



# For Better Understanding on China–Pakistan and CPEC

## Gleanings from the National & Chinese Press

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**February 16-28, 2023**

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## **February 16, 2023**

### **Daily Times**

#### **Chinese Embassy temporarily closes Consular Service Hall**

ISLAMABAD: The Chinese Embassy in Islamabad on Wednesday announced temporary closure of its Consular Service Hall.

“Due to technical reason, the Consular Service Hall of the Chinese Embassy in Islamabad will be temporarily closed from February 15, 2023 until further notice,” a notice posted on Embassy’s official website read. “Gerry’s Visa Center remains open and operates every working day,” it continued. “Embassy visa procedure will not be affected. In case of queries about Chinese passport and travel document, please call 051-8496167,” it concluded.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1063172/chinese-embassy-temporarily-closes-consular-service-hall/>

## **February 17, 2023**

### **Daily Times**

#### **Chinese company’s canola variety HC-021C blooming in Pakistan**

Wuhan Qingfahesheng seed company’s canola variety HC-021C is blooming in Pakistan. This technology can increase Pakistan edible oil production and save foreign Exchange reserve. China-Pak agricultural cooperation under CPEC framework will benefit local people livelihood. Recently, in a meeting held in PARC office Islamabad, Qingfa Hesheng Seed and Certus seeds have signed a MOU on the production of canola seed and edible oil in Pakistan under the framework of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor.

Working closely since the 2009, Qingfa Hesheng Seed & Certus Seeds, come up with a Hybrid Canola (HC-021C) 00 breed which has shown better yield in fields and quality health benefits in terms of oil extraction.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1063762/chinese-companys-canola-variety-hc-021c-blooming-in-pakistan/>

### **The Nation**

#### **First CPEC AI Lab in China is of great value: Envoy**

ISLAMABAD - Pakistan’s Ambassador to China, Moin-ul-Haque, has said that the upgraded Guangzhou Institute of Software Application Technology (GZIS) would certainly become the starting point for Pakistan’s digital blueprint.

GZIS is the builder of the first China- Pakistan Intelligent Systems (CPIInS) Lab, Gwadar Pro reported here on Thursday.

The ambassador expressed these views during his visit to the GZIS.

“Last year, President Xi Jinping had indicated that the CPEC needs to be further upgraded to the China-Pakistan Digital Corridor (CPDC). I sincerely hope that the laboratory can and should become the starting point for Pakistan’s digital blueprint,” he noted.

At the beginning of year 2022, the CPInS Lab was officially established at Pakistan National University of Science and Technology (NUST), with joint efforts of NUST and Guangzhou Institute of Software Application Technology. At present, various researches are in progress in an orderly manner.

“At present, we have made great progress in areas such as UAV control systems and AI recognition localization. Next step, our lab will start the application of smart cities in Pakistan,” Dr Wu Jun, the Director of CPInS Lab, told Gwadar Pro.

According to Moin-ul-Haque, what he is most concerned about is how to use artificial intelligence as an opportunity to set off Pakistan’s technological revolution, therefore, Pakistan can rise faster into an emerging industrial country, and how to strengthen Pakistan’s security infrastructure through AI.

“I am looking forward to a technology industrial park like China’s Zhongguancun thriving in Pakistan. This laboratory has undoubtedly taken the first step,” he said.

“Regarding smart city, currently, Cogniser-V1 intelligent video analysis project-a pilot project with the Government of Pakistan, and our commercial project GymBot, are the main projects that are under development.” Dr Wu revealed.

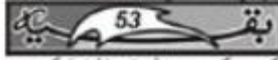
This year marks the 10th anniversary of the Belt and Road Initiative and the CPInS Lab will showcase the advanced achievements of cooperation between the two countries in artificial intelligence and smart cities.

“The lab will use algorithms to preserve, restore and reproduce the flourishing of Gandhara art,” Xiang Yang, Director of the China Study Centre at NUST,” he told the media.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2023-02-17/page-3/detail-13>

## K2 Daily

ایئر چیف سے چینی جنرل کی ملاقات، ہلال امتیاز ملٹری سے نوازا  
 ایئر چیف مارشل ظہیر احمد نے جنرل قان کی پاک فضائیہ کیلئے گراں قدر خدمات کو سراہا  
 پاکستان چین کیساتھ دفاعی تعاون میں دوستی کو قدر کی نگاہ سے دیکھتا ہے، گفتگو  
 اسلام آباد (پ ر) سربراہ پاک فضائیہ ایئر کمانڈر جنرل کوآپریشن (ہیڈ کوارٹر)، سماجی  
 چیف مارشل ظہیر احمد نے مسعودی حکومت پاکستان، جمہوریہ چین، جنرل قان جیانگن، کوان کے ایئر بیس  
 کی جانب سے ڈائریکٹر جنرل ایئر آف ملٹری کوارٹرز، اسلام آباد (ہائی سٹیٹ 6 ایئر نمبر 53)



کے دور کے دوران ہمالیہ (شہری) کے مزاد سے فراڈ جنرل فین کو یہاں پاکستانیہ کو ہدیہ خطوط پر استوار کرنے کے ساتھ ساتھ آپریشن صلاحیتوں میں اضافے کی بھرپور کوششوں اور اپنی کارکردگی کے اعتراف میں دیا گیا۔ ان کی انجی کادوں کی بدولت علاقائی طاقت کا توازن ممکن ہوا۔ معزز مہمان نے ایئر چیف سے ان کے دفتر میں ملاقات کی۔ ملاقات میں باہمی دلچسپی کے اہم امور سمیت علاقائی فوجی رشتہ پر تبادلہ خیال کیا گیا۔ سربراہ پاک فضائیہ نے پاکستان ایئر فورس کی ہدیہ آپریشن صلاحیت کو مزید بہتر بنانے کے اپنے وزن کے وسیع منصوبوں کا ذکر کیا اور پاک فضائیہ کو ہدیہ خطوط پر استوار کرنے کے لیے موجودہ آپریشن صلاحیتوں کے فروغ اور عصر حاضر کے فیکٹری اصولوں کے مطابق مناسب طور پر آپریشن کی تعمیر، سائبر اور راکٹری کے شعبوں میں جاری منصوبوں پر روشنی ڈالی۔ ایئر چیف نے معزز مہمان کو ہدیہ رفاقت کے مطابق پاک فضائیہ کے آپریشن ڈیپارٹمنٹ کی بہتری کے لیے جاری مختلف منصوبوں سے بھی آگاہ کیا۔ ایئر چیف نے اس امر پر بھی روشنی ڈالی کہ دونوں ممالک کے باہمی تاریخی اور بے مثال

فضائیہ اور میٹریکس لبریشن آرمی ایئر فورس کے باہمی فوجی تعاون اور ترقیاتی شعبوں میں موجود دوطرفہ تعلقات کو مزید فروغ دینے کے حزم کا بھی اعادہ کیا۔ سربراہ پاک فضائیہ نے مزید کہا کہ "پاکستان فین کے ساتھ اپنے مضبوط سفارتی، اقتصادی، دفاعی تعلقات اور لازوال دوستانہ رشتہ کو قدر کی نگاہ سے دیکھتا ہے اور یہ تعلقات علاقائی امن و سلامتی اور استحکام سے متعلق تمام امور میں ہم آہنگی پر مبنی ہیں۔ جنرل فین جی انجی نے ہمالیہ (شہری) سے نواز سے جانتے پر ایئر چیف اور حکومت پاکستان کا شکر یہ ادا کیا اور اس امید کا اظہار کیا کہ دونوں ممالک کی فضائی افواج کے درمیان تعاون مستقبل میں بھی یونہی جاری و ساری رہے گا۔ معزز مہمان نے پاک فضائیہ کے اہلکاروں کی پیشہ ورانہ مہارت اور گزشتہ برسوں کے دوران پاک فضائیہ کی جانب سے خاص طور پر خود انحصاری کے میدان میں کی گئی غیر معمولی پیش رفت کو سراہا۔

[Dailyk2 E-Paper | Issue=NP ICT&Page=Back Page&Date=2023-02-17](http://Dailyk2 E-Paper | Issue=NP ICT&Page=Back Page&Date=2023-02-17)

[Dailyk2 E-Paper | Issue=NP ICT&Page=Classified&Date=2023-02-17](http://Dailyk2 E-Paper | Issue=NP ICT&Page=Classified&Date=2023-02-17)

**February 18, 2023**

**Daily Times**

**Renewed Iran-China Ties**

*Muhammad Asif Noor*

President of Iran Ibrahim Raisi made a three-day historic visit to China and met President Xi Jinping to deepen the bilateral cooperation and review the implementation of the 25-year Strategic Cooperation alliance between the two nations. President Raisi is the first Iranian president to visit China in over two decades. President Raisi was accompanied by a large delegation, including the chief of the central bank and ministers of oil and mining apart from the leading negotiator on matters related to dialogue on the nuclear program. During the visit, several cooperation agreements and documents were signed. Almost twenty documents were agreed upon related to the 25 years of agreement to accelerate bilateral cooperation in new areas. This historic visit has several political, economic, and strategic implications for not only Iran and China but also for the region and globe.

For the past several decades, China and Iran have steadily built a strengthened partnership focusing on energy trade and exploring new areas of cooperation. Apart from energy-related collaboration, there have been significant boosts in economic ties and defence cooperation, balancing the geopolitical landscape in the Middle East region. The official visit of the President of Iran is significant as amidst the strong western sanctions and pressure Iran is looking towards this crucial strategic partnership with China to boost its economy and ward off the western pressure, including sanctions. Currently, China is Iran's largest trading partner; Tehran exports \$12.6 billion of goods to Beijing and imports \$12.7 billion.

China and Iran have steadily built a strengthened partnership focusing on energy trade.

The growing alliance between China and Iran has grown further after Iran's outreach to Shanghai Cooperation Organization from observer status to its full membership. Iran's relationship with China, Russia, and Central Asia is testimony to the realignment in Iranian foreign policy. This further helps Iran to use its diplomatic relations with SCO as leverage against the US-led sanction regimes and negotiations on the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action.

The significant trade-off of this strategic agreement is the Chinese imports of Iranian oil defying the American sanctions, which provide critical cash inflow to Tehran. In return, Iran provides market access to China for its products, including automobiles, houseware, and others. At the strategic level, China agrees to invest in railways, energy, sports, transportation, cyber security, research, and development in defence production. Through this vital cooperation, Iran will come out of the economic burden causing not only socio-economic stress at home and abroad.

This historic visit also reflects the non-partisan policy action of Iran towards China, especially after the change of government in Iran. During this important historic visit, the Presidents of Iran and China signed 20 more cooperation documents which are part of the 25-year comprehensive cooperation signed in 2021. Additionally, President Xi expressed his willingness to accelerate the implementation of the 2021 deal by deepening the "practical cooperation in trade, agriculture, industry, infrastructure, and other fields and importing more high-quality Iranian agricultural products in 2023.

The partnership between Iran and China has also created ripples on the geopolitical chessboard in the Middle East. China's outreach to the Middle East is non-partisan and seeks to engage both Iran and Saudi Arabia. This independent foreign policy of China is a source of concern for the US because it not only reduces the US's potential to punish Iran but also drifts Saudi Arabia away from the US. China has the inherent policy of no confrontation rather with sheer wisdom, the leadership and policy leaders of the Community Party are trying their best to promote the values of inclusive growth and helping countries through economic means. Iran is an example, and so do other countries like Pakistan. The growth of Iran and Pakistan means that although the political pandits might comment on strategic matters simultaneously if we review it through the lens of economic development, China's support and investment is ever growing in both countries.

During this visit, Iran and China's engagement also demonstrate China's expanding and growing influence in the region and how the country is building its alliances with the regional countries. This is particularly significant given China's role as a major player in global affairs and the increasing competition between the US and China for regional influence. It is also important to note that this visit will bring into the limelight that Iran is expanding its diplomatic engagement despite challenges.

The regional connectivity will reach one of the largest organizations in the region as an essential permanent member. The close partnership of Iran with China may also give a further boost to Pakistan and China relations, especially the trilateral cooperation on CPEC

might further enhance cooperation although there are several challenges to that however, owing to the fact that China's foreign engagement has the nature of building bridges and creating room for dialogue, there are various opportunities that will grow in future. Cooperation between Iran and China has several positive impacts on the region especially to make the region more connected and inclusive for growth. This also has the potential to open new doors of opportunity can enhance cooperation between Iran and China.

The writer is Founder (Friends of BRI Forum).

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1064059/renewed-iran-china-ties/>

### **Pakistan's rice exports to China increase by 53% in 2022**

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 at Pakistan's Embassy in Beijing, China.

Ghulam Qadir indicated that according to the General Administration of Customs of the People's Republic of China (GACC), last year, bilateral trade in agriculture products increased significantly and China imported more than 1.19 million tons of different types of rice from Pakistan, an increase of 53% year on year.

"Our rice exports to China surpassed one million tons for the first time, due to facilitation from both governments and hard work of businessmen. With the opening up of China, these exports are forecast to grow more", he added.

He further said that according to statistics from the General Administration of Customs, in 2022, 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.

"The Chinese Government is supporting Pakistan by establishing offline and online Pavilions and Pakistani rice has hit the e-commerce platform in China and sales are expected to grow further. We are working with GACC to ensure more Pakistani rice enterprises register and increase our exports even further", Qadir mentioned.

Commercial Counsellor told China Economic Net that Pakistani rice is getting popular in the Chinese market due to its finest taste and quality while the total number of Pakistani enterprises registered with GACC also increased last year and now the number currently stands at 62.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1064182/pakistans-rice-exports-to-china-increase-by-53-in-2022-2/>

### **Dawn News**

### **Don't blame the Chinese**

*Pervez Hoodbhoy*

AN exam question for CSS aspirants: what's higher than the Himalayas, deeper than the seas, stronger than steel, and sweeter than honey? Well, dear candidate, any hesitation suggests your patriotism level needs checking in Rawalpindi or Aabpara.

Every flag-waving Pakistani knows Pak-China friendship is the only answer. Next, what makes CPEC a game changer? Obvious! New industries will sprout, existing ones will hum away, exports will shoot through the roof, Gwadar will become the next Dubai, all debts will be paid off, jobs will be galore, and the sun shall shine forever.

These dreams lie punctured as Pakistan gallops towards debt default. CPEC started in 2013, with \$62 billion spent to date. But now debt-ridden Pakistan is casting around for loans to pay older loans. Whoever will give — and on whichever terms — is to be heartily embraced. The ‘unbreakable bonds’ of Pak-China friendship are under stress.

According to IMF data, China holds roughly \$30bn of Pakistan’s \$126bn total external foreign debt. This is thrice its IMF debt (\$7.8bn) and exceeds its borrowings from the World Bank and Asian Development Bank combined. So why is mighty China awaiting the green signal from American-led IMF before releasing some relief? Shouldn’t it at least reschedule Pakistan’s debt? Or, better, wipe it off?

Let’s face it: these are naïve hopes. Chinese capitalism — like any other capitalism — is about profit, not philanthropy. In Marketing-101, a budding businessman learns how to sell water to a drowning man. Banking-101 tells you how to identify desperate debtors. Law-101 is about dealing with defaulters.

Chinese companies, state or private, are like other companies. Being under their government’s instructions to view Pakistan as a strategic ally, they understand Gwadar gives entry to the warm waters of the Persian Gulf — those which allegedly attracted USSR into invading Afghanistan. But they tread cautiously; Pakistan is not the world’s best place to park your capital.

New ventures are therefore few and even these are low-tech. A plant in Hub manufactures excellent Hui Cheng beer. Elsewhere: a cellphone assembly plant, automobile spare parts made here and footwear made there, a microfinance bank, etc. Plus, farmland has been acquired for vegetables to be shipped to the Chinese market.

Ah, but what about hi-tech stuff like nuclear technology? There’s a 50-year history of Chinese nuclear help to Pakistan, both open and clandestine. Without that, Pakistan’s atomic bomb and the 1998 nuclear tests wouldn’t have happened. Still, there was a substantial Pakistani element to the bomb.

That’s not so for nuclear power reactors! Bombs were hi-tech until the 1960s, but not thereafter. Reactors, however, are complicated beasts. The two Hualong HPR-1000 plants (\$7bn apiece) known as Kanupp-2 and Kanupp-3 have all their core components designed and manufactured in China. Even the fuel comes from China. PAEC’s role is merely supportive. Under Chinese supervision, it undertook the civil works, installation and operation of the plants.

Compare with Chinese involvement in Singapore which, like Pakistan, is a former British colony. This island is 42 times smaller population-wise and 1,093 times smaller area-wise. But last year, FDI in Singapore was \$92bn compared to \$2bn for Pakistan. Its economy attracts American and Chinese giant companies for semiconductor design and manufacture, communications, robotics, financial technologies, business and professional services, etc.



These staggeringly large differences cry out for an explanation.

First, Singapore is peaceful while Pakistan is violence-wracked. Terrorism — a byproduct of earlier official encouragement to ‘jihadi’ groups — is sweeping through the country once again. Notwithstanding a special force of 10,000 for protecting Chinese workers in Pakistan, they live in fear.

A string of blasphemy-related lynchings — including that of a Sri Lankan factory manager — has increased their worries. When added to the cultural distance and language barrier, this severely limits mingling between Chinese and locals.

Second, Singapore’s laws are obeyed in letter and spirit, whereas in Pakistan laws are made to be broken. In this low-trust business environment, under-the-table deals are as common as legal ones. Since opacity in CPEC dealings is justified as a national security need, we cannot know the level of kickbacks.

Third, Singapore has a workforce that is hard-working, highly skilled, and adaptive. This is untrue for Pakistan. Hence the virtual exclusion of Pakistanis at the design and engineering level from major CPEC projects executed on Pakistani soil. Earlier promises crumbled away for this reason.

CPEC was built around a fatally flawed premise. It presumed that infrastructure — roads, bridges and electricity — alone will create growth and jobs. This is like assuming abundant water, soil, and fertiliser will yield a rich harvest. But the crucial input is seed — human capital. And here’s where things went awry.

Pakistan certainly has people as bright and talented as anywhere. But because of an education system gone berserk, it offers only low-grade human capital to industry. Because indoctrination was promoted over knowledge and skills, we are stuck with an ocean of unemployable youth.

Sending 30,000 Pakistani students to China for higher studies has failed to generate human capital. From former students who have returned with a degree in hand, I hear shocking stories. Most Pakistani students in China opt to game the system and cut corners, not learn or achieve.

In engineering and hard sciences, few are properly equipped for any but the shoddiest of Chinese universities. Of course, there are always honourable exceptions.

As talk turns towards debt traps and comparisons with Sri Lanka, anxiety and anger is growing. But calmness is needed lest an earlier folly be repeated. Delusions that Pakistan’s staunchest friend was America — and the supplier of its every need — ultimately shattered the relationship with its “most allied ally” of yesteryear. That need not — should not — have happened.

China is probably guilty of short-selling us — most IPP deals are considered a scam. So are tax exemptions to Chinese companies. Duty-free imports from China have driven many local manufacturers to bankruptcy. But it was our trumpet blowers who sold to us the nonsense of CPEC as a Marshall Plan for Pakistan. Europe was ruined by war, but Pakistan fell on its knees because of its own doing.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1737793>

## **The Express Tribune**

### **CPEC's ThalNova to begin operations**

ThalNova and TEL collectively will provide 660MW of electricity

KARACHI: China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC)'s 330MW lignite fired power plant at Thar Coal Block II in Sindh successfully achieved its commercial operations date on February 17, 2023.

ThalNova is a joint venture among Hub Power Company Limited (HUBCO), Thal Limited, Novatex Limited, China Machinery Engineering Corporation (CMEC), and Descon Engineering Limited.

Foreign financing for the project was arranged from a Chinese syndicate, led by the China Development Bank whereas local financing has been arranged via a syndicate led by Habib Bank Limited.

Construction on the project started in March 2019 to ensure the project reached its Commercial Operation Date (COD) in a timely manner and begins utilising local Thar coal as soon as possible.

ThalNova is a European technology-based power plant with the boiler, turbine and generator designed and manufactured by world renowned company General Electric. This leads to higher reliability standards and controls emissions to even lower than those allowed by the Sindh Environmental Protection Agency (SEPA). The plant is expected to generate electricity at extremely affordable rates.

According to details, ThalNova utilises Thar coal, sourced through the Sindh Engro Coal Mining Company (SECMC). The utilisation of indigenous fuel is a development that will further aid in revolutionising the Pakistani energy sector.

Amidst the current economic scenario and soaring prices of fuel, cheaper energy production via the Thar coal will impact Pakistan's development immensely.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2401807/cpecs-thalnova-to-begin-operations>

## **The Nation**

### **PIA reduces fares for Pakistani students traveling to China**

BEIJING - Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) has further cut down its fare for Pakistani students travelling from Pakistan to China with immediate effect.

The national flag carrier has cut down fares from the existing 22 per cent to 27 per cent for students wishing to travel between Pakistan and China, official sources told APP here on Friday. Currently, PIA is operating two weekly flights on Islamabad-Beijing-Islamabad and Islamabad-Chengdu-Islamabad routes on Sunday and Wednesday, respectively.

Pakistani students and other passengers planning to travel to China to join their studies at Chinese educational institutions could take benefit from the new fare.

A large number of Pakistani students enrolled in Chinese universities could not return to China following the Covid-19 travel restrictions. After lifting all travel restrictions, they are planning to come back to China to join offline classes as the Chinese authorities have allowed them to return.

Talking to APP, Tehsin Ahmad, a Pakistani student, said that the new decreased fare would greatly facilitate Pakistani students who want to come back and join their offline education.

He said a large number of students could now avail of the offer of discounted fares and return to their respective universities in China.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2023-02-18/page-2/detail-7>

## **PPIB announces achievement of COD of Thar coal based 330MW ThalNova Power Project**

*Fawad Yousafzai*

ISLAMABAD - Private Power and Infrastructure Board (PPIB) Friday announced achievement of commercial operation date (COD) of Thar coal based 330MW ThalNova Power Project.

Sponsored by a joint venture comprising HUBCO, Thal Limited, Novatex Limited, China Machinery Engineering Corporation (CMEC), and Descon with \$497.7 million investment, ThalNova Power is a mine-mouth lignite-fired power plant at Thar Coal Block II Sindh and is a part of the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). The plant will be fueled by coal extracted from Thar Block II by the Sindh Engro Coal Mining Company and will utilize 1.9 million tons of coal to generate 2.24 billion units of electricity per annum with anticipated annual savings of Rs 55 billion.

This is the second project commissioned during current month. 330MW ThalNova Power Project has achieved such a momentous milestone. This significant development is another achievement in PPIB's endeavors to provide cheap and indigenous electricity to the national grid.

With this latest addition, total production of electricity from five Thar coal based power generation plants has reached to mammoth 3,300 which indicates growing interest of investors. Prior to ThalNova, PPIB has already facilitated commissioning of four Thar coal based project having gross capacity of 2,970 MW, namely 660 MW Engro, 660 MW Lucky, 330 MW Hubco and 1320 MW Shanghai Thar power projects, all of which are at Top of NPCCs merit order list.

Commissioning of this project will result in huge annual savings of foreign exchange outflow and reduce dependence on imported fuels while cumulative estimated reduction in fuel bill from 3,300 MW will be Rs 550 billion. Hence basket price of electricity shall also be reduced significantly. Additionally, the ThalNova Project will play pivotal role for bringing prosperity to local & regional communities and improving living of local Thari people by generating employment & business opportunities.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2023-02-18/page-8/detail-6>

**February 19, 2023**

**Daily Times**

**China firmly supports Pakistan in maintaining security: Wang Yi**

China firmly supports Pakistan in maintaining security and stability, as well as achieving development and revitalization, and stands ready to provide assistance to the best of its ability to help Pakistan overcome temporary difficulties.

Wang Yi, Director of the Office of the Foreign Affairs Commission of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee, made these remarks during a meeting with Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari on the sidelines of the 59th Munich Security Conference, which opened on Friday, Chinese state-run news agency Xinhua reported.

Wang, also a member of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee, said China and Pakistan were “all-weather strategic cooperative partners” and “China-Pakistan friendship is rock solid.”

“China is ready to work with Pakistan to implement the strategic consensus reached by the leaders of the two countries and build an even closer community of shared future in the new era”, he said.

Bilawal expressed satisfaction over the development of Pakistan-China relations. He stressed that China was Pakistan’s all-weather friend and “an important pillar of Pakistan’s foreign policy is to strengthen relations with China and promote the construction of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor.”

Pakistan would resolutely fight terrorism and spare no effort to ensure the safety of Chinese enterprises and citizens in Pakistan, he said.

The two sides also exchanged views on strengthening mutual support under the current international situation.

Meanwhile, talking to his Ukrainian counterpart Dmytro Kuleba on the sidelines of the Munich Security Conference in Germany, Bilawal once again emphasised early resolution of the Russia-Ukraine conflict through dialogue and diplomacy.

Bilawal took to Twitter to share details of the meeting and said the two leaders “had an in-depth exchange of views on a range of issues and resolved to further enhance bilateral cooperation for benefit of their peoples”.

The foreign minister also stated that he had an “enriching discussion with senior Chinese diplomat Wang Yi on global, regional and bilateral matters”.

“All-Weather Strategic Cooperative Partnership remains the vital pillar of regulating peace & stability and for our shared future towards development and prosperity,” he added.

Earlier, at a panel discussion, Bilawal urged the international community to help in capacity building of the Afghan interim authorities to take on threats of terrorism.

He said that the international community wanted the Afghan interim government to live up to its obligations and commitments in areas like women education, all-inclusive government and tackling of potential threats from terrorism, emanating from terrorist groups of Daesh, TTP and Al Qaeda.

The foreign minister said that if this issue was not taken seriously, the terrorist groups could conduct terrorist activities from Afghanistan as had been witnessed recently from the incidents in Pakistan. The interim government neither had a standing army, a counter-terrorism force and even a border force, nor have the capacity, he opined.

Bilawal said the global community should convince the Afghan interim government to take on the threat of terrorism and demonstrate its will. Terrorism not only posed threat to immediate neighbours of Afghanistan but also to the West, he cautioned.

Pakistan had helped Afghanistan in the past and would continue to do so as it had hosted the largest number of Afghan refugees on its soil, he said, adding that the international community could not wash their hands and turn away from Afghanistan. He stressed that the world should continue its humanitarian support, unfreeze Afghan's assets and engage with the Taliban, society and the women.

The foreign minister reiterated that a peaceful Afghanistan was vital for the stability of the region and the international community must play its role in this regard. The Afghan interim government had assured to eradicate terrorism from its soil, he added.

He also elaborated that the continuation of economic activities and progress in the war-weary Afghanistan was must for peace and stability and would help the interim Afghan authorities to run the affairs of the country.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1064319/china-firmly-supports-pakistan-in-maintaining-security-wang-yi/>

### **China, Pakistan launch international industry-education alliance**

China, Pakistan International Industry-Education Cooperation Alliance Initiative was launched at the China, Pakistan Seminar on "Internet" International Education and Industry-Education Integration held in Beijing.

Pakistan's Ambassador to China, Moin ul Haque addressed the seminar, which was hosted by the China Education Association for International Exchange and Organized by TANG International Education Group and Pakistan's Embassy in Beijing as part of the 23rd China Annual Conference & Expo for International Education.

"A large number of Chinese enterprises are working in Pakistan on such projects. They need a skilled labour force", the Ambassador said, adding, "Recently, I had the opportunity to visit some big names in Shenzhen, China and was impressed by their innovation, hard work, and focus on people training. China has emerged as one of the world leaders in AI, computing, IoT, and big data. We would like to emulate the achievements of China in Pakistan".

It is learned that almost ten per cent of the youth in Pakistan are unemployed and have no vocational, technical or commercial skills. Meanwhile, with the progress of CPEC, the

demand for a skilled labour force is becoming more and more urgent, China Economic Net (CEN) reported.

It is under such a backdrop that the seminar was hosted. “Chinese colleges’ investment in modern international education platforms and digital curriculum resources has helped train local Pakistani teachers and provided a large number of scholarships and living allowances for the poorest students in Pakistan to access to learning and life-changing opportunities”, said Li Jinsong, President of TANG International Education Group.

In the same spirit, the China-Pakistan International Industry-Education Cooperation Alliance will facilitate the introduction of 210 Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) disciplines of China to Pakistan, the establishment of 36 TVET excellence centres, the provision of international courses, and the opportunities of pursuing further studies and jobs in China in its following work.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1064499/chinapakistan-launch-international-industry-education-alliance/>

### **80% work completed on Gwadar 1.2 MGD water plant**

80% work has been completed on Gwadar’s 1.2 MGD Seawater desalination plant, said Gwadar Port Authority (GPA) Project Director Dawood Baloch in an interview with Gwadar Pro.

It is a gift from China with a cost of Rs. 2 billion to help mitigate the water miseries of the local people of Gwadar.

Showing satisfaction over the pace and scale of the project, he said that the 80 percent completion has sparked hopes that water desalination plant will be officially inaugurated many weeks ahead of its scheduled completion timeframe.

The original completion time is set on 30 June 2023, he explained.

On a query, he said that all related equipment and apparatus have reached Gwadar and technically they will be installed within two months promising the early operation of the desalination plant.

He further stated that alongside the ongoing construction of the 1.2 MGD seawater desalination plant, a process of laying down around one kilo meter long water supply line from plant site to Gwadar’s main water supply network has also been completed in a record time. This water supply line will come into operation once the water plant begins to function, he added.

He mentioned that through this connectivity, potable water will be supplied to inside taps of residents of Gwadar. The 1.2 MGD Water Desalination Plant is spreading over approximately one acre of land.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1064494/80-work-completed-on-gwadar-1-2-mgd-water-plant/>

### **Chinese canola flowers in full bloom in Pakistan**

Canola variety HC-021C of a Chinese seed company is blooming in Pakistan. This agriculture cooperation under China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) will increase Pakistan's edible oil production and save foreign exchange reserves.

In an interview with Gwadar Pro, Zhou Xusheng, Director of International Department, Wuhan Qingfa Hesheng Seed Company said that the project will increase the country's unit output and reduce import bills. Mills can get better milling yield and consumers can get healthy edible oil, he added.

Comparing with other existing Brassica napus canola varieties in Pakistan, Zhou said that HC-021C has a shorter growth period, making it suitable to match with local farmers' sowing habits. In addition, HC-021C is proven to show higher disease resistance and is suitable for high density planting.

Given these great characteristics, HC-021C has a higher yield, 5% higher than other local varieties per unit.

Underlining the benefits of HC-021C in Pakistan, Zhou said that the Punjab government gives a Rs5000/ package to HC-021C as it has better oil rape seed color. Farmers can get Rs500/40kgs more than raya/mustard, therefore HC-021C can get a better income.

He said, "In terms of nutritional value, given Ayub's research, HC-021C is able to achieve 38% or higher on oil content (10% higher than raya/mustard) and over 66% on oleic acid.

Moreover, HC-021C's erucic acid content weighs 0.7%, much lower than the 2% international standard, resulting in higher added value on downstream processing." "In the future, Qingfa and its partner Certus Seeds in Pakistan will invest in new breeding varieties locally. For building an industry chain in Pakistan, we plan to introduce canola harvester modules and Chinese oil press technology and units.

Besides the downstream chain we also want to develop fine variety, contract farming to provide high quality rape seeds to local oil press mills. This mode will benefit whole chains," Zhou added.

Pakistan has a huge demand for vegetable oil. Each resident is estimated to have an annual consumption of 18 kilograms of oil, resulting in an annual consumption of around 5 million tons. Edible oil is among the largest food imports in Pakistan.

From 2021 to 2022, Pakistan has imported around 3.6 billion dollars' worth of edible oil, making it 89% of Pakistan's national supply. Among all edible oils Pakistan has imported palm oil which occupies the largest share of 94%. Local supply of palm oil only takes up 11% of the market share.

Since 2009, Wuhan Qingfahesheng Seed Company has cooperated with Certus Seeds Pakistan for canola research and breeding in Pakistan while HC-021C was approved by the Pakistani Government later in 2019.

The company also manages breeding and technical support for local farmers. Every March the company arranges field days for farmers and transfers cultivation technology to them for better yield.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1064497/chinese-canola-flowers-in-full-bloom-in-pakistan/>

### **Pakistan Observer**

#### **Indian media falsely blames China for Pakistan's economic woes**

*Sultan M Hali*

INDIAN media wastes no opportunity in targeting China and Pakistan with its fake news factory churning out reports to denigrate both. In its latest campaign of smearing Sino-Pak ties, taking advantage of Pakistan's economic woes, its ongoing struggles with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to secure loans to stem the tide of hyperinflation, Indian media is falsely blaming China for Pakistan's economic woes. The economic quagmire that Pakistan finds itself stuck in is the result of financial mismanagement of successive regimes that resorted to wanton borrowing and spending beyond their means. China, Pakistan's iron brother and all weather strategic partner, has a time tested relationship with. To insidiously imply that somehow China or the CPEC are responsible for Pakistan's current economic meltdown is not only malicious but also far removed from the truth.

India, which itself boasts of having emerged from a civilization which dates back thousands of years, somehow fails to appreciate the philosophy behind China's policies, which are based on its ancient wisdom derived from its traditions, culture and values. Blinded by the extremist ideology of Hindutva, which preaches the supremacy of Hindu Brahmin class over all other religions, castes and creeds, Indian rulers in the current regime perceive Chinese policy of "live and let live" with disbelief and suspicion. Guided by Chanakyan stratagem of subterfuge, guile and treachery, Narendra Modi and his ilk employ all their energy in spewing venom against China trying to create misunderstandings to shatter the rock solid Pak-China ties.

Chinese Supreme Leader, Xi Jinping's prescience and cognition visualized the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) not just as a means for reviving the spirit of cooperation behind the ancient Silk Road but as a roadmap for enabling countries to enjoy prosperity through trade and transit. Over one hundred countries and organizations have so far come on board with their eyes wide open, not at the point of a gun or any sort of blackmail because they were able to grasp the ethos of the mega project. The only countries to oppose BRI are China's traditional rivals Australia, India, Japan and the US.

The flagship project of BRI is the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) which was expected to be a harbinger of economic prosperity for Pakistan in varied projects comprising agriculture systems, industry, communications, trade, information technology and poverty alleviation. It made a tremendous start and most of the early harvest goals were achieved but political instability, the advent of the global pandemic COVID-19 and numerous other impediments deterred Pakistan from making optimum utilization of the mega project.

A major threat to the mega project has been terror attacks targeting Chinese engineers and



technicians working on different projects. The capture of a senior operative of Indian spy agency RAW, Commander Kulbhoshan Jadhav alias Hussain Mubarak Patel spilled the beans on Indian machinations to drive the Chinese away. The Indian master spy confessed to recruiting misled Baluch youth, imparting training in terrorism, as well as arming them and launching them to commit barbaric attacks on Chinese personnel. After Pakistan managed to get a grip on terrorism and rounded up the ringleaders identified by Kulbhoshan Jadhav, India launched a massive fifth generation warfare assault on Pakistan and China through its diplomatic, media and various tools of intrigue.

The exposé by European Union's DisinfoLab in its 90-page report which unearthed the machinations of an international network funded by organizations with Indian leanings provided detailed disclosures labelled Indian Chronicles comprising 265 fake media outlets, multiple dubious think tanks and NGOs, financed by Indian or pro-Indian entities surreptitiously working to destabilize Pakistan and attempting to drive a wedge between Pakistan and China through its plethora of fake news.

The discovery of Indian Chronicles did not deter India but spurred it into full gear to besmirch Pakistan, tarnish the image of China and create a milieu where Chinese investors, engineers and technicians are forced to withdraw from Pakistan. To achieve this heinous agenda, agent provocateurs have been employed by India to create mayhem through protest rallies and blow the situation out of proportion through its media.

Here are a few examples: Wion TV, Indian TV News Channel's December 16, 2022 report 'Pakistan: Gwadar protest leader warns Chinese to leave key port' available at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kI-ZFaozrb4>

Similarly, OpIndia.com's February 7, 2023 story: "Gwadar protests: 'Anti-Chinese' protests erupt in China's rental state threatening to unravel the China-Pakistan relationship" at <https://www.opindia.com/2023/02/gwadar-balochistan-maulana-hidayat-ur-rehman-cpec-protests-china>

The above two sources and numerous others repeated in a wide array of Indian media have parroted the story: "Gwadar, the port city located on the south-western coast of Baluchistan, Pakistan, is in news for the past two months due to the ongoing protests led by Maulana Hidayat-ur-Rehman. The Haq Do Tehreek (Give Rights to Gwadar) protests are termed to be anti-Chinese, as the protestors are asking the Chinese nationals to vacate the port area while demanding rights for the local Baluch people.

"Rehman warned Chinese citizens residing in Gwadar that if the government chooses to ignore their peaceful rallies, the populace has the right to take up and use guns and weapons to defend their rights. According to the reports, thousands of protesters in Balochistan have used Chinese nationals as a negotiation chip to get their concerns addressed." Maulana Hidayat-ur-Rehman, reportedly on the payroll of Indian agencies, after lighting the fire of discord, slipped away from the protests and disappeared from Gwadar but the bottom line of the terror mongers is forcing the Chinese to leave Pakistan in the lurch, without completing CPEC.

To add salt to the wound, a fake story was surreptitiously slipped in on February 3, 2023 by

“The Indian Express” stating ‘Can’t provide security to all Chinese nationals; better to hire private security firms: Pakistan’s Punjab government.’ The story was planted in the wake of a deadly terror attack in a mosque in the police lines area of Peshawar city that killed more than 10 people, mostly policemen, which could have been plotted by India.

On the one hand, on January 25, 2023, India issued a notice to Pakistan accusing it of being “intransigent” on the implementation of the IWT, officially notifying Pakistan to renegotiate the treaty with the plea that Pakistan is repeatedly indulging in unjustified actions, that are against the spirit and objective of the treaty, to scuttle the Indian projects while on the other, it maliciously posts a fake news on February 3, 2023: ‘China scuttles Pakistan’s Neelum Jhelum Project over delayed payments’, posted at

<https://www.aninews.in/news/world/asia/china-scuttles-pakistans-neelum-jhelum-project-over-delayed-payments20230203151741/>

Such conspiracies are a product of the tricks taught by Chanakya. Indian aim is two prong: to deny China the use of Gwadar and the shortest route through CPEC to Kashgar simultaneously sabotaging Pakistan’s means of achieving economic prosperity. Indian monstrous designs must be exposed.

<https://pakobserver.net/indian-media-falsely-blames-china-for-pakistans-economic-woes-by-sultan-m-hali/>

## **The gigantic Karot Hydropower Project**

*Naveed Aman Khan*

The endless Silk Road represents thousands of miles of love, harmony and prosperity in the region. More than 2,000 years ago, the Silk Road had been an ancient network of friendship, building a bridge of friendship between the peoples of China and Pakistan.

Construction of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor under Belt and Road Initiative on the principles of extensive consultation, joint contribution, and shared benefits, is done to pass the baton of development to the next generation for a new era.

Adhering to the philosophy of selfless dedication to global betterment in fulfilling its social responsibility, China Three Gorges Corporation (CTG) is dedicated to jointly build a closer community of shared future with Pakistan in a new time based on the needs of Pakistan’s development, while deeply integrating the expectations of the Pakistani people. Both Pakistan and China are determined to share common interests, and work together to make themselves more prosperous. In January 2016, the Karot hydropower project groundbreaking ceremony was held in Pakistan. In February 2017, the project completed the financing Closure, creating a record of the fastest financing closure in Pakistan’s hydropower industry. In September 2018, river closure was completed, which symbolized the entry into the comprehensive construction stage.

On November 20, 2021, water storage was launched upon the closure of the sluice gates. On March 29, 2022, the rotor hoisting of all four units completed. On May 12, 2022, units 1 and 2 were officially connected to the grid for power generation. The project started operations on 29 June 2022.

Karot Hydropower Project is the fourth among the five Cascade HPPs to be developed along Jhelum River. Installed capacity of the project is 720 MW with average annual electricity output 3206 GW•h and annual utilization hours 4452h. As a single power generation task hydropower complex, the project's structure layout includes rock fill dam, spillway, powerhouse, diversion tunnels, head race power tunnels and tail race tunnel. The project has been developed under the Power Policy 2002 on a Build-Own-Operate-Transfer (BOOT) basis with five years construction period and thirty years concession period. The 720 MW Karot hydropower project has been listed as one of the prioritized projects under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor. The project is located at district Rawalpindi & AJK on Jhelum River. It is run of river type project with gross head of 79 m. As many as four Francis Turbine Units are installed. Approval of feasibility study of the project was given on Oct 7, 2009.

The Karot Hydropower Station is located on the Jhelum River, a tributary of the Indus River in northern Pakistan. It is the first large-scale hydropower investment and construction project of the "Belt and Road Initiative", the first hydropower investment project of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor. It is also the first hydropower project invested by the Silk Road Fund after its establishment. The capacity of the project is 720 MW.

It is developed on BOOT (build-own-operate-transfer) model with advanced hydropower technology. It has become the largest private sector hydropower project in Pakistan and provided over 3.2 billion KWh of clean energy to the Pakistani people every year, which is equivalent to the total electricity consumption of more than two million Pakistani households in one year. It also plays an important role in increasing the proportion of clean energy in Pakistan, optimizing the energy structure, alleviating the power shortage in Pakistan, promoting Pakistani economic and social development, improving people's livelihood and well-being and helping achieve the global carbon neutrality goal. The total investment in the project is 1.74 billion US dollars. The average annual power generation is greater than 3.2 billion kWh. It can guarantee an electricity supply for 5 million people. The project capacity is 720 MW. It will also provide over 4,500 jobs for Pakistan directly or indirectly every year. By the end of 2021, China Three Gorges South Asia Investment Ltd (CSAIL), an investment holding company formed by China Three Gorges Corporation (CTG), had provided Pakistan with about 6,000 jobs in total, providing an important boost to Pakistan's economic and social development.

On the face of the rampant pandemic, the company has joined hands with the Pakistani people to help each other over the difficulties, by which the people have been in closer connection, with the China-Pakistan friendship higher than the mountain, deeper than the sea and sweeter than honey sublimating in the process of common development and playing a role in building a community of shared future in Asia. For more than seven decades, we have joined hands in forging ahead through trials and hardships, fostering an iron-clad friendship. Despite ever-changing international situations, CTG continues to follow the road of openness and win-win cooperation, jointly building a cooperation platform with Pakistan to share the fruits of cooperation, so that the achievements made in the joint construction of the Belt and Road Initiative benefit the Pakistani people more.

The wind does not always blow in the direction that the sailor wishes. Only through united efforts the people can move hand in hand towards a better future. Addressing the power short fall such worthy projects change the economic and social status of the region and put positive and long-lasting impacts on the society.

<https://pakobserver.net/the-gigantic-karot-hydropower-project-by-naveed-aman-khan/>

### **The Express Tribune**

#### **Chinese firm keen on establishing plant**

Minister, Chinese team discussed cooperation in energy, health and technical training

LAHORE: Caretaker Provincial Minister for Industries and Commerce SM Tanveer and a delegation of the TIENS Group of China, on Saturday, discussed investment opportunities in Punjab at the Punjab Board of Investment and Trade (PBIT).

“Our group wants to increase its business activities in Pakistan and also to set up a manufacturing plant here,” said Zhang Zhang Tao, President of the TIENS Group of China. Speaking on the occasion, Tanveer assured the group of the government’s full cooperation and suggested, “The TIENS Group should set up factories in Special Economic Zones.”

“The TIENS Group could also enter into joint ventures with Pakistani companies,” he said, adding that the government would provide all possible facilities. “There are also plenty investment opportunities in the production of electric vehicles in Punjab,” added the minister.

Both sides agreed to increase cooperation in the fields of energy, health and technical training.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2402040/chinese-firm-keen-on-establishing-plant>

### **The Nation**

#### **Drivers of Dasu Power Project go on strike for arrears**

Mansehra - Drivers and transporters for the Dasu hydropower project, as well as Chinese engineers and other personnel, went on strike to demand payment of arrears on Saturday. The drivers of rented vehicles did not take foreigners to their respective working sites of the 4320 megawatts Dasu hydropower project, causing delays in the mega energy project being carried out in the Upper Kohistan district with financial assistance from the world Bank and other lending institutions.

They also protested by parking their vehicles at the Dasu Dam site, demanding that their outstanding funds for the previous four months be released immediately. protesters stated that they would refuse to provide services to Chinese engineers and labourers until their outstanding arrears were paid.

The drivers and carriers had informed management that if their demands were not met by February 8, 2023, they would refuse to transport the foreigners. Meanwhile, residents of the saglu region affected by the Dasu hydropower project staged a sit-in, demanding that the wapda release compensation funds. They chanted slogans in support of their demands,

claiming that the wapda and district government had informed them that their money would be issued for the previous year, but to no avail.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2023-02-19/page-3/detail-1>

## DPO reviews security arrangements for Chinese staff working at Munda Dam

PESHAWAR - District Police Officer (DPO) Charsadda Muhammad Arif on Saturday made a visit to the Munda Dam, Mohmand and Police Line to review security measures for the Chinese staff working on the project. During the visit, he expressed satisfaction with the security arrangements and issued instructions to the police officers present. He emphasised that special attention should be given to the security of foreigners and that police personnel should be deployed on the designated routes.

The officers were instructed to escort the Chinese nationals through routes, while also remaining alert and vigilant by wearing helmets and jackets. DPO Charsadda also emphasised the importance of maintaining constant communication between the policemen on duty and the control room.

DSP Tangi Taj Mohammad Khan and DSP headquarters Nasrullah Khan, along with other police officials, were also present during the visit. The visit by DPO Charsadda was seen as a positive step towards ensuring the safety and security of the Chinese nationals, which is of great importance as the two countries continue to strengthen their ties.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2023-02-19/page-10/detail-2>

## K2 Daily

بقیہ 16

پاکستان سے چین کی نیکی یا ہولی ملڈ چاول کی برآمدات 211.88 ملین ڈالر تک پہنچ گئیں، جبکہ دو قسم کے ٹونا چاول کی برآمدات باڑتیب 162.78 ملین اور 80.74 ملین ڈالر تک پہنچ گئیں۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ چینی حکومت آف لائن اور آن لائن پمپین قائم کر کے پاکستان کی مدد کر رہی ہے، پاکستانی چاول نے چین میں اسی کامرس پلیٹ قائم پر مقبول ہے اور اس کی فروخت میں مزید اضافہ متوقع ہے۔ ہم جی اے سی ای کے ساتھ مل کر کام کر رہے ہیں تاکہ پاکستانی چاول کے مزید کاروباری اداروں کی رہنمائی ہو سکے اور ہماری برآمدات میں مزید اضافہ ہو۔ انہوں نے بتایا کہ پاکستانی چاول اپنے بہترین ڈانگے اور معیار کی وجہ سے چینی مارکیٹ میں مقبول اور ہر پے جبکہ جی اے سی ای میں رہنمائی پاکستانی اداروں کی کل تعداد میں بھی گزشتہ سال اضافہ ہوا اور اب یہ تعداد 62 ہے۔

چین کو چاول کی برآمدات 10 لاکھ ٹن سے تجاوز کر گئیں

زرعی مصنوعات کی دو طرفہ تجارت میں 53 فیصد کا نمایاں اضافہ ہوا

پاکستانی چاول بہترین معیار کی وجہ سے چینی مارکیٹ میں مقبول ہو رہا ہے

لاہور (این این آئی) پاکستان کی چین کو لاکھوں ٹن چاول کی برآمدات 10 لاکھ ٹن سے زیادہ کے ہم کنارے 455 ملین ڈالر سے تجاوز کر گئی۔ گزشتہ سال کی نسبت زرعی مصنوعات کی دو طرفہ تجارت میں 53 فیصد کا نمایاں اضافہ ہوا اور چین نے پاکستان سے مختلف اقسام کے 1.19 ملین ٹن سے زیادہ چاول درآمد کیے۔ یہ بات چین میں جرنل ایڈیشن آف کنسٹرکٹس اعداد و شمار کے مطابق 2022 میں (باقی صفحہ 6 بقیہ نمبر 16)

[https://www.epaper.dailyk2.com/Home?Issue=NP\\_ICT&Page=Gilgit%20Baltistan%20News&Date=2023-02-19](https://www.epaper.dailyk2.com/Home?Issue=NP_ICT&Page=Gilgit%20Baltistan%20News&Date=2023-02-19)

[https://www.epaper.dailyk2.com/Home?Issue=NP\\_ICT&Page=Classified&Date=2023-02-19](https://www.epaper.dailyk2.com/Home?Issue=NP_ICT&Page=Classified&Date=2023-02-19)

**February 20, 2023**

**Dawn News**

**Chinese company fined for missing deadline**

SAHIWAL: A Chinese company, the China Gansu International Corporation, was fined Rs1 million for delaying work on sewerage lines at Kacha Paka Noor Shah, part of the Asian Development Bank-funded Punjab Intermediate Cities Improvement and Investment Project.

Project manager Muhammad Asjid Khan said the company was fined for “delayed damages.”

The Asian Development Bank is executing Rs18 billion in projects in Sahiwal city regarding clean drinking water, rehabilitation of public parks, wastewater treatment plants, high-tech solid waste machinery, and the laying of a 91km trunk sewer line.

The project is being implemented through the provincial local government, community development, and the local metropolitan corporation.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1738125>

**The News**

**Propaganda against China, Pakistan a never-ending story**

*Shakeel Ahmad Rama*

China-Pakistan relationship has always been under scrutiny by Western powers and their allies in the region. They oppose closeness and brotherhood between the two countries. They want to undermine this relationship and create bad blood between the brotherly nations. It fits to their objectives to contain China and create chaos in the region.

In pursuance of these objectives, they have unleashed a new wave of malicious propaganda. The guiding philosophy of propaganda is a well-structured, well-explained and well-propagated lie is more powerful than 1,000 truths.

Though, the campaign is targeting all areas of relationship, China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is a prime target. Anti-CPEC forces are not leaving any stone unturned to sabotage CPEC.

They do not care about facts and data or truth. They care about undermining China-Pakistan relationship. The US and India, being chief opponents of CPEC, are leading the campaign. They are putting efforts to tag bad economic situation of Pakistan to CPEC and Chinese investment. Data is being manipulated, as they did in the case of Sri Lanka.

However, real data shows entirely a different picture. Let's start by analysing the energy cooperation under CPEC. In 2014-2015, when China started to invest in energy sector, Pakistan was losing \$4-5 billion due to load shedding and no one was interested in investing in Pakistan. Instead of helping Pakistan, our allies were running campaigns to declare the country unsafe destination for investment. In this backdrop, Chinese companies came forward to invest in energy which helped Pakistan on multiple fronts. First, projects helped Pakistan manage load shedding and losses of \$4-5 billion. Just imagine, if Chinese companies

had not invested, what would be the status of economic losses? A rough estimate suggests accumulative losses would be around \$40-50 billion (these are lowest estimates keeping all other factors constant). Second, energy projects also helped Pakistan improve availability of per capita electricity from 547kwh in 2018 to 644kwh in 2022. Though it is very low, but still a step in the right direction.

Third, Chinese investment in renewable energy projects like Suki Kinari Hydropower Project of 884MW, Karot Hydropower (720MW), Kohala Hydropower (1124MW) and Azad Pattan Hydropower (700.7MW), Quaid-e-Azam Solar Park, UEP Wind Farm etc. will help Pakistan on four fronts. It will help reduce import bill by reducing import of fossil fuels. Cheap electricity from hydropower will enhance competitiveness of Pakistani industry. Pakistan will be able to provide cheap electricity to its citizens and help them combat inflation. Investment in renewable energy will help Pakistan meet Sustainable Development Goals and commitments related to Paris Climate Change Agreement.

CPEC created 92,000 direct jobs, which means it provided livelihood to 92,000 families. It also helped 100+ SMEs create indirect jobs. However, real benefits in term of jobs will be realised during the second phase.

Moreover, Chinese companies not only created jobs but also helped build skills of Pakistani employees. Sahiwal Coal Power, Port Qasim and HUBCO generously invested on skill development of Pakistanis. Data shows Sahiwal plant created 8,436 and 1,683 jobs during the construction and operational phases respectively. Pakistani and Chinese employees were inducted in the ratio of 63:37pc and 61:39pc during the construction and operational work respectively. China trained 245 engineers and 377 office or lower staff. Port Qasim project created 4,000 and 1,270 jobs during the construction operational phase respectively.

The proportion of Pakistani and Chinese employees during the construction and operational work was 75:25pc and 76:24pc respectively. Chinese company also trained 600 engineers and 2,000 officers and lower staff. These are only two examples. Story of other power projects is not different.

CPEC only contributed \$5.7 billion to national debt of Pakistan. It is around about 4.5% of total debt, which clearly shows it has nothing to do with debt crisis of Pakistan. However, it is important to mention here that we should not mix China-Pakistan general cooperation with CPEC projects. For example, China provided monetary support to Pakistan to counter financial crunch. It helped our country through swap of money and safe deposits to strengthen the foreign reserves along with other measures.

From the above discussion, it can be inferred that China is part of solution not problem (like IMF WB and Western institutions).

Despite huge propaganda, China is still trying to help Pakistan avert crisis. It was the first country which rolled over payment of \$4 billion. If Pakistan had to pay that tranche, what would be the status of foreign reserves? Definitely, foreign reserves would be in negative, as right now, Pakistan has only \$2.5 billion. Apart from that, China is also looking for ways how it can help Pakistan further ease down the economic situation.

In conclusion, Pakistan and China must comprehend anti-China-Pakistan propaganda will not stop, rather it will intensify and opponents will come up with new allegations and lies. For example for the last few days, India is spreading rumours Chinese embassy in Pakistan has been closed, which is a blatant lie.

In this backdrop, Pakistan and China need to refine their policies of engagement and countering propaganda. They need to change their approach from reactive to proactive. It is not a matter of choice, it is need of time.

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=177640>

### **Pak-China cooperation to bolster agri yield**

Islamabad: The agriculture cooperation under China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) will increase Pakistan's edible oil production and save foreign exchange reserves.

The project will increase the country's unit output and reduce import bills. Mills can get better milling yield and consumers can get healthy edible oil, said Zhou Xusheng, Director of International Department, Wuhan Qingfa Hesheng Seed Company, in an interview with Gwadar Pro. Comparing with other existing brassica napus canola varieties in Pakistan, he said that canola variety HC-021C of a Chinese seed company blooming in Pakistan has a shorter growth period, making it suitable to match with local farmers' sowing habits. In addition, HC-021C is proven to show higher disease resistance and is suitable for high density planting.

Given these great characteristics, HC-021C has a higher yield, 5% higher than other local varieties per unit. Underlining the benefits of HC-021C in Pakistan, Zhou said that the Punjab government gives a Rs5,000 package to HC-021C as it has better oil rape seed colour. Farmers can get Rs500/40kgs more than raya/mustard, therefore HC-021C can get a better income.

He said, "In terms of nutritional value, given Ayub's research, HC-021C is able to achieve 38% or higher on oil content (10% higher than raya/mustard) and over 66% on oleic acid.

Moreover, HC-021C's erucic acid content weighs 0.7%, much lower than the 2% international standard, resulting in higher added value on downstream processing."

"In the future, Qingfa and its partner Certus Seeds in Pakistan will invest in new breeding varieties locally. For building an industry chain in Pakistan, we plan to introduce canola harvester modules and Chinese oil press technology and units.

Besides the downstream chain we also want to develop fine variety, contract farming to provide high quality rape seeds to local oil press mills. This mode will benefit whole chains," Zhou added.

Pakistan has a huge demand for vegetable oil. Each resident is estimated to have an annual consumption of 18 kilograms of oil, resulting in an annual consumption of around 5 million tons. Edible oil is among the largest food imports in Pakistan.

From 2021 to 2022, Pakistan has imported around 3.6 billion dollars' worth of edible oil, making it 89% of Pakistan's national supply. Among all edible oils Pakistan has imported



palm oil which occupies the largest share of 94%. Local supply of palm oil only takes up 11% of the market share.

Since 2009, Wuhan Qingfahesheng Seed Company has cooperated with Certus Seeds Pakistan for canola research and breeding in Pakistan while HC-021C was approved by the Pakistani Government later in 2019. The company also manages breeding and technical support for local farmers.

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=177217>

**February 21, 2023**

**Pakistan Observer**

### **Dasu project moves ahead**

THE under-construction Dasu Hydropower Project crossed a major milestone the other day, as the mighty River Indus was successfully diverted following completion of one of the two diversion tunnels. Instead of its natural course, the River Indus was now flowing through a 1.33 kilometre (km) long diversion tunnel with 20 meters (m) width and 23m height.

This is, indeed, a remarkable achievement of WAPDA as construction activities have been initiated on the starter dam, leading toward the construction of the main dam of Dasu Hydropower Project. It is also important to note that the 1.5 km long second tunnel, with 20m width and 23m height, will also be ready by mid-April this year to cater to the increased water flows during the high-flows season. It would mean unhindered continuation of construction activities throughout the year on this vital project which would generate 4,320 MW of electricity in two stages. Under construction stage one with the generation capacity of 2,160 MW is likely to become operational from 2026 while the second stage with equal generation capacity.

The 2,160 MW stage-II, when implemented, will also provide 9 billion units to the National Grid. On completion of both stages, Dasu will become the project with the highest annual energy generation in Pakistan i.e. 21 billion units per annum on average. While lauding the hard work done by WAPDA, we would urge the authorities concerned to concentrate on accelerating the pace of implementation of Diamer-Bhasha dam as well, the cost of which is escalating due to our lacklustre attitude. No doubt, the country is facing a financial crunch and it is difficult to spare resources for speedy implementation but the enormous benefits of the hydro-power projects for the national economy make the investment worth-making.

<https://pakobserver.net/dasu-project-moves-ahead/>

**The Nation**

### **Pakistan can bring revolution in online business with China's help**

ISLAMABAD - Pakistan can bring a revolution in online business with the help of Chinese companies already working in the country. "Ten legal fintech companies are working in Pakistan. Four of them are Chinese companies," Dr Tahir Mumtaz Awan, head of the China Study Centre (CSC) at Comsats University, told WealthPK. He said that three Chinese

companies including Seed Creed Financial Services, Micro Creed Financial Services Limited and Hammra Financial Services Limited are active in the country.

“I am sure that many people may not know about these Chinese fintech companies which are already operating in Pakistan,” said Dr Tahir. He added that those companies could also connect the Pakistani fintech industry with WeChat and Alipay. He said that WeChat has already revolutionised online business in China. Users can buy and sell their daily items online through WeChat.

The second option is Alipay but it is for the international community. Transfers through WeChat are preferred in daily life. “Whenever I go to China I never take cash or carry a card with me. However, I always carry a power bank with me because I have to keep my phone charged and all the money is being transferred through the phone. WeChat is one of the strong financial systems,” said Dr Tahir.

He said that Chinese fintech companies are already working with Pakistan. “It is just needed to synchronise these brands with the fintech industry of Pakistan and the state-run financial institutions,” he added. He said that any Pakistani fintech company such as UBL Omni, Jazz Cash and EasyPaisa etc could be developed on the pattern of WeChat. “Currently, local fintech companies are moving in the opposite direction of international fintech firms. We need to coordinate and make it a unique and common platform, which is accessible to everyone.

The Federal Board of Revenue is striving to strengthen the fintech industry,” he said. Dr Tahir said that Pakistan has a good 4G system and it is also moving towards 5G. “We need to make our network capable of new technology. It would be a need analysis,” he added. He said that human resources should be developed in Pakistan. Pakistani youths could be sent to China for training. Likewise, Chinese trainers could be also invited to Pakistan to train people, he added.

“This is high time to improve the skills of people. People have already the latest mobile phones, local machines and latest equipment so they just need to improve their skills,” said Dr Tahir. According to the data provided by WeChat management to WealthPK, the monthly deals of the firm reached 1.309 billion, registering an increase of 3.7%. In 2015, WeChat Pay began to develop cross-border business. In January 2022, the WeChat Open Class disclosed to the media that mini-programmes of the company were growing rapidly in overseas business, with the number of monthly deals increasing by 268%, and the monthly average number of daily transactions increasing by 897%. WeChat Pay is currently available in 68 countries and supports payments in 26 currencies around the world, according to the data available with WealthPK.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2023-02-21/page-8/detail-7>

## The News

### **Preventing Pakistan default will depend on China: Bloomberg**

Pakistan, a nuclear-armed nation of 240 million people, is racing down a road that leads to the disruption of default or the chaos of austerity — and, for once, it’s not all Pakistan’s fault.

In fact, it is almost as if the \$380-billion economy's looming crisis is designed to reveal the ways in which the world's sovereign debt restructuring mechanism is severely outdated and needs to be fixed — by the G-20, if nobody else steps up.

Pakistani governments do bear responsibility for bad budgeting. The economist Murtaza Syed has estimated that Pakistan needs \$35 billion a year to pay for its imports and repay its foreign debt. That amounts to 5 percent of gross domestic product, while the government's own tax collection is only 10 percent of GDP.

Can any government credibly commit to cut spending in half immediately? Greece was only able to crunch spending by a third between 2009 and 2014, and Pakistan's government starts from a much lower base in terms of entitlement spending than Greece's.

But Pakistan's leaders aren't entirely to blame. The pandemic hurt and then, before the government could implement needed reforms, devastating flooding displaced millions and caused \$30 billion worth of losses. The Ukraine war added to the pain: Pakistan's imports of food surged by 65 percent following the floods, even as the fighting disrupted global supply chains. Its fuel import bill also soared as a consequence of the war.

How the world addresses this combination of self-inflicted and external challenges will be critical. The International Monetary Fund appears close to reviving a \$6.5 billion loan program to forestall the immediate crisis. After that, Pakistan will need to look for a decent debt restructuring package that helps its creditors get some of their money back while politically feasible reforms are implemented that allow for sustainable debt payments and imports in the future.

Unfortunately, Pakistan needs a deal just when the systems that had, for decades, managed such sovereign debt restructurings are breaking down. In the past, the major creditor countries — mostly Western nations and Japan, who together constitute the Paris Club — were also the major shareholders of the IMF and hosted the private banks that dominated commercial lending to debt-ridden countries. This made it relatively easy to ensure that official debt relief was compatible with the terms that private capital received, and that the IMF imposed.

That's no longer the case. At the end of the last financial year, Pakistan's outstanding bilateral debt to the Paris Club countries was about \$10 billion. Meanwhile, it owed China \$23 billion. Two-thirds of the \$10 billion it owed "commercial banks" were also to state-owned Chinese lenders operating as official financing arms for China's Belt and Road Initiative. Between July 2021 and March 2022, over 80 percent of Pakistan's bilateral debt service went to Beijing. Finally, Chinese financial institutions will have to get their act together. Last year, the director-general of the People's Bank of China's department of international affairs, Jin Zhingxia, warned that big Chinese lenders with external exposure didn't have a lot of experience with debt restructuring, and needed to sit down to coordinate with each other and with the Paris Club. In addition, any actual writing down of principal amounts might require sign-off from the State Council.

China's rise as a lender to the Global South, the surge in the prices of food and fuel thanks to the Ukraine war, and the devastation wrought by climate change: All these are factors that

will drive more and more countries to the brink of default in coming years. Few will be as consequential as Pakistan. If Pakistan can be saved through a rationalization of its debt, then the others have hope. Later this week, G-20 finance ministers will meet in Bengaluru and will reportedly discuss a proposal for more equitable burden-sharing. Any self-serving objections from China should be overruled. A sovereign debt restructuring system designed for the 20th century can't be allowed to wreck the 21st.

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=177703>

**February 22, 2023**

**Pakistan Observer**

### **CPEC and Blessings of Chinese Connection: The Way Forward**

*Dr Mehmood Ul Hassan Khan*

The Indian lobby, mass media outlets and brigades of social media have once again launched systematic media propaganda against China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) role, utility and future in Pakistan.

The sponsored TIKTOKERS in the country are supporting the Indian false and fake campaigns against CPEC, so-called widening gap between Pakistan and China and widespread resentment among the various factions of society in Balochistan and Gwadar. Even the US and G7 countries are diplomatically pressurizing the Government of Pakistan to step back from China and discard the CPEC. Moreover, the Indian lobby and mass media are trying to portray Pakistan as a failed state with imminent "default" due to which most of the mega projects of the CPEC have been somehow stalemated.

The ongoing political disharmony and societal polarization have badly damaged perception of national economy which is in dire need of inflow of FDIs, FPIs, Joint Ventures, increase in worker remittances, stability in currency, money and secondary markets so that the proposed and approved projects in the CPEC Phase-II would be started as soon as possible. But unfortunately, political grimace and lust for absolute power has now blocked the path of stability, peace and harmony and the destination of economic sustainability is now a far cry.

In this prevailing doom and gloom, China has once again come forward to give hand to Pakistan in order to achieve some kind of economic stability and social harmony. In this regard, Wang Yi, Director of the Office of the Foreign Affairs Commission of the Communist Party of China (CPC) met with Pakistan Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari on the sidelines of the 59th Munich Security Conference and assured his country's full support to government of Pakistan and its people alike. He reiterated his country's full support to Pakistan, adding the administration in Beijing was willing to help officials in Islamabad "overcome the temporary difficulties" faced by Pakistan in these days.

Unfortunately, Pakistan is currently facing complex and complicated issues related to national security (rebirth, regrouping and resurgence of the TTP, launching series of deadly terrorist activities in the country), politics (unending desire for absolute domination has destroyed fate of common people) and economy which is at its lowest ebb. IMF conditions

are creating havoc in the country and common people are now at the receiving end in terms of 36.4 percent of inflation, 117 percent increase in gas charges, phenomenal rise in utilities and petrol prices, price hike, sky rocketing surge in common commodities and above all huge currency depreciation.

Wang Yi assured China's firm support to Pakistan in maintaining security and stability as well as achieving development and revitalization and stands ready to provide assistance to the best of its ability to help Pakistan overcome temporary difficulties. He termed bilateral ties as strategic in nature and reaffirmed his country's support to Pakistan and CPEC.

On his part, the Pakistani Foreign Minister stressed that China was an important pillar of Pakistan's foreign policy, adding the strengthening of relations with China and promoting the construction of a joint economic corridor were crucial. He assured Pakistan's resolve against terrorism and protection of Chinese enterprises and citizens in Pakistan. After the said meeting Pakistan's Foreign Minister labeled strategic partnership between the two neighbors vital for regional peace and stability.

During his most recent visit to Pakistan, the US State Department Counsellor Derek Chollet purposefully tarnished the CPEC projects in the country and showed concerns about debt owed to China by Pakistan and other countries. According to him, China and Chinese commercial banks held about 30 percent of Pakistan's total external debt of about \$100 billion, according to a report by the International Monetary Fund released in September last year which is absolutely "incorrect" and "untrue". In this connection, the Federal Finance Ministry, the SBP, SECP and many other official regulatory authorities have already "negated" the US fabricated stance about so-called surge in the Chinese debts.

Cholett also showed the Washington's hidden desire to further strengthen bilateral relations with Pakistan. Relations between Islamabad and Washington had turned worse over the war in Afghanistan, but there has been a thaw in recent months, with an increasing number of high-level visits. Chollet said the US was working with Pakistan to navigate through the current crisis. In this economic meltdown, the CPEC Phase-II will be a catalyst to Pakistan's massive industrial development. It will be a stimulator to pursue the development of renewables and the hydropower energy production in the country. Furthermore, projects of social development, health-capacity building, agriculture development and last but not the least, vast network of Special Economic Zones would be value addition of the CPEC Phase-II in the country.

Pakistan's annual plan for (2022-23) states that the CPEC Phase-II will emphasize industrialization and development of Special Economic Zones, agriculture modernization, science and technology cooperation, promotion of ICT-enabled environment and establishment of IT and high-technology zones and socio-economic development. It is estimated that the country's GDP will increase by 6.43 percent until 2030 as a result of infrastructure investment. According to the World Bank report (2019) social welfare development from the CPEC Phase-II would increase by 10.51 percent. Consequently, it will also help lift 1.1 million people out of extreme poverty. It has also potential to boost the employment opportunities and Pakistan may get four million new jobs. Trade will also witness an increase of 9.8 percent, if Pakistan implements the CPEC and support it by

required reforms.

According to many published reports, CPEC has so far created 75,000 new jobs for Pakistan. It means 75,000 families have benefited and which has enabled them to combat extreme poverty. On the other hand, CPEC also helped Pakistan manage the load-shedding which, in turn, contributed to control the annual loss of \$4 to 5 billion. Moreover, energy development under the flagship of CPEC also contributes to tackle issues of aging plants and infrastructure related to electricity. It has been one of the key economic drivers of Pakistan's macro-economy due to which the efficiency and productivity of the energy sector has been further increased. Hopefully, further investment in CPEC Phase-II in power, gas and petroleum sectors will enhance its potential and production capacity.

Moreover, transport infrastructure is another important sector which contributed to overcome problems of connectivity. Many national, regional as well as international reports confirm that CPEC power plants are the most efficient in Pakistan. Larger numbers of the small and medium enterprises also benefited from the investments of CPEC in the country. The contribution of the CPEC to national GDP was almost two percent due to which Pakistan surpassed the level of 5.8 percent GDP growth rate in 2018. According to many reports of the World Bank, the major beneficiaries in Pakistan in future would be Quetta, Peshawar, Karachi and Lahore.

To conclude, the earlier initiation of the CPEC Phase-II is the need of the hour. Agriculture development, rigorous green industrialization and development of Special Economic Zones, science and technology cooperation, artificial intelligence cooperation, digitalization, ICT development and last but not the least health cooperation will further strengthen bilateral relation in the days to come.

There is an urgent need to jointly work for further development of small, medium and mega hydropower projects in the country which would provide cheap energy for economic development. Moreover, sincere efforts should also be initiated to jointly work for the development of "Green Hydrogen" energy projects in the country under the flagship projects of CPEC Phase-II.

Most recently, China has started the world's largest project producing green hydrogen in Ordos, north China's Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region. Green hydrogen is "green" because it is produced from renewables, such as solar and wind resources, without emitting carbon dioxide.

Pakistan-China should also work for converting deserts into green lush fields through new technologies so that it would be mutually beneficial for them in the days to come.

<https://pakobserver.net/cpec-and-blessings-of-chinese-connection-the-way-forward-by-dr-mehmood-ul-hassan-khan/>

## **Twin Tale of CPEC**

*Assadullah Chann*

Economic engagement through connectivity is the hallmark of the 21st century. Countries are trying to connect with countries to gain important resources and meet the demands of raw

materials. BRI is a brainchild of China to engage countries through a network of roads and railways.

CPEC is one of BRI's flagship projects, for infrastructure development and connectivity. The project aims at improving socio-economic conditions besides providing the facility for transit trade not only to Pakistan but also to all other regional countries. CPEC will help Pakistan's economy stabilize in the long run, and it has already proven beneficial in the short term.

One of the significant advantages of CPEC is that it is a source of foreign investment in Pakistan. The Chinese government has pledged to invest about \$65 billion in the whole infrastructure project. Significant investment has already been made in mega projects like railway tracks, energy infrastructure, highways, and special economic zones. According to a senior Chinese diplomat who spoke at a seminar titled "CPEC's Defining Moment: Prospects and Challenges," the landmark project has attracted \$25 billion in foreign direct investment to address Pakistan's energy and communication issues.

Furthermore, millions of employment opportunities have been created through this monumental project. Transport infrastructure and energy-producing power plants have employed both skilled and unskilled labor. According to the research report "Employment Outlook of CPEC: A Meta-analysis," CPEC has already created 80,000 jobs through various projects that have started since 2013 and has the potential to produce 1.2 million additional direct jobs through its currently approved projects. The project has also created more than 190,000 jobs over the past nine years.

CPEC has also strengthened strategic and time-tested relations between two all-weather friends. New avenues of partnership have been generated by CPEC. The road link between Gwadar and Kashgar has given impetus to transit trade between the two countries. Besides, people-to-people engagement has increased through the labor participation of both countries in many projects. Many students have been provided opportunities for scholarships in China. Engagement through CPEC is a never-ending element between Pakistan and China because both countries require economic engagement.

At the same time, multiple issues are hovering around and could halt the progress if this project is not utilized in a befitting manner.

There are two opinions regarding the investment in CPEC. Critics say that CPEC is a debt trap for Pakistan, but the World Bank says 30% of investment is based on loans indirectly related to Pakistan's government. The power projects are technically private investments. The power-producing companies are financing these projects through Chinese banks. These IPPs have to be paid for by the government. Therefore, Pakistan should be cautious about debt repayment, which needs concrete steps to minimize the risk.

Another issue is that projects are being delayed. The completion date of some projects has been reached, but others are yet to be completed. The big projects lack funds to operate, and some of the completed projects are being shut down. Pakistan is caught in the web of prolonged delays in five of its crucial railway and power projects. According to a report in the Express Tribune, any further delay would collapse the rail system and jeopardize the production of 31,000 megawatts of electricity.

Moreover, the lack of skill sets in the labor force is also a major issue for Pakistan. Most of the completed projects were inundated with Chinese labor. Furthermore, operating digital infrastructure and profiting from special economic zones both require highly skilled labor. Pakistani labor may face hurdles to do so, which may result in meager benefits to Pakistan. Skilled Chinese labor will not only reduce employment opportunities for Pakistanis but will also be costly for remaining projects.

Negative sentiments against CPEC are rising inside and outside the country. There are differing opinions among the provinces over the distribution of projects and employment opportunities. The fishermen's protest in Gwadar is a reminder of deep sentiments against the authorities. The protesters are of the view that Chinese trawlers are being licensed for fishing. They consider it to be against their livelihood. These activities would create short-term delays in projects and instigate locals against Chinese projects. Pakistan needs to resolve the above issues to reap the maximum benefits from CPEC.

Sri Lanka is a pertinent case to learn from and to avoid mistakes. The projects are not profitable, and the country is ensnared in debt-trap diplomacy. Pakistan must not play with its sovereignty. It is time to take concrete steps to mitigate the issues about CPEC and avoid a situation like Hambantota. Pakistan must focus on loan repayment; otherwise, it will trigger further issues for the already debt-ridden economy. There is also a need to overhaul economic policy. Economic policy must be based on long-term goals. Exports should be prioritized to generate foreign exchange for debt repayment. Secondly, Pakistan should resolve issues with neighbors for smooth transit trade and connectivity. Friendly relations with neighbors will not only provide a peaceful environment for foreign investment but also help Pakistan and China connect with other countries to sustain CPEC.

<https://pakobserver.net/twin-tale-of-cpec-by-assadullah-chann/>

## **China's reopening, CPEC and global growth**

*Muhammad Zamir Assadi*

AFTER three years, on January 8, 2023, China has reopened its boundaries for international travel, easing up the covid-19 restrictions. The deliberate decision, made by China, has set a path for economic growth around the world as consumers are ready to make use of billions of US dollars that they have saved during these three years of pandemic restrictions. On the other hand, Chinese investors are also hyper ready to make their money work for them by investing it in the international market.

This long-awaited decision has paved the way for growth in Chinese GDP as well as brought up an opportunity for expansion in the international market. Variety of industries will witness a boost because after the reopening of China, demand has increased for the supply chain. Now it will bring a vibrant movement in international trade and will play an integral role in the recovery of the global economic crisis. China is rapidly becoming a global hero of trade and commerce and the whole world is astonished by its progress that is why it has attained centre of attention across the globe.



Now the eastern world has two choices either to pay heed to those who propagate against China for uncertain conspiracies or join hands with China to lead their countries on the path of success and achievements. History has witnessed that eastern countries preferred to adopt a defensive approach and it never let them have what they could so now it is the high time to shift the mindset from conspiracies to opportunities. China has offered its hand of friendship to almost the whole world and specially a very welcoming hand to Pakistan by investing the all-time high investment in the country in the shape of CPEC. Now Pakistan should keep handling this opportunity efficiently so it can bring a massive prosperity not only in the country but also in the region.

If we look back to what CPEC has given us, we will clearly have an answer that responds positively to all the questions that might pop up. CPEC was launched back in 2013 under the umbrella of Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) which has achieved remarkable results and proved it to be exemplary cooperation. CPEC has brought a massive decline in energy shortfall by adding 6,369MW in the system under 11 projects and 10 more projects are in different stages of completion. Under this flagship project, China and Pakistan have expanded bilateral cooperation and enhanced growth in a variety of sectors such as Industrial Development, Information Technology, Health care and other commercial activities. CPEC has also made a tangible contribution to the socio-economic development in the country.

CPEC has connected our lands and seas already and now the construction of Gwadar port has added so much to our side. If Pakistan focuses on making Gwadar a hub of international trade, it can strengthen our economy and bring prosperity across the country. It will facilitate tremendous peace as commercial activities will be increased and help alleviate poverty. There is no doubt in saying that CPEC is a win-win project for China and Pakistan. Pakistan, being a very important part of the largest and most populated continent, also has an edge of strategic importance. Now if we realize our importance and sincerely join hands with those countries whose interests are actually tied up with us, we can bring this country out of the current situation.

Now Pakistan has an amazing opportunity after China has reopened international in and out travel. Chinese companies are putting more trust in Pakistan at the moment because they are well aware that their government is paying much attention to this country. So, Chinese investors will bring their long-awaited investment in a variety of sectors in the international market and we can capture a handsome share out of it by adopting business-friendly policies and most importantly by maintaining law and order situation.

Chinese investors can easily be attracted to invest in Pakistan because if they initiate an industry in the country, they can enjoy the short trading routes from Gwadar and now they can trade with different regions from here as well. Pakistan is also a plus point for those Chinese investors who dwell from western part of China as western boundary of China is not connected with sea so now; they can transport their supply chain to Gwadar through land and from this point on, it can be shipped to the destined country.

<https://pakobserver.net/chinas-reopening-cpec-and-global-growth-by-muhammad-zamir-assadi/>

### **The Express Tribune**

#### **Pakistan, China team up to fight locusts**

Indicate establishment of centre to help control pests

BEIJING: “The worst that we have ever seen-ever. I cultivated around 20 hectares of cotton crops and almost all of them have been eaten. It is a loss of around Rs10 million. It will take years to recover from this loss,” said Mir Gul Muhammad, a farmer in Balochistan, adding that, “These nasty insects appeared like a dark cloud out of nowhere and ate 80% of my crop in a few days.”

In 2020-21, Pakistan experienced its worst locust outbreak in nearly three decades, causing severe crop yield reduction or even total failure in many areas. “According to the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), desert locusts affected 38% of Pakistan’s land area. The swarms caused significant damage to food crops, including wheat, maize, and vegetables. Similarly, the Pakistan Agricultural Research Council data showed that the locusts damaged over three million hectares of crops, leading to losses of around \$3 billion,” noted Professor Hidayat Ullah from the University of Swabi.

Luckily, with the joint efforts of experts from both China and Pakistan, the locust plague was finally brought under control. “The intensity has been reduced. Swarms have been restricted to the eastern boarder of Pakistan by effective aerial spray,” said the professor. With the support of the FAO, Chinese government and other international organisations, various measures have been implemented to mitigate the impact of the outbreak.

“Nevertheless, we cannot relax our vigilance for even a second,” said Researcher Tu Xiongbing from the Institute of Plant Protection, Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences (CAAS).

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2402517/pakistan-china-team-up-to-fight-locusts>

### **The Nation**

#### **China’s support to help promote green energy in Pakistan**

ISLAMABAD-China’s cooperation and support will help Pakistan promote green energy, WealthPK reported. The Chinese government is fully supporting Pakistan’s initiatives to shift to clean and green energy sources. China has invested remarkably in Pakistan’s renewable energy sector during the past few years.

Several green energy schemes have been initiated in Pakistan under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). However, Pakistan needs more cooperation from China to promote sustainable and green energy. Adnan Khan, a representative of the CPEC Authority, told WealthPK that China launched numerous hydro, wind and solar energy projects across the country, marking a substantial step towards green and low-carbon development. “Pakistan is also making efforts to shift towards clean energy sources. The country is heavily reliant on oil and gas, but it has set a target of generating 30% of its electricity from renewable sources

by 2030,” he said. China and Pakistan have also collaborated on a number of green energy projects. In 2015, the two countries launched CPEC, a multi-billion-dollar infrastructure and energy project.

“CPEC is Pakistan’s next breakthrough. Due to its immense geopolitical and economic importance, the project is already attracting substantial investments. “One of the key components of CPEC is the development of a network of renewable energy projects in Pakistan, which are being financed and constructed by Chinese companies,” said Adnan Khan. He said that China contributed to sustainable and green development in Pakistan and would continue the cooperation. “Working together for the betterment of the region, China and Pakistan have boosted cooperation in green energy. Under the CPEC, five wind power projects have been completed with a total capacity of 300 megawatts and another 300-megawatt solar power project has also been executed,” he added.

He said that projects such as the Karot hydropower plant Matiari-Lahore power transmission line helped a lot in reducing energy losses in the country. “Renewable energy projects under CPEC are expected to cut annual carbon dioxide emissions by around 3.5 million tonnes. These schemes will also boost the clean energy production mix and optimise the energy consumption structure,” said Adnan Khan.

He said that the development of green and sustainable energy, as a result of schemes launched under CPEC, was generating thousands of jobs in Pakistan. According to statistics, CPEC has created around 190,000 jobs in the country. “Overall, the efforts of China and Pakistan to promote green energy are commendable. Their collaboration on renewable energy projects is a positive step towards a more sustainable future,” he said.

Adnan Khan said that the government of Pakistan was also promoting the use of solar energy. He said that there had been a significant increase in the installation of solar panels in the country in recent years. He added that the country was also exploring wind and hydropower as potential sources of renewable energy. “However, the progress has been slow due to a shortage of investment and infrastructure. It is needed to expedite efforts for the promotion of green energy in the country,” he told WealthPK.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2023-02-22/page-9/detail-0>

### **Express News**

#### **پاکستان کا چین کے ساتھ 700 ملین ڈالر کمرشل قرضے کا معاہدہ**

اسلام آباد: پاکستان اور چین کے درمیان 700 ملین ڈالر کے کمرشل قرضے کا معاہدہ طے پا گیا۔

پاکستان اور چین کے درمیان 700 ملین ڈالر کے کمرشل قرضے کا معاہدہ ہو گیا، جس سے کل 2 ارب ڈالر کے چینی قرضے کے امکانات بحال ہو گئے، اس اقدام سے

زر مبادلہ کے ذخائر کو عارضی مستحکم کیا جاسکتا ہے جب تک آئی ایم ایف کی رقم آنا شروع نہ ہو جائے۔

یہ پیش رفت 300 ملین ڈالر کے ایک اور چینی کمرشل قرضے کی واپسی کی تاریخ سے کچھ دن پہلے ہوئی ہے۔

پاکستان اور چائنا ڈیولپمنٹ بینک کے درمیان 700 ملین ڈالر کے قرضے کا معاہدہ گذشتہ ہفتے طے پایا اور حکام کے مطابق اس ہفتے رقم کی منتقلی متوقع ہے۔

سیکرٹری خزانہ حامد یعقوب شیخ نے قومی اسمبلی کی قائمہ کمیٹی برائے خزانہ کو بتایا ایک یا دو دن میں ایک قرضہ رول اور کر دیا جائے گا۔ انھوں نے رقم کی اصلیت اور قرض کی رقم واضح نہیں کی تاہم ذرائع کا کہنا ہے چینی بینک کے ساتھ معاہدہ ہفتے کے آخر میں طے پایا تھا۔

سیکرٹری خزانہ نے کہا اس ہفتے کے اندر ایک اور رول اور متوقع ہے۔ پاکستان نے دو ماہ قبل آئی سی بی سی کو کل 1.3 ارب ڈالر کے دو کمرشل قرضوں کی واپسی کی تھی تاکہ رقم فوری واپس مل جائے لیکن آئی سی بی سی نے دو الگ الگ سہولیات - 800\$ ملین اور 500\$ ملین ڈالر - کی دوبارہ مالی اعانت نہیں کی، جس کے باعث ملک کے زرمبادلہ کے ذخائر میں نمایاں کمی ہوئی۔

<https://www.express.pk/story/2445531/6/>

## K2 Daily

بقیہ 35  
اٹانے کا رحمان ہادی ہے۔ اعداد و شمار کے مطابق چین کو 2022 میں مجموعی طور پر 63.31 بلین ڈالر سے زائد برآمدات ہوئیں جو 2021 میں 33.43 بلین ڈالر کی سطح پر تھی۔ برآمدات کے مطابق پاکستان سے مجموعی طور پر ستمبر کی برآمدات اس سال کے دوران منظم شرح سے بڑھتی رہیں گی، کیونکہ مزید ممالک معیاری ستمبر کی برآمدات کے برآمد کنندہ کے طور پر پاکستان کی صلاحیت کو تسلیم کرتے ہیں۔

پاکستان کی چین کو سمندری غذاؤں کی برآمدات میں اضافہ  
2021 کے مقابلے میں 2022 میں 42 فیصد اضافہ ریکارڈ کیا گیا  
مجموعی اور دیگر سمندری غذاؤں کی چین کے لئے مانگ میں اضافہ ہو رہا ہے تاہم  
لاہور (این این آئی) پاکستان کی چین کو سمندری غذاؤں کی برآمدات میں اضافے کی بڑی وجہ چینی باشندوں کی پھل کی 42 فیصد اضافہ ریکارڈ کیا گیا ہے جس کا مجموعی مالی بڑھتی ہوئی مانگ اور چینی ریستورانوں میں پاکستانی مچھلی کی بڑھتی ہوئی مقبولیت ہے، جس کی وجہ سے 2021 میں سمندری غذاؤں کی برآمدات کا مجموعی مالی حجم 198.36 بلین ڈالر تک پہنچ گیا، 2020 سے ہر سال پاکستانی سمندری غذاؤں کی برآمدات میں 139.29 بلین ڈالر اضافہ ہوا ہے۔

[Dailyk2 E-Paper | Issue=NP\\_ICT&Page=Gilgit Baltistan News&Date=2023-02-22](https://www.dailyk2.com/Issue=NP_ICT&Page=Gilgit_Baltistan_News&Date=2023-02-22)

[Dailyk2 E-Paper | Issue=NP\\_ICT&Page=Classified&Date=2023-02-22](https://www.dailyk2.com/Issue=NP_ICT&Page=Classified&Date=2023-02-22)

## Nawaiwaqt News

### چینی ناظم الامور کی ملاقات، اسحاق ڈار نے معیشت کیلئے اقدامات سے آگاہ کیا

اسلام آباد (نمائندہ خصوصی) وفاقی وزیر برائے خزانہ و محصولات سینیٹر محمد اسحاق ڈار سے عوامی جمہوریہ چین کے سفارت خانے کی ناظم الامور پینگ چنکسو نے ملاقات کی۔ وزیر خزانہ نے دونوں ممالک کے درمیان دیرینہ اور گہرے برادرانہ تعلقات کو اجاگر کیا۔ ملاقات میں اقتصادی اور مالیاتی شعبوں میں ان تعلقات کو مزید گہرا کرنے پر تبادلہ خیال کیا۔ وزیر خزانہ نے مشکل وقت میں پاکستان کے لیے چینی قیادت کی حمایت کو سراہا اور معیشت کو ترقی کی راہ پر گامزن کرنے کے لیے حکومت کی جانب سے اٹھائے گئے مختلف اقتصادی اقدامات سے آگاہ کیا۔ پینگ چنکسو نے حکومت کی جانب سے معاشی اور مالیاتی استحکام کو برقرار رکھنے اور بڑھانے کے لیے کیے گئے پالیسی اقدامات کو سراہا۔ انہوں نے نیک خواہشات کا اظہار کیا اور چینی حکومت کی پاکستان کو مسلسل حمایت کا یقین دلایا اور مزید کہا کہ چین کی حکومت پاکستانی عوام کے ساتھ کھڑی ہے اور ہر ممکن مدد فراہم کرنے کو تیار ہے۔ اسحاق ڈار سے میسر زرو تھمشیلڈ اینڈ کمپنی کے ایک وفد جس میں ایرک لالو، پارٹنر اور تھیبساؤ ڈفور کیڈ، نیٹینگ ڈائریکٹر شامل تھے، نے ملاقات کی۔ وزیر خزانہ سینیٹر محمد اسحاق ڈار نے وفد کا خیر مقدم کیا اور ملک کی معاشی صورتحال سے آگاہ کیا اور کہا کہ مشکل معاشی صورتحال کے باوجود حکومت ملکی معیشت کو استحکام اور ترقی کی جانب گامزن کر رہی ہے۔ رو تھمشیلڈ کے وفد نے وزیر خزانہ کو کمپنی کے پروفائل اور دنیا بھر کے مختلف ممالک کو فراہم کی جانے والی اس کی مالیاتی خدمات کے بارے میں آگاہ کیا۔

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com/E-Paper/lahore/2023-02-22/page-1/detail-15>

**February 23, 2023**

**Business Recorder**

**Forex reserves to get much-needed boost**

China lends a hand amid IMF procrastination

ISLAMABAD: Formalities completed and the Board of China Development Bank has approved the facility of \$700 million for Pakistan, said Finance Minister Ishaq Dar.

The finance minister announced through a tweet that “formalities completed and Board of China Development Bank has approved the facility of US \$ 700 million for Pakistan.

This amount is expected to be received this week by the State Bank of Pakistan which will shore up its forex reserves.”

Reuters adds: The credit facility, made through the state-owned China Development Bank will boost Pakistan’s forex reserves by about 20% and comes as the country is thrashing out a deal with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to unlock funds from a \$6.5 billion bailout.

A finance ministry official said the loan was in addition to other facilities that China has already extended to Pakistan. The money could come as early as Thursday, he added. China Development Bank did not respond to a faxed request for comment. China is already Pakistan’s single largest creditor with its commercial banks holding about 30% of its external debt.

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2023/02/23/1-page/955711-news.html>

**Daily Times**

**Chinese bank approves \$700m for Pakistan**

Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar said here on Wednesday that the Board of China Development Bank (CDB) has approved a US \$700 million facility for Pakistan.

In a tweet, he said that the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) was expected to receive this amount in the ongoing week which shore up the country’s forex reserve.

“Formalities completed and the Board of China Development Bank has approved the facility of US \$ 700 million for Pakistan. This amount is expected to be received this week by State Bank of Pakistan which will shore up its forex reserves,” he tweeted.

A finance ministry official told Reuters the loan was in addition to other facilities that China has already extended to Pakistan.

On the issue of re-financing of commercial loans from Chinese banks, one top official of the government said they were hopeful that all Chinese matured loans would be re-financed soon. However, according to official sources, two more commercial loans were expected to be re-financing including \$500 million and \$800 million. So in totality, Pakistan is eyeing to get re-financing of Chinese loans up to \$2 billion by the end of February or the first week of March 2023.

Pakistan is stuck in a dire balance of payment crisis and needs to secure the \$1 billion tranche under the \$6.5 billion Extended Fund Facility from the International Monetary Fund (IMF). One of the demands of the global lender was that Pakistan needs to secure additional external financing avenues. Apart from this, the IMF is also demanding slapping additional power surcharges and hiking the policy rate from Pakistan.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1065781/chinese-bank-approves-700m-for-pakistan/>

### **Webinar held to promote Pakistani mangoes in China**

Exports of food products from Pakistan to China were close to \$1 billion in 2022, Gwadar Pro reported on Wednesday.

“In recent years, China has become the largest market for export of food products from Pakistan.

We look forward to the increased presence of Pakistani mangoes in China,” said Hussain Haider, Consul General of Pakistan in Shanghai at a webinar on the promotion of Pakistani mango. The webinar was held by the Consulate General of Pakistan in Shanghai in collaboration with the Trade Development Authority of Pakistan (TDAP) and chaired by Nawab Ali Rahoojo, Deputy Consul General.

More than 5 Pakistani mango export enterprises and 5 Chinese mango import enterprises attended the webinar. On the occasion, Mahmood Nawaz Shah, Senior Vice President of Sindh Abadgar Board and director marketing, said that “Pakistani mangoes are very popular in Middle Eastern countries. We hope that more Chinese customers will love Pakistani mangoes.”

In 2018, Pakistan produced 1.9 million metric tons of mangoes annually, ranking sixth in the world. However, the country’s mango production has declined over the past 5 years, a phenomenon mostly blamed on global warming.

Mahmood told Gwadar Pro that the mango orchards are currently in well bloom, and a good yield of 1.7 million tons from the mango season is expected. Pakistan exports about 150,000 tons of mangoes a year. However, its export volume lags far behind production. “China is the world’s second largest economy with a great potential, which should be fully tapped,” added Mahmood.

Pakistan’s export of fresh or dried mangoes (commodity code 08045020) to China was \$55,605 in 2022, down from \$127,200 in 2021, while in terms of volume it was 23.95 tons in 2022 and 37.42 tons in 2021, according to General Administration of Customs of China (GACC).

Victor Luo, CEO of Sanlian International Company (Pvt) Ltd, who exports Pakistani mangoes for 4 consecutive years, said, “last year’s severe floods reduced mango production and quality, the epidemic limited shipping capacity, and complicated inspection and quarantine procedures led to a decline in mango exports to China.”

Victor explained that over the past few years, the quality of Pakistani mangoes, including taste, appearance and size, has been favored by high-end mango consumers in China. “Mango

sales are not a problem, as the company's first 2 tons of mangoes that arrived in China last year have been snapped up at the Chinese airport." he stated. "This year we will experiment with larger scale units for transportation and enhanced protection of outer packaging." concluded Victor.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1065930/webinar-held-to-promote-pakistani-mangoes-in-china/>

## **Pakistan Observer**

### **Conference on CPEC & Green Development**

Pakistan-China Institute and Sustainable Development Policy Institute hosted a high-level conference on "The need to switch towards a greener future: Lessons from China". The conference featured insightful speeches by parliamentarians, industry experts and representatives from think tanks. Senator Rukhsana Zuberi chaired the sessions, while Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed made the keynote speech. Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed in his welcome remarks said that "green is the defining element of China's development agenda" and President Xi Jinping in COP 2015 Paris committed to carbon neutrality by 2060 and China is now emerging as a leader in green development. Today China is leading the world as producer and investor in green technology and finance.

He further informed that the shift to green technology has created additional 54 million 'green jobs' so far which shows the immense multifaceted potential of green development. He said that China is officially at par or has taken lead from USA in green technologies, AI, STEM, due to the commitment of China in innovation and technology.

Senator Eng. Rukhsana Zuberi stressed on conducting energy audits to identify wasteful practices and increase the energy efficiency. She informed that after the first energy audit of the building of Pakistan Energy Council, 35% reduction in energy consumption was achieved. She stressed the need for advocacy and engaging with common people to increase energy efficiency at the household level by highlighting the financial cost that can be saved by making small consumption changes.

Dr Abid Q. Suleri, the Executive Director, SDPI, said that we must recall success stories from China in tackling environmental and climate issues. He said that China successfully reduced SMOG and particulate matter air pollution by 60% in a short span in Beijing. He further elucidated that China's Great Green Wall in 2013-14, was another initiative, which effectively management of desertification. He said that China offers a leadership model from micro to meso-level in managing resources efficiently, and addressing the growing threats of environment and climate change which Pakistan must take inspiration from.

Dr Zhao Baige, Vice Chair of the 12th NPC Foreign Affairs Committee, Chair of Advisory Committee of RDI informed that China announced in 2016 its policy for carbon neutrality and has been committed to the achievement of the policy guidelines which is the reason behind China emerging as a global leader in renewables and emission reduction.

She stressed that Pakistan has immense potential for green development by promoting renewable energy. She said that Chinese enterprises are interested in investing in green development projects in Pakistan and there is much that can be achieved with commitment,

cooperation and right policies. Dr Sajid Amin Javed, Deputy Executive Director, SDPI said that the green financing in Pakistan is still a residual policy and not a mainstream economic policy and stress first and foremost it must be made a main economic and financing policy.

Christoph Nedopil, said that since 2022, there's a much stronger willingness among Chinese companies to invest abroad in hi-tech sectors and is an area with immense potential which Pakistan can avail. He said that till 2019, China followed the host country's environmental regulations in BRI construction and banking projects but that has changed significantly. He stressed on working with local communities to avoid resistance to development projects. He said that by 2030, all development projects under BRI must be green as per green development guidance.

Farid Ahmed, Group Chief, Corporate and Investment, Bank of Punjab said that Pakistan has 110,000MW potential in hydel, wind and solar energy and the government has announced under Alternative and Renewable energy Policy 2019, to increase the renewable energy share to 20% by 2025 and 30% till 2030.

Mujtaba Khan, CEO of Reon Energy said that our demand for solar technology has been increasing annually which in itself is an opportunity. However, government regulations complicate the process and discourage investors.

Mustafa Hyder Sayed, the Executive Director, Pakistan-China Institute in his concluding remarks stressed on establishing Special Economic Zone (SEZs) at strategic location to explore their true potential as simply mushrooming them is not enough. He said that Shenzhen emerged as the most successful model of Special Economic Zone is due to its strategic location in proximity to other business clusters.

Renewable energy can be expanded in Pakistan if they are made profitable and return on investment can be guaranteed. He called for adopting a synchronized approach to expand the renewable energy market and reduce the import bill for energy generation.

<https://pakobserver.net/conference-on-cpec-green-development/>

### **The Express Tribune**

#### **‘Blue economy has potential of over \$100b’**

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Ahsan Iqbal on Tuesday said that Pakistan's blue economy has potential of over \$100 billion and that the government is launching new projects to develop coastal areas to tap into all possibilities.

Addressing the opening session of the international symposium on Geo Economic and Maritime dimensions of the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), the minister highlighted that after taking charge, the alliance government has expedited work on the projects under CPEC.

He said during the four years of the previous government, no work was done on the projects in the port city of Gwadar.



“Under the leadership of former prime minister Nawaz Sharif, the mega project of CPEC was launched by the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) government – proving to be a game changer for Pakistan,” said Iqbal.

The minister said that every Pakistani citizen will have to work really hard to play a role in the country’s development, and to increase the per capita income in the country.

He recalled that during the tenure of the PML-N government, investments were made on a large scale – “Apart from constructing a network of highways and motorways across the country, it also added 11,000 MW of electricity to the national grid”.

“In 2018, more people were willing to invest in Pakistan,” noted the minister. Iqbal said the government is also focusing on launching new development projects, in collaboration with the private sector, to minimise the burden on the government’s exchequer.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2392037/blue-economy-has-potential-of-over-100b>

### **The Nation**

## **Chinese policy model can open up vistas of investment in renewable energy in Pakistan**

*Fawad Yousafzai*

ISLAMABAD-Experts at a conference on Wednesday were of the view that China has emerged as a global leader in renewables and green development, and thus its policy model in this regard can open up vistas of investment in renewable energy in Pakistan.

The conference titled, “The need to switch towards a greener future: Lessons from China”, was jointly organized by Pakistan China Institute (PCI) and Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI) here. Talking during the conference, Senator Mushahid Hussain Syed said that “green is a defining element of China’s development agenda” and President Xi Jinping on the occasion of COP in 2015, while pledging carbon neutrality, had made the commitment that China would emerge as a leader in green development. Today China is leading the world as producer and investor in green technology and finance, he said, adding that the shift to green technology has created additional 54 million jobs so far, which shows the immense multifaceted potential of green development. He was of the view that China is officially at par or has taken lead from USA in green technologies, AI, STEM, etc.

Senator Engg. Rukhsana Zuberi stressed on conducting energy audits to identify wasteful practices and increase the energy efficiency. She said that after the first energy audit of the building of Pakistan Energy Council, 35% reduction in energy consumption was achieved. She stressed the need for advocacy and engaging with common people to increase energy efficiency at the household level by highlighting the financial cost that can be saved by making small consumption changes. Dr Zhao Baige, Vice Chair of the 12th NPC Foreign Affairs Committee, Chair of Advisory Committee of RDI recalled that China announced in 2016 its policy for carbon neutrality and has been committed to achieving the policy guidelines, which is the reason behind China emerging as a global leader in renewables and emission reduction. She stressed that Pakistan has immense potential for green development

by promoting renewable energy. She said that Chinese enterprises are interested in investing in green development projects in Pakistan and much can be achieved with commitment, cooperation and right policies.

Dr Abid Q. Suleri, the Executive Director, SDPI, said that China successfully reduced SMOG and particulate-matter air pollution by 60% in a short span in Beijing. He maintained that China's Great Green Wall in 2013-14 was another initiative, which effectively managed desertification. CPEC is not limited to trade or energy rather agriculture and food security are an essential component of green CPEC and use of nature for greening is visible in various CPEC initiatives, including China's assistance to Pakistan in the form of genetically engineered seeds and rice, he added.

Christoph Nedopil said that since 2022, there's a much stronger willingness among Chinese companies to invest abroad in hi-tech sectors, as it is an area with immense potential, which Pakistan can avail. He said that till 2019, China followed the host country's environmental regulations in Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) construction and banking projects, but that has changed significantly. He called for preventing brown environmental risks at the heart and center of BRI projects. He said that China has a traffic light system to identify environmental risks and enable Chinese stakeholders to evaluate them and decelerate brown projects and accelerate green projects. Farid Ahmed, Group Chief, Corporate and Investment, Bank of Punjab said that the forex crunch, lack of indigenous production of RE machinery and import restrictions is hindering the uptake of projects. He said that the financing space is dominated by 8-10 banks offering long-term financing for RE projects and must be expanded. He further said that only one bank in Pakistan is currently accredited with Green Climate Fund and two more banks are in process which renews the hope for increase in concessionary financial instruments and international financing.

Hamza Orakzai, Director Strategic Planning and Regulatory Affairs, Special Technology Zones Authority (STZA), informed that for the first time, new laws for investors in SEZs have been introduced in Pakistan to simplify the legal and regulatory environment which will build a strong business case for attracting investments. Mujtaba Khan, CEO of Reon Energy, said that our demand for solar technology has been increasing annually which in itself is an opportunity. However, government regulations complicate the process and discourage investors.

Mustafa Hyder Sayed, the Executive Director, Pakistan China Institute, in his concluding remarks, stressed on establishing Special Economic Zone (SEZs) at strategic location to explore their true potential as simply mushrooming them is not enough. He said that Shenzhen emerged as the most successful model of SEZs is due to its strategic location in proximity to other business clusters. Renewable energy can be expanded in Pakistan if they are made profitable and return on investment can be guaranteed.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2023-02-23/page-9/detail-0>

**February 24, 2023**

**Daily Times**

## **Pakistan rubbishes US State Dept ‘concerns’ about China loans**

*Farooq Awan*

\* FO says Pakistan is a sovereign state and has every right to choose its economic partners from around the globe on mutually beneficially basis

\* China is a consistent, generous and steadfast friend that has stood by Pakistan for last several decades

Pakistan on Thursday rubbished controversial remarks by a US official about China’s loans under CPEC, asserting that Islamabad is proud of its friendship with Beijing which has always come to assistance whenever needed.

“China has always come to Pakistan’s assistance whenever needed. Pakistani nation is proud of its friendship with China,” Foreign Office Spokesperson Mumtaz Zahra Baloch told a weekly press briefing when asked about the US State Department Counselor Derek Chollet’s recent statement regarding Pakistan-China relations

The spokesperson said Pakistan being a sovereign state exercises the right to choose its economic partners from around the globe on mutually beneficially basis. “Pakistan considers China as an all-weather strategic cooperative partner,” she reiterated. “China has been a consistent, generous and steadfast friend that has stood by Pakistan for the last several decades,” she added.

It is worth mentioning here that US State Department Counselor Derek Chollet had said last week during visit to Islamabad that United States was concerned about debt owed to China by Pakistan and other countries. He had also said that Washington was talking to Islamabad about the “perils” of a closer relationship with Beijing, but would not ask Pakistan to choose between the United States and China.

While commenting on the recent violence in the West Bank where 11 Palestinians people have been martyred by Israeli forces, the spokesperson said Pakistan condemns all acts that lead to the killing of innocent civilians including in occupied Palestinian territories. She said Pakistan’s position on Palestine is consistent. “We support a comprehensive approach for resolution of Palestinian issue,” she added.

The spokesperson said Pakistan remains concerned over the ongoing human rights violations in Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir. She said Pakistan will continue to raise its voice against grave human rights violations in the occupied territory. “We will also continue to extend political, diplomatic and moral support to our Kashmiri brothers and sisters for the just and peaceful settlement of Jammu and Kashmir dispute in accordance with the UN Security Council Resolutions,” she added.

About Russia-Ukraine conflict, Mumtaz Zahra Baloch said Pakistan believes that peace and dialogue are important in resolution of this conflict as well. On Afghanistan, the

spokesperson said Islamabad and Kabul have been discussing all aspects of cooperation to confront the terrorism that emanates from Kabul. The spokesperson said Pakistan will host a one day conference on ‘Women in Islam: Understanding the Rights and Identity of Women in the Islamic World’ on the 8th of next month at the UN headquarters on the sidelines of the 67th session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1066149/pakistan-rubbishes-us-state-dept-concerns-about-china-loans/>

### **US, China, UK remain top three destinations of Pakistani exports in seven months**

The United States (US) remained the top export destination of Pakistani products during the seven months of the current fiscal year (2022-23), followed by China and the United Kingdom (UK).

Total exports to the US during July-January (2022-23) were recorded at US\$ 3567.699 million against the exports of US\$ 3862.370 million during July- January (2021-22), showing a decline of 7.62 percent, according to the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP). This was followed by China, wherein Pakistan exported goods worth US\$ 1194.606 million against the exports of US\$ 1589.211 million last year, showing a decrease of 24.83 percent.

UK was the third top export destination, where Pakistan exported goods worth US\$ 1163.736 million during the months under review against the exports of US\$ 1309.990 million during last year, showing a decline of 11.16 percent, SBP data revealed. Among other countries, Pakistani exports to Germany stood at US\$ 101.323 million against US\$ 992.295 million last year, showing an increase of 1.81 percent while the exports to UAE were recorded at US\$ 821.303 million against US\$ 997.191 million last year.

During July- January (2022-23), the exports to Holland were recorded at US\$ 862.817 million against US\$ 805.293 million whereas the exports to Afghanistan stood at US\$ 285.177 million against US\$257.888 million. Pakistan’s exports to Italy were recorded at US\$ 661.960 million against the exports of US\$ 569.865 million while the exports to Spain were recorded at US\$ 808.987 million against US\$ 606.255 million last year.

Whereas, the exports to Bangladesh stood at US\$ 479.756 million against US\$ 483.293 million. Similarly, the exports to France during the months under review were recorded at US\$ 346.694 million against US\$ 298.016 million while the exports to Saudi Arabia stood at US\$ 256.965 million against US\$ 228.243 million. Pakistan’s exports to Turkiye were recorded at US\$ 186.047 million during the current year compared to US\$ 180.278 million last year whereas the exports to Canada stood at US\$ 273.202 million against US\$ 222.802 million, and Australia stood at US\$ 173.110 million during the current year against US\$ 159.812 million during last year.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1066334/us-china-uk-remain-top-three-destinations-of-pakistani-exports-in-seven-months/>

## Pakistan Observer

### **Much-needed Chinese support**

CHINA has always extended support to Pakistan at critical times. At a time when the country's foreign exchange reserves have dwindled to three billion dollars, barely enough to cover three weeks of controller exports, the Chinese side has once again extended the much-needed support to Pakistan. Finance Minister Ishaq Dar announced on Wednesday that the Board of China Development Bank (CDB) has approved a \$700 million credit facility for Pakistan which, he said, expected to be received by the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) this week.

Indeed this will send positive sentiments in the market as this will shore up the foreign exchange reserves as well as help stabilize the rupee value. As Pakistan has almost completed all the prior conditions set by the International Monetary Fund, we expect that the international lender will also soon release the next tranche under the Extended Fund Facility which, in fact, will also encourage other financial institutions such as the World Bank and Asian Development Bank to open their coffers. Inflows are also expected from China, Saudi Arabia and the UAE in the wake of signing of a staff level agreement with the IMF. This will definitely put the country in some sort of comfortable position, at least for the time being. But the question once again arises as for how long we will continue managing our affairs in such a manner – the brunt of which ultimately has to be borne by the poor people.

If the corrective measures are not taken, we will continue to see this quagmire every three or six months. In our neighbourhood, the Taliban government, despite facing bone-numbing sanctions, is pursuing the course of self-reliance as it is working on a plan to establish SEZs and the other day it also set up a consortium of companies to create an investment plan focusing on power, mining and infrastructure. Instead of entangling in petty politics, our political leadership should focus only on the country's economy.

Obstacles in the way of operationalization of SEZs under the CPEC must be removed to attract investment from China and other sources. It is only through promoting industries in the SEZs as well as uplifting the agriculture sector, we can bring the country out of debt trap and take it on the path of sustainable development.

<https://pakobserver.net/much-needed-chinese-support/>

## The Nation

### **Contribution of CPEC, PowerChina, and Port Qasim Power Projects to youth empowerment**

*Engr. Qaiser Nawab*

Several studies have shown that employment is critical to the health of the economy. The term “emergency” refers to a situation in which a person's life is put in jeopardy due to an unforeseen event. It allows workers to increase their capacity for information as well as their expertise, which has a “snowball effect” on future recruitment opportunities by fostering the development of new businesses.

A significant increase in Pakistan's employment rate was only a fantasy and a dream prior to the development of the CPEC project. Unfortunately, the majority of domestic workers lacked the specialised skills and experience required for the jobs created by CPEC's early harvest programmes. As a result, Chinese businesses began to prioritise foreign workers. So, these projects employed far more unskilled domestic workers than qualified or technical Pakistani workers.

The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is an infrastructure development project worth billions of dollars that is part of China's Belt and Road Initiative. The CPEC project includes the expansion of Gwadar port, as well as the construction of roads, railways, and energy infrastructure. PowerChina, a Chinese state-owned enterprise, is actively involved in the construction of power infrastructure projects such as the Port Qasim Power Project under the CPEC programme.

In terms of youth empowerment particularly youth development and employment, the CPEC project and associated energy infrastructure projects have the potential to open up new opportunities in Pakistan. For example, the design and operation of power plants such as the Port Qasim Power Plant necessitate a wide range of skills, including engineering, project management, and maintenance. Young people in Pakistan can improve their job prospects by acquiring these skills through education and training. The CPEC project has the potential to generate a wide range of jobs in industries such as tourism, hospitality, and logistics. Young people may find work in areas such as shipping and customs, as well as the development and management of hotels and resorts, as a result of the development of the Port of Gwadar, for example.

A number of infrastructure and development projects, including the CPEC, were launched in 2013 as part of China's grandiose "Belt and Road" initiative (BRI). It is a significant development project that will transform Pakistan's economy by constructing new transportation and energy infrastructure and connecting China to the Arabian Sea. The project entails the construction of a network of roads, railways, and pipelines to transport oil and gas from the port of Gwadar in south-west Pakistan to Xinjiang in north-west China. The term "solar power" refers to the use of solar energy to generate electricity. The plan also includes the development of industrial parks to attract foreign investment and boost manufacturing growth.

CPEC is expected to attract billions of dollars in foreign investment and create thousands of new jobs in Pakistan, making it a game changer for the country's economy. Furthermore, the project aims to provide much-needed infrastructure to Pakistan's rural and impoverished areas, improving connectivity and expanding economic potential. However, the CPEC has come under fire from critics who see the initiative as a ploy by China to increase its influence in the region. Security issues have also arisen as a result of the presence of separatist organisations in Balochistan region, where Gwadar Port is located.

Power Construction Corporation of China, also known as PowerChina, is a Chinese state-owned company that focuses on energy and infrastructure construction. In 2011, the company was formed by the merger of China Power Engineering and Consulting Group and HydroChina Corporation, two major Chinese state-owned companies. PowerChina, one of

the world's largest engineering and construction companies, operates in over 100 countries and regions. Among the company's commercial ventures are the engineering, procurement, and construction (EPC) of power plants, hydroelectric projects, transmission lines, substations, and other infrastructure projects. PowerChina has been involved in a number of high-profile projects, including the construction of the Beijing-Shanghai high-speed railway and the Three Gorges Dam, the world's largest hydroelectric power station, both of which have significantly aided China's energy and infrastructure growth. PowerChina has recently participated in a number of international projects, the majority of which have been in developing countries. These projects include the construction of hydroelectric power plants, transmission lines, and other types of infrastructure in countries such as Pakistan, Indonesia, and Brazil. PowerChina has worked on a variety of renewable energy projects, including wind, solar, and biomass power plants. The company is investing heavily in the research and development of new clean energy technologies, with the goal of producing 50 GW of renewable energy by 2025.

POWERCHINA RESOURCES LTD (51% ownership) and Qatar's "AL-MIRQAB CAPITAL" (49% ownership) financed and established Port Qasim Electric Power Company (Private) Limited, also known as "PQEPC." The Port Qasim Coal Power Plant Project is primarily in charge of the investment, construction, operation, and management. It was established on August 12, 2014, in Pakistan's capital, Islamabad. More than 40 billion kilowatt hours of electricity have been produced since the project's inception, and it has been safely operational for 1800 days. The Port Qasim power plant project includes a comprehensive talent development strategy and a standardized management structure to ensure that all new hires feel comfortable in their roles as soon as possible.

100 of the first 150 Pakistani university graduates working in power plants received six-month training in similar Chinese power plants and were fully subsidized. Some of these graduates have gone on to become key professionals in the country's coal-fired power plant industry, holding key managerial positions. It has established itself as a green environmental protection powerhouse capable of powering all 4 million homes in Pakistan for four consecutive years, with the highest electricity generation load rate, highest electricity consumption, and lowest electricity price.

The "One Belt, One Road" China Pakistan Youth Development Initiative was proposed and implemented collaboratively by the All-China Youth Federation, PowerChina Group, and the Prime Minister of Pakistan's Office for Youth Affairs. This was done in order to assist the youth of China and Pakistan in vigorously participating in the establishment of the China Pakistan Economic Corridor and to encourage the common development of the two countries' youth in international cooperation.

According to the Sino-Pakistani youth development strategy, related CPEC projects will provide 1000 jobs and internships for young Pakistanis. The Prime Minister's Office of Pakistan Youth Affairs would openly recruit via social media, job boards, college recruitment, and other channels. Power around 100 jobs and internships will be available at China's hydroelectric and thermal power project sites and offices in Karachi, Islamabad,

Kashmir, Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa, and other locations, including relevant commercial and technical positions.

It is critical to remember that the impact of CPEC projects on employment and youth development is still being studied. Some have questioned the project due to its lack of transparency and the possibility of debt and reliance on China.

Concerns have been raised about the project's ability to benefit local workers and communities, as well as whether it will result in locals being evicted from their homes and losing their traditional livelihoods.

As a result, while the CPEC project and related energy infrastructure initiatives have the potential to create job opportunities for Pakistani youth, it is critical to ensure that the project's benefits are distributed fairly and that there are no unintended consequences.

— Engr Qaiser Nawab is a highly esteemed international expert on the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), Middle East, Central Asia, and Africa.

With a passion for global peace and climate activism, Qaiser is also recognised as a prominent Pakistani youth leader, United Nations SDGs advocate, and freelance journalist. With a wealth of knowledge and experience in his field, Qaiser can be reached at qaisernawab098@gmail.com for any inquiries or collaborations.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2023-02-24/page-9/detail-0>

### Express News

#### پاکستان کو چین سے 70 کروڑ ڈالر موصول، اسحاق ڈار کی تصدیق

وفاقی وزیر خزانہ اسحاق ڈار نے تصدیق کی ہے کہ چین کے بینک نے 70 کروڑ ڈالر جمع کروا دیے۔ اسلام آباد

سماجی رابطے کی سائٹ ٹویٹر پر وزیر خزانہ اسحاق ڈار نے لکھا کہ 'چائنا ڈویلپمنٹ بینک کی جانب سے بھیجے جانے والے 70 کروڑ ڈالر اسٹیٹ بینک آف پاکستان کو موصول ہو گئے ہیں'۔

اسٹیٹ بینک حکام کا کہنا ہے کہ رقم چائنا ڈویلپمنٹ بینک کی طرف سے رول اوور معاہدے کے بعد موصول ہوئی۔ ذرائع نے بتایا کہ اس سلسلے میں پاکستان اور چین کے درمیان معاہدہ ہو چکا تھا۔ ذرائع کے مطابق رقم کی وصولی سے پاکستان کے زرمبادلہ ذخائر 4 ارب ڈالر کے قریب پہنچ گئے ہیں، ذرائع کا کہنا ہے کہ آئی ایم ایف کے ساتھ اسٹاف سطح کے معاہدے اور پروگرام کے ٹریک پر آنے کے بعد مزید فنانشنگ ملے گی۔

اس سے دو روز قبل وزیر خزانہ اسحاق ڈار نے سماجی رابطے کی سائٹ ٹویٹر پر اپنے ایک بیان میں کہا تھا کہ 'چائنا ڈویلپمنٹ بینک کے بورڈ آف ڈائریکٹرز نے پاکستان کو 70 کروڑ امریکی ڈالر فنڈز بطور قرض دینے کی منظوری دے دی ہے جس کی بس رسمی کارروائی باقی ہے'۔

انہوں نے لکھا تھا کہ 'یہ رقم اگلے ہفتے تک اسٹیٹ بینک کے اکاؤنٹ میں آجائے گی جس کے بعد زرمبادلہ کے ذخائر میں بھی اضافہ ہوگا'۔

<https://www.express.pk/story/2446893/1/>



## Nawaiwaqt News

### پاکستان چین فاؤنڈیشن نے مسٹر ژاوشیریں کو گولڈ میڈل سے نوازا

لاہور (سینٹریل کارپوریشن) چینی قونصل جنرل لاہور ژاوشیریں کی مختصر عرصے میں پاک چین دوستی کے فروغ اور پیپلز ٹوپیکلز رابٹوں کیلئے بہترین اقدامات اٹھانے کے اعتراف میں پاکستان چین فاؤنڈیشن نے گولڈ میڈل دیا۔ فاؤنڈیشن کے وفد نے بانی چیئرمین ندیم اے شیخ کی قیادت میں چینی قونصل جنرل مسٹر ژاوشیریں سے ملاقات کی۔ شرکاء میں فاؤنڈیشن کے وائس چیئرمین آصف ہارون، جنرل سیکرٹری محمد قاسم، پولیٹیکل سیکشن کے ہیڈ مسٹر ڈیو، اتاشی مسٹر جن بو اور نوائے وقت گروپ کے صحافی خاور عباس سندھو بھی موجود تھے۔ پاکستان چین فاؤنڈیشن نے پاکستان چین دوستی کے فروغ میں بہترین کردار ادا کرنے پر دی نیشن اور نوائے وقت کے مثبت رپورٹنگ کو سراہا اور دونوں ممالک کے درمیان اس تناظر میں بہترین صحافتی خدمات کے اعتراف میں خاور عباس سندھو کو بھی میڈل سے نوازا۔ چینی قونصلیٹ لاہور نے کچھ عرصہ قبل آرٹ گیلری، الحجر آرٹس کونسل لاہور میں ”چینی ثقافت اور روایتی دستکاری“ کے موضوع سے چین کے غیر محسوس ثقافتی ورثے کی 2 روزہ نمائش کا اہتمام کیا۔ چین پاکستان ثقافتی تعلقات کے فروغ اور اسے مزید بہتر بنانے کے اقدامات کی حوصلہ افزائی کرتا ہے۔

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/lahore/2023-02-24/page-2/detail-2>

## February 25, 2023

### Daily Times

#### **China, Pakistan signs agreement to promote modern agri technology**

In a move to promote China-Pakistan modern agricultural cooperation, a framework agreement on Belt and Road agricultural cooperation was signed at the China-Pakistan Symposium on Modern Agriculture Cooperation at Northwest A&F University, China.

According to China Economic Net (CEN), the agreement was signed by the Northwest A&F University, China National Machinery Industry Corporation (SINOMACH), and the Office of Foreign Affairs Commission, Shaanxi Provincial Party Committee. The three sides agreed to work together in promoting international agricultural technology cooperation under the Belt and Road Initiative, training agricultural talents, building overseas agricultural parks and enhancing agricultural industrial chain of BRI countries. Professor Zhang Lixin from Northwest A&F University told China Economic Net (CEN) reporter that to facilitate agricultural technology transfer, the University will establish a mechanism for expert exchange with agricultural universities and research institutes in BRI countries.

A resource-sharing platform is proposed at the symposium to share and promote success models. Cooperation on agricultural industrial chain will also be stepped up. Projects including agricultural mechanization, deep processing of food, cross-border agricultural trade, agricultural warehousing, international logistics and overseas agricultural parks will be promoted via SCO (Shanghai Cooperation Organisation) Demonstration Base for Agricultural Technology Exchange, Yangling Area of China (Shaanxi) Pilot Free Trade Zone and Yangling Comprehensive Bonded Zone.

To support the above efforts, new scholarship programs are in pipeline to train agricultural talents. The overseas agricultural project bases under SINOMACH, including those in Pakistan, will offer opportunities to local students and researchers for study, internship,

employment, and entrepreneurship. The university is also launching new research projects jointly with Pakistani partners.

“We are going to cultivate green chilies in Pakistan, particularly in Sindh and Punjab”, Abdul Ghaffar Shar, a doctoral candidate of Northwest A&F University who has been studying in China for nine years told CEN, adding, “I brought from China linseed back to Pakistan last month. It is a variety most Pakistani farmers are not familiar with but can produce edible oil much needed in the country. Experiment has started at Sindh Agricultural University, Tandojam”. He told CEN that delegations from Habib Bank Limited (HBL) and People’s Bank of China (PBOC) Xi’an Branch also attended the symposium to concentrate on ways to facilitate Pakistani farmers to use China’s high-yielding varieties.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1066573/china-pakistan-sigs-agreement-to-promote-modern-agri-technology/>

### **Pak-China high-level hybrid wheat collaboration to ensure grain safety**

Prof Zhao Changping, Chief Scientist of Hybrid Wheat Research Institute, Beijing Academy of Agriculture and Forestry Sciences said that a group of Chinese wheat experts was working diligently and quietly with Pakistani scientists on hybrid wheat cooperation to increase wheat production in Pakistan.

Hybrid wheat is considered to be the first choice to solve the food crisis in the international agricultural science community, he said in an exclusive interview with China Economic Net (CEN) on Friday.

Prof Zhao said when it comes to China-Pakistan hybrid wheat cooperation, the selection and breeding of hybrid wheat varieties suitable for the local environment requires the cooperation of both parties. Therefore, we have established test stations in Peshawar, Lahore and Yuanmou in Yunnan Province, which is very similar to Pakistan’s local climate, he told. It is learned that so far, the Chinese team’s hybrid wheat demonstration fields in Pakistan have been maintained at about 3,000-5,000 hectares. “From Peshawar and Islamabad in the north, Lahore in the center to Karachi in the south, our hybrid wheat has performed well in all the major producing regions”, emphasized Zhao.

He also said, what’s more gratifying is that through the cooperation of scientists from both sides, we discovered that by using the Pakistani wheat varieties as a distant parent to cross with Chinese wheat, the varieties produced are more dominant. In addition, he told the hybridization of spring wheat in the southern wheat region and winter wheat in the northern wheat region can also produce dominant hybrids.

“The emergence of new varieties has given us momentum as we solve the two main problems, yield and disease resistance,” added Prof Zhang Shengquan, Deputy Director of the Hybrid Wheat Research Institute of BAAFS. “In 2019, after nearly ten years of cooperation, the selected hybrid wheat combinations, such as the new variety BH1683, have increased by more than 20 percent in Pakistan for three consecutive years, and can be widely used in the wheat regions in central and northern Pakistan, including Lahore and Peshawar. In addition, in the joint experiment between China and Pakistan, even if the sowing amount was reduced by 80-90 percent, BH1683 still has the potential to increase yield by 20 percent.

After the introduction of the dominant genes of Chinese wheat, its disease resistance is also more advantageous than that of local varieties”.

Several Pakistani scientists who have been in contact with me for a long time, such as Dr. Muhammad Arif, Department of Agronomy UAP, have mentioned that wheat production in Pakistan has encountered unprecedented challenges. For instance, last year’s rare high temperature once again tested Pakistan’s traditional wheat varieties, which has also deepened the understanding of China and Pakistan on the cultivation and application of wheat hybrids to ensure food security. At present, our pace of cooperation is accelerating, and is moving towards the direction of joint research to global food security,” Prof Zhang said

“We are working closely with the university of Agriculture, Peshawar and GUARD Agricultural Research & Services Private Ltd. In addition, the Ministry of Science and Technology of Pakistan, in addition, the Ministry of Science and Technology of Pakistan, the Pakistan Agricultural Research Council, and the Chinese Embassy in Pakistan have also support us as far as they could.”

At the end of the interview, Professor Zhao noted that this year marks not only the 10th anniversary of the Belt and Road Initiative, but also happens to be the 10th anniversary of China’s hybrid wheat going global. “China-Pakistan hybrid wheat cooperation is a model of high-tech agriculture going international, and a sign of China-Pakistan friendship.

It is our incontrovertible mission as agricultural practitioners to develop hybrid wheat to benefit the people of Pakistan and the whole world. I predict that by around 2030, not only Pakistan, not only South Asia, our hybrid wheat will enter the stage of large-scale application in all continents.”

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1066593/pak-china-high-level-hybrid-wheat-collaboration-to-ensure-grain-safety/>

### **Pakistan Observer**

#### **FDI from China rises to over \$200 million in FY 22-23**

Pakistan has received US\$ 200.2 million as Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) from China in the first seven months of the current Fiscal Year 2022-23.

China accounts for 29.3% of the total US\$ 683.5 million in FDI received by Pakistan in the current fiscal year 2022-23. Chinese FDI in Pakistan totaled US\$102.5 million from July to November, board of Investment said.

Pakistan received another US\$97.7 million from China in December and January, bringing the total investment to US\$200.2 million.

According to BOI data, Japan was the second largest investor in Pakistan with US\$133.9 million between July and January, followed by Switzerland with US\$106.5 million, the UAE with US\$83.2 million, Hong Kong SARC with US\$46.4 million, the Netherlands with US\$45 million, the UK with US\$24 million, and the US with US\$9.2 million.

Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, Pakistan received US\$531.6 (28.46% of the total) FDI from China in FY2021-22, while in FY2020-21, Pakistan received US\$751.6 (41.3%)

million.

<https://pakobserver.net/fdi-from-china-rises-to-over-200-million-in-fy-22-23/>

### The Nation

#### **B2B cooperation under CPEC critical for sustained economic growth**

ISLAMABAD-The second phase of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) focuses on development of business-to-business (B2B) links as they are crucial for sustainable economic growth.

Talking to WealthPK, Syed Zafar Ali Shah, Secretary of Planning Commission, said, “Promoting B2B cooperation is now a priority of the government of Pakistan.” He said that the Board of Investment (BoI), which is a member of the CPEC’s Working Group on Special Economic Zones, had developed an investor forum to facilitate ideas on launching joint ventures. “The BoI is in the process of identifying suitable and viable locations for consideration by the Joint Working Group for setting up SEZs,” he added. “The BoI has designed a policy to create a conducive environment for attracting foreign direct investment. Policies are being devised in a way to ensure business liberalisation, de-regulation, privatisation and facilitation.” He said the second phase of CPEC was meant to broaden the scope of cooperation on industrial, scientific, technological and agricultural development.

Zafar Ali Shah emphasised that the government was working to ensure policy consistency, ease of doing business, and provision of better incentives for private sector participation in development of a sustainable economic model.

Meanwhile, Dr Liaqat Ali Shah, Executive Director and Head of Policy Division at the Centre of Excellence for China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, told WealthPK that the flagship Belt and Road Initiative, which the CPEC is part of, had entered the 10th year, successfully transforming the societies and systems in many member countries around the globe. However, he expressed concern that investment rate in Pakistan had remained chronically low both in absolute terms and compared to other emerging and developing economies.

“We need to double our efforts to connect with Chinese business houses and create an enabling environment to attract Chinese investments.” Liaqat Ali Shah said that CPEC had immense strategic importance for Pakistan as it had already helped the country lay a strong infrastructure for subsequent development. “China is moving towards high-end industrial manufacturing with introduction of a dual circulation economy, and the rising phenomenon of Chinese industrial relocation to other countries around the world. Considering this unique opportunity, Pakistan can rapidly expand and diversify its industrial landscape.” He stated that Pakistan wanted to enhance partnership with China to bolster its exports and become part of the latter’s global supply chains. “The government is committed to removing all the bottlenecks standing in the way of attracting investment in the country.”

<https://www.nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2023-02-25/page-8/detail-4>

**February 26, 2023**

**Daily Times**

**Chinese sports shoes company extends help for flood-affecteds**

To help Pakistan recover from the devastating floods, sports shoes worth RMB 1 million (PKR 38 million) were gifted by a Chinese company, said China Leather Industry Association (CLIA).

Pakistan's 2022 monsoon season brought heavy rainfall, devastating floods and landslides that affected millions of people, accounting for about 15% of its population.

By mid-January 2023, months after the worst flooding, as many as 4 million children are still living near contaminated and stagnant flood waters, risking their survival and well-being. Displaced people have begun to return to their places of origin, but they are returning to challenging circumstances.

To help those in need, the CLIA launched an initiative named "Put on Chinese Shoes, Rebuild New Home" in January. Li Ning Group, one of the leading sports brand companies in China, took action in the first time to express its care for the affected people in Pakistan, China Economic Net (CEN) reported.

Pakistan's Ambassador to China Moin ul Haque expressed his sincere thanks to CLIA and the group for their generous help to the flood-stricken groups in Pakistan. He said the donation made him felt once again the warmth of the Chinese people towards the Pakistani people. Chen Zhanguang, Vice President of CLIA, told the reporter that the initiative was a good start. "We hope that more shoe manufacturers will participate in donating to the affected people in Pakistan and shoulder their responsibilities." Li Ning, founder of the Group, said in his speech that Pakistan is a friendly neighbour of China, and the two countries have a tradition of helping each other. "May the Pakistani people rebuild their homes as soon as possible," he added.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1066918/chinese-sports-shoes-company-extends-help-for-flood-affecteds/>

**The Nation**

**Pakistan's oilseed industry to bloom under Pak-China agri cooperation**

*Xinhua*

GUJRANWALA - On a sunny February morning, the air in a small village in Gujranwala district carried the sweet scent of the canola flowers, which were dancing gently in the breeze.

Bees whirling on the profuse yellow blossom beaming with lush green pods were not only a view to behold, but also heralded the beginning of a new chapter in the lives of local businesspeople and farmers, who are shifting to a Chinese hybrid variety of canola seeds to reap higher yields and produce cooking oil at home. "We sowed the new variety on 100 acres of land because of their potential to produce higher yields and more oil as compared to other

oilseeds including mustard and rape, which we previously used to cultivate,” Intisar Ahmad Chattha, the farm’s manager told Xinhua while carefully watching the pods.

Pakistan’s annual consumption of cooking 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 3.6 billion U.S. dollars annually. To help the country meet its edible oil demand and support its foreign exchange reserves, Chinese company Wuhan Qingfa Hesheng and a Pakistani company Evyol group jointly provide high-quality hybrid seeds to Pakistani farmers. Ghazanfar Ali, head of marketing in Evyol group told Xinhua it took them 10 years to produce a variety that is compatible with the local climate, produces a good yield and is good for human health. The crop provides an increased profit for the farmers as its standard 2 kg pack is enough to cultivate 2 acres of land, and the farmer can get 1.5 tons of yield out of it, which is over 10 percent more than the yield from other varieties currently available in Pakistan, he said, when talking about the potential of the crop.

Zhou Xusheng, director of the international business department of Wuhan Qingfa Hesheng Seed company, told Xinhua that his company is working on transferring technology to Pakistan to make it efficient in smart agriculture. “Through this project, we want to transfer the harvesting technology through which the farmers can use some attachments on the harvesters they already have and reduce the wastage,” he said. His company also wants to introduce processing units across the country, through which even in villages people can install them and produce processed oil for themselves and sell it to others, Zhou added. He said that the seed is suitable for the environment across Pakistan, and this year they sold 11 tons of seeds across the country, which will be cultivated on 20,000 acres, and their target for next year is 100 tons, which will bring a great change to Pakistan by helping the country become self-sufficient in edible oil production.

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, Zhou added.

“When Pakistan imports oil, it spends a lot of money and receives only the finished product. But when oil is produced locally, it will generate job opportunities, build an industrial chain and utilize the cakes after oil extraction as power-packed canola meal for cattle,” he added. Talking about the demand for canola meal in Pakistan, Chattha said that they have over 800 cows in the dairy farms in the area and to provide them with good quality food they have to import canola meals, which is a big financial burden due to the devaluation of the local currency. “Besides getting and selling edible oil, our main purpose to sow canola was to produce the meal for cattle,” he said, adding that he observed swarms of bees on the flowers during its ongoing full bloom season, and that they are also planning to work on beekeeping next year.

“The yellow flowers in the vast plain of Gujranwala symbolize the beauty of the Pakistan-China friendship, through which a revolution can be brought to Pakistan’s agriculture sector, and the edible oilseed production is a step forward in that direction,” Ali said, while standing near a promotional board educating people about the health benefits of Chinese canola.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2023-02-26/page-8/detail-1>

**February 27, 2023**

### **Business Recorder**

#### **CPEC IPPs**

Govt willing to amend PERA to satisfy Chinese lenders

ISLAMABAD: The government has reportedly shown willingness to amend/ modify Pakistan Energy Revolving Account (PERA) to sort out concerns of Chinese lenders of CPEC IPPs with respect to payment in future, sources close to Managing Director PPIB told Business Recorder.

MD PPIB, sources said, has shared a report of meeting on PERA with Suo Yun Peng Director Asia and Africa Division, Department of International Cooperation National Energy Administrations, China and Gu Hong Bin Vice President of China Renewable Energy Engineering Institute (CREEI), requesting them to coordinate with CPEC IPPs, respective lenders and Sinasure to get their acknowledgment on the satisfaction of the Revolving Account arrangement shared by CPPA-G or comments on it, at the earliest. This will trigger the next meeting leading to the meeting of Joint Energy working Group (JEWG) accordingly. Sharing the details, sources said a high-level meeting was held online during first week of Feb, 2023 between Pakistan and China, presided over by Secretary Power Division.

The Chinese side comprised representatives from China Renewable Energy Engineering Institute (CREEI), Export Import Bank of China (EXIM Bank), China Development Bank (CDB), China Construction Bank (CCB), Agriculture Bank of China (ABC) and Industrial and Commercial Bank of China (ICBC) but Sinasure, the Chinese insurance company, representatives were not present.

From Pakistani side, the representation was from Ministry of Energy (Power Division), Ministry of Finance, PPIB, CPEC Authority, Pakistan Embassy in Beijing, CPEC IPPs and CPPA-G.

Secretary Power asked the Chinese lenders to share their views and comments on the Revolving Account Framework presently being followed by the Government of Pakistan in lieu of Revolving Account as per Revolving Account Agreement (RAA). But before that the background of the issue under consideration was highlighted by MD-PPIB, Shah Jahan Mirza and then the CEO CPPA-G. Rehan Akhtar updated the participants about the basic features and the implementation status of Pakistan Energy Revolving Account (PERA).

Additional Secretary, Ministry of Finance informed the participants that the current scheme of payment with respect to Revolving Account is backed by GoP as the decision is made by the Federal Cabinet of Pakistan and Rs50 billion has already been approved by the Cabinet for the current Financial Year, i.e., (up to June, 2023) for onward payments to CPEC projects in respect of Revolving Account. However, on monthly basis, the amount of Rs. 4.00 billion can be withdrawn from PERA for payment to CPEC-Projects, as per the Federal Cabinet decision.

The queries raised by the Chinese lenders with respect to the continuity of the present scheme of Revolving Account, the responsible ministry for operations and maintenance of the Revolving Account, the tariff related issues along with the amendments required to be incorporated in Revolving Account Agreement, were responded by Pakistani side and the Chinese side were assured of the commitment of Government of Pakistan to keep the Revolving Account operational based on the consent/ acknowledgement of the lenders on the satisfaction of the Revolving Account opened with State Bank of Pakistan (SBP), in the spirit of cooperation.—MUSHTAQ GHUMMAN

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2023/02/27/12-page/956061-news.html>

### **The Nation**

#### **PM to inaugurate 100MW Iran-Gwadar power transmission project: CS**

QUETTA-Balochistan Chief Secretary (CS) Abdul Aziz Uqaili said that Prime Minister (PM) Shehbaz Sharif will inaugurate 100MW Iran-Gwadar power transmission project during his visit to Balochistan next week.

He said this while addressing a high level meeting to review the ongoing uplift projects in the Gwadar. The CS noted that under power transmission project, Gwadar will get 100 megawatt electricity from Iran. In this regard, National Dispatch Company, Quetta Electric Supply Company, Gwadar Port Authority, Gwadar Development Authority, China Overseas Port Holding Company and other related departments have completed their preparations.

He further said that after the unveiling of the project by the PM, the electricity supply to Gwadar will be formally started.

“During his visit, the PM will also open the project of the first cross-stuffing facility at Gwadar Port, dredging at Gwadar Port. Besides, distribution of boat engine checks to the deserving fishermen of Gwadar will also be done,” he said.

The CS stressed that the incumbent government is committed to the development of the coastal belt of Balochistan and through various uplift projects launched in the province, trying to benefit the local people of Balochistan.

“The implementation of all these projects is part of the vision of the PM Pakistan for Balochistan,” he emphasised.

Earlier, the CS Balochistan was briefed about the administrative structure of Gwadar district, historical importance and ongoing development projects by the federal and provincial governments.

Commissioner Makran Syed Faasil Ahmed Agha, DG GDA Mujibur Rehman Qambrani, DC Gwadar Izzat Nazir Baloch and other officials informed the CS about the progress of the projects made so far. The arrangements and preparations for the expected visit of PM Shehbaz Sharif to Gwadar were also reviewed.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2023-02-27/page-9/detail-0>



**February 28, 2023**

**The Nation**

**Chinese researchers to reach Gwadar for green initiative**

ISLAMABAD - A group of seven Chinese researchers and botanists led by Prof Wang Sen will arrive at Gwadar Port in March for Green Gwadar Initiative.

According to Gwadar Pro, their visit aims to make further progress on plant growth and sustainability by ensuring plants' resilience against unsuitable and harsh climates through the modern technology of tissue culture and genetic engineering.

They will work at the Tissue Culture Lab and Green Centre in Gwadar Free Zone which has been jointly established by China Overseas Ports Holding Company and Central South University of Forestry and Technology, China.

The prime focus of the laboratory is to conduct research and subsequently produce plants that are conducive to the arid environment of Gwadar.

In collaboration with China, the tissue club has significantly contributed to the preservation of Gwadar's natural environment by planting 150,000 plants and converting the previously reclaimed area of Gwadar port and free zone into green land.

The previous team of researchers has conducted significant research using non-conventional methods such as tissue culture and genetic engineering to yield new varieties of bananas and jujube plants. A systematic experimentation has been conducted on the arid non-wood forest.

The team of researchers visiting Gwadar in March will continue the momentum to discover new avenues of research on plants in Gwadar and nearby regions.

The findings will be eventually shared with the local community to help them grow commercial crops and attain self-sufficiency.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2023-02-28/page-4/detail-6>

***Chinese Newspapers***

**February 16, 2023**

**Global Times**

**Senior diplomat in whirlwind meetings to deliver China's vision for security, development**

*By Zhang Han*

Senior Chinese diplomat Wang Yi has been in a whirlwind of bilateral meetings with foreign leaders and diplomats on the sidelines of the ongoing Munich Security Conference (MSC) that was scheduled from Friday to Sunday.

Analysts noted that China's vision for global security and development is not only delivered through Wang's planned speech at the MSC, a key part of the agenda for the Wang's overall

trip, but also conveyed in bilateral interactions and weaved into discussion on further cooperation across a broad range of topics.

After having visited France and Italy, Wang, director of the Office of the Foreign Affairs Commission of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee, arrived in Germany on Friday. He had met with leaders and diplomats including German Chancellor Olaf Scholz, German Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock, Pakistani Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari and Mongolian Foreign Minister Batmunkh Battsetseg. He will continue his visit to Hungary and Russia after attending the MSC.

When meeting Scholz, Wang, also a member of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee, said China is ready to fully restart exchanges with Germany and Europe in various fields, expand mutually beneficial cooperation and enhance mutual understanding, Xinhua News Agency reported.

Both China and Germany should support multilateralism and free trade, reject practices of "decoupling" and severing supply chains, and safeguard the stability of global production and supply chains, Wang said.

Although China and Germany have different social systems and cultural backgrounds, safeguarding world peace and promoting global development serves the common interests of the two countries and is also the two's common responsibility, the Chinese diplomat told Baerbock.

Zhao Junjie, a research fellow from the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences' Institute of European Studies, told the Global Times on Saturday that bilateral face-to-face communication is important in dispelling mistrust and enhancing mutual understanding when China and Europe face bumps in their relations.

Stable and sound China-Germany relations are crucial to China and Europe rebooting ties considering Germany's status as a major regional country, being member of both the EU and NATO, Zhao said.

Lü Xiang, research fellow at the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, told the Global Times that Wang's trip could play a constructive role in mediating peace between Russia and the NATO, and help the world find common ground in post-COVID recovery.

With the Russia-Ukraine conflict dominating the MSC agenda, China's role is not only to deliver its broad security vision, but also to show the world that despite of differences and disagreements with some countries, China, as a responsible major power, can have dialogue and cooperate in a mutually beneficial way rather than getting indulged in confrontational mentality, analysts said.

The MSC, traditionally focusing more on transatlantic partnership, has invited delegations from emerging economies this year as the world is facing grave conflicts and uncertainties.

During his meeting with Bilawal, Wang stressed China and Pakistan's strategic consensus on building an even closer community of shared future in the new era, Xinhua reported.

The two sides also exchanged views on strengthening mutual support under the current international situation.

Commenting on the recent "China-US balloon row," Wang pointed out that the unintended entry of a Chinese civilian unmanned airship into US airspace was due to force majeure, and this isolated, unexpected incident should have been handled calmly, rationally and professionally.

However, the US ignored the basic facts, abused force, overreacted and hyped the situation, he said, adding that this almost hysterical practice showed that the US' prejudice and ignorance of China has reached an absurd level.

China demands that the US show sincerity in solving the problem and stop doing such absurd things out of domestic political needs, Wang said.

When he met with Battsetseg, the senior diplomat expressed the willingness to enhance cooperation on areas including trade, mining, infrastructure, anti-desertification and cultural exchanges.

With the impact of the Ukraine crisis casting a shadow over the global stability and economic recovery, China's stance is consistent - promoting peace talks, urging de-escalation, and calling for mutual understanding and cooperation to replace a policy of decoupling and bloc confrontation, analysts said.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202302/1285705.shtml>

### **Xinhuanet News**

#### **CPEC promotes Pakistan's socio-economic growth: official**

ISLAMABAD, - The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), a flagship project of the China-proposed Belt and Road Initiative, has been promoting the socio-economic growth of Pakistan, Pakistani Foreign Secretary Asad Majeed Khan said on Thursday.

"CPEC is playing a vital role in the country's national development and Pakistan has been focusing on CPEC and other connectivity-related initiatives in its geo-economic pursuits," Majeed said while addressing a conference organized by the Institute of Strategic Studies, an Islamabad-based think tank.

He said that CPEC projects have provided an opportunity to expand Pakistan's exports and industrial base while building rewarding economic relationships in the wider region.

Pakistan welcomes investment in CPEC-related projects and special economic zones from the interested countries, the official added.

Commenting on the challenges faced by countries around the globe, such as terrorism, climate change, and pandemic, Khan said that Pakistan sought to synergize collective efforts towards the attainment of a prosperous and secure world.

"Pakistan will continue to support an equitable and inclusive world order where nobody is left behind," he said, adding that the country always remained committed to the improvement of relations with the neighbors based on mutual respect and sovereign equality.

<https://english.news.cn/20230216/905837b291d0447fa18345b559fc96d7/c.html>

**February 18, 2023**

**People's Daily**

## **Pakistan-China cooperation under CPEC helps Pakistan to achieve sustainable development**

*By Raheela Nazir (Xinhua)*

ISLAMABAD, Feb. 17 (Xinhua) -- The cooperation between Pakistan and China under the framework of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) has been helping Pakistan achieve sustainable development goals, said Pakistani and Chinese experts on Friday.

CPEC, the flagship project of China's Belt and Road Initiative, has opened new avenues of development for Pakistan and helped the country in accomplishing the United Nations' 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the experts said at a webinar titled "Pakistan-China Cooperation for Sustainable Development" organized by Asian Institute of Eco-civilization Research and Development, an Islamabad-based think tank.

China has been playing a vital role in global and regional growth by launching a number of projects such as Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), Global Development Initiative (GDI) and others, which is especially beneficial for developing countries like Pakistan, Shakeel Ahmad Ramay, chief executive officer of Asian Institute of Eco-civilization Research and Development said.

Under CPEC, Ramay said China has not only assisted Pakistan to overcome energy shortage by initiating a number of power projects under CPEC but also helped in building road infrastructure, thus making a firm base for economic growth by improving the business environment, enhancing exports, bringing in foreign investments, creating employment and alleviating poverty.

China has always stood by Pakistan during challenging times. Back in 2014, it was China who believed in Pakistan's economic potential and brought in huge investments under CPEC, he said.

Zhou Taidong, an expert from the Global Development Research Division of China Center for International Knowledge on Development, said China-proposed GDI is a very important initiative to address common challenges facing humanity including climate change and pandemic and promote more sustainable and inclusive growth.

The people-centered development initiative provided countries around the globe with a practical path to expediting the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, he said.

Considering the initiative a promising one, the Chinese expert said that more than 100 countries have expressed their support for it, and over 60 countries have joined the Group of Friends of the GDI so far, showing the commitment of China towards multilateralism, open and inclusive spirit of cooperation and development.

In the wake of the recent catastrophic floods in Pakistan that destroyed millions of acres of crops, Vice Chancellor of the Islamia University of Bahawalpur Athar Mahboob said that the two countries are working towards enhancing agricultural cooperation under CPEC to combat climate change issues and ensure food security in Pakistan.

"China is one of the most important agricultural countries with advanced climate-resistant agricultural techniques and equipment. Pakistan has a lot to learn from China in this regard," Mahboob said.

Agricultural cooperation between the two countries has been bringing huge benefits for Pakistani farmers and improving the livelihoods of people associated with the sector, he said, adding that China has provided Pakistan with hybrid high-quality seeds, high-yield cultivation and processing technology and water-saving irrigation technology to enhance the outputs of agricultural products and their exports.

Mahboob added that agricultural trade between Pakistan and China has also grown significantly over the years, bringing huge foreign exchange to Pakistan.

(Web editor: Zhong Wenxing, Liang Jun)

<http://en.people.cn/n3/2023/0218/c90000-10209565.html>

## **China firmly supports Pakistan in maintaining security: senior diplomat**

*(Xinhua)*

MUNICH, Germany, Feb. 17 (Xinhua) -- China firmly supports Pakistan in maintaining security and stability as well as achieving development and revitalization, and stands ready to provide assistance to the best of its ability to help Pakistan overcome temporary difficulties, a senior Chinese diplomat said here on Friday.

Wang Yi, director of the Office of the Foreign Affairs Commission of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee, made the remarks when meeting with Pakistani Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari on the sidelines of the 59th Munich Security Conference, which opened here on Friday.

Wang, also a member of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee, said China and Pakistan are all-weather strategic cooperative partners and China-Pakistan friendship is rock solid.

China is ready to work with Pakistan to implement the strategic consensus reached by the leaders of the two countries and build an even closer community of shared future in the new era, he said.

Bilawal expressed satisfaction over the development of Pakistan-China relations. He stressed that China is Pakistan's all-weather friend and an important pillar of Pakistan's foreign policy is to strengthen relations with China and promote the construction of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor.

Pakistan will resolutely fight terrorism and spare no effort to protect the safety of Chinese enterprises and citizens in Pakistan, he said.

The two sides also exchanged views on strengthening mutual support under the current international situation.

Wang pointed out that the unintended entry of a Chinese civilian unmanned airship into U.S. airspace was due to force majeure, and this isolated, unexpected incident should have been handled calmly, rationally and professionally.

However, the U.S. side ignored the basic facts, abused force, overreacted and hyped the situation, he said, adding that this almost hysterical practice showed that the U.S. side's prejudice and ignorance of China has reached an absurd level.

China demands that the U.S. side show sincerity in solving the problem and stop doing such absurd things out of domestic political needs, Wang said.

(Web editor: Zhong Wenxing, Liang Jun)

<http://en.people.cn/n3/2023/0218/c90000-10209513.html>

**February 22, 2023**

**South China Morning Post**

### **China lends Pakistan a further US\$700 million to shore up forex reserve**

The loan comes as the country is thrashing out a deal with the IMF to unlock funds from a US\$6.5 billion bailout. A finance ministry official said the loan was in addition to other facilities China has already extended to Pakistan. Pakistan is expecting to receive an extra US\$700 million from China this week.

Pakistan will this week receive a new US\$700 million loan from China to help shore up its foreign exchange reserves, the country's finance minister said on Wednesday, in another step to help the South Asian nation recover from an economic crisis.

The credit facility, made through the state-owned China Development Bank will boost Pakistan's forex reserves by about 20 per cent and comes as the country is thrashing out a deal with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to unlock funds from a US\$6.5 billion bailout.

"This amount is expected to be received this week by State Bank of Pakistan which will shore up its forex reserves," Finance Minister Ishaq Dar said on Twitter.

A finance ministry official said the loan was in addition to other facilities that China has already extended to Pakistan. The money could come as early as Thursday, he added.

China Development Bank did not respond to a faxed request for comment.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif said he was hopeful of reaching a deal with the IMF as soon as the country completes a series of steps demanded by the lender. Addressing his cabinet, he said the government was focusing on austerity as a top priority. "Our government will utilise all resources to overcome the crisis," he said.

The receipt of external financing is one of the measures needed before the IMF signs a staff level agreement that will unlock more than US\$1 billion in funding, that has been suspended since late last year.

Pakistan is struggling with its worst economic crisis in decades and its foreign exchange reserves, at their lowest in 10 years, are only enough to pay for less than three weeks' worth of imports. Meanwhile, fiscal adjustments demanded by the IMF are fuelling decades-high inflation. The country's international bonds extended their decline on Wednesday with the 2027 dollar-denominated bonds dropping more than 1.2 cents in the dollar to trade just over 40 cents, Tradeweb data showed. China is already Pakistan's single largest creditor with its commercial banks holding about 30 per cent of its external debt. The United States, historically a close ally, said this week it was concerned about this debt, and was talking to Islamabad about the "perils" of a closer relationship with Beijing.

[https://www.scmp.com/news/asia/south-asia/article/3211158/china-lends-pakistan-further-us700-million-shore-forex-reserves?module=perpetual\\_scroll\\_0&pgtype=article&campaign=3211158](https://www.scmp.com/news/asia/south-asia/article/3211158/china-lends-pakistan-further-us700-million-shore-forex-reserves?module=perpetual_scroll_0&pgtype=article&campaign=3211158)

**February 23, 2023**

**Xinhuanet News**

### **China's green development role model for Pakistan to mitigate climate change challenges: experts**

ISLAMABAD, Feb. 23 (Xinhua) -- Pakistani experts and officials on Wednesday said that the country should learn from the green development initiative of China to mitigate its own climate change challenges.

At an event titled "The Need to Switch Towards a Greener Future: Lessons from China" held by Islamabad-based think-tank Pakistan-China Institute (PCI) and Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI), speakers said that China has set an example for the world to follow in green development.

"Pakistan had over 150 freak weather incidents during the last two decades, including avalanches, flash floods and forest fire, among others," said Senator Mushahid Hussain Syed, chairman of the Pakistani Senate's defense committee and chairman of the PCI.

Climate change crisis was aptly demonstrated by last year's floods in Pakistan, which affected 33 million people, the senator added.

"We are very grateful to China and its leadership for taking the climate change issue forward because many developed countries are still in denial of it," he added.

Syed said that apart from its shift to renewable energy, China also introduced green technology that generated millions of jobs.

Speaking at the event, Abid Qaiyum Suleri, executive director of the SDPI, said that agriculture cooperation under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor is not only helping Pakistan overcome the food security challenge, but also helping in green development.

"Certain rice varieties provided by China are producing crops in saline conditions in Pakistan. It is greening the environment through nature," he added. Calling the contribution of Chinese power plants vital to help Pakistan achieve its renewable energy target, Muhammad Ayub, managing director of the National Transmission and Despatch Company, said that they are not only providing cheap electricity, but also working for the green development of Pakistan. Citing China's success story in greatly reducing pollution, the PCI executive director Mustafa Hyder Syed said that China controlled urban pollution by taking effective methods that Pakistan can follow.

"Now Beijing's air quality is very healthy, there is also a lot of greenery in the city and smog has been controlled, which shows China's commitment to protecting the environment," he added.

<https://english.news.cn/20230223/1bdcbe6cc0d746498836dc5eb773dd09/c.html>

**February 24, 2023**

**Xinhuanet News**

**Pakistan proud of friendship with China: Pakistani Foreign Ministry**

ISLAMABAD, Feb. 24 (Xinhua) -- Pakistan considers China as an all-weather strategic cooperative partner and is proud of its friendship with China, spokesperson for the Pakistani Foreign Ministry Mumtaz Zahra Baloch said in Thursday's weekly press briefing. When asked about U.S. State Department Counselor Derek Chollet's recent statement regarding Pakistan-China relations, the spokesperson said that Pakistan, as a sovereign state, exercises the right to choose its economic partners from around the globe on mutually beneficially basis.

Mumtaz Zahra Baloch said that China has been a consistent, generous and steadfast friend that has stood by Pakistan for the last several decades and has always come to Pakistan's assistance in times of need.

<https://english.news.cn/asiapacific/20230224/e5446fafdc49423285e7cf17fdf3cb5d/c.html>

**February 27, 2023**

**Xinhuanet News**

**Pakistan's oilseed industry to bloom under China-Pakistan agriculture cooperation**

*by Misbah Saba Malik*

GUJRANWALA, Pakistan, Feb. 27 (Xinhua) -- On a sunny February morning, the air in a small village in Pakistan's east Gujranwala district carried the sweet scent of canola flowers, which were dancing gently in the breeze.

Bees whirling on the profuse yellow blossom beaming with lush green pods were not only a view to behold, but also heralded the beginning of a new chapter in the lives of local



businesspeople and farmers, who are shifting to a Chinese hybrid variety of canola seeds to reap higher yields and produce cooking oil at home.

"We sowed the new variety on 100 acres of land because of their potential to produce higher yields and more oil as compared to other oilseeds including mustard and rapeseed, which we previously used to cultivate," Intisar Ahmad Chattha, the farm's manager told Xinhua while carefully watching the pods.

Pakistan's annual consumption of cooking 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 3.6 billion U.S. dollars annually.

To help the country meet its edible oil demand and support its foreign exchange reserves, Chinese company Wuhan Qingfa Hesheng and a Pakistani company Evyol group jointly provide high-quality hybrid seeds to Pakistani farmers.

Ghazanfar Ali, head of marketing in Evyol group told Xinhua it took them 10 years to produce a variety that is compatible with the local climate, produces a good yield and is good for human health.

The crop provides an increased profit for the farmers as its standard 2 kg pack is enough to cultivate 2 acres of land, and the farmer can get 1.5 tons of yield out of it, which is over 10 percent more than the yield from other varieties currently available in Pakistan, he said, when talking about the potential of the crop.

Zhou Xusheng, director of the international business department of Wuhan Qingfa Hesheng Seed company, told Xinhua that his company is working on transferring technology to Pakistan to make it efficient in smart agriculture.

"Through this project, we want to transfer the harvesting technology through which the farmers can use some attachments on the harvesters they already have and reduce the wastage," he said.

His company also wants to introduce processing units across the country, through which even in villages people can install them and produce processed oil for themselves and sell it to others, Zhou added.

He said that the seed is suitable for the environment across Pakistan, and this year they sold 11 tons of seeds across the country, which will be cultivated on 20,000 acres, and their target for next year is 100 tons, which will bring a great change to Pakistan by helping the country become self-sufficient in edible oil production.

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, Zhou added.

"When Pakistan imports oil, it spends a lot of money and receives only the finished product. But when oil is produced locally, it will generate job opportunities, build an industrial chain and utilize the cakes after oil extraction as power-packed canola meal for cattle," he added.

Talking about the demand for canola meal in Pakistan, Chattha said that they have over 800 cows in the dairy farms in the area and to provide them with good quality food they have to import canola meals, which is a big financial burden due to the devaluation of the local currency. "Besides getting and selling edible oil, our main purpose to sow canola was to produce the meal for cattle," he said, adding that he observed swarms of bees on the flowers during its ongoing full bloom season, and that they are also planning to work on beekeeping next year.

"The yellow flowers in the vast plain of Gujranwala symbolize the beauty of the Pakistan-China friendship, through which a revolution can be brought to Pakistan's agriculture sector, and the edible oilseed production is a step forward in that direction," Ali said, while standing near a promotional board telling people about the health benefits of the Chinese canola.

<https://english.news.cn/20230227/190423d59d2a43f7ae2855a1d1472321/c.html>

**February 28, 2023**

**Xinhuanet News**

**CPEC plays pivotal role in promoting green development in Pakistan, say experts**

*Raheela Nazir*

ISLAMABAD, Feb. 28 (Xinhua) -- The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), a flagship project under the China-proposed Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), has been playing a pivotal role in promoting green development in Pakistan, highlighting China's commitment to harmonious coexistence of human beings and nature, Pakistani officials and experts said.

Talking to Xinhua, Convener of National Parliamentary Task Force on Sustainable Development Goals, Romina Khurshid Alam, said the cooperation between Pakistan and China under the CPEC in the fields of energy, transport, agriculture and industrial production has helped Pakistan boost green, low-carbon sustainable development.

Besides assisting Pakistan in overcoming energy crisis and infrastructure upgrading through the CPEC, Chinese companies in Pakistan have been strictly following international and local standards on safety and environmental protection, Alam said.

In implementing infrastructure projects, ecological factors have been fully considered and a number of green and clean energy projects including solar, wind and hydropower have been completed across the Asian country over the past several years, reducing carbon emissions and contributing to economic development, environment protection and improvement of living standards of the locals, said the official.

Citing the example of recently completed 720-megawatt Karot hydropower project, Alam said that a comprehensive biodiversity management plan was developed for construction and operation stages of the project to protect environment and wildlife around the project site.

Pakistan and China have further stepped up their cooperation in green energy for the benefit of the region under the CPEC, helping Pakistan mitigate the adverse impacts of climate

change, said Hassan Daud Butt, senior advisor at the China Study Center of the Sustainable Development Policy Institute, an Islamabad-based think tank.

"Pakistan is one of the most vulnerable countries to climate change, with the country facing the worst climate-induced catastrophic floods recently. As the CPEC is making progress, it can help the country to tackle the climate change issue by increasing investment in renewable energy, green building construction, decreasing energy loss, and innovative practices such as green finance and other measures," Butt told Xinhua.

Calling the CPEC a game changer and a green corridor, Shakeel Ahmad Ramay, chief executive officer of the Asian Institute of Eco-civilization Research and Development, said that the flagship project of the BRI is people-centric, environmentally friendly, inclusive and green and sustainable initiative.

China has been utilizing new technologies and making investments in BRI partner countries to support green development. Pakistan can learn from the Chinese experience and technology to realize its vision of high-quality green and sustainable development, Ramay told Xinhua.

"The CPEC has changed the landscape of Pakistan and has accelerated growth while bringing about socio-economic benefits for the people of Pakistan ... China's commitment to promoting carbon-free global economy is commendable," he said.

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