

آئی ایس پی آر کے مطابق چین کی پیپلز لبریشن آرمی کے قیام کی 96 ویں سالگرہ آج جی ایچ کیو میں منائی گئی۔ چیف آف آرمی اسٹاف جنرل عاصم منیر اس موقع پر مہمان خصوصی تھے۔

تقریب میں محترمہ پیپنگ چنگسو، عوامی جمہوریہ چین کے سفارتخانے کے ناظم الامور، میجر جنرل وانگ ژونگ، دفاعی اتاشی، چینی سفارت خانے کے حکام اور پاکستان کی مسلح افواج کے افسران نے شرکت کی۔

چینی ناظم الامور نے پی ایل اے کے قیام کی 96 ویں سالگرہ کے موقع پر تقریب کی میزبانی کرنے پر آرمی چیف کا شکریہ ادا کیا۔ چینی ناظم الامور نے کہا کہ چین اور پاکستان کے درمیان یہ تعاون پر مبنی شراکت داری وقت اور بین الاقوامی تناظر میں ضروری ہے۔

انہوں نے مزید کہا کہ چین اور پاکستان نے ابھی مشترکہ طور پر سی پیک کے آغاز کی 10 ویں سالگرہ منائی ہے۔ گزشتہ ماہ میں آرمی چیف اور دیگر فوجی رہنماؤں نے چین کے کامیاب دورے کیے، جس سے دونوں افواج کے درمیان تعلقات کو مضبوطی سے فروغ ملا ہے۔

چیف آف آرمی اسٹاف جنرل سید عاصم منیر نے پی ایل اے کو مبارکباد دی اور چین کے دفاع، سلامتی اور قوم کی تعمیر میں پی ایل اے کے کردار کو سراہا، آرمی چیف نے دونوں ممالک کی فوج اور عوام کے درمیان گہرے تعلقات کے مختلف پہلوؤں پر روشنی ڈالی۔

جنرل سید عاصم منیر نے کہا کہ پاکستان اور چین کے تعلقات منفرد اور مضبوط ہیں جس نے تمام چیلنجوں کا مقابلہ کرتے ہوئے اپنی مضبوطی کو ثابت کیا ہے،

انہوں نے مزید کہا کہ پی ایل اے اور پاکستان آرمی ایک دوسرے کے بھائی ہیں اور ہمارے تعلقات ہمارے اجتماعی مفادات کے تحفظ کے لیے اپنا کردار ادا کرتے رہیں گے۔

<https://www.express.pk/story/2518696/1/>

Jang News

چینی صدر کے پاکستان کی حمایت میں بیان پر بے حد مشکور ہوں، وزیر اعظم

وزیر اعظم شہباز شریف نے سی پیک کی تکمیل کے 10 سال مکمل ہونے پر چینی صدر کے پاکستان کی حمایت میں بیان پر ان کا شکریہ ادا کیا ہے۔

اس حوالے سے وزیر اعظم کا کہنا ہے کہ پاکستانی عوام کی فلاح و بہبود اور سی پیک کو مثالی منصوبہ بنانا ان کے عزم کا عکاس ہے۔

شہباز شریف نے کہا ہے کہ سماجی و اقتصادی ترقی کے میدان میں سی پیک نے 10 سال میں اہم سنگ میل طے کیے۔ پاک چین اسٹریٹجک تعاون کے فروغ کے لیے چینی صدر کی کاوشوں کا جتنا شکریہ ادا کیا جائے کم ہے۔

انہوں نے یہ بھی کہا کہ سی پیک کے دوسرے دور کی کامیابی کے لیے مزید جوش و جذبے سے کام کرنے کے لیے پُر عزم ہوں۔

<https://jang.com.pk/news/1254020>

Nawaiwaqt News

پاک چین دوستی صد ابہار، کوئی رکاوٹ برداشت نہ ہوگی

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حکومت پاکستان کی دعوت پر صدر شی جن پنگ کے خصوصی ایلچی، چین کے نائب وزیر اعظم اور کمیونسٹ پارٹی کی مرکزی کمیٹی کے پولٹ بیورو کے رکن ہی لی فنگ چین پاکستان اقتصادی راہداری (سی پیک) کی 10 ویں سالگرہ کی تقریبات میں شرکت کے لیے پاکستان کے سرکاری دورہ پر اتوار کو اسلام آباد پہنچے۔ چین کے نائب وزیر اعظم ہی لی فینگ کے ہمراہ چینی وفد میں چینی سٹیٹ کونسل کے ڈپٹی سیکرٹری جنرل گو وے، چینی نائب وزیر خارجہ سن ویڈونگ، نائب چیئر مین نیشنل ڈویلپمنٹ اینڈ ریفرم کمیشن کونگ لیانگ، پیپلز بینک آف چائنا کے ڈپٹی گورنر زوان چیونگ اور وانگ کیسنگ، چینی وزارت تجارت کے شعبہ ایشیائی امور کے ڈائریکٹر جنرل وانگ لیپنگ، پاکستان میں چین کے سفارتخانے کی چارج ڈی افیئر زپانگ چنشوئے اور دیگر اعلیٰ چینی افسران شامل تھے۔ وزیر اعظم محمد شہباز شریف نے چین کے نائب وزیر اعظم ہی لی فینگ کا وزیر اعظم ہاؤس پہنچنے پر گرم جوشی سے استقبال کیا اور انہیں نئی ذمہ داریاں سنبھالنے پر مبارکباد پیش کی۔ وزیر اعظم شہباز شریف نے ملاقات کے دوران براد ملک چین کی پاکستان میں 2022 کے تباہ کن سیلاب میں امداد پر چینی عوام کا شکریہ ادا کیا اور بالخصوص آئی ایم ایف کے ساتھ معاشی چیلنجز جیسے مشکل اوقات میں پاکستان کے شانہ بشانہ کھڑا رہنے کو سراہا۔ چین کے نائب وزیر اعظم ہالی فینگ نے پاکستان اور چین کی سٹریٹجک شراکت داری پر مبنی تعلقات کو اجاگر کیا اور دونوں ممالک کے درمیان اشتراک میں توسیع پر زور دیا۔ چین کے نائب وزیر اعظم ہی لی فینگ نے پاکستان کی معاشی و اقتصادی ترقی اور خوشحالی میں چین کے مستقل تعاون کی یقین دہانی کرائی۔ ملاقات میں دونوں ممالک کے رہنما نے چین پاکستان اقتصادی راہداری منصوبے کی پاکستان اور چین کی مشترکہ معاشی اور اقتصادی ترقی میں بنیادی اہمیت پر زور دیا۔ وزیر اعظم شہباز شریف نے واضح کیا کہ چین پاکستان اقتصادی راہداری منصوبے کی 10 سالہ سالگرہ اس منصوبے کو از سر نو توسیع دینے کا ایک سنہری موقع ہے۔ ملاقات میں وزیر اعظم محمد شہباز شریف نے چین کو زرعی برآمدات بڑھانے میں پاکستان کی دلچسپی سے آگاہ کیا۔ اس موقع پر پاکستان اور چین کے درمیان زرعی، صنعتی اور موصلاتی سمیت دیگر شعبوں میں مفاہمتی یادداشتوں پر دستخط کئے گئے۔

دریں اثنا وزیر اعظم محمد شہباز شریف نے چینی نائب وزیر اعظم ہی لی فینگ کے اعزاز میں ظہرانے کا بھی اہتمام کیا اس موقع پر روایتی پاکستانی اور چینی کھانوں سے مہمانوں کی تواضع کی گئی۔ وزیر اعظم محمد شہباز شریف نے وفاقی کابینہ کے ارکان بشمول وزیر خارجہ بلاول بھٹو زرداری، وفاقی وزیر تجارت سید نوید قمر، وفاقی وزیر خزانہ محمد اسحاق ڈار، وزیر داخلہ رانا ثنا اللہ، وفاقی وزیر اطلاعات و نشریات مریم اورنگزیب، وفاقی وزیر منصوبہ بندی احسن اقبال، وفاقی وزیر برائے ریلوے و ہوابازی خواجہ سعد رفیق، وزیر مملکت برائے خارجہ امور حنا ربانی کھر، وزیر اعظم کے معاون خصوصی طارق فاطمی اور مختلف وزارتوں سے اعلیٰ افسران پر مشتمل اپنے وفد کا چینی نائب وزیر اعظم سے تعارف کرایا۔ اس کے بعد چینی وفد کا وزیر اعظم شہباز شریف سے تعارف کروایا گیا۔ چین کے نائب وزیر اعظم ہالی فینگ کی سربراہی میں چین کے اعلیٰ سطح کے وفد کے

دورہ پاکستان کے موقع پر وزیراعظم ہاؤس میں دونوں ممالک کے درمیان مفاہمت کی 6 دستاویزات اور یادداشتوں پر دستخطوں کی تقریب منعقد ہوئی۔ وفاقی وزیر برائے منصوبہ بندی، ترقی و خصوصی اقدامات پروفیسر احسن اقبال اور چین کے قومی کمیشن برائے اصلاحات و ترقی کے وائس چیئرمین سونگ لیان نے جوائنٹ کوآپریشن کمیٹی آف سی پیک اور سی پیک فریم ورک میں سٹیبل ایکنجیج آف میکیزم کے معاہدوں پر دستخط کئے۔ سیکرٹری وزارت قومی غذائی تحفظ و تحقیق ظفر حسن اور پاکستان میں چین کی ناظم الامور فانگ چن سوائے نے چین کو سرخ مرچ کی برآمدات سے متعلق دستاویز پر دستخط کئے، این ایچ اے کے ممبر پلاننگ احسن امین اور پاکستان میں چین کی ناظم الامور فانگ چن سوائے نے قراقرم ہائی وے ری الاٹمنٹ فیروٹو کی حتمی فنانسنگ کی یادداشت پر دستخط کئے۔

وزیراعظم محمد شہباز شریف نے چینی وفد کا بھرپور خیر مقدم کرتے ہوئے سی پیک کے 10 سال مکمل ہونے پر بتایا کہ سی پیک کے تحت پاکستان میں بجلی، سڑکوں کے ڈھانچے، پین بجلی اور پبلک ٹرانسپورٹ سمیت مختلف شعبوں میں 25 ارب ڈالر سے زیادہ کی سرمایہ کاری ہوئی ہے۔ آج معاہدوں اور ایم او پوز پر دستخطوں کے بعد ہم سی پیک کے دوسرے مرحلے میں داخل ہو گئے ہیں جس سے دونوں ممالک کے درمیان نئے ماڈل کے تحت اقتصادی تعاون کو مزید فروغ حاصل ہو گا۔ وزیراعظم نے واضح کیا کہ دوسرے مرحلے میں بزنس ٹو بزنس حکمت عملی کے تحت زراعت اور انفارمیشن ٹیکنالوجی کے شعبہ جات میں سرمایہ کاری کی جائے گی۔ پاکستان چین کی معاونت سے چینی معیار کے مطابق برآمدات کو یقینی بنائے گا۔ وزیراعظم شہباز شریف نے چین کے صدر شی جن پنگ کے ساتھ پاکستان کے فروغ کے لئے نائب وزیراعظم کو خصوصی اپیل کے طور پر پاکستان بھیجنے پر شکریہ ادا کرتے ہوئے کہا کہ چینی صدر نے دنیا کو دکھایا ہے کہ پاکستان اور چین دوستی کے بیٹھالے میں بندھے ہوئے ہیں۔ چین اور پاکستان صدابہار دوست اور آہنی بھائی ہیں۔ پاک چین دوستی برقرار رہے گی اور اس میں کوئی رکاوٹ برداشت نہیں کی جائے گی۔ پاکستان مشترکہ ترقی اور خوشحالی کے حوالے سے صدر شی جن پنگ کے نظریے اور تصورات کے ساتھ کھڑا ہے۔ ایم ایل ون اور کراچی سرکلر ریلوے اہم منصوبے ہیں اور ہمیں یقین ہے کہ یہ منصوبے کامیابی سے مکمل ہوں گے۔ وزیراعظم نے کہا کہ قربانی سخت محنت اور کوششوں سے اپنے پاؤں پر کھڑے ہونا چین اور چین کے صدر شی جن پنگ کا ماڈل ہے۔ ہم بابائے قوم قائداعظم محمد علی جناح کے وژن کے مطابق ملک میں ترقی اور خوشحالی لانے کے لئے اپنی کوششیں جاری رکھیں گے۔

چین پاکستان اقتصادی راہداری (سی پیک) کی 10 ویں سالگرہ کے موقع پر چینی صدر شی جن پنگ نے اپنے تہنیتی پیغام میں نشاندہی کی کہ چین پاک اقتصادی راہداری بیلٹ اینڈ روڈ انیشی ایٹو کا اہم ترین اولین منصوبہ ہے، جس کا 31 جولائی 2013 میں افتتاح ہوا۔ اس وقت سے لے کر اب تک دونوں ممالک مشترکہ مشاورت، مشترکہ تعمیر اور مشترکہ شیئرنگ کے اصولوں کے مطابق سی پیک منصوبوں کی تعمیر کو آگے بڑھا رہے ہیں۔ صدر شی جن پنگ نے اس بات پر زور دیا کہ مستقبل میں چین پاکستان کے ساتھ ملکر اعلیٰ معیاری، پائیدار اور عوام دوست اہداف پر قائم رہتے ہوئے منصوبہ بندی اور انتظامات کو بہتر بنانے اور تعاون کو توسیع دینے کا خواہاں ہے تاکہ سی پیک کو بیلٹ اینڈ روڈ انیشی ایٹو کے اعلیٰ معیار کے ساتھ مشترکہ تعمیر کے شعبے میں ایک مثالی منصوبہ بنایا جائے۔ چینی صدر شی جن پنگ نے کہا کہ چاہے بین الاقوامی صورتحال میں کتنی ہی تبدیلیاں رونما کیوں نہ ہوں، چین ہمیشہ ثابت قدمی سے پاکستان کے ساتھ کھڑا رہے گا اور دونوں ممالک خطے کے امن و خوشحالی کے لئے مزید خدمات سرانجام دیتے رہیں گے۔

پاکستان میں سی پیک کی 10 ویں سالگرہ تقریبات میں شرکت کیلئے آئے چینی وفد اور ان کے سربراہ نائب وزیراعظم ہالی فینگ کے اعزاز میں ایک سادہ اور پر وقار تقریب ایوان صدر اسلام آباد میں بھی ہوئی جہاں صدر مملکت ڈاکٹر عارف علوی نے انہیں ہلال پاکستان کا اعزاز عطا کیا۔ وزیراعظم محمد شہباز شریف، چیئرمین سینیٹ محمد صادق سحرانی، سپیکر قومی اسمبلی راجہ پرویز اشرف، کابینہ کے اراکین، چیئرمین جوائنٹ چیفس آف سٹاف کمیٹی، مسلح افواج کے سربراہان، چین کے نائب وزیراعظم ہالی فینگ کے ہمراہ پاکستان کے دورہ پر آئے ہوئے وفد کے اراکین سمیت اعلیٰ سول و عسکری حکام نے تقریب میں شرکت کی۔ تقریب کے دوران سی پیک کی 10 ویں سالگرہ کے موقع پر 100 روپے کا یادگاری سکہ اور یادگاری ٹکٹ کا اجرا بھی کیا گیا، وزیراعظم شہباز شریف نے چینی نائب وزیراعظم ہالی فینگ کو یادگاری سکہ بھی پیش کیا۔ کنونشن سینٹر اسلام آباد میں منعقدہ تقریب میں وزیراعظم شہباز شریف اور چینی نائب وزیراعظم ہالی فینگ نے ایک ساتھ گلوب کاٹننگ ڈاکر سی پیک کی 10 سالہ تقریبات کا آغاز کیا۔

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/lahore/2023-08-02/page-9/detail-0>

August 03, 2023

Daily Times

China-Pakistan joint marine geological survey data handover ceremony held

A handing over ceremony of China-Pakistan Joint Marine Geological Survey Data was held here at China Geological Survey (CGS) Headquarters. Pakistani Ambassador to China Moin ul Haque, Dr. Xu Xueyi, Vice President of China Geological Survey, and other senior officials from the Embassy and CGS and Qingdao Institute of Marine Geology attended the event. Xu gave a detailed brief about the China Geological Survey's history and its cooperation with Pakistan, according to Gwadar Pro. The two countries signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for cooperation in the field of Marine Sciences in 2019, which provides a useful basis for cooperation in marine scientific fields and associated research, especially for tapping the natural mineral and hydrocarbon resources within territorial waters of Pakistan. In his remarks, Haque thanked China Geological Survey and Qingdao Maritime Institute for arranging the ceremony of handing over of Joint Marine Geological Survey Data. He underscored the importance of three joint scientific expeditions already taking place from 2018 to 2022, and expressed confidence that the data collected during these expeditions would be useful for further expanding avenues of research and exploration of natural resources in Pakistan.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1119367/china-pakistan-joint-marine-geological-survey-data-handover-ceremony-held/>

'Ba'tie Girl' — first Pak-China co-production film to hit cinemas from tomorrow

While China and Pakistan are celebrating the first decade of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), BA'TIE GIRL, the first Pak-China co-production film will be released in the cinemas on August 4 (Friday).

BA'TIE GIRL is the first Sino-Pak feature film based on friendship between the people of Pakistan and China.

The film is coproduced by China Film Administration & Hunarkada Films of Pakistan, featuring Wang Jia Jia, Shaiza Chana, Suraj Arman Khan, Yue Ye, Asif Shah and others, Gwadar Pro reported on Wednesday.

BA'TIE GIRL, which means "Dost Larki" in Urdu, is a story of a young, passionate girl from a small village of Pakistan with dreams and talent for football. It is a story of empowerment of the young girl brought on by a woman from another nation. A nation (China) Pakistan has put its trust and friendship in for decades.

Their story, much like, the "Pak Cheen Dosti" is perfused with compassion and progression.

In the film, football has been used as a stimulus for social change. Sports have always brought entire cities, provinces and nations together.

\BA TIEGIRL unravels in such a way where two tribes with ancestor rivalry come together, women's rights are recognized, and the fate of society is trusted upon the shoulders of a bunch of young girls; while all of this is happening in a small village of Pakistan.

The plot of the film follows two female leads, a Pakistani teenager, Nasa, 13, with a passion for football and Lu You, a once highly regarded Chinese female footballer now settled in Pakistan, whose experience and determination become wings for Nasa's dreams. The film beautifully portrays a community formed of two mixed races and how both contrasting cultures can not only coexist peacefully but bring flavors of happiness, excitement and amelioration in the community.

After its formal release at Pakistan National Council of Arts (PNCA) Islamabad on August, the film will hit Islamabad Club's cinema on August 4 and Bahria Arena on August 7.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1119465/batie-girl-first-pak-china-co-production-film-to-hit-cinemas-from-tomorrow/>

Pakistan Observer

Cementing bonds of Pak-China friendship

ON 30 July, the Chinese Vice Premier HE Lifeng landed in Islamabad on a three-day visit to attend a government-sponsored ceremony, thereby marking the 10th anniversary of their infrastructure development collaboration under China's global Belt and Road Initiative. Both countries say CPEC has brought more than \$25 billion in direct Chinese investment to Pakistan, establishing power plants, developing the strategically located deepwater Pakistani port of Gwadar on the Arabian Sea and building transport infrastructure. HE Lifeng's current visit to Pakistan provides a new modus vivendi to the future of Pak-China friendship.

The Pak-China friendship has witnessed several strategic, diplomatic and economic pacts, strengthening their relationship. Earlier, the nature of the relationship was attentive to diplomacy and military; however, both states started promoting economic relations that led to the free trade agreement and China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). They share the history of internal instability instigated by nefarious non-state actors, which provides both nations an insight into each other's problems incited by internal and external elements. Historically, China has never wanted India to establish its hegemony in the region. Therefore, the resilient nature of both states in the face of adversities and shared interests makes them natural allies.

The Chinese Foreign Ministry said on Saturday that China hopes that Lifeng's visit will be an opportunity to implement the important consensus reached between leaders of the two countries, continue to build on past achievements and upgrade the development of the CPEC. "Over the past decade, as an important pioneering project of the BRI, CPEC has achieved fruitful results and become a new benchmark for the friendship between China and Pakistan". The countries "are all-weather strategic cooperative partners and iron-clad friends," the Ministry added. As Chairman of the National Development and Reform Commission from 2017 to 2023, Vice Premier was instrumental in the planning and successful execution of

numerous CPEC projects in Pakistan. His visit is a testament to the enduring bond between the two countries and their commitment to enhancing their strategic partnership.

The 10th-anniversary celebrations marked a decade of successful collaboration and joint projects in infrastructure, energy and economic development projects that have significantly impacted the lives of people in both nations. As the chief guest at this special event, Vice Premier He Lifeng's presence symbolizes the friendship and shared vision between China and Pakistan. Arguably, the relationship between the states is generally based on political expediencies, but such is not the case of Pak-China relationship which is beyond any means of political expediencies and therefore the scope of this relationship is higher than the Himalayas and deeper than the seas—this affirmation has been reiterated by the Chinese Vice Premier in his speech delivered on the eve of the 10th anniversary of the CPEC.

Due to its strategic location, Pakistan has tremendous economic growth potential, witnessing an upward trend. The agriculture and service industry dominates the economy, while industrialization is relatively low. CPEC has provided an essential foundation to Pakistan's economy to overcome this issue, emphasizing industrial development, including energy, transportation and infrastructure. There are myriad opportunities for future cooperation in technology and economy such as agriculture technology, marine science, earth science, information and communication technology. And most importantly, tourism and culture are the main drivers of economic growth.

The corridor is a model of the two nations' adherence to joint construction and sharing of high-quality resources, which has promoted the socioeconomic progress of Pakistan, Li Yong, a senior research fellow at the China Association of International Trade, said on Sunday. The bilateral relationship between the two neighbouring countries is characterized by feelings of mutual trust, respect and goodwill towards each other.

Economically, China is Pakistan's largest trading partner and a major investor, especially in the infrastructure and energy sectors. During 2018, bilateral trade between the two countries reached US\$ 18 billion. With the official launch of China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), the bilateral relationship has been elevated to a higher level. CPEC is a flagship project of Chinese President Xi Jinping's initiative of "One Road and One Belt". It aims at enhancing connectivity and improving infrastructure between Pakistan and China. Several projects are being implemented under CPEC for enhancement of infrastructure and generation of energy.

The year of 2015 was celebrated as the Year of Friendly Exchanges between Pakistan and China and several high profile events were organized including seminars, exchange of visits and cultural events to highlight people-to-people interactions. Trans-transport infrastructure is the basic and prerequisite condition for the construction of the CPEC. It is an important field that can be relied on to guide and drive the economic and social development of regions along the CPEC, besides promoting the interconnectivity and all-round cooperation between China and Pakistan for shared prosperity.

China has advantages in infrastructure construction, high-quality production capacity in equipment manufacturing, iron & steel and cement industries as well as financing for

investment. While Pakistan owns rich human and natural resources, huge potential for economic growth and broad market prospects besides a geo-strategic location. The orderly and timely flow of economic factors in both countries along the CPEC will significantly improve the resource allocation efficiency and bring into full play the comparative advantage of each country.

And logically, through the joint planning and development of highways, railways, ports, aviation and other infrastructure, a convenient, efficient and integrated transport corridor that includes a variety of modes of transport can be formed to achieve the transition from lagging behind to adaptation and then to moderate advancement in the transport infrastructure of the main nodes along the CPEC.

In order to meet the needs of trade and personnel exchanges between China and Pakistan for the socio-economic development of regions along the CPEC, manifold initiatives have been planned to achieve the desired objectives. As the CPEC enters into the second phase, it is divided into five geographical functional zones from north to south: Xinjiang foreign economic zone, northern border trade logistics and business corridor & ecological reserve, eastern and central plain economic zone, western logistics corridor business zone, and southern coastal logistics business zone.

Moreover, Pakistan's agricultural exports to China are growing rapidly, with a trade surplus of 13 times increase in 2021, and total agricultural export volume is expected to exceed US \$1 billion in 2022. During the meeting (November, 2022) with President Xi Jinping, Prime Minister Shehbaz said that deepening cooperation in CPEC and other areas with China is the future direction and the only choice for Pakistan. China will join hands with Pakistan to better transform Pakistan's geographical advantages, resource advantages and labor advantages into export competitiveness and economic growth. The current MoUs signed during the current visit of Vice Premier He Lifeng reflect the vistas of cementing partnership between Beijing and Islamabad.

—The writer, an independent 'IR' researcher-cum-international law analyst based in Pakistan, is member of European Consortium for Political Research Standing Group on IR, Critical Peace & Conflict Studies, also a member of Washington Foreign Law Society and European Society of International Law. He deals with the strategic and nuclear issues.

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<https://pakobserver.net/cementing-bond-of-pak-china-friendship/>

BOC new branch to further strengthen Pak-China financial ties

Deputy Governor of the People's Bank of China Xuan Changneng said that on the 10th anniversary of the launch of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), the opening of another branch of BOC is another positive step towards further strengthening the financial ties and deepen the cooperation between the two countries.

The Bank of China (BOC) opened its branch in Islamabad to further expand its business network in the South Asian country, Xinhua reported.

Liu Jin, president of the BOC, said that the bank would continue to give full play to its advantages in globalization, actively promote high-quality joint construction of the Belt and Road Initiative, and play a bigger role in supporting Pakistan's infrastructure construction and industrialization.

This is the second branch of the BOC in Pakistan. The first one was opened in the southern port city of Karachi in 2017.—APP

<https://pakobserver.net/boc-new-branch-to-further-strengthen-pak-china-financial-ties/>

The Nation

China-Pakistan joint marine geological survey data handover ceremony held

ISLAMABAD - A handing over ceremony of China-Pakistan Joint Marine Geological Survey Data was held at China Geological Survey (CGS) Headquarters.

Pakistani Ambassador to China Moin-ul-Haque, Dr Xu Xueyi, Vice President of China Geological Survey, and other senior officials from the Embassy and CGS and Qingdao Institute of Marine Geology attended the event.

Xu gave a detailed brief about the China Geological Survey's history and its cooperation with Pakistan, according to Gwadar Pro.

The two countries signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for cooperation in the field of Marine Sciences in 2019, which provides a useful basis for cooperation in marine scientific fields and associated research, especially for tapping the natural mineral and hydrocarbon resources within territorial waters of Pakistan.

In his remarks, Haque thanked China Geological Survey and Qingdao Maritime Institute for arranging the ceremony of handing over of Joint Marine Geological Survey Data.

He underscored the importance of three joint scientific expeditions already taking place from 2018 to 2022, and expressed confidence that the data collected during these expeditions would be useful for further expanding avenues of research and exploration of natural resources in Pakistan.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2023-08-03/page-4/detail-4>

The News

Pak-China ties unique, robust: COAS

Muhammad Anis

RAWALPINDI: Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Syed Asim Munir has said that People Liberation Army (PLA) of China and Pakistan Army are brothers in arms their relationship will continue to contribute towards safeguarding their collective interests.

He was addressing the 96th anniversary of the founding of People's Liberation Army (PLA) of China which was commemorated at GHQ here on Wednesday. Ms. Pang Chunxue, Charge d'Affaires of the Embassy of the People's Republic of China, Major General Wang Zhong,

Defence Attache, Chinese Embassy officials and officers from tri-services of Pakistan attended the event. Speaking on the occasion, the Chinese Charge d’Affaires thanked COAS for hosting the event for the 96th anniversary of the founding of the PLA. “This all-weather strategic cooperative partnership between China & Pakistan has stood the test of the time and change of international landscapes”, the Chinese Charge d’Affaires remarked. She said that China and Pakistan have just jointly celebrated the 10th anniversary of the launch of CPEC and in the past months, COAS and other military leaders paid successful visits to China, which has strongly promoted the relationship between the two militaries. The COAS felicitated the PLA and lauded the PLA’s 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, COAS said that “Pakistan-China relationship is unique and robust that has proven its resilience in the face of all challenges.”

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=225022>

US invites Pak-China trade

LAHORE: The United States is Pakistan's largest export market and a leading investor, and a joint trade delegation from Pakistan and China should visit America to further explore business opportunities, a US official said on Wednesday.

Shahid Ahmed Khan, advisor to the US president, told a meeting of the Pakistan China Joint Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCJCCI) that U.S. imports of Pakistani goods exceeded \$5 billion in 2021, more than any other country.

He said US direct investment in Pakistan increased by 50 percent in the last fiscal year, reaching the highest level in over a decade, with major sectors including consumer goods, chemicals, energy, agriculture, outsourcing, transportation and communications.

Khan said his embassy would provide all possible support and cooperation to a Pakistan-China trade delegation visiting America, and also discussed trilateral relations between the three countries.

PCJCCI President Moazzam Ghurki said America and China were superpowers that could complement Pakistan's economy in many fields, and urged them to help enhance trade and economic ties with Pakistan.

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=224940>

Glowing tributes paid to President Xi

Rasheed Khalid

Islamabad: Shakeel Ahmad Ramay CEO, the Asian Institute of Eco-Civilisation Research and Development (AIERD), paid glowing tributes to Chinese President Xi Jinping.

Ramay was addressing the students of China fellowship programme AIERD who visited Institute of Regional Studies (IRS) here Monday. Mr Ramay noted that China can be studied through four periods of its history starting from 1840 till 2012. The period was China’s century of humiliation, he said. China was exploited in this period with unequal agreements.

Mr Ramay observed that the Chinese Communist Party was formed in 1921. That era was full of awareness and mass mobilisation. Unlike, Karl Marx, he said, Chairperson Mao Zedong was convinced that farmers will bring the revolution. This provided strength to the Chinese to fight back finally taking independence in 1949. After the Independence, Mr Ramay explored that China was facing some challenges, but President Mao managed to bring a new form of governance. China was facing the challenge of international recognition and legitimacy but he brought new democracy based on Maoism, he stressed.

The goals of China in the third period after 1978 were getting rich, gaining power and opening up to the world. He highlighted that China marked the gradual reforms, scientific decision-making and indigenous philosophy as a way forward to its success. Lastly, he explained the key era of President Xi after 2012 when he took oath as Secretary-General of the CCP. In President Xi's era, China faced key internal and external challenges. The internal challenges included corruption, imbalanced growth and a divide between party and state. While the external challenges included the middle-income trap, hostile environment and Thucydides trap.

Highlighting the mitigation plan by President Xi, Mr Ramay opined that China brought the whole process of democracy, modernisation and prosperity while maintaining the rule of law. It adopted a new philosophy of development, a three-dimensional transport network, century goals and some external initiatives such as the Belt and Road Initiative, Global Development Initiative (GDI), Global Security Initiative (GSI) and Global Civilisation Initiative (GCI). Research Analyst Nabila Jaffer who leads the China programme at the institute concluded the session noting China is having three tiers structure that contains democracy at the grassroots level, experiment and performance in the middle, and meritocracy at the top. President Xi Jinping is the result of this structure, she inferred.

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=225109>

China transfers marine geological survey data to Pakistan

Muhammad Saleh Zaafir

ISLAMABAD: China has transferred precious Marine Geological Survey Data to Pakistan, carried out jointly by the two countries in recent years.

It would be used for tapping the natural mineral and hydrocarbon resources in Pakistan's waters. The handing over ceremony of the data was held at China Geological Survey (CGS) Headquarters in Chinese capital, Beijing.

According to reports Pakistan Ambassador to China, Moin ul Haque, Vice President, China Geological Survey, Dr Xu Xueyi and other senior officials from the mission and CGS and Qindao Institute of Marine Geology attended the event.

Dr Xu Xueyi gave a detailed briefing about the China Geological Survey's history and its cooperation with Pakistan. The two countries had signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for cooperation in the field of Marine Sciences before the Covid pandemic, which provides a useful basis for cooperation in marine scientific fields and associated research, especially for tapping the natural mineral and hydrocarbon resources within territorial waters

of Pakistan. In his remarks, Ambassador Moin ul Haque thanked China Geological Survey and Qindao Maritime Institute on behalf of his government and the Pakistan Navy.

He paid gratitude to China Geological Survey and Qindao Maritime Institute for arranging the ceremony of handing over of Joint Marine Geological Survey Data. He underscored the importance of three joint scientific expeditions already taken place during 2018 to 2022, and expressed confidence that the data collected during these expeditions would be useful for further expanding avenues of research and exploration of natural resources in Pakistan.

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=225040>

Nawaiwaqt News

پاکستان اور چین کے تعلقات اپنی مضبوطی کو ثابت کیا، جنرل عاصم: شراکت داری ضروری، چینی ناظم الامور

اسلام آباد (خبرنگار خصوصی) آرمی چیف جنرل سید عاصم منیر نے کہا ہے کہ پاکستان اور چین کے تعلقات منفرد اور مضبوط ہیں جس نے تمام چیلنجوں کا مقابلہ کرتے ہوئے اپنی مضبوطی کو ثابت کیا ہے۔ پیپلز لبریشن آرمی اور پاکستان آرمی ایک دوسرے کے بھائی ہیں اور ہمارے تعلقات ہمارے اجتماعی مفادات کے تحفظ کے لیے اپنا کردار ادا کرتے رہیں گے۔ پاک فوج کے شعبہ تعلقات عامہ (آئی ایس پی آر) کے مطابق چین کی پیپلز لبریشن آرمی کے قیام کی 96 ویں سالگرہ بدھ کو جی ایچ کیو راولپنڈی میں منائی گئی۔ چیف آف آرمی سٹاف جنرل عاصم منیر اس موقع پر مہمان خصوصی تھے۔ تقریب میں عوامی جمہوریہ چین کے سفارتخانے کے ناظم الامور پیگ چنکسو، دفاعی اتاشی میجر جنرل وانگ ڈونگ، چینی سفارت خانے کے حکام اور پاکستان کی مسلح افواج کے افسران نے شرکت کی۔ چینی ناظم الامور نے پی ایل اے کے قیام کی 96 ویں سالگرہ کے موقع پر تقریب کی میزبانی کرنے پر آرمی چیف کا شکریہ ادا کیا۔ چینی ناظم الامور نے کہا کہ چین اور پاکستان کے درمیان یہ تعاون پر مبنی شراکت داری وقت اور بین الاقوامی تناظر میں ضروری ہے، چین اور پاکستان نے ابھی مشترکہ طور پر سی پیک کے آغاز کی 10 ویں سالگرہ منائی ہے۔ گزشتہ ماہ میں آرمی چیف اور دیگر فوجی رہنماؤں نے چین کے کامیاب دورے کیے، جس سے دونوں افواج کے درمیان تعلقات کو مضبوطی سے فروغ ملا ہے۔ چیف آف آرمی سٹاف جنرل سید عاصم منیر نے پی ایل اے کو مبارکباد دی اور چین کے دفاع، سلامتی اور قوم کی تعمیر میں پی ایل اے کے کردار کو سراہا۔ آرمی چیف نے دونوں ممالک کی فوج اور عوام کے درمیان گہرے تعلقات کے مختلف پہلوؤں پر روشنی ڈالی۔ مزید برآں اس موقع پر چینی صدر شی کا سی پیک کی 10 ویں سالگرہ کے موقع پر جاری بیان بھی سنایا گیا جس میں چین کے صدر شی جن پنگ نے کہا ہے کہ چین پاکستان اقتصادی راہداری منصوبے کا پاکستان کی معاشی اور سماجی ترقی کو بحال کرنے میں اہم کردار ہے۔ چینی صدر کا کہنا تھا کہ عالمی منظر نامے میں تبدیلیوں کے باوجود چین پاکستان کے ساتھ کھڑا رہے گا، 2013 میں اس منصوبے کے اجرا سے اب تک چین اور پاکستان نے سی پیک سے باہمی ترقی کے بے شمار اہداف حاصل کئے ہیں۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ چین پاکستان اقتصادی راہداری منصوبہ دونوں ممالک کے مابین مضبوط اور دیرینہ دوستی کی واضح سند ہے۔ چینی صدر شی جن پنگ نے چین پاکستان اقتصادی راہداری منصوبے کی دسویں سالگرہ کے موقع پر اس منصوبے کے اعلیٰ معیار کو برقرار رکھنے اور دونوں ممالک کی فلاح و بہبود کے لیے منصوبے کو توسیع دینے کا اعادہ کیا۔ صدر شی جن پنگ نے اپنے پیغام میں سی پیک منصوبے میں دونوں ممالک کے مجموعی منصوبہ بندی کو بہتر کرنے پر اور باہمی تعاون کو توسیع دینے پر زور دیا۔

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/lahore/2023-08-03/page-1/detail-40>

غیر ملکی شہریوں، سرمایہ کاروں، عام شہریوں کی سکیورٹی اولین ترجیحات میں شامل: آئی جی

لاہور (نامہ نگار) انسپکٹر جنرل پولیس پنجاب ڈاکٹر عثمان انور نے کہا ہے کہ پنجاب میں آنے والے تمام غیر ملکی شہریوں بالخصوص چینی ماہرین، سرمایہ کاروں اور عام شہریوں کی فول پروف سکیورٹی پنجاب پولیس کی اولین ترجیحات میں شامل ہے۔ جدید ترین تربیت و ساز و سامان سے ایس سپیشل پروٹیکشن یونٹ چینی شہریوں کی سکیورٹی، رہائش

گاہوں، دفاتر اور ورکنگ سائنس کی سیورٹی انتہائی جانفشانی سے سرانجام دے رہی ہے۔ پنجاب پولیس اور چینی پولیس کے درمیان انفارمیشن شیئرنگ اور باہمی تعاون کو مزید فروغ دیا جائے گا۔ پنجاب پولیس اور چینی صوبے جیانگ سو کے درمیان پولیس امور میں تعاون بارے ایم او کا فیصلہ کیا گیا ہے اور چینی پولیس کے افسران و دیگر سٹاف پر مشتمل وفد عنقریب پنجاب کا دورہ کرے گا۔ پنجاب پولیس کے افسران چینی پولیس کے ساتھ بہتر کو آرڈینیشن کیلئے چینی زبان سیکھ رہے ہیں۔ ان خیالات کا اظہار آئی جی پنجاب ڈاکٹر عثمان انور نے چینی قونصل جنرل زاوہ شیرن کی قیادت میں سینئر چینی وفد نے سنٹرل پولیس آفس کا دورہ کیا اور آئی جی پنجاب ڈاکٹر عثمان انور سے ملاقات کی۔ چینی وفد میں مسٹر ڈیوئی ڈائریکٹر آف پولیٹیکل ایفیز اور مسٹر بانئی زیادنگ بھی شامل تھے۔ ملاقات چینی شہریوں کی سیورٹی، دوطرفہ تعاون کے فروغ اور باہمی دلچسپی کے امور پر تبادلہ خیال کیا گیا، چینی قونصل جنرل نے پنجاب میں مختلف پراجیکٹس پر کام کرنے والے چینی شہریوں کی بہترین سیورٹی پر پنجاب پولیس کا شکریہ ادا کیا۔ چینی قونصل جنرل زاوہ شیرن نے کہا کہ سی بیک کے ساتھ دیگر پراجیکٹس پر کام کرنے والے چینی شہریوں کو بہترین سیورٹی فراہم کی جا رہی ہے، اس موقع پر پنجاب پولیس کی استعداد کار میں اضافے کیلئے تربیتی کورسز اور جدید وسائل کی فراہمی پر تبادلہ خیال کیا گیا۔ ملاقات کے اختتام پر آئی جی پنجاب اور چینی قونصل جنرل کے درمیان یادگاری سوہنتر کا تبادلہ بھی کیا گیا۔

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/lahore/2023-08-03/page-4/detail-0>

August 04, 2023

Daily Times

Tehran willing to join CPEC

Iranian Consul General in Peshawar, Ali Banafsha Khawa, while reaffirming Iran's unwavering commitment to regional peace and stability, has emphasized Iran's keen interest in becoming an active participant in the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) project, underscoring the importance of cooperation among regional nations for mutual progress and prosperity. The Iranian Consul General expressed these views during a conversation with media persons during his visit to Peshawar Press Club on Thursday.

During the visit, the Iranian diplomat participated in a Meet the Press event alongside esteemed members of the PPC. The gathering facilitated open discussions on various subjects, including the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), Iran-Pakistan trade relations, and fostering people-to-people contact between the two neighboring nations. During the event, the Consul General while responding to different questions on the Iran-Pakistan Gas Pipeline project stated that Iran had completed its part of the pipeline and now it was incumbent on Pakistan to fulfill its commitments to ensure the project's success and benefits for both nations. President of the Peshawar Press Club, Arshad Aziz Malik, and other esteemed members warmly welcomed the Iranian Consul General at the event.

The exchange allowed for candid and constructive discussions aimed at further enhancing bilateral relations between Iran and Pakistan. Additionally, Shabbir Hussain Imam, a member of the press club, took the opportunity to brief the Consul General on the PPC Library, named in honor of Syed Abul Hassan Jafri, a local journalist who also served in Iranian Consulate. Mr. Ali Banafsha Khawa emphasized the need for continuous updates to enrich the knowledge resources available at the library and enhance its role as an essential hub for intellectual growth and understanding. The event served as a platform for fostering greater

understanding and cooperation between Iran and Pakistan, promoting peaceful regional development and further strengthening the ties between the two nations.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1119849/tehran-willing-to-join-cpec/>

Pakistan-China friendship ‘unbreakable’: Sun Weidong

Chinese Vice Foreign Minister Sun Weidong Thursday termed Pakistan-China friendship ‘unbreakable’ and said that the two sides had always stood by each other in hard times and will continue act “collectively” to protect their mutual interest for tackle global challenges. “The leaderships of both sides are agree to continue the mutual understanding through supporting traditional friendship to promote peace in the region”, he said in an exclusive interview with PTV news channel.

He said China and Pakistan are unique and time-tested all-weather strategic cooperative partners, adding, the friendship between the two sides will be passed on from generation to generation and will not be shaken or changed. He said Pakistan-China friendship is higher than mountains and strong than rocks. Replying to a question, he said both the governments have decided to cooperate with each other and develop the agriculture, industry and transport sector. Although, investment and cooperation will be expanded at the national level, marginalized and less-developed areas will get priority, he added. He said that China and Pakistan were the most trustworthy good neighbors, good friends and good brothers to each other. To another query, he replied that the recent visit of He Lifeng, the Chinese vice premier and special presidential envoy “reflects the importance” the two countries attached to deepen their bilateral ties further. The CPEC has brought more billions of Chinese investment to Pakistan, establishing power plants, developing the strategically located deep-water Pakistani port of Gwadar on the Arabian Sea and building transport infrastructure, he mentioned.

“Over the past decade, as an important pioneering project of the BRI, CPEC has achieved fruitful results and become a new benchmark for the friendship between China and Pakistan,” he added. The CPEC projects “are flourishing all across Pakistan,” making a “tangible contribution” to the national development of the country and to regional connectivity as well, he mentioned.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1119844/pakistan-china-friendship-unbreakable-sun-weidong/>

Dawn News

Chinese delegate visits Margalla Railway Station, review development of Green Line

Aamir Yasin

ISLAMABAD,: A senior delegation from China Media Group visited Margallah Railway Station to see the development of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) projects as part of the 10 years of celebrations of CPEC projects, specifically the Green Line Train.

The event was held to highlight the advanced Chinese technology and expertise used in the train, emphasising the beneficial impact of China-Pakistan cooperation. The delegation comprised newsmen and representatives of manufacturing companies who conversed with the passengers about the facilities in the train, during their brief travel from Islamabad to Rawalpindi.

The passengers appreciated the facilities provided and said that the train has made long distance travelling hassle-free and that the journey from Islamabad to Karachi had particularly become easier.

An official of Pakistan Railways said the train comprises two coaches of air conditioned (AC) business class, one coach of parlour, two AC Standards and two coaches of economy class. He also said that most people preferred to travel to Islamabad, Lahore and Karachi through green line due to its better standard.

He also said that the timings of the train were being maintained. The official said that the minister also directed the official concerned to reduce the travel time of the Green Line from Lahore to Karachi to less than 23 hours which would further restore the confidence of the passengers in the national railways.

“It has also been decided to provide the best travelling facilities in the Green Line train including the provision of high-quality food and keeping the ticket price at an affordable level. Besides, a separate LCD will be installed on each seat of the AC Parlor to let passengers enjoy favourite videos through headphones,” he added.

He further said that the train is non-stop and stopped at major stations, including Lahore, Khanewal, Hyderabad, Bahawalpur and Karachi, adding that the train had a capacity to run at 160 kilometer per hour, however, it runs at 90 km per hour from Rawalpindi to Lahore and from Lahore, nine coaches get added in green line and run at 140 km per hours.

Pakistan Railways made special arrangements on Margallah Railway Station and Rawalpindi Railway Station to welcome the delegation and gave detail briefing about the Green Line Train.

Divisional Superintendent Inam Ullah welcomed the delegation and presented the souvenir. He also informed them about the future plans of Pakistan Railways for CPEC.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1768319/chinese-delegate-visits-margalla-railway-station-review-development-of-green-line>

Pakistan Observer

CMG delegation seeks cooperation with Pakistani media on broader spectrum

Members of the Urdu service of the predominant state media company of the People’s Republic of China (PRC) the China Media Group (CMG) on Thursday held important meetings with the officials of the Information Ministry, the media regulatory body and the business leaders and discussed the scope of broader cooperation between China and Pakistan in the field of broadcast media.

The Chinese guests are in the town on the invitation of Daily Pakistan Observer in connection with the 10th anniversary of the signing of China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and to celebrate the decade of this flagship project of the Belt & Road Initiative (BRI).

The four-member delegation led by Ms Wang Qianting (Urdu name: Musarrat) and comprising Ms Hu Pingping (Noureen), Ms Du Jianing (Tabsum) and Mr Qin Shengrui (Tahir) called on Information Secretary Sohail Ali Khan, Chairman of the Pakistan Electronic Media Regulatory Authority (PEMRA) Muhammad Saleem Baig, Director News of the state media agency Associated Press of Pakistan (APP) Adnan Akram Bajwa, Head of APP's China News Desk, Dr Furqan Rao and former President of the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (ICCI) Zafar Bakhtawari.

During the meeting with Information Secretary Sohail Ali Khan, the Chinese delegation's host and Chief Digital Strategist of Pakistan Observer Fahd Gauhar Malik introduced the guests and briefed the Information Secretary about the purpose of their visit. A number of diverse subjects ranging from regional FM Radios in Chinese and Urdu languages to collaboration between the state-owned Pakistan Television (PTV) and the CGTN News were discussed during the meeting.

Chief Financial Officer (CFO) of the PTV Syed Sajjad Jafri and Director Engineering PTV, Arif Noor were also present on the occasion. Information Secretary who is also Managing Director of the PTV, Sohail Ali Khan welcomed the delegation to the PTV headquarters. He commended Pakistan Observer for inviting an important Chinese media delegation to Pakistan at a time when the nation was celebrating the decade of CPEC. He offered the Chinese media giant cooperation in diverse areas such as along the CPEC route so that people of both the countries could have access to each other's media services. PTV he said was the only terrestrial broadcaster covering more than 98pc of the country. This is why collaboration with the state TV could be of far-reaching impact for the CMG, he suggested.

The members of the Chinese delegation while thanking the Information secretary pitched the idea of running Chinese Urdu news on PTV. In return we can run your news and current affairs programmes on our screens, they said. Teaching Chinese language in Urdu on the PTV was also discussed. Both sides agreed to submit a working paper on these proposals and make it a joint interactive collaboration.

In their meeting with PEMRA Chairman, the regulatory framework and airing foreign (Chinese) content on the local TV channels was discussed. Director General (Licensing & Broadcast) Wakeel Ahmad Khan briefed the guests about Pakistani media horizon. We can write to the local TV channels (PBA) about the possibility of airing Chinese programmes as there is a provision of 10pc foreign content on every TV channel, he said.

PEMRA Chief Saleem Baig paid rich tributes to the Chinese government and the leadership for making tremendous progress in all fields of life including media. Development, he said, is inclusive and the Chinese leadership should be credited for continuity of their policies and vision of inclusive development.

Business tycoon, Zafar Bakhtawari in his meeting with the Chinese delegation presented souvenirs to them and paid glowing tributes to the Chinese government's recent interventions

to help Pakistan come out of its economic quagmire. China, he said, is a trusted friend of Pakistan and has always stood by us come what may.

The delegation members also visited the offices of Pakistan Observer and called on Executive Editor Gauhar Zahid Malik. They expressed their gratitude to the newspaper's management for inviting them on an important historic occasion. Gauhar Zahid Malik welcomed them to Islamabad and hoped they would make maximum use of their interaction/meetings with the Pakistani media, people and the government representatives.

<https://pakobserver.net/cm-g-delegation-seeks-cooperation-with-pakistani-media-on-broader-spectrum/>

Pak-China Economy & Trade B2B Forum held

The 10th Anniversary Ceremony for CPEC and China-Pakistan Economy & Trade B2B Forum was held in Shenzhen, China. At the forum, the Pakistani representative introduced in detail the more than 50 agreements signed by two governments since the construction of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor was launched in 2013, which determined the "1+4" cooperation layout centered on the CPEC, with Gwadar Port, energy, infrastructure and industrial cooperation as the four priorities.

<https://pakobserver.net/pak-china-economy-trade-b2b-forum-held/>

The Express Tribune

New era in CPEC

Need of the hour is to ensure that CPEC is not swayed with turmoil and upheavals

China and Pakistan are marshalling their line of interaction in the new age. With a time-tested relationship, both the countries are thinking big and choreographing plans for promoting bilateralism, and ensuring a peaceful region by ushering in connectivity. The resolve was reiterated by Chinese President Xi Jinping who said that Beijing is closely working with Islamabad to achieve 'high-standard and sustainable outcomes'. He went on to reassure that China would always stand firm with Pakistan regardless of any change in the international landscape. These are big words and go on to cement an indispensable relationship at a time when the region and the world at large are restructuring new economic and security alliances.

The gesture from the Chinese head of state was reciprocated by Pakistan's Army Chief General Asim Munir by pledging to improve overall planning and deepen cooperation, and carry forward the ironclad friendship in all walks of national life. He also noted that bilateral relationship has proven its resilience in the face of all challenges, and hoped that it will scale new heights. This euphoria is a follow-up to the visit of Chinese Prime Minister He Lifeng to Pakistan to mark the successful completion of the first decade of CPEC. This initiative, which has poured in to this day around \$28 billion in infrastructure and energy sectors, has seen relationships go up in leap and bounds. It has also come up as an avenue of strong trans-regionalism by facilitating intra-state trade in Southwest Asia and beyond.

The need of the hour is to ensure that CPEC is not swayed with turmoil and upheavals. With lack of permanent peace in Afghanistan, acrimonious India-Pakistan ties and an unabated

meddling by external forces, both state and non-state, it comes as a challenge to keep the torch of development alight. This is what Xi meant as he said that the landscape twists in international relations should not impact bilateralism. As CPEC enters the industrialisation phase, Pakistan's economy must see itself graduating to the next orbit of evolution, free from input of cash tranches to keep it afloat.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2429131/new-era-in-cpec>

The Nation

Second phase of CPEC

Malik Muhammad Ashraf

In the presence of the visiting Vice Premier of China, Mr. He Lifeng, and Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif, the two countries signed six important MOUs and agreements at a ceremony held at the Prime Minister House on 31st December. The Chinese Vice Premier is visiting Pakistan to participate in the celebrations concerning the completion of one decade of CPEC. Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif, speaking on the occasion, said that the two countries were entering the second phase of CPEC, which will feature Business-to-Business investment in agriculture and information technology to enable Pakistan to export its products according to Chinese standards and requirements. He revealed that during the first phase, more than \$25 billion investments took place in power, road, hydel power, and public transport.

Regrettably, the progress on CPEC projects stalled during the three and a half years of PTI rule for inexplicable reasons, notwithstanding the fact that CPEC was not an exclusive agenda of any political party but a project of transformative impact on Pakistan's economy undertaken with the cooperation of our perennial and most reliable partner, China, which has stood with Pakistan in times of adversity and played a pivotal role in its economic advancement as well as in strengthening its defense capabilities.

The visit of the Chinese Vice Premier to Pakistan to participate in the 10th anniversary of CPEC celebrations, being held when the PDM government is to end within the next ten days -- as rightly observed by the intellectual circles -- is not an inconsequential event and means a lot in the context of unflinching and uninterrupted Chinese support to Pakistan, as well as a strong message to the detractors of CPEC, showing how seriously China and Pakistan view the transformative role of this pivotal project of BRI in regards to regional connectivity and its ultimate objective of shared economic prosperity.

In this regard, the congratulatory message of Chinese President Xi Jinping on this occasion amply demonstrates the abiding commitment of China to this project for the realization of its objective and unswerving support to Pakistan under all circumstances. The Chinese President emphasized three things. Firstly, he reiterated that China would work with Pakistan to aim for high standards and livelihood-enhancing outcomes and build CPEC into an exemplary project of high-quality BRI cooperation. Secondly, CPEC is a vivid testament to the all-weather friendship between China and Pakistan and provides an important underpinning for building an even closer China-Pakistan community with a shared future in the new era. Thirdly, no

matter how the international landscape may change, China will always stand firmly with Pakistan.

As far as standing together, the sentiments are mutual. The relations between the two countries, which are surely beyond the domain of normal diplomatic ties, have withstood vicissitudes of time and grown from strength to strength. Both countries have been extending unqualified support to each other on issues of vital concern to them in the domain of global and geopolitics, besides expanding economic cooperation. China has played a pivotal role in the economic development of Pakistan, strengthening its defense capability, in addition to unflinching support in developing nuclear energy.

The CPEC has given a unique impetus to their ties by taking them to new heights with the prospects of both countries reaping colossal economic benefits. For Pakistan, CPEC is a harbinger of a new era of prosperity by making it a hub of economic activity in the region and a conduit for regional connectivity. The success of CPEC, as per its envisaged objectives, could also allow Pakistan to be less prone to the dictates of a superpower.

For China, the CPEC, besides conferring a tremendous boost to its economic success, means a pathway to the entire Asia and eventually the world, loaded with prospects of ultimately leading to the enhancement of her political influence at the global level.

However, it is an undeniable reality that the USA and its allies perceive a threat to their global standing and strategic interests from the burgeoning economic and political influence of China and consequently are pursuing a 'contain China' policy with the help of some regional players, including India. The USA and India have been openly opposing CPEC and are engaged in all sorts of overt and covert efforts to sabotage it.

It is also a reality that though the USA publicly denies putting pressure on Pakistan to choose between her and China, its efforts behind the scenes do aim at dissuading her from -- as it perceives -- falling into the lap of China. Pakistan surely faces a dilemma. Pakistan's relations with China and becoming part of CPEC are dictated by the regional ground realities. I have always maintained in my writings that Pakistan's economic progress and security interests are inextricably linked to this region, and China is the most reliable partner in this regard. Maintaining and strengthening those bonds are indispensable factors and lend eternity to their cooperation.

Nevertheless, it does not mean showing the cold shoulder to the USA or its allies. Pakistan also has very strong economic and strategic linkages with the USA and EU. Pakistan, in this situation, needs to convince the USA that it was neither entering into an alliance with China against her nor contemplating to lower its engagements with it or the EU. Pakistan's relations with China in the multifarious domains were indispensable for her economic well-being and regional strategic interests, and Pakistan, like other nations, had the right to do so. Further, the strengthening of these ties could also contribute to regional peace, harmony, and prosperity without undermining the interests of the USA and its allies. Though it seems a difficult proposition in the given circumstances, it is not an impossible one.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2023-08-04/page-7/detail-0>

Nawaiwaqt News

چائنا مشینری انجینئرنگ کارپوریشن: تلوں کا ٹیسٹنگ فارم قائم، پہلی فصل کے آنے کا امکان

لاہور (کامرس رپورٹ) چائنا مشینری انجینئرنگ کارپوریشن نے لاہور کے قریب ایک تلوں کا ٹیسٹنگ فارم قائم کیا ہے اگلے ہفتے تلوں کی پہلی فصل کے آنے کا امکان ہے اور آزمائشی پیداوار 850-1000 کلوگرام فی ایکڑ ہوگی۔ کمپنی نے جانچ کے مقاصد اور کارکردگی کیلئے 120 ایکڑ پر تل کی کاشت شروع کر دی ہے۔ اس سال کے شروع میں شروع ہونے والا ٹیسٹنگ فارم دونوں ممالک کے درمیان اختراعی کاشتکاری اور زرعی تعاون کو فروغ دے گا۔ چائنا مشینری انجینئرنگ کارپوریشن پاکستان کے وائس چیرل مینجر ڈائی بانو نے کہا کہ ہم بیج اور فیڈلٹی میجنٹ کی جانچ کر رہے ہیں، پاکستان میں تل کی پیداوار اور تجارتی حجم کو بہتر بنانے کے لیے مستقبل میں تل کی تجارت اور کنٹریکٹ فارمنگ شروع کرنے کی امید ہے۔ تل کئی قسم کی مٹیوں کے لیے موافق ہے تاہم یہ اچھی طرح سے نکاسی والی مٹی میں بہتر کارکردگی کا مظاہرہ کرتا ہے اور عام طور پر اوپری میدانی علاقوں میں پیدا ہوتا ہے۔ فی ایکڑ پیداواری لاگت سویا بین کی پیداواری لاگت کے برابر ہے۔ تل کے بیجوں کی عالمی مانگ گزشتہ برسوں سے بڑھ رہی ہے۔

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/lahore/2023-08-04/page-6/detail-9>

چینی کمپنیوں کا پاکستان کی معیشت مستحکم کرنے میں اہم کردار

لاہور (خاور عباس سندھو، سپیشل کارسپانڈنٹ) سی پیک کے تحت پاکستان میں کام کرنے والی چینی کمپنیوں کا پاکستان کی معیشت مستحکم کرنے میں اہم کردار، ایک چینی کمپنی نے مشکل معاشی حالات میں ایک کروڑ ڈالر کی برآمدات بھجوا کر پاکستان کی بڑی صنعتوں کو پیچھے چھوڑ دیا۔ فیڈمک میں قائم گرین کرکری نے حال ہی برآمدات برطانیہ بھجوائیں جبکہ مزید برآمدات بھجوانے کی تیاری آخری مراحل میں ہے۔ فیصل آباد کے قریب انڈسٹریل زون میں 50 ایکڑ رقبہ پر چینی سرمایہ کار اور کمپنی کے سی ای او زہانگ کی نے "چینی کے برتن" سے مشہور کرکری تیار کرنے کے لئے فیکٹری کے قیام کی جدوجہد 2020 میں شروع کی۔ اس وقت کووڈ 19 اپنے عروج پر تھا۔ چینی سرمایہ کار نے دی نیشن ونوائے وقت کو بتایا کہ مشکلات کا سامنا تھا، کووڈ کا خوف بھی تھا لیکن میں نے ہمت نہیں ہاری، ڈاکٹروں کی ایک ٹیم ہمیشہ ساتھ رہتی، طبیعت میں خرابی محسوس ہوتی تو فوراً ٹریٹمنٹ لیتا اور آج وہ سنگ میل حاصل کر لیا جس کے لئے انتہائی مشکل حالات میں کام شروع کیا۔ یہ وہ دور تھا جب کووڈ کی وجہ سے کوئی گھر سے نہیں نکلتا تھا لیکن زہانگ کی نے اپنا وطن چھوڑ کر پاکستان کا رخ کیا اور پاکستان کی معیشت کے استحکام و خوشحالی اور کم و بیش 1500 پاکستانیوں کو روزگار کے مواقع ان کی دلہیز پر فراہم کئے۔ پاکستان میں دسترخوان کی زینت یہ کرکری ہمیشہ درآمد کی جاتی اب سی پیک کی بدولت "میڈان پاکستان" کے لیبل کے ساتھ برآمدات بن کر پاکستان کے وقار کی علامت اور لاہور سے پشاور اور کراچی تک پسندیدہ آئٹم ہے یہ فیکٹری ملکی ضروریات کا 50 فیصد پورا کر رہی ہے۔

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/lahore/2023-08-04/page-10/detail-3>

August 05, 2023

Daily Times

China a potential market for Pakistani goods: official

Pakistan has an enduring practice of producing high-quality sports goods, including footballs, basketballs, volleyballs cricket equipment, and other sports accessories. Despite its superb craftsmanship and a large pool of workers, the industry's poor access to international markets has hampered its growth for a long time. Ghulam Qadir, Commercial Counselor of the Pakistani Embassy in China, remarked that China provides Pakistan with an excellent opportunity to expand its influence and open up new markets, according to China Economic Net (CEN). As the world's largest manufacturing country, China has advanced

manufacturing technology, a huge economic volume and a complete trade network, all of which can help Pakistan's sporting goods industry to undergo significant changes. "Pakistan's basketballs, footballs, and volleyballs (community code: 95066210) exported to China in the first six months of this year crossed \$5.53 million, whereas the same period last year it was only \$4.22 million.

Similarly, equipment for sports outdoor games, swim/paddling pools (community code: 95069990) crossed \$0.3 million, which is expected to improve this year", he added. The Commercial Counsellor further said that China's advanced manufacturing technology has revolutionized Pakistan's sports goods industry. Through collaboration, Pakistani manufacturers have gained access to state-of-the-art machinery, production techniques, and quality control processes, adding that this has not only enhanced the overall quality of the products but also increased production efficiency, allowing the industry to meet the growing demands of international markets.

Sony Iqbal, Chairman of the Small & Medium Enterprise (SMEs) Association in Pakistan told China Economic Net that one of the key advantages of partnering with China is the cost-effectiveness. By using Chinese methods including latest technology and efficient supply chain management, production costs for manufacturers could be significantly reduced. "Import Chinese technologies could help us to improve quality while reducing costs, making Pakistani sports goods more attractive in global markets.

We should also participate more exhibitions held in China, as a result, the industry can experience a surge in export orders, boosting its revenue and contributing to Pakistan's economic growth", Iqbal emphasized. He further noted that China's extensive trade networks and global reach have opened new doors for Pakistan's sports goods industry.

By collaborating with Chinese manufacturers and distributors, Pakistani companies have gained access to a wide range of international markets. "We should promote our SMEs by participating in different exhibitions in China and this strategic alliance would enable Pakistani businessmen to expand their customer base and diversify their product offerings. The government of Pakistan should encourage SMEs by providing some subsidies that they could enhance their domestic and international business". Answering a question that how Pakistan can convert from traditional sports goods to innovative designs, he mentioned that Pakistan now caters to a broader audience, meeting the diverse demands of sports enthusiasts worldwide by breaking through the tradition and adopting more diverse designs to meet the needs of different countries and regions.

Pakistani sports experts and traders believe that Pakistan must focus on developing its latest domestic infrastructure, fostering innovation, and investing in research and development. This will enable the industry to stay ahead of the curve and maintain its competitive edge in the global market. They also told CEN that China can continue supporting Pakistan's sports goods industry by sharing technological advancements, providing training programs, and facilitating trade opportunities. By doing so, China can strengthen its ties with Pakistan's sports industry and further establish itself as a key player in the global sports goods market.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1120038/china-a-potential-market-for-pakistani-goods-official/>

CPEC brings peace, prosperity, development opportunities to region: ambassador

Pakistan Ambassador to China, Moin ul Haque has lauded the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) as a game changer for Islamabad, saying that the mega project has brought peace, prosperity and development opportunities not only to Pakistan but also to the entire region.

The CPEC, which is fully aligned with Pakistan's development agenda, is an excellent example of an open, coordinated, and inclusive development paradigm that benefits all parts of the country and all segments of the society, he said in an exclusive interview with China Daily.

The remarks by Ambassador Haque came as Pakistan hosted an event in Islamabad to celebrate the launch of the CPEC a decade ago. President Xi Jinping sent a congratulatory message to the event, reiterating Beijing commitment to building the CPEC into an exemplary project of high-quality Belt and Road cooperation.

Xi's message has been described by Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif as a powerful message of support and solidarity with Pakistan which reflects his commitment to the well-being of the people of Pakistan. For Ambassador Haque, the message speaks volumes about the time-tested bilateral friendship, which he said is based on exceptional trust, understanding, strategic communication and practical cooperation.

It is so reassuring and heartening to receive President Xi personal support and commitment to working with Pakistan for building the CPEC as an exemplary project, Ambassador Haque said.

He underlined the development of Gwadar Port as being central to the CPEC. The port is now operational and is ready to serve as a hub for trade and investment. Phase one of the Gwadar Free Trade Zone has also been completed, he said. The CPEC has so far brought about \$25 billion in investment to Pakistan, which has created over 200,000 employment opportunities, including jobs for local residents.

As the flagship project of the Belt and Road Initiative, CPEC has transformed Pakistan's infrastructure landscape and has provided a solid foundation for its future growth and development, he said.

Going forward, Ambassador Haque said that Pakistan remains hopeful that the second phase of high-quality development of the CPEC will usher in new dividends for the socioeconomic development of Pakistan and other countries in the region.

The new phase will also lend a renewed impetus to harvest the dividends of globalization, by boosting bilateral and multilateral trade and foreign direct investment projects, he said.

Our two countries have now invited third-party cooperation to realize the optimum potential of the CPEC. Many countries have expressed interest to invest in the CPEC and become part of this initiative. He added that the BRI as espoused collective efforts for the shared prosperity, development and well-being of the international community. Pakistan has been

one of the earliest participants of this global initiative and proudly shared its vision and objectives.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1120193/cpec-brings-peace-prosperity-development-opportunities-to-region-ambassador/>

Pakistan Observer

China calls for peaceful resolution of Kashmir issue

As Pakistan prepares to observe “Yaum-e-Istehsal-e-Kashmir” on August 5, China has reiterated its clear and unwavering stance on the Kashmir issue. The Chinese Foreign Ministry called for a proper and peaceful resolution of the longstanding dispute under the United Nations (UN) Charter, relevant UN Security Council resolutions, and bilateral agreements between India and Pakistan.

A Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson reaffirmed China’s position on the Kashmir issue, emphasising that it is a historical dispute between India and Pakistan that needs to be addressed through peaceful means. The spokesperson highlighted the significance of adhering to international principles and agreements in finding a resolution.

“China’s position on the Kashmir issue is consistent and clear. This issue is a dispute left over from history between India and Pakistan, and should be resolved in accordance with the UN Charter, relevant UN Security Council’s resolutions and bilateral agreements in a properly and peaceful manner,” the spokesperson said ahead of the fourth anniversary of India’s unilateral and illegal act in the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu & Kashmir (IIOJK).

https://pakobserver.net/china-calls-for-peaceful-resolution-of-kashmir-issue/#google_vignette

BA’TIE GIRL, the first Sino-Pak feature film premier held at PNCA

BA’TIE GIRL, the first Sino-Pak feature film based on friendship between the people of Pakistan and China premier held here at Pakistan National Council of the Arts (PNCA).

Parliamentary Secretary for National Heritage and Culture Sardar Muhammad Irfan Dogar was the chief guest on the occasion. The colourful event was also attended by Hunerkada Film and Media Jamal Shah, China Embassy Cultural Councilor and Cast of the film were present on the occasion.

In his brief remarks, Parliamentary Secretary said that said the Pak China artists have proved to be the true ambassadors of peace imparting the real image of two friendly countries and its rich cultures. He appreciated Hunarkada Film for its effort to produce first ever co production film. Speaking on the occasion, China Embassy Cultural Counselor said that China-Pakistan Economic Corridor is a way to establish people to people contact of both countries.

<https://pakobserver.net/batie-girl-the-first-sino-pak-feature-film-premier-held-at-pnca/>

The Express Tribune

CPEC and BRI: beyond economic opportunities

China is refurbishing the centuries-old trade routes

This year marks the 10th anniversary of CPEC and the visit to Pakistan of Chinese Vice Premier He Lifeng — who has been looking after the project as Chairman, National Development and Reform Commission — explains the importance of this flagship project of BRI.

Spanning thousands of kilometers in Africa and Central Asia, CPEC is a single component that links China via road to the Indian Ocean and the Arabian Sea. The strategic importance of CPEC relies on the all-weather friendship between China and Pakistan. It is important to understand that anti-China blocs are not bothered by the economic growth or prosperity related to CPEC. They are rather concerned about the connectivity and accessibility of China. The West has been extensively using the rhetorical frame of economy and economic dependability upon China of all the BRI-linked countries and deliberately bypassing their real reservation about China which of course is China's regional accessibility. Without doubt, Western rhetoric is the most prevalent; and it is quite understandable if Pakistani think-tanks researching China and Chinese projects get caught in this web and unknowingly start mimicking what has been provided to them.

As a researcher of rhetoric and semiotics, I can see the amplification of the designed narrative, even by Pakistani think-tanks, reiterating that CPEC is an economic opportunity that will bring prosperity to the region and Pakistan. It is an undeniable fact, but putting CPEC into the shadow of the economy and linking Pakistan's prosperity with it could be a risky thing to do. The better rhetorical option could be that China needs connectivity but believes in give and take; so in return it is investing across BRI and in CPEC. If China is just on a charity spree and building infrastructure just for the prosperity of all the BRI-related African and Central Asian countries and doesn't need anything in return then it is more likely that we are singing the same Western tune about China and its economic power — which is contrary to the fact.

China is refurbishing the centuries-old trade routes. Never in the past has China tried to colonise its trade routes nor does it have any intention today of doing so, because China historically does not follow an expansionist approach. All the pathways, previously known as the Silk Road network, are just being revamped and the dangerous roads which can be less or least dangerous are being built because of the available modern technology. Trade from China to Pakistan, Central Asia, and Africa to Europe is not a new idea. It is being done for centuries which nullifies the Western claim of China pouring money into the BRI-linked countries just to control them. On the contrary, China is reusing the age-old sea and road network for its accessibility. It is beyond common sense that China wants just Pakistan's prosperity, and that's why it is investing in Pakistan. In fact, China wants free trade and connectivity which requires infrastructure plus incentives, and economic benefits related to that are the byproduct not the other way round. Sovereign countries operate on win-win cooperation; and CPEC is a mutual benefit and win-win cooperation, and the level of trust between two countries strengthens this bond even more.

Let's come back to the Western rhetoric that China's investment in underdeveloped countries is to either control them or manipulate them. Claiming that CPEC is a project that will bring prosperity to Pakistan is only valid if the other half of the truth is also added.

So taking the Western bait of making China the sole saviour of Pakistan is not advisable for me. Even China itself does not want that privilege which the West is so blatantly attaching to it just because it will facilitate their next-in-line narrative. Pakistani think tanks, while refereeing to CPEC, must keep in mind that they are framing a narrative that is going to be difficult to justify in the future, when Pakistan as a key regional strategic player will have to make tough decisions.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2429285/cpec-and-bri-beyond-economic-opportunities>

The News

Chinese envoy, media team visit CPEC projects

Faizan Bangash

LAHORE: The four-day visit of Chinese Consulate staff and media delegates to various CPEC-related projects in different parts of Punjab concluded on Friday. The visit was a part of the 10 years celebration of the CPEC project.

On Friday, the media delegation and the Chinese Consulate staff visited Matiari Lahore Transmission Line and the Conversion Centre situated close to district Nankana. Chairman Institute of International Relations and Media Research (IIRMR) M Mehdi, President Yasir Habib Khan, Commercial Consul Chinese Consulate Lahore Yan Yang, Commercial Attache Chen Bo and others were also the part of the delegation.

Deputy CEO of Pak Matiari Lahore Transmission Line Ma Desheng in his briefing to media said that the project was aimed at strengthening the electricity transmission system. He said due to the Matiari Lahore (ML) Transmission Line, the issue of power shortage had been addressed considerably and he believed that Lahore could become outage-free by 2024 till few more lines were established. He told media that ML Transmission Line had been completed with the cost of \$1.6 and it would ensure addition of 4,000 MW of electricity to the system besides saving billions of rupees for Pakistan.

The Chinese Consulate staff and media persons also visited the largest garments unit of China in Pakistan 'Challenge' and were received by CEO Ms Karen and Deputy General Manager Sales Waleed Cheema. The guests visited different parts of the garments unit and were told that around 3,000 local people were associated with the factory as employees. It was also told that products of the outlet were also being exported to other countries.

Earlier, the media delegation and Chinese Consulate staff from Lahore visited the Sahiwal Coal-Fired Power Plant situated near Qadirabad, district Sahiwal and were briefed about the performance and functioning of the plant. The delegation visited different sections of the plant with a generating capacity of 1,320 MW.

Vice President of the plant Chen Wei while briefing media said that around 300 Chinese were associated with the power plant whereas 95% of the staff was recruited locally. He said that the plant was environment friendly and it was making a vital contribution in the energy generation.

He also lauded the team working with him and expressed satisfaction with the security measures.

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=225783>

CPEC: from vision to reality

Nadeem Javaid

As the high-level delegation from China commemorates the completion of a decade of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), it is essential to reflect on the journey from vision to reality.

The start of CPEC was a concerted move by the then prime minister Mian Muhammad Nawaz Sharif and Chinese President Xi Jinping in 2013 to shift the focus of cooperation from geo-politics to geo-economics. The Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) which aims to revive the ancient Silk Road, is a centre piece of Chinese foreign policy. As of now, more than 150 countries, with 75 per cent of the world's population and half of the world's GDP, have signed up to the BRI. CPEC, a principal component of BRI, aims to connect Pakistan's Gwadar port city to China's Xinjiang region through a network of roads, railways, and pipelines.

CPEC has the potential to significantly impact the entire region. According to the London-based Centre for Economics and Business Research, the BRI can expand the world's GDP by \$7.1 trillion per annum by 2040. Over the past ten years, CPEC has made significant progress amidst challenges and vague controversies such as debt trap, sovereignty and environmental concerns etc.

Under CPEC, both governments decided to overcome the then energy crisis in Pakistan. To guarantee energy security, multiple projects of 17,045MW, worth \$33 billion, were envisaged. As of now, 13 power generation projects with a total installed capacity of 8,020MW have been achieved, including 5,000MW which is based on indigenous fuels (thar coal, hydel, solar and wind) and fall in the higher merit of dispatch order. These have substantially improved the energy-mix in Pakistan.

A first ever 660 KV HVDC transmission line with evacuation capacity of 4,000 MW is also operational. Furthermore, 884MW Suki-Kinari Hydro Power Project is expected to be ready in July 2024. Besides, 700.7MW Azad Pattan and 1,124MW Kohala Hydro Power, and a 300MW Gwadar Coal Power project, are all in the pipeline.

CPEC improved connectivity from north to south and laid a foundation for a resilient infrastructure through building motorways, port, airport, and mass transit system. In the early harvest projects, six mega projects of total 510km were completed including the Havelian-Thakot section of KKH, Multan-Sukkur (M-5) Motorway, Hakla-D.I.Khan Motorway, Eastbay Expressway and Orange Line Metro Train.

Work on various sections of the western alignment of CPEC is underway and expected to finish in July 2024. An optical fiber cable covering 820km was also laid from Khunjerab to Rawalpindi for digital connectivity. This web of high-quality expressways connecting

villages with towns and cities via extended networks of feeder roads caters almost 65 per cent of our population.

CPEC is an effort to facilitate intra- and inter-country connectivity as most of these roads pass through the more remote areas of Pakistan, hoping to thus lead to better mobility, social justice, and national social cohesion. Generally, in economies like us, rural factor markets such as labour, credit, raw materials are interlocked – meaning that there is a dominant player that is the service provider in each factor market who dictates the terms of the transactions. As a result, the small helpless farmer / labourer is caught in a never-ending cycle of debt, exploitation, poverty, and low productivity – because s/he has no other options.

Connectivity is the key to end these exploitative socioeconomic relationships in rural markets. Today, almost 50 per cent of gasoline consumption in Pakistan is through motorbikes and the motorbike industry has expanded well during the last decade which is a good indication of access to mobility. This in turn has an impact on access to healthcare, economic opportunities, literacy, and poverty alleviation across the country.

The socioeconomics of Gwadar has substantially progressed due to CPEC. The Gwadar Port is operational with three multipurpose berths. The government has diverted Afghan transit trade from the Karachi Port to Gwadar and the completion of Basima-Khuzdar (N-30), which is 95 per cent complete, will further enhance the commercial viability of the port. The Gwadar Free Zone, Phase-I, which consists of 60 acres of land is complete and successfully populated. Development work on Phase-II, which consists of 2221 acres of land, is underway.

Gwadar city's electricity problem has recently been settled by building two transmission lines: 132KV from the national grid of Pakistan, and 220KV from Iran for provisioning of additional 225MW electricity. Water availability has been ensured, and Gwadar city is now connected with the Sawd and Shaidkur dams through 7 MGD pipelines and a 1.2 MGD desalination plant is also about to start its operations in a few weeks.

The Eastbay Expressway and the Pak-China Technical & Vocational Institute are fully operational. More than 500 students from Gwadar City are being trained in various fields. The marketing and investment plan for the port and the free zone is ready for implementation. Further to Gwadar's Master Plan, the government is developing a micro land-use plan and governance framework of the city. The Balochistan Assembly has enacted a law granting special status to Gwadar City wherein 12,00 sq km area of the city has been exempted from all provincial taxes including sales tax on services, and provincial cess.

Furthermore, 3,150 solar units have been installed on the rooftops of the poorest households. This generous gesture by China has brought good will among the local community. The construction of the New Gwadar International Airport and the Pak-China Friendship Hospital is about to be completed in a few months. These developments indicate that Gwadar's livelihood is expected to improve manifolds.

In industrial cooperation, only four Special Economic Zones (SEZs) out of nine are advancing. Rashakai, with 270 acres, was inaugurated in July 2023 with 23 industrial plots already allotted. Development work at the Allama Iqbal Industrial City is progressing; 126

plots of the AIIC have been allotted so far. The groundbreaking of Dhabeji was held in July 2023 and civil works are underway. Bostan SEZ, Phase 1 with 200 acres is being developed; 19 industrial plots have been allotted.

Many Chinese businesses are relocating to low-cost destinations but we could not attract them here. This is so because most of these SEZs were to be operational by June 2020 but Covid-19 and grave slackness on the part of the previous regime delayed the fruits of this initiative.

In science & technology, capacity building of teachers regarding STEM education, mutual recognition and accreditation of engineering education, Joint Research Centre on Earth Sciences, Technology Transfer Centre, Institute of Smart Semiconductor Technology and Huawei Technical Support Centres are the key initiatives.

Under agricultural cooperation, the present government has signed various agreements and protocols to exchange high-quality germplasm resources and encourage G2G and B2B cooperation where research organizations and enterprises have joined hands in the fields of animal husbandry, crop cultivation and product processing to enhance export and employment opportunities.

China pledged a grant of \$1 billion for socio-economic development under CPEC, besides extending several scholarships; right now, over 25,000 Pakistani students are studying in China in various disciplines. Overall, approximately over 200,000 direct jobs have been created for locals including engineers in the CPEC projects during these 10 years.

Working with full hope and acting in unison with great motivation can pave the way for making the dream of shared prosperity come true. We need to also acknowledge our Chinese friends who successfully executed these projects. Our security officials deserve appreciation for leaving no stone unturned to keep them safe and comfortable.

The dedication of the focal persons of the line ministries, untiring efforts of the CPEC Secretariat staff and the leadership of Planning Minister Planning Prof Ahsan Iqbal – who is also known as Mr CPEC – deserve the highest praise for having brought CPEC to its fruition.

The writer is the chief economist of Pakistan, and also heads the CPEC Secretariat at the Ministry of Planning, Development and Special Initiatives.

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=225559>

Nawaiwaqt News

چائنا کے ساتھ میگا پروجیکٹ معاہدہ روشن مستقبل کی ضمانت ہے: سیف الملوک کھوکھر

لاہور (نیوز رپورٹر) پاکستان مسلم لیگ ن لاہور کے صدر ملک سیف الملوک کھوکھر جنرل سیکرٹری خواجہ عمران نذیر ایڈیشنل سیکرٹری اطلاعات عامر خان سید تو صیف شاہ، صبغت اللہ سلطان سمیت دیگر نے کہا ہے کہ اقتصادی راہداری سمیت چائنا کے ساتھ مزید میگا پروجیکٹ کا معاہدہ پاکستان کے روشن مستقبل کی ضمانت ہے۔ میاں نواز شریف نے سی پیک کی صورت میں پاکستان کو ایک بہترین تحفہ دیا ہے۔ اس پروجیکٹ کو 10 سال مکمل ہو گئے ہیں۔ گذشتہ روز کارکنوں سے گفتگو کرتے ہوئے رہنماؤں کا کہنا تھا کہ افسوس سے کہنا پڑتا ہے کہ تحریک انصاف کی نالائق اور نااہل حکومت نے سی پیک کو رول بیک کر دیا اور اس پر کوئی کام نہیں کیا۔ اس میگا پروجیکٹ میں کرپشن

کے الزامات تک لگائے۔ جس کی وجہ سے چین جیسا قریبی دوست پاکستان سے ناراض ہوا۔ وزیراعظم شہباز شریف نے اور آرمی چیف جنرل عاصم منیر نے چین کے ساتھ دوبارہ تعلقات از سر نو بحال کیے ہیں۔ چین نے ہر مشکل وقت میں پاکستان کا ساتھ دیا ہے۔ موجودہ معاشی صورتحال میں اتار چڑھاؤ کے دوران بھی سب سے زیادہ چین نے پاکستان کی مدد کی ہے۔ پوری پاکستانی قوم چینی صدر شی جنپنگ کی مشکور ہیں۔ سی پیک فیس ٹو اور کاشغر ریلوے پروجیکٹ آئندہ پانچ سال میں مکمل ہوں گے۔

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/lahore/2023-08-05/page-2/detail-25>

August 06, 2023

Daily Times

Pakistan, China to set up joint lab for crop pest management

University of Agriculture, Faisalabad (UAF) and the Institute of Plant Protection, Chinese Academy of Agricultural Science (IPPCAAS) signed a LoI in Beijing for establishing the Pakistan-China joint laboratory for crop pest management.

The two sides will kick start the operation of the joint laboratory and carry out tests, demonstrations and joint research on integrated disease control technologies for crop pests and diseases of common concern, as well as technical personnel training and personnel exchange and training, according to IPPCAAS.

“Pakistan suffers a lot from the pest problem. For example, the white fly is affecting cotton, citrus, guava, etc. When our fruits and vegetables are being exported to different Middle East countries, sometimes they are rejected due to the presence of these fruit flies and residues of pesticides. Out of the 1,300 molecules of pesticides registered in Pakistan. Not a single molecule is able to control the white fly.”, Prof. Muhammad Jalal Arif, Chairman, the Department of Entomology of UAF told China Economic Net.

He said that Pakistan is also facing the issue of economic threshold level and economic injury level. “When we decide to manage or control any pests, we must go by pest scouting, pest monitoring, and assessment of pest population. When they exceed a certain number, we decide on the pesticide application, which we help our different equipment and tools. In the last 75 years, we have an old threshold and injury level, which should be revised in days to come”, he added.

According to Prof. Muhammad Jafar Jaskani, Director, Office of Research, Innovation and Commercialization of UAF, this collaboration is part of Pakistan’s efforts towards climate-smart agriculture. “It would be good to secure the food for future generations. So genetic change, use of biotechnology... these are the tools which can make the food secure in both countries”, he said.

The collaboration with the University of Faisalabad holds national significance for Pakistan. “Faisalabad is the city of textile. The presence of a special economic zone calls for augmented research to underpin its industrial development. We also have the Confucius Institute which has cultivated 6,000 students who have passed different levels of Chinese language and can act as a bridge between the two sides of the cooperation. Located in the center of Pakistan, it is easy for us to reach farmers in different places in the country”, said Dr. Abid Ali from the UAF Department of Entomology.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1120457/pakistan-china-to-set-up-joint-lab-for-crop-pest-management/>

The Nation

Pakistan's sports goods industry benefiting from ties with China

BEIJING - Pakistan has an enduring practice of producing high-quality sports goods, including footballs, basketballs, volleyballs cricket equipment, and other sports accessories.

Experts believe that the country's skilled artisans are renowned for their expertise in this field. Despite its superb craftsmanship and a large pool of workers, the industry's poor access to international markets has hampered its growth for a long time. Ghulam Qadir, Commercial Counselor of the Pakistani Embassy in China, remarked that China provides Pakistan with an excellent opportunity to expand its influence and open up new markets. As the world's largest manufacturing country, China has advanced manufacturing technology, a huge economic volume and a complete trade network, all of which can help Pakistan's sporting goods industry to undergo significant changes.

"Pakistan's basketballs, footballs, and volleyballs (community code: 95066210) exported to China in the first six months of this year crossed \$5.53 million, whereas in the same period last year, it was only \$4.22 million. Similarly, equipment for sports outdoor games, swim/paddling pools (community code: 95069990) crossed \$0.3 million, which is expected to improve this year", he added.

The Commercial Counsellor further said that China's advanced manufacturing technology has revolutionized Pakistan's sports goods industry. Through collaboration, Pakistani manufacturers have gained access to state-of-the-art machinery, production techniques, and quality control processes, adding that this has not only enhanced the overall quality of the products but also increased production efficiency, allowing the industry to meet the growing demands of international markets.

Sony Iqbal, Chairman of the Small & Medium Enterprise (SMEs) Association in Pakistan told China Economic Net that one of the key advantages of partnering with China is the cost-effectiveness. By using Chinese methods including latest technology and efficient supply chain management, production costs for manufacturers could be significantly reduced.

"Importing Chinese technologies could help us to improve quality while reducing costs, making Pakistani sports goods more attractive in global markets. We should also participate in more exhibitions held in China, as a result, the industry can experience a surge in export orders, boosting its revenue and contributing to Pakistan's economic growth", Iqbal emphasized. He further noted that China's extensive trade networks and global reach have opened new doors for Pakistan's sports goods industry. By collaborating with Chinese manufacturers and distributors, Pakistani companies have gained access to a wide range of international markets. "We should promote our SMEs by participating in different exhibitions in China and this strategic alliance would enable Pakistani businessmen to expand their customer base and diversify their product offerings. The government of Pakistan should

encourage SMEs by providing some subsidies that they could enhance their domestic and international business.”

Answering a question that how Pakistan can convert from traditional sports goods to innovative designs, he mentioned that Pakistan now caters to a broader audience, meeting the diverse demands of sports enthusiasts worldwide by breaking through the tradition and adopting more diverse designs to meet the needs of different countries and regions. Pakistani sports experts and traders believe that Pakistan must focus on developing its latest domestic infrastructure, fostering innovation, and investing in research and development. This will enable the industry to stay ahead of the curve and maintain its competitive edge in the global market.

They also told CEN that China can continue supporting Pakistan’s sports goods industry by sharing technological advancements, providing training programs, and facilitating trade opportunities. By doing so, China can strengthen its ties with Pakistan’s sports industry and further establish itself as a key player in the global sports goods market.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2023-08-06/page-8/detail-4>

The News

First Sino-Pak feature film premier held at PNCA

Jamila Achakzai

Islamabad: BA’TIE GIRL, the first Sino-Pak feature film based on friendship between the people of Pakistan and China premier held here at Pakistan National Council of the Arts (PNCA).

Parliamentary Secretary for National Heritage and Culture Sardar Muhammad Irfan Dogar was the chief guest on the occasion. The colourful event was also attended by Hunerkada Film and Media Jamal Shah, China Embassy Cultural Councillor and Cast of the film were present on the occasion. In his brief remarks, Parliamentary Secretary said that said the Pak China artists have proved to be the true ambassadors of peace imparting the real image of two friendly countries and its rich cultures.

He appreciated Hunarkada Film for its effort to produce first ever co production film. Speaking on the occasion, China Embassy Cultural Councillor said that China-Pakistan Economic Corridor is a way to establish people to people contact of both countries. He said that both governments of Pakistan and China are taking bold measures for the success of the mega project.

He said support of people of the two countries is inevitable for the success of the CPEC project and promotion of cultural ties. Addressing the ceremony Jamal Shah said that while Pakistan and China are celebrating the first decade of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), BA’TIE GIRL, the first Pak-China co-production film released in the cinemas. He said that BA’TIE GIRL is the first Sino-Pak feature film based on friendship between the people of Pakistan and China.

Jamal said that the film is coproduced by China Film Administration & Hunarkada Films of Pakistan, featuring Wang Jia Jia, Shaiza Chana, Suraj Arman Khan, Yue Ye, Asif Shah and others. BA'TIE GIRL, which means "Dost Larki" in Urdu, is a story of a young, passionate girl from a small village of Pakistan with dreams and talent for football. It is a story of empowerment of the young girl brought on by a woman from another nation. A nation (China) Pakistan has put its trust and friendship in for decades.

Their story, much like, the "Pak Cheen Dosti" is perfused with compassion and progression. In the film, football has been used as a stimulus for social change. Sports have always brought entire cities, provinces and nations together. BA TIEGIRL unravels in such a way where two tribes with ancestor rivalry come together, women's rights are recognized, and the fate of society is trusted upon the shoulders of a bunch of young girls; while all of this is happening in a small village of Pakistan.

The plot of the film follows two female leads, a Pakistani teenager, Nasa, 13, with a passion for football and Lu You, a once highly regarded Chinese female footballer now settled in Pakistan, whose experience and determination become wings for Nasa's dreams. The film beautifully portrays a community formed of two mixed races and how both contrasting cultures can not only coexist peacefully but bring flavors of happiness, excitement and amelioration in the community. After its formal release at Pakistan National Council of Arts (PNCA) Islamabad on August, the film will hit Islamabad Club's cinema on August 4 and Bahria Arena on August 7.

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=225917>

Capital suggestion: Belt and Road

Dr Farrukh Saleem

China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), often dubbed the New Silk Road, is one of the most ambitious infrastructure projects ever conceived. Since its inception in 2013 under the leadership of President Xi Jinping, the project has expanded beyond Asia to Africa, Oceania, and Latin America.

There are six economic corridors under the BRI initiative: the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), the Bangladesh-China-India-Myanmar Economic Corridor (BCIMEC), the China-Mongolia-Russia Economic Corridor (CMREC), the New Eurasian Land Bridge (NELB), the China-Central Asia-West Asia Economic Corridor (CCWAEC) and the China-Indochina Peninsula Economic Corridor (CICPEC).

So far, China has allocated an estimated \$1 trillion towards its ambitious projects. Among the top seven nations involved, Russia leads with a project value of \$300 billion, followed by Qatar with \$250 billion, Malaysia with \$150 billion, Egypt and Turkey both with \$100 billion, and India and Pakistan with \$40 billion each. Of the trillion-dollar investment, approximately \$500 billion has been directed towards energy, while the rest has been distributed among transport, metals, agriculture, finance, real estate, and technology sectors. Despite encompassing a wide array of infrastructure initiatives, the primary focus of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) seems to revolve around securing China's energy needs.

At its zenith, the initiative was regarded as the cornerstone of China's economic involvement with the international community. According to the 'China Belt and Road Initiative Investment Report', 14 countries saw a 100 per cent drop in BRI engagement, including Angola, Nepal, Peru, Russia, and Sri Lanka. Furthermore, "engagements with Sub-Saharan Africa and West Asia dropped to lowest levels." According to another expert analysis: "Nearly a decade after its inception, momentum behind China's sweeping BRI appears to be slowing as lending slumps and projects stall."

In 2020 and 2021, 40 recipients of BRI loans began renegotiating the loan terms. In 2022, a significant 60 per cent of China's foreign lending was allocated to borrowers facing financial distress, a notable contrast to the mere 5.0 per cent recorded in 2010. A World Bank study revealed that between 2008 and 2021, China spent \$240 billion bailing out 22 countries. As of the latest estimates, of the \$1 trillion invested by China some \$700 billion worth of loans are now in distress.

This surge in renegotiated loan terms and increased lending to financially vulnerable borrowers will have significant ramifications on China's financial stability and its international reputation. As these distressed loans accumulate, concerns grow about the potential impact on China's economy and its ability to handle the repercussions. The mounting burden of these troubled loans casts a shadow and raises questions about the sustainability of China's foreign lending practices.

It remains to be seen how Chinese authorities will respond to this unfolding situation. Striking a balance between supporting struggling economies and safeguarding its own financial interests will undoubtedly present a complex dilemma. The year ahead will undoubtedly be critical in determining the long-term implications of these troubling trends.

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<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=225840>

August 07, 2023

Business Recorder

Chinese firm to import 5,000 tons of chillies from Pakistan

ZAHID BAIG

LAHORE: Chinese leading food firm "Litong Foods" is all set to enter into a joint venture with a Pakistani firm Guard Agricultural Research and Services (Pvt.) Limited to import 5000 tons of dried chillies.

The agreement likely to be signed during the next week is a follow up of the recent memorandum of understanding on protocol of phyto-sanitary signed in Islamabad during 3-day visit of Chinese Vice-Premier He Lifeng.

The \$30 million (around Rs9 billion) joint venture is likely to be signed under the business-to-business mode.

“China is a big consumer of chillies as these are used in sauces, soups and some other products. They consume about 150,000 tons of dried chillies per annum and out of it 60,000 tons are imported from India. However, due to recent geo-strategic repositioning in the region Chinese are now looking at Pakistan to import this quantity,” said Guard’s Chief Executive Officer Shahzad Ali Malik while talking to Business Recorder here on Sunday. He claimed that initially Chinese offered us to export them 15,000 tons but we have decided to move cautiously and committed to export between 3000 to 5000 tons only. However Chinese will import 15000 by some other arrangements through another Chinese company already present in our country, he added.

Shahzad Ali Malik said that both Litong foods and Guard had already successfully experienced sowing of hybrid chillies in Pakistan near Multan under a MoU and now moving towards materializing the dream of ousting India and capturing the Chinese market of dried chillies.

Litong Food, a major seed breeder will provide hybrid seeds and technical guidance and take back the production under the Pakistan-China Economic Corridor (CPEC) project, he added. Malik said they have recently visited the facilities of Litong in China. This project hopefully brings about an upward change in the living standards of farmers, remove poverty from rural areas and create job opportunities for our Agri graduates. “We have already started hiring agricultural graduates while training of our farmers, technical staff of our company and other stakeholders had already been completed”.

It may be worth mentioning that the Guard Agricultural Research and Services already had the honor to introduce Chinese long grain hybrid rice in Pakistan which had increased rice production manifold especially in Sindh. He said Pakistan-China collaboration in the agricultural sector, particularly in the development of new varieties of hybrid seeds in the private sector has significant benefits for both countries.

Shahzad Ali Malik Sitara-I-Imtiaz said Hybrid Chilli gives three picking per sowing and a production of 75 maund per acre in contrast to traditional varieties which give only 30-35 maund per acre, he added. Chairman Litong Food coming from China to ink initially five years contract he concluded.

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2023/08/07/3-page/969100-news.html>

Chinese co planning to set up ‘textile park’ in Lahore

HASSAN ABBAS

LAHORE: Optimistic about the huge advantages of Pakistan’s textile industry, Challenge Fashion (Pvt.) Ltd is planning to invest 150 million US dollars in 3-5 years.

Chinese Textile Company is planning to construct a textile park in Lahore spreading over 550 acres. The company will start its construction from January, 24 and it will be partially operational before October, 2024.

Pakistan will earn 500 million US dollars of foreign exchange. It will also create 30,000 jobs every year after it is fully completed. At the same time, it is expected to drive additional investment of US\$100 million in other supporting industries.

Karen Chen, CEO of Challenge Fashion, said this while talking to Business Recorder after giving briefing to the CPEC Punjab Media Delegation, an initiative taken by Chinese Consulate Lahore and Institute of International Relations and Media Research (IIRMR).

The delegation was led by IIRMR chairman Muhammad Mehdi and Chinese Commercial Attache Yan Yang. President IIRMR Yasir Habib Khan and secretary to Chinese Council General Lahore Chen Bao were also part of the delegation.

Chairman IIRMR Muhammad Mehdi said that four day media visit is part of ongoing series of celebrations of successful completion of 10 years of China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), an ace undertaking of global iconic project “Belt and Road Initiative (BRI)” envisioned by Chinese President Xi Jinping.

Karen Chen, CEO of Challenge Fashion while talking about the difficulties said that acquisition of high-quality fabrics is a big challenge. At present, more than 80 % of the surface accessories are imported, which greatly hinders the company’s pace of expanding its industrial scale. Therefore, Huang Weiguo, chairman of the board, decided to increase investment in Lahore and purchased 550 acres of land, and obtained the qualification of a special economic zone from the Pakistani government. It is the only wholly foreign-owned special economic zone approved.

The company plans to build the park into the most innovative and sustainable textile industry base in South Asia, show China’s park design concept and construction standards to Pakistani counterparts, promote the most efficient and environmentally friendly automated fabric production equipment and garment production system, and spread Modern production management science.

She also said that the establishment of a supply chain cluster will help improve Pakistan’s labor structure and management. “We hope to demonstrate China’s industrial park standards to our Pakistani counterparts by creating a Chinese-regulated industrial park project.

We can enable Chinese enterprises interested in overseas layout to see Pakistan’s investment potential, and also provide project landing sites for SMEs so that they can fully enjoy the preferential investment policies provided by the Pakistani government.”

Karen said that “the tariff-free treatment of textiles exported to the EU, together with China’s Free Trade Agreement, can guarantee the price edge of Pakistani products. Pakistani fabrics exported to Africa or Jordan can enter North America without tariffs, and the route is much shorter than from East Asia.” Karen said that Challenge Fashion will continue its efforts to promote Pakistan’s textile exports.

Karen also said that in response to the call of the country’s One Belt One Road strategy, Shanghai Yuanyi Industrial Co., Ltd. invested in Pakistan in 2014 to establish the first overseas export-oriented garment manufacturing enterprise, which is the third outside the two production bases in Shanghai and Hubei.

Challenge has always been based on the technological innovation of fabrics as its core competitiveness. Its products have been selected into the national team uniforms for the

Winter Olympics, and have been awarded the single champion of the manufacturing industry by the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology.

Deputy CEO of Pak Matiari-Lahore Transmission Company (PMLTC) Pvt. Ltd Ma Desheng while giving briefing to media said that Lahore will be loadshedding free in 2024. Lahore Conversion site of 886-km HVDC Lahore-Matiari is the first transmission line project under China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) to transmit electricity from power stations in Sindh to load centres in Punjab. It will also transmit electricity from the indigenous coal-based power plants under construction in Thar district of Sindh under CPEC.

He also said that 2023 is marking completion of 10 years of CPEC that has transformed lives of Pakistanis. “We are privileged to have played a critical role in CPEC. “Matiari - Lahore transmission line is bridging energy gap in Pakistan and facilitating its economic growth,” he added. It did successful energization for 1000 days at Lahore Converter Station, he said. About future projects, he said two more lines are under progress to strengthen energy needs of the regions.

Vice president Sahiwal coal-fired power Chen Wei briefed the delegation about

CPEC’s first energy project 1320 MW Sahiwal Coal-Fired Power Plant. He briefed media delegation about its eminence, impacts and performance that supplied over 43 billion kilowatts hours of the energy in national grid.

Being a joint venture of Huaneng Shandong Power Generation Company and Shandong Ruyi Group, with an investment of about \$1.8 billion, he said that project is largest, fastest and the first environmentally friendly coal-fired power plant completed under CPEC, with the most optimal technological and environmental indicators.

Ensuring higher standards in maintaining best ecosystem, values of hazardous gases and mercury are remaining lower than the values set by World Bank, Japan, EU as well as Pakistan, he added.

Chen Wei further said approximately, power plant has supplied over 19.2 billion kilowatt-hours’ clean energy to national grid. Filling a quarter of the country’s power shortage and meeting the electricity demand of more than 4 million houses, project has won the highest honor in the power industry of China and China National Quality Engineering Gold Award, the highest award in the construction field of China, and many awards of federal and provincial level in Pakistan. Chinese engineers have also trained many Pakistani Chinese engineers as a part of transfer of technology under CPEC framework.

The delegation also visited Allama Iqbal Industrial City (AIIC), Special Economic Zone being developed on approximately 3217 acres under CPEC framework. It is operated and run under visionary leadership of CEO Muhammad Tanveer Jabbar, Faisalabad Industrial Estate Development & Management Company (FIEDMC).

It has an advantage for being adjacent to M3-Industrial city which comprises a large number of projects including textile, pharmaceuticals, information technology, and chemicals automotive, service complex.

Delegates interacted CEOs of Chinese enterprises especially Time Ceramic and Green Crockery. Time Ceramic CEO Zhang Qi informed that company has 23 percent of market share in Pakistan and introduced new technology to help grow export of Pakistan. He said 95 percent local people are employed in the company.

Green Crockery CEO Zhang Qi disclosed to the media that company has managed to exports goods of worth Rs 10 million to the UK last month, a milestone achieved by export-oriented enterprise that promote CPEC. Total woman employability in the company stands at 20 percent which is on rise gradually, he added.

The crockery was imported but now exported with the label “Made in Pakistan” a symbol of Pakistan’s prestige and a favorite item from Lahore to Peshawar and Karachi which is the fruit of CPEC.

General Manager Orange Line Metro Train Omar Chisti while giving to media delegation during their visit disclosed that OIMT achieves a milestone of transporting 100 million commuters with 99.99% time-and-service efficiency since beginning commercial operations in October 2020. Chisti told the media that the metro train had completed three years of its operation successfully. He said that it was a remarkable project under CPEC which had been completed at almost one-third of the cost quoted by the European companies. The government was giving each passenger a subsidy of Rs7.30 to provide efficient and reliable transport service to the commuters, he said.

The OIMT CEO, Li Chen, said that talented Pakistani professionals had played a key role in the success of the metro train project. The project was one of its kinds under the CPEC initiative. China was committed to cooperating with Pakistan for development.

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2023/08/07/4-page/969103-news.html>

Experts say CPEC playing key role in transforming country’s development landscape

LAHORE: The dedication and untiring efforts of the incumbent government and China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) diplomatic, technical staff of both countries have shifted the focus of cooperation from geo-politics to geo-economics by bringing it to fruition, experts said on Sunday.

They said that CPEC was playing a key role in transforming the development landscape of Pakistan with the launch of several multi-billion-dollar projects. If one goes through analysis of one decade, the start of CPEC was a concerted move by the then prime minister Mian Nawaz Sharif and Chinese President Xi Jinping in 2013 to shift the focus of cooperation from geo-politics to geo-economics.

Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI) President Kashf Anwar told APP that today, the premiership of Shehbaz Sharif and leadership of Planning Minister Prof. Ahsan Iqbal – deserve the highest praise for having brought CPEC to its fruition. As of now, more than 150 countries, with 75 per cent of the world’s population and half of the world’s GDP, have signed up to the BRI. CPEC, a principal component of BRI, aims to connect Pakistan’s

Gwadar port city to China's Xinjiang region through a network of roads, railways, and pipelines, he said.

To a query Anwar said that CPEC has the potential to significantly impact the entire region. Under CPEC, both governments have decided to overcome the then energy crisis in Pakistan, he said, adding that to guarantee energy security, multiple projects of 17,045MW, worth \$33 billion, have been envisaged.

As of now, 13 power generation projects with a total installed capacity of 8,020MW have been achieved, including 5,000MW which is based on indigenous fuels (Thar coal, hydel, solar and wind) and fall in the higher merit of dispatch order. These have substantially improved the energy-mix in Pakistan, WAPDA house, official sources told APP .

A first-ever 660-kV HVDC transmission line with evacuation capacity of 4,000-MW is also operational. Furthermore, 884-MW Suki-Kinari Hydropower Project is expected to be ready in July 2024. Besides, 700.7-MW Azad Pattan and 1,124-MW Kohala Hydropower, and a 300-MW Gwadar Coal Power project, are all in the pipeline, they confirmed.

Recently, a high-level delegation from China reached Pakistan to commemorate the completion of a decade of CPEC, which has reached its climax, reflecting on the journey from vision to reality. According to the London-based Centre for Economics and Business Research, the BRI can expand the world's GDP by \$7.1 trillion per annum by 2040. Over the past 10 years, CPEC has made significant progress amidst challenges and vague controversies such as debt trap, sovereignty and environmental concerns.

A senior official of CPEC secretariat, while seeking anonymity told APP that the project has improved connectivity from north to south while laying a foundation for a resilient infrastructure through building motorways, port, airport, and mass transit system. In the early harvest projects, six mega projects of total 510km were completed including the Havelian-Thakot section of KKH, Multan-Sukkur (M-5) Motorway, Hakla-D I Khan Motorway, Eastbay Expressway and Orange Line Metro Train, he added.

Similarly, work on various sections of the western alignment of CPEC was underway and expected to finish in July 2024, he informed adding, an optical fiber cable covering 820km has also been laid from Khunjerab to Rawalpindi for digital connectivity.

This web of high-quality expressways connecting villages with towns and cities via extended networks of feeder roads caters almost 65 per cent of our population, he informed. Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Prof Ahsan Iqbal, in his recent statement, has highlighted milestone achievements made under CPEC during the last one decade, while deepening relations between the two "Iron Brothers" with each passing day.

In industrial cooperation, only four Special Economic Zones (SEZs) out of nine are advancing, Ahsan Iqbal said adding that Rashakai, with 270 acres, was inaugurated in July 2023 with 23 industrial plots already allotted.

Likewise, the minister stated that development work at the Allama Iqbal Industrial City (AIIC) is progressing, as 126 plots of the city have been allotted so far. The groundbreaking of Dhabeji was held in July 2023 and civil works are underway. Bostan SEZ, Phase 1 with

200 acres is being developed; 19 industrial plots have been allotted, he added. “Many Chinese businesses are relocating to low-cost destinations but we could not attract them here,” he remarked.

This is so because most of these SEZs were to be operational by June 2020 but Covid-19 and grave slackness on the part of the previous regime delayed the fruits of this initiative, he said. In science & technology, capacity building of teachers, regarding STEM education, accreditation, and mutual recognition of engineering education, Joint Research Centre on Earth Sciences, Technology Transfer Centre (TTC), Institute of Smart Semiconductor Technology and Huawei Technical Support Centres are the key initiatives.—APP

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2023/08/07/13-page/969183-news.html>

Pakistan Observer

Iron-clad friendship between China and Pakistan is rock-solid: Wang Yi

China is willing to work with Pakistan to achieve more practical results in building the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), and support Pakistan’s sustainable development, Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi said.

In a telephonic talk with Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, Wang, also a member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee, said that the iron-clad friendship between China and Pakistan has stood tests and is rock-solid, Xinhua reported.

No matter how the international situation and Pakistan’s domestic situation change, China will, as always, firmly support Pakistan in defending national sovereignty, independence, and territorial integrity, firmly support Pakistan in maintaining unity and stability, realizing revitalization and development, and firmly support Pakistan to play a bigger and more active role in international and regional affairs, Wang said.

For his part, Bilawal said the Pakistan-China friendship has been passed down from generation to generation and is unshakable and full of vitality.

Pakistan appreciates China’s various support in difficult times, and is willing to work with China to continue supporting each other, promote the upgrading of the CPEC, build demonstration projects of the Belt and Road cooperation, and lift the bilateral friendship to higher levels, he added.

<https://pakobserver.net/iron-clad-friendship-between-china-and-pakistan-is-rock-solid-wang-yi/#:~:text=In%20a%20telephonic%20talk%20with%20Foreign%20Minister%20Bilawal,has%20stood%20tests%20and%20is%20rock-solid%2C%20Xinhua%20reported>

CPEC brings a decade of benefits to Pakistan

China and Pakistan enjoy all-weather strategic cooperative partnership, which is not only unique and time-tested, but also grows from strength to strength with each passing day. Both the countries stand by each other and render mutual support on bilateral and multilateral fora. China values its long-standing friendship with Pakistan and is committed to further developing the bilateral ties no matter how the international landscape changes. The Chinese

and the Pakistanis are working together to build an even closer and stronger community with a shared future in a new era.

China-Pakistan Economic Corridor is the shining example and exemplary hallmark of the deepening China-Pakistan friendship and partnership. Being the key component and signature project of the Belt and Road Initiative launched by President Xi Jinping of China in 2013, CPEC has been showcasing China's unswerving commitment to and unflinching support of the development of Pakistan.

CPEC has been a catalyst and a driving force for Pakistan's socioeconomic transformation. The decade-long development of CPEC, by covering Gwadar, energy, infrastructure and people to people exchanges, has yielded fruitful early harvest, and made significant contribution to tackling Pakistan's infrastructural and power deficits, uplifting Gwadar into a business hub and modern metropolis, improving people's well-being and enhancing regional connectivity. China has so far invested more than \$ 25 billion in CPEC-related projects, and created 23, 6000 jobs and employed 155, 000 local people by the end of 2022. Thirteen power generation projects with a total installed capacity of 8020 MW and one HVDC transmission line with evacuation capacity of 4000 MW have achieved their commercial operation.

This year marks the ten-year development of the BRI and CPEC. In jointly celebrating the anniversary, President Xi Jinping's Special Representative and Chinese Vice Premier He Lifeng made his special visit to Pakistan in July. Both sides signed six new MOUs aiming for further collaboration. The third High-level International Forum on Belt and Road Initiative will be held in Beijing late this year, a major diplomatic initiative by China to further lift the BRI and the CPEC to a new height. More focus will be given and resources allocated to the industrial development, special economic zones, agricultural cooperation, renewable energy, information technology and many more areas. The Mainline-1 rail project is also set to pick up pace. Going forward, CPEC will continue to help Pakistan progress and strive for a high-quality and sustainable development.

CPEC, like BRI, is for regional connectivity, peace and development. It has no hidden agenda, nor has it any geo-strategic ambition or military dimension. By providing the biggest public good to international community and implementing the mega project, China wants the shared growth, progress and common prosperity for all, especially for the Global South and the developing countries. In this sense, CPEC should be deemed as a joint venture, a shared undertaking and a common endeavor for both China and Pakistan and is open to regional countries.

CPEC, with a glowing future ahead, has also a high stake in the second-phase development. It is no denying that some elements out there are not happy to see the progress of the CPEC, nor are they pleased to see the phenomenal development of China-Pakistan bilateral relations. Together makes difference. China and Pakistan should make more efforts to further align the development strategies, and do the right narrative to counter the negative propaganda on CPEC, making it more resilient, vibrant and sustainable. Pakistan is advised to take the driver's seat to do more in this regard, while China has always got Pakistan's back and sincerely wishes her peace, harmony, growth and prosperity.

<https://pakobserver.net/cpec-continues-promoting-pakistans-progress/>

4-day Punjab media delegation fuels CPEC romanticism

The debut of the 4-day CPEC Punjab Media Delegation, an initiative taken by the Chinese Consulate Lahore and the Institute of International Relations and Media Research (IIRMR), has been completed in a befitting manner

Since the launch of the CPEC project in 2013, it is first of its kind “Program” organized to showcase how CPEC projects in Punjab have been improving the quality of life of local people, their living standards, poverty alleviation, employability, transfer of technology, modern development and export-led growth for the resilient economy of Pakistan.

The activity, led by IIRMR chairman Muhammad Mehdi and President Yasir Habib Khan along with Chinese Commercial Attache Yan Yang and Secretary to CG Chen Bo, is part of ongoing series of celebrations of the successful completion of 10 years of China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), an ace undertaking of the global iconic project “Belt and Road Initiative (BRI)” envisioned by Chinese President Xi Jinping.

On the first day, the high-octane delegation visited the Orange Line Metro Train (OLMT) considered as “a gift from President Xi Jinping to the people of Pakistan” and also as “the flower of friendship between China and Pakistan.” This flower of friendship has finally taken root and blossomed under the rain of “shared destiny and win-win cooperation” between the two countries.

Mr. Lichen, the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of NORINCO-GMG-DAEWOO JV, the O&M service provider for the Orange Line Metro Rail, along with other senior management personnel shed light on the performance of OLMT, South Asia’s first electric train under CPEC, that crossed a milestone of 100 million rides so far since its launch in 2022.

During the visit, the delegation was given a live demonstration of the state-of-the-art Operation Control Room, highlighting the advanced technology and monitoring systems utilized to ensure seamless operations and passenger safety.

The Orange Line team emphasized the significance of regular maintenance and cleanliness in maintaining a world-class metro service. The delegation was impressed with the level of expertise and meticulous attention to detail that goes into maintaining the rolling stock.

The highlight of the visit was a delightful train ride to Anarkali Station (Station No. 13), where the Orange Line management presented souvenirs to all members of the delegation as tokens of appreciation for their visit.

On the second day, the delegation visited Allama Iqbal Industrial City (AIIC), a priority SEZ being developed on approximately 3217 acres under the CPEC framework. It is operated and run under visionary leadership by CEO Muhammad Tanveer Jabbar, Faisalabad Industrial Estate Development & Management Company (FIEDMC).

It has the advantage of being adjacent to an M3-Industrial city which comprises a large number of projects including textile, pharmaceuticals, information technology, chemicals

automotive, and service complex. Delegates interacted with CEOs of Chinese enterprises especially Time Ceramic and Green Crockery.

Time Ceramic CEO Zhang Qi informed that the company has made up 23 per cent of the market share in Pakistan and introduced new technology to help grow export in Pakistan. 95 per cent of local people are employed in the company since its inception, he told. Green Crockery CEO Zhang Qi apprised of its first export valuing Rs. 10 million to the UK last month, a milestone achieved as an export-oriented enterprise that promotes the CPEC mission.

Total woman employability in the company stands at 20 per cent which is on the rise gradually, he added. Now instead of importing from China which inflates Pakistan's import bill, Pakistan traders will get produced their desired items in such Chinese companies and others at CPEC' Allama Iqbal Industrial City (AIIC). It means those Chinese companies providing multiple items to Pakistan traders are being functional at AIIC, the delegation was briefed.

On the third day, the delegation visited CPEC's first energy project 1320 MW Sahiwal Coal-Fired Power Plant. On the occasion of Sahiwal's coal-fired power plant vice president Chen Wei briefed the media delegation about its eminence, impacts and performance that supplied over 43 billion kilowatts hours of the energy in national grid.

Being a joint venture of Huaneng Shandong Power Generation Company and Shandong Ruyi Group, with an investment of about \$1.8 billion, he said that the project is the largest, fastest and first environmentally friendly coal-fired power plant completed under CPEC, with the optimal technological and environmental indicators. Ensuring higher standards in maintaining the best ecosystem, values of hazardous gases and mercury are remaining lower than the values set by World Bank, Japan, EU as well as Pakistan, he added.

Filling a quarter of the country's power shortage and meeting the electricity demand of more than 4 million houses, the project has won the highest honour in the power industry of China and the China National Quality Engineering Gold Award, the highest award in the construction field of China, and many awards of federal and provincial level in Pakistan. Chinese engineers have also trained many Pakistani Chinese engineers as a part of the transfer of technology under the CPEC framework.

Forth day, the delegation paid a visit Lahore Conversion site of the 886-km HVDC Matiari-Lahore power transmission line run by Pak Matiari-Lahore Transmission Company (PMLTC) Pvt Ltd. Lahore-Matiari is the first transmission line project under China-Pakistan On Economic Corridor (CPEC) to transmit electricity from power stations in Sindh to load centres in Punjab. It will also transmit electricity from the indigenous coal-based power plants under construction in Thar district of Sindh under CPEC.

On the occasion, PMLTC deputy CEO Ma Desheng broke the news that PMTC is going to make Lahore load shedding free next year. He said that 2023 is marking the completion of 10 years of CPEC which has transformed the lives of Pakistanis. "We are privileged to have played a critical role in CPEC. "Matiari-Lahore transmission line is bridging the energy gap in Pakistan and facilitating its economic growth," he added. It did successful energization for

1000 days at Lahore Converter Station, he said. About future projects, he said two more lines are under progress to strengthen the energy needs of the regions.

CPEC Punjab media delegation also visited the Challenge factory, owned and run by the Chinese company. In response to the call of the country's One Belt One Road strategy, Shanghai Yuanyi Industrial Co., Ltd. invested in Pakistan in 2014 to establish the first overseas export-oriented garment manufacturing enterprise, which is the third outside the two production bases in Shanghai and Hubei.

The company has continuously expanded from a small factory with 300 employees at the beginning to the current scale of 4,000 employees, and its sales performance has also climbed to more than 60 million US dollars, ranking among the top 100 exporters in Pakistan.

<https://pakobserver.net/4-day-punjab-media-delegation-fuels-cpec-romanticism/>

CPEC: A Potential Game-Changer

CPEC is the principal framework for China's economic assistance to Pakistan. The current visit of China's Vice Premier He Lifeng to Pakistan to mark the tenth year since the initiation of CPEC as part of China's mega One Belt One Road initiative (BRI) enunciated by President Xi Jinping in 2013, underscores the importance the two countries attach to their bilateral relation and also to CPEC. In 2015, China allocated US Dollars 62 billion particularly for the development of energy projects, infra-structure connectivity and further development of Gwadar Port. This mega project also envisaged establishment of Special Economic/Industrial Zones along the planned infrastructure. According to Pakistan government sources, an investment of Dollars 25 billion has already been made in CPEC projects. Besides provision of funds, the success of CPEC depends on Pakistan's own ability to carry forward development. In other words, it is a game changer provided we fully apply ourselves to make it so, especially by improving security and investment friendly environment in the country.

The disbursement procedure involves identification and approval of projects, negotiation of contracts with China's corporations, and allocation of funds by the Chinese government to Chinese corporations. Thus, government to government negotiations for contracts was replaced by the Pakistan government on one side and Chinese semi-private sector corporations on the other. CPEC projects in the energy sector were quick to start as by mid 2010s Pakistan faced an acute energy crisis. Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif's government proceeded expeditiously to contract energy projects. According to the CPEC website (cpec.gov.pk) in the first phase 6970 Mw capacity was added and a 600 KV transmission line from Matiari in Sindh to Lahore completed at the cost of 12.5 billion dollars. In addition to several mostly coal based energy projects, these included the resurrected three 330 Mw projects based on Thar coal. The capacity includes 2020 Mw based on hydro, solar and wind power. There are four additional plants 2780 Mw capacity at various stages of completion at the cost of 4.9 billion dollars. Four more, two hydro and two wind based as well as further expansion of Thar coal fields are actively under consideration. Even though not directly linked to the CPEC framework, China has helped Pakistan with the establishment of six nuclear power plants with over 3000 Mw capacity.

With the change of government in Islamabad in 2018, CPEC energy projects drew some albeit muted criticism on three counts: first that these were coal based and hence harmful to environment, second that there was no transparency and corruption was involved and third, that the terms of the loans were stringent pushing Pakistan into a debt trap. The criticism was apparently motivated. The choice of fossil fuel based projects was made by Pakistan partly in view of urgency and lower costs. Furthermore, Chinese companies assured that they were using the most advanced technologies in coal based plants to limit environmental pollution. As for corruption, first and foremost the Pakistan side should take the blame and responsibility and do something about it. The argument about stringent terms is weak as nothing was thrust on Pakistan. There were no funds available from anywhere to address the acute energy shortages.

By 2022, the Chinese credits accounted for nearly 30% of Pakistan's external debt of close to 100 billion US\$. The debt servicing liability from the Chinese loans which by 2019 came to just over 10% of Pakistan's debt servicing liability is bound to increase with time. In any event there is always the possibility of rollover or rescheduling of China's loans. China would not want to see Pakistan go under on account of its loans. Shahbaz Sharif's November 2022 visit reportedly reviewed CPEC related loans. In fact, the campaign appeared to have been partly instigated by US interests.

Another disappointment has been Pakistan's failure thus far to develop Special Economic/Industrial Zones which were part of the CPEC concept. Besides bureaucratic dysfunction, Pakistan's political and security environment discourages investment activity. For example, special economic zones in China or elsewhere in the world are based on the central premise of a one-window-operation. Pakistan has not been able to work out this basic facilitation. This area requires special attention at the government level.

CPEC has other geo-political constraints and vulnerabilities. First, even though described as the flagship project of BRI, CPEC has not been the main artery of BRI which run through Russia and Central Asia to Europe. Their fate is also now clouded by the Ukrainian crisis. The other important link runs through Myanmar to bypass the choke point of Malacca's. Potentially, CPEC could serve as a new overland route for China's trade with the Middle East and Africa. Economic feasibilities apart, CPEC has faced several hurdles in its take off. Trade routes linking Central Asia with Pakistan remain blocked by Afghanistan where the situation is far from normal for international commerce. The alternative using the Karakoram Highway, despite the up-gradation of the road, traverses one of the most difficult terrains anywhere in the world. The road is snow bound almost four months in a year. Then Iran views Gwadar in competition with Chahbahar. One especially difficult challenge is the restive situation in Baluchistan.

Some Indian and western analysts also view Gwadar as a possible naval facility to be used by China to protect its interests in the Indian Ocean region and even to encircle India. Much of this is mere speculation. Gwadar was built by the Chinese in response to a specific request by the former president Pervez Musharraf to Premier Zhu Zongji. The purpose was none other than to develop Gwadar as a commercial port, with an eye to possible Central Asian commerce passing through the port. It was not the result of a Chinese initiative to serve any

of its security interests in the region. Lacking its own capacity, Pakistan handed over the port to a Singaporean company for management. Only after that company pulled out was it contracted to a Chinese company for management.

Pakistan also wanted to develop Gwadar as an energy port with an oil refinery and as an important link in the Iran-Pakistan-India gas pipeline. India pulled out depleting the economic dividend of the project. Serious thought had also been given to a gas pipeline going through Pakistan into Xinjiang. For these ideas to materialize, changes in the political environment of the region are required, including the stabilization of Afghanistan, which could make the passage of energy and transportation corridors linking Central Asia practically viable for international trade.

As for the transit of Chinese goods using Pakistani ports including Gwadar, the fact remains that most of China's exports are generated in its eastern regions and their transportation through Pakistan makes little economic sense. For China, this route will become attractive only for exportable goods produced in its western-most Xinjiang province. Gwadar can also serve as an outlet for transportation once the Chinese are able to develop Aynak copper deposits or any other large-scale mining activity in southern Afghanistan. In discussing Gwadar and the Karakoram Highway, it is often suggested that China will need alternative routes to avoid the choke point of the Straits of Malacca. Again, geography suggests a preferable alternative route would lie through Myanmar, notwithstanding plans to build a shipping lane across the Isthmus of Kra in Thailand, bypassing Malacca.

Nonetheless, realization of full potential in any area of its chartered utility as a transshipment port or an energy port or as a viable transit for products from Western China can greatly benefit Pakistan and the region. Already, investment under CPEC is a considerable achievement. Overland Pakistan-China trade amounts to 200 million Dollars. But as indicated earlier, much more could have been accomplished. Of late, the Pakistan government has refocused on CPEC projects. New projects have also been signed during the visit of Vice Premier He Lifeng. The two countries have decided to implement the Motorway ML-1 project and Karachi Circular Railway project under CPEC. CPEC's scope has been expanded in its next phase to include cooperation in agriculture, mining, industry, oil and gas, science and technology, information technology, education, tourism and socio-economic projects. An emphasis is placed on renewable energy projects, including solar projects which align with green, low carbon and environmental-friendly development of energy sector. CPEC is open as an inclusive platform that welcomes third party investors.

<https://pakobserver.net/cpec-a-potential-game-changer/>

A Decade of CPEC Development

Naghmana A. Hashmi

Former Ambassador of Pakistan to China

Inspired by President Xi's vision of regional connectivity and people-centric development model, the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is an important part of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and its flagship project with Gwadar Port as the Jewel in the crown of CPEC.

2. CPEC is a long-term bilateral economic project encompassing a vast array of short, medium and long-term projects. As a flagship project of the BRI, China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) has already achieved phenomenal success by laying a solid foundation of infrastructure in energy and transport sectors. Building upon this foundation, Phase II of CPEC would now focus on socio-economic development and poverty alleviation for a robust, sustainable and inclusive growth for Pakistan and the whole region at large. The ever-increasing economic and trade integration between Pakistan and China has made our two economies increasingly inter-dependent especially in the context of CPEC.

3. Traditionally, China and Pakistan have cooperated closely at the strategic and political levels. With CPEC the strategic partners are making efforts to expand their bilateral collaboration economically as well. The construction of the CPEC is a milestone that signifies this shift. CPEC is undoubtedly a “game-changer” not only for Pakistan but the entire region. Connecting Gwadar Port to China’s Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, through a network of highways, railways, pipelines to transport goods, technology, oil and gas and fiber optic cable for flow of knowledge, presents enormous opportunities to people from Gwadar to Kashgar and beyond.

4. The strategic concept of connectivity between Pakistan and China originated with the decision to build the Karakoram Highway (KKH) to link the two countries through an all-weather highway. Thus the concept has been in the works for decades however, the two sides inched towards translating the concept into concrete reality with another strategic decision in 2001 to construct deep sea port at Gwadar. The vision and the financial package for linking KKH to Gwadar port with a network of roads and bridges and reviving the energy sector of Pakistan and project layout of CPEC was agreed during the visit of Chinese Premier Li Keqiang to Pakistan in May 2013.

5. Today CPEC has become the unambiguous symbol of the enduring friendship between Pakistan and China and holds a pivotal position in the development agenda of Pakistan. CPEC has huge strategic significance for Pakistan and the completion of its first phase has already helped Pakistan lay a strong energy and road infrastructure for subsequent development of industry, agriculture and human resource. So far the implementation of the first phase has provided over a hundred thousand jobs to local population. In the future, with the completion and full operationalization of the second phase involving the setting up of SEZ’s, it is expected to bring prosperity to around 3 billion people of the region, including China, South Asia, Central Asia and Middle East.

6. Pakistan and China consider these development initiatives a potential source of stability and prosperity for both countries. From a Chinese perspective, cooperation in the areas of security and economics are closely intertwined, and improvements on one side can improve the other. It is almost as though security and economics are two separate wheels on the same vehicle, and both need to be spinning to move things forward. We believe economic development can strengthen Pakistan’s internal stability, thus reinvigorating the economy through investment in infrastructure projects as well as the construction of oil and gas pipelines. We hope this will create a certain level of stability within Pakistan and in turn stabilize China’s western periphery, particularly the province of Xinjiang.

7. More broadly, the CPEC has to be understood in the context of Pakistan and China's strategic interests in East Asia and the way the United States has challenged them. Faced with such difficulties, China hopes it can expand its strategic space by heading west and for Pakistan a strategic relationship and connectivity is seen as essential for the socio-economic development of Pakistan. Pakistan serves as a crucial bridge between China and Central Asia, South Asia, and the Middle East. This is why China is willing to pour vast amounts of resources into the economic corridor—based on the logic of improving security through economic development.

8. Likewise, Pakistan has realized that no other country places such high strategic importance in its economic relationship with Pakistan as China does. According to Pakistan's development agenda 2025—a blueprint for economic development published in 2014 by Pakistan's Ministry of Planning, Development, and Reform—Pakistan aims to advance from being a lower-middle-income nation to an upper-middle-income nation by 2025-6. To achieve this goal, Pakistan hopes to attract increasing amounts of foreign investment and is working to improve its overall economy and governance system.

9. CPEC acts as a game-changing opportunity for Pakistan's development and its future role in the region. With the implementation of CPEC and the emerging commercial attractiveness of Pakistan and the South Asia region, Chinese and US economic and security interests in Pakistan and the region are converging. China's logic behind this strategy is that fundamentally improving Pakistan's economy will help alleviate the challenges posed by political extremists, radicals, and jihadists. China and Pakistan share the belief that economic development can help stabilize Pakistan and improve its domestic security situation.

10. China and Pakistan regard the CPEC as a new source of potential synergy between their respective national development strategies, which may help the two countries translate their close political cooperation into multifaceted economic cooperation, attain mutual benefits, and achieve win-win outcomes. For the economic corridor to reach its potential, however, there are security and political challenges in Pakistan that must be addressed.

11. With the first phase of CPEC comprising of major infrastructure and energy projects nearing completion, the focus has rightly shifted to the second phase. This includes the development of Special Economic Zones, Sustainable development, poverty elevation, agriculture, health care and knowledge. Proper establishment and successful running of the SEZs are of critical importance for the second phase of CPEC to take off and contribute to the long awaited socio economic development of Pakistan.

12. The benefits of a successful SEZ programme include employment generation, infrastructure development and the development of allied industries through backward linkages, which are not generally covered under Regional Trade Agreements. If the RTA and SEZ policies are synchronized, it can lead to cross-country linkages and the establishment of regional manufacturing and services networks that use SEZs as hubs. The upcoming SEZs in Pakistan like Rashakai SEZ need to attract investments and relocation of industry in sectors like engineering; pharmaceuticals, IT, manufacturing, food processing, energy, jewelry, leather footwear, textile apparel etc.

13. The government needs to take a proactive role to ensure that SEZs are developed to attract the best enterprises from China and foreign countries. Badly developed SEZs will only attract substandard enterprises. Improving the business environment is essential to maintain the attractiveness of SEZs. There is an urgent need to streamline the single-window systems, which would require broader consensus with the state governments and various line ministries

14. SEZs in Pakistan face several challenges that are easily manageable if a central, clear and uniform policy is adopted for SEZs throughout the country. Presently the barriers faced by SEZs include; Institutional Mechanism and Its Implications; Challenges Related to Land Acquisition; location; Sharing of Infrastructure and the Business Model; Barriers Related to Fiscal Incentives; Challenges Related to Shifting of Existing Units from DTA to SEZ; Challenges Related to Backward and Forward Linkages; It is therefore, important to remember that in order to make SEZs a Success Story Pakistan must address these impediments on war footing.

15. In short CPEC offers a number of opportunities, the first of which is economic development. The large influx of investments will work as a strong economic incentive for Pakistan's government and social sectors to improve the business environment and enhance commercial attractiveness for more foreign investments, which will not only benefit Chinese investors engaged in CPEC, but will also benefit all foreign investors in Pakistan, including the United States. Industrialization in Pakistan will also help to create jobs for the country's large, under-employed population, turning a social and fiscal burden into an economic and developmental driver.

16. CPEC could provide enhanced and improved security by stabilization of economic development. With planned infrastructure, energy, and manufacturing investments, CPEC will create more private-sector opportunities and offer a realistic pathway out of poverty for Pakistan's people, especially those extremely poor who otherwise may be tempted to fight as mercenaries for the Taliban and other extremist organizations. Economic development will help to maintain domestic stability and enhance security in Pakistan for the medium to long term. Combined with strengthened governance and improved capacity, Pakistan will have greater political willingness and capability to fulfill its security commitment and responsibilities for global counterterrorism.

<https://pakobserver.net/a-decade-of-cpec-development-2/>

PAKISTAN-CHINA AND 10-YEARS OF CHINA PAKISTAN ECONOMIC CORRIDOR (CPEC)

Hafiz Ahsaan Ahmad Khokhar

Advocate Supreme Court of Pakistan Ex-Chairman of Pakistan's Customs, Excise, and Sales Tax Appellate Tribunal Ex-Senior Advisor to the Federal Ombudsman 1) Pakistan was one of the first countries to acknowledge the People's Republic of China on January 4, 1950, and formally established its diplomatic relations on May 21st, 1951. During the Prime Minister of Pakistan's visit to Beijing in 1956, a formal friendship deal was established. Thereafter, signing of the air and border land accords as part of the Sino-Pakistani Agreement in 1963

marked not only a turning point in the two country's relations between government to government and people to people but now have improved more gradually since then in different areas.

2) Pakistan has consistently supported China's stance on the One China Policy, on Xinjiang, Tibet, and Taiwan, while China has consistently supported Pakistan's position on Kashmir. Mutual trust, respect, and friendliness characterize the bilateral relationship between the two neighboring nations. Both countries view one another as "all-weather friends" and have strong diplomatic, economic, and military connections. Mutual support on a variety of international issues has been a defining feature of Pakistan and China's relationship. Economic cooperation has evolved throughout time despite its humble beginnings, notably since the 1970s.

3) Pakistan and China established a strategic partnership in 1972, and by 1979, which later on a meaningful economic cooperation had started. Due to its advantageous location and connections with both countries, Pakistan has frequently offered China to serve as a conduit for information and a facilitator of collaboration in international diplomatic relations. One of the key turning points in relations between Pakistan and China occurred during the 1960s and 1980s with the construction of the Karakoram Highway. This road, which links the Chinese region of Xinjiang with Gilgit-Baltistan of northern Pakistan being considered the 8th wonder of the world, has long been cited as proof of the close ties between the two countries. Both China and Pakistan recognize the benefits of closer economic ties, which have led to the formation of a strong strategic alliance. This partnership has paved the way for increased trade and investment between the two countries.

4) The flagship China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is a component of the China's ambitious Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), which intends to increase connectivity and trade between China and other regions of the world. In China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), which intends to enhance connectivity and commercial networks connecting Asia, Europe, and Africa, Pakistan is a significant partner as well. Through Pakistan's ports, the CPEC project of the BRI acts as a crucial commercial link connecting China to the rest of the world's markets. The Malacca Strait, through which a large portion of China's trade passes, is prone to possible chokepoints and security difficulties. China is significantly reliant on marine trade; consequently, through CPEC, it can now access the Middle East and the Indian Ocean by the shortest distance, reducing its only reliance on the Malacca Strait.

5) It is a well-known fact that every government in China and Pakistan has worked hard to enhance ties with China, and doing so has been advantageous for both countries in every way. When the PPP was in office, in May 2013, Chinese Premier Li Keqiang proposed the CPEC in Pakistan. The decision was taken through the signing of 21 Memorandums of Understanding, and after realizing the potential for greater economic connection and cooperation, the two sides intended to begin a number of projects to extend their connections. Later on, The Memorandum of Understanding for the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) was formally signed on July 5, 2013, while the PML (N) was in power.

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6) The CPEC was formally launched when Chinese President Xi Jinping visited Pakistan in April 2015. To begin the CPEC's numerous projects relating to the energy, the construction of modern roads, railroads, optic fiber, creation of special economic zones (SEZs) and energy pipelines to create efficient transportation links connecting the China from the port of Gwadar with Pakistan's, and finally both countries signed 51 separate agreements. The initial anticipated investment of the CPEC, which comprised investments in energy & infrastructure projects, industrial zones, and the development of the Gwadar Port, was around \$46 billion; but now the investment portfolio has been increased mutually by two sides to \$62 billion, which would have expected further investment exposure in ML1 and other infrastructure projects.

7) The CPEC framework projects that have already been finished have increased the length of the main national transmission network by 886 km, adding 6,000 megawatts of power, 510 kilometers of highways, 800 kilometers of fiber optic cable, and created 192,000 jobs. \$25 billion in infrastructure and energy projects funded by the CPEC have been completed during the last ten years. There is a good fact that the completion of numerous multibillion-dollar infrastructure projects under the CPEC has improved Pakistan's energy, road infrastructure, and socioeconomic situation.

8) The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is a multi-phase project involving infrastructure and development initiatives for regional connectivity and a range of investment opportunities from the years 2015 to 2020, 2020 to 2025, and 2025 to 2030. There have been 12 meetings of the joint working coordination committee for CPEC projects so far and the progress of CPEC projects has been evaluated therein. The two countries have also developed the Long Term Plan for the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (2017-2030) with a framework for collaboration to manage CPEC growth. The National Plan will complement Pakistan's Vision 2025 and the pertinent national and local programmes of China, has received the approval of both the Chinese and Pakistani governments. Up until 2020, 2025, and 2030, respectively, this plan's short-term initiatives, medium-term projects, and long-term projects will all be considered. Along with China and Pakistan, the CPEC will also benefit Iran, Afghanistan, the Central Asian Republics, and the surrounding regions.

9) The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is a massive project with great economic potential for both countries and the wider region. There is a lot of economic space to grow further the mutually beneficial partnership between China and Pakistan which needs to be explored vigorously with removing of bureaucratic bottlenecks and consistent in policies with new initiatives by involving experts and academia. The implementation of CPEC is a continuous progress, but so far, things are going well, and have made substantial improvement incompletion of infrastructure and energy projects resultantly benefitting the public at large across Pakistan.

10) Both the governments of Pakistan and China have also created a space, that Projects in CPEC can be added, completed, or changed over time, so in these areas a holistic way forward approach to be adopted by coordinating all stakeholders. To successfully advance by 2030, it is essential for Pakistan to preserve the transparency, improving the security measures, the expansion of local force capability, industrial cooperation, improving in ease of

doing business index, measures for technology transfer, institutional strength of our govt departments, trade and investment promotion in different sectors with joint venture projects, and to conduct regular ongoing assessment of the CPEC projects' progress and adaptability on every three month bases.

11) The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), in addition to Pakistan and China, would have a huge impact on the region in terms of developing its infrastructure, addressing its energy crisis, reducing poverty by using direct job sources, and promoting trade. Without a doubt, the success of CPEC will produce a win-win situation for China and Pakistan and the region as well.

<https://pakobserver.net/pakistan-china-and-10-years-of-china-pakistan-economic-corridor-cpec/>

CPEC- 10 YEARS OF CHALLENGES, GROWTH, AND OPPORTUNITIES

Dr. Hassan Daud Butt

2023 marks the 10th year of the Belt and Road initiative and its flagship project China-Pak Economic Corridor (CPEC). This landmark has been achieved at a time when countries across the world are facing difficulties to recover from the vulnerabilities of the COVID-19 pandemic, conflicts, climate change, unemployment, and depleting resources. However, despite these challenges and headwinds, trade between China and Pakistan has witnessed an increase with the new areas being explored especially in Agri-based products where sesame seed export surged by 50% on a year-on-year basis in 2022, seafood export grew by 40% in 2022 and Pakistan's rice exports to China crossed the historical figure of one million tons. Overall, Pakistan's export to China rose by over 35% from 2013 to 2022.

Under the Belt and Road Initiative in the past 10 years, 147 countries, accounting for two-thirds of the world's population and 40 percent of global GDP have signed on to projects or indicated an interest in doing so and China's investment in these countries has surpassed US\$ 50 billion and Chinese Companies have set up 56 economic cooperation zones in over 20 countries, generating billions of US dollar of tax revenue and over 400,000 jobs. Similarly, Under China Pakistan Economic Corridor numerous road networks have been established creating rural-urban synergy and the SEZs on these road links are finding new means to attract investments, especially in the post-COVID-19 scenario. In Pakistan, the CPEC initiative has created over 100,000 opportunities for employment, 6000 MW of electricity with over 800 Kms of transmission lines, and over 510 KMs roads creating rural-urban synergy and regional connectivity. It has helped Pakistan develop its Blue economy through Gwadar port and its connectivity with the hinterland through the western route and the rest of the world through the upcoming Gwadar airport which is being constructed with a Chinese grant of \$230 million and will be completed this year. The connectivity through optical fiber and through transmission lines is also helping Pakistan achieve the development targets for having an endogenous mechanism for sustainable economic growth. The CPEC projects are helping create favorable conditions for development, and broadening extensive consultation for the harmonizing policy with the view of "seeking a common ground".

Overall, The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor is the true manifestation of regional connectivity with the vision of improving people's lives by facilitating inclusive development and enabling mutual prosperity; thereby creating new markets, scaling up supply chains, removing bottlenecks for holistic development, ensuring energy security and creating millions of jobs for people in the region. Moving forward, Pakistan is trying to further improve the economic connections between the two nations and looks to Chinese FDI and industrial help for a road toward stability.

To benefit from all this, and moving forward in CPEC 2.0, Pakistan needs to prepare well as conventional wisdom may not come into play and novel ideas led by technology may help address these challenges to attract investment flow. Importantly, Pakistan also has to accelerate SEZs development and attract investments in agriculture, Blue economy, and technology including carrying out targeted reforms designed on economic rationale rather than political agendas to improve the business climate through the ongoing regulatory reform and to raise awareness of existing investment opportunities, remove bottlenecks, overcome negative perceptions and reduce information gaps while also focusing on existing investors and their concerns, especially in the energy sector. We also need to explore the opportunities in the CPEC long-term plan for supporting Pakistan's economic stability for which understanding the preconditions for investment is imperative including a strong rule of law to address major systemic disparities more effectively, as the absence of any of these critical aspects can hinder investment and enhancing the capacity of all stakeholders to provide Ease of doing business based on principles of good governance and absolute harmony are critical. A strong government role will also be required to closely monitor risks and initiate stimulus packages and improve productivity across connectivity and trade-related sectors. It is imperative that our vocational training centers and academic institutions are able to provide efficient and skilled manpower required to shoulder the task of transforming Pakistan into the future industrial and trans-shipment hub of the region for which the role of CPEC is becoming vital.

About the writer: Dr. Hassan Daud Butt is a Projects Management specialist and is an Associate Professor at Bahria University and a Research Fellow at various institutions. He has served as a diplomat in China and has been a former CEO of KPBoIT& Project Director of the CPEC project at MoPDR.

<https://pakobserver.net/cpec-10-years-of-challenges-growth-and-opportunities-2/>

CPEC: A GAME CHANGER?

By Masood Khalid

Former Ambassador of Pakistan to China

While Pakistan and China have achieved several milestones in over seventy years of relationship, China-Pakistan Economic Corridor or CPEC stands out as a shining example of breaking new ground in their bilateral relations. CPEC, which is a signature project of President Xi Jinping's visionary Belt and Road Initiative or BRI, has become synonymous with the symbolism characterising the proverbial Pakistan-China friendship.

The history of Pakistan-China economic cooperation predates CPEC. China extended significant financial assistance to Pakistan in the sixties, although it was not a rich country at that time. China helped Pakistan in establishing its industrial base in Taxila. HMC, HRF, PAC Kamra, Chashma Nuclear Power Plants, etc., are testimony to this cooperation, not to talk of vital military assistance it extended in the wake of the 1965 war with India. The construction of Karakoram Highway or KKH was another landmark and manifested both countries' desire for physical connectivity surpassing the challenges of the formidable mountain range that separates the two countries. In the early fifties, Chairman Mao Tse Tung spoke of Pakistan as a "southwest window for China," and in the mid-sixties, when President Ayub Khan visited China, Chairman Mao initiated the proposal of construction of KKH, reflecting Chinese vision for its westward connectivity with Pakistan as a bridgehead. CPEC is a dream come true of that vision. Today, Pakistan-China cooperation is multi-domain and goes beyond the traditional parameters of a typical bilateral relationship.

Here, a brief account of history is necessary. Diplomatic relations between the two countries were established in May 1951. Pakistan was the first Muslim country to recognise 'New China.' After a tentative start, both countries began their journey of friendship after the two Prime Ministers met for the first time in Bandung in 1955. This was followed by the first-ever exchange of high-level visits. Prime Minister Husain Shaheed Suharwardy became the first Pakistani Prime Minister to visit China in October 1956, and barely two months later, Premier Zhou En Lai paid his maiden visit to Pakistan in December. He was given a red carpet welcome during his ten-day trip. Although Pakistan had by then joined the western alliances of SEATO and CENTO, the two Premiers meeting in Bandung and the exchange of visits in 1956 helped allay Chinese concerns over Pakistan's foreign policy direction. Premier Zhou En Lai felt assured that Pakistan's membership in western pacts was not against China. China decided to promote its relations with Pakistan independently of its ties with India. Although China and India were close to each other at the time, Premier Zhou made a friendly gesture towards Pakistan by politely declining Prime Minister Nehru's invitation to visit Srinagar, in deference to our sensitivities on the issue of Kashmir. The healthy evolution of Pakistan-China relations culminated in the historic signing of the border treaty in 1963 and the commencement of PIA flights in 1964, when China was faced with a western blockade. These two steps were major CBMs in laying the foundation of bilateral mutual trust. Then, in 1971, Pakistan played a key role in facilitating Dr. Henry Kissinger's secret visit to China, leading to the unfreezing of Sino-US relations. Pakistan was also instrumental in China regaining its rightful place at the United Nations in 1971. China supported Pakistan in the 1965 and 1971 wars and cast its first veto in the UN Security Council in 1972, linking the question of Bangladesh's entry as a UN member with the repatriation of Pakistani POWs.

Pakistan and China have traversed this journey of friendship together with poise and confidence, surmounting several challenges. Today, Pakistan-China friendship is cited as a model for inter-state relationships. The beauty of this relationship is its resilience and natural propensity to grow, as both countries do not have any conflict of interest. Both countries support each other on core issues of their national interest. In the fast-changing regional and international environment beset with great uncertainties, this relationship has not only been a 'constant' but also become increasingly important.

The BRI has attained global traction due to its delivery and tangible benefits. It has become a popular public good and the biggest cooperation platform of the 21st Century, subscribed to by nearly 150 countries. It seeks an inclusive and integrated growth model for the international community. BRI has now entered into the phase of solid progress and sustained growth. It aims to build regional networks of rail and roads, oil and gas pipelines, power grids, bridges, dams, and tunnels. This initiative is integrating China with South Asia, Central Asia, South East Asia, and the Eurasian region. It is a model for win-win outcomes on the basis of give and take. BRI offers an opportunity to developing countries like Pakistan to develop cooperation with China and other interested parties in trade and technology, overcome development deficit, and carve an independent and self-reliant path.

Pakistan is fortunate to be amongst the first countries to join this mega-initiative. CPEC offers a unique window of opportunity for Pakistan to join the ranks of middle-income countries in a relatively shorter period of time. Its dovetailing with “geo-economics” as the fulcrum of Pakistan’s Foreign Policy can help Pakistan realise its objective of becoming a hub of regional connectivity and economic cooperation. The newly constituted Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) is meant to optimise Pakistan’s hidden potential, using CPEC as a vehicle for transnational cooperation with investment and trade as the main instruments. The interest shown by our friends in the Middle East to be partners in steering SIFC in a collaborative mode should be welcomed wholeheartedly. Pakistan badly needs investment and technology to revamp its debilitating infrastructure and to galvanise its agriculture, manufacturing and services sectors. Pakistan can be a granary for the Middle East and Central Asia by applying modern agriculture technology. The SIFC reportedly approved a project for corporate farming. This is a step in the right direction. We should develop demonstration pilot projects and replicate as per the needs of our friends for food security. Similarly, in the field of mining, Pakistan should invite China and other interested countries. Joint ventures and trilateral cooperative models can be considered. With CPEC well-grounded and political ties between China and our Middle East friends on the ascent, Pakistan can leverage its geography and rich resource endowment to break the shackles of poverty and backwardness.

The Prime Minister has described SIFC as a move to “foster synergy between the federal and provincial governments to facilitate timely decision-making; avoid duplication of efforts, enhance investor confidence, and ensure swift project implementation.” This is a pledge that would be welcomed by international investors. However, challenges will arise at the execution stage as in CPEC. We have to overcome delays and red tape which has become entrenched in our system and is a disincentive for investors. An efficient administrative apparatus with clear demarcation of responsibilities and adequate legal backup support will be indispensable for SIFC’s success.

In reviewing CPEC, we should be objective and rational. The question to be asked is where was Pakistan before CPEC started. We were facing a horrific security situation, power shortage had crippled our economy, and infrastructure was crumbling. According to some estimates, Pakistan was losing about \$4 billion annually on account of electricity shortfall. The economy was in a state of stagnation. When CPEC was discussed between Pakistan and

China, our side requested China to help in overcoming the electricity deficit. Chinese leadership directed its companies to construct power projects as per our IPPs policy. Chinese companies completed big power projects like Sahiwal and Port Qasim in record time. Thar coal deposits, which were lying unexploited for decades, were energised, not only adding a new source of energy generation but also bringing about a social transformation of the area. The power sector benefited immensely from Chinese investment. Today, we have over 8000 MW added to the national grid with several new projects in the pipeline. An 800 km long state-of-the-art transmission line was installed by China State Grid from Matiari to Lahore. Pakistan no longer suffers from power shortages. Power disruptions in urban and rural areas are due to faults in our transmission and distribution system.

Another redeeming feature of CPEC is the completion of some major transportation projects. Multan-Sukkur 400 km long motorway has been built by a leading Chinese construction company, and it is a state-of-the-art road. Similarly, the upgrade of KKH, Lahore Orange Line, Urban metro bus systems, link roads on eastern, central, and western routes, 800 km Optic Fibre cable linking Islamabad with Kashgar, and a host of other projects are attributable to CPEC. Pakistan and China have agreed to start the ML-1 project, which will revolutionise our decaying railway and logistic infrastructure. With landlocked Central Asian states keen to utilise our ports of Gwadar and Karachi for their overseas trade, an efficient and modern railway transportation infrastructure is a prerequisite and is a cost-effective means for regional trade. It is unfortunate that this vital project, which is envisaged to link Pakistan with Afghanistan, CARs, Turkey, and Europe through Russia and also facilitating our military logistics, was put on the back burner. China is using cargo trains for commodity trade between its cities and Europe. Almost 10,000 trains were plying, adding to China's export revenue. Pakistan's revenue generation can increase exponentially through the free flow of trade, transit fees, and royalties. Given the huge cost of this project, it is prudent to complete it in phases. Also, we need to keep in mind that KKH passes through an extremely difficult terrain and faces natural hazards, so a robust railway network is necessary as an alternative.

Gwadar, which is the crown jewel of CPEC, suffered from hiccups in the recent past, but the present government has revived the project. An international airport, fully funded by China, is expected to become operational by year-end. This would enhance business activity and boost the local economy. Due credit should be given to our Chinese friends for completing East Bay expressway, water desalination plant, hospital, school, and a vocational training institute despite several impediments. The Free Zone for setting up factories is also ready. The government has accelerated work on the stalled desilting of the port. Also, a 300 MW power plant has been approved as the people of Gwadar suffer from chronic water and electricity shortages. A university will also be opened. It is hoped that if the current pace of development is maintained, Gwadar will be a thriving transshipment port in a few years. An extremely good news is the plan for a petrochemical complex to be established by Saudi Arabia. Combined with mining of Rekodik, Gwadar, and Baluchistan will be a changed region. A false propaganda is going on to pollute the minds of our Baluchi brothers against CPEC by the vested interests, which needs to be countered.

With early harvest projects of the first phase of CPEC nearing fruition, the next or second phase has been broadened in scope to include Agriculture, Oil and Gas, Education, Science and Technology, Health, IT, Industry, Tourism, and socio-economic projects. SIFC is expected to give a nudge to agriculture focusing on food security needs of Gulf countries.

In the context of industrial cooperation, the establishment and early operationalisation of SEZs are important. The government is giving priority now to start SEZs, which will lead to an increase in exports, improved infrastructure, and a new skill set. Chinese companies would be keen to invest and relocate their industry as the cost of production is rising in China. They are going in a significant number to other countries, and there is no reason that they would miss out on Pakistan, which offers good business prospects. The only precondition is security and adequate policy incentives. Pakistan has been exporting unskilled and semi-skilled manpower for decades. We can overcome this deficit once SEZs are operational, and technology transfer begins. All Southeast Asian economies and China itself have progressed on the strength of Industrial parks and technology incubators. China offers to Pakistan a large training and scholarship program. We can establish vocational institutes and training centres with Chinese help under CPEC. Pakistan can only leapfrog its development if it invests in education and technology to mainstream itself with the global supply chain. With shifting demographics in Europe and East Asia, there will be a greater demand for our skilled manpower. Pakistan should take full advantage of this upcoming opportunity.

CPEC's second phase marks a new beginning in Pakistan-China economic cooperation. While making a course correction and addressing our systemic gaps, Pakistan needs to expand its knowledge base on the strength and advice available in China. Pakistan has two distinct advantages which have not been effectively utilised. First is the presence of over 28,000 students in China who are a ready talent pool and can contribute to CPEC projects. Chinese send thousands of students abroad and offer them employment on return. Those who were sent by Deng Xiao Peng are now at the decision-making and policy-making levels in China. Secondly, Pakistan and China have concluded nearly two dozen sister-city and sister-province twinning arrangements. The Chinese government has tasked its provinces to "Go Global" and conclude mutually beneficial arrangements in diverse sectors with foreign counterparts. In our case, this unique arrangement is in a state of dormancy. Our cities and provinces need to be proactive in reaching out to Chinese counterparts in establishing trade, business, investment, educational, and tourism-related linkages. The consortium of universities set up by HEC can supplement this process. Our provincial governments should seriously look at this avenue for cooperation with China.

The example of China is before us. Its progress was achieved through sound and integrated planning, the vision of its leadership, and the hard work of its people. The whole of government and the whole of nation approach are pursued in fulfilment of national priorities. Since 1949, the Communist Party of China has followed pragmatic and people-centric policies. While retaining its own unique system of governance, China has not shied away from adopting the best practices of other systems. When Deng Xiao Peng started SEZs, he sought the help of Singapore. Foreign investment and technology and the Chinese diaspora have contributed immensely to China's progress. China has also been successful in creating a

nexus between the industry and academia. Our industrial tycoons need to follow this example and establish research and design institutes focusing on their own line of production. China accords high priority to education and R&D. More than 6% of GDP is spent on these sectors compared to ours, which is barely 2%. All big Chinese companies allocate a substantial portion of their revenue to research. Consequently, China has succeeded in lifting 800 million people out of absolute poverty, developing a human resource which is highly skilled and productive while following a strict work ethic. Discipline and a system of rewards and punishment define Chinese work culture.

One is intrigued by the criticism at home of roads and transport infrastructure under CPEC. For sustained economic development, one needs good roads and a link between farms and roads. Chinese emphasise that without good transport infrastructure, a country's development is not possible. That is why today China has one of the most efficient transport infrastructures. In 2007, China had no high-speed railways. The World Bank refused to give a loan to China for the Shanghai underground metro. Today, practically all big cities of China are connected with a network of fast trains running at a speed of 300 Km per hour. According to the World Bank, China invested about \$600 billion in infrastructure construction between 1990 and 2015.

<https://pakobserver.net/cpec-a-game-changer/>

Remarkable Achievements of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor in the Past Decade

H.E. Mr Yang Yundong

Chinese Consul General in Karachi.

On July 31st, Chinese President Xi Jinping sent a congratulatory message to the Decade of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) celebration event held in Islamabad, Pakistan. President Xi Jinping pointed out that the CPEC has become a vivid example of the all-weather friendship between China and Pakistan, providing crucial support for building a closer China-Pakistan community of shared future in the new era.

The CPEC is a flagship project and an important pilot program for jointly building the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). Since its initiation in 2013, with the joint efforts and support of the leaders of China and Pakistan, both countries have focused on CPEC construction, prioritizing Gwadar Port, energy projects, infrastructure development, and industrial cooperation. Together, we have painted a magnificent picture of “connecting Kashi in Xinjiang to Gwadar Port, traversing highland and canyons, and stretching across basin and deserts,” scripting a vivid story of BRI cooperation in South Asia and powerfully demonstrating the enduring friendship between China and Pakistan in the new era.

Over the past decade, significant progress has been achieved in the construction of Gwadar Port. The port now has three multi-purpose berths capable of handling 50,000-ton vessels, fully operational. The first phase of the Gwadar Free Zone has been completed. Projects like the East Bay Expressway, Vocational and Technical Training Institution are already in operation. Gwadar New International Airport, desalination plant, and China-Pakistan

Friendship Hospital are scheduled for completion in succession. This shining “pearl” of the CPEC is accelerating its momentum towards becoming a strategic hub for logistics and industrial base.

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Over the past decade, the energy cooperation projects have been fruitful. Sahiwal, Port Qasim and Hub coal-fired power plants were swiftly built and put into commercial operation at “China’s speed,” significantly improving Pakistan’s power shortage situation. Various energy projects, such as Karot Hydropower Project, Dawood Wind Power Project, Bahawalpur Photovoltaic Power Station, and K2K3 nuclear power units have enriched Pakistan’s energy structure. The Thar Coalfield Block I and Block II coal-fired power integration project has contributed to Pakistan’s energy self-sufficiency. The implementation of various energy projects along the CPEC has illuminated millions of Pakistani households and provided reliable power support for Pakistan’s economic development.

Over the past decade, there has been tremendous progress in infrastructure development. The East Bay Expressway, connecting the southern Gwadar Port area, was opened to traffic in June last year, providing faster goods distribution and import/export facilities through National Highway N-10 to Pakistan’s hinterland. The Sukkur-Multan section of the M-5 Motorway further opened up the north-south transportation artery, reducing travel time from Lahore to Karachi to less than 12 hours from over 20 hours. The Lahore Orange Line Metro system significantly facilitated daily travel and improved the living standards of local residents. The Karakoram Highway Phase II project is connected to the “China-Pakistan Friendship Road”, enabling cargo buses to directly reach the Khunjerab Pass. Many other examples exist. The infrastructure construction along the CPEC has unlocked the potential of the regions it traverses, paving the way for development and prosperity.

Over the past decade, remarkable achievement has been made in industrial cooperation. The CPEC construction has encouraged an increasing number of Chinese enterprises to come to Pakistan and engage in multi-field industrial cooperation, including agriculture, manufacturing, and textiles. In the M3 Industrial City in Faisalabad, ceramic products produced with Chinese investment and technology have reached thousands of Pakistani households, greatly enhancing Pakistan’s independent capabilities in the sector of building material industry. In many places in Punjab and Sindh provinces, Chinese hybrid rice has become a popular planting variety, significantly increasing rice yield. At the same time, cooperation in chili and canola planting is progressing steadily. The Rashakai Special Economic Zone Phase I built by Chinese companies, has been completed and begun attracting investment, while the Dhabeji Special Economic Zone broke ground in July this year. With the development of special economic zones, bilateral industrial cooperation is expected to grow even closer, laying a solid foundation for Pakistan’s industrialization process.

Over a decade of hard work has yielded fruitful results. The CPEC has made significant contributions to Pakistan’s economic and social development. By the end of 2022, the CPEC had brought \$25.4 billion in direct investment to Pakistan, achieving cumulative revenue of \$17.55 billion, cumulative tax payments of \$2.12 billion, creating 236,000 job opportunities,

and helping to add 8,000 megawatts of electricity, 510 kilometers of highways, and 886 kilometers of national core transmission lines. At the same time, the CPEC has deepened friendly exchanges between the people of the two countries. At least 20,000 Chinese people have come to Pakistan to participate in the CPEC construction, and currently, more than 30,000 Pakistani students are studying in China, with over 50,000 Pakistanis working in China. As the CPEC construction continues to deepen, the “ironclad” friendship between China and Pakistan will undoubtedly take a deeper root in the hearts of both peoples.

The ten-year journey of the CPEC has fully demonstrated the unique nature of China-Pakistan relations. Currently, the CPEC has entered its second phase, which marks a crucial stage of high-quality development. As emphasized in President Xi Jinping’s congratulatory message, looking into the future, China is willing to work with Pakistan to adhere to high standards, sustainability, and benefiting the people, continually perfect the layout and expand and deepen cooperation, making the CPEC an exemplary project for high-quality BRI cooperation. We have every reason to expect that the CPEC will embrace a brighter and more splendid next decade, propelling China-Pakistan all-weather strategic cooperative partnership to new heights and making greater contributions to the peace and prosperity of both countries and the region.

<https://pakobserver.net/remarkable-achievements-of-the-china-pakistan-economic-corridor-in-the-past-decade/>

The Express Tribune

CPEC and Afghanistan’s mineral wealth

New Taliban administration is still figuring out how to take advantage of the presence underground of the mineral

On July 23, 2023, *The Washington Post* carried a long story about the rich load of EV metal that could boost Taliban and its Chinese partners. EV metal referred to lithium, a vital component of electric vehicles of which China had become a major manufacturer. The authors of the story interviewed several locals, one of them Wali Sajid, who had spent years fighting American soldiers in the barren hills and fertile fields of the Pech River Valley. This was one of the deadliest theaters of the 20-year-long insurgency. But nothing confounded the Taliban commander like the new wave of foreigners who began showing up in late 2021. “At first, they didn’t tell us what they wanted. But then I saw the excitement in their eyes and their eagerness, and that’s when I understood the word, ‘lithium’.”

In a 2010 memorandum, the United States’ Pentagon Task Force on Business and Stability Operations dubbed the country the “Saudi Arabia of lithium”. A year later, the US Geological Survey said in a study that Afghanistan “could be considered as the world’s recognized future principal source of lithium”. By 2040, the demand for lithium could rise 40-fold as the world use of electric vehicles increased. Lithium is a vital element for batteries on which these cars run. With the United States and its allies in the West having imposed sanctions on Afghanistan after the 2021 takeover of the country by the Taliban, Chinese have stepped in and have cornered the Afghan market for the important minerals needed by its industries. Lithium’s price skyrocketed eightfold from 2021 to 2022 attracting dozens of Chinese

companies to start mining operations in the areas that have rich deposits of the critical mineral in Afghanistan.

The new Taliban administration is still figuring out how to take advantage of the presence underground of the mineral. Once mined, and following some basic treatment, the mineral needs to be transported to feed the users in China. But the Taliban in Kabul are still in the process of coming up with a policy to making lithium available in the growing international market. In January 2021, the Taliban officials arrested a Chinese businessman for allegedly smuggling 1,000 tons of lithium ore from Kunar province through Pakistan to China. He didn't have the government's approval to transport the ore out of the country.

Taliban governing from Kabul are seeking to negotiate a concession with a foreign firm, with China the favoured country, to work in the area. However, experts warn that even after a contract is awarded, it may take years before the metal becomes available in the markets. The ore is in difficult to reach areas and needs costly investments to build the needed infrastructure. Travelers going through the area see dozens of small shafts that pierce the hillside. For centuries, the area's farmers have augmented their incomes by extracting precious stones such as quartz, tourmaline and kunzite and selling them in the markets in Central Asia and neighbouring Pakistan. Ore bearing lithium was discarded until the Chinese arrived and sent brimming trucks carrying the ore through Pakistan to China.

According to Christopher Wnuk, an American geologist, "I have never seen anything like Afghanistan. It may very well have the most mineralized place on Earth. But the basic geological work has not been done." This is now being carried out by experts from China who are also improving the communication network in the area where the metal is found in great abundance. "Afghanistan lacks an industrial base, but they have great mineral resources, and no Westerners can compete with the Chinese when it comes to building infrastructure and tolerating hardship," said Zhou Bo, an international security expert at Tsinghua University. In a conversation with journalists working for *The Washington Post*, Shahabud Delawar, Afghanistan's minister of mines and a senior Taliban leader, said that the representatives of a Chinese company had visited him in his office, presenting the details of a \$10 billion bid that included pledges to build a lithium ore processing plant and battery factories in Afghanistan, upgrade long-neglected mountain roads and create tens of thousands of local jobs.

This leads to several important questions: How can Afghanistan tap its mineral wealth? Once tapped, how should mineral ores and products based on developing them be transported to the countries that need it for feeding their industries? Since a significant part of the mineral wealth lies close to Pakistan's and China's borders, how should the two neighbouring countries collaborate to bring the Afghan minerals — in raw form or processed — to global markets? Most answers to these questions underscore the important role China is likely to play in this area.

The first time I heard about the importance China attached to building a corridor that would link its under populated areas in the country's west to the Arabian Sea was in 1993. That was in a conversation with senior leader Zhu Rongji who was on his way to becoming his country's prime minister.

My final meeting with Zhu was in 1993. In that conversation, he asked for my help in drawing the attention of Pakistan's senior leaders to China's interest in building a land corridor that would connect China's Xinjiang Autonomous Region with a port in Pakistan, preferably Gwadar on the Balochistan coast. Gwadar could become the site of a deep-water port. Nawaz Sharif then was prime minister and had not taken any interest in the Chinese initiative.

It took twenty years for the leadership in Islamabad to sign on to the development of what has come to be called the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, or CPEC. In 2013, President Xi Jinping on a visit to Pakistan described China's interest in developing what he called the Belt and Road Initiative, or BRI. China was working on developing a network of highways and ports that would improve its connection with the world. CPEC was an important component of the BRI.

What the CPEC initiative should embrace is a question that has no well-defined answer. This is just as well, as the development of the corridor would open new areas that need government attention. One of them is to extend the initiative to include Afghanistan. Both Beijing and Islamabad have recognised that by including the development of highway networks linking China with Pakistan and Afghanistan, there will be significant economic rewards. This is one way the Afghans will be able to provide their mineral wealth — in particular lithium — for the rapidly developing electric vehicle industry in China.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2429561/cpec-and-afghanistans-mineral-wealth>

The Nation

A momentous visit to China

Dost Muhammad Barrech

A 15-member delegation from Pakistan, including diplomats, senior academics, researchers, and media persons, was invited by Fudan University, Shanghai, and funded by the Chinese Embassy in Pakistan. They visited China on a week-long trip from July 16 to July 23, 2023. The delegation was led by Ambassador Sohail Mahmood, Director-General of the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI). The author of this op-ed was also one of the delegates, representing Balochistan. The visit proved to be exceedingly instructive and engrossing for various reasons.. The experience of traveling from Shanghai to Beijing by Bullet Train was amazing, filled with excitement and learning. A noteworthy dinner hosted by Pakistan's Ambassador to China, Moin ul Haque, in Beijing was exceptional. The Ambassador provided new insights into China's modernization and Pak-China relations in the evolving regional geopolitical landscape. Realistically speaking, the trip reflected everything the author had studied about China's soft power, culture, and hospitality during their PhD dissertation. The trip led to the development of three main hypotheses in the author's mind. After witnessing China's economic development, innovative infrastructure, technological advancements, and prosperity, it became evident that the US' frustration in containing China is justifiable. China's unstoppable progress challenges the US exceptionalism for the first time, as Beijing remains the primary player in the current political discourse in Washington. China's

historical initiative of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), lifting 800 million people out of poverty, marks a significant event in the annals of international politics.

Notably, China defies Max Weber's notion that economic development requires adopting the Western model. Being a non-Western country, China has made more progress than Western democratic nations. For instance, from 2011 to 2013, China used 6.5 gigatons of cement, surpassing the US's usage during the entire 20th Century. These Chinese developments have caused considerable consternation for the US.

As for the second hypothesis, Pakistanis are held in higher esteem and respect in China than in Muslim countries or the West. During the trip, when the delegates introduced themselves to the common Chinese, they were referred to as "Ba Tie," meaning "Iron brother." This term is a part of China's political discourse. Thirdly, the author believes that Pakistanis will have more job opportunities in China than anywhere else in the foreseeable future, as the Chinese are easily accessible to Pakistanis. While Pakistan's elites may be obsessed with the West, the middle class would prefer China. Currently, more than 30,000 Pakistanis have obtained Chinese scholarships and are enjoying studying in China. China is known to exploit foreign talents for maximum dividends, and Pakistanis are likely to remain the biggest beneficiaries in this regard. During the trip, the most amazing thing that dazzled the author overwhelmingly was the Chinese commitment to their work. They consider work as worship and avoid indolence during duties. Almost the entire population wakes up at 7 am and approaches their work with great zeal and zest. Every individual in the country aspires to achieve something remarkable in life. The Chinese lifestyle is thrifty, even the CEOs of companies appear in ordinary attire. They prioritize values, work ethic, and hard work over a luxurious lifestyle, which has made them the most successful nation in the 21st century. It is pertinent to mention that China's per capita income in 1970 was USD 150 billion, while Pakistan's per capita income remained at USD 250 billion. Presently, China's per capita income is nearly USD 12,732, while Pakistan's is merely USD 1600. This stark difference calls for introspection and learning from the Chinese model to address Pakistan's exacerbating economic condition. The lessons brought home from China's visit include honesty in duty, a thrifty lifestyle, new ambitions in life, gender balance in the workforce, and a collective approach to social issues.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2023-08-07/page-6/detail-4>

Foreign Policy and China

Najm us Saqib

Somehow, Sino-Pak relations have become solely dependent upon the success or otherwise of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). Any discussion begins and ends with the benefits of this 'flagship project' and the slow progress in implementing the related various infrastructure and energy-based ventures. The intangible tussle between Islamabad and Baluchistan on 'commanding and controlling' CPEC projects, along with the employment opportunities, assessments on the correct utility of the Gwadar port and Chinese concerns over Pakistan's procrastination in doing its part, have disproportionately politicized an otherwise purely economic endeavor. In fact, for Pakistan, CPEC has added a defensive

talking point when Pak-US relations comes under discussion especially in the context of America's China-containment policy.

Indeed, CPEC has become a political tool for the US and India to conveniently use against China and Pakistan. China could effectively sustain external pressure and counter the politically motivated propaganda targeted at it. How the successive governments in Islamabad since the inception of this mega project in 2013 have handled the pressure is an entirely different story. Here, taking credit for signing the Agreement seems more important than reaping the fruits or proper implementation of various projects. The frequent use of the future tense, promising Pakistan's seriousness in achieving CPEC's objectives and repeatedly announcing 'our resolve' seems to be the name of the game.

China is likely to 'stay the course' while 'moving mountains' and 'braving wind and rain' against all odds. Let the Western skeptics worry about the true nature and objectives of China's Belt and Road Initiative (B&RI). Guiding a country of 1.4 billion people towards the 'Great Rejuvenation of the Chinese Nation' President Xi Jinping's 'Grand Polito-economic Project'- involving more than 150 countries and international organizations is expected to integrate Africa and Eurasia - from Indonesia to Kazakhstan to Djibouti to Kenya to Italy, Austria, and Poland. Islamabad needs to understand that CPEC is just one part of China's colossal investments in transport, energy, and maritime infrastructure.

Celebrating a decade of CPEC projects was a correct move in the right direction. Besides affirming China's steadfastness in seeing CPEC through, the visit of Chinese Vice Premier He Lifeng to Islamabad last week, gave a clear message to the world. The Sino-Pak bilateral relations are between two States regardless of which government is in Islamabad. However, the celebrations must remind the stakeholders in Pakistan of the sheer usefulness of this ongoing venture in the context of fulfilling Islamabad's commitments in its next phase. Regardless of the reported 'lapses', China is still interested in completing the CPEC-related goals. Let us focus on 'actions' instead of 'words' and avoid blaming others. Additionally, China has made it clear that it would keep supporting Pakistan no matter how precarious the latter's economic and political disposition might be. For the outgoing government in Islamabad, the visit provided the much-needed diplomatic boost at the fag-end of its challenging stint.

In all probabilities, the soon-to-be-appointed interim government would be busy holding the much-awaited general elections. The government that emerges after the elections would certainly wish to strategically place pieces on the policy-chessboard. It is time to reflect, inter alia, on Pakistan's foreign policy particularly in the context of Sino-Pak relations:

One: There are no permanent friends or foes in international relations. What remains permanent is the national interest of a country. Pakistan's relations with China must be seen objectively and pragmatically instead of basing it on emotions and expectations.

Two: China is Pakistan's time-tested international partner. However, like any other developing country, Pakistan needs more friends to comfortably breathe in the comity of nations. Hence, relying solely on China as a friend in need is not advisable. That certainly does not mean taking sides. Diplomacy is all about creating a balance in inter-se relations

while focusing on making additional friends. The inconsequential debate on joining blocs must not be encouraged. There is no need to announce or even point towards any such decision. You cross the bridge when you get there.

Three: As Pakistan's relations with China or the US could never be on equal footing, Islamabad's responses need to be carefully calibrated. For instance, for China, Pakistan is one part of its overall peace-centric foreign policy. Strategically important but not exclusive. On the other hand, for Pakistan, China covers a large chunk of its foreign policy. That does not mean you compromise on your vital interests. Moreover, favourable policymaking must not be confused with putting up summaries for the PM's approval. It is a far bigger task than it is perceived in Islamabad.

Four: Once the misgivings between Pakistan and the US are removed, the next big test would be to deal with Pak-US and Sino-Pak relations separately. The idea is to create a balance between these two important equations in a way that each is initiated, maintained, and sustained without creating inter-se frictions. If you have a headache, you do not cut off your head. You find a Panadol. The newly appointed Foreign Secretary Syrus Qazi would know where to find this diplomatic analgesic.

Five: The seriousness that CPEC demands must be shown by Islamabad in practical terms. However, CPEC must not be seen as the end of the road in Sino-Pak relations. Keeping politics and individualism out of Pakistan's national interest, securing other investment and trade related projects from China and other countries should be the objective. In doing so, we may wish to go beyond TAPI and CASA. Furthermore, instead of signing additional agreements and MoUs, the focus must be on the implementation of the previously penned documents.

Six: The recent months have seen Pakistan literally begging for funds. In this ambiance, talking about having an 'independent' foreign policy does not make any sense whatsoever. Secondly, speeches on putting one's house in order must be substantiated by correspondingly appropriate actions. Not being able to pay debt-services and using flowery language to show your drafting prowess cannot go together. Even with the best of drawing rooms, your kitchen must be able to run smoothly. Lastly, it may be realized that Geo-politics and Geo-economics are not mutually exclusive. Both can be pursued in tandem.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2023-08-07/page-6/detail-5>

The News

Ten years of CPEC

Dr *Naazir* Mahmood

With the completion of 10 years of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), Pakistan has reached a major milestone. The July 30 visit of China's deputy prime minister coincided with this event.

First, it must be highlighted that CPEC is part of a greater Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) that started its journey in 2013. The primary objective of this project is to promote some common

interests of both countries with mutual consultations. This has resulted in the initiation of some major development projects that have contributed to the development in this region.

In the past 10 years, the progress on CPEC projects has shown mixed trends, with some showing rapid leaps and others lagging behind for various causes. Some tangible results are already there for all to see.

Since Pakistan has been marred by a consistent economic downturn, CPEC and its projects have assumed even more significance lately; people still have great hopes pinned to this corridor. CPEC has introduced a new dimension to bilateral relations which is going to have an impact on international and social issues too.

China and Pakistan have often repeated the hyperbole of their friendship by terming it higher than the Himalayas and deeper than the oceans, but before CPEC there was little solid evidence to substantiate such claims. After 10 years of CPEC, the proof of this is visible.

One of the yardsticks to assess any bilateral agreement or project is the question of how it has benefitted common people. If we evaluate American aid to Pakistan, we see it was mostly meant for defence purposes instead of welfare and development projects. While there were some projects in the health and education sectors, their success ratio is negligible as most of these projects have failed to produce sustainable outcomes.

Russia once helped Pakistan set up an enormous steel mill which was supposed to benefit Pakistan's economy and industry, but within 30 years it came to a standstill.

Given this background, there is little doubt that the people of Pakistan are enjoying CPEC's fruits though it is premature to claim that in the coming decades successive governments in Pakistan will be able to maintain the pace and production of CPEC projects across the country.

During the last PTI government, we witnessed a near paralysis on this front with extremely sluggish progress. The situation turned so bad that many took it as a failure of the entire CPEC enterprise. But things improved significantly in the past year.

In an international context, CPEC has brought Pakistan closer to China and farther from the US. In the past decade, Pakistan has gradually moved away from the American sphere of influence, and tilted more towards China. One cause for this shift has been a declining economic performance of Pakistan, resulting from a worsening energy crisis; the US refused to extend any help in this regard.

In 2013, after Nawaz Sharif assumed office for the third time as the prime minister of Pakistan, Pakistan-China relations entered a new phase with rapid progress on CPEC. This was not to the liking of the US.

One of the most significant benefit of CPEC was a reduction in the acuteness of the energy crisis in the country. Had there been no investment in the energy sector thanks to CPEC, the situation in Pakistan would have been worse. No other country, including the US and Russia, was eager or willing to invest in such a big way in Pakistan's energy sector. Without CPEC, there would have been an acute shortage of electricity, and Pakistani exports would have suffered greatly. Pakistan would have failed to export a fraction of what it is exporting now.

According to estimates, the \$25 billion that CPEC has invested in Pakistan so far has contributed a lot to maintain the economy. Though most of the work was done under the Nawaz Sharif government, we must also keep in mind that in the 1970s the late Zulfikar Ali Bhutto played a significant role in bringing China closer to Pakistan.

Later, the then president Asif Ali Zardari (2008-2013) promoted bilateral relations by visiting China multiple times. The progress made during the PPP government definitely helped Nawaz Sharif in this matter. Besides improving energy supply, CPEC has also tried to bring Xinjiang in China closer to Gwadar by improving overland communication through motorways, railway and ports.

From Gwadar to Kashgar, a near-2,500km corridor has been partially completed. Nearly \$50 billion is required for the complete operationalization of this corridor including the extension and modernization of the railway tracks. Under CPEC, work on the Gwadar Port has been completed, but the port will remain under Chinese control for the next 40 years. Work on the mainline railway ML1 from Karachi to Peshawar should have been initiated by now, but mainly due to the incompetence of the PTI government the project is still under observation and study.

The motorway from Karachi to Lahore is nearly complete, but work quality in Sindh has been below the mark with serious charges of corruption. The motorways in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) and Punjab display a much better quality of work than in Sindh. A journey from Karachi to Sukkur may prove instructive in this assessment.

Similarly, the railway track from Havelian to Khunjab has been approved but work in that direction is extremely slow. One of the most successful CPEC projects is perhaps the Hazara Motorway that has revolutionized travel in this region.

The travel duration from Islamabad to Mansehra has been reduced substantially. A project that has not attracted the attention from Pakistan is the Iran-Pakistan gas pipeline. Iran has completed its share of the deal by constructing the pipeline within Iran up to the Pakistan border, but somehow Pakistan has used various excuses to not complete its part.

Under CPEC, a major link road has also been completed in Balochistan in June 2023. Traffic from Punjab and KP now moves much quicker to Gwadar than it did a couple of years ago.

With Rs11 billion, the Basima-Khuzdar highway has also been completed, though work on the 850km long Rattodero-Gwadar motorway is still underway. Other projects of CPEC include a dry port in Havelian and the Orange Metro Line in Lahore.

Other projects include: an international airport in Gwadar, the Pak-China Cotton Biotechnical laboratory, Gwadar-Nawabshah LNG terminal and pipeline project, 870MW Hydropower Suki Kinari project, 1320 MW coal-fired power plant at Port Qasim, 720MW Karot hydropower project, 9x100 Zonergy solar power project, Jhampir wind power project, Thar Coalfield Block 2 3.8 million ton project and 2x330 MW project.

The Dadu wind power project and the fibre optic data transmission system from across the border are also included in CPEC. The Karachi to Peshawar motorway that is nearly 1,500km long and the complete 2,500km CPEC corridor will greatly benefit the country and its

population. While these projects may not immediately contribute to an immediate poverty reduction or bring down inflation – as some critics of CPEC would like to highlight – these projects have had significant contributions to the Pakistani economy. So let's celebrate this achievement for a while.

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=226086>

Malaysia extends support for CPEC

Muhammad Saleh Zaafir

ISLAMABAD: Highlighting the significance of China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), Malaysia has extended its support for the implementation of the gigantic project.

Malaysian perspective has been narrated by its ambassador to Pakistan Azhar Mazlan while addressing a ceremony here Sunday, organized for honouring Pakistan's former participants of the Malaysian Technical Cooperation Program (MTCP). The Malaysian envoy underscored the significance of mutual collaboration, given that both Pakistan and Malaysia are integral partners in the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), with Pakistan implementing the CPEC. Ambassador Mohammad Azhar Mazlan said that the annual bilateral trade volume between Pakistan and Malaysia has surpassed USD \$1.8 billion and both nations are determined to further strengthen their trade and investment collaboration in multiple sectors.

The High Commissioner emphasized the untapped potential for growth in bilateral trade between two brotherly countries, and said "Pakistan and Malaysia have the capacity to increase trade volume up to USD \$ 10 billion annually." He said "We believe in fostering stronger ties between our two nations and leveraging our respective strengths for mutual growth and prosperity. Together, we can achieve remarkable outcomes and create a brighter future for both Malaysia and Pakistan." Ambassador Azhar Mazlan highlighted MTCP's history and success since its inception in 1980, spanning an impressive 43 years. Under this programme, around 764 Pakistani officials have received training in various crucial sectors, including nation-building, anti-corruption, Islamic finance, taxation, counterterrorism and good governance. He expressed immense pride in this program, considering it an essential foreign policy tool for Malaysia.

Recognizing the valuable contribution of Pakistani alumni who had the opportunity to receive training in Malaysia, Ambassador Azhar Mazlan called them "Malaysian Ambassadors" in Pakistan, attributing their exposure to Malaysia's expertise as a positive influence in fostering stronger ties between the two nations.

Acknowledging the significant educational ties, Ambassador Azhar Mazlan said that currently, Malaysia is hosting around 5,000 Pakistani students.

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=226374>

96 years of People's Liberation Army of China

Shakeel Ahmad Ramay

The People's Liberation Army (PLA) is celebrating 96 years of its establishment. It is a sign of hope and pride for China. Since the inception of PLA, Communist Party of China (CPC)

has guided it according to the thoughts and tactics of Sun Zu and the wisdom of Confucius, which turned it into a well-disciplined and trustworthy force. It started its journey as a protector of people's interests. It shielded the people against the oppressors and protected country sovereignty against the Japanese and other enemies during World War II.

During the course of time, PLA decorated its chess with numerous success stories. In 1962, the force inflicted heavy losses on India and forced them to look for peaceful solutions to border disputes. It also fiercely fought against Vietnam and USSR to safeguard national sovereignty. PLA is carrying on the tradition of safeguarding the national interest at Galwan Valley, in the South China Sea and others.

The major reasons for the success of PLA are its continuous belief in serving the people, country and "reforms" according to changing dynamics. The first reform period started in the 1950s with the cooperation of the USSR. It helped China turn PLA into a military force from a loose organisation, mostly consisting of peasants and revolutionaries.

In the 1980s, PLA went through another major reform. The party decided to reduce the number of soldiers and make it a more efficient organisation. The other purpose was to release the human resource for active participation in economic activities.

Now, under the leadership of President Xi Jinping, PLA is going through another reform period. President Xi has declared PLA would be a world-class force, equipped with all instruments of defence, combat and attack. He reformed the basic structure of the force, rearranged the existing departments and created new ones to smoothen the chain of command.

The old departments of PLA General Staff Headquarters, General Political Department, General Logistics Department and General Armaments Department have been reorganised. Now, it has 15 departments which ensure a linear and efficient chain of command. The military command areas also went through reshuffling and old Shenyang, Beijing, Lanzhou, Jinan, Nanjing, Guangzhou and Chengdu MACs have been replaced by new theatre commands.

Though, the most important interventions are to implement strict accountability and professional development of soldiers, President Xi deems it necessary to ensure integrity and capability of soldiers and PLA as an institution.

He also ordered to modernise weapons and equipments and ventured into new technologies like cyber warfare. Building on the direction given by President Xi, PLA has diverted substantial resources for R&D. Innovation is leading the implementation of the vision. Now, PLA is showing leadership in some cutting-edge technologies.

The vision of PLA has also been revised according to changing global dynamics and the role of China. The new vision has three basic responsibilities for PLA: "Safeguarding China's Sovereignty, Security and Development Interests". The preservation of development interests at the international level is a new dimension which has enhanced the sphere of work.

For international engagements in New Era, PLA is adhering to the Global Security Initiative (GSI) philosophy and contributing to implementing the four pillars of GSI. The contribution

to UN peacekeeping forces is another feather in the cap of PLA. Now, PLA is contributing highest number of soldiers to UN peacekeeping missions.

Despite continuous reforms, one aspect always remains constant in PLA's vision and decision-making – cooperation with Pakistan. For decades, they are assisting each other in developing their strengths and safeguarding national interests. The cooperation between two armies is multi-dimensional and multifaceted. CPC always advised PLA to assist Pakistan in modernising its defence capabilities by adhering to the principle of self-sufficiency.

Thus, spirit of self-sufficiency is guiding the collaboration between PLA and Pakistan Armed Forces. There are many examples of such cooperation, but Heavy Mechanical Complex Taxila (HMCT), Al-Khalid Tank and JF-17 Thunder are the most prominent ones. HMCT had helped Pakistan achieve the goal being self-sufficient in weapon production to a greater extent. Both militaries also joined hands to erect the miracle of Karakoram Highway.

PLA was also at the forefront to assist Pakistan in the fight against COVID-19. The first supply of equipment to fight COVID-19 was delivered by a Major General of the PLA. It was followed by the arrival of a team of doctors from PLA.

Further, it is heartening to note both militaries are cognizant of the region's changing dynamics and the world. They are also well aware of the realignment of different countries to harm the core interests of both countries. The argument can be qualified by the ongoing campaign against China-Pakistan Economic Corridor and BRI. The two countries are trying to strengthen their cooperation to counter and combat emerging problems. Cooperation is getting stronger day by day, especially in the fields of modern technologies and non-traditional warfare. Army Chief Gen Asim Munir's visit to China has further strengthened this relationship.

Thus, it can be inferred Pakistan Armed Forces and PLA relationship is multi-dimensional, time-tested and built on the spirit of the iron brotherhood, rather a practical example of slogan of “iron brotherhood”.

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=226376>

CPEC projects achieve various milestones

LAHORE: Debut of four-day CPEC Punjab Media Delegation, an initiative taken by Chinese Consulate Lahore and Institute of International Relations and Media Research (IIRMR), has completed in a befitting manner.

Since the launch of CPEC project in 2013, it is first of its kind ‘programme’ organised to showcase how CPEC projects in Punjab has been improving the quality of life of local people, their living standards, poverty alleviation, employability, transfer of technology, modern development and export-led growth for resilient economy of Pakistan.

The activity, led by IIRMR chairman Muhammad Mehdi and President Yasir Habib Khan and Chinese Commercial Attache Yan Yang, secretary to CG Chen Bo, is part of ongoing series of celebrations of successful completion of 10 years of China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), an ace undertaking of global iconic project “Belt and Road Initiative (BRI)” envisioned by Chinese President Xi Jinping.

On the first day, the delegation visited Orange Line Metro Train (OLMT) considered as “a gift from President Xi Jinping to the people of Pakistan” and also as “the flower of friendship between China and Pakistan.” This flower of friendship has finally taken root and blossomed under the rain of “shared destiny and win-win cooperation” between the two countries.

Lichen, the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of NORINCO-GMG-DAEWOO JV, the O&M service provider for the Orange Line Metro Rail, GM E & M Umer Chishty along with other senior management personnel shed light on performance of OLMT, South Asia’s first electric train under CPEC, that crossed milestone of 100 million rides so far since its launch in 2022.

During the visit, the delegation was given a live demonstration of the state-of-the-art Operation Control Room, highlighting the advanced technology and monitoring systems utilised to ensure seamless operations and passenger safety. The Orange Line team emphasised the significance of regular maintenance and cleanliness in maintaining a world-class metro service. The delegation was impressed with the level of expertise and meticulous attention to detail that goes into maintaining the rolling stock.

The highlight of the visit was a delightful train ride to Anarkali Station (Station No. 13), where the Orange Line management presented souvenirs to all members of the delegation as tokens of appreciation for their visit. Second day, delegation visited Allama Iqbal Industrial City (AIIC), a priority SEZ and being developed on approximately 3,217 acres under CPEC framework. It is operated and run under visionary leadership CEO Muhammad Tanveer Jabbar, Faisalabad Industrial Estate Development & Management Company (FIEDMC). It has an advantage for being adjacent to M3-Industrial city which comprises a large number of projects, including textile, pharmaceuticals, information technology, chemicals automotive, service complex.

Delegates interacted CEOs of Chinese enterprises especially Time Ceramic and Green Crockery. Time Ceramic CEO Zhang Qi informed that company has made up 23 percent of market share in Pakistan and introduced new technology to help grow export of Pakistan. 95 percent local people are employed in the company since its inception, he told. Green Crockery CEO Zhang Qi apprised of its first export valuing Rs. 10 million to the UK last month, a milestone achieved as export-oriented enterprise that promote CPEC mission. Total woman employability in the company stands at 20 percent which is on rise gradually, he added. Now instead of importing from China that inflate Pakistan import bill, Pakistan traders’ will get produced their desired items in such Chinese companies and others at CPEC’ Allama Iqbal Industrial City (AIIC).

It means those Chinese companies providing multiple items to Pakistan traders are being functional at AIIC, delegation was briefed.

Third day, delegation visited CPEC’s first energy project 1320 MW Sahiwal Coal-Fired Power Plant. On the occasion of Sahiwal coal-fired power plant vice president Chen Wei briefed media delegation about its eminence, impacts and performance that supplied over 43 billion kilowatts hours of the energy in national grid. Being a joint venture of Huaneng Shandong Power Generation Company and Shandong Ruyi Group, with an investment of about \$1.8 billion, he said that project is largest, fastest and the first environmentally friendly

coal-fired power plant completed under CPEC, with the most optimal technological and environmental indicators. Ensuring higher standards in maintaining best ecosystem, values of hazardous gases and mercury are remaining lower than the values set by World Bank, Japan, EU as well as Pakistan, he added.

Filling a quarter of the country's power shortage and meeting the electricity demand of more than 4 million houses, project has won the highest honor in the power industry of China and China National Quality Engineering Gold Award, the highest award in the construction field of China, and many awards of federal and provincial level in Pakistan. Chinese engineers have also trained many Pakistani Chinese engineers as a part of transfer of technology under CPEC framework. Forth day, the delegation paid visit Lahore Conversion site of 886-km HVDC Matiari-Lahore power transmission line run by Pak Matiari-Lahore Transmission Company (PMLTC) Pvt Ltd. Lahore-Matiari is the first transmission line project under China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) to transmit electricity from power stations in Sindh to load centres in Punjab. It will also transmit electricity from the indigenous coal-based power plants under construction in Thar district of Sindh under CPEC. On the occasion PMLTC deputy CEO Ma Desheng broke the news that PMTC is going to make Lahore loadshedding free next year. He said that 2023 is marking completion of 10 years of CPEC that has transformed lives of Pakistanis. "We are privileged to have played a critical role in CPEC. "Matiari-Lahore transmission line is bridging energy gap in Pakistan and facilitating its economic growth," he added. It did successful energization for 1000 days at Lahore Converter Station, he said. About future projects, he said two more lines are under progress to strengthen energy needs of the regions. CPEC Punjab media delegation also visited Challenge factory, owned and run by Chinese company. In response to the call of the country's One Belt One Road strategy, Shanghai Yuanyi Industrial Co., Ltd. invested in Pakistan in 2014 to establish the first overseas export-oriented garment manufacturing enterprise, which is the third outside the two production bases in Shanghai and Hubei.

The company has continuously expanded from a small factory with 300 employees at the beginning to the current scale of 4,000 employees, and its sales performance has also climbed to more than 60 million US dollars, ranking among the top 100 exporters in Pakistan.

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=226361>

August 08, 2023

Business Recorder

PM praises role of cos operating under CPEC

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Monday said the difficult time is over and Pakistan and China are entering into the second phase of the green corridor.

He stated that while addressing a ceremony organised to honour the contribution of Chinese companies operating in Pakistan under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

Sharif distributed awards among the representatives of Chinese companies, adding that they have contributed towards Pakistan's industrial promotion which not only led to job opportunities and industrial production but further strengthened ties.

The prime minister said that US\$30 billion investment was made in Pakistan under the CPEC after the signing of the CPEC. He added that Pakistan and China are entering into the second phase of CPEC and green corridor, innovative corridor, information and technology (IT) corridors as well as Special Economic Zone (SEZ) Rashakai would be undertaken in different modes.

He said that the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) is a great initiative of the government of Pakistan with stakeholders of federal and provincial governments, Institutions, and particularly with an important role of the Chief of Army Staff (COAS). Shehbaz Sharif said that the SIFC would dovetail with the CPEC in the second phase which would be a propeller for industrial and agricultural growth in the country.

He said that Chinese companies have done a great job in a difficult time and those times are over and we are entering into the second phase of cooperation, streamlining procedures under a one-window operation. He also thanked China for providing support with regard to the revival of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) programme.—ZAHEER ABBASI

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2023/08/08/1-page/969206-news.html>

Daily Times

Difficult time for Chinese investors over now: PM

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Monday assured the Chinese investors to further simplify the procedures for the companies working in Pakistan, especially under the umbrella of China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), and implement them in letter and spirit. He said under the CPEC, the two countries were entering into a new era of cooperation, therefore the government was further streamlining and simplifying the procedures to facilitate the Chinese companies and investors working in the country.

PM Shehbaz assured the Chinese investors that the difficult time for them was now over as “We are going to do this under one umbrella as a one window operation and this I mean in letter and spirit...not just words but true implementation”. Addressing an award ceremony here, Shehbaz Sharif said that the Chinese government and companies had contributed towards Pakistan’s industrial promotion in various areas and their contribution had not only led to creating job opportunities and industrial production but also further strengthened the bilateral economic ties.

Earlier the prime minister gave awards to top-performing Chinese companies working especially in projects under CPEC in Pakistan. He said recently the two friendly countries had celebrated a decade of CPEC under Belt and Road Initiatives (BRI). He said China had so far invested a valuable \$30 billion under CPEC which had really transformed the economic landscape in Pakistan. “Now we are entering into the second phase of CPEC in which multiple new areas are being incorporated including the green corridor, Information Technology, and Special Economic Zones.

He said the Pakistan government had launched a great initiative “Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC)”, which would consist of all main stakeholders including the

federal government, all provincial governments, and institutions, particularly Pakistan Army led by General Syed Asim Munir.

He said the Army Chief had personally contributed to this programme in a way that it had no parallel in the past as he was totally dedicated to promoting the cause of Pakistan and the people who had education and talent but no jobs. “The programme SIFC will dovetail with the entire CPEC mechanism and will be a propeller in terms of Pakistan’s industrial agri progress,” he added. Charge d’affaires of the Chinese Embassy in Pakistan Pang Chunxue said since its launch in 2013, the CPEC being the pilot project of the Chinese Belt and Road Initiatives (BRI) had made remarkable contributions to the socio-economic development of local people of the country.

She said China would always stand firmly with Pakistan and work together to coordinate the country’s development and security areas.

Meanwhile, the third meeting of the Apex Committee of Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) was held here on Monday to continue the positive momentum to attract investment in various sectors of economy.

The meeting was chaired by Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif and attended by Chief of Army Staff, chief ministers, federal and provincial ministers, and high-level government officials.

The prime minister appreciated the expeditious operationalization of SIFC in a short span and its efficient functioning through a collaborative approach.

The Apex Committee appreciated the global impact of the ongoing outreach strategy through seminars and project inaugurations; which would be augmented by the SIFC’s website, being launched shortly. It gave final approval of the projects, presented by the ministries, for attracting investments from friendly countries, under the umbrella of SIFC, in key sectors of agriculture, livestock, mining, minerals, information technology and energy.

The Apex Committee showed all-out support for successful conduct of the upcoming visit of a high-level delegation from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to Pakistan through the SIFC platform. The prime minister directed to make this inaugural visit a momentous event.

At the end, the committee expressed the resolve for continuous support to the SIFC initiative and urged the incoming interim government to maintain the impetus for a positive contribution.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1120966/difficult-time-for-chinese-investors-over-now-pm/>

Chinese delegation visits AIOU

A four-member academic delegation from China visited Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) here on Sunday. The Chinese delegation included Shao Xiujuan, Dean of International Education College, Shenyang Urban Construction University, Xu Danwei, Dean of International Education College of Liaoning Communication University and Sun Yu, Admissions Officer, International Education College, Shenyang Urban Construction University and Abdul Khaliq Khan discussed educational and training matters with Vice

Chancellor AIOU, Prof. Dr Nasir Mahmood. The visiting delegation discussed the possible collaboration in research, training, faculty, and student exchange programs and, the “1 + 3” program between Chinese universities and Allama Iqbal Open University. Vice Chancellor AIOU, Prof. Dr. Nasir Mahmood said that the Chinese Language Center has been established in the University, and Pakistani children are willing to learn the Chinese language to get benefit from educational opportunities in China. Vice-Chancellor tasked the Director International Collaboration office, Dr. Zahid Majeed to correspond with the Chinese delegation for collaboration in areas of mutual interest.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1120817/chinese-delegation-visits-aiou/>

Pakistani mangoes in big demand in China

Pakistani mangoes are in big demand in China and have already generated huge response in a number of Chinese cities like Guangzhou, Chengdu and Beijing. Meanwhile, Pakistan pavilion will exhibit mangoes at Eurasia Festival scheduled to be held from August 17-21 in Urumqi, capital city of Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region.

Upon invitation of Urumqi government, the Senate of Pakistan will hold the mango gala during the Eurasia festival in Urumqi, Commercial Counselor, Pakistan Embassy, Beijing, Ghulam Qadir said. Senator Rana Mehmood Ul Hassan Khan will be leading the Pakistani delegation while another five members of the Senate will arrive with the delegation to attend the opening ceremony of the festival. “We want to reach out to the Chinese companies with the exhibition which are interested in procuring mangoes from Pakistan and introducing this lovely fruit in China”, Ghulam Qadir added. He said that the Pakistani government wants Chinese enterprises to come to Pakistan and invest in this sector and modernize the infrastructure.

With their help, we can improve our forming practices to enhance our produce and make better use of this fruit through value addition, he added. The commercial counselor said that Pakistan lacks cold storage facilities and the Chinese companies could set up such facilities like in China to increase the shelf life of mangoes which will be useful. Responding to a question, he informed that the relevant Pakistani and Chinese authorities have been discussing ways and means to enhance trade between the two countries through land routes.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1120900/pakistani-mangoes-in-big-demand-in-china/>

Chinese textile manufacturer to install dry dyeing plant in Lahore

Challenge Fashion Ltd., a Chinese company involved in textile manufacturing in Lahore, will install its first non-water-based dyeing plant in 2024 at its recently-approved Challenge Fashion Economic Zone in the capital of Punjab province. The plant will be the first of its kind in Pakistan, as the CEO of Challenge Group informed officials of the Commercial Section of the Chinese Consulate during their visit to the Group along with Pakistani media.

Dry dyeing technology saves water, energy, and the environment, and prevents water pollution while providing higher output and color consistency. According to an update by the company, the delegation visited Challenge Group to commemorate the achievements of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and to highlight the diligent efforts of Chinese

investors in industrialization, technology transfer, job creation, and their contribution to Pakistan's economy through foreign exchange remittances.

The delegation received an overview of the Group's accomplishments, globally-acknowledged undertakings, and its plans for the future. The CEO of Challenge Group shared their contributions to the textile industry and the usage of non-traditional and synthetic fabrics like polyester and Marino wool. The CEO also expressed the desire to become a pioneer in Pakistan's textile industry and to introduce digitalization, which would revolutionize the sector in the country.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1120907/chinese-textile-manufacturer-to-install-dry-dyeing-plant-in-lahore/>

Chinese company lauds multiple incentives at Gwadar Port Free Zone

The Pakistani government is very supportive of Chinese enterprises investing in Gwadar Port and has given multiple preferential policies including tax-free incentives, said Liu Hui, deputy general manager of China Linyi Trade City Co, a Chinese enterprise which has been operating in Gwadar Port Free Zone for many years. Before 2015, the Gwadar Port Free Trade Zone was just an idea. Now, the FTZ has attracted some 20 companies in banking, insurance, logistics and food processing with a combined investment of \$420 million, from China and Pakistan, and it has generated 1,200 jobs. Inside the FTZ, China Linyi Trade City Co, a merchandising firm, invested in warehousing facilities. "We have fully undertaken warehousing service of the Gwadar Port – Afghanistan fertilizer transit trade since September 2020. It has completed the storage services of 800,000 tons of fertilizer by March 2023". In 2021, our warehousing service promoted the re-export trade by \$60 million, highlighting the role that Gwadar Port has played in connecting surrounding landlocked countries," Liu Hui said in an interview. The company's project in FTZ consists of a commodity exhibition center and bonded warehouse with multiple functions of exhibition, bonded storage and transit trade. "This December, we will host the third Gwadar Expo, which will reach out to 15 surrounding countries, including Middle East countries, the Gulf states and neighboring Muslim countries," she added. With the improvement of Gwadar and the surrounding infrastructure, the permanent resident population grew from 80,000 in 2013 to 220,000 in 2023. The port operator aims to build Gwadar into a smart port city by 2050 with a total population of more than 1.7 million and an annual GDP of \$30 billion. "Every day the Chinese in Gwadar bathed in the friendship and care of the local people, they see Chinese companies as the only hope for Gwadar's future," said Zhang Baozhong, former chairman of China Overseas Ports Holding Co, the operator of the Gwadar Port. "By fostering a secure environment for development in some areas, and using these areas as economic locomotives, it is believed that we can help, in a gradual fashion, increase the national strength of Pakistan," he added.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1120918/chinese-company-lauds-multiple-incentives-at-gwadar-port-free-zone/>

Dawn News

CPEC to SIFC

Dr Niaz Murtaza

A WEARY nation is being sold a new acronym-based dream about huge progress. It was Seato and Cento in the 1960s, OIC in the 1970s, CPEC in the 2010s and the Strategic Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) now. Similar dreams in the past only resulted in short-term, inequitable and distorted progress.

The common thread across all was the attempt of our rulers to attract politicised lumpy investment via political ties with autocratic patron states like the US, China and those in the Gulf, rather than from a wide range of local and foreign investors, as India and Bangladesh did by becoming economically attractive by implementing reforms. Autocratic states make us dependent on the political agenda of autocratic states, whose shifting moods can stall progress. Local foreign investors would give no single entity control over our destiny and allow us policy freedom.

While CPEC is not dead, it has stalled and is not living up to its dizzying marketing. It is unclear what impetus the new agreement signed on its 10th anniversary gives. But it is telling that China sent only a vice premier for the partying of supposedly the crown jewel of its huge global Belt and Road Initiative. In 10 years, China pumped in \$25 billion but we are much worse off economically now than in 2013, with the PML-N responsible for one and the PTI for two economic crises. The power plants are expensive and technically dubious; the freeways have made travel easier but not added economic value to pay off the foreign loans. The economic zones and the Gwadar port are inactive. Why have things stalled? Has China concluded that Pakistan is not the right place to do business in, given our political instability, bureaucracy and elite-dominated economy?

With apparently less Chinese interest, we are now beseeching the Gulf sheikhs for patronage. Can the SIFC result in sustainable and equitable progress? The immediate prognosis looks dim. Firstly, it is a huge demotion to go from China to them. There is the difference in economic size. China's GDP is \$20 trillion; that of the six Gulf states around \$2tr.

The type of projects being championed the most raise concerns.

More critically, China is a highly productive and dynamic state that has grown through creativity and hard work and possesses amazing managerial and technological prowess to share, though its autocratic ways are a concern. The Gulf states are living off natural resources, with no economic dynamism to share beyond investing huge oil money abroad. They will come to us only if they can make much more money than in the competitive West, as we give them all sorts of advantages not available to other actors in our economy. So, instead of being a haven for the fittest, we will be a pillage ground for the fattest.

To predict the fate of the SIFC, one only has to view the intellectual prowess and economic dynamism of the three driving forces — Gulf sheikhs, the establishment and Raiwind. Economic dynamism, productivity, creativity and vision are the last things that come to mind

about them (the PTI and PPP are no better). With the three joining forces, we do not get much.

With major economic reform to fix unproductivity on hold (let alone restructuring to create a fair economy), this is just another attempt by rulers to postpone reforms and restructuring, maintain an exclusionary, elitist economy that benefits them but still relaxes our binding current account deficit constraint. That constraint periodically forces them into attempting to undertake patchy, dubious reforms under IMF diktat as the economic unproductivity and large money supply increases and fiscal deficits produced by our elitist, rapacious economy frequently deplete our foreign reserves.

The type of projects being championed the most — corporate farming and mining — raise concerns further as globally these sectors are known for economic inequity and environmental destruction. The lack of transparency and involvement of civil society in a democratic way and the powers and role being given to the establishment raise hackles further. This economic strategy is going hand in hand with political autocracy as all players look to increase their political control, silence all opposition and media and crush freedoms.

Thus, Pakistan is entering a new and dangerous phase of economic inequity and political repression, apparently led by the establishment with the help of a new set of political lackeys to replace the PTI. As always in our history, the promised rosy dream may soon turn into a traumatic nightmare and a lived tragic reality soon for a hapless nation. Sadly, one sees little chance of major change in the foreseeable future.

The writer is a political economist with a PhD from the University of California, Berkeley.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1769036>

Pakistan Observer

CPEC shifts focus to geo-economic fruition

The dedication and untiring efforts of the incumbent government and China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) diplomatic, technical staff of both countries have shifted the focus of cooperation from geo-politics to geo-economics by bringing it to fruition, experts said on Sunday.

They said that CPEC was playing a key role in transforming the development landscape of Pakistan with the launch of several multi-billion-dollar projects. If one goes through analysis of one decade, the start of CPEC was a concerted move by the then prime minister Mian Nawaz Sharif and Chinese President Xi Jinping in 2013 to shift the focus of cooperation from geo-politics to geo-economics. Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI) President Kashf Anwar told Media that today, the premiership of Shehbaz Sharif and leadership of Planning Minister Prof. Ahsan Iqbal deserve the highest praise for having brought CPEC to its fruition. As of now, more than 150 countries, with 75 per cent of the world's population and half of the world's GDP, have signed up to the BRI.

CPEC, a principal component of BRI, aims to connect Pakistan's Gwadar port city to China's Xinjiang region through a network of roads, railways, and pipelines, he said. To a query

Anwar said that CPEC has the potential to significantly impact the entire region. Under CPEC, both governments have decided to overcome the then energy crisis in Pakistan, he said, adding that to guarantee energy security, multiple projects of 17,045MW, worth \$33 billion, have been envisaged.

As of now, 13 power generation projects with a total installed capacity of 8,020MW have been achieved, including 5,000MW which is based on indigenous fuels (Thar coal, hydel, solar and wind) and fall in the higher merit of dispatch order. These have substantially improved the energy-mix in Pakistan, WAPDA house, official sources told APP . A first-ever 660-kV HVDC transmission line with evacuation capacity of 4,000-MW is also operational.

<https://pakobserver.net/cpec-shifts-focus-to-geo-economic-fruiton/>

Gwadar hospital unveils 37 job openings

Pak-China Friendship Hospital Gwadar has unveiled 37 job openings. Pak-China Friendship Hospital in Gwadar is a state-of-the-art medical facility that not only provides free and high-quality treatment for the local residents but also offers employment opportunities to the coastal community.

The hospital extends an invitation to individuals driven by excellence and guided by vision to join its team, contributing to the advancement of this noble endeavor, according to a report published by Gwadar Pro. The hospital has unveiled 37 vacancies across various departments, encompassing roles such as senior consultants, registrars, specialists, and junior technicians.

Gwadar Development Authority (GDA)'s Pak-China Friendship Hospital is a state-of-the-art health facility under China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

<https://pakobserver.net/gwadar-hospital-unveils-37-job-openings/>

PM vows to simplify procedures for Chinese investors, companies

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Monday assured Chinese investors to further simplify procedures for the companies working in Pakistan, especially under the umbrella of China Pakistan Economic Corridor and implement them in letter and spirit.

Addressing an award ceremony in Islamabad on Monday, the premier said he was aware that the Chinese companies faced a tough time and problems in the recent past during the tenure of the previous government.

Shehbaz Sharif said that the multibillion-dollar economic and infrastructure project between China and Pakistan, CPEC, was now entering a new era as he thanked investors for supporting the country out of the economic impasse.

“We are entering the second phase of CPEC, with a focus on green corridors, innovation, IT corridors, agriculture and Special Economic Zones,” he said. He also lauded the Chinese companies’ role and their hard work in the development of Pakistan.

The PM conferred awards upon prominent Chinese companies for their valuable services in fostering CPEC and other developmental projects in Pakistan.

Addressing the ceremony, the prime minister said Chinese investment changed the entire economic landscape of Pakistan. He said the Chinese companies made more than \$30 billion in investment in different development projects in Pakistan, which is highly commendable.

He said it is a moment of great pleasure for him to meet Chinese companies' representatives, who contributed immensely towards Pakistan's industrial promotion in various walks of life.

<https://pakobserver.net/pm-vows-to-simplify-procedures-for-chinese-investors-companies/#:~:text=Prime%20Minister%20Shehbaz%20Sharif%20on%20Monday%20assured%20Chinese,Corridor%20and%20implement%20them%20in%20letter%20and%20spirit>

The Express Tribune

Chinese investment under CPEC tops \$30b: PM

Shehbaz assures one-window operation facility for Chinese investors to be fully implemented
ISLAMABAD: Chinese investment under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) topped \$30 billion, while the second phase of the mega project would open up more vistas of bilateral cooperation, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif said on Monday.

Addressing a ceremony to give away awards among the top performing Chinese companies in Pakistan, especially those working on the CPEC projects, Shehbaz said that CPEC had transformed the economic landscape of Pakistan.

Shehbaz assured the Chinese investors of further simplifying the procedures for their companies in Pakistan, especially under the CPEC umbrella and implementing them in letter and spirit.

“We are going to do this under one umbrella as a one-window operation and this I mean in letter and spirit ... not just words but true implementation,” Shehbaz told the ceremony.

The ceremony came as the countries recently celebrated a decade of CPEC – a flagship project of the Chinese President Xi Jinping's Belt and Road Initiatives (BRI).

The prime minister said that China had so far invested a valuable \$30 billion under CPEC. “Now we are entering into the second phase of CPEC in which multiple new areas are being incorporated”, including the green corridor, information technology [IT], and special economic zones [SEZs], he said.

The prime minister pointed out that the government had launched the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC), which would comprise all the main stakeholders, including the federal government, provinces and institutions particularly the *Pakistan Army*.

“The programme, SIFC, will dovetail with the entire CPEC mechanism and will be a propeller in terms of Pakistan's industrial agricultural progress,” the prime minister added.

In this regard, he praised Army Chief Gen Syed Asim Munir, who “personally contributed in this programme in a way that it has no parallel in the past”, he said, adding that the army chief was “totally dedicated to promoting the cause of Pakistan and its people”.

Shehbaz noted that the Chinese government and the companies had contributed towards Pakistan's industrial promotion in various areas and their contribution had not only led to

creating job opportunities and industrial production but also strengthened the bilateral economic ties.

On the occasion, Board of Investment (BoI) Minister Chaudhry Salik Hussain said that CPEC had ushered the country into a new era of progress and development in various fields.

Chinese Embassy Charge d’Affaires Pang Chunxue said that CPEC, being the pilot project of the BRI had made remarkable contribution to the socio-economic development of local people.

<http://tribune.com.pk/story/2429650/chinese-investment-under-cpec-tops-30b-pm>

The Nation

Pakistan, China to multiply cooperation: FO

SHAFQAT ALI

ISLAMABAD - Pakistan said yesterday it will multiply cooperation with China in the years to come.

Speaking at a weekly news briefing here, Foreign Office spokesperson Mumtaz Zahra Baloch said the visit of Chinese Vice Premier He Lifeng was one of the recent highlights.

She said there were also positive and fruitful visits by Turkish Vice President Cevdet Yilmaz, and Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian.

“Vice Premier of the State Council of China, He Lifeng, visited Pakistan as Special Representative of President Xi Jinping in connection with the 10th anniversary of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC),” she added. The visit, she said, was an opportunity for the two sides to discuss bilateral relations and explore new horizons of collaboration in trade and investment.

“The two sides reaffirmed their continued commitment to CPEC, expressed their firm resolve to build upon the achievements of the last decade, and to continue cooperation for further developing it as a high quality demonstrable project of BRI,” she elaborated.

CPEC, Baloch said, had brought huge dividends to Pakistan as manifested in the creation of over 200,000 jobs; addition of 8000 MW power to national grid; building of 510 kilometers of highways and 932 kilometers of road network; and a 820-kilometer long optical fiber line. “Areas of cooperation under Phase-II of CPEC include rural revitalization; agricultural development; industrialization; green development and science and technology. The two countries remain committed to enhance cooperation under CPEC and develop it as a connectivity project for the region,” she said.

She said on July 31, Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari attended the 18th Extraordinary Meeting of the OIC CFM convened to debate the recurring incidents of the desecration of the Holy Quran.

“The Foreign Minister condemned the Islamophobic and hateful acts of desecration of the Holy Quran and underscored the need for shunning religious hatred and for promoting

interfaith harmony and peaceful coexistence. He reiterated the call for appointment of a UN Special Envoy to combat Islamophobia,” she said.

Baloch added: “We are pleased with the outcome of the Extraordinary CFM that adopted a comprehensive resolution endorsing the 8-point action plan unanimously agreed upon by UN Human Rights Council to counter incitement to hatred, discrimination, stigmatization and violence based on religion and belief.”

She said Pakistan’s Cricket Team will participate in the ICC Cricket World Cup to be held in India. “Our decision to participate reflects Pakistan’s consistent position that sports cannot be mixed with politics. Pakistan’s constructive and responsible approach contrasts with that of India which has repeatedly politicized sports by refusing to send its Cricket Team to Pakistan for the Asia Cup or denying visas for Pakistan’s Blind Cricket Team,” she remarked.

The spokesperson said on August 5, the Pakistani nation expressed complete solidarity with Kashmiris on the occasion of the fourth anniversary of India’s illegal and unilateral actions of 5 August 2019 in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK).

Since 2019, India has taken a series of measures to alter the demographic makeup of IIOJK, and intensified its suppression of the Kashmiri people, she added. “India has carried out a selective delimitation of electoral constituencies, issued fake domiciles to millions of non-Kashmiris, and added hundreds of thousands of temporary residents to alter the existing voter rolls. These measures are aimed at disenfranchising the people of Kashmir and converting them into a disempowered minority in their own land in gross violation of the Fourth Geneva Convention,” the spokesperson said.

She underlined that as Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif said, Pakistan continues to believe that peace between Pakistan and India was critical for the future of our peoples and for the prosperity of our region.

“We also believe that dialogue is important between Pakistan and India in an environment which is free of coercion and free of belligerence that India continues to demonstrate in the region. We believe that the ball is in India’s court to create an environment for peace and dialogue,” she said.

To a question, she said the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has been in contact with the Embassy of Afghanistan and with the Afghan authorities on a recent terror incident.

“We have shared with them the discovery that we have made with regard to the identity of terrorists who were involved in attack on personnel of the Pakistan army in the attack in the Zhob garrison in Balochistan. We have reiterated on several occasions that the Afghan soil should not be used to foment terrorism against Pakistan,” the spokesperson said.

To another question, Baloch said Pakistan had always called for peace between the warring parties. “We believe that peace between Ukraine and Russia is key for the stability and peace in the region and beyond and for arresting inflation in energy and challenges in food supplies. Pakistan, therefore, supports all efforts that aim at finding a negotiated peaceful end to this conflict,” she added.

Regarding the foreign visits of Foreign Minister Bilawal, she said the number of foreign visits that the Foreign Minister has undertaken during his tenure as Foreign Minister was 36.

She said Pakistan also focused on projecting the Kashmir cause as the core of our diplomacy. "The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has spearheaded the campaign to project the Kashmir cause at the international level. We were extensively involved in raising global awareness to the catastrophic floods that took place last year, in coordinating international response and in organizing the international conference on climate resilient Pakistan held in Geneva. One of our major successes last year was Pakistan's exit from the FATF grey list and the establishment of the Loss and Damage Fund at COP 27," she underscored. Pakistan, she said, "also took a leadership position on issues pertaining to the Islamic world, including Islamophobia and on women empowerment in Islam. It also led efforts for cooperation between developing countries on sustainable development and on a range of other issues that are important for the developing countries including climate change."

<https://www.nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2023-08-08/page-1/detail-2>

Nawaiwaqt News

ایپیکس کمیٹی نے دوست ممالک سے سرمایہ کاری معاہدوں کو حتمی شکل دے دی

اسلام آباد (خبرنگار خصوصی) وزیراعظم محمد شہباز شریف نے کہا ہے کہ سٹیبل انویسٹمنٹ فیسلٹی ٹینشن کو نسل اور سی بیک منصوبے مل کر ملک کو معاشی ترقی کی راہ پر گامزن کریں گے، چینی کمپنیوں کے پاکستان میں کام کرنے سے روزگار کے نئے مواقع پیدا ہوں گے، چینی کمپنیوں نے سی بیک میں 30 ارب ڈالر سے زیادہ کی سرمایہ کاری کی ہے۔ ان خیالات کا اظہار انہوں نے سی بیک اور ترقیاتی کاموں میں خدمات سرانجام دینے والی چینی کمپنیوں اور بینکوں کو ایوارڈ دینے کی تقریب سے خطاب کرتے ہوئے کیا۔ وزیراعظم نے کہا کہ سی بیک منصوبوں نے پاکستان کی صنعتی ترقی میں اہم کردار ادا کیا جس سے نہ صرف ملازمتوں کے مواقع پیدا ہوئے بلکہ دونوں ممالک کے درمیان برادرانہ اور معاشی تعلقات مضبوط ہوئے ہیں۔ ہم نے بیٹ ایئر روڈ انیشی ایٹو کے تحت سی بیک منصوبوں کے 10 سال مکمل ہونے کے تقریبات منائی ہیں۔ یہ منصوبہ چینی صدر شی جن پنگ کی ذہانت اور وژن کا عکاس ہے۔ ان منصوبوں کے باعث چینی کمپنیوں نے 30 ارب ڈالر کی سرمایہ کاری پاکستان میں کی ہے۔ صدر شی جن پنگ کی قیادت میں چینی حکومت اور کمپنیاں پاکستان میں معاشی منظر نامے کو تبدیل کرنے میں اہم کردار ادا کر رہی ہیں۔ وزیراعظم شہباز شریف نے کہا ہے کہ آرمی چیف جنرل عاصم منیر نے سی بیک کو آگے بڑھانے میں اہم کردار ادا کیا۔ وزیراعظم شہباز شریف کا کہنا تھا سی بیک کے دوسرے مرحلے میں داخل ہو رہے ہیں۔ چین کی سرمایہ کاری سے پاکستان کا معاشی منظر نامہ بدل گیا، چینی کمپنیوں اور بینکوں نے پاکستان کی ترقی میں کردار ادا کیا۔ وزیراعظم کے زیر صدارت سٹیبل انویسٹمنٹ فیسلٹی ٹینشن کو نسل کی ایپیکس کمیٹی کا اجلاس ہوا، اجلاس میں خلیجی ممالک اور چین کی سرمایہ کاری کے منصوبوں پر غور کیا گیا۔ خصوصی سرمایہ کاری سہولت کو نسل (ایس آئی ایف سی) اقدام کے تحت مثبت رفتار کو جاری رکھنے کے لیے ایس آئی ایف سی کی تیسری ایپیکس کمیٹی کے اجلاس میں چیف آف آرمی سٹاف جنرل سید عاصم منیر، وزیر اعلیٰ، وفاقی اور صوبائی وزراء نے شرکت کی۔ اجلاس میں شرکا کو بتایا گیا کہ چین کے بعد سعودی عرب کا بھی اعلیٰ سطح کا وفد پاکستان آمد کے لئے تیار ہے، جس پر وزیراعظم شہباز شریف نے سعودی عرب کے وفد کی آمد پر بھرپور تیاریوں کی ہدایت کر دی۔ وزیراعظم نے مختصر مدت میں ایس آئی ایف سی کے تیز رفتار آپریشنل سٹریٹجی اور باہمی تعاون کے ذریعے اس کے موثر کام کو سراہا، ایپیکس کمیٹی نے سیمینارز اور پراجیکٹ کے افتتاح کے ذریعے جاری آؤٹ ریچ حکمت عملی کے عالمی اثرات کو سراہا۔ شہباز کی ویب سائٹ کے ذریعے اس کا دائرہ کار بڑھا یا جائے گا، ایپیکس کمیٹی نے زراعت، لائیو سٹاک، کان کنی، معدنیات، SIFC شریف نے کہا کہ جلد ہی شروع ہونے والی آئی ٹی اور توانائی کے اہم شعبوں میں دوست ممالک سے سرمایہ کاری کو راغب کرنے کے لیے وزارتوں کی طرف سے پیش کیے گئے منصوبوں کی حتمی منظوری دی۔ ایپیکس پلیٹ فارم کے ذریعے مملکت سعودی عرب کے اعلیٰ سطحی وفد کے پاکستان کے آئندہ دورے کے کامیاب انعقاد کے لیے ہر طرح کی حمایت کا اظہار کیا، SIFC کمیٹی نے

وزیر اعظم نے افتتاحی دورے کو ایک اہم تقریب بنانے کی ہدایت کی۔ ایپکس کمیٹی نے ایس آئی ایف سی اقدام کی مسلسل حمایت کا عزم کیا اور عبوری حکومت پر زور دیا کہ وہ مثبت شراکت کے لیے تحریک کو برقرار رکھے۔ وزیر اعظم محمد شہباز شریف نے کہا ہے کہ اتحادیوں کے تعاون کے بغیر حکومت ملکی معیشت کی بحالی کا مشکل کام کبھی اکیلے نہ کر سکتی تھی۔ ان خیالات کا اظہار انہوں نے سابق وزیر اعظم یوسف رضا گیلانی اور رکن قومی اسمبلی علی موسیٰ گیلانی سے گفتگو کرتے ہوئے کیا۔ ملاقات میں موجودہ ملکی سیاسی صورتحال پر تفصیلی گفتگو کی گئی۔ وزیر اعظم محمد شہباز شریف سے کنوینر خالد مقبول صدیقی کی قیادت میں متحدہ قومی موومنٹ کے وفد نے ملاقات کی۔ وفد میں ڈاکٹر خالد مقبول صدیقی، ڈاکٹر فاروق ستار، وفاقی وزیر برائے آئی ٹی سید امین الحق اور گورنر سندھ کامران ٹیسوری شامل تھے۔ وفد نے ساتویں ڈیجیٹل مردم شماری میں ان کے تحفظات دور کرنے اور مردم شماری سے متعلق ان کی تجاویز کی شمولیت پر وزیر اعظم کا شکریہ ادا کیا۔ اس موقع پر وزیر اعظم نے کہا کہ اللہ کے فضل و کرم سے ساتویں ڈیجیٹل مردم شماری خیریت سے مکمل ہو گئی اور نتائج کی منظوری تمام سیاسی جماعتوں کی اتفاق رائے سے ہوئی۔ ملاقات میں ملک کی موجودہ سیاسی صورتحال پر تفصیلی مشاورت کی گئی۔ وفد نے وزیر اعظم کو سندھ بالخصوص کراچی میں جاری ترقیاتی منصوبوں کے حوالے سے آگاہ کیا۔ ملاقات میں وفاقی وزیر برائے اقتصادی امور سردار ایاز صادق اور وفاقی وزیر برائے پاور انجینئر خرم دستگیر بھی موجود تھے۔ وزیر اعظم محمد شہباز شریف سے مسلم لیگ (ن) کے رہنما اور سابق میئر راولپنڈی سردار نسیم نے ملاقات کی۔ پیر کو وزیر اعظم آفس کے میڈیا ونگ سے جاری بیان کے مطابق ملاقات میں ملک کی موجودہ سیاسی صورتحال پر گفتگو کی گئی۔ وزیر اعظم محمد شہباز شریف نے کہا ہے کہ بیسپاٹائٹس سی کے خاتمہ کے لئے جامع ملک گیر پروگرام شروع کیا گیا ہے جس کے تحت ملک بھر میں فلٹر کلیننگ قائم کئے جائیں گے، اس کے لیے وفاقی حکومت نے 35 ارب روپے مختص کئے ہیں جبکہ 15 ارب روپے کانڈومنٹ فنڈ پہلے ہی قائم کیا جا چکا ہے۔

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/lahore/2023-08-08/page-1/detail-27>

گورنر پنجاب سے چینی قونصل جنرل کی ملاقات، دو طرفہ تعلقات پر بات چیت

لاہور (آئی این پی) گورنر پنجاب سے چینی قونصل جنرل نے ملاقات کی، ملاقات کے دوران دو طرفہ تعلقات پر بات چیت ہوئی، چینی قونصل جنرل ژا شیریں نے کہا کہ عوامی جمہوریہ چین پاکستان کے ساتھ اپنی دوستی کو بہت اہمیت دیتا ہے، پاکستان کے ساتھ تعلیم، زراعت، غربت کے خاتمے، صحت کے شعبے میں تعاون اور شراکت داری کو بڑھایا جائے گا، زرعی تحقیق میں پاکستان اور چین کی یونیورسٹیوں کے ساتھ تعاون کو بڑھایا جائے گا۔ تفصیلات کے مطابق گورنر پنجاب بلینغ الرحمان سے چینی قونصل جنرل ژا شیریں کی قیادت میں چینی قونصلیٹ کے وفد نے گورنر ہاوس لاہور میں ملاقات کی، چینی قونصل جنرل نے گورنر پنجاب کو اکتوبر میں عوامی جمہوریہ چین کے قومی دن کے موقع پر مدعو بھی کیا۔ گورنر پنجاب نے کہا کہ پاک چین تعلقات کی جڑیں گہری ہیں اور باہمی احترام، اعتماد اور محبت پر مبنی ہیں، چین نے ہمیشہ مشکل وقت میں پاکستان کا ساتھ دیا، جب پاکستان کو بجلی کی شدید قلت کا سامنا تھا تو چین نے بجلی کے بحران پر قابو پانے میں مدد کی۔ بلینغ الرحمان کا مزید کہنا تھا کہ سی پیک پاک چائنہ مضبوط تعلقات کا مظہر ہے، حکومت نے سی پیک منصوبوں پر کام کی رفتار تیز کر دی ہے۔ چینی قونصل جنرل ژا شیریں نے کہا کہ عوامی جمہوریہ چین پاکستان کے ساتھ اپنی دوستی کو بہت اہمیت دیتا ہے، پاکستان کے ساتھ تعلیم، زراعت، غربت کے خاتمے، صحت کے شعبے میں تعاون اور شراکت داری کو بڑھایا جائے گا، زرعی تحقیق میں پاکستان اور چین کی یونیورسٹیوں کے ساتھ تعاون کو بڑھایا جائے گا۔ اس موقع پر گورنر پنجاب کی اہلیہ، چینی قونصل جنرل کی اہلیہ، ڈائریکٹر پولیٹیکل سیکشن یان یانگ، سیکنڈ سیکرٹری چن بو، اتاشی اور چینی قونصلیٹ کے دیگر اراکین موجود تھے۔

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/lahore/2023-08-08/page-10/detail-69>

August 09, 2023

Daily Times

CPEC to bring socio-economic revolution in Pakistan: Pang

Sino Pakistan Friendship is ever lasting, and China always values Friendship with Pakistan. CPEC being a flagship project of President xi Jinping visionary Belt & Road Initiative is very important for socio economic up left of global community of countries. China always believes that sharing fruits of its prosperity with neighbors and other continents will enhance global prosperity and speed up international economic development activities. Chinese Charge d Affairs in Pakistan Madam Pang Chunxue was speaking at a BRI/CPEC 10th Anniversary special events organised by Pakistan-China Friendship Association Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province at KP House Islamabad this afternoon. She, while speaking on the occasion, commanded the role of Friends of China in various walks of life and appreciated PCFA-KP initiatives. She also mentioned that President Xi Jinping's special envoy Chinese Vice Premier visit to attend to the celebrations shows the importance of this project in the eyes of Chinese leadership. She also stressed more economic activities to enhance both countries' relationships and new heights for both nations and regions.

Earlier KP Minister LGE& RDD Advocate Sawal Nazir while speaking on the occasion said that Pakistan Economic Corridor commonly known as CPEC being a flagship project of BRI a idea to share the prosperity among Friends and around globe by visionary Chinese President Xi Jinping since 2013, we Pakistani as an iron brother will be benefited with the multi billion dollars projects over the period of time, this was stated by Advocate Sawal Nazir KP Minister for LG&EDD at a cake cutting ceremony organised by Pakistan-China Friendship Association Khyber Pakhtunkhwa at KP House Islamabad this afternoon.

The Minister stressed that we should learn from Chinese experiences in all fields of daily life for the betterment of our nation. PCFA-KP Secretary-General Syed Ali Nawaz Gilani while welcoming Chinese & invited dignitaries inform that Sino-Pakistan relations are now on new heights and there is a great need to further enhance the Understanding China in Pakistan and expand the Peoples to Peoples interaction through all available mediums. In order to further get benefits fir socio economic development, we at Pakistan follow the rules & regulations of China, which help them to bring socio-economic uplift across the nation.

While informing about the start up.of PCFA-KP in 1970 as Pak China Students Friendship Association and this Association play vital role in declaration of Peshawar Urumqi & Abbottabad Kashgar sister cities in 1985 and 2007 respectively. At the event PCFA-KP distribute shields among various leading figures of society in appreciation of their services for Pakistan-China Friendship various initiatives.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1121155/cpec-to-bring-socio-economic-revolution-in-pakistan-pang/>

Exhibits from Pakistan arrive at China-South Asia Expo

The 7th China-South Asia Exposition will be held in Kunming, China from August 16 to 20, with the theme of “Solidarity and Coordination for Common Development”. Last week, the first batch of 59 exhibits from Pakistan and other countries entered the exhibition hall under the supervision of Kunming Customs.

“The exhibits include clothing, money clips, leather hats, etc. transported to Kunming Airport by air. All exhibits of the Expo can be declared through nationwide integration of customs clearance procedures, which can help reduce logistics costs and ensure that the exhibits are cleared quickly and exhibit on time,” said Fu Yu, customs manager of Yunnan Easy-Trans International freight forwarder Co., Ltd. 60 countries and regions have signed up for the expo, including all South Asian and Southeast Asian countries and RCEP member states, China Economic Net (CEN) reported on Tuesday.

Around 1,000 enterprises signed up to participate in the exhibition, among which 50 are of the Global 500 companies. The Expo of this year has 15 pavilions with an exhibition area of 150,000 square meters,” introduced Li Chenyang, director of the Department of Commerce of Yunnan Province, China. “This year, we will focus on inviting more professional visitors according to the different needs of exhibitors. We will also help exhibitors match target buyers precisely so that more exhibits can be turned into commodities.” Li Fei, Vice Minister of the Ministry of Commerce of China, revealed the highlights of this year’s expo. “We will also fully adapt digital platforms to provide ‘one-stop’ services for exhibitors of the Expo. Exhibitors and visitors who cannot attend the event in person can participate, negotiate and purchase online.”

China-South Asia Expo has been successfully held six times and has gradually developed into an increasingly influential platform integrating trade, economic communication, commodity display, investment cooperation and e-commerce. “In 2013, when the first China-South Asia Expo was held, the total trade volume between China and South Asian countries was less than USD100 billion, the number increased to USD200 billion last year, representing an average annual increase of 8.3 percent.” Li Fei said.

“China is also the largest trading partner of Pakistan, Bangladesh, Maldives and other South Asian countries. Exports of aquatic products, tea and nuts from those countries to China keep increasing and gaining popularity among Chinese consumers.” He added. Li also stressed the efforts that China has made in synergizing the Belt and Road Initiative with the development of South Asian countries—especially mentioning its iron brother, Pakistan. “The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) has brought investment of \$25.4 billion to Pakistan, created 192,000 jobs, added 6,000 megawatts of electricity, 510 kilometers of highways and 886 kilometers of the national core transmission grid.” The 27th Kunming Import and Export Fair will be held simultaneously with the expo.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1121258/exhibits-from-pakistan-arrive-at-china-south-asia-expo/>

Dawn News

UAF to collaborate with Chinese varsity in academics, research

TOBA TEK SINGH: The University of Agriculture Faisalabad (UAF) and Henan Agricultural University, China (HAU) on Tuesday signed an online letter of intent (LoI) to collaborate in the area of academics and research.

The LoI was signed online by UAF Vice Chancellor Prof Dr Iqrar Ahmad Khan and HAU President Prof Dr Jie Xiaolei.

A delegation comprising UAF Department of Entomology Chairman Prof Dr Muhammad Jalal Arif, Director Office of Research, Innovation and Commercialisation Prof Dr Muhammad Jafar Jaskani, Director External Linkages Prof Dr Muhammad Saqib and Associate Professor Dr Abid Ali, which has already gone to China, was present at the HAU to attend the LoI signing ceremony.

HAU Director Office of International Exchange and Cooperation Prof Dr Ke Tu, Li Xingdao Party Secretary College of Plant Protection and Li Honglian, Dean College of Plant Protection, were also present at HAU, China.

Dr Iqrar said that it is the first-ever visit by a UAF delegation to HAU China.

He said that under the agreement, both universities will exchange students, academic staff and research resources, and organise international conferences jointly, where they will submit research projects and mutually develop joint educational programmes in specific academic areas.

He said China is making tremendous progress in every field and the joint venture will help faculties and students of both universities learn from each other's experiences.

Prof Dr Jie Xiaolei said that the cooperation in College of Plant Protection will also encourage other colleges to jointly work in academic and research exchange programmes.

Dr Jalal Arif said the UAF cooperation with the Chinese institution will help address the agricultural challenges under the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

He said the UAF delegation also visited the Henan Academy of Agricultural Sciences, where Director Institute of Plant Protection Prof Dr Feng Hongqiang briefed them about the latest pest monitoring tools, including insect radars.

Dr Muhammad Saqib said the LoI will open up new avenues of learning and progress.

Dr Jaskani said the research collaboration with HAU will help both institutions in facing common challenges jointly and addressing different issues on a scientific basis.

Dr Abid Ali said that pest monitoring tools were the need of the hour for sustainable pest management in order to promote green control in agriculture sector.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1769125/uaf-to-collaborate-with-chinese-varsity-in-academics-research#:~:text=TOBA%20TEK%20SINGH%3A%20The%20University,area%20of%20academics%20and%20research.>

Pakistan Observer

Chinese companies invited to participate in housing expo

Chairman Pakistan Association of Exhibition Industry Mohammad Khurshid Barlas met with Mr. Li Ping Director Overseas Representative Office of Yunnan, China, Commerce in Pakistan at his office. Both exchanges their views regarding Investment Opportunities in Pakistan. Mr. Barlas has extended the invitation to Chinese companies for participating at upcoming 3rd Edition of “Pakistan International Housing & Construction Exhibition” in November 2023 at Pak China Friendship Centre, Islamabad.

Chairman PAEI Mr. Khurshid Barlas has offered an allocated pavilion for the Chinese Companies to Mr. Ling Ping. Mr. Barlas emphasised that this step of International Pavilion at Expo shall boost Direct Investment & Bi-Lateral trade opportunities for Pakistan. Mr. Ling Ping has confirmed he shall participate in 3rd Edition of “Pakistan International Housing & Construction Exhibition” in Islamabad.

<https://pakobserver.net/chinese-companies-invited-to-participate-in-housing-expo/>

A visit to China

A 15-member delegation from Pakistan including diplomats, senior academics, researchers and media persons, invited by Fudan University, Shanghai, funded by the Chinese Embassy in Pakistan visited China on a week-long trip from July 16 to July 23, 2023. The delegation was led by Ambassador Sohail Mahmood, Director General, Institute of Strategic Studies, Islamabad (ISSI). The delegation participated in a seminar hosted by Pakistan Study Centre, Fudan University in Shanghai and the 3rd Pakistan-China Think Tank Forum hosted by the China Institutes of Contemporary International Relations (CICIR) in Beijing. The author of this op-ed was also one of the delegates, who represented Balochistan in the delegation.

The visit remained exceedingly instructive and engrossing for various reasons. Visits to Zhangjiang Science City, Pioneer Area for Socialist Modernization, Shanghai Tower, Huangpu River and Great Wall of China enlightened the delegates regarding China’s history and its remarkable economic development and technological advancement. Travelling from Shanghai to Beijing by Bullet Train was an amazing experience and full of excitement and a learning journey. Dinner hosted by Pakistan’s Ambassador to China, Moin-ul-Haque in Beijing was exceptional. The Ambassador gave us new insight into China’s modernization and Pak-China relations in the evolving regional geo-political landscape. Realistically speaking, whatever I studied about China’s soft power, culture and hospitality during my PhD dissertation truly was reflected in the trip.

The trip developed three main hypotheses in my mind. Having seen China’s economic development, innovative infrastructure, technological advancement and prosperity, I realized the US frustration in the shape of containing China is justifiable. Washington is fully cognizant of the fact that China is unstoppable. The US exceptionalism is being challenged for the first time by China. In the prevailing Washington’s political discourse, Beijing continues to be seen as the only game in town. China made history by initiating the Belt and

Road Initiative (BRI) which is the largest project in mankind's history, lifting 800 million people out of poverty is happening for the first time in the annals of international politics.

Notably, China negates Max Weber's notion who believed for development and economic growth states would have to espouse the western model of development. China, being a non-western country, made more progress than western democratic countries. According to the US Geological Survey, China, from 2011 to 2013, used 6.5 gigatons of cement that's more than the US used during the entire 20th Century. The aforementioned Chinese developments, by and large, are causing a great deal of consternation for the United States.

As far as my second hypothesis is concerned, Pakistanis have higher esteem and more respect in China than in Muslim countries including the West. During the trip when we were supposed to introduce ourselves to the common Chinese, they had to call us "Ba Tie" which means "Iron Brother". Interestingly, describing Pakistan as its "Iron Brother" is a part of China's political discourse. Thirdly, my sense says in the foreseeable future, Pakistanis would have more job opportunities in China than in the rest of the world as the Chinese are easily accessible to Pakistanis. Arguably, the Pakistanis elite are obsessed with the West, the middle class would certainly prefer China. Presently, more than 30,000 thousand Pakistanis have obtained Chinese scholarships, enjoying studying in China. Every great power exploits foreign talents. In order to get maximum dividends from the foreign talent, China presumably would grant nationality to the foreigners. Pakistanis would remain the biggest beneficiaries in this regard.

During the trip, the most amazing thing that dazzled me overwhelmingly was the Chinese commitment to their work. They consider work as worship avoiding indolence during duty hours. One would see almost the entire China would wake up at 7:00 am. Men/women will keep starting their work with great zeal and zest. Every individual in the country has an ambition to do something remarkable in life. It is amazing to note their thrifty lifestyle, even the CEO of the company would appear in ordinary attire. They prefer values, work ethics and hard work over a luxurious lifestyle resulting in making them the most successful nation in the 21st century.

It is pertinent to mention here that the per capita income of China in 1970 was USD150 while Pakistan's per capita income remained at USD250. Presently, China's per capita income is nearly USD12,732, while Pakistan is having merely USD1600 only. It is high time to get into introspection and ponder over the exacerbating economic condition of Pakistan and learn from the Chinese model. In short, the lessons I brought home from China's visit are honesty with duty, a thrifty lifestyle, new ambitions in life, gender balance in the workforce and collective approach to social issues.

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<https://pakobserver.net/a-visit-to-china/>

BRI & Malaysia: A Befitting Proposition

The BRI was proposed by China in 2013. It refers to the Silk Road Economic Belt and the 21st century Maritime Silk Road which aims at building trade and infrastructure networks connecting Asia with Europe and Africa along the ancient trade routes of the Silk Road. Right from the beginning, the BRI has further increased trade between Southeast Asia and China, and Malaysia is looking forward to serving as a hub for the greater exchange in the region.

Malaysia's strategic location as it lies by the Strait of Malacca could help it benefit from the BRI by playing a bigger role like providing services to ships passing through. Obviously, it is halfway between Europe and China. It can be a point where goods from China can be redistributed to the ASEAN area and vice versa. Goods from Europe too can come to Malaysia and for us to be a distribution point, a hub for trade in Southeast Asia.

The friendly relations between China and Malaysia date back centuries. Chinese great navigator Zheng He (1371-1433) and his fleet had visited Malacca five times in the epic voyages to the West, boosting friendship and trade between the two countries. In 1974, Malaysia became the first ASEAN country to establish diplomatic ties with China. The bilateral relations between Malaysia and China have improved tremendously in the past four decades, the country has benefited from the relationship and the development of China as it became a huge market for Malaysia.

The Malaysia-China cooperation through BRI involves mega projects such as railway links, ports, energy, advanced technology, trade and financial assistance. Interestingly, Malaysia is a top 10 BRI country and BRI projects, including those in construction, transport and digital infrastructure, are the widest in scope and the largest in financial scale of any BRI projects in Southeast Asia, since the launch of the BRI in 2013.

Despite constant and continued political instability, the level of cognizance of the China-initiated BRI remains positive, productive and participatory among the different ethnic communities in Malaysia. Right from the beginning the two sides agreed to coordinate and promote development and cooperation in various fields to further enhance bilateral ties which is injecting new momentum into the prosperity and development of the two countries and the entire region.

China and Malaysia agreed to vigorously advance high-quality BRI cooperation, cultivate growth points for cooperation in the digital economy, green development, new energy and other areas, so as to bring more tangible benefits to the two countries and their people. It seems that the BRI is giving Malaysia an opportunity to make a choice to boost their own economy and is looking forward to more cooperation in trade and investment. In this connection, Malaysia supports the BRI to encourage sustainable development throughout Asia and bring the region closer together through a transparent and fair mechanism.

Under flagship of the BRI, the East Coast Rail Link (ECRL) is a mega railway infrastructure project designed to improve connectivity between Peninsular Malaysia's East Coast states (Kelantan, Terengganu, and Pahang) and the West Coast states (Negeri Sembilan, Selangor, and the Federal Territory of Putrajaya) which is currently only partially connected by rail.

In addition to improved connectivity, the ECRL is intended to spur the development of the industrial, commercial and tourism sectors along its route. A groundbreaking ceremony was held on August 9, 2017, to mark the start of construction. As of March 2023, more than 45 percent of the project had reportedly been completed. The rail line is scheduled to commence operation by 2027.

The Malaysia-China Kuantan Industrial Park (MCKIP) is another mega project of the BRI which has remained a key economic driver along Malaysia's east coast a decade after its launch, boosting industrial output and job creation. It is the first industrial park in Malaysia to be jointly developed by both Malaysia and China, and to be accorded the national industrial park status. The MCKIP, together with the China-Malaysia Qinzhou Industrial Park situated in China's southern Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, has set an innovative example of bilateral economic cooperation under the model of "Two Countries, Twin Parks."

In this regard, the development and expansion of Kuantan Port in Pahang state has allowed products from the industrial park as well as other key Malaysian industries, particularly palm oil, rubber and other commodities, to benefit, having a direct outlet to the South China Sea, facilitating ease of trade with East Asia.

With the full completion of the expansion, the throughput of Kuantan Port is expected to double from 26 million freight weight tonnes to 52 million freight weight tonnes. The increased port activities and expansion of cargo services will generate jobs for the locals in the shipping industry and business opportunities for local freight forwarders and logistic players,"

The two sides also agreed to vigorously advance high-quality BRI cooperation through the cultivation of growth points for collaborations in digital economy, green development, new energy, and other areas with common aims to bring more tangible benefits to both countries

According to official data, China remains Malaysia's largest trading partner for 14 consecutive years with a total trade of US\$110.6 billion (RM488 billion) in 2022. On the investment front, China was the biggest foreign direct investor in Malaysia in 2022, with investments amounting to US\$12.5 billion (RM55.16 billion)

Hopefully, despite political ups & downs, Malaysia will continue to support the BRI and that the long-term economic outlook between Malaysia and China will remain positive. The focus on BRI will now shift toward the so-called high-quality BRI projects which seek to align with Malaysia's ongoing efforts to diversify its economy and reduce reliance on traditional sectors such as manufacturing and agriculture.

Massive Chinese investment in sectors like renewable energy, artificial intelligence (AI) and technology will go a long way to help Malaysia in achieving a knowledge-based economy that relies on the development of human capital, innovation and high-tech industries.

In summary, Malaysia would want more quality investment in the BRI package such as digital economy and renewable energy or the electric vehicle space.

Hopefully, the projects of BRI in Malaysia would help bridge the digital divide, boost productivity, support capacity building and foster economic development, thereby encouraging entrepreneurship and job creation.

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

Indian State-Sponsored Terrorism; Sabotaging CPEC

It is not a cliché. It is a proven fact that India is involved in state-sponsored terrorism. Sabotaging CPEC is currently at the centre of India's nefarious design. The arrest and confession of Indian RAW Agent Kulbhushan Sudhir Jadhav (also spelled Kulbhushan Yadav, pseudonym Hussain Mubarak Patel), who was caught in Balochistan in 2016, has fully exposed India. His disclosures about the presence of Indian saboteurs' sleeper cells in Pakistan and terror financing raise questions about the western world's engagement policy with India.

Pakistan's dossier, reportedly containing irrefutable evidence of Indian state backing for acts of terrorism in Pakistan, may have become dusty in the United Nations records. What issues of international concern should receive the United Nations' attention and which should be left to rot is decided or influenced by which UN Member(s) is an open secret.

It's not just Kulbhushan Yadav's confession but a person no less than Chuck Hagel, the former US Secretary of Defence, made a public disclosure about how India finances 'troubles' in Pakistan using Afghan soil. The Spokesperson of Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) and Jamaat-ul-Ahrar (JuA), Ehsanullah Ehsan, also revealed the connection between the two terrorist organizations and the Indian intelligence agency RAW, as well as the role of the Afghan Security Agency in this equation.

Analyzing the killing of innocent Chinese engineers and other officials involved in the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), in the backdrop of the facts about Indian state-sponsored terrorism and India's open opposition to the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and its flagship project CPEC, should leave no doubts about who could be behind terrorist activities against Chinese workers in Pakistan and incidents of terrorism in Balochistan. Kulbhushan's confession becomes more relevant.

The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), a flagship project under the Belt and Road Initiative, is part of China's concept of global governance and a community of shared human future. The BRI is an expression of China's geo-economic agenda that appears to be directed to foster a new type of international relations embedded in the principles of co-building, sharing, mutual consultation and inclusive development. CPEC is a massive multi-billion-dollar project that has transformative potential for both Pakistan and China. China and Pakistan have successfully transitioned CPEC to its second stage of development to operationalize BRI which aims to establish a web of regional and global connectivity. Besides this, CPEC also holds immense strategic importance to China. It offers China a secure and shorter trade route compared to the Strait of Malacca and reduces China's dependence on the South China Sea.

However, CPEC is also enduring various challenges due to the nature of the international structure in which different actors seek to undermine their rivals. Against this backdrop, the

security and stability of CPEC are also subjected to geo-strategic and political challenges. India since the outset has opposed CPEC even though on several occasions China has endeavored to invite India to partake in it. Although apparently, India's discursive strategy for its opposition to CPEC is its claim that CPEC is passing through the disputed regions between India and Pakistan, India's fervent antagonism to CPEC is due to its strategic and geopolitical ambitions. First, the success of the CPEC is likely to frustrate India's regional hegemonic designs as CPEC allows China to play a meaningful role in South Asia. In relation to this, CPEC's transformative capacity for Pakistan means a counterbalancing force against India. In this context, India is actively attempting to undermine CPEC despite its normative discursive strategy.

To begin with, the factor that exposes India's involvement in disrupting CPEC is its intelligence operations in Pakistan. Indian intelligence agency Research and Analysis Wing (RAW) has established a special cell with an allocation of over 500 million dollars dedicated to undermining CPEC. These apparatuses are involved in intelligence operations and gathering sensitive operations about CPEC besides fostering anti-CPEC activities.

Similarly, India is also fostering ethnic conflict in Balochistan to make it CPEC's Achilles heel. The province of Balochistan is a pivot of CPEC, and it is geographically adjacent to Afghanistan. Therefore, militancy and insurgency in Balochistan mean that it can endanger the entire project of CPEC. So, India is fueling insurgency in Balochistan by offering Baloch ethno-nationalist separatists with diplomatic resources, funding and arms. These insurgents are involved in attacking Chinese workers, officials, development projects and government infrastructure. Moreover, India has attempted to use the territory of Afghanistan to provide a haven and to train Baloch insurgents. India knows that Afghanistan is not only essential for the stability and security of Pakistan but also important to connect Gwadar to the ancient Silk Route through Central Asian states. Before the Taliban's take over Afghanistan, India sought to work in collaboration with the National Directorate of Security (NDS) to sponsor terrorist activities in Pakistan. For instance, Ehsanullah Ehsan, the former senior commander for Tahreek Taliban Pakistan, said that India's intelligence apparatus offered extensive help to TTP. India via its proxies is attempting to sabotage and destabilize CPEC.

In a similar manner, Indian immoral acts are also well enumerated in the report launched by the European Union Disinfo Lab in December 2020, called "Indian Chronicles." It uncovered a massive network involved in targeting Pakistan and CPEC. These operations resurrected media outlets, think tanks and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) whose main objective is to amplify content to undermine Pakistan. This indicates the magnitude and scale of the Indian campaign against CPEC.

In relation to this, India has also invested in developing an enormous perception crisis on CPEC through its extensive campaigns. This campaign is involved in the mass-level proliferation of misinformation against CPEC through social media networking sites including Twitter, Facebook and YouTube. Its anti-CPEC perspective focused on the audience, especially in areas such as Gilgit-Baltistan, ex-FATA and Balochistan. Its content amplifies misinformation that China is likely to take over Pakistan's areas such as Gwadar and Pakistan will be trapped in the Chinese debt trap. The function of this campaign was to

create mistrust and anxiety among the people of Pakistan to build an anti-CPEC narrative and instigate uprisings.

Similarly, India's antagonism to CPEC is also witnessed in the multilateral forums. During the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) summit in July, the Indian Minister of External Affairs S. Jaishankar coached its opposition to CPEC in the discursive strategy by emphasizing the violation of India's sovereignty through BRI's connectivity project. India's discursive response against CPEC is its diplomatic endeavor to develop a narrative in the international forums that will challenge the legitimacy of CPEC. Despite this, the deconstruction of its strategic vocabulary and languages indicates a clear opposition to undermining the interests of China and Pakistan.

In a nutshell, contrary to its discursive strategy, India's efforts to disrupt and sabotage the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor are evident. It has heavily invested itself through efforts such as intelligence apparatus, misinformation campaigns, proxy groups, diplomatic efforts and alliances to weaken CPEC. This has exposed its distaste for CPEC. New Delhi views the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and CPEC as strategic challenges to its hegemonic ambitions and geo-political challenges against which India is making efforts to undermine CPEC and China's interests.

<https://pakobserver.net/indian-state-sponsored-terrorism-sabotaging-cpec/>

The News

The Xiaoping model

Hassan Baig

Pakistan is passing through difficult and unprecedented times. We are facing enormous difficulties with a clear lack of resources, overpopulation, widespread poverty, a huge debt burden, no savings, an uncompetitive industry, abundant raw labour, lack of technology and a political crisis.

This was the situation China faced in 1949-1976 (the Maoist period), but then came visionary leader and statesman Deng Xiaoping in 1978, who literally changed everything for good in China. Pakistan needs a leader of the quality and caliber of Xiaoping to transform the country and society.

The architect of modern China is Deng Xiaoping. What he did was a departure from past policies to introduce a new set of indigenous policies most suitable for China, especially introducing business reforms by accommodating the private sector in the development process. He brought a new Chinese economic development model by introducing market-economy reforms that proved to be a great leap forward for China. Pakistan also needs a dynamic visionary leadership like Xiaoping to introduce new economic reforms most suitable for its development, as we see a continuous and perpetual downslide of our economy due to a wrong set of policies and priorities.

China initially targeted four priority sectors – agriculture, industry, defense, science and technology – as part of modernization to improve uplift the economy. Pakistan also needs to

initially focus on these sectors to transform and revolutionize its economy. Unlike China in the early 1970s, Pakistan already has a public-private partnership model to develop and grow. That model must be utilized in a more coherent and consistent way as part of its policy paradigm. That would lay a strong foundation to get robust economic growth to get rid of poverty and the heavy burden of debts and loans. It would also pave the way to enhance exports with a lot of investment in these sectors. Initially, the opportunity can be materialized with the help and support of China (through CPEC) and Middle Eastern countries like Saudi Arabia, UAE and Qatar, which are showing an interest in investing in these sectors. That needs to be capitalized.

First of all, let's take up the issue of agricultural modernization that needs to be prioritized as a step towards corporate farming. The armed forces have already taken up a project to cultivate barren government lands in far-flung areas to convert them for corporate farming. Friendly Middle Eastern countries including Saudi Arabia and the UAE have also expressed an interest in taking up the green project of agriculture farming if they are provided land on certain terms and conditions. The US-Pak Green Alliance is all-out for supporting agriculture innovation as part of its climate advocacy project. The second phase of CPEC also indicates agriculture as a lifeline project for a sustainable Pakistan, providing livelihood for rural communities.

Phase 2 of CPEC has brought a message, as conveyed by China's Vice Premier He Lifeng's recent visit, heralding cooperation in the field of agriculture, rural revitalization and green development. Pakistan can achieve prosperity and development through an inclusive growth model by investing more into the agriculture sector for rural communities.

The message from Chinese President Xi Jinping is a great hope for a sustainable and developed Pakistan through the opportunities provided by CPEC's Phase 2. It is, in fact, poised to provide an immediate opportunity to address the pressing needs of the country, further paving the way to long-term development. The transfer of technology through the second phase of CPEC will go a long way in achieving self-sustainability in the field of modern agriculture farming.

The second most strategic priority to transform the country's economic development, as prioritized by China in the late 1970s, should be industry and industrial development. Chinese policymakers smartly converted the idea into the creation of industrial clusters like the one incorporated in CPEC to develop Special Economic Zones (SEZs). The modern concept of one-window operation and start-ups are part of the concept of industrial clusters – and, in the case of Pakistan, SEZs – to help fast develop industry.

CPEC's Phase 2 promises to help develop industrial clusters in Pakistan with the support of modern agriculture that will boost exports to earn foreign exchange. Investment in industry to modernize it at a faster pace needs enhanced security for investors, which requires immediate action by the government to improve the worsening security situation in Pakistan.

We also need to increase exports to more than \$100 billion within five years, and that is only possible if we heavily invest in industries producing competitive goods and services.

Defence and defence production is another area where China invested a lot to achieve security and stability, making its defence impregnable. Pakistan, being a nuclear power, has reasonably achieved the targets of self-defence and can further contribute defence production. Pakistan has the capacity and capability to go for defence production if investment is made in this sector. There is an immediate need to lure investment in defence production for economic growth and prosperity.

Finally, there is an immediate need to go all out for heavy investment in the field of science and technology. Pakistan lamentingly allocated only Rs5.5 billion for the current financial year for science and technology, most of which will be spent on employees' salaries. This shows just how little – or none – priority is attached to this important sector of the economy. How can Pakistan progress in such a dismal situation of R&D in the field of science and technology? There is an immediate need for at least 5-6 per cent of GDP to be allocated for science and technology. Only then can we achieve our ambitious goals of high economic growth and development.

If not, there's no use to even think of any growth strategy and policy initiative to get GDP growth of 8-10 per cent, which is required to get rid of loans as well as poverty. The debt trap can only be tackled by high economic growth, which can only be achieved through big spending on R&D in science and technology.

The Chinese economic development model introduced by the great Deng Xiaoping in the late 1970s is, in fact, a great guide for developing countries like Pakistan. But one of the most important factors was a stable political system in China. That provides a conducive atmosphere, facilitating investment for economic development.

A stable political system is important, missing in the case of Pakistan. A fragile economy cannot afford a politically weak, polarized, and fragmented society, which is detrimental and disastrous for economic growth and development. Pakistan immediately needs to go for elections to put in place a stable political government to achieve the target of high economic growth and development. All the four priority areas and sectors of the economy discussed in this article are important to follow as a first step to achieve the aim of high GDP growth and economic development.

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<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=226672>

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Business Recorder

Chinese CG speaks about significance of 2nd phase of CPEC

AHMED MALIK

KARACHI: The Chinese Consul General in Karachi Yang Yundong on Wednesday said that the CPEC will embrace a brighter and more splendid next decade, propelling the China-

Pakistan all-weather strategic cooperative partnership to new heights and making greater contributions to the peace and prosperity of both countries and the region.

“Currently, the CPEC has entered its second phase, which marks a crucial stage of high-quality development,” the Chinese Consul General said while speaking at a press conference at a local hotel.

The 10th anniversary of CEPC was celebrated in Islamabad last week and the Chinese President Xi Jinping sent a congratulatory message, which pointed out that since its launch in 2013, China and Pakistan have been advancing CEPC under the principle of extensive consultation, joint contribution, and shared benefits, and have achieved several early harvests. This has added new impetus to the economic and social development of Pakistan and laid a good foundation for regional connectivity and integration. It is a vivid testament to the all-weather friendship between China and Pakistan and provides an important underpinning for building an even closer China-Pakistan community with a shared future in the new era.

“Since CEPC started ten years ago, altogether 36 projects have been completed or under construction, which has brought \$25.4 billion of direct investment to Pakistan, achieving cumulative revenue of \$17.55 billion, cumulative tax payments of \$2.12 billion, creating 236,000 job opportunities and helping to add 8,000 megawatts of electricity, 510 kilometers of highways, and 886 kilometers of national core transmission lines”, the Consul General said.

He said significant progress has been achieved in the construction of Gwadar Port. The port now has 3 multi-purpose berths capable of handling 50,000-ton vessels, fully operational. Projects like the East Bay Expressway, Vocational, and Technical Training Institutions are already in operation. Gwadar New International Airport, the desalination plant, and China-Pakistan Friendship Hospital, all aided by China, are scheduled for completion in succession. The first phase of the Gwadar Free Zone has been completed, and several livelihood and agriculture technology companies have started operations. This shining “pearl” of the CPEC, which used to be a small fishing village, is accelerating its momentum towards becoming a strategic hub for logistics and industrial bases.

According to him, energy is one of the most heavily invested and productive cooperation areas under the framework of CEPC. As many as 14 energy projects have already started commercial operation, with the total installed capacity accounting for one-fifth of Pakistan’s total capacity, and generating one-third of the electricity of the whole country at peak hours. Sahiwal, Port Qasim, and Hub coal-fired power plants were swiftly built and put into commercial operation at “China’s speed”. Various clean energy projects, such as Karot Hydropower Project, Dawood Wind Power Project, Sachal Wind Farm, and the Quaid-e-Azam Solar PV Power Plant, and K2, K3 nuclear power units have enriched Pakistan’s energy structure. The Thar Block I and Block II coal-fired power integration project has contributed to Pakistan’s energy self-sufficiency. The Matiari to Lahore HVDC transmission line is the first high voltage direct current transmission project in Pakistan, which transmits over 30 billion KW/hour of power every year with little power loss. The implementation of various energy projects along the CPEC has illuminated millions of Pakistani households and

provided reliable power support for Pakistan's economic development. People in Pakistan no longer have to worry about frequent power shortages or power cuts.

Yang Yundong said there has been tremendous progress in infrastructure development. The Sukkur-Multan motorway, with a total length of 392 KM, is the largest transport infrastructure project under CEPC, which cuts the travel time between the two cities from 11 hours to less than 4 hours. The Lahore Orange Line Metro is Pakistan's first Metro line and the only one so far and has taken Pakistan to the Metro era. It significantly reduces the commuting time between the two ends of the line from 2.5 hours to 45 minutes. The Karakoram Highway Phase II project is connected to the "China-Pakistan Friendship Road", enabling cargo buses to directly reach the Khunjerab Pass. Many other examples exist. The infrastructure construction along the CPEC has unlocked the potential of the regions, paving the way for development and prosperity.

He informed that a remarkable achievement has been made in industrial cooperation. CPEC has encouraged an increasing number of Chinese enterprises to come to Pakistan and engage in multi-field industrial cooperation, including agriculture, manufacturing, and textiles. In the M3 Industrial City in Faisalabad, ceramic products produced with Chinese investment and technology have reached thousands of Pakistani households, greatly enhancing Pakistan's independent capabilities in the sector of the building material industry. In many places in Punjab and Sindh provinces, Chinese hybrid rice has become a popular planting variety, significantly increasing rice yield. At the same time, cooperation in chili and canola planting is progressing steadily. The Rashakai Special Economic Zone Phase I built by Chinese companies, has been completed and begun attracting investment, while the Dhabeji Special Economic Zone broke ground in July this year. With the development of special economic zones, bilateral industrial cooperation is expected to grow even closer, laying a solid foundation for Pakistan's industrialization process.

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2023/08/10/7-page/969408-news.html>

Daily Times

Pakistan's rice export to China surpassed USD 455 million

Pakistan's rice export to China in 2022 surpassed USD 455 million with a volume of more than one million tonnes, for the first time between China-Pakistan rice trade, said Ghulam Qadir Commercial Counsellor. "China's imports of Semi or wholly milled rice (Commodity Code: 10063020) from Pakistan touched USD 211.88 million, while two kinds of Broken rice (Commodity Code: 10064020, 10064080) reached USD 162.78 million and USD 80.74 million respectively."

Pakistani rice is getting popular in the Chinese market, he emphasized according to a report published by Gwadar Pro on Wednesday. "As per estimated, Pakistan will produce some 9 million metric tons of rice during the year and this will help to export more commodity," said Rafique Suleman, Convenor FPCCI Standing Committee on rice. "We could expect the volume to reverse decline last year."

Due to the flood-induced crop failure, in terms of volume rice export shrunk by 25 percent during the last fiscal year. Pakistan exported 3.717 million metric tons of rice including basmati and other varieties during July-June of FY23 as against 4.97 million metric ton in corresponding period of previous year. But an expected bumper crops this year will bring hope to the industry as a whole. The country's rice exports will not only be higher than previous year but likely to touch an all-time high level, Suleman said. Thanks to the expansion of planting area and the improvement of technology, growers will be the direct beneficiaries of the export expansion. In addition, the ban on rice exports by India will also help to explore new export markets for Pakistani exports. Pakistan will earn USD 2.7 to USD 3 billion through export of rice during this fiscal as sufficient rice stocks will be available. And the global food shortage caused by various factors has further pushed up export prices. Quotations for Pakistani rice exports (25 percent broken) climbed to an average of USD 503 per metric ton in May, an increase of 11.0 percent month on month, to their highest level since August 2008. Further, by July 15, Pakistan rice prices rose to USD 600 per metric tons. "We started importing Pakistani rice in 2018, with the annual import volume has been stable at more than 200,000 tons in recent years. Both basmati and non-basmati rice are within our scope. In China, basmati is used as a kind of high-end rice, mainly for Southeast Asia and South Asia restaurants.

This long-grain rice, which has a chewier taste, requires less water when cooking. It is suitable for making baked rice and hand-picked rice," Ding Yong, East China Regional Manager, Shenzhen Vintop Import and Export Co., Ltd. told Gwadar Pro. "More Chinese should be promoted to learn about basmati rice, to my way of thinking, which will be of great help to stimulate the export of Pakistani rice. Basmati rice is a business card of Pakistan, thus more publicity on local customs will be of great benefit to expanding the domestic market," Ding added.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1121504/pakistans-rice-export-to-china-surpassed-usd-455-million/>

The Nation

'Sino-Pak feature film to strengthen bilateral cultural exchanges'

ISLAMABAD - First Sino-Pak feature film premier held to strengthen bilateral cultural exchanges, said Zhang Heqing, the Cultural Counsellor of the Chinese Embassy in Pakistan.

The Pakistan National Council of the Arts (PNCA) recently hosted the premiere of "Ba'tie Girl," the inaugural Sino-Pak feature film, marking a decade of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) celebrations.

Zafar Uddin Mahmood, Special Assistant to the Pakistani Prime Minister, emphasised the film's role in celebrating the enduring bond between the two nations and expressed hope for deeper cultural ties and future collaborative film projects.

Zhang Heqing underscored the film's pivotal role in enhancing cultural dialogue between China and Pakistan. He also lauded CPEC projects for bolstering both economic and cultural connections, promoting greater interpersonal interactions between the two countries.

Xie Peng, the executive producer of “Ba’tie Girl,” shared with Gwadar Pro that this collaboration, the first of its kind since the two countries established diplomatic ties 72 years ago, is a significant milestone.

He expressed gratitude for the comprehensive support from the Pakistani government, the heartfelt assistance of its people, the steadfast backing of the Chinese Embassy, and the invaluable aid from Chinese expatriates.

Xie optimistically remarked, “Given the unwavering support from both Chinese and Pakistani governments towards cultural collaborations, we anticipate an increasing number of filmmakers from both nations to harness this momentum, crafting even more exceptional cinematic masterpieces.”

Set against the backdrop of the ambitious “Belt and Road” initiative, “Ba’tie Girl” narrates the intertwined lives of Lu You, a translator for a China-backed hydropower project in Pakistan, and Nasa, a local Pakistani girl.

Their journey, from initial encounters to deep-rooted camaraderie, encapsulates the profound bond between China and Pakistan.

The film is a testament to the essence of humanity, celebrating genuine friendships filled with warmth and compassion.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/10-Aug-2023/sino-pak-feature-film-to-strengthen-bilateral-cultural-exchanges>

The News

CPEC is reality, UK has no problem: British HC

Muhammad Saleh Zaafir

ISLAMABAD: The United Kingdom is keen to enhance strategic partnership with Pakistan and make it more concrete.

The new British High Commissioner to Pakistan, Jane Marriott, in an exclusive interview with The News here at her residence in Diplomatic Enclave maintained that she wanted to see those trade figures with Pakistan going up even more.

“I would like to develop more business-to-business links between our countries as well, building on that. We regularly talk about 1.6 million diaspora.”

She said there was a lot more “we can do to utilize the links between the diaspora and the heritage country of Pakistan.”

She expressed the hope that UK can work with the caretaker government to build on very best that has been made so far through the IMF deal and have things in an even better place by the time the new government comes in in 2024. To a query, British envoy agreed that CPEC is the reality of life and her country has no problem with CPEC. She assured that the United Kingdom will continue to be a strong partner with Pakistan and help manage that terrorist risk. Pakistan is a sovereign country, so Pakistan’s democracy is for Pakistan, she said.

About the Kashmir dispute, she said that as far as the Kashmir issue is concerned, “I think we are on the record with a very clear position that this is a matter for Pakistan and India to resolve between them taking into account the wishes of the people of Kashmir.

And I hope that a way forward is found because I would love to see more trade and cooperation flourish between your two countries.” To question about students visit, British high commissioner said that one of the key things is getting that constant exchange of information.

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=227157>

It’s good we’ve constructive ties with both US, China: Bilawal

ISLAMABAD: Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari Wednesday highlighted the achievements of his ministry on the diplomatic front and global fora with increased outreach and extensive engagements with the international community.

Addressing a press conference here, he said Pakistan engaged with the United States, Europe and the United Kingdom through bilateral and multilateral meetings. “What gives me satisfaction, however, is that the positive trajectory in our relations with both the US and China have been pursued with clarity, underpinned by our consistent position that we do not want to be dragged into a global competition,” he said.

Also, the foreign minister said Pakistan maintained its principled position on the Ukraine conflict. “Despite all doubts and apprehensions in media, our voting pattern on related resolutions in multilateral fora remained unchanged. We invested significant effort in engaging both sides of the divide, and today, I believe there is a greater understanding of Pakistan’s position,” he added.

It was clearly evidenced by closer engagement with the US and EU, burgeoning energy cooperation with Russia, and visits to Pakistan by the foreign ministers of Belarus and Ukraine, he added.

“This broad, deep and meaningful engagement with all countries also helped build trust with the countries that sit on the IMF board. It’s coming to fruition last month was a gratifying moment,” the foreign minister said.

Removal from the FATF’s grey list, hosting of Geneva conference and revival of the International Monetary Fund’s programme were some of the conspicuous achievements of Pakistan, he added.

Visa facilitation, cooperation in science and technology resulted in opening of doors for Pakistanis seeking jobs abroad, he said, adding they had corrected the diplomatic course.

The foreign minister said that during his tenure in office, they never compromised on the core issue of Kashmir and effectively advocated for the oppressed people of Kashmir at all fora. The Kashmir issue had been a consistent component of the foreign policy, he said and enumerated Pakistan’s efforts to address the issues of Islamophobia and desecration of the Holy Quran, leading to adoption of a resolution by the UN Human Rights Council.

He reiterated that Pakistan's stance over its relations with India was very clear and consistent: unless it revoked its illegal and unilateral acts of 2019 over the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK), there was no space to meaningful engagement.

He said that India had not only violated the international laws and the United Nations Security Council resolutions, but also the bilateral agreements between the two countries. "There is no space left for Pakistan to meaningfully engage with India," the foreign minister said.

About sending Pakistan national team to contest the ICC Cricket World Cup in India, he said contrary to India's indulgence in immature acts, Pakistan always maintained that there should be a difference between politics and sports, adding that they still had security concerns as the security of the national team could not be compromised and they had conveyed such to the International Cricket Council (ICC) and India.

The foreign minister, responding to a question about Afghanistan, said that certain opinions were being formed across the world on the basis of ground realities. If they wanted diplomatic recognition, the Afghan interim government would have to address the international concerns, but if they continued with their statements, it would create complications and the Afghan people would continue to suffer, he added. FM Bilawal said that after the fall of Kabul, there was a sharp spike in terrorist incidents in Pakistan and stressed that cooperation and engagement between the two countries was necessary to tackle the issue.

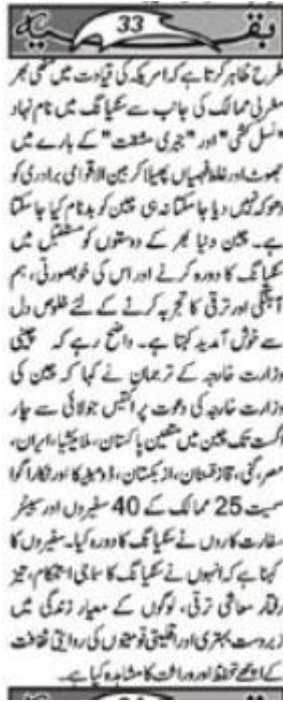
The foreign minister also expressed strong opposition to the previous government's policy over terrorists hiding in Afghanistan. He expressed the satisfaction that at the diplomatic front, they moved ahead with "damage control" during the last 16 months. He regretted that the PTI's government had caused damage to the country's relations with world capitals and strongly disagreed with the gesture of former prime minister waving a letter sent by an envoy in public.

Bilawal said that diplomatic affairs of the country should be run for benefit of people of the country, emphasising "consistency and continuity" in the foreign policy.

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=227162>

K2 Daily





https://www.epaper.dailyk2.com/Home?Issue=NP_ICT&Page=International%20/%20Local%20News

https://www.epaper.dailyk2.com/Home?Issue=NP_ICT&Page=Classified

August 11, 2023

Business Recorder

SBP to issue Rs100 coin, marking CPEC anniversary

KARACHI: The State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) has announced that it will issue Rs 100 commemorative coin to mark 10th anniversary of the China Pakistan Economic Corridor.

The CPEC has contributed greatly to Pakistan's infrastructure and economic development since its decade of inception in 2013. To mark the occasion of the 10th anniversary of the CPEC, the government of Pakistan has decided to issue a commemorative coin of Rs.100.

The coin shall be issued through the exchange counters of SBP Banking Services Corporation from August 11, 2023. The coin is in round shape milled with serrations on the edge, diameter of 30.00 mm, weight 13.5 grams and has Cupro-Nickel metal contents (Copper 75% & Nickel 25%). Details of design are as under:

On the obverse side and in the centre of the coin, an artistically designed five pointed star has been reflected. Crescent moon and star (as present in Pakistan's national Flag) and Group of Five Stars (as present in China's national Flag) are also shown inside this artistically designed star at right and left positions, respectively. The wordings "CELEBRATING 10 YEARS OF CPEC" in English Script and "ISLAMI JAMHURIA PAKISTAN" in Urdu Script are written on the top and bottom of the star along with the periphery. Both wordings are separated with two stars (left and right sides of the coin). Face value of the coin in bold numeral "100" and in Urdu script "Rupiya" are written on the right and left sides of the star respectively.

On the reverse side and in the center of the coin, an artistically designed five pointed Star has been reflected. Crescent moon and star (as present in Pakistan's national Flag) and Group of Five Stars (as present in China's national Flag) are also shown inside this artistically designed star at right and left positions, respectively. Wordings "CHINA PAKISTAN ECONOMIC CORRIDOR" in English and Chinese Scripts are written on top of the star along with periphery. Wordings "PAKISTAN CHEEN EQTESADI RAHDARI" in Urdu Script and "FROM VISION TO REALITY" in English Script are written at the bottom of the star along with the periphery.

All these wordings (top and bottom) are separated with two stars (left and right sides of the coin), Years in numeral "2013" and "2023" are also written on left and right centre of the coin depicting decade of high quality development of CPEC.

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2023/08/11/10-page/969474-news.html>

Daily Times

Pak-China welding school helps locals lighten up future

A Karachi-based "Welding School" under the Greater Karachi Water Supply Scheme – also known as K-IV – has trained several technical talents locally, helping the locals receive both training and jobs. According to the school, it was jointly launched by Pakistan Water and Power Development Authority (WAPDA) and China Communications Construction Company Limited (CCCC) and each training session lasts for seven days.

So far 124 students have received training, of which 61 students have graduated and all got successfully employed. "The employment rate has reached 100%," source from CCCC noted, according to China Economic Net (CEN). K-IV is a vital project for Karachi, as it would help address the issue of water supply to the cosmopolitan city and economic hub of Pakistan. However, the city is facing a shortage of well-trained welders. To tackle this, the management of K-IV established a "Welding School" specifically for local employees.

This school can not only solve the shortage of welders in the local market but also provide advanced technical support from China to local employees. The "Welding School" is a technical training center led by professional Chinese welding masters, specifically providing practical training and technical guidance for local employees.

This school is dedicated to helping the locals improve their welding skills. After training, the project will greenlight outstanding trainees' employment by allowing them to join the project or they can also choose to work for other companies. Pakistani Federal Minister for Water Resources Syed Khurshid Ahmed Shah highlighted that the completion of the K-IV project will effectively alleviate the water shortage in Karachi, and so to improve people's lives and promote economic development in the region. K-IV is the largest livelihood project in Pakistan to date, and upon completion, it will solve the water problem for over 20 million people in Karachi.

The reporter learned that the project has been underway for one year and 39% construction has already been completed.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1121731/pak-china-welding-school-helps-locals-lighten-up-future/>

The Nation

UoS signs intents of coop with two Chinese varsities

ISLAMABAD - The University of Sargodha (UoS) signed separate intents of cooperation with two Chinese universities to pave the way for the exchange of knowledge, academic collaboration, knowledge economy, and mutual growth.

As per a statement, the UoS extended its global outreach by forging a collaborative bond with the Shenyang Urban Construction University, China.

This partnership aims to synergize efforts in establishing joint campuses on both sides. The intent of cooperation outlines faculty exchanges, collaborative research projects, and potential joint degree programs to address the challenges of rapid urbanization and architectural evolution.

Moreover, UoS signed an intent of cooperation with the Liaoning Communication University, China. This envisions academic exchanges, faculty collaboration, and joint research endeavors to benefit from diverse perspectives and a cross-cultural academic environment that will enrich the educational experiences of students of the two universities, Gwadar Pro reported on Thursday.

Speaking on the occasion, Prof. Dr. Qaisar Abbas, Vice Chancellor of UoS, said, “These intents of cooperation mark a new chapter in our journey of academic excellence and global partnerships.

By joining hands with these esteemed international institutions, we are expanding horizons of knowledge for our students and are contributing to the global educational landscape.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/11-Aug-2023/uos-signs-intents-of-coop-with-two-chinese-varsities>

CPEC benefits?

Ahsan Munir

The Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) which aims to revive the ancient Silk Road, is a centre piece of Chinese foreign policy. As of now, more than 150 countries, with 75 per cent of the world’s population and half of the world’s GDP, have signed up to the BRI. CPEC, a principal component of BRI, aims to connect Pakistan’s Gwadar port city to China’s Xinjiang region through a network of roads, railways, and pipelines.

From Gwadar to Kashgar, a near-2,500km corridor has been partially completed. Nearly \$50 billion is required for the complete operationalization of this corridor including the extension and modernization of the railway tracks.

According to the government estimates, the \$25 billion that CPEC has invested in Pakistan so far has contributed a lot to maintaining the economy. It is claimed that CPEC projects have

created almost 200,000 job opportunities and have helped Pakistan overcome its economic troubles.

During the Chinese Vice Premier's recent visit, the government announced that the first phase of CPEC is coming to an end, which involved the development of infrastructure such as roads, motorways, metros, and power projects. The first phase helped to increase connectivity and mobility in the country, thus increasing economic activities in the country. Also, the development of power plants helped overcome the acute power outages which were plaguing Pakistan. It is another story that majority of the Pakistan cannot afford the expensive electricity being generated in Pakistan. During the Chinese Vice PM's visit, it was further stated that now we are entering the second phase of CPEC, with a focus on industry and Special Economic Zones (SEZs).

However, if a more objective view of the progress and achievements of CPEC projects is taken, there is much to be desired. With \$25 billion of economic investment, why are our exports still stagnant and imports rising, so much so that the government had to curtail all the imports which led to the closure of major industries in Pakistan. In fact, even factories producing essential medicines faced closures as they could not import the necessary raw material for manufacturing medicines.

Also, it was trumpeted that with CPEC, our industries' collaborations with Pakistan will provide access to state-of-the-art technology, machinery, and expertise, enabling local manufacturers to produce goods that meet global standards, consequently strengthening industrial capabilities, reducing their reliance on imported machinery and saving foreign reserves. However, ten years down the road and devoid of any promised transfer of technology, we still rely on obsolete technology to produce low-value-added products with poor quality; even simplest of technological item is imported, and our 'manufacturing industry' is more of an assembling industry.

Furthermore, many SEZs have been inaugurated such as Rashakai, Allama Iqbal Industrial City, Dhabeji, and Bostan. However, while the departing government is on a ribbon cutting/ inauguration spree of SEZs, it is not clear which sort of firms, if any, have or would populate these new SEZs and how much Chinese firms are investing in these SEZs in collaboration with local investors and firms. Further, with the most expensive utilities in the region, how can any local industry compete with regional competitors? Also, with ever-dwindling gas reserves, what resources will be tapped for running would-be industries in the proposed SEZs?

Moreover, the Pakistan government has a poor history of running projects and industries such as Pakistan Steel Mills, Heavy Mechanical Complex, PIA, and Pakistan Railways, all of which are sick units and many on the privatization list. Therefore, it is confusing why, at least, operations of CPEC projects are not handed over to the private sector to run these projects in a productive, transparent and profitable manner. Finally, political and social stability is the lynchpin of attracting foreign investment along with attractive investment policies, ease of doing business and requisite infrastructure and manpower. However, given the present political, economic and social chaos in the country, one wonders if international investors would be willing to put their money in such a risk-prone and volatile environment.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2023-08-11/page-6/detail-2>

Nawaiwaqt News

جنوبی ایشیا: پاکستان اور چین کے درمیان مشاورت کا تیسرا دور

اسلام آباد (خصوصی نامہ نگار) پاکستان اور چین کے درمیان جنوبی ایشیا بارے ڈائریکٹر جنرل کی سطح پر مشاورت کا تیسرا دور بیجنگ میں منعقد ہوا۔ ترجمان دفتر خارجہ کے مطابق وزارت خارجہ کے ڈائریکٹر جنرل (جنوبی ایشیا) الیاس محمود نظامی نے پاکستانی وفد کی قیادت کی جبکہ چینی وفد کی سربراہی ڈائریکٹر جنرل (ایشیائی امور) وزارت خارجہ لیو جنسوئنگ نے کی۔ دونوں فریقوں نے جنوبی ایشیا اور وسیع تر خطے میں ہونے والی پیش رفت پر نقطہ نظر کا تبادلہ کیا۔ بات چیت میں باہمی افہام و تفہیم اور مشترکہ خیالات کا اظہار کیا گیا۔ بیجنگ کے دورے کے دوران ڈائریکٹر جنرل الیاس نظامی نے معاون وزیر خارجہ نوئنگ روئنگ سے بھی ملاقات کی۔

مشاورت

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/lahore/2023-08-11/page-1/detail-14>

August 12, 2023

Business Recorder

CPEC — a game changer for Pakistan

Dr Jamil Khan

The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) project since its launch on April 20, 2015, by President Xi Jinping during his visit to Islamabad has become a topic of much discussion and debate. China initially had earmarked \$46 billion investment for the project with its target completion date by 2030. Since the initial announcement, the amount has increased few times already and as of 2022, Chinese total investment has reached \$65 billion. After its completion, CPEC will contribute 20% to Pakistan's GDP.

Since its debut, the CPEC has become the framework and platform for comprehensive and substantive cooperation between China & Pakistan. CPEC is termed the "Flagship" project of the BRI and sometimes it is also called as the "Crown Jewel" of the BRI. During the signing ceremony speech in 2015, President Xi had said that the CPEC is a "gift" to Pakistan. CPEC is a long-term project with one of the major aims to connect China's western region to Pakistan's Gwadar Port through a network of highways, bridges, tunnels, railways, and pipelines. This will transform the landlocked cities of China into robust and vibrant economic centers like the coastal cities of the country. For Pakistan, the project has been hailed as a game changer. Now, China refers to this project as revival of the Silk Road!

To-date, the CPEC has made remarkable success in several of its fast-track projects, namely power generation, infrastructure (roads, bridges, tunnels, port, economic zones, etc.), transportation, and telecom.

With the speedy progress of several projects over the years, the CPEC has undoubtedly brought significant benefits to Pakistan's economy. It has created numerous job opportunities, increased foreign investment in the country, and improved infrastructure. The project has also helped address Pakistan's energy crisis by adding thousands of megawatts of

electricity to the national grid. According to State Bank of Pakistan report, the CPEC has already contributed about 2% growth to the country's GDP.

One of the most significant benefits of CPEC for Pakistan has been the investment in infrastructure. The project has helped build new highways, railways, bridges, tunnels, and ports, which have improved connectivity within the country and with China. This has led to increased trade and investment opportunities, which have boosted economic growth and created new higher paying jobs.

Another benefit of the CPEC for Pakistan has been the investment in energy projects. The project has helped address Pakistan's chronic energy shortages by building new power plants and upgrading existing ones. This has led to a significant increase in electricity generation, which has improved the quality of life for millions of Pakistanis and boosted economic activity.

However, there have been concerns about the debt burden on Pakistan due to this mega development project. According to reports, Pakistan's external debt has increased by \$25 billion since the start of CPEC, with most of it being owed to China. While there are concerns about the long-term sustainability of this debt, it is important to note that CPEC has also accrued significant economic benefits to Pakistan. The challenge for Pakistan is how to manage this debt while continuing to reap the benefits of this project.

Gwadar port through its network of maritime logistics ecosystem will provide connectivity to Eurasia with vast untapped natural resources and consumers. The port will be the perfect gateway to these markets and beyond all the way to central China.

This is a golden opportunity for the Eurasian countries to expand their trade and commerce, particularly with the Belt & Road Initiative (BRI) member countries. Many of them like Iran, Turkey, Russia, Oman, the UAE, Afghanistan, and other Middle Eastern countries have already expressed their interests in joining the CPEC. There are several potential benefits for these countries that the CPEC will bring to them such as making their transit time significantly shorter to reach the faraway markets and making maritime & inland transportation costs much less than their current cost structures. According to maritime research, trading through Gwadar port to Asia will reduce maritime voyage by 3000 kilometers compared to current voyage of 12,000 kilometers through the Strait of Malacca. This confirms that by using CPEC maritime ecosystem the overall costs will be reduced, including the voyage time. This will make the bilateral trade & commerce more robust, resilient, and sustainable for all the CPEC members. It means that Pakistan's BRI member neighbors will be able to offer their products and services more competitively and reaping the benefits immediately. For example, Iran could benefit from improved access to the Chinese market through the Gwadar port. Russia and Afghanistan could also benefit from increased trade with China and Pakistan, while Oman, the UAE, Turkey and others could benefit from improved connectivity with Central Asia.

According to an International Monetary Fund (IMF) report, if all these countries join the CPEC, it could add up to \$38 billion to Pakistan's foreign exchange reserves by 2030 and up to \$90 billion by 2050. This would be a significant boost to Pakistan's economy and would

help to address some of the concerns about the debt burden on the country. That is why CPEC is called a “game changer” for Pakistan!

However, it is important to note that joining CPEC is not a silver bullet for these countries. They will need to address their own economic challenges and ensure that they can take advantage of the opportunities presented by CPEC.

In terms of Pakistan’s debt repayment, in one of its reports, IMF projects that by 2050 Pakistan will be able pay-off its debt.

However, this will require sustained economic growth and prudent management of the country’s finances. Pakistan will need to continue to attract foreign investment, boost exports, and implement structural reforms to ensure steady economic growth.

In conclusion, CPEC has brought significant benefits to Pakistan’s economy, including investment in infrastructure and energy projects, increased trade and investment opportunities, and job creation. While there are concerns about the debt burden on Pakistan, it is important to note that the CPEC has also brought significant economic benefits. By joining the CPEC, other countries in the region can also benefit from improved connectivity and increased trade and investment opportunities. However, sustained economic growth and prudent management of finances will be crucial for Pakistan to ensure long-term sustainability and payoff its debt by 2050.

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2023/08/12/4-page/969521-news.html>

Daily Times

Pak-China joint lab for ecosystem restoration inaugurated

The lab for ecosystem restoration and sustainable development jointly built by University of Agriculture, Faisalabad (UAF) and Shenyang Normal University, China was inaugurated last week. The two sides expect to carry out some innovative projects and research programs together under the lab, according to Iqar Ahmad Khan, Vice Chancellor of UAF. ” In Pakistan, land degradation has been eroding agricultural output. We look forward to green technology to addressing this problem,” Dr. Abid Ali of UAF told China Economic Net. In addition to joint research and publication, student and faculty exchange is also part of the cooperation. On the inauguration ceremony, five representatives from UAF, namely, professor of horticulture Dr. Muhammad Jafar Jaskani, professors of entomology Dr. Muhammad Jalal Arif and Dr. Abid Ali, professor of botany Dr. Muhammad Saqib, and professor of agronomy Dr. Zeeshan Ahmed were engaged as visiting professors of Shenyang Normal University. In Pakistan, Two third of the rapidly increasing population depends on drylands to support their livelihood mainly by engaging in agro-pastoral activities. Within the vast arid and semi-arid areas which takes over 70% of national land area, all have been affected by land degradation.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1122012/pak-china-joint-lab-for-ecosystem-restoration-inaugurated/>

China resumes outbound group tours to Pakistan

China's Ministry of Culture and Tourism announced that China will resume outbound group tours for Chinese citizens to around 80 countries including Pakistan, Bangladesh, Myanmar, Mexico, etc. It is the third batch of destinations in China's pilot program for outbound group tours.

The move to expand the number of destinations comes as China's overseas tourism industry has been on a firm trajectory of quick recovery during the past month, China Economic Net (CEN) reported.

The return of more Chinese travelers is also expected to provide a much-needed boost to the global tourism industry and channel optimism into the global economy, observers pointed out.

"The outbound tourism sector is a market-driven one, and many service products need to be prepared in advance," suggested Jiang Yiyi, a professor of leisure sports and tourism at the Beijing Sport University.

To enhance Pak-China cooperation in the tourism sector, Pakistani Embassy in China launched a website called Discover Batie, which contains information about the main tourist attractions in Pakistan and links to the official websites of major museums, malls and hotels.

Earlier, a Gandhara Art Exhibition was held at Palace Museum in Beijing, which showcases 173 artifacts come from Pakistan. "It's a step to tell the Chinese brothers and sisters what Pakistan can offer." Sardar Muhammad, Consul General of Pakistan in Guangzhou, commented.

"Pakistan is the topographic heaven for tourists. There are snow-covered mountains, lakes, pine trees and waterfalls, which are especially attractive to those who are keen on adventurous tourism. Tour guide training in Pakistan has started to promote tourist visits from friendly countries." Sardar Muhammad noted Pakistan's current efforts in promoting travel facilitation.

"The Task Force on Tourism had already been formed to achieve milestones in the tourism sector. We need to ensure a better and more secure environment and ease of traveling for international tourists. We can promote group tourism through registered and licensed tour operators globally, ensuring an amicable environment for international tourists," said Rana Aftab, Managing Director of Pakistan Tourism Development Corporation (PTDC).

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1122032/china-resumes-outbound-group-tours-to-pakistan/>

The Nation

Pakistan expresses deep grief over loss of precious lives due to floods in China

ISLAMABAD - Pakistan has expressed deep grief over the loss of precious human lives due to floods in China. In a statement on Friday, Foreign Office Spokesperson Mumtaz Zahra Baloch said our thoughts and sympathies are with the affected people and the bereaved families. She said in this difficult time, Pakistan stands ready to provide utmost support and

humanitarian assistance to China. Mentioning that Pakistan is also confronting the adverse impacts of climate change like China, the Spokesperson said Pakistan is ready to work with China to achieve the shared objectives of mitigating climate change, and upgrading the capacity for disaster management and prevention. She expressed the confidence that led by the Chinese leadership, and due to strong will and conviction of the Chinese people, China would soon surmount this temporary difficulty.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2023-08-12/page-12/detail-7>

The News

Independence Day marked at China Window

PESHAWAR: Speakers called for renewing commitments to the country at a colourful function arranged by the China Window, a Chinese Cultural Center, in here on Friday to mark the 76th Independence Day of Pakistan.

People from different walks of life, politicians, academicians and journalists were present there, said a press release.

Former KP caretaker finance adviser, Himayatullah Khan, was the chief guest.

In his address, said the entire nation should work together for the progress of the country.

“We should move forward by acknowledging the sacrifices offered by our forefathers for winning freedom for us,” he said, adding, “We need to learn from our brotherly neighbor China, which introduced a series of reforms after independence and progressed well.”

He said there was no shortage of resources in Pakistan and we have to utilize them for the development and to the benefit of the people.

Himayatullah Khan said KP owes billions of rupees to the federal government, which should be paid so that the merged districts can be brought into the mainstream.

He hoped the young generation would play a role in winning respect for Pakistan in the comity of nations.

Peshawar Press Club President Arshad Aziz Malik said Independence Day reminded us of the sacrifices offered for winning freedom. “We need to renew our commitments to the country,” he added.

A former member of KP Assembly, Dr Zakir Shah, Bishop Ernest Jacob, Professor Dr Gulzar Jalal and others spoke on the occasion as well. They called for developing a spirit of service, unity and faith, keeping personal interests above all irrespective of political affiliations to take the country to progress and prosperity. Later, a cake was cut to mark the 76th Independence Day.

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=227760>

August 13, 2023

Daily Times

MOU signed for cultivation of red chilies under CPEC

Chinese leading food firm Litong Food signed a memorandum of understanding with Guard Agriculture Research and Services (GARS) for cultivation of red chilies in Pakistan and subsequent export to China under CPEC framework, Gwadar Pro reported on Saturday.

CEO GARS Shahzad Ali Malik said that under mutual agreement, the criteria for selecting seed production land shall consider the underlined factors such as long-term feasibility, land and water availability. He said in a phased program a total of 200,000 acres of land will be brought under chili cultivation.

“Joint efforts will be made to promote Chili seed breeding, Chili crop production and research with a focus on developing high-quality Chili seeds suitable for the local agricultural conditions and crop production for Litong as per requirement,” the company head added. Shahzad Ali Malik said it will boost chili export to China and improve the profitability of chili growers. He said Pak-China collaboration in agriculture will be further strengthened in the days to come. He said Guard Agriculture Research and Services along with Litong and Longping are also exhibiting together at International Food and Agriculture expo, Karachi.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1122215/mou-signed-for-cultivation-of-red-chilies-under-cpec/>

The Express Tribune

Chinese firms eager to import Pakistani meat, chilli

Commercial counsellor leads Chinese delegation to 1st int’l food and agri expo

BEIJING: Chinese enterprises have displayed a keen interest in importing meat, chilli, and other food commodities from Pakistan, with some expressing readiness to relocate their industrial operations to the country, announced Ghulam Qadir, the Commercial Counsellor at the Pakistan Embassy in Beijing. Qadir led a delegation of approximately 110 Chinese representatives from Beijing and neighbouring provinces to the inaugural International Food and Agriculture Exhibition taking place in Karachi.

In a concerted effort to foster economic collaboration, the Pakistan Embassy collaborated with the Guangzhou, Chengdu, and Shanghai consulates to bring Chinese enterprises to participate in the event. The Trade Development Authority of Pakistan (TDAP) orchestrated the exhibition, which saw the active participation of various Chinese seafood and grain associations following the signing of protocols for the import of meat, chilli, and other products.

Under the theme of “Growing a Sustainable Future,” this year’s exhibition is envisioned to unite international and local communities, igniting hope for shared progress. Qadir emphasised that the Chinese delegation engaged in Business-to-Business (B2B) meetings, showing high satisfaction in exploring novel opportunities and forging strategic partnerships with their Pakistani counterparts.

Qadir expressed optimism that the event would serve as an exceptional platform for both Pakistani and Chinese industry giants to showcase their offerings to potential clients. “This occasion also presents a valuable chance for the Chinese delegation to form collaborations with local businesses and cultivate robust relationships with Pakistani customers. Furthermore, these companies can capitalise on this event to enter new markets and augment their market share in the country,” he asserted.

The Belt and Road Initiative has significantly broadened horizons for Pakistani traders, facilitating their expansion into the expansive Chinese market. A recent instance of this burgeoning collaboration is the memorandum of understanding (MoU) signed between China’s Litong Group and Pakistan’s Guard Agriculture Research and Services (GARS). The MoU outlines plans for cultivating red chillies in Pakistan and exporting them to China under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) framework.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2430555/chinese-firms-eager-to-import-pakistani-meat-chilli>

The Nation

China emerges as main market for Pakistan’s sesame seed exports

ISLAMABAD-Pakistan’s sesame seed exports witnessed an upward trend during calendar year 2022 owing to China-Pakistan Free Trade Agreement and good prices in the Chinese market. Pakistan’s sesame seed exports to China surged to \$59.09 million during the first nine months of CY22, showing a growth of 50% on a year-on-year (YoY) basis. In 2022, China imported 39,533 tons of sesame seeds worth \$59.09 million, an increase of 22% by volume, compared to 32,487 tons worth \$39.44 million during 2021.

Sesame is regarded as an important oilseed crop. It is known as the queen of oil crops due to its high-quality oil and high protein content. Its oil content ranges from 50% to 58%. It is cultivated in hot, dry climates for its oil and protein-rich seeds. Other than raw food and confectionery, sesame seeds are used in sweets, bakery products, soap, perfumes, vegetable oil, and carbon paper.

“Normally, there is a trend of cultivating traditional crops like wheat and rice. But now Pakistani farmers are getting awareness about high-end and high-price products like sesame seed,” said Nazakat Nawaz, Principal Scientific Officer at National Agriculture Research Centre (NARC), while talking to WealthPK.

Nazakat said the farmers are also learning cultivation methods, so hopefully, Pakistan will be the top sesame seed exporter to China in future. “In the past, we sold most of our sesame to the Middle East before China allowed us to enter its market. The Chinese market offers a wide range of opportunities for Pakistani sesame exporters,” he said.

“The Chinese market has two major benefits. The first is that it offers competitive prices compared to our domestic market. Secondly, the market is huge; if someone receives an order, it is typically quite difficult for one exporter to fulfil,” he said. Pakistan exports 80% of the total production of sesame seeds crop. Currently, Iran and China are the big buyers of Pakistan’s sesame, but other countries are gaining market share due to an increase in hulled exports. China’s imports of sesame account for almost one-third of the world’s production.

Since 2020, its import exceeded 1 million tons for three consecutive years, providing a huge market for Pakistani producers. Pakistan's sesame production is also catching up. During recent years, the use of hybrid varieties has greatly increased sesame harvests from a mere 36,000 tons during 2019 to over 150,000 tons during 2022 despite the devastating floods. The increase is mainly thanks to hybrid variety, with higher demand and better quality when compared to farm variety, the size of which has been reduced by 50%.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2023-08-13/page-8/detail-4>

Govt to spend Rs5b on Gwadar Airport in FY24

ISLAMABAD-The Government of Pakistan has allocated Rs5 billion for the construction and completion of the New Gwadar International Airport (NGIA) in Balochistan province. Under the Public Sector Development Programme (PSDP) 2023-24, the government has set aside Rs5 billion for the NGIA, which will prove vital for the air traffic in and out of the strategic port city of Gwadar.

The government is also planning to build a new airport in Mansehra district of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, which lies at the most important strategic route of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). The government has allocated an initial sum of Rs50 million for the starting phases of the airport. The funds will be spent on the establishment of basic aerodrome facilities and the acquisition of land for construction of the airport.

The government has also decided to establish comfortable accommodation facilities for the officers and ladies of the Airport Security Force (ASF) at various airports of the country. They include Gilgit airport with a total allocation of Rs50 million, Faisalabad airport with an allocation of Rs20 million, and Turbat airport with a total sum of Rs60 million.

The academies of the ASF in Karachi will also get a revamping as the government has decided to spend Rs160 million on their upgradation.

Another important decision taken by the government is to set up a 'meteorological observatory' in the scenic valley of Kaghan in Mansehra district to collect data about weather patterns and climatic vagaries.

The total funds allocated for the project are Rs50 million, which also include fund for the construction of a hostel for operational staff at Balakot.

Similarly, weather surveillance radars will also be set up in Sukkur city of Sindh province and Multan city of Punjab province with a total allocation of Rs60 million to collect data on weather from different parts of the country.

In total, the government has allocated Rs5.34 billion for the ongoing schemes in the Aviation Division of the country and Rs110 million for the initiation of new schemes.

The total allocation for Aviation Division in the PSDP 2023-24 amounts to Rs5.45 billion, which indicates the government's active efforts to improve the status of air travel in Pakistan. The completion of the NGIA will give a much-needed boost to investment and economic activity in Balochistan province as people will be able to freely move in and out of the strategic port city. Similarly, better and latest weather data collected from state-of-art

meteorological facilities will help to keep air travel smooth and safe. Construction of the new airport in Manshehra will add more thrust to the tourism industry of the country up north.

Air travel represents one of the most exquisite forms of communication in the modern hyper-entrepreneurial economies. Essential and healthy air travel facilities increase the country's access to the liquid capital that circulates in the world for optimal allocation.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2023-08-13/page-9/detail-0>

August 14, 2023

Business Recorder

Two militants killed attacking convoy of Chinese workers in Gwadar

QUETTA: Two separatist militants were killed Sunday when they attacked a convoy carrying Chinese workers to a Beijing-financed port project in Gwadar, officials said.

A spokesman for China's consulate in Karachi said none of its nationals were killed or wounded in the attack, and urged Chinese citizens to heighten their vigilance.

Various Baloch separatist groups have claimed attacks on projects linked to the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) project in the past, with thousands of security personnel deployed to counter threats against Beijing's interests.

The Balochistan Liberation Army (BLA) said Sunday two of its fighters died in a "self-sacrificing" attack on a convoy going to Gwadar port.

"The operation has concluded with the elimination of two assailants," a senior police official told AFP, adding that three Pakistani soldiers were wounded.

China's consulate in Karachi said it had asked Pakistan to "severely punish the perpetrators and take concrete and effective measures to ensure the safety of Chinese citizens, institutions and projects".—AFP

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2023/08/14/12-page/969647-news.html>

Daily Times

Chinese Embassy felicitates Pakistani people on 'Independence Day'

The Chinese Embassy in Pakistan has congratulated all the Pakistani people around the world on 'Independence Day' to be celebrated on August 14 (tomorrow). The embassy in a message on social media platform X, said, "May the spirit of freedom always shine. On the way to prosperity, China will always stand with Pakistan, China-Pakistan Dosti Zindabad."

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1122505/chinese-embassy-felicitates-pakistani-people-on-independence-day/>

China asks Pakistan to punish attackers

Chinese Embassy in Pakistan on Sunday strongly condemned the terrorists attack on a Chinese Convoy in Gwadar and asked Pakistani authorities to conduct a thorough

investigation of the attack, severely punish the perpetrators and take effective measures to prevent similar incidents from happening again.

According to a statement issued here by the Chinese Embassy, “A convoy carrying Chinese citizens was attacked near the port of Gwadar in Balochistan, Pakistan. The incident caused no casualties on the Chinese side, and the relevant personnel have been properly placed in safety. The Embassy and the Consulate General in Karachi launched an emergency response immediately”. The Chinese Embassy in Pakistan strongly condemns this terrorist act, the statement said. China will continue to work with the Pakistani side, to jointly counter the threats of terrorism and earnestly protect the safety of Chinese personnel, institutions, and projects in Pakistan. Given the current security situation, the Chinese Embassy reminds Chinese citizens in Pakistan to be vigilant and take preventive measures against security risks, to ensure the safety of their lives and property, it added.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1122667/china-asks-pakistan-to-punish-attackers/>

Pakistan Observer

41 member delegation visits China Yadgar

A 41-member Chinese delegation here on Sunday visited China Yadgar to commemorate the dedication and valor of those who lost their lives during the construction of Karakorum Highway (KKH) from 1959 to 1979. the delegation also included 15 engineers and workers who physically participated in the construction of the KKH, besides their family members.

On this occasion, they paid tributes to their loved ones and placed wreath of flowers on the graves of the deceased. Their relatives placed the national flag of China and fruits at the graves of the deceased and burned Chinese currency, as per the Chinese tradition. Talking to the media, they said that they were grateful to the Government of Pakistan for taking good care of the graves of their dear ones.

The Karakorum Highway (KKH) is the precursor to the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), which transformed the road connectivity into efficient link between Pakistan and China. The 1300 km long KKH starts from China’s Xinjiang province, after passing through Gilgit-Baltistan, ends at Hasan Abdal region of Punjab. The KKH, also known as the Eighth Wonder of the World, was jointly constructed by Pakistani and Chinese engineers and workers. About 778 Pakistani.

<https://pakobserver.net/41-member-delegation-visits-china-yadgar/>

The Nation

Traffic Diversion Tunnel of Dasu power project opens to traffic at KKH

ISLAMABAD - A traffic diversion tunnel has been inaugurated on Friday as part of the ongoing construction work for the main abutment under the Dasu Hydropower Project (DHPP) by WAPDA.

This tunnel has been strategically created at the existing Karakoram Highway (KKH) to facilitate the uninterrupted flow of general traffic.

This initiative aims to ensure the smooth movement of vehicles while the construction work on the main abutment is underway, according to a report carried by Gwadar Pro on Sunday.

The tunnel was inaugurated by Anwar-ul-Haq GM/ PM DHPP, WAPDA Kohistan along with Fidencio Mendez Project Manager Dasu Hydropower Consultant (DHC).

Senior Management and members were present on the occasion from WAP DA, DHC and China Gezhouba Group of Companies (CGGC).

The traffic diversion tunnel situated near the Logoro area on the existing KKH will not only maintain the flow of traffic but also accelerate the progress of construction on the left-side abutment of the dam at the DHPP.

“After the completion of LBDT, this tunnel will be used as a flushing tunnel to flush the deposited silt from the reservoir of the Main Dam,” reads an official statement.

China Gezhouba Group Company (CGGC) has been working on DHPP as the Main Works Contractor of DHPP. China Civil Engineering Construction Corporation (CCECC), Power Construction Corporation of China Ltd (PCCC), Zhongmei Engineering Group Ltd, and CGICOP are also involved in the project.

DHPP is being constructed across River Indus, upstream of Dasu town in Upper Kohistan, KP. The 4320MW DHPP is planned to be completed in two stages.

The under-construction Stage-I is with an installed generation capacity of 2160MW and the stage-II will be of 2160MW capacity. On completion of both stages, Dasu will become the project with the highest annual energy generation in Pakistan.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2023-08-14/page-4/detail-0>

The News

Reform BRICS to play global role

Shakeel Ahmad Ramay

The world has been bogged down by multifaceted challenges. Economic recovery is still a challenging task. The states are struggling to overcome the COVID-19 shock. Debt crisis is deepening with every passing day - it has crossed psychological limit of \$300 trillion and stands at \$305 trillion. The Russia-Ukraine crisis is bad news for the world. The US and Nato's push for continuity of conflict is further aggravating the situation, threatening the peace and global development agenda. On top of all these, climate change is threatening very existence of planet Earth. Moreover, non-seriousness or deliberate attempts to shift the burden of action on development is complicating the situation. The world is desperately looking for avenues and options, which can help combat these challenges. In a nutshell, the world is looking for stability.

Against this backdrop, the upcoming BRICS is getting much attention. The group being home to major contributors to global growth has inflated the importance of the summit. However, the most important aspect of the upcoming summit would be BRICS's policy for

expansion and desire to play a more prominent role at the global level. To play a global role, BRICS will have to bring a few fundamental changes in its structure and working.

First, there is a need for expansion of BRICS. It will be an easier task, as a good of countries already have shown interest to join the BRICS. South Africa shared that more than 20 countries have shown interest. Unfortunately, India is resisting the expansion on the basis of self-assumed assumptions. Many experts believe India's resistance is based on narrow vision and self-interests. Delhi feels the exclusivity of BRICS will boost the status of India and put it in a place to negotiate a better deal with the West. It seems to be a continuity of Indian policy to keep the West happy and intact its presence in Southern bodies. It is not a good omen for the BRICS.

It is perceived the delay in the expansion will dilute the charm of BRICS among the Southern countries. The global South will consider BRICS as an exclusive and elite club of big economies of the South. The Indian attitude will further consolidate the fears of Southern countries. They will start considering BRICS like the G-7 of the global South.

It is not a good sign for the group as BRICS claims to be the voice of the global South. The continuity with the existing structure can create resistance against BRICS. It will weaken the organisation and degrade its status as a Southern voice. Thus, there is a need to expand the membership of the group. It will make BRICS more inclusiveness and strengthen its credential as a Southern voice. It is good to note China and Russia are cognizant of this reality and the need of expansion. Therefore, both the countries are asking for expansion of BRICS. Second, BRICS will have to create some mechanisms to create harmony among the members. It is extremely important because BRICS is home to multiple civilisations. Moreover, member countries also practice different economic and governance models. Though, the multiplicity of civilisations and different models make it a diverse body, it can create problems. Thus, there is a need to create mechanisms to sort out such problems.

Third, BRICS will have to look for alternative currency which can be used as a reference currency for future transactions. The dependency on the US dollar is not a good option. It will create problems for BRICS. Rather, it has started creating problems. Right now, 2/3 loans were sanctioned in US dollars by the New Development Bank.

After the introduction of sanctions against Russia, loan disbursement has become extremely difficult. Thus, BRICS will have to look for an alternative currency and a new financial system to avoid such a situation in the future. Apart from that, a new currency and financial system is also required, as the US and the West have weaponised the US dollar, and the West is dominating the financial system. We have seen the US and the West using the dollar and financial system to punish countries which do not bow in front of them. Fourth, BRICS needs to create formal mechanisms and avenues to share their fortune with others. It is suggested BRICS should look for opportunities after expansion to negotiate a free trade agreement. The organisation can also discuss possibility of establishment of special economic zones for the member countries. BRICS can learn from the China-SCO special economic zone.

Lastly, after expansion, there would be a need to change the name of BRICS. It would be required to make it more inclusive and kill any sign of confusion. It is advised member

countries should start deliberating on the possible new name of the organisation. These reforms will strengthen the status, voice and role of BRICS at the global level for a better and equitable world. It will help members to pursue the agenda of global reform by adhering to the principles of respect, values, dignity, justice and people-centric governance. It will also help member countries acquire legitimate space at the global level and end hegemony of a few states.

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=228288>

K2 Daily News

بقیہ 29

جائیں قربان کی جن میں 80 کی آٹھیں گلگت کے علاقے وندھ میں چینی قبرستان میں دفن کی گئی ان عظیم سماروں کے ناکامان سے تعلق رکھنے والے 41 افراد مخصوص طور پر گلگت کا دورہ کیا جہاں انہوں نے اپنے بزرگوں کی آخری آرام گاہ پر حاضر ہوئی۔ اس موقع پر اعلیٰ رتہ آفیسرناظر تھے جب چینی وفد میں شامل خواجہ محضرات اپنے پیاروں کو یاد کر کے دعاؤں سے مار مار کر رورہے تھے۔ وفد میں شامل افراد نے اپنے پیاروں کی قبروں پر گلگت کا پرچم کا رکھا پھول چڑھائے 'پھل فروٹ رکھے۔ اور مخصوص عبادت کی۔ اس سے گل چینی وفد چائلیز یادگار رہا جہاں ہر اسٹنٹ کشور و نیو راضرف خان اور ضلع کونسل گلگت کے چیف آفیسر شادولی خان نے وفد کا استقبال کیا۔ وفد نے چینی یادگار پر سلامی دی اور پھولوں کے گلدستے رکھے۔ وفد کے اعزاز میں صوبائی حکومت کی جانب سے تقریب کا اہتمام کیا گیا، جس سے خطاب کرتے ہوئے صوبائی وزیر صحت اللہ خان نے کہا کہ پاک چائے دوستی پوری دنیا کے لئے مثالی ہے۔ پاکستان اور چائے نے ہمیشہ مشکل میں ایک دوسرے کا ساتھ دیا ہے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ قراقرم ہائی وے کی تعمیر کے دوران اپنی جانیں قربان کرنے والے اہل کاروں کو پوری قوم کی جانب سے شراج خمیں فائز کرتا ہوں۔ دن ٹیٹ دن روز کا منصوبہ انہیں لپکا ہوا کی قربانوں کی وجہ سے ہی ممکن ہو سکا ہے جنہوں نے ہاشی میں قراقرم ہائی وے تعمیر کر کے اس وقت نامکن کہے جانے والے منصوبہ کو تعمیر کر کے دکھایا۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ سی پیک (CPEO) کا منصوبہ دیا گھر میں ہماری دوستی کا ایک عملی نمونہ ہے۔ سی پیک جہاں دیا گھر کی ہمیشہ کی بنیادی کائی ثابت ہوگا، وہیں ہماری دوستی کی جڑیں اور زیادہ مضبوط کریں گے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ بہت جلد حکومت گلگت بلتستان دوست ملک چائے کے اشتراک سے اہم منصوبوں پر کام شروع کریں گے۔

صوبائی حکومت چینی اشتراک جلد اہم منصوبوں کا شروع کریں گے

پاکستان اور چین نے مشکل وقت میں ہمیشہ ایک دوسرے کا ساتھ دیا، سی پیک دوستی کا ایک عملی نمونہ ہے

شاہراہ قراقرم کی تعمیر کے دوران ہلاک ہونے والے چینی مزدوروں کے رشتہ داروں کا 41 رکنی وفد گلگت پہنچ گیا

گلگت (سٹاف رپورٹر) شاہراہ قراقرم کی تعمیر کا دورہ کیا۔ وفد میں شامل افراد کا تعلق ان عظیم چینی پاکستان اور چین کو ناکامانے والی شاہراہ قراقرم کی تعمیر کے دوران ہلاک ہونے والے مزدوروں کے رشتہ داروں کے ناکامانوں سے ہے جنہوں نے شاہراہ کے دوران 120 سے زائد چینی انجینئرز اور 41 رکنی گروپ نے چائلیز یادگار روئیور قراقرم کی تعمیر کے دوران اپنی جانوں کا نذرانہ دیا۔ مزدوروں نے اپنی (باقی صفحہ 7 پیج نمبر 29)

https://www.epaper.dailyk2.com/Home?Issue=NP_ICT&Page=Front_Page&Date=2023-08-14

https://www.epaper.dailyk2.com/Home?Issue=NP_ICT&Page=Baqia&Date=2023-08-14

August 15, 2023

Business Recorder

Any attempt to sabotage CPEC will not succeed: China

BEIJING: While strongly condemning the terrorist attack targeting Chinese engineers in Gwadar, a Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson Monday said that any attempt to sabotage the friendship between China and Pakistan and the development of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) will not succeed.

“China will continue to work with the Pakistani side to jointly guard against and counter the threats of terrorism and earnestly protect the safety of Chinese personnel, institutions and projects in Pakistan,” Wang Wenbin said during his regular briefing which resumed here at the International Press Centre (IPC) after the summer holidays.

He made it clear that any attempt to sabotage the friendship between China and Pakistan and the development of CPEC will not succeed.

Sharing the details of the incident, he said that on August 13, a convoy of Chinese engineers was attacked by roadside bombs and gunshots. No Chinese citizens were killed or injured.

Wang Wenbin said that the Chinese side strongly condemned those terrorist attacks, and has asked the Pakistani side to hold the perpetrators accountable.

He said that the Chinese Embassy and the Consulate in Pakistan have launched emergency response measures immediately and reminded Chinese citizens, companies, and institutions, working on projects in Pakistan to stay vigilant and take measures to bolster security, closely follow the security situation, guard against security risks and keep them safe.

The spokesperson said that China will continue to work with the Pakistani side to jointly guard against and counter the threats of terrorism and earnestly protect the safety of Chinese personnel, institutions and projects in Pakistan.

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2023/08/15/1-page/969659-news.html>

China congratulates Kakar

BEIJING: China on Monday congratulated Anwaar ul Haque Kakar on his nomination as the Caretaker Prime Minister of Pakistan, according to a Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson here.

China congratulates on his (Anwaar ul Haq) nomination as Pakistan’s Caretaker Prime Minister, Wang Wenbin said during his briefing while responding to a question asked by APP.

“No matter how the international and Pakistan’s domestic landscapes evolve, our relationship will be ironclad,” he added.

He said, “We will continue to work with the Pakistani side to develop China-Pakistan all-weather strategic comprehensive partnership and build a China-Pakistan community with a shared future and to better benefit the two countries and two peoples.”—APP

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2023/08/15/1-page/969654-news.html>

Daily Times

Pakistan, China sign MoU for seeds, pesticides

Syngenta Pakistan, one of the leading agriculture companies has partnered with China Machinery Engineering Corporation (CMEC) to revolutionize sustainable food systems, bridging small farmers and end-to-end value chains for enhanced efficiency and food security. “The two companies signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for seeds, pesticides and agriculture services in chili, corn, tomato and sesame cultivation,” Vice GM CMEC Pakistan, Dai Bao told Gwadar Pro.

The signing was held at Pakistan’s First International Food and Agriculture Exhibition titled FoodAg 2023 at Expo Centre, Karachi. Several MoU signings took place at the event. On the sideline of the exhibition, CE TDAP and Secretary Commerce held several meetings on B2B trade with individual delegations to discuss possible future collaborations and introduced Pakistan as one of the top ten producers of agriculture produce in the world.

They engaged in productive conversations on Pakistan’s export potential and how to increase the numbers while sustaining ethical and smart practices in farming, growing and packaging. There were conversations on the treatment and export of livestock and related products too. The three-day event featured 400+ products, 200+ exhibitors and over 400 international buyers to promote the untapped potential of Pakistan’s food agriculture industry.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1122885/pakistan-china-sign-mou-for-seeds-pesticides/>

Ceremony held to observe Pakistan’s Independence Day in Beijing

An impressive flag-hosting ceremony was held at the Embassy of Pakistan, Beijing on Monday to commemorate 76th anniversary of Pakistan’s Independence Day.

The event began with the recitation from the Holy Quran, followed by Pakistan Ambassador to China Moin ul Haque raising of the national flag. Messages by the President and the Prime Minister were also read out.

President Dr. Arif Alvi in his message paid tribute to the sacrifices rendered by our founding fathers and workers of the Pakistan movement.

President urged the countrymen to work for the welfare of deprived sections of society and uphold the principles of democracy freedom, equality, socioeconomic justice and moral and ethical values as enunciated by Islam.

The president also reiterated Pakistan’s unwavering and continued political diplomatic and moral support for Kashmiri brethren in their legitimate right to self-determination.

Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif in his message paid homage to the Quaid-i-Azam’s visionary leadership and also the other leaders for their struggles that resulted in the creation of Pakistan.

The prime minister praised the resilience of Pakistanis to face the worst natural disasters and the will to rebuild.

He said that this day gives us an opportunity to reflect on the sacrifices of the past, celebrate the achievements of the present, and envision a brighter future for our country.

The prime minister urged Pakistanis to work towards a nation that embodies the principle of justice equality and prosperity for all.

In his address, Ambassador Moin ul Haque congratulated Pakistanis on the 76th Independence Day of Pakistan.

He commended the efforts of our forefathers and leaders who conceived and crystallized the idea of an independent and sovereign Muslim state in the subcontinent.

He stated that on the special day let us all pledge to renew our commitment to build a more prosperous and united Pakistan and remain steady fast and work with full dedication for the development and betterment of our country.

He spoke about the special friendship between Pakistan and China which is time-tested and growing stronger.

He added that this year is important for both countries as we are celebrating the 10th anniversary of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and also celebrating the year of tourism exchanges between both countries.

He invited Chinese tourists to visit Pakistan to explore the beauty, diversity of its landscape and enjoy the friendship that Pakistanis hold for them.

Ambassador Haque strongly condemned India's unilateral and illegal action in IIOJK on August 5, 2019, in violation of United Nations Security Council resolutions and international law. He expressed solidarity with the people of IIOJK and assured Pakistan's political, diplomatic and moral support to the just cause of Kashmiris struggle for freedom. He expressed deep condolences on the recent loss of precious lives in recent floods and mudslides in China, adding, "We stand in solidarity with the government and people of China in this hour of natural tragedy". He also requested the Pakistani community to come forward and help the Chinese brothers and sisters who are in distress.

Terming China as an all-weather friend and a reliable partner, he said that China always stood with us in the natural disasters and floods in Pakistan. The event was attended by a large number of members of the Pakistani community, Chinese friends, media, and Embassy officials with their families.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1122920/ceremony-held-to-observe-pakistans-independence-day-in-beijing/>

Chinese company to help Pakistan boost edible oil production

Pakistan's annual consumption of edible oil is around 5 million tons, but due to the low economic potential of oilseeds in the local market, they are not preferred by the farmers. The country has to import about 89 percent of oil to meet the demand, spending US\$3.6 billion annually.

Pakistan's iron brother, China, also has great demand for edible oil. Last year, China's cooking oil consumption is about 13.44 million tons. China also suffered a short domestic

supply of edible oil until the mid-1950s, when China began to promote brassica napus, also known as victory rapeseed. Brassica napus plants are tall, disease resistant, and more importantly, the yield is very high. The improvement of rapeseed varieties laid the foundation for China to greatly increase rapeseed production.

In recent years, the Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences (CAAS) has made a great breakthrough in breeding new varieties of rapeseed, which have been extended to some parts of northern China. Rapeseed now realized seasonal rotation with rice, wheat and other staple crops, which maximizes the utilization of arable land. Such Chinese experience and technologies can be a good reference for Pakistan, according to CEN.

Chinese company Wuhan Qingfa-Hesheng and a Pakistani company Evyol Group jointly provide high-quality hybrid rapeseeds to Pakistani farmers. "It took us 10 years to produce a variety that is compatible with the local climate, produces a good yield and is good for human health," said Ghazanfar Ali, head of marketing in the Evyol group. "The crop provides an increased profit for the farmers. They can get 1.5 tons of yield out of 2 acres of land, which is over 10 percent more than the yield from other varieties currently available in Pakistan."

"This year we sold 11 tons of seeds across Pakistan, which will be cultivated on 20,000 acres, and our target for next year is 100 tons," said Zhou Xusheng, director of the international business department of Wuhan Qingfa-Hesheng Seed company.

The Chinese company will also buy back the canola harvest from some of the farmers and send it to the edible oil factories so that both farmer and the factory owners can realize the potential and health benefits of the oil.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1122982/chinese-company-to-help-pakistan-boost-edible-oil-production/>

The News

Gwadar attack

According to the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), two terrorists were killed by security forces on Sunday which foiled an attack on a military convoy in Gwadar, Balochistan. Reports had said that the military convoy was escorting Chinese workers. In a statement, the Chinese embassy in Pakistan said that a convoy carrying Chinese citizens was attacked near the Gwadar Port, no casualties were suffered on the Chinese side, and Chinese citizens in Pakistan are reminded to "be vigilant and take preventive measures against security risks". The attack was claimed by the outlawed Balochistan Liberation Army (BLA). This wave of terrorism, especially in Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, is quite worrying. Pakistan's security forces have in recent months reiterated their resolve to take on any terror challenge without any ifs and buts. Addressing the people of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan at the Azadi Parade at Pakistan Military Academy (PMA) in Kakul on the eve of Independence Day, Army Chief General Asim Munir said that the armed forces have been fighting against terrorism and proxies for over two decades. The army chief had also only recently made unequivocal statements against this surge in terror, stating that there is no option for talks with terrorists if they continue their violent ways.

In May this year, Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) chief Sirajul Haq narrowly escaped a suicide attack when his convoy was targeted in Zhob, Balochistan. In recent months, even cities like Karachi and Islamabad have witnessed attacks. A report released by the Pakistan Institute for Conflict and Security Studies (PICSS) says that in the first half of 2023, Pakistan has witnessed a steady and alarming rise in terror and suicide attacks as a total of 271 attacks took place occurred during the first half of the current year, claiming 389 lives and injuring 656 others.

These are alarming numbers for a country that had successfully eliminated terrorism from its soil. After the fall of Kabul, terrorism reared its head again in the country, something that had been feared here when the Afghan Taliban had taken over Afghanistan.

Many experts have pointed out that the TTP and its affiliate groups have made inroads in Balochistan also. The country's intelligence and security apparatus too had revealed this year that contacts between the TTP and militant Baloch organizations and foreign intelligence agencies have been proven. It is important that these alliances and networks be broken through intelligence operations and on-ground operations. That the TTP is operating from Afghan soil under the eyes of the Afghan Taliban government is also something that needs more focus. It is important to remember that an attack on any foreign workers in the country is an attack not just on their lives but also on Pakistan's collective livelihood.

China has been helping Pakistan's development through its investment in infrastructure and other projects. We already face a debilitating economy and cannot afford such terror.

The TTP and the current terror challenge will need an all-of-country approach to be dealt with. The National Action Plan is essential at this time. Together with Nacta, which must also be given new life, this is the only way to deal with the multiple terrorism, militancy, and insurgency challenges. The federal government, provincial governments, security forces and our police apparatus must find a concrete way to fight this. One encouraging sign is how both the civilian and military sides of the state are united and adamant in not giving any leeway to terrorism and terrorist outfits like the TPP. This is the way to go forward.

Meanwhile, security and political solutions need to be considered simultaneously so we can make our federation stronger and more united – because more resentments within areas that are deemed peripheral to the centre will only lead to more radicalization of the young.

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=228303>

Chinese Newspapers

August 01, 2023

China Daily

CPEC: a decade of transformative cooperation

Qaiser Nawab

The year 2023 marks a significant milestone for the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor as it celebrates its 10th anniversary since its inception. As a flagship project of China's Belt and

Road Initiative, the CPEC has emerged as a transformative force, reshaping Pakistan's economic landscape and strengthening bilateral ties between China and Pakistan. Over the past decade, the corridor has witnessed several major achievements, including the development of Gwadar Port City, energy projects, transportation infrastructure, and industrial cooperation. It has also paved the way for enhanced people-to-people exchanges, fostering cultural understanding and diplomatic cooperation between the two nations.

The essence of the CPEC's significance lies in its role as a potent catalyst for Pakistan's economic growth. One of its most remarkable achievements has been in the energy sector, where it has effectively tackled the country's persistent energy shortages. Through strategic investments in diverse energy projects, such as coal-fired power plants and hydropower stations, the CPEC has ushered in thousands of megawatts of electricity into the national grid.

This resolute effort has resulted in a significant reduction in power outages, fostering a conducive environment for thriving businesses and industries. In a noteworthy feat, a total of 14 power projects under the CPEC have been successfully commissioned, boasting a collective installed capacity of 8,000 megawatts, thus effectively addressing Pakistan's long-standing power scarcity. The stable energy supply has also caught the attention of foreign investors, enticing industries to establish their operations in Pakistan.

Furthermore, the development of transportation infrastructure has opened new avenues for economic growth and regional connectivity. The construction of modern roads, highways, and motorways has facilitated the movement of goods and people across different regions of Pakistan. The improved transportation network has reduced travel time, lowered transportation costs, and encouraged trade and commerce between various provinces.

Additionally, the proposed up-gradation of the Peshawar-Karachi railway line, one of the oldest and most critical rail links in Pakistan, will further enhance transportation efficiency, making it easier to move goods and raw materials.

Central to the CPEC's objectives, industrial cooperation takes center stage in attracting foreign investment and propelling industrial growth. The establishment of Special Economic Zones further enhances the allure for businesses by offering enticing incentives such as tax breaks and simplified regulatory processes, thereby encouraging a surge of industries to establish their operations in Pakistan. The SEZs play a pivotal role in generating employment opportunities, nurturing innovation, and facilitating the transfer of cutting-edge technologies. One remarkable success in this endeavor is the Rashakai Special Economic Zone, which has already completed its first phase and promises to be a formidable force driving regional economic growth.

Located at the southern end of the CPEC, Gwadar Port City stands as a shining gem in the crown of this transformative project. It has emerged as a strategic hub for international trade, presenting Pakistan with a golden opportunity to become a regional economic powerhouse. Gwadar's deep-water port and strategic location at the crossroads of three continents hold immense potential for economic growth and prosperity. The development of the port and its associated infrastructure has paved the way for new trade routes and seamless connectivity with global markets.

The upcoming Gwadar International Airport, a project generously funded by China, further solidifies the city's position as a thriving trade and logistics hub. Its airbase infrastructure was inaugurated on July 27, 2023, heralding a new era of enhanced connectivity and trade prospects for the region. With Gwadar's strategic location and state-of-the-art facilities, it is poised to unlock its true potential as a gateway to international trade and commerce.

Beyond its economic endeavors, the CPEC has woven a rich tapestry of people-to-people exchanges, enriching the cultural understanding between China and Pakistan. Educational and cultural collaborations have become the cornerstone of fostering mutual respect and trust, infusing warmth and strength into the bond of friendship that binds the two nations. As a result, the youth from both lands now enjoy more extensive avenues to immerse themselves in each other's cultural heritage, exploring the depths of traditions, language, music, and delectable cuisine. These interactions have ignited a spark of camaraderie, sparking a deeper sense of diplomatic cooperation that transcends borders and nurtures a lasting friendship.

While the CPEC has achieved remarkable success, it also faces challenges that must be addressed to ensure sustainable growth and mutual benefits. The success and sustainability of the corridor depend on ensuring a secure environment for all projects and personnel involved. The security dimension remains a critical concern, requiring continuous collaboration between Pakistan and China to safeguard the corridor from potential threats.

To sustain the momentum of economic growth, Pakistan must focus on technological advancements and human resource development. Embracing digital transformation and adopting innovative technologies can enhance the efficiency and productivity of industries, attracting further investments. Investing in vocational training and skilled manpower will ensure that Pakistan has a competent workforce to meet the demands of modern industries.

Creating a conducive business environment is essential for attracting foreign investors. Pakistan must continue its efforts to improve the ease of doing business, address regulatory issues, and provide a stable policy framework. A business-friendly environment, transparent regulations, and a predictable policy framework are crucial for instilling investor confidence and promoting economic growth.

The CPEC has undoubtedly been a catalyst for economic development in Pakistan, but it also presents an opportunity for the country to diversify its economic base. By focusing on sectors such as agriculture, technology, and tourism, Pakistan can leverage the benefits of the corridor to achieve long-term sustainable development. Strengthening agriculture and promoting agri-based industries can create employment opportunities and increase export potential. Similarly, investing in technology and innovation can lead to the emergence of a knowledge-based economy and drive further economic growth.

Looking beyond its borders, Pakistan must explore opportunities to enhance regional connectivity through the CPEC. The corridor's extension to Afghanistan and potential further expansion to Central Asia can foster regional economic integration and strengthen connectivity across borders. Enhanced regional connectivity can lead to mutual prosperity and stability, promoting peace and cooperation in the region.

As the curtains draw on the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, its profound impact on Pakistan's economic development and the deepening of diplomatic ties between China and Pakistan cannot be overlooked. As it commemorates its remarkable ten-year journey, the CPEC remains an embodiment of collaboration and mutual benefit, with notable achievements in infrastructure development, energy initiatives, industrial partnerships, and enriching people-to-people exchanges. However, to ensure sustainable growth and prosperity, Pakistan must confront security challenges, embrace technological advancements, invest in human capital, and cultivate economic diversification.

By fully embracing the opportunities presented by the CPEC, Pakistan can position itself as a regional economic and trade hub, fostering stability and prosperity throughout the broader region. As the CPEC embarks on its next chapter, the path ahead brims with boundless potential for continued transformative cooperation between China and Pakistan, ushering in a promising era of shared prosperity and lasting camaraderie.

The author is an international expert specializing in the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), Afghanistan, South, and Central Asia. He is the founder of the Belt and Road Initiative for Sustainable Development (BRISD), a newly established global think-tank headquartered in Islamabad, in conjunction with the one-decade celebration of BRI. The views don't necessarily reflect those of China Daily.

<https://global.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202308/01/WS64c86450a31035260b8199e9.html>

Xi says China to work with Pakistan to build CPEC into exemplary project of high-quality B&R cooperation

BEIJING -- President Xi Jinping said Monday China will work with Pakistan to aim for high-standard, sustainable and livelihood-enhancing outcomes and further build the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) into an exemplary project of high-quality Belt and Road cooperation.

Xi made the remarks in a congratulatory message to the Decade of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor celebration event held in Islamabad, Pakistan.

Xi pointed out that CPEC is an important pioneering project of the Belt and Road cooperation. Since its launch in 2013, China and Pakistan have been advancing CPEC under the principle of extensive consultation, joint contribution and shared benefits, and have achieved a number of early harvests.

This has added new impetus to the economic and social development of Pakistan and laid a good foundation for regional connectivity and integration, he said, adding that it is a vivid testament to the all-weather friendship between China and Pakistan, and provides an important underpinning for building an even closer China-Pakistan community with a shared future in the new era.

Stressing that China and Pakistan will continue to improve overall planning and expand and deepen cooperation, Xi said no matter how the international landscape may change, China will always stand firmly with Pakistan.

Xi added China and Pakistan will continue to work hand in hand and forge ahead in solidarity to carry forward the ironclad friendship, coordinate development and security, pursue cooperation of higher standards, broader scope and greater depth, and take the China-Pakistan all-weather strategic cooperative partnership to new heights, so as to make even greater contribution to peace and prosperity in the two countries and the broader region.

<https://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202308/01/WS64c86845a31035260b819a02.html>

Islamabad rings in CPEC anniversary in full spirit

The Pakistani capital has been a vibrant center of activity as local celebrations for the 10th anniversary of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor begin.

In a gesture to honor the milestone and strengthen the bond between the two nations, the city has been adorned with Chinese flags, Pakistan-China posters, signboards and banners bearing messages of celebration and friendship.

Elaborate measures were taken by the Pakistani government to welcome Chinese Vice-Premier He Lifeng given the crucial role of the Chinese government in promoting and advancing the CPEC project over the past decade.

The city's streets have been draped with flags of both nations, symbolizing the bilateral ties that have only grown stronger since the initiation of the CPEC in 2013. In addition to the colorful display of national emblems, a series of signboards and banners have been placed along He's route. Slogans such as "Long Live Pak-China Friendship," "Celebrating the 10th Anniversary of CPEC," and "CPEC: From Vision to Reality" line the roads in multitudes, in multilingual form to make the welcome even clearer.

Residents of Islamabad have been happy to take part.

"My family has taken keen interest in decorating our house and the street by erecting Chinese and Pakistani flags. We are honored to host the Chinese deputy premier," said Raja Azhar, a resident of Rawal Town.

Raja, a shopkeeper by profession, spoke highly of the CPEC which, according to him, has been instrumental in job creation for Pakistanis.

With the corridor serving as a conduit for various infrastructure projects, energy initiatives and trade opportunities, it has ushered in a new era of economic growth for both countries.

"The 10th anniversary celebrations are a testament to the shared commitment and determination of Pakistan and China to continue their successful partnership. The visit of Vice-Premier He not only commemorates the progress made thus far but also outlines a roadmap for the future, with new projects and collaborations on the horizon," said Maher Ghazanfar Abbas, an educator by profession.

As celebrations progress, Islamabad continues to resonate with the spirit of friendship and camaraderie.

"The Pak-China decorations and banners will serve as a lasting reminder of the close bond shared by the two nations, strengthening the resolve to take the CPEC and their partnership to

greater heights in the years to come," said Sardar Khan Zimri, a senior government officer at the Capital Development Authority.

The writer is a freelance journalist for China Daily.

<https://global.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202308/01/WS64c8fa85a31035260b819b9b.html>

Xiplomacy: How an economic corridor has changed lives in Pakistan

BEIJING/ISLAMABAD - When the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) was launched in 2013, Moaaz Awan, a student at the time, hardly anticipated the tremendous change to come.

In 2013, the CPEC, under the broader Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), was no more than a line segment on the map from China's Kashgar in the north linking Pakistan's Gwadar Port in the south.

In 2015, Chinese President Xi Jinping paid a state visit to its "iron-clad" neighbor. The two sides signed more than 50 cooperation deals, agreeing to focus CPEC development on four key areas: the Gwadar Port, transport infrastructure, energy and industrial cooperation. Since then, the design on paper has rapidly become a reality and unleashed tremendous development dividends for ordinary Pakistanis like Moaaz.

NO MORE POWER SHORTAGE

"The CPEC has undeniably brought profound changes in my life," said Moaaz. The 30-year-old is no stranger to China. He studied in China for several years and speaks fluent Chinese language. His father, Zamir Ahmed Awan, is a sinologist who once studied in China after China has started reform and opening-up and served as a diplomat in Beijing.

Moaaz is now a senior manager at China Three Gorges South Asia Investment Ltd., the operator of northern Pakistan's Karot hydropower facility, which celebrated its first anniversary of safe operation at the end of June 2023.

The Karot hydropower station has generated 3.64 billion kilowatt-hours since its full operation, saving about 1.59 million tons of standard coal and reducing about 3.98 million tons of carbon dioxide, meeting the electricity demand of more than 5 million people.

When the CPEC was launched a decade ago, Pakistan suffered severe power shortages. People had to live with over 12 hours of load-shedding a day. With CPEC energy projects, such as the Karot plant, Pakistan can address its energy crisis and achieve greater energy security, reducing dependency on power imports and ensuring a stable power supply for industries and households, said Moaaz.

Environmental protection was prioritized during the construction of the Karot Project, said Moaaz. A comprehensive management plan was developed to protect fish habitats, conduct awareness drives, carry out plantation drives and provide opportunities to surrounding communities.

FROM UNSKILLED TO SKILLFUL FARMERS

During the past 10 years, the uninterrupted power supply provided by the Karot hydropower plant during the height of summer and the convenience brought by other CPEC projects, such as the Lahore Orange Line metro train, the seamless Havelian to Thakot expressway under the Karakoram Highway Phase Two project, have driven more Pakistanis to be a part of various CPEC projects.

Muhammad Ammar Asghar is one of them. Asghar, a Ph.D. graduate from China's Northwest A&F University, is an agronomist working on a red chili contract farming project. Large-scale agricultural cooperation between China and Pakistan is a main focus in the second phase of the CPEC, which is currently underway after the success of the first phase focusing on infrastructure and power projects.

Speaking to Xinhua, Asghar said that most farmers hired by landowners in the project are unskilled. To help landowners get a high yield, Chinese agronomists and agriculture technicians helped the farmers with the timing and use of fertilizers, pesticides and water.

Rao Shahab, one of the landowners who cultivated chili, said that this year he experimented by planting chili on seven acres of land and was so impressed by the yield that he plans to cultivate 50 acres next year.

ECONOMIC CORRIDOR, DEVELOPMENT PATH

"Seek knowledge even if you have to go as far as China" is a famous Muslim adage. Zamir, then counselor of the Pakistani mission in Beijing for higher education and technology, is glad to see many aspiring young Pakistanis seeking advanced technologies and expertise in China. "The CPEC has not only strengthened economic ties but also fostered people-to-people connections, cultural exchange and understanding between the two countries," he said.

Zamir visited China's Guangzhou this June, and the changes in China over the decades have been astonishing. Pakistan has never had such scale of industrialization since its founding, said Zamir.

He said that by embracing the opportunities presented by the CPEC and learning from China's development, Pakistan could build a more prosperous and sustainable future for its people and contribute to regional and global development.

In the past decade, the CPEC has made tremendous progress, attracting 25.4 billion U.S. dollars of direct investment, creating 236,000 jobs, generating 8,000 megawatts of electric power, building 510 km of highways and adding 886 km to the core national transmission network for Pakistan. The Gwadar Port became fully functional and is on its way to becoming a regional hub of connectivity benefiting Pakistan, Afghanistan and Central Asia.

For Moaaz, the success of the CPEC lies in how the Pakistani government has total freedom to prioritize its development plans without meeting prerequisites or having strings attached.

China will work with Pakistan to aim for high-standard, sustainable and livelihood-enhancing outcomes and further build the CPEC into an exemplary project of high-quality Belt and Road cooperation, said President Xi in a congratulatory message to the Decade of the CPEC celebration event held in Islamabad, Pakistan.

The project has laid the foundation for enhanced connectivity, trade and economic integration between Pakistan and China, said Zamir. "It exemplifies how two nations can collaborate on a grand scale to achieve shared goals and development objectives."

<https://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202308/01/WS64c91781a31035260b819bb3.html>

South China Morning Post

China's belt and road expansion in Pakistan at risk as terrorist attacks surge

The attacks in western Pakistan coincide with ongoing celebrations for the 10th anniversary of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor. Analysts warn Pakistan could 'further aggravate the situation' if it were to step up action against the insurgents' bases in Afghanistan

An upsurge in terrorist attacks in western Pakistan highlights the risks involved in expanding China's Belt and Road Initiative in the country even as Chinese firms are "learning the ropes" on how to cope with the rise in violence, analysts say. Amid ongoing celebrations to commemorate the 10th anniversary of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), attacks in July by insurgents of the Pakistani Taliban movement, or TTP, spread to areas of Balochistan province considered vital to the expansion of connectivity between Xinjiang and the Chinese-operated port of Gwadar on the Arabian Sea. Chinese companies have built some US\$25 billion worth of mostly power generation and logistical infrastructure since work on the CPEC began in earnest in 2016. The overall value of projects scheduled for completion by 2030 is estimated at US\$62 billion.

<https://www.scmp.com/week-asia/politics/article/3229543/chinas-belt-and-road-expansion-pakistan-risk-terrorist-attacks-surge>

Xinhuanet News

GLOBALink | Hydropower project of CPEC to fuel Pakistan's development with green energy

Over the past 10 years, the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) has witnessed energy, transport and industrial cooperation between the two countries. The Suki Kinari (SK) Hydropower project in Pakistan is the biggest hydropower project under the CPEC framework.

<https://english.news.cn/20230801/3f5dbb3c8a5040d9bf5725e0da5f9034/c.html>

August 02, 2023

China Daily

Xi calls for advancing ironclad ties with Pakistan

XU WEI

President Xi Jinping has reaffirmed Beijing's readiness to work with Pakistan in upholding high standards, sustainability and enhancing public well-being and further build the China-

Pakistan Economic Corridor into an exemplary project of high-quality Belt and Road cooperation.

The president's remarks, delivered as Pakistan hosted an event in Islamabad on Monday to celebrate the launch of the CPEC a decade ago, showcased the strong commitment from Beijing for the success of the landmark project under the Belt and Road Initiative and offered a boost in confidence to Pakistani society, analysts said.

In a congratulatory message to the event, Xi said that since the launch of the CPEC in 2013, China and Pakistan have adhered to the principle of extensive consultation, joint contribution and shared benefits in advancing the project and attained a host of early outcomes.

The CPEC has injected new momentum into Pakistan's economic and social development and laid a solid foundation for regional connectivity and integration, he said.

He said that the CPEC serves as "a vivid testament to the all-weather friendship between China and Pakistan", adding that it has provided important support for building an even closer China-Pakistan community with a shared future in the new era.

He stressed the need for both nations to continue to improve overall planning and scale up bilateral cooperation under the CPEC.

Xi said Beijing will always stand in solidarity with Islamabad despite all changes in the international landscape.

He urged both sides to forge ahead in solidarity to carry forward the ironclad friendship, coordinate development and security, and pursue cooperation of higher standards, broader scope and greater depth.

Vice-Premier He Lifeng, the special envoy of President Xi, spoke at Monday's event in Islamabad.

The two nations should work toward the upgrading of the CPEC and build it into a corridor for growth, public well-being, innovation, green development and opening-up, he said.

The CPEC has included a variety of infrastructure projects such as roads, railways and oil and gas pipelines from Pakistan's Gwadar Port to Kashgar in the Xinjiang Uygur autonomous region. According to statistics provided by the Chinese embassy in Pakistan, the CPEC has brought about a direct investment of \$25.4 billion to Pakistan, created a total of 236,000 jobs, and built 510 kilometers of highway and 886 kilometers in power grids.

Pakistani Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif said in his social media account after the event that the "CPEC has emerged as a bedrock of Pakistan's socioeconomic trajectory, helping us end crippling energy shortages, building high-quality infrastructure, and promoting connectivity and integration not only within Pakistan's various regions but also with the neighboring countries".

"For us, CPEC is not merely a collection of different projects but a symbol of prosperity and shared development. It is a reflection of our relentless fight against poverty, unemployment and underdevelopment," he said.

He said the first phase of the CPEC was about fixing the hardware side of development, and the upcoming second phase will upgrade the 'software' of development by focusing on agriculture, science and technology, skills development, innovation, industrialization, economic growth, health and education.

"President Xi's global leadership and vision of shared development is making a huge difference in the betterment of our world, especially the Global South," he said. "Together China and Pakistan will redefine not only the destiny of their people but also of the region."

Zoon Ahmed Khan, a Pakistani researcher at the Belt and Road Strategy Institute of Tsinghua University and a research fellow at the Center for China and Globalization, said the message from Xi clearly demonstrated the commitment from the Chinese side that the "CPEC remains a priority", which also offered a confidence boost to various sectors in Pakistan.

"There is a consensus across political parties, across institutions, across all the provinces and regions of Pakistan that the CPEC is part of the solution to the challenges that Pakistan is facing. It is helping Pakistan address systemic economic challenges," she said.

Khan said women are becoming more economically independent in many parts of Pakistan, with the Chinese government and companies investing in women's education and creating opportunities for employment.

<https://epaper.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202308/02/WS64c98300a310a478839f75aa.html>

Xi sends message of sympathy over Pakistan blast

KASWAR KLASRA

Chinese President Xi Jinping sent a message of sympathy on Tuesday to Pakistani President Arif Alvi over a deadly suicide bombing incident in the country's Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province.

In the message, Xi said he was shocked to learn about the suicide bombing that resulted in significant casualties and injuries in Pakistan.

On behalf of the Chinese government and people, he conveyed heartfelt condolences to the families of the victims and wished a speedy recovery to those injured.

He emphasized that China firmly opposes all forms of terrorism and strongly condemns this attack, adding that China will continue to firmly support Pakistan's efforts in advancing its national counterterrorism action plan and jointly safeguard regional and global peace and security.

Chinese Premier Li Qiang also sent a message of condolence to Pakistani Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif on Tuesday.

The death toll from the blast has risen to 56, Reuters quoted a government official as saying on Tuesday.

More than 100 others were injured in the blast, media reported.

Alvi and Sharif have condemned the attack and expressed deep grief over the loss of lives. Both have also extended their sympathy to the bereaved families.

The international community has also strongly condemned the deadly attack.

Nearly 400 members of the Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam party, or JUI-F, a key government coalition partner led by Fazlur Rehman, were eagerly awaiting the commencement of a political rally under a large tent near a market when bombs exploded in the crowd. The Islamic State on Monday claimed responsibility for the attack.

According to a statement released by the terrorist group through its media handler in the Arabic language, a suicide bomber of IS conducted the attack at the political workers' convention of the JUI-F in the Khar area of the Bajaur district of the province.

Rehman, leader of the JUI-F, was not present at the rally.

The Chinese Foreign Ministry said on Monday that China firmly supports Pakistan in advancing its Action to Counter Terrorism and its firm commitment to eradicating terrorism, upholding social stability and protecting people's lives.

The United Nations Security Council on Monday strongly condemned the "heinous and cowardly" suicide terrorist attack, Xinhua News Agency reported.

In a news statement, Security Council members reiterated that any acts of terrorism are criminal and unjustifiable regardless of their motivation, wherever, whenever and by whomsoever.

Strong condemnation

Earlier on Monday, UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres denounced all instances of terrorism and deliberate targeted attacks against civilians and stands in solidarity with the government and the people of Pakistan in combating this scourge, Farhan Haq, deputy spokesman for Guterres, told a regular press briefing at the UN headquarters.

The United Arab Emirates, Egypt and Iran have also voiced their support for the Pakistani people.

In a statement released by the UAE's Foreign Ministry on Monday, the UAE expressed its "strong condemnation of the criminal acts and its permanent rejection of all forms of violence and terrorism aimed at undermining security and stability in contravention of human values and principles".

Egypt also condemned the attack on Monday in the strongest terms. In a statement, the Egyptian Foreign Ministry reaffirmed Egypt's categorical rejection of all forms of violence, stressing its full solidarity with Pakistan in confronting extremism and terrorism.

The Pakistani government has vowed to track down the perpetrators and bring them to justice, hoping to provide some closure to the affected families and communities. Security forces are intensifying their efforts to dismantle terrorist networks operating within the country's borders.

<https://global.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202308/02/WS64c98a44a31035260b819be2.html>

People's Daily

Xi: Advance ironclad ties with Pakistan

By Xu Wei (China Daily)

CPEC 'vivid testament' of all-weather friendship between the two countries

President Xi Jinping has reaffirmed Beijing's readiness to work with Pakistan in upholding high standards, sustainability and enhancing public well-being and further building the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor into an exemplary project of high-quality Belt and Road cooperation.

The president's remarks, delivered as Pakistan hosted an event in Islamabad on Monday to celebrate the launch of the CPEC a decade ago, showcased the strong commitment from Beijing for the success of the landmark project under the Belt and Road Initiative and offered a boost in confidence to Pakistani society, analysts said.

In a congratulatory message to the event, Xi said that since the launch of the CPEC in 2013, China and Pakistan have adhered to the principle of extensive consultation, joint contribution and shared benefits in advancing the project and attained a host of early outcomes.

The CPEC has injected new momentum into Pakistan's economic and social development and laid a solid foundation for regional connectivity and integration, he said.

He said that the CPEC serves as "a vivid testament to the all-weather friendship between China and Pakistan", adding that it has provided important support for building an even closer China-Pakistan community with a shared future in the new era.

He stressed the need for both nations to continue to improve overall planning and scale up bilateral cooperation under the CPEC.

Xi said Beijing will always stand in solidarity with Islamabad despite all changes in the international landscape.

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"For us, CPEC is not merely a collection of different projects but a symbol of prosperity and shared development. It is a reflection of our relentless fight against poverty, unemployment and underdevelopment," he said.

He said the first phase of the CPEC was about fixing the "hardware" side of development, and the upcoming second phase will upgrade the "software" of development by focusing on agriculture, science and technology, skills development, innovation, industrialization, economic growth, health and education.

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"There is a consensus across political parties, across institutions, across all the provinces and regions of Pakistan that the CPEC is part of the solution to the challenges that Pakistan is facing. It is helping Pakistan address systemic economic challenges," she said.

Khan said women are becoming more economically independent in many parts of Pakistan, with the Chinese government and companies investing in women's education and creating opportunities for employment.

"The biggest change is that Pakistan's focus now is a human-centric perspective on development, on governance. We are thinking about poverty alleviation in a way that we have never thought before," she said.

"We are thinking in a more synergized way, investing in sectors that can help develop parts of the country that have remained underdeveloped for the last seven-and-a-half decades."

(Web editor: Zhong Wenxing, Liang Jun)

<http://en.people.cn/n3/2023/0802/c90000-20052726.html>

August 03, 2023

China Daily

CPEC brings a decade of benefits to Pakistan

Inspired by President Xi Jinping's vision of regional connectivity and a people-centric development model, the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor is an important part of the Belt and Road Initiative, and its flagship project, Gwadar Port, is the jewel in the CPEC crown.

The CPEC has played a significant role in fostering economic development and cooperation between China and Pakistan, benefiting both nations. The ceremony to celebrate 10 years since the establishment of the economic corridor, attended by Chinese Vice-Premier He Lifeng, a special envoy of President Xi, exemplified the success of the initiative and further strengthened the strategic partnership between the two countries.

The CPEC is a massive infrastructure and economic development project with the aim of enhancing connectivity and trade between China and Pakistan. As Vice-Premier He visited Pakistan to commemorate this milestone, it is crucial to critically assess the impacts and consequences of the ambitious initiative.

The CPEC has undeniably brought numerous benefits to Pakistan's economy. The project has resulted in the construction of highways, ports and energy infrastructure, leading to improved transportation and energy efficiency. These developments have had a positive impact on the lives of millions of Pakistanis by providing better access to resources and creating employment opportunities.

Furthermore, the CPEC has strengthened bilateral ties between China and Pakistan, fostering a strategic cooperative partnership. This collaboration has not only bolstered economic and financial cooperation, but has also facilitated people-to-people exchanges and cultural ties, promoting mutual understanding and friendship between the two nations.

China's investment in Pakistan has also been instrumental in boosting the country's foreign direct investment and attracting other international investors to the region. The CPEC's success has positioned Pakistan as an attractive destination for businesses seeking to capitalize on the opportunities offered by this strategic corridor.

It is essential to acknowledge the positive contributions this initiative has made to bilateral relations and economic growth. The CPEC has undoubtedly brought significant advancements to Pakistan's infrastructure and economy, improving the lives of many citizens. The initiative has not only upgraded Pakistan's infrastructure, but has also opened up job opportunities for skilled labor. This has significantly contributed to the labor market, which was abundant with skilled labor but no job vacancies.

This is not the only time our neighbor has helped us in the past 10 years. China has invested almost \$30 billion, primarily in energy and infrastructure projects. It has bailed out Pakistan at critical junctures when the latter was in danger of becoming bankrupt. Beijing refinanced loans, allowing Pakistan to preserve its foreign reserves at a level sufficient to prevent default. In addition, China recently provided a \$2.3 billion loan for two years, providing Pakistan with much-needed breathing room in the face of decreasing foreign reserves.

China has also completed major projects under the CPEC in Gwadar that, in addition to Gwadar Port, include the Gwadar Power Plant, the distribution of 2,000 boat engines to the fishermen of Gwadar, the Khuzdar-Panjgur transmission line that connects Makran with the national grid, the new Gwadar International Airport project, the Pak-China Friendship Hospital, the Pak-China Technical and Vocational Institute in Gwadar, the Gwadar East Bay Expressway project and the Gwadar Free Zone.

The success of the CPEC lies in maintaining a balance between economic development and responsible financial management. With careful planning, transparent governance and effective utilization of resources, the CPEC can continue to be a catalyst for positive change in Pakistan and deepen the economic cooperation between China and its all-weather friend Pakistan.

<https://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202308/03/WS64caf767a31035260b81a04f.html>

CPEC turns Pakistan into regional hub

KASWAR KLASRA

The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor has proved to be a "fate changer" for Pakistan and the region, uplifting Pakistan's economy, as well as regional and international connectivity, said academics, civil servants and business people.

A mega project by national, regional and international standards, the CPEC was initiated in 2013 for China and Pakistan to jointly build local infrastructure and connectivity, and smoothen cultural and people-to-people exchanges.

Pakistan's Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif said the CPEC has profoundly transformed Pakistan's economic and social landscape, Xinhua reported.

The CPEC has created hundreds of thousands of direct jobs, giving an economic boost in Pakistan, Federal Minister for Planning, Development & Reform Ahsan Iqbal said. It also benefits small and medium-sized enterprises indirectly linked to the CPEC projects.

Consequently, this economic activity has played a "pivotal role in combating poverty in Pakistan", he said.

Gwadar Port in southern Pakistan, along with the upcoming international airport, is poised to become the epicenter of this transformation.

The Central Asian states are already signing agreements to leverage the benefits of Gwadar Port. The recent Pakistan-Afghanistan-Uzbekistan railway agreement also aims to enhance connectivity and provide more efficient access to Gwadar, according to the minister.

Back in 2013-14, Pakistan was at a critical juncture, losing approximately \$4-5 billion annually due to rampant electricity load shedding, said Chief Executive Officer of the Asian Institute of Eco-Civilization Research and Development Shakeel Ramay. Power outages were not only affecting the quality of life but also crippling the country's industrial sector. "Today, thanks to the CPEC, the scenario has dramatically improved," he said.

"In the absence of CPEC, the cost of load shedding would have spiraled to an estimated \$15-20 billion in 2022-23, leading to a catastrophic socioeconomic impact," Shakeel added.

Serving as lifeline

Faisal Vawda, former federal minister of water resources, said the energy projects spearheaded by the CPEC have served as a "lifeline like never before".

"The CPEC has played a key role in pulling Pakistan out of the dark ages. Thanks to the CPEC, Pakistan now has the capacity to produce enough electricity to meet the demands of both the industry and its population," he said.

Chinese companies, under the umbrella of the CPEC, are making substantial investments in Pakistan's social development, with an emphasis on skills development.

"A Chinese company at Sahiwal power plant trained 245 engineers and 377 office or lower-level staff. Another company trained 600 engineers and about 2,000 office and lower-level staff at Port Qasim. China's State Grid Cooperation has trained more than 5,000 employees," said Noman Akbar, an electrical engineer based in Gujranwala, in Pakistan's Punjab Province.

Danyal Gilani, a civil servant in Pakistan who had served in Beijing, said the CPEC projects are attractive for foreign direct investment and will stimulate economic activity in those areas and create jobs while enhancing trade opportunities for Pakistan.

The writer is a freelance journalist for China Daily.

<https://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202308/03/WS64cad64ba31035260b819f66.html>

Global Times

CPEC revitalizes Pakistan's economic situation

By Qian Feng

At the invitation of the government of Pakistan, Vice Premier of China's State Council, He Lifeng, as the special representative of President Xi Jinping, attended the Decade of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) celebration, in Islamabad, the capital of Pakistan, from Sunday to Tuesday. Western media outlets didn't miss the opportunity to slander China-Pakistan cooperation under the CPEC. According to a recent report by Voice of America (VOA), some critics blamed CPEC investments for contributing to Pakistan's economic troubles and growing debts while expressing concern about the so-called security threats.

It is worth noting that media outlets like VOA often report on the CPEC with a biased perspective influenced by their own ideologies. While it cannot be denied that Pakistan's economy has faced many challenges in recent years, the root causes lie in longstanding internal structural issues, such as an imbalanced economic structure and insufficient self-sustaining capacity. In a sense, these problems might have been even more severe without the CPEC.

Pakistan's economic predicament is also closely related to the global economic environment. The irresponsible monetary policy of the US, including the reckless raising of interest rates, has led to significant capital outflow from Pakistan. Moreover, the escalation of energy and food prices worldwide due to the Russia-Ukraine conflict has also negatively affected Pakistan's economy.

There are also security risks which cannot be ignored. However, Pakistan's security challenges did not arise overnight; they are closely linked to the tumultuous situation in

northern Afghanistan. The 20-year-long so-called "war on terror" launched by the US in Afghanistan has led to the spillover of terrorist forces. Coupled with Pakistan's unique religious and ethnic social structure, as well as the challenges in managing across ethnic and regional boundaries, terrorist elements roam freely along the border of both countries, further exacerbating Pakistan's security situation.

Both China and Pakistan attach great importance to addressing security challenges and are deeply concerned about their impact on the CPEC and Pakistan's social stability. To safeguard the CPEC, Pakistan's law enforcement agencies and government have implemented a series of effective measures to counter security risks.

Over the past decade, as an important pioneering project of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), the CPEC has had a significant positive impact on Pakistan. It has notably improved infrastructure, particularly addressing the longstanding issues in Pakistan's power and energy systems. Additionally, the CPEC has generated employment opportunities for residents along its route, laying a solid foundation for future high-quality cooperation between China and Pakistan. The CPEC's indispensable role in revitalizing Pakistan's economy is widely recognized not only by the Pakistani government and its people but also by international neutral observer organizations.

However, as the BRI marks its 10th anniversary, certain Western media outlets have been tirelessly attempting to smear the CPEC with a biased perspective. This is because, with the success of the CPEC and the BRI, they are expected to generate increasingly significant positive economic effects globally, particularly in developing countries. This has led some Western countries to feel increasingly annoyed. In order to curb China's growing influence, they have resorted to concocting various narratives, such as the debt trap theory, China's so-called expansionism and neo-colonialism, all aimed at serving their own hidden agendas.

Regardless of how Western media may attempt to discredit it, the China-proposed BRI will continue to bring more economic cooperation and new development opportunities for Pakistan. Focusing on infrastructure development, the first phase of the CPEC has achieved fruitful results. As the project progresses into the second phase of high-quality development, China will continue to strengthen high-quality cooperation with countries along the route, helping them achieve greater accomplishments than in the previous decade by sharing China's successful experiences.

While the CPEC brings numerous opportunities, it also faces certain challenges. These challenges include ensuring smooth project implementation, stable funding supply, and addressing security issues in some regions. Nevertheless, these challenges can be overcome through determined efforts.

Despite the differences in political systems and national sizes, China and Pakistan have maintained a strong and close cooperation. This friendship is not only recognized at the official level but deeply cherished by the peoples, as it is often said, "higher than the mountains, deeper than the oceans, sweeter than honey, and stronger than steel." The CPEC, as a new benchmark of bilateral cooperation, will serve as a powerful cohesive force connecting the people of China and Pakistan, further strengthening their friendship and

solidifying bilateral relations. This spirit of cooperation and friendship will bring forth more opportunities for shared prosperity and development for both nations.

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<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202308/1295463.shtml>

People's Daily

China and Pakistan celebrate 10th anniversary of CPEC, laud benefits

(Global Times)

China and Pakistan are celebrating the 10th anniversary of the China-proposed Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and also the 10th anniversary of the launch of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), a BRI flagship project, and analysts said that the CPEC, which has helped with Pakistan's economic and social development, will bring more benefits to local people as the two countries further deepen cooperation.

Special Representative of President Xi Jinping and Chinese Vice Premier He Lifeng continued his visit in Pakistan on Monday.

China and Pakistan on Monday signed six agreements for the promotion of bilateral cooperation under the witness of He and Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif.

"I have no doubt that we are entering into the second phase of CPEC. Today, we have signed some important documents which will enhance our economic cooperation, and we will undertake the second phase under a new mode," Pakistan Shehbaz Sharif told the gathering on Monday, local media Pakistan Today reported.

A series of celebration events have been held in recent days to mark the 10th anniversary of the CPEC. The country's landmark building - the Pakistan Monument - was decked on Saturday with the colors of the Chinese and Pakistan national flags to mark the anniversary.

From July 24 to 25, an international seminar on the CPEC and the BRI was held in Islamabad with senior officials, scholars and representatives from businesses and trade from Pakistan and China attending. Pang Chunxue, charge d'affaires of the Chinese Embassy in Pakistan, also attended the celebration event, during which she said that under the guidance of the leaders of the two countries, the CPEC has achieved fruitful results and made great contributions to the economic and social development of Pakistan, according to a release from the website of the Chinese Embassy to Pakistan.

He's visit to Pakistan showed that China has attached great importance to China-Pakistan relations and the CPEC. Moreover, He may also discuss with the Pakistan side about the development plan for the next decade, Zhu Yongbiao, executive director of the Research Center for the Belt and Road at Lanzhou University, told the Global Times.

As the CPEC and other BRI projects between China and Pakistan have focused on major infrastructure, more "small but beautiful" projects would be set to boost income fast and increase employment and benefit local people, said Zhu.

Analysts further noted that ensuring the safety of the CPEC and BRI projects are also a task for both China and Pakistan, given the threat of terrorism.

At least 44 people have been killed and more than 100 injured in a bomb blast that targeted a rally held on July 30 in Bajaur, a tribal district in Pakistan's Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, media reported.

It is undeniable that the CPEC projects have brought concrete benefits to Pakistan, and both China and Pakistan will further improve the building of BRI projects despite external attempt to undermine it or some Western countries' hyping of the "debt trap" rhetoric or security issues, analysts said.

Zhu said that financing problems, a thorny issue in Pakistan that the West has never been willing to help with, can be solved only by investment and development, which is what China and other countries are trying to do.

Some Western countries' smearing of the CPEC and BRI projects is unfair and ill-intentioned. Zhu said that Pakistan has a clear understanding of this hype and also attaches importance to the development of the CPEC.

(Web editor: Zhong Wenxing, Liang Jun)

<http://en.people.cn/n3/2023/0801/c90000-20052159.html>

CPEC generates sustainable development in Pakistan, says Pakistani economist

(Xinhua)

CPEC is giving strong hope to Pakistan amid contemporary challenges as it is providing employment opportunities and increasing connectivity, which is quite significant for the equitable environment of the society, says the economist.

ISLAMABAD, July 31 (Xinhua) -- The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) has delivered infrastructure, trade and employment to Pakistan, resulting in sustainable development in the country, a Pakistani economist said.

The enhancement in infrastructure through roads, railways and airport is not just going to provide connectivity within Pakistan but in the region and beyond, Badiea Shaukat, an economic consultant at the Sustainable Development Policy Institute, an Islamabad-based think-tank, told Xinhua in a recent interview.

Launched in 2013, CPEC, the flagship project of the China-proposed Belt and Road Initiative, is a corridor linking the Gwadar port in southwestern Pakistan with Kashgar in northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, which highlights energy, transport and industrial cooperation.

"It will also bring Pakistan to that stage where it can build its regional connectivity with other Central Asian countries and the Western side of the globe. So, I think that CPEC in real term is a sustainable development model," the economist said.

This aerial photo taken on Feb. 28, 2023 shows the view of the Thar Coal Block-I Coal Electricity Integration project in Sindh province, Pakistan.(Thar Coal Block-I Power Generation Company (Pvt) Limited/Handout via Xinhua)

Shaukat said the project enhanced social equity and apart from the financial revenues, it gave a social boost to different segments of the society.

CPEC is giving strong hope to the country amid contemporary challenges as it is providing employment opportunities and increasing connectivity, which is quite significant for the equitable environment of the society, said the economist.

By the end of 2022, CPEC has brought 25.4 billion U.S. dollars in direct investment to Pakistan and has created about 236,000 jobs for the country, according to the Chinese Embassy in Pakistan.

On the one hand, he said, CPEC is generating trade improvisation which is helping the local manufacturer with lower cost of trade. On the other hand, the regional connectivity is enabling the Pakistani exporters to export at a much lower cost to other neighboring economies, increasing the trade prospects for the South Asian country, Shaukat added.

Reflecting on the decade-long journey of CPEC, he said that China came to Pakistan when it was going through a severe economic crunch and there was no foreign direct investment in the country.

CPEC brought a renewed spirit in local Pakistani companies as they went into collaborations and joint ventures with Chinese companies, Shaukat said, adding that it provided a big opportunity to the local companies and the workers in terms of capacity building, technology transfer, and skill development.

Shaukat said human resource generation is one of the most important aspects of CPEC as working on the latest state-of-the-art technologies considerably resulted in the skill development of Pakistani professionals and the labor force.

On top of everything, the economist said the special emphasis on corporate social responsibility in CPEC projects has been vital in the socio-economic uplifting of the surrounding areas in particular and the country in general.

"We see a strong humanitarian side under these projects, we have seen that there are a lot of corporate relief projects, which are initiated by the Chinese companies, and they helped at the local level, even at the county and the district and the town levels," he said.

The Chinese have been distributing ration bags and helping out the victims, who were affected by natural disasters such as floods or earthquakes.

"They are quite active, which delivers the local people a friendly gesture from these companies to develop a friendly environment," according to the economist.

(Web editor: Zhang Kaiwei, Liang Jun)

<http://en.people.cn/n3/2023/0801/c90000-20052185.html>

Chinese president's special representative calls for upgrading CPEC development

(Xinhua)

ISLAMABAD, Aug. 1 (Xinhua) -- Chinese Vice Premier He Lifeng, the special representative of Chinese President Xi Jinping, called for an upgrading of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) to promote a closer China-Pakistan community with a shared future in the new era.

He made the remarks on Monday while attending the Decade of CPEC celebration event in the Pakistani capital, during which he read President Xi's congratulatory letter and delivered a speech.

In his congratulatory letter, President Xi fully recognized the positive achievements and great significance of the construction of CPEC, which provided strategic guidance for the development of the corridor and the practical cooperation between China and Pakistan, He said.

Over the past 10 years, the construction of CPEC has adhered to the Silk Road spirit and yielded fruitful, mutually beneficial and win-win results, creating a successful practice of jointly building the Belt and Road, the special representative said.

He called for earnest implementation of the spirit of President Xi's congratulatory letter, creating an upgraded version of CPEC, and jointly building a growth corridor, a livelihood-enhancing corridor, an innovation corridor, a green corridor and an open corridor.

In his speech, Pakistani Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif expressed his appreciation to President Xi for attaching great importance to Pakistan-China ties and CPEC, and for the support of the Chinese government and its people towards Pakistan.

The remarkable achievements of CPEC's construction have profoundly transformed Pakistan's economic and social landscape, Shahbaz said.

Pakistan is willing to learn from China's development experience, deepen cooperation with China in various fields, and pursue a path of self-reliance and strength, so as to better benefit the peoples of both countries, the prime minister said.

On Monday, Pakistani President Arif Alvi, Prime Minister Shahbaz and Chief of Army Staff Asim Munir met with He respectively. Both sides exchanged in-depth views on deepening traditional friendship and expanding practical cooperation, among other issues.

Launched in 2013, CPEC is a corridor linking the Gwadar port in southwestern Pakistan with Kashgar in northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, which highlights energy, transport and industrial cooperation.

(Web editor: Zhang Kaiwei, Wu Chaolan)

<http://en.people.cn/n3/2023/0801/c90000-20052469.html>

Bank of China opens branch in Pakistan's capital Islamabad

(Xinhua)

ISLAMABAD, Aug. 1 (Xinhua) -- The Bank of China (BOC) opened its branch in Pakistan's federal capital Islamabad on Monday to further expand its business network in the South Asian country.

Addressing the inauguration ceremony, Pakistan's Federal Minister for Finance Ishaq Dar said that the opening of the branch is another milestone in the deepening financial and economic cooperation between Pakistan and China, and is of great significance to expanding bilateral economic and trade cooperation.

"The Pakistani side will push forward the development of Pakistan-China cooperation with stronger determination and more effective measures, and will continue to consolidate and deepen the Pakistan-China all-weather strategic cooperative partnership," the minister added.

Speaking on the occasion, Deputy Governor of the People's Bank of China Xuan Changneng said that on the 10th anniversary of the launch of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), the opening of another branch of BOC is a positive practice to strengthen the financial ties and deepen the financial cooperation between the two countries.

Liu Jin, president of the BOC, said that the bank would continue to give full play to its advantages in globalization, actively promote high-quality joint construction of the Belt and Road Initiative, and play a bigger role in supporting Pakistan's infrastructure construction and industrialization.

This is the second branch of the BOC to open in Pakistan. The first one was opened in the southern port city of Karachi in 2017.

(Web editor: Zhang Kaiwei, Wu Chaolan)

<http://en.people.cn/n3/2023/0801/c90000-20052551.html>

August 04, 2023

China Daily

Envoy: CPEC is 'game changer' for Islamabad

He says project has brought peace, prosperity and development opportunities to the region

The top envoy of Pakistan to China has lauded the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor as a "game changer" for Islamabad, saying that the mega project has brought "peace, prosperity and development opportunities not only to Pakistan but also to the entire region".

Moin ul Haque, Pakistan's ambassador to China, said in an exclusive interview with China Daily that the CPEC, which is fully aligned with Pakistan's development agenda, is an "excellent example of an open, coordinated, and inclusive development paradigm that benefits all parts of the country and all segments of the society".

The remarks by Haque came as Pakistan hosted an event in Islamabad to celebrate the launch of the CPEC a decade ago. President Xi Jinping sent a congratulatory message to the event,

reiterating Beijing's commitment to building the CPEC into an "exemplary project of high-quality Belt and Road cooperation".

Xi's message has been described by Pakistani Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif as a "powerful message of support and solidarity with Pakistan", which "reflects his commitment to the well-being of the people of Pakistan".

For Haque, the message speaks volumes about the time-tested bilateral friendship, which he said "is based on exceptional trust, understanding, strategic communication and practical cooperation".

"It is so reassuring and heartening to receive President Xi's personal support and commitment to working with Pakistan for building the CPEC as an 'exemplary' project," Haque said.

He underlined the development of Gwadar Port as being central to the CPEC. "The port is now operational and is ready to serve as a hub for trade and investment. Phase one of the Gwadar Free Trade Zone has also been completed," he said.

The CPEC has so far brought about \$25 billion in investment to Pakistan, which has created over 200,000 employment opportunities, including jobs for local residents.

"As the flagship project of the Belt and Road Initiative, CPEC has transformed Pakistan's infrastructure landscape and has provided a solid foundation for its future growth and development," he said.

Going forward, Haque said that Pakistan remains hopeful that the second phase of high-quality development of the CPEC will usher in new dividends for the socioeconomic development of Pakistan and other countries in the region.

"The new phase will also lend a renewed impetus to harvest the dividends of globalization, by boosting bilateral and multilateral trade and foreign direct investment projects," he said.

"Our two countries have now invited third-party cooperation to realize the optimum potential of the CPEC. Many countries have expressed interest to invest in the CPEC and become part of this initiative."

He added that the BRI "has espoused collective efforts for the shared prosperity, development and well-being of the international community. Pakistan has been one of the earliest participants of this global initiative and proudly shared its vision and objectives".

Zoon Ahmed Khan, a Pakistani researcher at Tsinghua University's Belt and Road Strategy Institute and a research fellow at the Center for China and Globalization, said that people in Pakistan do not buy the "debt trap" argument at all and instead see the Chinese investment as "the most positive contribution "to their nation's development.

"If you look at the numbers, the predominant debt that Pakistan owes is not to China. Meanwhile, the small percentage of the debt we owe China has a profoundly positive effect on economic growth," he said.

<https://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202308/04/WS64cc4bcda31035260b81a41b.html>

People's Daily

Explainer: Why an economic corridor with China has won Pakistan's confidence

(Xinhua)

ISLAMABAD, Aug. 3 (Xinhua) -- Pakistani Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif received a gift, a model of China's self-developed large passenger aircraft C919, when he inaugurated several projects, including the completion of the airside infrastructure at the China-funded New Gwadar International Airport, in the country's southwestern port city of Gwadar last month.

Explaining why he presented the gift to Shahbaz, Ding Kan, manager of the New Gwadar International Airport project management department, told Xinhua, "We strongly believe in the friendship between China and Pakistan. We have built such a good airport for our Pakistani 'iron-clad brother.' We are also looking forward to landing our aircraft in Pakistan at an early date and commencing a new era of cooperation in the civil aviation industry."

China and Pakistan have a long history of friendship. In 2008, Pakistan sent all its tents in stock to earthquake-hit areas in southwest China's Sichuan, while China also rushed to Pakistan's assistance after devastating floods in 2010 and last year. But most significantly, in the last decade, China shared its development dividends with Pakistan through the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

CHANGING LANDSCAPE

Situated on the Arabian Sea, Gwadar has a warm-water deep-sea port. Although near regional key shipping routes, it had never been involved in the trading network connecting the Middle East, Africa and Europe.

In 2013, Gwadar embraced a new opportunity. The CPEC was launched when no other country was willing to invest in Pakistan. It links the Gwadar port in the south with northwest China's Kashgar in Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region. The Gwadar Port was designated as a key area for development under CPEC in April 2015.

After a decade of development, the Gwadar Port became fully functional and is on its way to becoming a regional hub of connectivity benefiting Pakistan, Afghanistan and Central Asia. Over the past 14 months, the cargo handling at Gwadar Port has consistently increased, with more than 600,000 tons of cargo being handled. Shahbaz stated that the CPEC has brought transformative projects to the Gwadar district.

More than 30 enterprises related to overseas warehouses, fishery products processing, edible oil processing, furniture manufacturing, electric vehicle assembly, trade and logistics, have been settled in the first phase of the Free Zone of the Gwadar Port. In 2021, the Gwadar Technical and Vocational Institute was completed. Now, it provides skill training for 2,000 people yearly for port enterprises.

The overall progress of the New Gwadar International Airport has exceeded 75 percent, said Ding, adding that the runway, apron, contact road and the navigation aid lighting system of the flight area have been completed and have the conditions for flight calibration.

The 19-km-long Gwadar Eastbay Expressway Phase-I has been operating for over a year. The six-lane expressway provides primary connectivity between Gwadar Port and its 2,281-acre Free Zone and facilitates import and export transportation and cargo trans-shipment.

Mir Arshad Kalmati, a resident of Gwadar, has seen the transformation of Gwadar from a fishermen's town to an economic hub over the last few years under the CPEC. "No one can believe how the small colony of Gwadar developed like any major city of Pakistani within a few years. Now we have a good cricket stadium, football grounds, CPEC schools, an airport, a 100-bed hospital and beautiful vast roads."

BACKBONE OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Recalling the acute shortage of electricity and up to 18 hours of load shedding in summer in some parts of Pakistan before the CPEC, Zamir Ahmed Awan, the founding chair of Islamabad-based think tank the Global Silk Route Research Alliance, said that the CPEC invested heavily in the electricity sector.

"As a result of the completed power projects, we are producing sufficient electricity to meet current demand in Pakistan," Zamir told Xinhua.

The Karot hydropower plant in Punjab province, the first hydropower project under the CPEC, was fully commercial in June 2022. It has generated 3.64 billion kilowatt-hours in the past year, meeting the electricity demands of more than 5 million residents.

Ahead of the Karot hydropower station, coal-fired power plants under the CPEC, including the Sahiwal coal power plant in Punjab province, the Port Qasim coal power plant in Sindh province and the Hub coal power plant in Balochistan, have addressed the country's severe power shortage. The plants are all eco-friendly and use super-critical technology. Additional facilities are installed to keep emissions well below local and world standards.

Pakistan's Minister for Power, Khurram Dastgir Khan, said the CPEC has enabled the country to gradually shift from imported to locally sourced fuel for power generation. Additionally, there has been a move from outdated to new Chinese technology. "This shift is happening, and Chinese companies are much more visible now. They are bringing their technology and management to Pakistan and teaching Pakistani engineers and workers."

Meanwhile, greatly enhanced connectivity also facilitates logistics and travel in the country. The Karakoram Highway Phase Two project and the Sukkur-Multan Motorway have connected the country's heartland with its remote northern region and financial center in the south.

According to Shahbaz, CPEC cooperation has dramatically improved the accessibility of roads across Pakistan. The prime minister said the driving distance from Lahore to Karachi has been reduced from more than 20 hours to less than 12 hours, a considerable change.

Improvements in infrastructure, including roads, railways and airports, will not only enhance connectivity within Pakistan but also in the surrounding region and beyond, Badiea Shaukat, an economic consultant at the Sustainable Development Policy Institute, an Islamabad-based think tank, told Xinhua.

He mentioned the CPEC has two benefits. Firstly, it improves trade by reducing costs for local manufacturers. Secondly, it connects Pakistan to neighboring economies, allowing Pakistani exporters to increase trade prospects by reducing export costs.

BENEFIT THE PEOPLE

In 2019, CPEC entered the second phase of high-quality development, focusing on agricultural and industrial cooperation.

In a yard brimming with red chilies strewn everywhere under the blazing summer sun in Kasur district, Punjab province, local farmers were busy ensuring each piece of chili got ample sunlight exposure and dried up in time. The red chili contract farming project started in 2021 under the CPEC, with model farms across Punjab.

This year, Pakistani farmers and laborers are happy to get a bumper harvest of Chinese red chilies and expect good profits as the yield is double that of other varieties of pepper available in Pakistan.

Besides chilies, China is also helping Pakistan with seed cultivation. China helped Pakistan send seven herbal medicine seeds to the Chinese space station via the Shenzhou-14 spaceship last year for space breeding by exposing them to cosmic radiation and microgravity to mutate their genes.

Atia-tul-Wahab, a professor at the University of Karachi's International Center for Chemical and Biological Sciences, said it is the first time that Pakistan sent seeds to space, a landmark achievement for the country. It is hoped that space breeding will enable scientists at her institute to produce medicine for incurable diseases.

"Agriculture, being the backbone of the country, is a high-priority area for us. It witnessed the transfer of Chinese agro-tech to Pakistan, particularly in areas like chili and rice cultivation. The collaboration in agricultural technology has the potential to bring significant benefits to Pakistan's agricultural sector," said Zamir.

The introduction of high-yielding hybrid rice and chili varieties, which are more resilient to local conditions and pests, has contributed to Pakistan's food security and economic prosperity, said Zamir. With China's expertise and advancements in agricultural technology, Pakistani farmers have gained access to modern farming techniques, innovative machinery and improved crop varieties, leading to increased yield and better crop quality.

Earlier this week, a series of celebrations were held. Landmark buildings in Islamabad, the capital of Pakistan, were lit up at night in the colors of the national flags of China and Pakistan to mark the Decade of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor.

In a ceremony on Monday, Shahbaz said that the remarkable achievements of the CPEC have profoundly transformed Pakistan's economic and social landscape. He said Pakistan is willing

to learn from China's development experience, deepen cooperation with China in various fields, and pursue a path of self-reliance to better benefit the peoples of both countries.

As of 2022, CPEC has brought 25.4 billion U.S. dollars in direct investment to Pakistan and created some 236,000 jobs for the country. Furthermore, according to the Chinese Embassy to Pakistan, it has helped Pakistan generate 8,000 megawatts of electricity, add 886 km to the national core transmission grid and build 510 km of highways.

"It will also bring Pakistan to that stage where it can build its regional connectivity with other Central Asian countries and the Western side of the globe. So, I think that CPEC in real term is a sustainable development model," said economist Shaukat.

(Web editor: Zhang Kaiwei, Liang Jun)

<http://en.people.cn/n3/2023/0804/c90000-20054190.html>

Xinhuanet News

Pakistani state news agency launches Chinese news service

The newly launched service would publish international, domestic and China-related news in the Chinese language, editors at the China News Desk said.

ISLAMABAD, Aug. 4 (Xinhua) -- Pakistan's state-run Associated Press of Pakistan (APP) has launched the South Asian country's first-ever Chinese news service to further promote friendly relations between Pakistan and China.

The newly launched service would publish international, domestic and China-related news in the Chinese language, editors at the China News Desk told Xinhua Thursday.

Furqan Rao, a senior diplomatic correspondent in charge of the Chinese news service at APP, said his organization has been publishing news in English, Urdu and other local languages of Pakistan. The basic purpose of the service is to let the Chinese people know about Pakistan, its development, culture and the progress of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), Rao told Xinhua, adding that the new service would also act as a platform to counter fake propaganda against CPEC and the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).

Launched in 2013, CPEC, a flagship project of the China-proposed BRI, is a corridor linking the Gwadar port in southwestern Pakistan with Kashgar in northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, which highlights energy, transport and industrial cooperation.

<https://english.news.cn/20230804/18eb119e00624723b281cc4b96362ca3/c.html>

August 05, 2023

People's Daily

Reinvestigation: True Picture of China's global port investments

(Xinhua)

Instead of creating "security worries" as some Western media claimed, China's expanding investments in overseas ports have in fact garnered considerable revenue for local

governments, driven economic development, boosted the construction of local infrastructure, and increased employment in these regions.

BEIJING, Aug. 4 (Xinhua) -- In the past few months, the Voice of America (VOA) and the Wall Street Journal (WSJ), among other U.S. media outlets, have been hyping up the narrative of "security concerns related to Chinese investments in overseas ports," alleging that they "could be used for military purposes" in the future.

Besides commercial value, "Chinese-run port terminals can be used not only for logistics support but also intelligence gathering and as future potential basing options," a WSJ report entitled "China's global port investments give rise to security worries" claimed, citing American security analysts, yet without giving any evidence.

"As commercial ports could be used for military purposes, analysts have long been concerned about the security implications of ports controlled by Beijing," another report by the VOA, entitled "China's Global Network of Shipping Ports Reveal Beijing's Strategy", said.

The above claims are nothing but groundless speculations, analysts say, emphasizing the fact that whether an investment in a foreign port can be used militarily depends on many conditions, among which is permission from the government of the host country as a sovereign state.

In fact, China's rapidly expanding investments in overseas ports in recent years are a natural outcome of its rapidly growing trade with the international market.

Given China's status as the world's largest trader of goods and a major trading partner of more than 140 countries and regions around the world, it is not in line with commercial logic if China did not expand its investments in overseas ports considering such factors as trade and shipping facilitation and transaction cost saving, the analysts say.

THE TRUE PICTURE

"Chinese companies' investment in some foreign ports is first and foremost an economic act, and its starting point and focus are to facilitate China's ocean freight logistics," said Wang Zaibang, a senior fellow at Taihe Institute, a Beijing-based think tank.

"This kind of investment is not only beneficial to the business activities of China's overseas shipping companies, but also conducive to stimulating the local economy and promoting employment. We can be optimistic that, barring extreme circumstances, such investment can only grow as the size of China's economy and the stock of overseas interests continue to grow," he told Xinhua in a recent interview.

Currently, China's shipping fleet control capacity has risen to the second place in the world from the third place in 2015. As the world's most important intermediate goods provider and the largest supplier of final products, China's docking with the international market not only requires the continuous facilitation of bilateral or multilateral trade and investment, but also the orderly docking and arrangement of global transportation channels, said Zhang Yugui, dean of the School of Economics and Finance of Shanghai International Studies University.

Over the past decade since the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) was launched in 2013, China has signed more than 200 cooperation documents with more than 150 countries and more than 30 international organizations, resulting in more than 3,000 cooperation projects and generating nearly 1 trillion U.S. dollars in investment, official statistics show.

Under the joint efforts of participating countries, a connectivity framework involving six corridors, six types of routes, multiple countries and multiple ports have taken shape, playing a key role in transcending geographical constraints and cultural differences, and in facilitating economic development across the world.

During this process, Chinese companies and overseas local authorities have carried out port cooperation projects with an aim to create opportunities for common development under the principles of extensive consultation, joint contribution and shared benefits on the basis of respecting the will of relevant countries. China has never interfered in other countries' internal affairs, targeted a third party, or posed a security threat to any country.

This aerial photo taken on Feb. 15, 2019 shows a container ship of the COSCO Shipping approaching Piraeus port, Greece. (Xinhua/Wu Lu)

Since 2009, Chinese shipping giant COSCO has invested more than 600 million euros (about 660 million U.S. dollars) in the construction and upgrading of the Container Terminals 2 and 3 in Greece's Piraeus port. In 2019, the port's container throughput has exceeded 5.65 million TEUs (twenty-foot equivalent unit), becoming the first integrated port in the Mediterranean, the fourth largest in Europe and one of the fastest growing container ports in the world, with revenue of 195 million euros (214.5 million dollars) in fiscal year 2022, an increase of 26.2 percent, and a net profit of 52.9 million euros (58.2 million dollars), an increase of 43.9 percent.

The Colombo Port City in Sri Lanka, the first special economic zone constructed and operated by Chinese firms outside of China, has been designated as one of the "Five New Cities Affecting the Future" by Forbes magazine in the United States.

According to management consulting firm Price Waterhouse Coopers Consulting, Colombo Port City will attract more than 9.7 billion dollars in foreign direct investment for Sri Lanka during its development and operation, generate more than 5 billion dollars in fiscal revenue for the Sri Lankan government, and create more than 400,000 quality jobs for the locals.

The project "will promote Sri Lanka's economic development, improve people's livelihood and boost the modernization process of Sri Lanka," said Sri Lankan Ambassador to China Palitha Kohona, adding that "many of the great changes that have taken place in Sri Lanka have benefited from the BRI."

Launched in January 2023 and invested, constructed and operated by China Harbour Corporation, the Nigerian Lekki Deep Water Port project is Nigeria's first modern deep-water port and one of the largest ports in West Africa, with an annual designed handling capacity of 1.2 million standard containers, which can accommodate the world's largest container ships.

Nigeria's former President Muhammadu Buhari said that the Lekki Port will "open up a new pattern for Nigeria's economic development, strongly promote the export of Nigerian

products, especially agricultural products," and create many jobs, contributing to poverty reduction goals.

Built by Shanghai International Port (Group) Co., Ltd., the new Port of Haifa in Israel opened in September 2021, becoming the first large new port in Israel in nearly 60 years. It is by far the most advanced, greenest, fastest and most cost-effective terminal on the Mediterranean coast, using the most advanced port technology in the world.

"We have high hopes for the new port of Haifa to serve the entire region and become a regional logistics hub," said Yitzhak Blumenthal, CEO of the government-owned Israel Ports Company.

The above are just a few examples of the cooperation projects Chinese companies have implemented overseas, which have not only garnered considerable revenue for local governments and driven economic development, but also boosted the construction of local infrastructure and increased employment in these regions.

STRONG REBUKES

As a country long committed to peaceful development and promoting a community with a shared future for mankind, China currently has only one overseas naval support base in Djibouti, the main function of which is to serve the Chinese warships fighting piracy in the Gulf of Aden, Wang said.

Responding to the WSJ report's claim that "China's navy has stopped for replenishment or diplomacy at a third of the ports where China-based firms have investments," Wang said it is a matter of course and nothing wrong with China investing in foreign ports for non-war operations in peacetime.

As the world has been constantly threatened by hegemonism and power politics, terrorism and extremist forces, as well as local wars and regional conflicts, and Western countries led by the United States have been waging color revolutions in many countries triggering regional unrest, there is often a need for non-war operations such as the evacuation of Chinese nationals.

"Under such circumstances, warships of any country can naturally dock at foreign ports for supplies or transshipment, which is really not surprising," Wang said.

Meanwhile, various countries have come out to deny the U.S. allegations about the Chinese-invested ports' so-called "military purposes".

In a recent interview with France 24, Sri Lankan President Ranil Wickremesinghe said, "So far there has been no (Chinese) military base in Hambantota harbour... the security is controlled by the government of Sri Lanka... these are just speculations... We have no military agreement with China, there won't be a military agreement, I don't think China enters into one."

As for the Gwadar port in Pakistan, Shakeel Ahmad Ramay, chief executive officer of the Asian Institute of Eco-civilization Research and Development, an Islamabad-based think tank, has also recently said that "there was no (Chinese) military involvement."

This aerial photo taken on June 4, 2022 shows a port for fishermen in Gwadar of Pakistan's southwest Balochistan Province. (Xinhua/Jiang Chao)

"The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is a purely economic development initiative... Since the very beginning, Western countries and their allies in the region have started propaganda. Why did they start to malign the BRI and the CPEC by one name or another name? Because they cannot compete in the development," Ramay told Xinhua.

Besides the "military purposes" hype, the WSJ report also alleged that "They (Chinese companies) are also aggregating shipping data in ways that some in Washington worry could give Beijing access to information about rivals' supply-chain vulnerabilities."

On that topic, insiders and analysts from Germany have provided an opposite perspective.

Chinese companies have contributed to the alleviation of the supply chain crisis in the Port of Hamburg through mutual cooperation and learning from German companies. In the future, Chinese companies will also play an important role in addressing challenges such as the digitalization and sustainable development of the Port of Hamburg, said Angela Titzrath, chairwoman of Hamburg Ports and Logistics AG.

"Both sides have established an equal and trusted partnership," she added.

"Numerous Chinese companies have settled in the city (Hamburg) and in the port, with whom the players in the port as well as we have been cooperating successfully for a long time," Axel Mattern, chief executive officer of Port of Hamburg Marketing, told Xinhua.

"In addition, cooperation with Chinese companies secures cargo in Hamburg and thus the supply flows in Germany and Europe," he added.

"The Chinese investment in the port of Hamburg is normal. (Yet) (t)here is a tendency that wants to separate the German economy from China, and the German government is facing pressure and constraints from this," Helga Zepp-LaRouche, founder and chairperson of the German think tank Schiller Institute, told Xinhua.

"I would say this is purely ideological, so I'm quite glad that the agreement of the Port of Hamburg went through at the last moment," she said.

Yannis Stournaras, governor of the Bank of Greece, told media recently: "Greece is one of the few countries in Europe (where) China has a very crucial investment, the Piraeus port, and it is going very well... Piraeus was a big port with huge competitiveness problems and now is one of the most competitive ports in Europe, so I think it was a successful investment."

MOTIVE BEHIND "CHINA THREAT"

As a matter of fact, the United States has also benefited from Chinese companies' investments in port management. Since 2002, COSCO Group has been an important customer and partner of Boston Port, and practical cooperation between both sides during the past 20 years has not only saved 9,000 jobs in Boston Port, but also created 400,000 more new jobs.

Mike Meyran, director of the Boston Port Authority, said that the Boston Port "is a perfect example of U.S.-China economic and trade cooperation."

However, some U.S. politicians and media have been wilfully neglecting these positive exchanges between their country and China, and have been continuing to churn out various versions of the "China threat" for many years, as a result of "the hegemonic behavior and deep-rooted militaristic thinking of the United States in the past hundred years," said Wang.

Yet these allegations are increasingly losing appeal. Even Americans are now beginning to see the truth. "Do you know how many military bases we have surrounding China? Three hundred and thirteen. Americans need to wake up. It is a different world. We have about 750 military installations in 80 countries," U.S. Democratic presidential candidate Marianne Williamson said recently.

Civic groups and local residents take to the streets to protest against the U.S. biological labs near a U.S. military base in Busan, South Korea, April 5, 2022. (Photo by James Lee/Xinhua)

"Look at how the rest of the world sees this. Do you think that they see China as a greater military threat to global security or the United States as a greater military threat to global security?" she asked.

The motive behind the U.S. exaggerations is "to sow discord and undermine the mutually beneficial cooperative relations between China and relevant countries," Wang said.

In the context of a serious decline in the United States' ocean transportation capacity, the U.S. playing up this new version of "China threat" is only meant to intimidate countries that accept Chinese port investments into giving up or weakening their cooperation with the Chinese side, with the intent to hurt China and hurt the investment target countries for its own benefit, Wang noted.

(Xinhua reporters Jiang Chao in Islamabad, Du Zheyu in Berlin and Chen Zhanjie in Rome contributed to the story.)

(Web editor: Xue Yanyan, Wu Chaolan)

<http://en.people.cn/n3/2023/0805/c90000-20054462.html>

China to help Pakistan achieve sustainable development: FM

(Xinhua)

BEIJING, Aug. 4 (Xinhua) -- China is willing to work with Pakistan to achieve more practical results in building the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), and support Pakistan's sustainable development, Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi said here Friday.

Talking on the phone at the request of Pakistani Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, Wang, also a member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee, said that the iron-clad friendship between China and Pakistan has stood tests and is rock-solid.

No matter how the international situation and Pakistan's domestic situation change, China will, as always, firmly support Pakistan in defending national sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity, firmly support Pakistan in maintaining unity and stability, realizing

revitalization and development, and firmly support Pakistan to play a bigger and more active role in international and regional affairs, Wang said.

For his part, Bilawal said the Pakistan-China friendship has been passed down from generation to generation, and is unshakable and full of vitality.

Pakistan appreciates China's various support in difficult times, and is willing to work with China to continue supporting each other, promote the upgrading of the CPEC, build demonstration projects of the Belt and Road cooperation, and lift the bilateral friendship to higher levels, he added.

(Web editor: Xue Yanyan, Wu Chaolan)

<http://en.people.cn/n3/2023/0805/c90000-20054488.html>

August 06, 2023

Xinhuanet News

GLOBALink | Economic corridor with China injects development vitality into Pakistan

ISLAMABAD, Aug. 6 (Xinhua) -- "This commitment by China is truly an all-weather friendship. It has been shown to the people of Pakistan," said a Pakistani official.

Over the last decade, China has shared its development dividends with Pakistan through the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

Produced by Xinhua Global Service

<https://english.news.cn/20230806/e2c0869272d94639a3741f4d389ad7e0/c.html>

August 07, 2023

China Daily

Xi: Advance ironclad ties with Pakistan

Xu Wei

CPEC 'vivid testament' of all-weather friendship between the two countries

President Xi Jinping has reaffirmed Beijing's readiness to work with Pakistan in upholding high standards, sustainability and enhancing public well-being and further building the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor into an exemplary project of high-quality Belt and Road cooperation.

The president's remarks, delivered as Pakistan hosted an event in Islamabad on Monday to celebrate the launch of the CPEC a decade ago, showcased the strong commitment from Beijing for the success of the landmark project under the Belt and Road Initiative and offered a boost in confidence to Pakistani society, analysts said.

In a congratulatory message to the event, Xi said that since the launch of the CPEC in 2013, China and Pakistan have adhered to the principle of extensive consultation, joint contribution and shared benefits in advancing the project and attained a host of early outcomes.

The CPEC has injected new momentum into Pakistan's economic and social development and laid a solid foundation for regional connectivity and integration, he said.

He said that the CPEC serves as "a vivid testament to the all-weather friendship between China and Pakistan", adding that it has provided important support for building an even closer China-Pakistan community with a shared future in the new era.

He stressed the need for both nations to continue to improve overall planning and scale up bilateral cooperation under the CPEC.

Xi said Beijing will always stand in solidarity with Islamabad despite all changes in the international landscape.

He urged both sides to forge ahead in solidarity to carry forward the ironclad friendship, coordinate development and security, and pursue cooperation of higher standards, broader scope and greater depth.

Vice-Premier He Lifeng, the special envoy of President Xi, spoke at Monday's event in Islamabad.

The two nations should work toward the upgrading of the CPEC and build it into a corridor for growth, public well-being, innovation, green development and opening-up, he said.

The CPEC has included a variety of infrastructure projects such as roads, railways and oil and gas pipelines from Pakistan's Gwadar Port to Kashgar in the Xinjiang Uygur autonomous region. According to statistics provided by the Chinese embassy in Pakistan, the CPEC has brought about a direct investment of \$25.4 billion to Pakistan, created a total of 236,000 jobs, and built 510 kilometers of highway and 886 kilometers in power grids.

Pakistani Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif said in his social media account after the event that the "CPEC has emerged as a bedrock of Pakistan's socioeconomic trajectory, helping us end crippling energy shortages, building high-quality infrastructure, and promoting connectivity and integration not only within Pakistan's various regions but also with the neighboring countries".

"For us, CPEC is not merely a collection of different projects but a symbol of prosperity and shared development. It is a reflection of our relentless fight against poverty, unemployment and underdevelopment," he said.

He said the first phase of the CPEC was about fixing the "hardware" side of development, and the upcoming second phase will upgrade the "software" of development by focusing on agriculture, science and technology, skills development, innovation, industrialization, economic growth, health and education.

"President Xi's global leadership and vision of shared development is making a huge difference in the betterment of our world, especially the Global South," he said. "Together China and Pakistan will redefine not only the destiny of their people but also of the region."

Zoon Ahmed Khan, a Pakistani researcher at the Belt and Road Strategy Institute of Tsinghua University and a research fellow at the Center for China and Globalization, said the message from Xi clearly demonstrated the commitment from the Chinese side that the "CPEC remains a priority", which also offered a confidence boost to various sectors in Pakistan.

"There is a consensus across political parties, across institutions, across all the provinces and regions of Pakistan that the CPEC is part of the solution to the challenges that Pakistan is facing. It is helping Pakistan address systemic economic challenges," she said.

Khan said women are becoming more economically independent in many parts of Pakistan, with the Chinese government and companies investing in women's education and creating opportunities for employment.

"The biggest change is that Pakistan's focus now is a human-centric perspective on development, on governance. We are thinking about poverty alleviation in a way that we have never thought before," she said.

"We are thinking in a more synergized way, investing in sectors that can help develop parts of the country that have remained underdeveloped for the last seven-and-a-half decades."

<https://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202308/02/WS64c98851a31035260b819bd7.html>

Xinhuanet News

GLOBALink | 10 years on, CPEC turns vision into reality in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD, Aug. 7 (Xinhua) -- Over the past 10 years, the construction of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) has yielded fruitful win-win outcomes, creating a successful practice under the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).

<https://english.news.cn/20230807/1a5a4f11855d461daf5dbd8055c91737/c.html>

August 08, 2023

People's Daily

Chinese companies under CPEC contribute to Pakistan's industrial promotion: Pakistani PM

(Xinhua)

ISLAMABAD, Aug. 7 (Xinhua) -- The Chinese companies working under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) have contributed immensely towards Pakistan's industrial promotion in various walks of life, Pakistani Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif said here on Monday.

"Your contribution has not only led to the creation of job opportunities and industrial production, but it has further strengthened our brotherly and economic ties," Sharif said while addressing an award ceremony organized to honor the contribution of Chinese companies operating in Pakistan under the CPEC.

The prime minister noted that the two countries have recently celebrated the 10th anniversary of CPEC under the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), a very innovative vision of the Chinese leadership.

He added that CPEC is now entering into its second phase of turning into a green corridor while focusing on innovation, information technology, and the development of special economic zones.

All these would be carried out into different modes of business-to-business framework under the umbrella of the two governments, said the prime minister.

Speaking to the occasion, Pang Chunxue, charge d'affaires of the Chinese Embassy in Pakistan, said that through the joint efforts of the two countries in various fields, including the 29 companies awarded here at the ceremony, CPEC has made outstanding contributions to the socio-economic development of Pakistan.

"It has become a distinctive symbol of China-Pakistan cooperation and the pilot project of the BRI," said Pang.

Launched in 2013, CPEC, the flagship project of the China-proposed BRI, is a corridor linking the Gwadar port in southwestern Pakistan with Kashgar in northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, which highlights energy, transport and industrial cooperation.

(Web editor: Zhang Kaiwei, Liang Jun)

<http://en.people.cn/n3/2023/0808/c90000-20055606.html>

Feature: "Ba'Tie Girl" celebrates Pakistan-China friendship through film co-production

By Misbah Saba Malik (Xinhua)

ISLAMABAD, Aug. 8 (Xinhua) -- On an early August evening, a pin-drop silence enveloped the space in the main auditorium of the Pakistan National Council of Arts despite the presence of hundreds of people who were completely engrossed in a film co-produced by Pakistani and Chinese producers.

The audience was captivated by a young Chinese lady's journey from China to Pakistan through the Karakoram highway to work as a translator at a China-built hydropower project providing cheap and clean electricity to Pakistan.

The previously serene atmosphere in the auditorium was suddenly filled with a loud round of applause and cheers from the audience when, in a movie scene, the Chinese lady wanted to pay the bus fare for her ride, but the Pakistani driver warmly refused, saying, "No need to pay by Chinese people! Pakistan and China are real brothers!" The crowd joyously chanted, "Yes, it's true!"

The first major co-production by Pakistani and Chinese producers, the film "Ba'Tie Girl", which means the girl from ironclad-brotherly Pakistan, revolves around the friendship between a Chinese lady and a Pakistani teenage girl who both share a love for football.

As the story developed, the Chinese lady acted as a rock-solid support for her Pakistani friend, empowering her to discover her inner strength and bravely confront the hardships that came her way, eventually overcoming the challenges.

"The Chinese lady's character reminded me of China, which always backs Pakistan and proves to be its unwavering pillar of support in all testing times," Khalid, who came from the Attock district of Punjab to watch the movie, told Xinhua.

Launched in 2013, the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), under which China invested multibillion dollars in Pakistan to help the country overcome its electricity shortage by building power plants and enhancing connectivity by spreading a network of roads across the country, has enhanced people-to-people contacts in Pakistan.

Following the launch of the CPEC a decade ago, thousands of Chinese workers and engineers came to Pakistan on CPEC projects, and hundreds of thousands traveled to China for education, professional training, business, and other opportunities.

Talking to Xinhua about people-to-people contact, the film's Pakistani co-producer Syed Jamal Shah said that the journey of the young Chinese lady to Pakistan and her interaction with Pakistani culture in the co-production gives a good glimpse into the culture of both countries.

"Trade and commerce under the CPEC have great economic importance, but building bridges through art and culture means a lot because these bridges are much stronger and long-standing as they bring people closer to each other," Shah said.

Talking to Xinhua about the driving factor behind co-producing the movie, the Chinese producer Xie Peng said that through different incidents, he realized the strong bond of friendship between China and Pakistan and witnessed many stories that could be shown in the friendship between the two countries.

The co-production is being seen as the first major step towards long-awaited Pakistan-China cooperation in the field of films and dramas, aimed at reviving Pakistan's film industry.

Talking to Xinhua, Zafar Uddin Mahmood, special assistant to the Prime Minister of Pakistan and former special envoy for the CPEC, said the movie will inspire other filmmakers to work in co-production with China.

The co-production also proved to be a good learning experience for the Pakistani cast, mostly comprising young actors, some of whom also learned the Chinese language for the movie mainly shot in English and Chinese languages.

Suraj Khan, one of the main leads on whom the audience heaped praises for his comic performance, said that he has acted in different theaters and TV dramas in Pakistan, but "Ba'Tie Girl" has been his most memorable experience.

The movie is scheduled to hit cinemas next week, and it is anticipated to attract a substantial audience due to its engaging storyline, the celebration of Pakistan's friendship with China, and its unique appeal as one of the very few commercial movies co-produced with a foreign country.

(Web editor: Cai Hairuo, Wu Chaolan)

<http://en.people.cn/n3/2023/0808/c90000-20055784.html>

August 09, 2023

China Daily

CPEC brings a decade of benefits to Pakistan

Faisal Zahid Malik

Inspired by President Xi Jinping's vision of regional connectivity and a people-centric development model, the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor is an important part of the Belt and Road Initiative, and its flagship project, Gwadar Port, is the jewel in the CPEC crown.

The CPEC has played a significant role in fostering economic development and cooperation between China and Pakistan, benefiting both nations. The ceremony to celebrate 10 years since the establishment of the economic corridor, attended by Chinese Vice-Premier He Lifeng, a special envoy of President Xi, exemplified the success of the initiative and further strengthened the strategic partnership between the two countries.

The CPEC is a massive infrastructure and economic development project with the aim of enhancing connectivity and trade between China and Pakistan. As Vice-Premier He visited Pakistan to commemorate this milestone, it is crucial to critically assess the impacts and consequences of the ambitious initiative.

The CPEC has undeniably brought numerous benefits to Pakistan's economy. The project has resulted in the construction of highways, ports and energy infrastructure, leading to improved transportation and energy efficiency. These developments have had a positive impact on the lives of millions of Pakistanis by providing better access to resources and creating employment opportunities.

Furthermore, the CPEC has strengthened bilateral ties between China and Pakistan, fostering a strategic cooperative partnership. This collaboration has not only bolstered economic and financial cooperation, but has also facilitated people-to-people exchanges and cultural ties, promoting mutual understanding and friendship between the two nations.

China's investment in Pakistan has also been instrumental in boosting the country's foreign direct investment and attracting other international investors to the region. The CPEC's success has positioned Pakistan as an attractive destination for businesses seeking to capitalize on the opportunities offered by this strategic corridor.

It is essential to acknowledge the positive contributions this initiative has made to bilateral relations and economic growth. The CPEC has undoubtedly brought significant advancements to Pakistan's infrastructure and economy, improving the lives of many citizens. The initiative has not only upgraded Pakistan's infrastructure, but has also opened up job opportunities for skilled labor. This has significantly contributed to the labor market, which was abundant with skilled labor but no job vacancies.

This is not the only time our neighbor has helped us in the past 10 years. China has invested almost \$30 billion, primarily in energy and infrastructure projects. It has bailed out Pakistan at critical junctures when the latter was in danger of becoming bankrupt. Beijing refinanced loans, allowing Pakistan to preserve its foreign reserves at a level sufficient to prevent default. In addition, China recently provided a \$2.3 billion loan for two years, providing Pakistan with much-needed breathing room in the face of decreasing foreign reserves.

China has also completed major projects under the CPEC in Gwadar that, in addition to Gwadar Port, include the Gwadar Power Plant, the distribution of 2,000 boat engines to the fishermen of Gwadar, the Khuzdar-Panjgur transmission line that connects Makran with the national grid, the new Gwadar International Airport project, the Pak-China Friendship Hospital, the Pak-China Technical and Vocational Institute in Gwadar, the Gwadar East Bay Expressway project and the Gwadar Free Zone.

The success of the CPEC lies in maintaining a balance between economic development and responsible financial management. With careful planning, transparent governance and effective utilization of resources, the CPEC can continue to be a catalyst for positive change in Pakistan and deepen the economic cooperation between China and its all-weather friend Pakistan.

<https://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202308/03/WS64caf767a31035260b81a04f.html>

People's Daily

Rashakai SEZ game-changer in Pakistan-China industrial cooperation: official

(Xinhua)

ISLAMABAD, Aug. 9 (Xinhua) -- The Rashakai special economic zone (SEZ) in the country's northwest Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) province is a game-changer project in industrial cooperation between China and Pakistan, said a Pakistani minister.

"It will not only contribute to the socio-economic progress of the province but the entire Pakistan," Sawal Nazir, minister for local government, elections and rural development department of KP, told Xinhua on Tuesday during an event celebrating the 10th anniversary of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) organized here by a local Pakistan-China friendship association of KP.

He said Rashakai, being established under the CPEC, has been developed strategically in terms of trade and connectivity as it is located at the doorstep of the international market.

It brings foreign direct investment in Pakistan and would potentially help enhance trade activity in the country by opening trade avenues for Afghanistan and the Central Asian countries, Nazir added.

The minister said that the project is also important for the technology upgrade of the local industries, adding that it would provide them "an opportunity to learn best practices from the international enterprises."

On the occasion, Javed Khattak, chief executive officer of the KP Economic Zones Development and Management Company, told Xinhua that Rashakai is very important as it is being established in a province facing serious challenges related to security and natural disasters.

Khattak said the project would bring a significant change with respect to human resource generation, opportunities for the labor force, and the economic development of KP.

Launched in 2013, CPEC, the flagship project of the China-proposed Belt and Road Initiative, is a corridor linking the Gwadar port in southwestern Pakistan with Kashgar in northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, which highlights energy, transport and industrial cooperation.

(Web editor: Zhang Kaiwei, Wu Chaolan)

<http://en.people.cn/n3/2023/0809/c90000-20055964.html>

Xinhuanet News

China offers condolences to Pakistan over deadly train accident

BEIJING, Aug. 9 (Xinhua) -- China mourned for those who died in the Pakistan train derailment on Aug. 6, and offered condolences to the victims' families as well as sympathy to the injured, a Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson said on Wednesday.

A passenger train derailed in Nawabshah district in the southern Pakistani province of Sindh on Sunday, killing at least 30 people and injuring more than 100.

The spokesperson said that China is saddened by the heavy casualties caused by the accident, and wishes the injured a speedy recovery.

<https://english.news.cn/20230809/6244396cd13d45f88f01a8682d2932f2/c.html>

August 12, 2023

China Daily

China-Pakistan friendship celebrated in film coproduction

ISLAMABAD — On an early August evening, a pin-drop silence enveloped the space in the main auditorium of the Pakistan National Council of Arts, despite the presence of hundreds of people. They were completely engrossed in a film, which is a joint effort by Chinese and Pakistani producers.

The audience was captivated by a young Chinese woman's journey from China to Pakistan along the Karakoram highway to work as a translator at a China-built hydropower project that provides cheap and clean electricity to Pakistan.

The previously serene atmosphere in the auditorium was suddenly filled with a loud round of applause and cheers from the audience when, in a movie scene, the Chinese woman wanted to pay the bus fare for her ride, but the Pakistani driver warmly refused, saying, "Chinese people don't need to pay! Pakistan and China are real brothers!" The crowd joyously chanted, "Yes, it's true!"

The first major coproduction by Chinese and Pakistani producers, the film *Ba'Tie Girl*, which means the girl from ironclad-brotherly Pakistan, revolves around the friendship between a Chinese woman and a Pakistani teenage girl, who both share a love for football.

As the story develops, the Chinese woman acts as a rock-solid support for her Pakistani friend, empowering her to discover her inner strength and bravely confront the hardships that came her way, eventually overcoming the challenges.

"The Chinese lady's character reminded me of China, which always backs Pakistan and proves to be its unwavering pillar of support in all testing times," says Khalid, who came from the Attock district of Punjab to watch the movie.

Launched in 2013, the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, under which China has invested billions of dollars to help Pakistan overcome its electricity shortage by building power plants and improve connectivity by spreading a network of roads across the country, has enhanced people-to-people exchanges in Pakistan.

<https://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202308/12/WS64d6c9c1a31035260b81bb40.html>

Benefits of BRI enjoyed across globe

China offers public goods to partners with no strings attached, observers say

The recently built OOCL Piraeus, one of the largest container vessels in the world, received a water salute on July 10 as it arrived at the Port of Piraeus in Greece, a major hub among the economies involved in the 10-year-old Belt and Road Initiative.

The port, run by Chinese shipping giant COSCO Shipping, hosted a visit by President Xi Jinping in 2019 and is among the over 3,000 cooperative programs within the BRI framework.

Chinese Ambassador to Greece Xiao Junzheng said the European nation is a major portal for the rest of the world to access the continent, and "well-developed land-sea transportation architecture plays a key part" in tapping into the geographical advantages of the country.

"This year marks the 10th anniversary of President Xi proposing the Belt and Road Initiative, and China is ready to take this opportunity and step up exchanges and collaboration with Greece with regard to transportation and shipping, based on the principles of extensive consultation, joint contribution and shared benefits," he said.

Over the past 10 years, the BRI has directly boosted the construction of a number of ports, freeways and other transportation infrastructure across the globe, spurred investment totaling nearly \$1 trillion, and attracted over 150 countries and 30 international organizations to sign over 200 cooperative documents.

However, some political figures and media organizations have kept attacking the BRI, hyping the so-called "debt trap" or "security threats".

But many senior officials, scholars and media observers have stood up and spoken out as witnesses to the concrete benefits brought by BRI projects to partner countries and regions, saying that China's role in funding, constructing or managing these projects is not based on selfish interests and it attaches no strings to their domestic affairs.

Siddharth Chatterjee, UN development system resident coordinator in China, said, "The BRI is a vast endeavor that has altered the way nations communicate and collaborate, and it is a good reflection of China's leadership and commitment to implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development."

"Through its scope and ambition, the BRI has sought to promote economic growth, regional integration and cultural interchange around the world during the last decade. This is something I've witnessed directly, having spent half of my UN career in Africa," he said at a recent symposium.

Chinese Ambassador to the United Kingdom Zheng Zeguang said, "None of the BRI partner countries has fallen into a debt crisis due to their participation in Belt and Road cooperation."

"China has fully implemented the G20 Debt Service Suspension Initiative, ranking first among all G20 members in terms of the deferral amount," Zheng said in a speech in June.

Wang Wen, executive dean of Renmin University of China's Chongyang Institute for Financial Studies, said that BRI financial cooperation related to the port projects is part of China's efforts in providing international public goods, and Beijing has no intention of seeking financial hegemony like some Western developed countries.

"China does not pursue geopolitical advantages, and it does not interfere in the domestic affairs of partner countries, nor has it shifted a financial crisis to others or shaped an international financial order based on inequality," he said.

"In contrast, what China has offered to BRI partners are convenient financial services, innovative platforms for funding and investing, multipronged financial products, inclusive cooperative projects, winwin outcomes and lasting competence in risk management," he added.

Noticeable progress

Gwadar Port, a flagship project for the BRI and the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, has achieved noticeable progress in its construction over the past decade.

The Pakistan Observer newspaper said in an editorial on Aug 5 that all projects under the umbrella of the BRI and CPEC are "contributing their share" to the socioeconomic development of Pakistan, and "it would have been a daunting task" for Pakistan to develop Gwadar Port without all-around Chinese cooperation and assistance.

The port now has three multipurpose berths capable of handling 50,000-ton vessels, and projects such as the East Bay Expressway and the Vocational and Technical Training Institution are already operational.

Yang Yundong, the Chinese consul-general in Karachi, noted that Gwadar New International Airport, a desalination plant and the China-Pakistan Friendship Hospital are successively scheduled for completion.

"This shining 'pearl' of the CPEC is accelerating its momentum toward becoming a strategic hub for logistics and an industrial base," Yang wrote in an article published on Monday.

In the Caribbean country of Trinidad and Tobago, the Phoenix Park Industrial Estate — the first BRI flagship project in the region — has been completed and will soon be put into operation.

"With more and more ambitious investors coming from China and other countries, we believe that the PPIE will be a new engine for the economic prosperity of this beautiful country," Amery Browne, minister for foreign and CARICOM affairs of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, said at a celebration event on Tuesday.

Observers said that in the near future, the world will continue to have a great demand for infrastructure and the BRI will continue to help boost the infrastructure of countries involved in the initiative.

Wang Yiwei, a professor at the School of International Studies and director of the Institute of International Affairs at Renmin University of China, said the BRI "illustrates the vast possibilities for global cooperation in infrastructure facilities, and will exert profound influence in tackling the shortfall in global infrastructure and regional interconnectivity".

"The enormous achievements yielded by the BRI over the past decade reflect China's role as an opportunity, not a risk. The world needs better interconnectivity, not 'decoupling'," he added.

Mehmood Ul Hassan Khan, executive director of the Center for South Asia & International Studies in Islamabad, noted that the BRI has further increased trade between Southeast Asia and China, and Malaysia is looking forward to serving as a hub for greater exchanges in the region.

"Hopefully, BRI projects in Malaysia would help bridge the digital divide, boost productivity, support capacity building and foster economic development, thereby encouraging entrepreneurship and job creation," he wrote recently.

<https://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202308/12/WS64d6b5a4a31035260b81bace.html>

Xinhuanet News

Pakistan expresses deep grief over loss of lives in China's floods

ISLAMABAD, Aug. 11 (Xinhua) -- Pakistan on Friday expressed deep grief over the loss of lives in China's recent floods, according to the Pakistani Foreign Ministry.

"We are deeply saddened to learn about the loss of precious human lives due to floods in China. Our thoughts and sympathies are with the affected people and the bereaved families," Foreign Ministry spokesperson Mumtaz Zahra Baloch said in a statement.

In this difficult time, Pakistan stands ready to provide utmost support and humanitarian assistance to China, the spokesperson said.

"Pakistan stands ready to work with China to achieve our shared objectives of mitigating climate change and upgrading our respective capacity for disaster management and prevention," the spokesperson said.

<https://english.news.cn/20230812/8441b0e55c8840bdb573148790a5083d/c.html>

August 13, 2023

Global Times

Chinese embassy condemns terrorist attack targeting Chinese engineers in Pakistan; no report of injuries

The Chinese Embassy in Pakistan and the Chinese Consulate General in Karachi have strongly condemned an attack on a convoy of Chinese engineers working on a project at Gwadar port, Pakistan on Sunday morning.

The convoy was ambushed by bombs and gunshots on their way from the airport to the port at 9:17 am Sunday local time, according to a statement released by the Chinese Consulate General in Karachi on Sunday. No injuries or casualties were reported in the attack.

The convoy of three SUVs and a van, all bulletproof, carried 23 Chinese personnel, the Global Times learned from one of the Chinese personnel.

An IED exploded during the attack and the van was shot at. A picture obtained by the Global Times shows the bulletproof glass on the window of a van belonging to the Chinese convoy cracked from the attack, and there were bullet holes on the windows.

All the personnel concerned have been properly relocated, according to the Chinese Embassy in Pakistan.

The Embassy and the Chinese Consulate General in Karachi on Sunday night strongly condemned the act of terrorism, and asked the Pakistani side to severely punish the attackers and to take practical and effective measures to ensure the safety of Chinese nationals, institutions and projects.

The Consulate General activated the emergency response plan immediately, reminding local Chinese nationals, enterprises and projects to be more vigilant, upgrade security initiatives, prevent security risks, closely monitor the security situation and ensure safety.

The Chinese Embassy and Consulate General urged Chinese nationals in Pakistan to maintain high vigilance, safeguard life and property safety, and strictly control large-scale gathering activities due to the severe security situation.

China will continue to work with Pakistan to jointly address the threat of terrorism and effectively protect the security of Chinese personnel, institutions and projects in Pakistan, said the embassy in a statement.

Pakistani security forces killed one terrorist and three others were injured during a security clearance operation in Gwadar, local media outlet Daily Pakistan reported Sunday. After getting intelligence about the presence of militants, security forces cordoned off the area and started a search operation to find other militants, according to Daily Pakistan.

The Balochistan Liberation Army (BLA), a militant separatist group, claimed responsibility for the attack, according to media reports.

Chinese personnel have been targeted by terror attacks by Baloch militant groups many times.

In April 2022, a terror attack against the shuttle bus used by Karachi's Confucius Institute killed three Chinese teachers and their local driver, for which the BLA took responsibility.

In August 2021, two children were killed and three were wounded in an attack targeting Chinese nationals in Gwadar.

In July 2021, a shuttle bus blast in Pakistan that killed nine Chinese and four Pakistanis was confirmed to be a terrorist attack.

In April 2021, a deadly car bomb explosion that rocked a hotel which was hosting the Chinese ambassador in Quetta, Balochistan province killed five people, for which Pakistan Taliban claimed responsibility.

In 2018, the BLA attacked the Chinese Consulate-General in Karachi in south Pakistan, during which two police officers were killed. In May 2017, 10 workers were killed by two gunmen on motorbikes, which the BLA claimed was a response to the development of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

The purpose of this BLA-planned terrorist attack is no different from the previous terror attacks against Chinese personnel, mainly because it wants to impact China-Pakistan cooperation, especially the CPEC, Qian Feng, director of the research department at the National Strategy Institute at Tsinghua University, told the Global Times.

The terrorist group deliberately set the attack in August as the CPEC had just celebrated the 10th anniversary of its cooperation in July and was hoping to take advantage of a period of change in the administration in the country.

Qian noted that although the ongoing unrest in Balochistan has limited the Pakistani government's presence in the province, the Pakistani government managed to protect Chinese personnel from being harmed in this attack, which demonstrates the strength of their protection. The attack will not affect the continued construction of CPEC in the future, he said.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202308/1296202.shtml>

August 14, 2023

Global Times

Hyping 'CPEC opposition' linkage with terrorist attack targeting Chinese engineers distorts facts: experts

Chinese observers criticized on Monday that it is a malicious smearing and a distortion of the facts that US media hyped the so-called local opposition sentiments against the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), a flagship project of the China-proposed Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), in their coverage of the Sunday terrorist attack on a convoy of Chinese engineers working on a project at Gwadar Port, and they noted that the terrorist militants' extreme actions do not represent the will of local people.

The convoy of Chinese workers was ambushed by bombs and gunshots on their way from the airport to the port at 9:17 am Sunday local time, according to a statement released by the Chinese Consulate General in Karachi on Sunday.

Commenting on the terrorist attack targeting Chinese engineer on Sunday, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Wang Wenbin said on Monday that China strongly condemns this terrorist act and has asked the Pakistani authorities to bring the perpetrators to justice and take actions to keep Chinese nationals safe.

The Chinese embassy and consulate in Pakistan immediately activated the emergency response mechanism and reminded Chinese nationals, companies and project construction teams in Pakistan to stay alert, upgrade security measures, closely follow the security situation on the ground, guard against security risks, and keep themselves safe, Wang told the routine press conference on Monday.

China will continue to work with Pakistan to jointly guard against and counter the threats of terrorism and effectively protect the safety of Chinese personnel, institutions and projects in Pakistan. No attempt to sabotage the friendship between China and Pakistan and the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) will succeed, Wang said.

Soon after the ambush, the Balochistan Liberation Army (BLA), a militant separatist group, claimed responsibility for the Sunday attack, according to media reports.

A source in Pakistan told the Global Times that the BLA has been releasing updates on Monday, however, Pakistan local media has been advised not to telecast any news other than that provided to them by the security side.

No injuries or casualties were reported in the attack. All personnel concerned have been properly relocated, according to the Chinese Embassy in Pakistan on Sunday.

Concerning the ambush, the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), the Pakistan Armed Forces' media wing, said in a press statement it provided to the Global Times that "terrorists used small arms and hand grenades during the activity, however, due to efficient and swift response, two terrorists were sent to hell with no harm to any military or civil persons."

"Security Forces of Pakistan remain determined to thwart efforts of the enemies of peace and prosperity in the country," The ISPR stated.

However, despite the official reports of no casualties among Chinese personnel, the VOA deliberately only cited the terrorist BLA statement in its Chinese language coverage of the accident, saying that at least four Chinese nationals and nine Pakistan security troops were killed.

In the VOA English report of the same event, no exact number of casualties was mentioned, and it even slammed the outlawed group, saying that it often releases inflated claims.

Moreover, the VOA Chinese report stuffed in a paragraph saying that the construction of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor project has faced opposition from the local population in Balochistan, where Gwadar Port is located, as they feel they do not benefit much from it.

"Radical groups like the BLA have continuously attacked Chinese personnel and facilities to express their opposition and protest against the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor project," the VOA stated, as it seeks to link the tragedy with so-called local opposition against the CPEC with the Sunday attack.

Spreading such false information that smears the BRI flagship project is a pure distortion of facts, Chinese analysts pointed out, saying that the extreme actions by terrorist militants by no way represent the will of local people.

It is a stubborn internal illness in Pakistan, said Wang Yiwei, director of the Institute of International Affairs at the Renmin University of China, commenting on the latest terror attack.

It shows differences between the local provincial government and the Pakistani central government stemming from the imbalance of development. Therefore, such attacks should not be interpreted as opposition against the BRI flagship CPEC, Wang told the Global Times on Monday.

The US hyping of the so-called opposition against the BRI just proves that projects have attained major progress, Wang said.

Launched in 2013, the CPEC is a corridor linking Gwadar Port in southwestern Pakistan with Kashi in Northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, which highlights energy, transport and industrial cooperation

The CPEC, which is marking its 10th anniversary this year, has played an important role in bilateral cooperation between China and Pakistan and created over 155,000 local jobs for Pakistani people, China's National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC) said in May.

Besides that, multiple highway construction programs are progressing on schedule. Power plants that have entered commercial operation provide nearly one-third of Pakistan's national electricity demand, having changed the situation of power shortage in Pakistan. Gwadar Port co-built by China and Pakistan has made great progress in creating a regional logistics hub and industrial base. In addition, the construction of the first phase of the Rashakai Special Economic Zone in Pakistan has been completed and achieved positive results in business attraction, said the NDRC.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202308/1296267.shtml>

South China Morning Post

Pakistani insurgents attack Chinese convoy in restive province, Chinese embassy officials say

There were no Chinese casualties as a result of the attack in the port city of Gwadar, the embassy said. It said it 'strongly condemns this terrorist act'

The Pakistani military, reporting on the same incident, said insurgents attacked a military convoy in Gwadar and that troops returned firing, killing two attackers

Insurgents opened fire on Sunday on a convoy carrying Chinese citizens in the restive Balochistan province in southwestern Pakistan, the Chinese embassy in Pakistan said.

There were no Chinese casualties as a result of the attack in the port city of Gwadar, the embassy said. It said it “strongly condemns this terrorist act,” urging the authorities to investigate, punish the perpetrators and prevent such attacks from happening in the future.

The Pakistani military, reporting on the same incident, said insurgents attacked a military convoy in Gwadar and that troops returned firing, killing two attackers. The military made no mention of a Chinese presence, but typically escorts convoys carrying Chinese citizens.

The military said there was no harm to civilians or security forces.

Chinese companies operating in Gwadar and other parts of Balochistan have been targeted in the past by Baloch insurgents.

The Balochistan Liberation Army, a separatist group, claimed responsibility for the daylight attack and said it lasted for hours.

Balochistan has been the scene of a low-level separatist insurgency for more than two decades. Separatists initially demanded a share of the wealth in the province, which is rich in gas and minerals, and later called for separation from Islamabad.

Pakistani forces claim to have largely quelled the insurgency but attacks still take place.

The military said it seized weapons, ammunition and explosives, including a suicide vest.

Bajur was the scene two weeks ago of a suicide bombing at a political rally that killed 54 people. The Islamic State extremist group claimed responsibility.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/asia/south-asia/article/3230964/pakistani-insurgents-attack-chinese-convoy-restive-province-chinese-embassy-officials-say>

Attacks on Chinese targets in Pakistan ‘unlikely to derail close economic ties’

In the latest incident, a convoy of Chinese workers was attacked on the way to Gwadar Port in Balochistan and two attackers died in a shoot-out

Both countries have been working to improve security following a string of deadly attacks carried out by the Balochistan Liberation Army

Attacks on Chinese workers in Pakistan are not expected to have a major impact on the economic cooperation between the two countries, analysts said following the latest attack.

A convoy of 23 Chinese engineers in four bulletproof vehicles was attacked by insurgents on their way to the Gwadar Port in Balochistan on Sunday, the Chinese consulate in Karachi said.

The Balochistan Liberation Army, a separatist insurgent group, later claimed responsibility.

“Attacks like this, along with other security incidents, will have a certain impact on the construction of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, especially for individual investors ...

[when it comes to] risk assessment,” said Zhu Yongbiao, professor at Lanzhou University’s school of politics and international relations.

But he said the impact would be limited as both China and Pakistan had taken such security threats into account in the beginning and protection for Chinese workers had improved in the past two years following a series of deadly attacks.

“[These protection efforts] include sending troops to protect Chinese personnel, facilities, enterprises ... and detecting a considerable number of attempted terrorist attacks in advance,” he said.

According to the Pakistani armed forces, two attackers were killed by security forces escorting the Chinese convoy during the exchange of fire.

In response to the attack, Chinese foreign ministry spokesman Wang Wenbin said on Monday: “Any attempt to undermine the friendship between China and Pakistan or the construction of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor will never succeed.”

The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, in which the port in Gwadar plays a major role, is the biggest project under Beijing’s Belt and Road Initiative, a signature infrastructure project which has seen billions of US dollars invested across the world.

Chinese investments and influence have become a target of the Balochistan Liberation Army.

The group has become increasingly hostile to the Gwadar Port project since it began in 2013, and claimed responsibility for another suicide bombing targeting a convoy of Chinese engineers in 2021, which killed two people and injured three, including a Chinese national.

In April last year, a suicide attacker from the insurgent group killed four people near a Confucius Institute in Karachi.

Yan Wei, deputy director at the Institute of Middle Eastern studies at Northwest University in Xian, said frequent changes of government in Pakistan and the country’s economic problems had caused the terrorist group to become more active.

He said the group was attacking Chinese targets with the aim of “interfering with cooperation between China and Pakistan, hoping to gain more rights or even independence”.

But it had not been able to have a significant impact as its attacks were “sporadic” while the two countries had a long history of cooperation.

Yan said Chinese projects in the Gwadar Port might actually be beneficial to Balochistan in the long term.

“For instance, if China and Pakistan can cooperate effectively in Balochistan and boost trade in South Asia through the Gwadar Port, this may actually be beneficial to resolving the issues in Balochistan, as they are facing unbalanced development causing underdevelopment and poverty,” he said.

“If the economy in Balochistan is improved through a deepening of China-Pakistan cooperation, and the livelihood of Balochs is improved as a result, then I would say this is conducive to resolving the terrorist problem.”

Zhu of Lanzhou University meanwhile said the Taliban's coming to power in Afghanistan two years ago had also deepened security cooperation between Beijing and Islamabad.

"Early detection [of terrorist threats] has improved as communication between China and Pakistan has become smoother [following the takeover]," Zhu said.

"The attack on the Confucius Institute in Karachi last year was actually another turning point and we've noticed that the Pakistani side has made efforts to better protect Chinese interests."

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/diplomacy/article/3231062/attacks-chinese-targets-pakistan-unlikely-derail-close-economic-ties>

Xinhuanet News

No Chinese citizens injured in attack on Chinese convoy in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD, Aug. 13 (Xinhua) -- A Chinese convoy from the projects in Gwadar Port in southwestern Pakistan was attacked by a roadside bomb and gunfire on its way back to the port area from Gwadar Airport, the Chinese Consulate General in Karachi said in a statement on Sunday.

All Chinese citizens remained safe without being injured in the attack, the statement said.

The Consulate General has strongly condemned the terrorist attack and asked the Pakistani side to bring the perpetrators to justice and take concrete and effective measures to ensure the safety of Chinese citizens, organizations and projects, it added.

"The Consulate General has immediately activated the emergency plan, reminding local Chinese citizens, enterprises and projects to be vigilant, upgrade security measures, prevent security risks, pay close attention to the security situation, and ensure safety," according to the statement.

<https://english.news.cn/asiapacific/20230814/32dd9ba5daa643e1bdaa7a2a3df973b5/c.html>