



For Better Understanding on China–Pakistan and CPEC

Gleanings from the National & Chinese Press

November 01-15, 2023

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Novemner 01, 2023

Business Recorder

Chinese envoy, Fazl discuss CPEC projects

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of China to Pakistan Jiang Zaidong on Tuesday held a meeting with Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam-Fazl (JUI-F) chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman and exchanged views on the projects under China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

In a statement, issued by the media wing of JUI-F, the Chinese ambassador along with a delegation discussed bilateral relations and matters pertaining to the CPEC.

It stated the two sides were of the consensus that Pakistan-China friendship had flourished in every situation.

The JUI-F's statement quoted the Chinese ambassador to have stated that China wants Pakistan to use Chinese technology in agriculture. "Together we can change the destiny of this region," the Chinese envoy was further quoted in the JUI-F statement.

It stated that Maulana urged the Chinese envoy that the agriculture sector and irrigation should also be included in CPEC projects.

It added that the JUI-F chief also expressed a desire for the creation of industrial and economic zones in Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan, besides a major cargo airport in the southern districts of Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa.

It added that Ambassador Zaidong extended an invitation to the JUI-F chief to visit China which he accepted.

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2023/11/01/7-page/975907-news.html>

Pakistan Observer

BRI, Xi's Philosophy of Development and Bidenomics

Dr Mehmood Ul Hassan Khan

The most recently-concluded 3rd Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation (BRF) has achieved "remarkable" socio-economic, geopolitical and geostrategic importance. The participation of more than 140 countries, 30 international organizations, fetching "US\$ 98" billion in foreign direct investment and, last but not least, Xi's new "eight action plans" for the next decade have further strengthened the role of the BRI in all member countries.

Chinese President Xi Jinping, during his keynote speech, emphasized the green transformation of the BRI, which is indeed a good "omen" for socio-economic integration and the fight against the looming threat of global warming. His well-drafted speech is, in fact, the new "roadmap" for the BRI in the next ten years.

President Xi rightly highlighted the importance and benefits of economic interdependence and win-win cooperation, firmly believing in China's success. Xi "pledged" to continue international cooperation, economic globalization, modernization, openness and digitalization in the next decade.

In this regard, the most recently published report by the IMF (November 2023) clearly demonstrates the economic contribution of the Chinese economy (30 percent) during 2023, also reconfirming its positive and productive role in the world economy which will also be useful for BRI member countries in the future.

Obviously, the Chinese modernization is an “integrated” process involving all member countries, particularly developing countries, based on peaceful development, mutual cooperation and shared prosperity.

According to Chinese data, since its inception in 2013, the BRI has generated 420,000 jobs for participating countries and lifted about 40 million people out of poverty. It has also completed more than 5,000 projects in the member countries. Its constructed bridges, rails, and ports have now become hubs of connectivity, stimulators of multiculturalism, and facilitators of qualitative industrialization among the BRI member countries. It has fostered trans-regional connectivity and succeeded in removing all barriers to achieving the desired goals of peace, prosperity, and the development of human capital.

President Xi has outlined a “new grand strategy” for further development of the BRI through the implementation of his new eight major steps to support the joint pursuit of a high-quality BRI. This includes new plans for transnational and inter-regional road connectivity, the development of new Eurasian logistics channels to integrate ports, shipping, and trading services under the “Silk Road Maritime,” and the building of the New International Land-Sea Trade Corridor and the Air Silk Road.

It is a reality that China’s rapid economic growth has been a major source of inspiration for all developing countries to pursue an independent modernization path that best suits their national conditions.

Unfortunately, the prevailing international system of engagement created by the West has “debarred” developing countries from the desired modernization. The BRI has now become an additional source of development funding, an alternative to the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank, and has helped many developing countries speed up their march towards modernization.

Thus BRI stands for true “financial integration” and befitting funding negating spillover socio-economic and geopolitical repercussions of the western protectionism, economic exploitation and political manipulations.

Comparative study of the prevailing regional as well as international scenarios i.e. Russia-Ukraine conflict, Israel-Palestine war, South China Sea, military alliances in the Asia-Pacific region, continued tightening of the US Federal Reserve interest rate, anti-globalization, unilateral sanctions, investment/technological bans, economic coercion, decoupling or de-risking and supply chain disruption instigated by the US-led West, have further slowed the pace and prospects of quick global economic recovery. On the contrary, the Chinese BRI has been dubbed as project of the 21st century definitely, creating mutually beneficial propositions for all the member countries.

In addition, Biden Administration has exaggerated the concept of “National Security” to further develop the US domestic industries and restrict the development path of developing

countries such as China through sponsored national narratives of “China Contain & Collapse Theories” by cooking up the so-called “China threat”.

In this connection, the critical analysis of Bidenomics reveals that it has miserably failed to achieve the desired goals of neoliberalism, the free-trade, laissez-faire economic priorities shared by Republican and Democratic Administrations for decades. Even important issues like global warming and geopolitical risks has scooped out America’s industrial and economic foundation and left the country dangerously susceptible to supply chains dominated by hostile nations, especially China.

In this context, Bidenomics has purposefully started a national campaign to form and implement a new industrial policy through a more assertive federal government to direct private capital toward favored sectors vital to national interests via regulations, subsidies and other interventions. Resultantly, Biden has pursued and accelerated the left over policies of the Trump Administration’s mistakes pertaining to tariffs, export controls, subsidies and “Buy American” policies. Thus ultimately Bidenomics has further institutionalized economic protectionism and geopolitical manipulations.

To achieve this goal and further strengthening of its punitive economic policies against China, the US Congress has allocated billions of dollars of subsidies for semiconductors, renewable energy and infrastructure, for example, about \$53 billion was channeled via the Chips and Science Act toward manufacturing while about \$3 trillion was offered under the Inflation Reduction Act for renewable energy technology. Therefore seemingly end goal is to hurt and contain China.

Furthermore, it fears that Bidenomics toward re-industrialization may create serious problems for the US economy. Unfortunately, by discarding true spirits of the free trade and free market capitalism in favor of Keynesian interventionism, Bidenomics is likely to distort price signals via tariffs or environmental decrees. Increasing production/business costs, more frequent labour strikes, and deteriorated the US’s international competitiveness under the Biden administration are unlikely to result in a sustainable increase in manufacturing capacity or jobs in America.

It is crystal clear that Bidenomics has increased ratios of poverty, unemployment and social chaos in the US economy and society alike. The US annual census data (September 2023) indicates the real so-called success story of Bidenomics. According to said report, income inequality has been further widened as compare to 2019-2020 and 2021-2022. Its middle class has been further marginalized. Moreover, lower-income Americans has been further marginalized more than the affluent.

In summary, on the contrary to Bidenomics, China is on the path of green transformation, economic stability/sustainability, technological modernization, and digitalization to develop and consolidate its domestic industry and supply chains and reduce dependence on US technology and products. It predicts that Xi’s newly announced Global Initiative of AI Governance would a value addition in this regard.

Right from the beginning, China has never been engaged in any Cold War mentality, formation of any bloc politics, ideological confrontation and geopolitical/geostrategic power

politics. It strongly opposes imposition of unilateral sanctions, economic intimidation, decoupling, de-risking and disruption of supply chains and last but not least, viewing others' development as a threat or taking economic interdependence as a risk will be good for the regional connectivity and global economic cooperation and recovery in the future.

BRI, and Xi's global development, global security, global civilizational and global AI Governance Initiatives will be powerhouse of global economy in the next decade. Thus Xiconomics has great future.

<https://pakobserver.net/bri-xis-philosophy-of-development-and-bidenomics/>

Pak-China joint research center on earth sciences inaugurated

A scientific and technological innovation platform between China and Pakistan, namely, China-Pakistan Joint Research Center on Earth Sciences (CPJRC), was inaugurated here at Quaid-i-Azam University, media reported.

Speaking at the event, Cui Peng, Director-General, CPJRC, said researchers from the two countries will jointly study and assess the impact of geological disasters and climate change on China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and local sustainable development.

“CPEC areas are vulnerable to frequent natural hazards. Its environment and ecosystem are fragile, and socio-economic development is affected by multiple constraints, affecting local resilience and sustainable development.

Addressing these challenges through research and supporting the sustainable development of CPEC is a common goal of scientists from both countries,” he further said.

“It is also a very good opportunity for academia in Pakistan and young students to have access to modern research in the field of Earth sciences in China,” added Shahid Iqbal, assistant professor, Earth Sciences Department, Quaid-i-Azam University.

The inauguration gathered a large number of students, scholars, and officials from both countries.

Aiming at promoting sci-tech cooperation against climate-induced disasters and on talent training, the research center will act as a national platform between China and Pakistan, with research fields covering construction, environment, ecology, disaster reduction and sustainable development.

<https://pakobserver.net/pak-china-joint-research-center-on-earth-sciences-inaugurated/>

Minister appreciates continuous engagement of China with Pakistan in energy sector

Chinese ambassador calls on caretaker minister for energy

Ambassador of China to Pakistan Jiang Zaidong called on Caretaker Federal Minister for Energy Muhammad Ali here on Tuesday. The Minister appreciated the continuous engagement of China in the energy sector with Pakistan, said a press release.

He extended his congratulations for the successful 3rd Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation that was held earlier this month in China. The ambassador remarked that BRI has become a new guide for international development, Industries of both sides can benefit from this cooperation.

The ambassador welcomed the proposal of the Energy Minister to organize a delegation of private companies to meet with Chinese enterprises in order to boost cooperation.

The minister further remarked that Pakistan's future energy landscape will revolve around indigenous and renewable sources. Renewables, transmission networks and DISCOs could be some of the prime areas for linkages between China and Pakistan, he said.

He said utilizing the cutting-edge technology of Chinese corporations, the Coal Gasification plant in Thar can help bolster the energy supply to industry.—APP

<https://pakobserver.net/minister-appreciates-continuous-engagement-of-china-with-pakistan-in-energy-sector/>

US, China, UK top three destinations of Pakistani exports

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.—APP

<https://pakobserver.net/us-china-uk-top-three-destinations-of-pakistani-exports/#:~:text=The%20United%20States%20%28US%29%20remained%20the%20top%20export,by%20China%20and%20the%20United%20Kingdom%20%28UK%29.>

PM calls CPEC 'a century's opportunity' for Pakistan

Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar has termed the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor as 'once in a century-time opportunity' and said that Pakistan is focusing on the project's second phase to attain rapid economic and industrial growth.

In an interview with China's Phoenix TV aired on Tuesday, the prime minister said the CPEC initiated under China's Belt and Road Initiative had helped Pakistan witness significant development in diverse sectors.

The prime minister mentioned that China's Urumqi and Pakistan's northern Gilgit-Baltistan had huge prospects for cooperation, particularly in trade and tourism.

He said Pakistan was expecting big economic activity and an influx of tourists between the two countries, which he said would bring an improvement to the social and economic lives of the people.

“Urumqi could become an opening gateway for us to the mainland China. It is a win-win situation for both Pakistan and China,” he said.

Also, he mentioned the progress in Balochistan after the underdeveloped province was integrated through the CPEC projects.

On the significance of BRI, Kakar said the unique opportunity and transformation would not be restricted to Pakistan but would spread to the region with the development of north-south roads and rail and road networks.

This, he said, would lead to the enhancement of China’s economic and political influence in the world. PM Kakar said during his visit to China, he was “utterly and completely mesmerized” by the impressive journey of progress made by China.

“This impression would transform me as the biggest ambassador of Pakistan-China friendship,” he said.

Asked to describe China in three words, he said, “Dignified, huge, and self-confident”.

Of the Pak-China ties, he termed them as “closest, most valuable and most desired as valued deeply by both sides”.

“Pakistan and China are intertwined. Though two different countries, but one nation moving in the same direction,” he said.

On cooperation with China in green energy to combat climate change, he highlighted that Pakistan was one of the worst victims of natural disasters and would take it to various multilateral forums of the world and China.

“Climate change will determine our policies being an exponential threat to the country and the region. We cannot respond in isolation,” he said.

About the rise of China seen as a threat by some countries, he said no power on earth could undo the emerging power. “The correct approach to handle is to cooperate with China rather than to contain it,” he said.

On relations with the United States, PM Kakar said the cooperation in areas of security and counter-terrorism continued as Pakistan was committed to fighting terrorism and extremism. Asked about prospects of improvement in ties with India, he said Pakistan had very deep and complex challenges from the Indian side despite the constant efforts for peace.

“Peace seems to be an elusive idea from the other [India] side,” he said. He said Pakistan would not miss if there was any opportunity for improvement in relations with India, however, stressed that without the resolution of the issue of Jammu and Kashmir, a dialogue or a normal trade activity was “unthinkable”. On the role of the international community in the settlement of the Jammu and Kashmir issue, he said, “The world needs to prioritize the moral principles rather than its self-centered strategic interests.” On the situation in Gaza, he called for an immediate ceasefire and said that the “utterly unacceptable violence be treated as war crimes”. He stressed the creation of an unhindered humanitarian assistance corridor to Gaza to ensure the supply of essentials including food and medicines.

<https://pakobserver.net/pm-calls-cpec-a-centurys-opportunity-for-pakistan/>

Express News

پاکستان، چین، کرغزستان، قازقستان کے مابین 'ٹی آئی آر' ٹرک سروس شروع

پاکستان سے پہلا ٹی آئی آر ٹرکوں کا قافلہ توروگر و بندرگاہ سے قازقستان کیلئے روانہ ہو گیا، یہ چین میں 4 ممالک میں پھیلی ہوئی ٹی آئی آر سروس بن گئی۔ اسلام آباد گواڈر پروکے مطابق پاکستان سے ایکسپورٹ سامان لے جانے والا پہلا ٹرک حال ہی میں ٹرانسپورٹ انٹرنیشنل روٹر (ٹی آئی آر) سسٹم کا استعمال کرتے ہوئے روانہ ہوا، قازقستان پہنچنے سے پہلے ٹرک سکیاگانگ میں توروگر وٹ سرحدی کراسنگ کے ذریعے کرغزستان میں داخل ہوا، آم کے جوس، چھوٹے گھریلو آلات اور دیگر سامان سے لدے ٹرکوں نے پاکستان، چین، کرغزستان اور قازقستان کا سفر کیا، جس سے یہ چین میں چار ممالک میں پھیلی ہوئی ٹی آئی آر سروس بن گئی۔

ٹی آئی آر، ایک بین الاقوامی سسٹم سہولت کا نظام ہے جو تجارت کی کارکردگی اور سلامتی میں نمایاں اضافہ کرتا ہے، ٹوروگارٹ کسٹمز کے ایک عہدیدار نے وضاحت کی کہ یہ منصوبہ کاروباری اداروں کو کسٹمز کلیئر کرنے کیلئے درکار وقت کو بہت کم کرتا ہے اور کسٹمز کلیئرنگ کے عمل کی کارکردگی کو بہتر بناتا ہے۔

<https://www.express.pk/story/2560836/6/>

November 02, 2023

Pakistan Observer

China's agriculture contributes to the development of mankind

Muhammad Zamir Assadi

THE Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) comprises the Silk Road Economic Belt and the 21st century Maritime Silk Road. It now underpins China's global engagement and, to a large extent, its domestic economic development. Since its official introduction in September 2013, the BRI has attracted much scholarly attention around the world. According to Vision and Actions on BRI issued by the Chinese government in 2015, the BRI includes five areas of connectivity: policy, infrastructure and facilities, trade, currency and populations' engagement.

Over the past few years, ample evidence suggests that agricultural and food security cooperation has become a pillar of the BRI. After the initiative was introduced in September 2013, the BRI countries have been prioritized in China's global agricultural engagements becoming central to China's international engagement. As per the details, under BRI programs, many countries have overcome such difficulties, achieved bumper harvests and slashed poverty. The programs helped ease the squeeze that could have otherwise gripped such countries due to turbulent global food prices and supply chain woes. Over the past decade, China had forged partnerships with more than 90 countries and international organizations and inaugurated 650-plus investment projects worth \$14 billion. China's food trade with countries involved in the BRI expanded at an annual rate of 9.9 percent in that time, and has reached over \$139 billion.

The CPEC Long Term Plan (LTP) envisages significant development of the agriculture sector of Pakistan – an often-overlooked area amidst the developments being made in the energy, infrastructure, and industrial sectors of the country. In the crop sector, there is a focus on increasing the use of modern machinery and synthetic fertilizers to enhance the yields, while

food storage and processing zones would be constructed to reduce significant post-harvest losses. Similarly, the building of cold storage stations and meat processing plants is also being planned to enhance productivity of livestock and fisheries sectors besides making their output more competitive in the international market. These developments hold the potential to not only boost the agriculture output of the country, but also to export the agriculture products to China for enhancing the business volume. In the late 70s, China kicked off a series of reforms in its rural areas. Since then, world-shaking changes have taken place and agriculture production has increased. China has ranked first in the world by output of grain, oil, vegetables, fruit, eggs and aquatic products for many consecutive years, creating a miracle of feeding nearly 20% of the world's population with 90% of arable land. Rural economic development has been achieved through a balanced and all-round development of farming, forestry, animal husbandry and fishery.

Based on quality production, optimal regional arrangements, industrialization and standardized management, modern agriculture has basically taken shape. The fast development of secondary and territory industries in rural areas has changed the employment structure and promoted development in small towns. The great improvements in farmers' living standards and their increased income have turned China from a country lacking basic necessities into a modern affluent society, and China has become the first country to achieve the United Nations Millennium Development Goal of having the number of its people living in poverty. Rural public services including education, healthcare and social security has greatly improved. China's successful rural reforms have accumulated a rich store of experience for transforming its economic systems and attracted worldwide attention. China has willingly exchanged ideas and share its best practices, address resource and environmental challenges together with other countries, and make life better for all, which is part of our globalization initiatives. According to the state of world food insecurity 2012 released by the UN Food Agriculture Organization (UNFAO) , among the 868 million people who are chronically malnourished and even more who suffer from hunger, 850 million are living in the rural areas of developing countries. It is of great importance for nations to communicate, share and make common efforts. Improving agricultural production, ensuring food security and increasing farmers' income have always been the primary goals of China's economic development. The Communist Party of China (CPC) and the state council have made agriculture a top priority of the national economic development agenda and agriculture, the rural areas and farmers are also the top priorities of the government's work. In November 2012, the 18th National Congress of the CPC made it clear that by the year 2020, the modernization of agriculture and the construction of the new countryside must produce obvious effects as they are the prerequisites for a moderately affluent society. After years of hard work, China has freed itself from a long-term shortage of agriculture products and achieved a basic balance in supply and demand. Farmers are no longer suffering from shortage of food and clothing and have become reasonable affluent. China has succeeded in feeding nearly 20% of the world's population with 9% of its arable land. This is not only a basis for China's further reform and opening up but also a great contribution to the development of mankind.

<https://pakobserver.net/chinas-agriculture-contributes-to-the-development-of-mankind/>

Pakistan, China linked in everlasting brotherly ties: Faisal Malik

Visits various section of China Window in Peshawar

Chairman and Editor in Chief Daily Pakistan Observer Faisal Zahid Malik has said that China and Pakistan were tied in everlasting brotherly relations adding the strong bonds of friendship between the two countries is being further cemented with each passing day.

Faisal Zahid Malik observed this during his visit to the China Window Peshawar, a one of its kind China Culture center in the country during his three days sojourn to the provincial metropolis where he held number of meetings with the important political personalities and social circle including the Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Haji Ghulam Ali.

Upon his arrival at the China Window Mr. Malik was accorded warm welcome and received by the Administrator of the China Window Amjad Aziz Malik a towering personality of Peshawar having to his credit many honors including Pride of performance, an officer Bearer of the International Sports Federation and an international commentator.

The Editor in Chief of the Pakistan Observer was given a round of various sections of the China Window and was apprised about the functions of the Window.

He was all praise for the China Window and Amjad Aziz Malik saying Chine Window was an state of the Art culture center having no match in the entire country and was playing

important role in bringing the people of both the counties more closer specially the Peshawarites who were not being provided valuable information about the Chinese culture, country's history and the success stories of the great nation. Faisal Zahid Malik, who also wrote his comments in the visitor's book, informed the audience that

Pakistan Observer, the only English daily from Islamabad, has ten credit of publishing leading Chines newspaper China Daily and CPEC which are quite popular in China.

He said His father Late Zahid Malik has contributed a lot in further cementing the relations between China and Pakistan and his scions were carrying on the legacy effectively adding China was a time tested friend of Pakistan and firmly stood with the later whenever needed.

Faisal said Chine always wanted to see Pakistan a prosperous and economically strong country and that was why investing in number of projects including China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) under Belt and Road initiatives.

While Amjad Aziz Malik briefed Faisal Malik in detail about the activities and initiatives of the China Window, including arranging chines language classes for the People of Peshawar free of cost, both agreed to sing a MoU under which Pakistan Observer and China Window will work together to further strengthen relations between the two friendly country.

<https://pakobserver.net/pakistan-china-linked-in-everlasting-brotherly-ties-faisal-malik/>

Punjab govt, China agree to strengthen mutual cooperation

Chinese Consul General Mr. Zhao Shiren on Wednesday called on Caretaker Punjab Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi and discussed important matters including the possibilities of mutual cooperation in the fight against smog. Both sides decided to get assistance from the Beijing Academy of Science and Technology to tackle the issue of smog.

“Both Mr. Naqvi and Mr. Zhao Shireen agreed to establish an air quality system in collaboration with a Chinese company in Lahore,” said the statement issued by the Punjab Chief Minister office.

They also agreed for an immediate contact and communication between the environmental experts from Punjab and China amid the emerging situation.

During the meeting, Punjab CM Naqvi said that the government is keen to seek technical assistance and acquire the modern equipment from China to fight against smog effectively.

He told the Chinese consul general that they were going to adopt a long-term policy to fight against this menace, and the main cause behind the increasing issue of smog. “The burning of crop residues in India is a major contributor to Lahore’s smog woes,” said the CM.

He also extended his gratitude for the successful completion of his visit to China to the consul general and the consulate staff. He also acknowledged the hospitality of the general secretary of Ningxia Party Secretary and other officials during his visit and stay in China. Naqvi said,

“The Punjab government plans to establish a dedicated Tourist Police in line with China’s practices,” adding that the government wanted to benefit from China’s expertise in agriculture research, water management, and various other sectors.

Chinese Consul General Mr. Zhao Shireen said that the Punjab government was actively taking measures to combat smog including the use of Zigzag technology in brick kilns and other commendable initiatives.

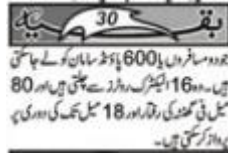
He said they are grateful to the Punjab government for establishing a diplomatic enclave in Lahore. The meeting also proposed establishing diplomatic links to bring pandas to Lahore Zoo.

Various other officials including Caretaker Punjab Minister for Information and Culture Aamir Mir Chairman Planning and Development Board, Lahore Division Commissioner, and other high-ranking officers were also present there in the meeting.

Moreover, Punjab Chief Minister (CM) Syed Mohsin Naqvi visited the site of Khalid Butt Chowk underpass, presently under-construction, in Lahore early Wednesday morning and reviewed the progress made on the project so far. The chief minister, on the occasion, shook hands with the labourers working at the project site and also checked the quality of their work.

<https://pakobserver.net/punjab-govt-china-agree-to-strengthen-mutual-cooperation/>

K2 Daily News



چین میں عوامی خدمات کیلئے ہوائی ٹیکسیاں متعارف

ٹیکسیاں 80 میل فی گھنٹہ کی رفتار اور 18 میل تک کی دوری پر پرواز کر سکتی ہیں

ہوائی ٹیکسیوں کو ایک مرکزی کمانڈ اور کنٹرول سینٹر کے ذریعے کنٹرول کیا جاتا ہے

گوانگ ڈو (این این آئی) آپ گلی سے Ehang کی نئی دنیا کی نئی نئی ٹیکسیاں ہیں گی ہے
ہوئے والے، بغیر پائلٹ کے ہوائی جہاز میں پرواز کا جس نے مسافروں کو لے جانے والی نئی ٹیکسیاں
تصور کریں جو آپ کو ایک سی ٹی بی میں منوں میں ایک ہوائی ٹیکسیوں کا وظیفہ حاصل کر لیا ہے۔ یہ ایک
جگہ سے دوسری جگہ لے چکا ہے، یہ سانس کشن کی S-EH216 ہوائی ٹیکسیاں ایئر ٹیک
تصور کی طرح تصوراتی گنا ہے مگر اب یہ حقیقت آف اور لینڈنگ (eVTOL) ہوئے ہوائی
ہے۔ عالمی میڈیا رپورٹس کے مطابق چین میں جہاز کی طرح ہیں (باقی صفحہ 6 پیج نمبر 30)

https://www.epaper.dailyk2.com/Home?Issue=NP_ICT&Page=International%20/%20Local%20News

https://www.epaper.dailyk2.com/Home?Issue=NP_ICT&Page=Classified



ہنگامہ اور جس کے لیے بیج سے اڑان لیا جاسکتا
ہے۔ عدالت نے احتیاط کیا کہ وزیراعظم آفس
تائے فون ہنگامہ کی اہلیت دہی گئی کسی کو اختیار
دیا گیا یا وزارت حاصل کیے کے؟ وزیراعظم کے
پرہیز نگرانی آئندہ وزارت پر غور ہی رپورٹ جج
کرا گیا۔ عدالت کا کہنا ہے کہ وزیراعظم آفس
تائے فون ہنگامہ کی اہلیت دہی گئی کسی کو اختیار
دیا گیا یا وزارت حاصل کیے کے؟ وزیراعظم کی
جان ب سار کر گیا کوئی اقدام کیا گیا تو تصدیقات جج
کرا گیا۔ وزیراعظم کے پرہیز نگرانی احتفظ
ڈائریکشن اور حواس اداروں کے سربراہان سے
مداخلت لے سکتے ہیں۔

چینی کمپنیوں نے آن لائن نقشوں سے اسرائیل کا نام ہٹا دیا

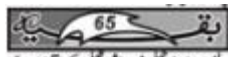
بیورو کے آن لائن نقشے میں ملک کی شناخت کے طور پر اسرائیل کا نام موجود نہیں

آن لائن ریٹیلر کمپنی علی بابا نے بھی نقشوں سے صیونی ریاست کا نام ہٹا دیا، رپورٹ

بیجنگ (این این آئی) چین کی کمپنیاں بیورو ہے۔ حال میں جج کے مطابق بیورو کے آن
اور علی بابا نے اپنے آن لائن ڈیجیٹل نقشوں سے آن لائن نقشے اسرائیل کی تسلیم شدہ سرحدوں کے
اسرائیل کا نام ہٹا دیا ہے۔ اسرائیلی اخبار والی ساتھ ساتھ فلسطینی علاقوں کی نشاندہی کر رہے ہیں
اسٹریٹ جرنل کی رپورٹ کے مطابق آن لائن ریٹیلر چین بیورو کے آن لائن نقشے میں ملک کی شناخت کے
کئی نئی نئی ہٹا دیا اور صرف چین کی نئی نقشوں کے طور پر اسرائیل کا نام موجود نہیں ہے۔ اسرائیلی اخبار کا
آن لائن نقشوں پر اسرائیل کا نام موجود نہیں کہنا ہنگامہ گیسٹ (باقی صفحہ 6 پیج نمبر 40)

https://www.epaper.dailyk2.com/Home?Issue=NP_ICT&Page=International%20/%20Local%20News

https://www.epaper.dailyk2.com/Home?Issue=NP_ICT&Page=Classified



نے دوپٹے میں ماثر چھلی کے 5 ہزار بیج
پھوڑے۔ گوادر پر کے مطابق یہ اقدام کے نی
سی ایل کے باغیہ اور نئی ٹیکسیاں چان کا حصہ ہے،
جس کے تحت دوپٹے میں ماثر چھلی کو بحال
کرنے کے لیے مجموعی طور پر تین لاکھ ماثر چھلی
کے بیج پھوڑے جائیں گے۔ ڈی ٹی ایچ ایچ ایچ
ای آئی ایل آئی آئی آئی عالم نے گوادر پر کو تیار کر
ماثر چھلی کے بیج کا تک کے علاقے ہاں میں جج
ہاں پر ہائی کی کھڑوں سے لاکھ کیا تھا۔ چھلی کی
انواع کو چینی جاکے لئے متعدد خطرات کا سامنا کرنا
پاتا ہے، جس میں رو آتش گاؤ کی چھی اور علاقے
میں نئے قانونی ریسٹ کی کان کنی شامل ہے۔

چینی کمپنی نے دریائے جہلم

میں 5 ہزار چھلیاں چھوڑ دیں

اسلام آباد (آئی این پی) گروت پارٹنر
ایچ (کے پی ای ایل) نے گھڑے سے دو ہزار
انواع کی چھلیاں کے (باقی صفحہ 6 پیج نمبر 65)

https://www.epaper.dailyk2.com/Home?Issue=NP_ICT&Page=Back_Page

https://www.epaper.dailyk2.com/Home?Issue=NP_ICT&Page=Classified

November 03, 2023

Pakistan Observer

Pakistan looks forward to further accelerating CPEC construction: Moin

Pakistan looks forward to further strengthening exchanges with China, accelerating the high-quality joint construction of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), deepening economic, trade, cultural, and sub-national exchanges, and pushing bilateral relations to a higher level, Pakistan Ambassador to China, Moin ul Haque said. The friendship between Pakistan and China is iron-clad and unbreakable. It is the inevitable trend of history and the aspiration of the people, he said while addressing at a farewell reception. He said, in every significant moment, the Chinese people have consistently demonstrated goodwill and empathy towards the Pakistani people. Regardless of external changes and numerous challenges, he added that the friendship between the two countries is enduring and extensive, CEN reported. Ambassador Haque said that his mission to China is a highlight of his career, and he deeply felt the sincere friendship between the Pakistani and Chinese people during his stay in China. “During my three-year tenure, I have visited Wuhan, Shaoshan, Ningde, Xinjiang, Shandong, and other regions, creating numerous beautiful memories and witnessing the development of China. Especially in the past 40 years, China has made remarkable achievements in economic development, which Pakistan can learn from,” he added.

At the event, Ambassador Haque expressed his sincere gratitude to friends from all walks of life for their contributions to the friendship between Pakistan and China. He said that Pakistan and China have a long history and a splendid culture. The reception was attended by Chang Qide, the United Nations Coordinator in China, ambassadors of Indonesia, Uzbekistan, Lebanon, and Turkey in China, as well as officials from the Embassy of Pakistan in China and representatives from various sectors who have long supported China-Pakistan friendship. —APP

<https://pakobserver.net/pakistan-looks-forward-to-further-accelerating-cpec-construction-moin/>

The News

Education consultancy unlocks new opportunities to study in China

Islamabad: In a bid to provide Pakistani students with enhanced educational opportunities, local education consultancy firms are actively working to unlock the doors for students to study in China.

With its rich cultural heritage, world-class universities and emerging global influence, China has become an attractive destination for Pakistani students seeking higher education options abroad, Gwadar Pro reported on Thursday. Muhammad Sajjad, founder of Hussnain Education Consultants Pvt Ltd, recently attended the highly anticipated 2023 China Annual Conference and Expo for International Cooperation held.

This significant event, renowned for its emphasis on fostering global partnerships and knowledge exchange, brought together 500 international influential figures from the

education industry, government officials, and experts from around the world exchanged cutting-edge ideas, innovative ideas and latest practices on key issues of common concern to the world, such as international talent training, international mobility of students, and training of talents studying in China, etc.

With the aim of producing internationally qualified professionals to address the shortage of skilled experts in Pakistan, Mr Sajjad works with over 400 Chinese universities. He said that the conference and expo provided a platform for them to engage in meaningful discussions with Chinese and international education stakeholders. “We had the chance to exchange ideas, explore potential collaborations, and strengthen our ties with even more educational institutions.” he added.

During his participation, Mr. Sajjad shared his insights, focusing on promoting Chinese universities as an attractive destination for Pakistani students seeking higher education opportunities.

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=251738>.

November 04, 2023

Pakistan Observer

Book titled Pakistan, China all-weather strategic partner launched

A book titled “Pakistan-China All-Weather Strategic Partner” was launched in Karachi on Friday. The chief guest of the ceremony was Sindh Governor Mohammed Kamran Khan Tessori, and the consul general of China to Karachi, Yang Yundong, was also present. The author of the book, Dr. Rashid Jamal, said that the book is a comprehensive study of the relationship between Pakistan and China, covering the historical, political, economic, and strategic dimensions of the partnership. In his address at the ceremony, Governor Tessori said that China is a time-tested friend of Pakistan and has always supported the country.

He said that Pakistan has benefited immensely from Chinas support, and that the two countries are working together on a number of important projects, including the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

Tessori also said that Pakistan is facing a number of challenges at present, but that the nation must remain united in order to overcome them. He added that Pakistan must learn from Chinas success and strive to build a strong economy. Consul General Yang Yundong said that Pakistan and China are all-weather friends and that the two countries have a long history of close cooperation.

He said that Pakistan and China celebrated the 10th anniversary of the signing ceremony of the CPEC earlier this year, and that the project is progressing well. At the end of the ceremony, Governor Tessori gave away shields to the author of the book and other distinguished guests.

<https://pakobserver.net/book-titled-pakistan-china-all-weather-strategic-partner-launched/>

The Nation

Pak-China snail industry alliance to unleash export potential

BEIJING-Leveraging China's expertise in snail farming techniques, technology transfer, and market access, Pakistan can develop the snail industry to tap into the international market, particularly in Europe and other developed regions, said Jin Jingqi, Vice President of Jiangsu Design Institute, Chinese Academy of Sciences, and Special Expert for Rural Revitalization in Jiangsu Province. In recent years, driven by the rural revitalization strategy, China's snail industry has been rapidly growing. Chinese white jade snail, a natural variation of *Achatina fulica* found by Chinese researchers in the 1980s, is a superior variety compared to other snail species worldwide. It features clean white flesh and higher nutritional content. The snails have multiple values, including their shell rich in calcium for toothpaste production, delicious and protein-rich snail meat, snail mucus for cosmetics, and snail enzymes with medical value for tissue repair, CEN reported on Friday. "Snail farming can be carried out through ecological farming, where snails coexist with existing crops in the field. Snails can provide organic fertilizer and promote crop yield, while farm waste, including leftover leaves and fruits, can be snail feeds." Jin Jingqi introduced. According to his experience, ecological snail farming can increase an average output of USD10,000 per acre per year. Another farming form, industrial farming, requires more complicated management and larger space for constructing multi-level breeding sheds, with an expected annual output of USD500,000 per acre. However, ecologically farmed snails generally have better quality." Global demand for snails in 2023 presents a gap of about 1 billion tons, with developed countries such as Europe, America, Japan, and South Korea being major consumers. Those developed countries are limited in snail production due to their higher cost of labor, land and feed. We aim to build a complete international snail industry chain to meet both domestic and international market demands. As a developing country with favorable international trade channels and a strong agricultural sector, Pakistan can be a crucial part of the chain." Jin Jingqi said. During the China-Pakistan Technical Cooperation and Promotion Exchange Conference held on Monday, Jin Jingqi delivered a report on the whole international industry chain of the snail industry, introducing the progress of snail industry in China and its potential in the international market, which interested Pakistani government officials and businesses. "Pak-China cooperation in the snail industry is very doable. The embassy will also support Jin Jingqi by providing potential partners for undertaking this project in Pakistan," said Khan Muhammad Wazir, Science Counselor of the Pakistani Embassy in China. To drive the China-Pakistan snail industry cooperation and unlock its economic potential, Jin Jingqi emphasizes the importance of technology transfer, recommending technical personnel training, establishment of processing assembly lines and launching pilot projects for industrial snail farming in Pakistan. By integrating the snail industry into its existing agricultural framework, Pakistan can create substantial economic value and position itself as a reliable player in the global snail industry chain.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/04-Nov-2023/pak-china-snail-industry-alliance-to-unleash-export-potential>

November 05, 2023

KSA asks Pakistan to make China Sinopec part of \$10bn green refinery project

Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA) has asked Pakistan authorities to approach China's Sinopec and also make it part of a \$10 billion green refinery that is to be established in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD: The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA) has asked Pakistan authorities to approach China's Sinopec and also make it part of a \$10 billion green refinery that is to be established in Pakistan.

“We have announced and notified the new green refinery policy with incentives of 7.5 per cent deemed duty for 25 years and a tax holiday of 20 years as per wishes of the KSA, but the required pace of progress needs some stimulation,” said sources.

The KSA also wants the engineering, procurement, and construction (EPC) contract to be awarded to China Sinopec, and to this effect, the Pakistan State Oil, nominated by the Government of Pakistan, is in contact with the Bank of China and China Sinopec.

Sinopec is also providing services to Saudi Arabia (rigs, well-service, geophysical exploration), pipeline, road and bridge, and other EPC projects. Sinopec has been serving Aramco, SWCC, RC, and many Saudi local cities, and has earned a good reputation among clients, as well as Saudi people.

Meanwhile, authorities in the Petroleum Division have been asked by the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) to assess investment interest by Chinese company, Sinopec, in the green refinery alongside Saudi Aramco, and facilitate the company in case of an affirmation of its interests by expediting the necessary approvals.

The Petroleum Division has also been asked to identify other interested credible parties for investment in the refinery and the SIFC has also asked the Petroleum Division to update on the particular issue of paramount importance in the next Apex Committee, to be headed by prime minister and attended by chief of army staff (COAS), along with other cabinet members and senior government officials.

Once the mega refinery is established at Hub, Balochistan, it will produce 8 million tonnes of diesel and 6 million tonnes of gasoline with 5-euro specifications per year.

It may not be out of place to mention that earlier on July 27, 2023, the China Road and Bridge Corporation (CRBC) signed an MoU with the government to construct the mega Saudi-backed refinery of \$10 billion in Pakistan based on the CPC-F model. Now the government is trying to allure Sinopec on the desire of KSA.

The refinery is to be constructed based on a 30:70 equity-loan ratio. The equity would be \$3 billion and loans \$7 billion. Saudi Aramco would share 50 per cent equity of \$1.5 billion and the same 50 per cent equity will be shared by Pakistan in the project.

The remaining amount of \$7 billion loans, the official said, would be arranged by Saudi Aramco through international financial institutions (IFIs). Besides, the CRBC under the MoU signed on July 27, 2023, would also arrange loans from Chinese banks under the Engineering, Procurement, and Construction (EPC-F) model. Out of the remaining 50pc on behalf of Pakistan, PSO will be having a share of 25-30 per cent, and OGDCL, PPL, and GHPL will have a 5 per cent share each. However, Pak Arab Refinery Company (PARCO) did not sign the MoU.

Saudi Aramco has already conducted the pre-feasibility study and marketing assessment and now it will conduct detailed feasibility of the project prior to launching the mega project. The Front End Engineering Design (FEED) will also be completed.

The new green refinery will be allowed to sell its products, as per the minimum Euro 5 specification notified by the Petroleum Division from time to time, to any marketing company including their own affiliates in the marketing and distribution sector in the country.

The refinery will be allowed to export surplus (with respect to domestic demand) petroleum products, subject to approval from OGRA; however, refineries can export the products with specifications that do not have domestic demand under intimation to OGRA and MEPS.

<https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/1126105-ksa-asks-pakistan-to-make-china-sinopec-part-of-10bn-green-refinery-project>

November 06, 2023

The News

COP-28, China and forward diplomacy of UAE

Shakeel Ahmad Ramay

The world is gearing up for COP-28. The United Arab Emirates (UAE) is trying to create momentum for positive outcomes. The UAE is approaching countries to build cooperation for meaningful engagements and outcomes, considering it an opportunity to fulfil the goal of Vision 2031, “consolidate its role and influence at the global level”.

However, independent experts and NGOs are cautious to comment on possible outcomes. They are quoting historical trends and failed attempts. The world has witnessed such campaigns often, but with no or weak results. They still remember the hype of Copenhagen. Unfortunately, it ended with “Brokenhagen”.

After Copenhagen, a new negotiation cycle started with the hope the world leaders would decide according to the needs. Again, the world had to wait until 2015 for a decent Paris Climate Change Agreement. China took the lead in having an agreement. Unfortunately, like Copenhagen promises, the countries are not fulfilling their commitments under the Paris Climate Change Agreement. Nationally Determined Contribution documents clearly show world is lagging behind. World Resource Institute report indicated the targets set in the submitted reports will not help keep the temperature below 1.5°C. The NDC data shows the estimated reduction in emissions would be around 7 percent, while IPCC pointed out there is a need for a 43 percent reduction against the 2019 levels. It means the world will cross the limit of 1.5°C, which would be disastrous for it.

It seems the global efforts to tackle climate are being made just to look good and try to avoid actions. For example, the European Union portrays itself as the climate change leader. We can hear lengthy speeches, but the EU actions do not support idealism. A few years back, EU came up with the policy of Green Deal.

It was propagated worldwide the Green Deal would revolutionise climate change actions. However, by using diplomatic language, EU has tagged its actions with the economic cost

and competitiveness of its economy. It means if climate action impacts the competitiveness of EU economy, then it will reconsider its decisions and policies.

EU will also work to ensure a just and fair social transition. Unfortunately, it is not happening at domestic and international levels. Domestically, some sections, like farmers, are facing the worst problems. They are agitating against the Green Deal. The farmer community feels they have been ignored and the EU favours corporate groups. They are of the view in a few years the corporate sector will take over agriculture.

On the international level, EU and its members are pushing small and poor countries to take more actions. They are trying to avoid historical responsibility and the principle of equity. They have hired multiple NGOs and think tanks to forward their agenda. These NGOs and think tanks push their governments to take unilateral actions by ignoring the financial obligations of the developed world. They do not present any viable option for financing the climate actions. Instead of presenting methods or programmes on mobilising international financing committed under UNFCCC or other frameworks, they ask countries to go for private or multilateral institutions' loans.

On top of everything, EU or these NGOs and think tanks do not care about the economy's competitiveness and fairness of actions. It is a well-established fact economies of poor countries are well behind developed nations'. They cannot compete with EU or other developed countries. The climate actions will further complicate the situation for the poor countries. It will also negatively impact the livelihood of millions of people.

Western countries also try to shift the burden of actions on China. They have been running a campaign for a long time to encircle China and blame it for climate change. But, they never mention China's role in combating climate change, domestically and globally.

Globally, China was leading in negotiating and finalising the Paris Climate Change Agreement. It has also launched global initiatives to tackle climate change and economic issues like Green BRI. China is diverting handsome financial resources to achieve the objectives of Green BRI. Global Development Initiative also has a dedicated chapter on climate change and development.

Global Security Initiative focuses on the environment and climate change as non-traditional security elements. On the domestic front, China is moving quite fast to achieve the goals of the vision of high-quality development.

The data shows China is ahead of time in achieving the set targets for energy mix, carbon peak and neutrality. China has already achieved the target of 50 percent non-fossil fuel-based energy. Xinhua news reported total install capacity of non-fossil fuel-based energy is 50.9 percent. Initially, China planned to achieve the target in 2025, but due to the government's dedicated efforts, it achieved it in 2023.

China is also on the course to achieve the target of 1200 gigawatts in 2025, five years before the deadline of 2030. It is also boosting the recycling industry to keep the pace of solar and wind energy installation. It is deemed necessary to keep China on the path of sustainable development.

On the other hand, China is also leading the tree plantation drive. According to NASA data, China's contribution to global greening was 25 percent. These are only a few examples.

However, it is important to highlight China is implementing climate change programmes by creating a balance between emission reduction goals and living needs of people. It is in line with the vision of President Xi Jinping. Despite such contribution, the West is still focused and determined to blame China.

Against this backdrop, it is suggested UAE should work more closely with Global South, especially with China. It should try to mobilise their support. China can help UAE to achieve meaningful outcomes, as it helped during the Paris Climate Change Agreement. For that purpose, UAE can consider taking the following few steps.

First, UAE should activate the leading role of G-77+China. It is one of the most powerful representative groups of Global South. It is assumed support of G-77+China will help create a positive momentum. It will also urge the Western countries to engage in meaningful negotiations.

Second, UAE should try to create a balance between the goals of emission reduction targets and the living needs of poor people. The UAE must concentrate on poor countries' development status and needs for that purpose.

For example, agriculture and livestock are major sectors of economies for many developing and poor countries. Agriculture is also important for food security, not only in developing countries but also in the developed world. Many such countries, including UAE, rely on imported food. Farmers need support to sustain their role as food providers, implement adaptation programmes and financial resources to minimise the risk. Therefore, UAE should try to convince countries create a dedicated agriculture climate change fund.

Third, loss and damage must get the required attention. It is one of the biggest issues of Global South. Climate change disasters have played and are playing havoc with poor and developing countries.

For example, floods since 2010 in Pakistan have shaken the whole economic and social fabric of the country. In 2022, Pakistan had to bear a loss of \$30 billion due to a flood. This is one example. We can find many in other countries.

Fourth, mobilise youth, media and NGOs from Global South to play an active role in propagating the message of climate change actions, including adaptation, loss and damage, and financial obligations of the West.

It is a golden chance for UAE to realise the vision of "forward diplomacy". The UAE must try to grab the opportunity. Global South can help it in this regard. For that purpose, UAE must work with the Global South, especially with China.

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=252813>

Jang News

سی پیک کے 10 سال، رپورٹ جاری

نگراں وفاقی وزیر اطلاعات مرتضیٰ سولنگی کا کہنا ہے کہ سی پیک پاکستان اور چین کے درمیان دیرینہ دوستی اور اسٹریٹجک شراکت داری کا ثبوت ہے۔

نگراں وفاقی وزیر اطلاعات نے رپورٹ 'سی پیک کے 10 سال' کے اجراء کے موقع پر منعقدہ تقریب سے خطاب کرتے ہوئے کہا ہے کہ سی پیک منصوبوں پر پیشہ ورانہ انداز میں کام جاری ہے، حکومت پاکستان ان منصوبوں کی تکمیل سے متعلق پرعزم ہے۔

مرتضیٰ سولنگی کا کہنا ہے کہ سی پیک منصوبوں میں 85 ہزار سے زائد پاکستانیوں کو روزگار ملا اور پسماندہ علاقوں کی ترقی ہوئی جبکہ ان منصوبوں میں 25 ارب ڈالر سے زائد کی سرمایہ کاری کی گئی۔

انہوں نے بتایا ہے کہ نگراں وزیر اعظم نے دوران ملاقات چینی صدر شی جن پنگ کو دورہ پاکستان کی دعوت دی، پاکستان اور چین کے درمیان مضبوط اور بااعتماد دوستی فروغ پارہی ہے۔

مرتضیٰ سولنگی نے یہ بھی کہا ہے کہ سی پیک پاکستان اور چین کے درمیان دیرینہ دوستی اور اسٹریٹجک شراکت داری کا ثبوت ہے۔

<https://jang.com.pk/news/1286421>

November 07, 2023

Business Recorder

APCEA, PCI launch report on '10 years of CPEC'

NAVEED BUTT

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Minister for Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi highlighted the growing depth of China-Pakistan cooperation and the role of his ministry in extending support to Chinese enterprises in areas of common interest.

The minister expressed these views while speaking at the launch of the report on "Ten Years of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC)" by the All Pakistan China Enterprises Association (APCEA) and Pakistan-China Institute (PCI) here on Monday.

The report highlighted the ten years of strategic partnership between China and Pakistan under the CPEC with a special focus on development projects valued at billions of dollars in different sectors completed during this time.

The report also elaborated different aspects of the CPEC, especially its impacts on the socio-economic lives of the people across Pakistan.

The minister noted that Chinese enterprises' professionalism and dedication to CPEC projects, even during the global pandemic, had earned praise from governments and international media.

He said that his ministry will play a greater role in extending all possible cooperation to Chinese enterprises in developing greater understanding and cooperation in the areas of mutual interest.

The minister highlighted that over 201 member companies of APCEA had invested \$ 25 billion in Pakistan, employing over 85,000 locals, affirming CPEC's status as a transformative and exemplary project of the Belt and Road Initiative.

The minister applauded the increasing cooperation between Pakistan and China in various sectors, including green development, special economic zones, the textile industry, agriculture, and the digital economy. He mentioned the joint commitment of both countries to regional peace, stability, and dispute resolution.

He mentioned that during the visit of caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar to China, both countries reaffirmed their commitment to the all-weather strategic cooperative partnership and to deepen the cooperation across various sectors.

The minister said that as many as 20 MoUs, protocols and agreements were also signed covering various areas of cooperation including infrastructure, mining, industry, green development, health, space cooperation, digital economy and many more.

The minister also expressed their joint commitment to regional peace, stability, and the resolution of long-standing disputes.

Earlier, in his address, Senator Mushahid Hussain Syed said China delivers whatever it plans and CPEC is a testimony to this fact. He underscored the need to highlight the CPEC and its positive contribution in changing people's lives.

Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan Jiang Zaidong reiterated China's commitment to continue cooperation with Pakistan for high quality development of CPEC projects.

He said in the next phase of CPEC we will further extend our cooperation in the energy sector with a particular focus on hydel and solar energy.

Meanwhile, Senate Chairman Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani in his message lauded the remarkable achievements of "Ten Years of CPEC" during a report launching ceremony titled, "Thousands of Miles with CPEC."

In lieu of the chief guest, Chairman Senate Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani's presence, a message on his behalf, was read out to the audience by the Executive Director Pakistan-China Institute, Mustafa Hayder Sayed.

In his message, read out by ED Pak-China Institute, the chairman Senate emphasised the enduring friendship between the two nations and commended the significant contributions of Chinese institutions and organisations operating in Pakistan. Their contributions have played a pivotal role in strengthening bilateral ties, fostering not only government-to-government relations but also nurturing the invaluable people-to-people connections that underpin this exceptional friendship.

"The deep-rooted and historic friendship between Pakistan and China transcends borders and cultures, serving as a model for the world." The chairman Senate in his message lauded the visionary leadership of Chinese President Xi Jinping, highlighting his remarkable vision and unwavering commitment, which has propelled China into an economic powerhouse, inspiring nations worldwide.

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2023/11/07/1-page/976366-news.html>

Dawn News

Pakistan third top recipient of Chinese finance: study

Kazim Alam

KARACHI: Pakistan is the third biggest recipient of Chinese development finance worldwide with a portfolio of \$70.3 billion, according to a report released on Monday by AidData, a US-based international development research lab.

Only two per cent of China's portfolio in Pakistan between 2000 and 2021 consisted of grants while the rest was in the form of loans, says the AidData report that claims to have drawn its conclusions using data from more than 5,300 sources.

The average interest rate on loans was 3.72pc with an average maturity period of 9.84 years and a grace period of 3.74 years, according to the American research house.

The top sector that received development finance in 2000-2021 was energy with a share of 40pc or \$28.4bn. General budget support (30pc share or \$21.3bn) and transport and storage (14pc share or \$9.7bn) were the next two major recipients of Chinese financing, data shows.

The energy portfolio of \$28.4bn was the biggest in the world, with Angola (\$24.7bn) and Vietnam (\$21.7bn) following as the second and third biggest recipients of Chinese development finance over the same period. Pakistan's energy portfolio represented 10.2pc of China's entire global energy portfolio across dozens of countries, the AidData report claims.

An administration-wise breakdown of Chinese development finance between 2000 and 2021 showed that the PML-N government (2013-17) managed to attract the highest flows (\$36.2bn) in the 21-year period. The PTI government attracted \$19.6bn, the PPP government \$10.4bn and the Musharraf government \$4.1bn.

The energy sector was the biggest recipient of development finance (52.8pc) under the PML-N government while "general budget support" remained the top destination (61.3pc) of flows under the PTI government, data showed.

Since 2012, China has been Pakistan's single-largest foreign development financing provider, outpacing the United States by 1.6 times in 2013, 7.7 times in 2016 and 22.4 times in 2021.

Data showed 82pc of the projects committed until 2021 were "completed" with another 13pc remaining "under implementation".

Out of 47 projects worth more than \$500 million, the majority were in general budget support (21), followed by energy (15) and banking and financial services (six). As for the 17 projects of more than \$1bn, six were in general budget support and five were in energy.

Data showed the annual rate of commitments rose from \$509m during the Musharraf era to \$2.1bn in the PPP government. It hit \$7.2bn a year in the Sharif/Abbasi years. In the years of the PTI government, average annual commitments amounted to \$4.9bn but those were driven by general budget support lending, data showed.

With a total of 161 loans worth \$68.9bn, Pakistan constituted China's third largest country-level loan portfolio anywhere in the world, after Russia and Venezuela, the report claims.

At \$28.13bn, rescue lending to Pakistan originating in China was the highest in the world, followed by Argentina, Ecuador and Venezuela. This points to the "particularly close all-weather friendship between the two countries," it said.

Pakistan's public debt exposure to China is \$67.2bn, which is 19.6pc of GDP. "Since 2017, larger proportions of Chinese development finance are for rescue loans, rather than developmental projects, which was the hallmark of CPEC in its heyday (2014-2017) when fresh commitments were forthcoming in large values," said the report.

The post-2017 years also saw roll-overs become more common and either matched or exceeded new loan commitments since 2019.

Out of 127 infrastructure projects worth \$38.8bn, only three projects worth \$452m have been suspended or cancelled thus far, data showed.

More than half (52pc) of the infrastructure project portfolio has faced some Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) risks, according to AidData's estimates. The energy sector has faced the greatest ESG risks with 51pc of the portfolio facing one or more of these challenges, it claims.

Only a quarter of these projects have strong ESG safeguards in place, as per AidData's classification. As opposed to only 16pc and 19pc for environmental and governance risks, respectively, as many as 46pc of these projects faced social risks such as labour violations or community protests, the report claims.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1787102>

Pakistan Observer

Sanjrani commemorates 10 years of CPEC' at report launching ceremony

In an event held at the Pakistan Institute of Parliamentary Services, Chairman Senate Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani in his message lauded the remarkable achievements of '10 Years of CPEC' during a report launching ceremony titled "Thousands of Miles with CPEC."

Distinguished guests in attendance included Senator Mushahid Hussain Syed, Minister for Information and Broadcasting, Murtaza Solangi, Chinese Ambassador Jiang Zaidong, Mustafa Hayder Sayed, the Executive Director of Pakistan-China Institute, and Yang Jianduo, Chairman of the All Pakistan China Enterprises Association.

In lieu of the Chief guest, Chairman Senate Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani's presence, a heartfelt message on his behalf, was read out to the attentive audience by the Executive Director Pakistan-China Institute, Mustafa Hayder Sayed.

In his message, read out by ED Pak-China Institute, the Chairman Senate emphasised the enduring friendship between the two nations and commended the significant contributions of Chinese institutions and organizations operating in Pakistan. Their contributions have played a pivotal role in strengthening bilateral ties, fostering not only government-to-government

relations but also nurturing the invaluable people-to-people connections that underpin this exceptional friendship.

“The deep-rooted and historic friendship between Pakistan and China transcends borders and cultures, serving as a model for the world”. Chairman Senate in his message lauded the visionary leadership of Chinese President Xi Jinping, highlighting his remarkable vision and unwavering commitment, which has propelled China into an economic powerhouse, inspiring nations worldwide.

<https://pakobserver.net/sanjrani-commemorates-10-years-of-cpec-at-report-launching-ceremony/>

New Pakistani handicrafts debut at China Int'l Import Expo

Pakistani exhibitors present new handicrafts at the 6th China International Import Expo (CIIE) taking place in Shanghai from Nov. 5 to 10, set to attract and amaze strings of visitors from China and other parts of the world.

Camel skin lamps, made from the skin of camels from Pakistan shine at CIIE with their attractive luster, exquisite patterns, and rich cultural connotations.

With a history of 900 years and having been recognized by 25 countries, this intangible art and craft of Pakistan is sold at a lucrative price of RMB 50-200 at CIIE.

Habib Ur Rehman, an exhibitor at the booth, told China Economic Net (CEN), this was his second time at this grand expo. “Last time in 2021, our Himalaya Salt Lamps were warmly received by Chinese consumers, which made us realize the huge potential of Pakistani handicrafts in the Chinese market”, Habib said.

Around the world, camel skin lamp only exists in Pakistan. “There is a group of only 30 to 60 people who are making this in Pakistan”, Habib said, adding, “normally it takes about ten days to make such a lamp from the very first process of cleaning the skin, drying the skin, modeling, till the painting of the patterns on the lamp”. “If we don’t utilize the skin of sacrificial camels, they will also be used for other purposes, like for storage, or become waste”, Habib explained. “I hope by introducing these lamps to more people, we can support Pakistan’s home cottage industry and intangible art and encourage more and more young people to enter this industry”, Habib said. It is learned that the 6th China International Import Expo has attracted over 20 Pakistani enterprises to showcase their products in one of the most bustling markets in the world, ranging from food, carpet and clothes, jade and jewelry, stone and bronze handiwork, football, wooden furniture, etc. —APP

<https://pakobserver.net/new-pakistani-handicrafts-debut-at-china-intl-import-expo/>

Pakistan’s exports to China up by 26.42% in 3 months

Pakistan’s export of goods and services to China witnessed an increase of 26.42 per cent during the first three months of the current fiscal year (2023-24) as compared to the exports of the corresponding period of last year, State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) reported.

The overall exports to China were recorded at US \$633.374 million during July-September (2023-24) against exports of US \$501.000 million during July- September (2022-23), showing growth of 26.42 per cent, SBP data revealed

On a year-to-year basis, the exports to China also surged by 68.57 per cent from \$167.923 million in September 2022, against the exports of \$283.077 million in September 2023.

Meanwhile, on a month-on-month basis, the exports to China rose by 42.29 per cent during September 2023 as compared to the exports of \$198.932 million in August 2023, the SBP data revealed.

Overall Pakistan's exports to other countries witnessed a decrease of 4.96 per cent in the first three months, from US \$ 7.385 billion to US \$ 7.018 billion, the SBP data revealed. On the other hand, the imports from China into the country during the months under review were recorded at US \$ 2744.241 million against US \$3233.046 million last year, showing a decline of 15.11 per cent in July- September (2023-24).—APP

<https://pakobserver.net/pakistans-exports-to-china-up-by-26-42-in-3-months/#:~:text=The%20overall%20exports%20to%20China%20were%20recorded%20at,grrowth%20of%2026.42%20per%20cent%2C%20SBP%20data%20revealed.>

China to increase foreign capital utilization: Minister

China will continue to improve the utilization of foreign capital and make the country a lasting hot spot for investment, Commerce Minister Wang Wentao said in Shanghai on Monday.

Wang made the remarks at the “Invest in China Year” Summit and Shanghai City Promotion, which is an important event during the 6th China International Import Expo.

Wang said the country will rationally reduce the negative list for foreign investment, completely cancel restrictions on foreign investment access in the manufacturing sector, and expand the opening up of modern service industries.

It will also support eligible pilot free trade zones and Hainan Free Trade Port to align with international rules, such as the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership and the Digital Economy Partnership Agreement. Roundtables will be held to respond to concerns of enterprises.—APP

<https://pakobserver.net/china-to-increase-foreign-capital-utilization-minister/>

Nawaiwaqt News

چائیز انٹرنیشنل نے پاکستان میں 25 ارب ڈالر کی سرمایہ کاری کی: وزیر اطلاعات

اسلام آباد (خبرنگار خصوصی) نگران وفاقی وزیر اطلاعات و نشریات مرتضیٰ سولنگی نے سی بی سی ٹی وی کی تقریب کے حوالے سے حکومت کے عزم کا اعادہ کرتے ہوئے کہا ہے کہ سی بی سی ٹی وی پر پیشہ ورانہ انداز میں کام جاری ہے۔ وزارت اطلاعات چائیز انٹرنیشنل پر انٹرنیشنل تعاون فراہم کرے گی۔ ان خیالات کا اظہار انہوں نے پیر کو یہاں آل پاکستان چائیز انٹرنیشنل پر انٹرنیشنل ایسوسی ایشن کے زیر اہتمام ”سی بی سی کے 10 سال“ کے عنوان سے رپورٹ کے اجراء کی تقریب سے خطاب کرتے ہوئے کیا۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ پاکستان چائیز انٹرنیشنل چائیز انٹرنیشنل ایسوسی ایشن کی پیشرفت کے بارے میں نہ سنتے ہوں۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ آل پاکستان چائیز انٹرنیشنل گڈر تاجب ہم میڈیا پر سی بی سی ٹی وی میں چائیز انٹرنیشنل کی جانب سے ہونے والی پیشرفت کے بارے میں نہ سنتے ہوں۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ آل پاکستان چائیز انٹرنیشنل ایسوسی ایشن کی 201 سے زائد رکن کمپنیوں نے اب تک پاکستان میں 25 بلین ڈالر کی سرمایہ کاری کی ہے اور 85 ہزار سے زائد مقامی افراد کو روزگار دیا جو سی بی سی ٹی وی کے بیلٹ اینڈ روڈ انیشی ایٹو کے گیم چینجر منصوبے کے تصور کا واضح ثبوت ہے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ آل پاکستان چائیز انٹرنیشنل ایسوسی ایشن کی رپورٹ میں پائیدار ترقی کی حکمت عملی وضع کی گئی ہے جو صرف موٹرویز اور پاور پلانٹس تک محدود نہیں بلکہ ماضی میں تھر اور گوادریس جیسے نظر انداز کئے جانے والے علاقوں میں مقامی کمیونٹیز کو بااختیار بنانے میں اہم کردار ادا کرے گی۔ نگران وفاقی وزیر نے کہا کہ وزارت اطلاعات کے ملحقہ ادارے پاکستان ٹیلی ویژن، پاکستان براڈ کاسٹنگ کارپوریشن اور ایسوسی ایٹڈ پریس آف پاکستان پہلے ہی میڈیا تعاون کو بڑھانے کے لئے اپنے ہم عصر چینی اداروں کے ساتھ منظم فریم ورک میں مشغول ہیں۔ انہوں نے اس موقع پر سی بی سی ٹی وی میں عوامی جمہوریہ چین کے سفارت خانے کے تعاون اور کوششوں کو بھی سراہا۔

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/lahore/2023-11-07/page-1/detail-4>

November 08, 2023

Business Recorder

Stakeholders asked to expedite CPEC projects

ISLAMABAD: After the successful third Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) Forum 2023 held in Beijing, the Caretaker Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives, Muhammad Sami Saeed, on Tuesday, while reviewing progress over the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) projects directed the relevant stakeholders to expedite the projects.

The minister reviewed the projects during his visit to the CPEC Secretariat where he was given a detailed briefing on the CPEC projects. The meeting was attended by the Planning Ministry secretary, the CPEC project director, and sector specialists of the CPEC Secretariat. The CPEC project director gave a comprehensive briefing regarding the progress related to the completed projects, the ongoing projects and areas which were highlighted in the BRI Forum.

It is noted that the third BRI forum 2023 was held in Beijing from October 17 to 18, in which, Prime Minister Anwaar ul Haq Kakar represented Pakistan.

The forum focused on research and innovation, communications, science and technology, industry, agriculture, energy, tourism, and other areas.

The second Phase of CPEC has already started as both countries have been celebrating the decade of CPEC.

During the meeting, the minister emphasized the importance of new areas which include agriculture, science and technology, and information technology.

The minister further added that CPEC played a vital role in transforming Pakistan's economic landscape while highlighting the new areas such as agriculture, science and technology and information technology.

The minister said that there is a huge potential in the above areas which need to be explored. During the meeting, it was further highlighted the establishment of special economic zones (SEZs) and the increased investment by Chinese companies in various sectors. This collaboration has not only promoted industrialisation in Pakistan but also created job opportunities and boosted country's export capacity.

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2023/11/08/2-page/976472-news.html>

China owed more than \$1trn in Belt and Road debt?

BEIJING: China is owed more than a trillion dollars through its Belt and Road project, making it the biggest debt collector in the world, a report said this week, with an estimated 80 percent of the loans supporting countries in financial distress.

Beijing says upwards of 150 countries stretching from Uruguay to Sri Lanka have signed up to the BRI, a vast global infrastructure push unveiled by President Xi Jinping a decade ago.

The first decade of the initiative saw China distribute huge loans to fund the construction of bridges, ports and highways in low and middle-income countries.

But much more than half of those loans have now entered their principal repayment period, said a report released Monday by AidData, a research institute tracking development finance at Virginia's College of William and Mary.

That figure is set to hit 75 percent by the end of the decade, it added.

Crunching data compiled on Chinese financing of almost 21,000 projects across 165 countries, AidData said Beijing had now committed aid and credit "hovering around \$80 billion a year" to low and middle-income nations.

The United States, in contrast, has provided \$60 billion to such countries a year.

"Beijing is navigating an unfamiliar and uncomfortable role — as the world's largest official debt collector," the report said. "Total outstanding debt — including principal but excluding interest — from borrowers in the developing world to China is at least \$1.1 trillion," AidData said.

AidData, it added, "estimates that 80 percent of China's overseas lending portfolio in the developing world is currently supporting countries in financial distress".

Proponents of the BRI praise it for bringing resources and economic growth to the Global South.

But critics have long pointed to opaque pricing for projects built by Chinese companies, with countries including Malaysia and Myanmar renegotiating deals to bring down costs.

And AidData said China has in recent years suffered reputational damage among developing countries, with its approval rating falling from 56 percent in 2019 to 40 percent in 2021.

But China is “learning from its mistakes and becoming an increasingly adept crisis manager”, the study said.

Beijing is seeking to de-risk the BRI by bringing its lending practices more in line with international standards, it stressed.

But also among those methods are “increasingly stringent safeguards to shield itself from the risk of not being repaid”, it said.

That includes allowing key BRI lenders to pay themselves principal and interest due by “unilaterally sweeping” borrowers’ foreign currency reserves held in escrow.

“These cash seizures are mostly being executed in secret and outside the immediate reach of domestic oversight institutions... in low- and middle-income countries,” it said.

“The ability to access cash collateral without borrower consent has become a particularly important safeguard in China’s bilateral lending portfolio.”

At a major summit in Beijing last month marking the project’s tenth anniversary, Xi said China would inject more than \$100 billion of new funds into the BRI.

But a joint report this year by the World Bank and other institutions, including AidData, said Beijing had been forced to hand out billions of dollars in bailout loans to BRI countries in recent years. The initiative has also drawn scrutiny for its massive carbon footprint and the environmental degradation caused by massive infrastructure projects.—AFP

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2023/11/08/12-page/976548-news.html>

Pakistan Observer

Dar underscores need to deepen bilateral relations with China

Ishaq Dar, Chinese Charge d’ Affaires exchange views on CPEC

Pakistan Muslim League-N and leader of the house in the senate Ishaq Dar and Chinese Charge d’ Affaires Pang Chunxue exchanged views on matters pertaining to the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor. The Chinese charge d’affaires called on the former finance minister. On this occasion, both Dar and Pang Chunxue discussed the relations between China and Pakistan. The two sides discussed and explored the various avenues, especially available for both countries after the General Elections 2024 in Pakistan in order to enhance the existing economic and strategic cooperation between China and Pakistan. Senator Dar highlighted the deep-rooted historical bilateral relations between Pakistan and China and commended the Chinese continuous support to Pakistan on multiple fronts. He also underscored the need to deepen bilateral relations further in the economic, trade,

<https://pakobserver.net/dar-underscores-need-to-deepen-bilateral-relations-with-china/>

BRI is hope for positive change, peace, prosperity

The Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) is a powerful force for hope and unity despite all the challenges and conflicts that disrupt peace and stability worldwide, said speakers.

The recent Webinar on the Third Belt and Road Forum, themed “Together for Common Development and Shared Prosperity,” hosted by Friends of BRI Forum and the Centre for BRI and China Studies at the Institute of Peace and Diplomatic Studies (IPDS).

The event brought together prominent voices from diverse regions. Dr. Farhat Asif, President of IPDS, in opening remarks, underscored the global impact of BRI, with Pakistan serving as a key beneficiary through the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

The webinar was also attended by a large number of participants from different parts of the world.

The webinar provided a platform for thought leaders to explore the potential of the BRI in shaping a more peaceful and prosperous future for all.

Dr. Wang Li, Senior Professor at China’s School of Law, highlighted the BRI’s commitment to prosperity and the common good as intrinsic values.

Ulf Sandmark, Chairman of BRI Sweden, emphasized the BRI’s role not only in economic development but also in promoting global unity by resolving conflicts, such as the situation in Gaza.

Ambassador Igor V. Khalevinskiy, Chairman of the Association of Russian Diplomats, Russia, commended the BRI for its remarkable global impact by facilitating development and prosperity.

Prof. Zhou Rong, Senior Fellow at the Chongyang Institute for Financial Study of Renmin University China, stressed the importance of collaborative projects like the BRI in a world marred by conflicts, where China is making significant progress and changing lives.

Dr. Kurt Grötsch, Founding President of Catedra China and Ambassador of Minzu University Spain, highlighted the need to focus on the environmental and green impacts of the BRI as it continues to progress.

Dr. Katarina Zakic, Head of the Regional Center for Belt and Road Studies, IIPE, Serbia, discussed the positive effects of the BRI on Serbia-China political relations, trade, and Chinese investments in various sectors.

Carlos Martinez, Co-Editor of the Friends of Socialist China Platform, UK, emphasized the BRI’s role in achieving and promoting sustainable development, emphasizing its unique and impactful nature compared to initiatives by other countries. —APP

<https://pakobserver.net/bri-is-hope-for-positive-change-peace-prosperity/>

BRI's Rails & Lobito Corridor and start of new endgame in Africa

Dr Mehmood Ul Hassan Khan

It seems that the success of the 3rd BRI Forum for International Cooperation in 2023 has now rattled the capitals of the European Union and Washington. The policymakers of the West are trying to initiate another endgame in geopolitics in the African continent, which is a future source of energy, metals, and food. The anti-development forces will seek to influence African countries to stay away from the BRI.”

To counter Xi's eight action plans for the further development of BRI in the next decade the US and the EU have joined forces with the African Development Bank (AFDB) and the Africa Finance Corporation (AFC) to launch the West's latest attempt to counter China's BRI. The main stakeholders have signed an MoU of setting out plans to develop the “Lobito Corridor” and the “Zambia-Lobito railway” which will together form a link across Africa through a number of large mineral deposits. The deal was done on the margins of the Global Gateway in Brussels, an invitation-only meeting of EU governments with companies, banks and international organizations intended to promote international infrastructure.

The US State Department has described this as the most significant transport infrastructure project on the African continent in a generation. The US hopes that it will enhance regional trade and growth, as well as advance the shared vision of a connected, open-access rail route from the Atlantic Ocean to the Indian Ocean.

The projects will be executed and implemented under the flagship of the Partnership for Global Infrastructure and Investment, the G7's response to the BRI, launched in June last year at the Schloss Elmau summit in Germany. It aims to invest over \$600bn by 2027 to close infrastructure gaps around the world. The US and its allies have tried before to launch schemes to compete with Chinese infrastructure largesse in the developing world.

In 2013, (then) President Barack Obama launched his “Power Africa” Initiative aimed at investing \$7bn to add more than 10,000 megawatts of clean electricity. It could not be materialized. The G7 tried again in June 2021 with its “Build Back Better World” grand plan investing in infrastructure projects of Latin America, the Caribbean, Africa, and the Indo-Pacific.

According to its statement, it is financing rail refurbishment from the Angolan port of Lobito to the border with the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). A new railway from northwest Zambia would join that line. It aims to jointly invest in large-scale infrastructure. It is 800km of new Greenfield rail cutting between Angola and Zambia. It involves a large contribution from AFDB. All funding partners put together around \$10m to start the feasibility study before the end of this year. The project also involves building 260km of roads and about 550km of track in Zambia, spanning from the Jimbe border to Chingola in the country's copper region. As well as the railway, the corridor will involve 4G and later 5G telecoms systems and a billion-dollar investment in solar farms and micro-grids.

In July this year, Zambia, the DRC and Angola signed their own MoU on progressing the corridor. A consortium led by multinational commodities trader Trafigura had already been appointed to run a \$570m rehabilitation scheme.

The governments of DRC, Angolan and Zambian have already decided to start the mega project through their tripartite agreement. According to Africa News24, it is a direct challenge to China's BRI, largely viewed as an unsettling extension of China's rising power.

On the other hand, the Chinese BRI has already completed numerous mega rail projects in parts of the world. The "Jakarta-Bandung High-Speed Railway" was officially operated on October 2, 2023. It is a \$7.3 billion project. It connects Indonesia's capital Jakarta and West Java's provincial capital Bandung. With a designed-speed of 350 km per hour, the railway spanning 142.3 km will cut the journey between the two cities from over three hours to around 40 minutes. It is the first overseas high-speed railway project that fully uses Chinese railway systems, technology and industrial components under the flagship project of BRI.

The "China-Laos Railway" , a landmark project showcasing high-quality Belt and Road cooperation, started operation in December 2021. The railway also serves as a docking project with Laos' strategy to convert itself from a landlocked country to a land-linked hub.

After its launch in 2021, passenger train services have been offered along the section between Kunming and the Chinese border town of Mohan, as well as the section connecting Vientiane and Boten, the border town on the Lao side. On April 13, 2023, the China-Laos Railway launched its cross-border passenger services.

Moreover, the "China-Europe Railway Express" has become the 21st century Camel Journey. Some 77,000 China-Europe freight train trips have been made over the last 10 years, providing services for 217 cities in 25 European countries. It comprises 86 routes passing through the main regions of the Eurasian. The "Hungarian-Serbian Railway" is another mega rail project of the BRI, connecting the Hungarian capital Budapest and Serbian capital Belgrade is progressing smoothly.

The recently signed CPEC Phase-II ML-1 mega railway project is set to transform the country's railway system. It will connect Peshawar to Karachi via a 2,600-kilometer track at a cost of \$7 billion. Official data indicates it will boost line capacity to 134 trains in each direction per day, travelling at speeds of up to 165 kilometres per hour, doubling the current speed.

In summary, the BRI has driven strategic transport and economic development projects in Africa and beyond. As of October 2023, the BRI spans 151 countries with a combined GDP of \$41 trillion and a population of 5.1 billion. Bilateral trade with China in BRI countries has reached \$2.8 trillion, and the BRI has attracted \$1 trillion in construction investments. Cumulative import-export value with BRI partners is \$19.1 trillion, and two-way investments total \$380 billion. Newly signed construction contracts are valued at \$2 trillion. China has established free trade agreements with 28 countries and bilateral investment agreements with 135 countries and regions, underscoring global recognition and anticipated growth of the BRI in the next decade.

<https://pakobserver.net/bris-rails-lobito-corridor-and-start-of-new-endgame-in-africa/>

BRI Strengthening Global Bonds with Unimpeded Trade and Connectivity

Muhammad Usman

The Belt and Road Initiative, set in motion by the Chinese government 10 years ago, laid the foundation for massive investment and rapid growth and development in neighbouring Asian countries and countries around the globe. The Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), initiated by Chinese President Xi Jinping is one of the most ambitious global infrastructure projects ever. The multibillion-dollar initiative has amassed billions in foreign investment and produced favourable results for the nations involved. As of now, 147 countries, that account for approx. 40 percent of the world's GDP, have shown support for or signed projects under the BRI.

Bringing people closer and improving global ties was one of the goals, President Xi Jinping aimed to achieve with the BRI. During his keynote speech at the Opening Ceremony of the Second Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation, he expressed his desire for mutual growth, "We need to act in the spirit of multilateralism, pursue cooperation through consultation and keep all participants motivated. We may, by engaging in bilateral, trilateral and multilateral cooperation, fully tap into the strengths of all participants."

In the past ten years, over 3000 projects have been completed under the Belt and Road Initiative with over 1 trillion dollars invested in different projects. The globally expansive project has signed more than 200 agreements with 151 countries and 32 international organizations giving way to unimpeded connectivity and global trade. Not only has BRI emerged as one of the most economically profitable global projects in the 21st century but also led to considerable infrastructural development and better connectivity across countries involved. The BRI with its win-win approach is transcending physical borders, strengthening bonds across nations.

Over a decade of its growth, the BRI has created 420,000 jobs across the globe and helped approximately 40 million people recover from poverty. It is estimated that by 2030, BRI will further alleviate poverty by helping 7.6 million people out of poverty by increasing global income by 2.9%. Keeping in line with China's pledge for transparency, it has released a whitepaper, "Belt and Road Initiative: A Key Pillar of the Global Community of Shared Future" detailing the growth and success of the project in the past ten years. Chinese firms have set over 300 projects in place in participating countries to alleviate poverty and provide better health care and rehabilitation facilities.

Li Kexin, Director-General of the Department of International Economic Affairs of China's Foreign Ministry, lauded the BRI for successfully completing 10 years of development and shared growth. While addressing reporters in Beijing, he said, "Over the past 10 years, the fruitful results of building the Belt and Road together and the growing circle of friends have fully proved that the Belt and Road does not engage in a closed and narrow circle, transcends the old mindset of geopolitical games and creates a new paradigm of international cooperation."

China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, strategically one of the most important BRI projects, has brought over 25 billion dollars in investment and massive development in infrastructure as well as industries. The development of railways, roads, the energy sector, etc., has ushered in

a new era for the local population. With better job and business opportunities, people have been able to increase their income and improve their living conditions.

During the past ten years, the Initiative has strengthened the ties between Pakistan and China and allowed people to establish healthy relationships with one another. The development of Gwadar Port has welcomed shared growth for people of both countries allowing both nationals to benefit from the road connecting Pak-China to the global world. The development of infrastructure at the Gwadar Port has attracted 30+ companies to the area, giving way to better employment and business opportunities for the local population.

The two-way exchanges between both countries have not only proved economically beneficial but also allowed the locals to strengthen their bonds by exchanging their culture and customs with each other.

Other areas of cooperation that have benefited the people of both countries include healthcare, education, tourism, technology, sports, disaster relief, environmental protection, etc.

Chinese governmental scholarships attract more than 10,000 students from BRI countries every year. In addition, the establishment of Confucian institutes and cultural centres in Pakistan has strengthened people-to-people ties.

The simplification of visa procedures and visa-free agreements under the BRI agreement has given people the privilege of visa-free entry into the country.

The establishment of new trade routes followed by the influx of foreign investment has also made a major impact on Pakistan's economy. China's support during Covid-19 has also helped Pakistan's economy stay afloat during the turbulent times.

The people of Pakistan have greatly benefitted from the opportunities brought forth by the BRI. While the development of roads and railways has connected people across thousands of kilometres, better economic opportunities have improved people's livelihood and the joint cooperation for mutual growth has further helped establish friendly and healthy ties between people of both countries.

With the global economy facing turbulence due to the ongoing war between Ukraine and Russia and Israel and Palestine, BRI has emerged as a project that guarantees resilience and continuity.

Despite the dip in the economy during COVID-19, BRI continued its reign of success across borders. The completion of various energy and infrastructure projects, as a part of CPEC, is a testament to the commitment and dedication of both sides.

The fruitfulness of the projects has created a stronger bond between the nations and invited the world to witness the prowess of BRI and mutual cooperation between the neighbouring countries.

<https://pakobserver.net/bri-strengthening-global-bonds-with-unimpeded-trade-and-connectivity/>

China-Pakistan: A model partnership

CHINA'S steadfast support to Pakistan through its extensive development financing has undeniably played a pivotal role in the country's infrastructural advancement and economic stability.

In light of the recent US-based research lab AidData report, it is imperative to acknowledge that the narrative depicting China's loans as burdensome to Pakistan is largely misplaced. Rather, it is crucial to recognize the significance of China's unwavering commitment to Pakistan's progress, particularly through the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) initiative.

Over the last two decades, China has emerged as one of Pakistan's key allies, channelling substantial investment which remained instrumental in bolstering Pakistan's infrastructure and overall economic growth, as evidenced by the significant strides made in various sectors, including transportation, energy and telecommunications, to name a few.

The CPEC, a flagship project of China's ambitious Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), has not only injected much-needed capital into Pakistan's economy but also facilitated the creation of crucial infrastructural links, fostering regional connectivity and trade opportunities.

With initial projections of \$45 billion, the CPEC's expanded investment exceeding \$62 billion has provided a substantial impetus for Pakistan's development trajectory.

Contrary to misconceptions surrounding China's loans, it is imperative to emphasize that the Chinese Government has exhibited commendable flexibility in its financial assistance to Pakistan.

Notably, the rolling over of loans and the provision of official development assistance in the form of grants and highly concessional loans have exemplified China's genuine commitment to ensuring Pakistan's sustainable economic growth.

It is worth acknowledging that without China's instrumental support, we would have encountered profound challenges in meeting our economic obligations and maintaining developmental momentum.

The AidData report, albeit informative, fails to adequately highlight the significant impact of China's support in safeguarding Pakistan from potential economic crises and default scenarios.

In light of these realities, it is crucial for international observers to refrain from misconstruing China's financial assistance as detrimental to Pakistan's economic interests.

As we look to the future, both the nations must continue nurturing their strategic alliance, focusing on mutual prosperity and sustainable development. This partnership serves as a model for the rest of the world, exemplifying the effectiveness of mutual support and shared objectives.

<https://pakobserver.net/china-pakistan-a-model-partnership/>

The Express Tribune

Pakistan eyes \$600m Chinese loans

Negotiations at advanced stage, financing may be released by next month

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has sought \$600 million in fresh loans from two Chinese banks to bridge a big financing gap and also bets on successful completion of International Monetary Fund (IMF) talks for improvement in its credit rating to borrow from non-Chinese foreign banks.

Sources told The Express Tribune that the federal government was in negotiations with the Industrial and Commercial Bank of China (ICBC) and the Bank of China for a total loan of \$600 million. Each bank has been approached for \$300 million financing.

Negotiations are at an advanced stage and loans are expected to be received by next month, according to officials of the finance ministry.

Ministry of Finance spokesman Qamar Abbasi did not respond to questions sent to him.

Abbasi also did not respond to a query on whether Pakistan had sought another loan from the State Administration of Foreign Exchange (SAFE) of China. SAFE has already given \$4 billion in loans that are rescheduled every year due to Pakistan's inability to pay them back.

Diplomatic sources said that China and Pakistan were in close coordination to complete the remaining technical procedures for the loan of \$600 million.

In recent years, China has become Islamabad's last hope for meeting emergency financing needs. Every government, including the caretakers, has reached out to China for rescue funds.

The Chinese have been extending loans from SAFE deposits, concessionary loans and commercial loans to help Pakistan to stabilise its external sector.

In June this year, China had helped Pakistan to avoid a further fall in its critically low foreign currency reserves by prematurely adjusting the repayment of \$1.3 billion.

Sources said that interest rates on the new commercial facilities would be higher compared to the previous such arrangements due to a high global interest rate environment.

Pakistan has budgeted \$4.5 billion in foreign commercial loans but it has so far not received any financing due to poor credit ratings, high risks to debt sustainability and a weak macroeconomic situation.

Since 2017, larger proportions of Chinese development finance have been rescue loans, rather than for developmental projects, which were the hallmark of CPEC in its heyday from 2014 to 2017 when fresh commitments were forthcoming in large amounts, wrote AidData, a western research lab, in its latest report.

Since 2000, China has given \$21.2 billion in loans in general budget support, which was 30% of the total lending to Pakistan, according to AidData. These loans were taken to avoid default and push the low foreign currency reserves a bit higher.

The government has informed the IMF that its \$6.5 billion borrowing plan hinges on the macroeconomic conditions.

Pakistani negotiators voiced hope that successful completion of the ongoing talks could give a boost to the country's low credit ratings, which describe Pakistani debt as highly risky. Even if there is no immediate improvement in ratings, "we are hopeful that these agencies will upgrade the economic outlook on Pakistan," said a senior Pakistani official on condition of anonymity.

After the staff-level agreement, Pakistani authorities plan to re-engage non-Chinese banks that have in the past given loans but are now reluctant due to the poor credit ratings and growing external sector risks.

Interim Finance Minister Dr Shamshad Akhtar had met with representatives of Standard Chartered Bank and Deutsche Bank and the international credit rating agencies on the sidelines of the IMF-World Bank meetings last month.

Three international credit rating agencies have downgraded Pakistan, which has increased its cost of borrowing and created obstacles in the way of arranging new foreign commercial loans.

Pakistan has also budgeted \$1.5 billion in Eurobonds but its transaction will be subject to receiving a satisfactory health of economy certificate from the IMF.

A stable global interest rate environment and improvement in Pakistan's credit rating are the prerequisites for venturing into the world capital markets.

AidData reported that with 161 loans worth \$69 billion, Pakistan has China's third largest country-level loan portfolio anywhere in the world, after Russia and Venezuela.

All these loans have been extended on the request of Pakistani authorities.

Sources said that the IMF also discussed the issue of exchange rate management with the central bank.

The IMF's view was that there was a pattern first in rupee appreciation and then its depreciation during the past two weeks that indicated intervention in the market, said the sources.

Under the \$3 billion deal, Pakistan has committed to the IMF to have a market-based exchange rate regime. Authorities had to intervene to curb smuggling and hoarding of the foreign currency, which led to a sequential reduction in the dollar value that slipped to Rs276 before appreciating again.

The rupee on Tuesday closed at around Rs286.40 to a dollar in the inter-bank market, losing Rs1.11 in a single day.

The central bank informed the IMF about progress on ending subsidies for export and other schemes and the capitalisation of two under-capitalised private commercial banks.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2445322/pakistan-eyes-600m-chinese-loans>

Nawaiwaqt

مالی سال 2023-24 میں پاکستان کی چین کو برآمدات میں مسلسل اضافہ

اسلام آباد (آئی این پی) ٹریڈ ڈیولپمنٹ اتھارٹی آف پاکستان (ٹی ڈی اے پی) کے اعداد و شمار سے معلوم ہوا ہے کہ مالی سال 2023-24 میں پاکستان کی چین کو برآمدات میں چوتھے ماہ مسلسل اضافہ دیکھنے میں آیا ہے جو گزشتہ مالی سال کے اسی ماہ کے اعداد و شمار سے زیادہ ہے۔ گواد پرو کے مطابق واضح رہے کہ اکتوبر میں پاکستان کی چین کو برآمدات کا حجم 321.3 ملین ڈالر رہا جو اکتوبر 2022 کے دوران ریکارڈ کردہ 203.3 ملین ڈالر کے مقابلے میں 58 فیصد زیادہ ہے۔ ستمبر 2023 میں پاکستان کی چین کو برآمدات 100.5 فیصد اضافے کے ساتھ 350.2 ملین ڈالر تک پہنچ گئیں جو گزشتہ مالی سال کے اسی مہینے میں 174.7 ملین ڈالر تھیں۔ گواد پرو کے مطابق اسی طرح اگست 2023 میں پاکستان کی چین کو برآمدات 211 ملین ڈالر ریکارڈ کی گئیں جو گزشتہ مالی سال کے اسی عرصے کے 116.2 ملین ڈالر کے مقابلے میں 81.6 فیصد اضافے کے ساتھ امید افزا رجحان ظاہر کرتی ہیں۔ مالی سال 2023-24 کے پہلے ماہ جولائی میں پاکستان کی چین کو برآمدات میں 35.1 فیصد اضافہ ہوا جو جولائی 2022 کے مقابلے میں نمایاں اضافہ ہے جہاں برآمدات کا حجم 124.7 ملین ڈالر رہا۔ گواد پرو کے مطابق مالی سال 2023-24 کے پہلے چار ماہ کے دوران پاکستان کی چین کو مجموعی برآمدات 1,051 ملین ڈالر رہیں جو گزشتہ مالی سال کے اسی عرصے میں 618.9 ملین ڈالر کے مقابلے میں 69 فیصد زیادہ ہیں۔ جولائی تا اکتوبر مالی سال 2023-24 کے دوران دنیا بھر کے تمام ممالک کو پاکستان کی برآمدات کا حجم 9,617 ملین ڈالر رہا جو گزشتہ مالی سال کے پہلے چار ماہ کے دوران ریکارڈ کیے گئے 9554 ملین ڈالر کے مقابلے میں 0.66 فیصد زیادہ ہے۔

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/lahore/2023-11-08/page-10/detail-11>

November 09, 2023

Business Recorder

SIFC WG discusses impediments to SEZs

ISLAMABAD: The Federal Minister for Privatisation, Fawad Hasan Fawad, chaired the first meeting of the SIFC Working Group to discuss impediments in the development of Special Economic Zones (SEZs) with the objective of fast-tracking industrialisation.

The meeting was attended by all relevant stakeholders in the provincial governments and their industrial zone authorities. In a presentation, the additional secretary, Board of Investment (BOI) and DG, SEZs highlighted the major impediments faced by existing SEZs and the framework requirements of future SEZs.

The BOI proposed the development of a One-Stop-Shop facilitation for future SEZs. The forum discussed the limitations of the concept of One-Stop-Shop and pointed out towards the need of a mutual agreement between the federal and provincial governments for a development framework based on international best practices and standards, within that the need of a legal mandate in the constitutional scheme was also highlighted. The issues of identification and allotment of land, cost competitiveness, provision of utilities, human resource constraints and consistency of policies were also discussed. It was agreed that based on the key takeouts of the meeting a working paper, containing solutions and a clear roadmap for the future, will be circulated for the second and final meeting of the working group to be held preferably in next week.

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2023/11/09/1-page/976557-news.html>

Sino-Pak agri cooperation to help address food security challenges: minister

FAISALABAD: Federal Minister for National Food Security and Research Dr Kauser Abdulla Malik has said that Sino-Pak agricultural ties and joint efforts will help address the issue of food security and to learn from each other's experiences.

He addressed participants of 4th Belt and Road Initiatives (BRI) Sino-Pak agricultural forum arranged by the Institute of Horticultural Science, University of Agriculture Faisalabad (UAF). He also chaired farmer day in connection with a wheat campaign arranged by the Directorate of Farms.

Provincial Agriculture Minister S M Tanvir, UAF Vice Chancellor Prof Dr Iqrar Ahmad Khan, Pakistan Agriculture Research Council Chairman Ghulam Muhammad Ali, PMAS Arid Agriculture University Rawalpindi Prof Dr Muhammad Naeem UVAS Vice Chancellor Prof Dr Nasim Ahmad, Huazhong Agricultural University China President Dr Zhaohou Li, Huazhong Agricultural University China party Secretary Zhang Hongrong, Pro-Vice Chancellor UAF Prof Dr Muhammad Sarwar Khan, Director Horticultural Sciences Prof Dr Ahmad Sattar Khan, Director Research Prof Dr Jafar Jaskani, Dr Raheel, Director External Linkages Prof Dr Muhammad Saqib and other notables addressed the conference.

DG Extension Department Punjab Dr Ishtiaq Hussain, Principal Officer PRP UAF Prof Dr Jalal Arif, Director Extension Faisalabad Division Dr Abdul Hameed, Director Farms Dr Shahid Ibne Zameer also spoke at the Wheat Campaign Ceremony.

Dr Kauser Abdulla Malik said that collaborative efforts and scientist to scientist contacts between both countries will open up new avenues of progress and prosperity.

He said that the wheat campaign is a hallmark step in which students and scientists interact with the farmer community to put agriculture on a scientific basis. He said that with organized agriculture we can increase our production manifold.

He said that valuable research work and new technology development is being done. However, there is a need to transfer it among the farmers community.

SM Tanvir said that Pak-China ties began in 1951 and both the countries are enjoying brotherhood relations in every field of life. He said that in the recent past as many as twenty agreements have been inked with Chinese institutions in different fields including agriculture, infrastructure, industry and other areas. He said that Chinese investment in different areas would utter a new journey of development. He said that climate change is posing a serious threat to the world for which we have to pace up efforts.

Prof Dr Iqrar Ahmad Khan said that if the agriculture sector performs, the rest of the sectors also flourish. He said that UAF was running tangible projects with Chinese Institutions to combat the agriculture challenges. He said that UAF is also housing the Chinese Confucius Institute. He said that UAF in collaboration with the agriculture extension department has launched a wheat campaign that will help increase productivity.

He said that due to the last year campaign average production has gone up three mounds per acre. He said that we have to break the stagnation in the agriculture sector so that dream of self sufficiency can be met easily. He said that collaboration among agricultural institutions is vital to feed the ever increasing population. He said that UAF has developed a heat tolerant wheat variety that will boost-up productivity many fold.

Dr Zhaohou Li and other Chinese counterparts said that the both countries are having time tested ties and enhanced collaboration would help increase the production and to learn from each other's experiences.

Prof Dr Muhammad Sarwar Khan said that the wheat campaign is in full swing that will bring tangible results.

Dr Ahmad Sattar said that with collaboration we would address the agricultural challenges.

Dr Jafar Jaskani said that the university was making all out efforts to address the issues of the farming community.

Huazhong Agricultural University China also inked separate MoU with University of Agriculture, Faisalabad and Arid Agriculture University for academic collaboration and student exchange programme. In the wheat campaign ceremony Dr Shahid Ibne Zameer said that the university is also distributing hybrid wheat seed among the farming community on a trial basis that will help flourish technology to raise production.—PR

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2023/11/10/6-page/976651-news.html>

Daily Times

Customs Authority allows export of Pakistani dairy products to China

Export of Pakistani milk and dairy products to China has been allowed. This was announced by General Administration of Customs of China (GACC) according to China Economic Net (CEN). Ghulam Qadir Commercial Counsellor at Pakistan Embassy here said this decision marks a significant milestone in the bilateral trade relationship between the two nations as Pakistan has the potential to create a new avenue for economic cooperation. As China continues to diversify its import sources, the move is expected to open up lucrative opportunities for Pakistan's dairy industry, potentially reshaping the dynamics of the global dairy trade. "Feeling jubilant over this new development. With this we are Inching closer towards sustainable bilateral trade between Pakistan and China with bigger share of Pakistan's exports", he added. According to announcement, foods made from cow's milk or camel's milk, including milk powder, whey powder, whey protein powder, bovine colostrum powder, sterilized milk, modulated milk, fermented milk, cheese and processed cheese, thin cream, cream, anhydrous cream, these dairy products can be exported to China from Pakistan. The statement from GACC further states that dairy animals that provide raw milk for dairy products exported to China shall meet different standards including FMD quarantine restrictions have been lifted for at least 2 months and The farm has not been subject to quarantine restrictions for anthrax in the past 12 months.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1147024/customs-authority-allows-export-of-pakistani-dairy-products-to-china/>

Dawn News

What China wants from Pakistan

Khurram Husain

WHAT China wants from Pakistan is the same as what China wants from every other country, which is to endlessly run a trade surplus in their favour. There might be a few specific things beyond this, such as Gwadar for instance, but those are marginal and nowhere near as central to Chinese designs in Pakistan and the rest of the world as we might imagine.

Just add up the numbers. Since 2010, Pakistan has run a cumulative trade deficit with China equal almost to \$90 billion. This means capital worth \$90bn has flowed from Pakistan to China against goods and services coming the other way. The next big deficit region includes the oil-producing countries of the Gulf. With the US, in the same period, Pakistan ran a trade surplus of \$34bn. With the UK, it ran a trade surplus of almost \$12bn. For the EU, it is harder to give a figure because the State Bank does not report EU trade data as a region, and the member countries have changed over the decade, making it difficult to manually compute the cumulative trade for these years. But it is safe to assume that there would be a sizeable trade surplus here too. The numbers paint a rather straightforward picture. Pakistan earns capital by participating in the economies of the US, UK and EU, and spends this capital in the economies of China and the oil-producing kingdoms of the Gulf. The interesting thing is, if you look at the decade between 2000 and 2010, China would not factor as the top country with which Pakistan ran a trade deficit. It attained that position post-2010, and cemented it further with the second China Pakistan Free Trade Agreement agreed to in 2019. This is not unique to Pakistan. There are not many countries in the world that run a trade surplus with China. The single largest trade surplus that anyone ran with China last year, for example, was Taiwan, coming in at \$156bn. Other countries that ran a trade surplus with China include Japan, South Korea, Malaysia, Indonesia, Brazil and a few others. By and large, the rest of the world runs a deficit. India, for example, ran a \$100bn deficit with China last year alone.

The first thing to do is to drain all emotion out of the relationship.

The difference between them and us, however, is they can afford this deficit whereas we can't. Another difference is that India has worked to safeguard its trade interests with China, for example, by eschewing a bilateral free trade deal with them, while pursuing these with others in Southeast Asia instead. Pakistan, on the other hand, has not only gone deeper into this loss-making relationship with China, but increased reliance on Chinese credit as well along the way. A report released by Aid Data, a research lab based in the College of William and Mary, provides some useful data. Since 2000, China has committed \$70bn to Pakistan in the form of development finance, including emergency lending for budgetary support. Of this, \$56bn was committed in the post-2013 period, when the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) began. The report provides data on commitments only, not actual disbursements, but in some categories, it is easy to see how commitments would equal disbursements. One of these categories is the general budget support. Of the \$56bn committed by China to Pakistan in the post-BRI period, \$16bn were for budget support. In the pre-BRI period, the years running from 2000 to 2012, budget support credits were \$4.6bn. Notice the trend? China begins

extending more and more credit for budget support to Pakistan as the trade deficit grew. What is the purpose of these credits? To keep us in the game. So we can keep losing more and more to them with every passing year. Let's emphasise something that should otherwise be obvious. China is doing nothing wrong here. This is, in fact, fairly normal trade policy for an emerging great power. All great powers have run a similar trajectory. They run trade surpluses with the rest of the world for prolonged periods, gathering more and more capital within their economy as the years pass. Then they become exporters of this capital to others. Eventually, as their economy becomes the single largest producer of goods and services, as well as the single largest supplier of capital to the world, they remake the rules of the game to make their currency the medium of exchange in global trade settlements as well as the key reserve asset. China is walking this timeline, although it has hit some snags in graduating from the role of "workshop of the world" to the key financier of the world economy. To repeat: China is doing nothing wrong, nothing sinister. This is normal trade policy for an emerging power, and its relationship with much of the world looks like this. It is Pakistan that has to learn something here. The first thing to do is to drain all emotion out of the relationship. This business of 'higher than the highest mountain' needs to end. Second thing is to take stock of the two free trade agreements we have had with China thus far, and decide whether we want to renew this in 2024 or not, and if so, on what terms. The most important thing is to realise that the game is all about earning capital, not borrowing it, not pulling it in with one-off fire sales of assets. Centre your relationships with all countries around this principle. Relationships that help you earn capital are to be built upon. Those that drain capital from you are to be reformed and changed. Build a foreign policy with this in mind. That is the only way the country can pull itself out from a cycle of endless borrowing.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1787727>

Pakistan urged to balance ties with US, China

Anwar Iqbal

WASHINGTON: Maintaining a strategic balance in relations with both the United States and China has become increasingly crucial for Pakistan to safeguard its interests amid growing tensions between these global powers, argued Wilson Center's Pakistan fellow Baqir Sajjad.

"This strategy helps Pakistan safeguard its interests and navigate the complexities of international politics," he said at a seminar hosted by the Washington think tank.

Mr Sajjad, also working on a book about the same subject for the Wilson Center, elaborated on the concept of 'calibrated hedging'. He outlined the "hedging plus" strategy, involving a nuanced approach in dealing with major global powers without fully aligning with any single power.

He argued that Pakistan must strategically select partners that align with its goals in the evolving global landscape.

Historically, Pakistan has had close ties with both powers. While Beijing provided substantial economic and military support, Washington has been a long-standing ally.

Various factors, such as the growing US-India relationship and increasing tensions between the US and Pakistan, however, have pushed Islamabad closer to Beijing.

But, recent developments indicate that Islamabad is inclined to maintain positive relations with both Beijing and Washington. This diplomatic approach mirrors Pakistan's aim to balance its ties with these major global players, preserving its interests amid shifting geopolitical dynamics.

Mr Sajjad supported this approach, emphasising that political, economic, and security imperatives necessitate Pakistan to maintain this strategic balance, avoiding being tied down by binding alliances.

The strategy recommends ensuring clarity, economic stability, and diplomatic agility for Pakistan's national interests amidst global power shifts.

He argued that Pakistan's primary focus must be on strategic engagement rather than alignment. Collaborative efforts with the US are essential, especially concerning economic challenges, regional stability, and counterterrorism. Simultaneously, Pakistan's alliance with China plays a crucial role in achieving economic development and addressing vulnerabilities regarding India.

The paper stresses that economic stability is a mutual concern and a critical point of convergence for both rival powers. Prioritising this objective can lead to broader engagement, given that Pakistan's fiscal health aligns with the geopolitical interests of both the US and China.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1787708>

Pakistan Observer

Pakistani businessmen tapping agri market at China Import Expo

Pakistan made it to the top ten exporters of grain and its products to China in the year 2022, registering \$456 million in value and representing a 14.12% growth y-o-y, according to the 2023 China Import Food Report released at the China Import Food Summit held on Tuesday at the China International Import Expo (CIIE) in Shanghai.

“China is a crucial market for us. This is my first visit to China, and its vibrant consumption market amazed me”, Pakistani sesame and rice dealer Muhammad Omair told China Economic Net.

He said so far this year, his company alone has exported over 150 containers of sesame to China and he strives to push it higher by setting up an exhibition stand at CIIE.

“Cheap freight, competitive prices, and high-quality products under the bilateral free trade agreement hold the key to Pakistan's grain export”, he said, adding, “high oil content in sesame makes it increasingly popular among oil extraction companies in China”. —APP

<https://pakobserver.net/pakistani-businessmen-tapping-agri-market-at-china-import-expo/>

The News

CPEC project to become a reality very soon: minister

LAHORE: Caretaker Provincial Health Minister Prof Dr Javed Akram said that China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) project will become a reality very soon. He said this while addressing a roundtable conference regarding CPEC at a local hotel on Wednesday.

Consul General China Zhao Shiren, Ahmed Saeed, Saad Faisal Malik, Faisal Zahid Malik, Khatib Badshahi Masjid Lahore Maulana Abdul Khabir Azad and officials participated in the event. In his address, the provincial health minister said that there have been cordial relations between Pakistan and China for many decades. For us, the CPEC is not just a road but a project of great importance. CPEC will prove to be a game changer and bring amazing growth in the economy of both the countries, he added.

He said that Health Department was trying to provide the best medical facilities to the people according to the vision of CM Mohsen Naqvi. A large number of medical students from Pakistan go to China for specialisation every year. We want permanent collaboration in research and other fields between our medical universities, he said. Dr Javed Akram also presented commemorative shields to Consul General of China in Lahore Zhao Shiren and other guests.

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=253744>

K2 Daily



https://www.epaper.dailyk2.com/Home?Issue=NP_ICT&Page=Back_Page&Date=2023-11-09

https://www.epaper.dailyk2.com/Home?Issue=NP_ICT&Page=Baqia&Date=2023-11-09



https://www.epaper.dailyk2.com/Home?Issue=NP_ICT&Page=Back_Page&Date=2023-11-09

https://www.epaper.dailyk2.com/Home?Issue=NP_ICT&Page=Classified&Date=2023-11-09

November 10, 2023

Pakistan Observer

Pakistan-China friendship, cooperation in various fields exemplary:

Kausar

Federal Minister for Food Security Dr. Kausar Abdullah Malik and Provincial Minister for Agriculture Punjab SM Tanveer visited University of Agriculture on Thursday and participated in China Pakistan Agriculture Forum at Center for Advanced Studies Auditorium.

Vice Chancellor Iqar Ahmad Khan, Chinese Party Secretary Dr. Cheng, Research Centers, Arid Agriculture University, agricultural experts, professors, officers and students from across the country participated in the ceremony.

Speaking at the ceremony, Federal Minister for Food Security Dr. Kausar Abdullah Malik said that Pakistan-China friendship and cooperation in various fields is ideal, while the student exchange agreement of the University of Agriculture with China is also very welcome, through which we can share each other's experiences, skills, modern technology, research in line with global requirements and agriculture, among others. It will help to understand the growth factors of the sector and to utilize them. He added that the wheat increase campaign is expected to increase the next production of wheat. The Federal Minister said that we are working on increasing the production of all crops so that we can not only meet the needs of the country's food grains by increasing our production as an agricultural country, but also import cooking oil, pulses and other commodities worth billions of rupees every year.

He said that we have no shortage of experts but they have not been utilized although Allah has blessed us with all kinds of seasons and we have the best canal system in the world and talented farmers. but in the past it was not utilized as it was needed and the result was that we

had to import cooking oil and other food commodities in dollars and due to day to day fluctuations in the value of the dollar, the people Inflation has to be faced. Dr. Kausar Abdullah Malik said that the government has requested its agricultural scientists and agronomists to work day and night to develop new varieties of food grains that are cost-effective and resistant to various diseases including pests and diseases. It has the ability to produce more per acre with less water usage.

Provincial Agriculture Minister SM Tanveer said in his address that he had visited China in September under the leadership of Chief Minister, Punjab Mohsin Naqvi, where he had signed various cooperation agreements with China in various sectors including agriculture, which had positive results very soon. He said that this year in Punjab, 160 million acres of land is being cultivated under wheat while the provincial government has distributed certified wheat seed bags to the farmers free of cost and the support price of wheat has been provided by the Punjab government.

<https://pakobserver.net/pakistan-china-friendship-cooperation-in-various-fields-exemplary-kausar/>

Pakistan participates in CIIE with its largest effort ever

19 Pakistani exhibitors are participating in the ongoing 6th China International Import Expo (CIIE) being held from 5th to 10th November in Shanghai, which has made a remarkable mark by showcasing Pakistan's largest effort ever.

The expo, which has been held annually in Shanghai since 2018, is a major platform for promoting international trade and cooperation, according to a report published by China Economic Net (CEN) on Thursday.

“Pakistan's active participation in this prestigious event highlights its commitment to strengthening economic ties with China, Pakistan's second largest export destination, and exploring new avenues of collaboration,” said Hussain Haider, Consul General in Shanghai. One of the key highlights of Pakistan's participation in the 6th CIIE is its focus on promoting its diverse range of export products.

From leathers and surgical instruments to agricultural goods and handicrafts, Pakistan has showcased its rich cultural heritage and economic potential.

Pakistan's pavilions, adorned with vibrant displays and innovative products, have attracted the attention of exhibitors and visitors alike.

<https://pakobserver.net/pakistan-participates-in-ciie-with-its-largest-effort-ever/>

Saud Faisal Malik crafts vision to redefine nations' destiny through high-quality CPEC development

The Daily CPEC Founder and CEO Mr Saud Faisal Malik addressing the round table conference.

Mr. Saud Faisal Malik, the founder and the Chief Executive Officer of The Daily CPEC, extended a warm welcome to attendees at the roundtable conference on the 3rd Belt and Road Forum: A New Stage of High-Quality Development within the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). The conference was held at a local hotel in Lahore on Wednesday and brought together distinguished participants from various sectors. In his opening speech, Mr. Saud emphasized the historical significance of the occasion and expressed his profound gratitude to Mr. Zhao Shiren, the Chinese Consul General in Lahore, for his unwavering commitment to strengthening Sino-Pak relations and advancing initiatives within the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

I'm deeply honored to address you on a momentous occasion that coincides with several significant milestones, adding to the significance of our discussion," said Mr. Saud while extending his profound gratitude to Mr. Zhao Shiren, the Chinese Consul General in Lahore. Mr. Saud also acknowledged the invaluable contributions of Mr. Ahmed Saeed, Director General of the National Institute of Maritime Affairs (NIMA), in enhancing comprehension and capabilities in the realm of maritime affairs, an essential aspect within the context of CPEC. He also praised Mr. Li Chen, CEO of Orange Line, highlighting the vital role enterprises like Orange Line play in driving economic growth and innovation. Punjab Caretaker Health Minister Professor Dr. Javed Akram's participation in the conference was also recognized, with Mr. Saud emphasizing the pivotal role of the healthcare sector within the broader framework of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor. "The insights and expertise offered by the Minister were deemed invaluable in shaping the discussions," said Mr. Saud Faisal. "He stated that the primary focus of the Roundtable Conference was on the future of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and its essential role within the broader Belt and Road Initiative.

Mr. Saud emphasized that this gathering presented an unprecedented opportunity to forge a path forward that transcends borders, connects nations, and leaves an indelible mark on history. Having recently attended the 3D Belt and Road Forum in Beijing, Mr. Saud shared insights gleaned from this global event, which brought together leaders and visionaries from around the world to foster collaboration and promote a more interconnected world.

The forum discussions underscored the profound impact of the Belt and Road Initiative on the global stage, going beyond conventional infrastructure and development to embody a visionary quest for collaboration, uplifting nations, and creating a more interconnected world.

Mr. Saud highlighted the emphasis on high-quality development, the digital economy, and sustainable growth within the Belt and Road Initiative, aligning with the global narrative of excellence and environmental consciousness.

<https://pakobserver.net/saud-faisal-malik-crafts-vision-to-redefine-nations-destiny-through-high-quality-cpec-development/>

Pakistani delegation visits SCO platform in China

A Pakistani delegation led by Ali Hussain, vice president of the Pakistan House Economic and Business Advisory Committee, visited the Trade and Economic Multifunctional Platform for SCO Countries in Chongqing, China. Hu Kaiqiang, the Secretary-General of the Platform, received the delegation and held a meeting. During the meeting, Hu Kaiqiang introduced the Platform's 16 industry working committees covering sectors such as culture, tourism, education and healthcare. Ali Hussain hailed the Platform's efforts in facilitating international collaboration in different sectors and expressed the intention to cooperate. "As a research institution specializing in international affairs and policy, we have extensive connections with international think tanks that can provide valuable expertise and insights for collaboration. We also seek to establish connections with the Platform's think tank, fostering exchanges and cooperation in international affairs." Following the constructive discussions, Pakistan House and the Platform reached an agreement to further promote cooperation in cross-border settlement and precious metal.—APP

<https://pakobserver.net/pakistani-delegation-visits-sco-platform-in-china/>

November 11, 2023

Pakistan Observer

Smart Agri Forum in Beijing attracts Pakistani experts, entrepreneurs

The Smart Agriculture Forum was held on the sidelines of World Agrifood Innovation Conference in Beijing which attracted over 200 agricultural experts from China and around the world. During the forum, experts and entrepreneurs from the United States, Germany, Australia, Japan, Pakistan, and China delivered presentations, sharing the latest research advancements and practical applications in smart agriculture, CEM reported. Pakistani Professor Muhammad Naveed Tahir from Pir Mehr Ali Shah Arid Agriculture University Rawalpindi (PMAS-AAUR), and Professor Farman Ali Chandio from the University of Sindh provided insights into the current state of Pakistan's agriculture and presented their visionary ideas for precision agriculture and digital farming. "In recent years, real-time technology has revolutionized the application of weedicides, pesticides, and fungicides. We have conducted several training workshops on variable rate technology (VRT) which enables precise allocation of agricultural inputs based on spatial variations in soil, topography, fertility levels, and other field characteristics, utilizing GPS/GIS map-based and sensor-based applications," stated Dr Muhammad Naveed Tahir. He also shared his experience in establishing Smart Internet of Things(IoT) Farm. "The similar climatic conditions in China and Pakistan offer a significant opportunity for Pakistan to learn from China's expertise in precision agriculture and improve agricultural outputs," Dr Naveed added. "Leveraging modern technologies such as the IoT to enhance agricultural production and management capabilities is crucial," said Wang Yingkuan, the Secretary-General of the China Society of Agricultural Engineering and the host of the forum.—APP

<https://pakobserver.net/smart-agri-forum-in-beijing-attracts-pakistani-experts-entrepreneurs/>

Sino-Pak Agri collaborations will boost agriculture led economy of Pakistan: Ali

A high-level delegation from Huazhong Agricultural University and Chinese Academy of Agriculture Sciences (CAAS), P.R. China visited National Agricultural Research Centre, Islamabad. Both universities are esteemed institutions for agricultural research in China and are globally recognized, holding prominent positions in world rankings. Chairman PARC, Dr. Ghulam Muhammad Ali, gave an overview of Pakistan's Agriculture and role of PARC in ensuring National Food and Nutritional Security. Dr. Ali emphasized the importance of collaborative research in the agriculture and food sectors between Pakistan and China, leveraging Chinese expertise and the abundant and diverse resources of Pakistan for the mutual benefit of both nations. Dr. Ali underscored the importance of collaborative endeavors with Chinese universities in advancing high-tech agricultural research to promote sustainability in Pakistan. He also indicated that numerous scientists in the country have acquired expertise and honed their skills from top-tier Chinese institutions. Mr. Li Zhaohu, President Huazhong Agricultural University presented an overview of University's history and functionality. Mr. Li also emphasized potential areas of collaboration with PARC, specifically focusing on Genetic Improvement of Crops, Vegetable Molecular Breeding and Quality Improvement, Infectious Diseases of Animals, and Genetic Enhancement of Aquaculture. He also highlighted the importance of scientific collaboration in genetic diversity, Biotechnology, germplasm exchange and conservation. Mr. Li expressed the hope of strengthening collaborative research on agricultural advancement and promoting agricultural trade with Pakistan. The representative from CAAS provided a comprehensive overview of the university's agricultural research initiatives. <https://pakobserver.net/sino-pak-agri-collaborations-will-boost-agriculture-led-economy-of-pakistan-ali/>

Nawaiwaqt News

سی پیک سے پاکستان معاشی سرگرمیوں کا علاقائی مرکز بن گیا، احسن اقبال

لاہور (آئی این پی) سیکرٹری جنرل پاکستان مسلم لیگ ن و سابق وفاقی وزیر منصوبہ بندی احسن اقبال نے کہا ہے کہ سی پیک سے پاکستان معاشی سرگرمیوں کا علاقائی مرکز بن گیا ہے۔ بیلٹ اینڈ روڈ انیشی ایٹو (بی آئی) کے ثمرات سے متعلق موضوع پر منعقدہ سیمینار سے خطاب کرتے ہوئے احسن اقبال کا کہنا تھا کہ بیلٹ اینڈ روڈ منصوبہ پاکستان کیلئے لائف لائن بن چکا ہے، چینی صدر شی جن پنگ کا تصور دنیا کے بین الاقوامی تعلقات میں بڑی تبدیلی لایا ہے، سرحدوں کی قید سے ماورا وٹن لوگوں کو انفراسٹرکچر کے جال کے ذریعے جوڑ رہا ہے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ یوکرین کی جنگ ختم نہیں ہوئی اور فلسطین میں جنگ بھڑک اٹھی ہے، اسرائیل مغرب کی غیر مشروط حمایت سے فلسطین پر ظلم و بربریت کر رہا ہے، غزہ بچوں کا قبرستان بن گیا ہے، نسل کشی کا نشانہ بننے والوں کے حق میں آواز اٹھانے پر چین کو خراج تحسین پیش کرتے ہیں۔ سابق وفاقی وزیر نے کہا کہ بیلٹ اینڈ روڈ عالمی تعاون اور اشتراک عمل کی حیران کن مثال بن چکا ہے، بی آئی میں دنیا کے مشکل مسائل حل کرنے کی صلاحیت موجود ہے، سی پیک سے پاکستان معاشی سرگرمیوں کا علاقائی مرکز بن گیا ہے، بی آئی کے نشان ساتھ ایٹا، ساتھ ایٹا اور سینٹرل ایٹا تک پھیل چکے ہیں۔ رہنما لیگ کامزید کہنا تھا کہ ایشیا، یورپ اور افریقہ کو جوڑنے کا ذریعہ یہ منصوبہ عالمی معیشت کیلئے نہایت اہم ہے، سیاسی جماعتیں عوام کیلئے فیصلہ سازی کرتی ہیں، سیاسی جماعتوں میں تعاون مستقبل کی صورت گیری میں نہایت اہم ہے، دنیا کو آج سب سے بڑھ کر تعاون کی راہ اپنانے کی ضرورت ہے۔

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/lahore/2023-11-11/page-8/detail-5>

چینی وفد کا دورہ زرعی یونیورسٹی، تدریس و تحقیق میں تعاون پر اتفاق

فیصل آباد (نمائندہ خصوصی) ہوٹانگ زرعی یونیورسٹی چائنا اور زرعی یونیورسٹی فیصل آباد کے مابین تحقیق اور تدریس میں تعاون کو فروغ دیا جائے گا جس کے تحت زرعی تجارت، پھلوں، سبزیوں کی نئی اقسام، جانوروں کی بیماریوں و دیگر زرعی شعبہ جات میں تحقیقات عمل میں لانے کے ساتھ ساتھ زرعی ٹیکنالوجی کا تبادلہ اور تربیتی پروگرام کا بھی انعقاد کیا جائے گا۔ اس امر پر اتفاق ہوٹانگ زرعی یونیورسٹی چائنا کے وفد نے زرعی یونیورسٹی فیصل آباد کے وائس چانسلر پروفیسر ڈاکٹر اقرار احمد خاں کے ساتھ ملاقات کے دوران کیا۔ اس موقع پر پروفیسر ڈاکٹر چانسلر / ڈین کلیہ زراعت پروفیسر ڈاکٹر محمد سرور خاں، ڈیزائنڈ ڈاکٹر مسعود صادق بٹ، ڈاکٹر قمر بلال، ڈاکٹر فرزانہ رضوی، ڈاکٹر اعجاز احمد بھٹی، ڈاکٹر خالد مشتاق، کنفیوشس انسٹیٹیوٹ کے ڈائریکٹر ظہیر احمد ظہیر، ڈائریکٹر ریسرچ ڈاکٹر جعفر جیکانی، ڈائریکٹر ایکسٹرنل لنکیجز ڈاکٹر محمد ثاقب، ڈاکٹر انجم منیر، لائبریرین عمر فاروق و دیگر بھی موجود تھے۔ چین کے وفد میں پارٹی کمیٹی سیکرٹریز شوونگ ہانگ، کرونگ، فنگ گولنگ، ڈپٹی سیکرٹری وانگ روبن، ڈپٹی ڈین لی زنگ وانگ و دیگر بھی موجود تھے۔

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/lahore/2023-11-11/page-8/detail-56>

November 12, 2023

Business Recorder

Pakistan-China naval exercise commences

KARACHI: Opening Ceremony of Pakistan Navy and PLA (Navy) bilateral exercise Sea Guardian-2023 was held at Pakistan Navy Dockyard, Karachi. Commander Qingdao Naval Base, Rear Admiral Liang Yang graced the occasion as Guest of Honour. Commander Pakistan Fleet, Vice Admiral Muhammad Faisal Abbasi was also present at the occasion. In his opening remarks, Vice Admiral Muhammad Faisal Abbasi welcomed the officers and personnel of PLA (N) Flotilla, underscoring the close and strategic ties between the two countries in general and Navies in particular. The admiral emphasized on the importance of immaculate & sound planning during the exercise and hoped that this exercise will further enhance strategic cooperation and interoperability between the two navies. During his speech, Commander Qingdao Naval Base Rear Admiral Liang Yang thanked Pakistan Navy for hosting Exercise Sea Guardian and hoped to have a mutually benefiting and professionally rewarding experience from the joint exercise. Earlier, Chinese Flotilla comprising of naval ships, Submarine and Submarine Rescue Ship along with PLA (Navy) Marines Corps Detachment, arrived Karachi to participate in the exercise. During exercise, frontline destroyers/ frigates along with Air and other assets and Marines/ Special Forces from Pakistan Navy and PLA (Navy) will carry out advance level joint drills and naval maneuvers in North Arabian Sea besides professional and social activities during the harbor phase. The aim of Exercise Sea Guardian-2023 is to share professional experiences on contemporary traditional and non-traditional threats in Indian Ocean Region as well as to enhance bilateral cooperation and interoperability between the two Navies. The exercise is a reflection of strong bilateral military cooperation between Pakistan Navy and Chinese Navy and will foster greater bilateral cooperation between the two navies.—PR

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2023/11/12/5-page/976780-news.html>

Daily Times

Pakistan- China glass manufacturing unit starts operations in SEZ Faisalabad

Deli-JW Glassware, a manufacturing unit established through collaboration between China's Anhui Deli Household Glass Co Ltd. and Pakistan's JW SEZ Group, has commenced operations in M-3 industrial city (FIEDMC) Faisalabad.

According to Javed Afridi, CEO of Haier and Ruba Pakistan, the company has officially begun operations in Pakistan, generating manufacturing and construction jobs with an investment of USD 200 million. The factory is one of the largest plants in Pakistan, covering a total area of 36 acres, according to a report published by Gwadar Pro on Tuesday.

The company has trained a significant number of qualified workers and aided them in strengthening their managerial abilities. A team of around three hundred personnel is actively engaged in the company's operations, ensuring the manufacturing of a quality product and its smooth, trouble-free delivery to the customer.

Javed Afridi stated, "The 'Made in Pakistan' initiative will not only boost the economy but will also establish Pakistan as one of the leading producers in the international market." He added that the production of glassware units will replace imports of premium quality glassware from China and other regions into Pakistan, enabling Pakistan to export it worldwide.

The objective of the project is to establish a modern, world-class Glass Manufacturing Complex for the production of premium, export-quality glass products in Pakistan.

The project will utilize the natural resources in Pakistan and employ the latest technology to transform them into glassware, including floating glass and other types of glass products.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1139163/pakistan-china-glass-manufacturing-unit-starts-operations-in-sez-faisalabad/>

Dawn News

130 countries to take part in Belt and Road Initiative celebrations next week

BEIJING: China announced on Wednesday it will host a gathering of foreign leaders next week to celebrate a decade of its Belt and Road Initiative project, with Russian President Vladimir Putin expected to attend.

The Belt and Road Initiative is a landmark project in President Xi Jinping's bid to expand China's clout overseas, with Beijing saying this week it had now inked over two trillion dollars in contracts across the world.

Representatives from over 130 countries are due to take part in the event, scheduled for Oct 17 and 18, with Xi set to deliver an opening speech and hold a welcoming banquet for foreign leaders.

It is the third forum of its kind since China launched the vast investment initiative, with events previously held in 2017 and 2019. Mega-project has already delivered ‘real gains’ to participating nations, Beijing says

Russian President Putin has said he will attend the event, in what will be his first visit to China since the Ukraine war began last year. Top Russian diplomat Sergei Lavrov will also attend and hold talks with Chinese counterpart Wang Yi, Moscow said.

China and Russia describe each other as strategic allies, frequently touting their “no limits” partnership and economic and military cooperation. China has refused to condemn the war, and has tried to position itself as a neutral party, while at the same time offering Moscow a vital diplomatic and financial lifeline.

“We welcome countries and partners actively participating in the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) to come to Beijing to discuss cooperation plans and seek common development,” foreign ministry spokesperson Mao Ning said last month.

‘Significant debt distress’

Beijing hailed the BRI on Tuesday as having “delivered real gains to participating countries”. It also said the balance of loans for BRI projects from the Export-Import Bank of China (Eximbank) — a key BRI creditor — now totalled 2.2 trillion yuan (\$307.4 billion). Eximbank has financed major transport and energy projects across the BRI and has been linked to foreign loan plans everywhere from Africa to Central Asia. But some of Beijing’s partners are increasingly wary about the cost involved. Italy, the only one of the group of leading developed democracies to sign up to the investment scheme, said last month it was considering opting out of the deal. A report by experts at Boston University’s Global Development Policy noted the BRI’s role in providing “additional resources for the Global South” and fostering “significant economic growth”. But it also added, “Many of the recipients of Chinese finance are subject to significant debt distress, with several countries owing China a significant share of their external debt.”

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1780637>

Pakistan Observer

Pakistani handicrafts shine at CIIE

Pakistani exhibitor Habib Ur Rehman brought local specialty lamps made of rock salt to the fourth CIIE, fanning a craze among the expo visitors. He sold about 60,000 lamps through the orders harvested at the expo and a fair in Shanghai dedicated to selling CIIE goods. At the 6th CIIE, Habib and his brother Mian Muhammad Zubair have been promoting Pakistani cultural heritage camel skin lamps. “The Chinese market is very resilient, and many of my old customers have already contacted me to order new products for this year,” he said. “We hope through the expo, Chinese consumers will pay attention to the originality of Pakistani handicrafts, which will help the sustainable development of our handicraft industry.”—Xinhua

<https://pakobserver.net/pakistani-handicrafts-shine-at-ciie/>

The Express Tribune

Switchover from US to Russia-China orbit?

Gaza crisis demonstrates that the world order is not just and is tilted in favour of the West

Dr Muhammad Ali Ehsan

The big story of 21st century will not be the story of the US military might or Israel's crimes against humanity and genocides but the rise of East against the West under the Russo-Sino leadership. The Gaza crisis demonstrates that the world order is not just and is tilted in favour of the West. Under these circumstances, the 'no-limits partnership' between the two great powers, Russia and China, lends hope to the developing world in the global south. The basis of this growing Russo-Sino relationship is the Chinese stand on the Ukraine crisis and many scholars consider the special operations in Ukraine by Russia as the firing of the first salvo at the existing US world order of liberal internationalism. Both Russia and China consider that if they don't stand up together as partners, their sphere of influence in Eurasia and Western Pacific will be gobbled up by the imperialist western powers.

Pakistan can join the partnership of these two great powers to jointly dominate the Indo-Pacific region. Pakistan's deep-sea ports in the Indian Ocean and Chinese access to the Western Pacific through its own ports can create a ring of security around Asia-Pacific. This trilateral alliance, together with other interested countries can prevent the ideological encroachment of this region by the US and its western allies and from doing what the US is best at doing — triggering and supporting revolts and revolutions in the Asia-Pacific countries in future. The alliance can accommodate more countries in the future not only to prevent the regional geopolitical encirclement but also the US-backed economic stagnation of this region.

Pakistan is on the threshold of building a new relationship with its Cold War rival Russia — something that is essential for Pakistan to make the much-needed transition from geo-strategic to geo-economic domain which is now part of its national security strategy. For a decade or so, there has been a thaw in the Russo-Pakistan relationship. Russia introduced a free trade agreement in the region by the name of Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) in 2015 with the goal of increasing the economic cooperation and raising the living standards of people of Belarus, Armenia, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan which together with Russia are the member countries of this union. A year prior to that, in June 2014, Russia lifted the self-imposed arms embargo on Pakistan and the same year when EAEU came into being the process of including Pakistan in SCO began which culminated when Pakistan together with India officially joined SCO in 2017. Also, in 2015 Russia posted on its state-funded official Think Tank Website RISS (Russian Institute of Strategic Studies) an article written by Andrew Korybko titled 'Pakistan is a zipper of Pan-Eurasian integration'.

It was in this article that the Russian dream of Eurasian integration was highlighted in detail and it was in the same article that Pakistan was referred to as 'South Asia's gatekeeper' and a country that was at the heart of any scheme designed to extract geopolitical and geo-economic benefits in Eurasia. Far from being a lost cause, Pakistan was termed the supercontinent's most important economic hope. The importance of Pakistan's potential was

explained in its ability to connect the massive economies of the Eurasian Union, Iran, SAARC and China, thereby creating a pan-Eurasian economic zone.

For Pakistan the choice is very clear. The world is experiencing a great transformation; and with the US pivoting towards Asia, nobody is sure what would be the future security environment of the region and what will be the new developing threats. The example of the Middle East and the US-Israel genocidal military campaign in Gaza is in front of us. Despite the growing protests and a huge mandate given by the countries of the global south in UN General Assembly, the world has failed to execute and implement a ceasefire in Gaza. The recipe against the disease that the US and Israel spread through their military might is alliances and partnerships. The trilateral alliance between three nuclear powers in the region can just be the start. The other Indian Ocean Rim States can eventually join the alliance under security guarantee similar to the one enjoyed by the European states under the article 5 situation of NATO charter. Pakistan can take a lead from the work of General Deisen, the Chief of Defense in Norway, who conceptualises how “two powerful trends are driving small and medium-sized European countries towards a fundamental change in their defense policies — one economic and the other strategic. Given the cost of growing military capabilities, small countries can simply no longer afford the luxury of sustaining the complete spectrum of capabilities of a modern conventional defense force on a national basis.” Economically, Pakistan is tied to China through CPEC and BRI and strategically it can rely on the trilateral alliance to meet its geopolitical, geo-economics and geostrategic interests. In the 21st century, security is becoming rapidly regionalised and security challenges in the region must not be viewed with different conclusions and different priorities and the all-for-one and one-for-all is the most suitable security architecture that this trilateral alliance can help establish not only as a guarantee of security for the region but also creating an institutional ownership of any crisis that may arise in the region in future. As a result of the US pivot to Asia Pacific if the tensions between Russia and the US or China and the US increase then Pakistan will face a perfect integration dilemma: which powers should it integrate with and stand? The regional powers with which it shares its future or with an outside power which is fast losing its credibility and status as a global hegemon? For Pakistan the big question is the presence of this contradictory political and military desire. At this stage it seems that the most popular political party in Pakistan wants to be part of this trilateral alliance but the military is not ready to annoy the US which has been its erstwhile defence and strategic partner.

The switchover from the US to the Russia-China orbit is not easy and will remain an intensely politicised question in Pakistan because this switchover is a matter of changing foreign policy choices and national security choices and these subjects are not civilian but military subjects in Pakistan and are immune to any grand change or criticism. Military must support both the civilianisation of foreign policy and national defence policy. It must also pave the way and encourage the politicians to engage with regional powers and neighbouring countries in political dialogue and economic cooperation using the so-called soft power to achieve our foreign and defence policy goals. That is the only way forward if we want to survive as credible and respectable nation in 21st century.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2445918/switchover-from-us-to-russia-china-orbit>

The Nation

Virtual B2B session on exports of sesame seeds to China organised

KARACHI - TDAP in collaboration with TIO-Beijing organised a virtual B2B session on exports of sesame seeds to China on 10th November 2023. The session was attended by 43 exporters of sesame seeds from Pakistan and 8 importers from China. The webinar was started with the opening remarks by DG (AFD), TDAP and followed by detailed briefing by TIC-Beijing about the potential of exports of sesame seeds from Pakistan, the procedure and requirement of import of sesame seeds by China. After the briefing, a B2B session was organized in which Chinese and Pakistani companies introduced themselves to each other and the session was ended with questions and answer session. During the webinar many new companies showed interest in exporting sesame seeds from Pakistan keeping in view the potential. Moreover, some growers also showed interest in growing sesame seeds.

It is pertinent to mention that Pakistan is the 5th largest exporter of sesame seed in the world. As per ITC data total exports of sesame seed to the world was \$148 million in 2022 out of which \$96.46 million was to China. During the meeting, exporters also informed that most of our sesame seed to China is converted into powder and oil and exported duty free to S Korea. Exporters are also showed keen interest in Korean market as pricing is higher there. Keeping in view of the potential of exports of this product, Athar Hussain Khokhar, DG-TDAP, informed: "We are immediately sending trade delegation to China for further tapping Chinese market." He also announced that TDAP will explore other potential markets for enhancing share in sesame export.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/12-Nov-2023/virtual-b2b-session-on-exports-of-sesame-seeds-to-china-organsied>

November 13, 2023

Business Recorder

Sea Guardians-3 strengthens Sino-Pak naval ties: experts

BEIJING: China and Pakistan have common interests in jointly safeguarding strategic sea lanes in regions like the Indian Ocean, where piracy, terrorism and other dangerous activities pose threats to the maritime transport of energy and goods, Wei Dongxu, a Chinese military expert said on Sunday.

The largest-ever joint exercise between the Chinese and Pakistani navies began in Pakistan yesterday as the two countries continue to enhance their capabilities in jointly safeguarding strategic sea lanes as well as regional peace and stability, experts told Global Times on Sunday.

The Sea Guardians-3 joint maritime exercise kicked off with an opening ceremony at the Karachi Naval Dockyard.

Participating forces from the Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) Navy include the Type 052D guided missile destroyer Zibo, the Type 054A guided missile destroyers Jingzhou and Linyi, with Pakistani media reporting that a conventional attack submarine and a

submarine support ship along with a marines corps detachment from the PLA Navy are also involved.

Under the common aim of jointly responding to maritime security threats, the nine-day exercise in the waters and airspace of the northern Arabian Sea will organize training courses including formation maneuvering, VBSS (visit, board, search and seizure), helicopter cross-deck landing, joint search and rescue, joint anti-submarine and main gun shooting, plus professional exchanges and mutual visits.

It is the third and the largest edition of the Sea Guardian exercises. The first edition was held in 2020 in the northern Arabian Sea waters, and the second edition was held in 2022 in waters off Shanghai.

“The exercise is dedicated to enhance the all-weather strategic cooperative partnership, boost defense cooperation and deepen professional cooperation,” said Rear Admiral Liang Yang, commander at a PLA Navy base and the general director of the exercise from the Chinese side, said at the opening ceremony.

Liang said he hopes the two navies can further enhance their joint operational capabilities in dealing with maritime security threats and safeguard maritime peace.

Indian Ocean, where piracy, terrorism and other dangerous activities pose threats to the maritime transport of energy and goods.

Joint drills like these also safeguard the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, an important part of the China-proposed Belt and Road Initiative, and comprehensively contribute to the peace and stability in the Indian Ocean region, an expert familiar with China-Pakistan military cooperation, told the Global Times under the condition of anonymity.

Outside of joint drills, China-Pakistan naval cooperation also includes high-level visits, expert talks, training exchanges and equipment cooperation.

In May, China wrapped up delivery of all four Type 054A/P guided missile frigates to the Pakistani Navy, with the Hangor-class submarines being built simultaneously in China and Pakistan.

Observers expect further in-depth cooperation between the PLA Navy and the Pakistan Navy in the future. —APP

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2023/11/13/12-page/976892-news.html>

Pakistan Observer

APCEA holds briefing on CPEC Transportation Infrastructure Projects

Talal Ch

ISLAMABAD – The second round of the Infodor Media Salon on CPEC was successfully held at the All-Pakistan Chinese Enterprises’ Association’s (APCEA) head office, here in Islamabad, this time covering the theme of analyzing the decade of CPEC’s transportation infrastructure sector, reviewed the development of CPEC in the past ten years, focusing on the large amount of work done by enterprises in the localization of operation and contribution of corporate social responsibility (CSR) during the construction of the corridor, and discussed

how to further actively tell the story of the corridor and better promote the development of the corridor in the next stage. The event was hosted by the Association's Transportation Sector Council. The event was graced by over 30 participants, including Chinese enterprises from the transportation infrastructure and construction industry such as Power China, China Road and Bridge Corporation (CRBC), China State Construction Engineering Corporation (CSCEC), China North Industries Corporation (CNIC), and China Communications Construction Company (CCCC), China Harbor Engineering Company (CHEC), and China Railway Group Limited (CREC). The event also had significant representation from Chinese (CCTV, Xinhua News Agency, Guangming Daily, Huashang Weekly) and Pakistani media (Pakistan Observer, Pakistan Economic Net, Daily Ittehad, Independent News Pakistan, The Pakistan Times, Gwadar Pro & China Economic Net). It was also attended by representatives from the National Highway Authority (NHA) and COMSATS University, along with participants from various think tanks. The participants reflected on the ten-year development under CPEC and deliberated upon the future prospects in the respective sectors. The participating Chinese enterprises shared the achievements and valuable experiences acquired during the course of their respective projects across various locations in Pakistan. They also highlighted—via facts, figures and heartwarming instances of personal experience—the positive contributions in domains such as job creation, nurturing talents, fulfilling their CSR, depicting their consistent dedication to CPEC over the past decade and elevating the standards of local livelihood. The enterprises also expressed their resolve and commitment to their roles and responsibilities in future construction of the CPEC. Representing the Pakistani counterparts of the transportation infrastructure sector, Mr. Asim Amin, Member Planning from National Highway Authority(NHA), from the perspectives of the managerial level of the government of Pakistan, assessed the laudable achievements and vital contributions made by the Chinese enterprise in the implementation of CPEC. He expressed his recognition, praise and gratitude to these companies since he himself participated in the entire planning, designing and constructing stage of the first phase of the CPEC. Encouraged by the warm atmosphere of the gathering, participants from think tanks and media community engaged in candid, yet insightful, discussions with the representatives of Chinese enterprises. Experts from think tanks and friends from the media also spoke freely and had detailed and in-depth exchanges with representatives of Chinese Enterprises present. The two sides discussed about training of Pakistani Engineers, promotion & application of clean energy, the release of Chinese enterprises' CSR Report and further integrative development with all stakeholders etc. The participants shared their advice & suggestions collectively together, and are looking forward to making the greater, better and more solid achievement during next step of the construction of the CPEC, so that the outside world can fully understand the real CPEC and the tangible benefits it brings to the Pakistani government and people. Friends from the media expressed their willingness to continue being the disseminators and narrators of the stories of China-Pakistan Friendship. They pledged to voice out and spread the principles of “extensive consultation, joint contribution and shared benefits” of the Belt and Road Initiative to regions across the globe. As CPEC continues to progress, the “ironclad” friendship between China and Pakistan will undoubtedly be deeply rooted in the very hearts of the people.

<https://pakobserver.net/apcea-holds-briefing-on-cpec-transportation-infrastructure-projects1/>

KP, China Window sign MoU to promote friendship, culture

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed on Sunday between the Provincial Department of Local Government, Elections and Rural Development of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Pakistan and China Window, a Chinese cultural center established in Peshawar. The MoU aims to promote Pakistan-China friendship, Chinese culture, and development in various areas of life throughout Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. The MoU signing ceremony was held in the conference room of the Local Government Department. Secretary Local Council Board Mian Shafiqur Rehman and Administrator of China Window Amjad Aziz Malik signed the memorandum. Secretary Local Government, Elections and Rural Development Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Dawood Khan, Special Secretary Establishment Local Government Muhammad Masood Khan and Director China Window Imtiaz Ahmed were also present on the occasion. According to the MoU, a corner will be established in China Window regarding the development of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, support will be provided for teaching Chinese language in Peshawar Municipal School and College, cultural cooperation will be enhanced, steps will be taken to increase cultural relations between Abbottabad and Kashgar and Peshawar and Urumqi which has already got the status of sister cities.

<https://pakobserver.net/kp-china-window-sign-mou-to-promote-friendship-culture/>

Chinese, Pakistani experts preserve Upper Indus paintings

Chinese and Pakistani experts jointly worked to preserve Upper Indus rock paintings corridor, Gwadar Pro reported. A joint China-Pakistan archaeological survey team led by Chongqing Normal University for the project of conserving the Upper Indus Rock Painting Corridor held its opening ceremony in Bahawalpur. In a groundbreaking collaboration, the joint effort aims to preserve and promote the region's rich cultural heritage while fostering international cooperation in the field of archaeology. The corridor of Buddhist rock paintings and Chinese inscriptions on the Upper Indus is not only an extremely valuable historical and cultural heritage of the local people but also belongs to all mankind.

<https://pakobserver.net/chinese-pakistani-experts-preserve-upper-indus-rock-paintings/>

Pak-China naval exercise kicks off

The opening ceremony of Pakistan Navy and China's PLA (Navy) bilateral exercise Sea Guardian-2023 was held at Pakistan Navy Dockyard, Karachi. Commander Qingdao Naval Base, Rear Admiral Liang Yang graced the occasion as Guest of Honour. Commander Pakistan Fleet, Vice Admiral Muhammad Faisal Abbasi was also present at the occasion. In his opening remarks, Vice Admiral Muhammad Faisal Abbasi welcomed the officers and personnel of PLA Flotilla, underscoring the close and strategic ties between the two countries in general and navies in particular. During his speech, Rear Admiral Yang thanked Pakistan Navy for hosting Exercise Sea Guardian, hoping to have a mutually benefiting and professionally rewarding experience from the joint exercise. Earlier, Chinese Flotilla comprising naval ships, submarine and submarine rescue ship along with PLA (Navy) Marines Corps Detachment, arrived in Karachi to participate in the exercise.—APP

<https://pakobserver.net/pak-china-naval-exercise-kicks-off/>

Sindh becomes home to Chinese brothers: Baqar

Caretaker Sindh Chief Minister Justice (Retd) Maqbool Baqar has welcomed the Chinese Naval Fleet at the beautiful city of Karachi Port (East Wharf) and urged Chinese personnel to visit this megalopolis, which takes pride in its long history of old as well as modern eras protected by its seaport, old and new buildings, its cuisine and even its people.

I would say that Karachi is a beautiful blend of urban and rural, old and modern lifestyle. He said while speaking at a reception the Chinese Consul General Yang Yundong had hosted for the Chinese Naval Fleet at East Wharf.

The reception was attended by Home Minister Brig (Retd) Haris Nawaz, Vice Admiral Mouhammad Faisal, Chinese Navy Fleet Commander Sun Bo and others. The beauty of Karachi and its pleasant breeze in this open sea also welcome the fleet from China. He added that the people of Pakistan and China were already connected with mutual respect, love, and fraternity but the CPEC-related connectivity has narrowed the distance of travel, development, and cooperation altogether. “Under the CPEC and non-CPEC projects, Sindh has become home to our Chinese brothers,” he said. The caretaker chief minister while addressing Consul General of China Yang Yundong, Commander Fleet Sun Bo and other Chinese and Pakistani friends shared his experience of his recent visit to Beijing. “During my stay in Beijing, I visited business centers, and restaurants walked on the roads, travelled in subways, buses and cars and went shopping – I witnessed and observed through the interaction and the visits that China has surpassed all the targets set for human development, apart from development in Science and Technology,” the CM said and added that the philosophy Mr Xi has developed was based on sharing his human development experience with other nations through his CPEC and One-Belt-One-Road, the mega development projects ever witnessed in human history. Justice Baqar said that the Chinese Navy’s fleet visit to Karachi-Pakistan was bound to enhance maritime collaboration between the two navies, Pakistan and China, he said and added that such visits promote peace and security in the region, enhance maritime collaboration and open new avenues of bilateral cooperation between the friendly countries.

<https://pakobserver.net/sindh-becomes-home-to-chinese-brothers-baqar/>

The Express Tribune

PM to attend BRI moot in China

The PM is undertaking the visit at the invitation of Chinese President Xi Jinping, says FO spokesperson

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaarul Haq Kakar will visit China to participate in the ‘Third Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation’, being held in Beijing from October 17-18, the Foreign Office said on Thursday. The prime minister is undertaking the visit at the invitation of Chinese President Xi Jinping, the Foreign Office spokesperson said at a weekly press briefing. Spokesperson Mumtaz Zahra Baloch said PM Kakar would attend the opening ceremony of the BRF and address the high-level forum titled ‘Connectivity in an Open Global Economy’ on October <https://tribune.com.pk/story/2440718/1>

Pakistan fails to realise CPEC potential

Fawad says country could not increase exports by putting together SEZs

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has failed to realise even one-fifth of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) potential and the country's biggest failure is its inability to increase exports, which is required to finance debt and investment-related obligations, said Privatisation Minister Fawad Hasan Fawad on Thursday.

Fawad, who was Pakistan's focal person on CPEC affairs during the peak of the multibillion-dollar initiative, gave a candid but soul-searching speech at the KTrade event. The event was arranged to look back at first 10 years of CPEC.

"We failed to realise even one-fifth of the potential offered by the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and CPEC from 2013-18 and there was nothing after 2018," admitted Fawad. He went on to say that what was in the pipeline in the shape of incomplete projects had been there since 2013.

Under the BRI banner, over 3,000 projects worth \$1.2 trillion have been signed by China with various countries. Out of this amount, \$800 billion worth of projects have been put into action and Pakistan got only \$25 billion in investment, lamented Fawad.

So far, \$25 billion has been invested under CPEC in over 20 projects and 68% of the investment was in the power sector, according to the KTrade brief. China had committed \$62 billion in investment that could not materialise because of Pakistan's own follies.

"Whatever is happening on Pakistan's economic front is happening because of us, not because of CPEC," said Fawad.

He added that in 2013-14, "we knew that the current account deficit would hit Pakistan in 2019, if no additional measures were taken for enhancing exports to support CPEC investment and their repayments".

Pakistan's current account deficit reached \$19 billion in 2018, which led to a severe external sector crisis and ended up in a three-year IMF deal.

China gave Pakistan a solution that the country needed to increase its exports by an additional \$20 billion to \$25 billion from 2015 to 2020 to survive "but we failed", revealed Fawad.

"Our biggest failure was that we could not increase exports by putting together Special Economic Zones" under CPEC, said the minister. Pakistan and China had agreed to set up five SEZs but none is still functional.

The Chinese were very active and eager to see SEZ operations but "so far we have not been able to come up with a single SEZ," said Nasir Ali Shah Bokhari. Fawad said that Pakistan did not have the capacity to implement \$62 billion of CPEC projects and "yet we kept talking about these numbers for political benefits". "Putting a number to CPEC in public was a political move, which no country does in the world, except us," said Fawad. "We were advised by China that there was no need to talk about these billions of dollars investment figures but we kept talking about these numbers." Fawad further said that had we not scandalised CPEC for political point scoring, Chinese investors would have invested two to

three times more in Pakistan. “We are not able to segregate strategic development interests from our political interests,” he lamented. “We keep talking about visions but visions do not come without first learning.” During his visit to Pakistan, Chinese President Xi Jinping asked Pakistan not to do four things “but we did every one of four that he advised us not to do for making progress and development”, said the minister. Pakistan can benefit from Gwadar being the connecting port, as it is estimated that CPEC would generate \$70 billion in transit revenue per annum, said Nadia Ishtiaq, Managing Director of Corporate Finance at KTrade. A comparative study carried out by KTrade, an investment advisory firm, showed that in 2014, Chinese investment in Indonesia was less than \$2 billion, which in 2020 increased to over \$7 billion per annum. Compared to this, the Chinese investment in Pakistan was over \$600 million in 2014 that in 2022 dropped to below \$500 million per annum despite CPEC, according to KTrade. Chinese investment in Indonesia also went to diverse sectors while in Pakistan it largely remained concentrated in the energy sector. Since 2013, there were four different prime ministers and the regime change every time led to the change in government’s policies, leading to the loss of investors’ confidence. The labour quality also immensely dropped in Pakistan and over 800,000 skilled Pakistanis have already left the country in search for better opportunities. The development of Gwadar was very crucial for China and even the Chinese president mentioned it during his address at the second BRI Forum, said Hassan Butt, former project director CPEC at the Planning Commission. Before starting phase-II, Pakistan must realise that the conventional approach may not work this time, said Butt. He also suggested that if the government wants to set up new bodies for doing some work, it should abolish the old ones – in a veiled reference to the Special Investment Facilitation Council.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2440837/pakistan-fails-to-realise-cpec-potential>

Revitalising Pakistan via BRI 2.0

Country can benefit from major projects like ML-1 for transportation network

Shakeel Ahmad Ramay

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan is grappling with economic, environmental, and social issues that have become increasingly complex in recent years. Poverty is on the rise, and the government faces limited options to combat it. According to the latest World Bank report, approximately 39.4% of the population lives below the poverty line, amounting to 95 million people. It is alarming that an additional 12 million people fell into poverty during the last fiscal year. Food insecurity has been a persistent issue in Pakistan, with roughly 58.8% of the population experiencing it prior to the 2022 floods. Pakistan ranks 102nd out of 125 countries in the Global Hunger Index, highlighting the severity of the problem.

Economic growth poses another significant challenge affecting various aspects of the country. The World Bank estimates that Pakistan’s real GDP contracted by 0.6% during FY23. Future economic growth scenarios are equally discouraging, with GDP projected to grow by 1.7% and 2.4% during FY2024 and FY2025, respectively, indicating a protracted difficult situation. Furthermore, environmental degradation and climate change represent serious threats to Pakistan, consistently ranking among the top 10 countries most vulnerable

to climate change. Climate-related disasters have had devastating impacts on Pakistan, with the 2022 floods alone incurring a cost of \$30 billion. Pakistan's dependency on agriculture further exacerbates its vulnerability.

Given this backdrop, Pakistan needs opportunities and pathways to address these multifaceted challenges. The Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) offers a potential solution to help Pakistan overcome these challenges, particularly as the host of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), which provides access to the opportunities presented by BRI 2.0.

Firstly, to revive the economy, Pakistan requires opportunities that can stimulate growth. BRI 2.0 offers Pakistan opportunities at two levels. First, Pakistan can benefit from significant projects like ML-1, a critical project that addresses the transportation network in Pakistan. Pakistan lacks a high-quality, efficient, and cost-effective supply chain network, and the state of the railway infrastructure further complicates matters. After the completion of ML-1, it is expected that train speeds will double, and the line's capacity from Peshawar to Karachi and Karachi to Peshawar will increase from 34 to 134 daily trains, providing a substantial boost to the railway.

Furthermore, during the construction phase, Pakistan can benefit on two fronts. It will create jobs, both directly and indirectly, addressing the country's pressing need for employment. Additionally, during construction, Pakistan will require various materials, such as steel, iron, and other supplies that can be sourced from Pakistan's steel mills. Proper policies can help revive Pakistan's steel industry.

Secondly, Pakistan can take advantage of the new opportunities offered by BRI 2.0. President Xi Jinping introduced a new initiative with the slogan "small but beautiful" initiatives, focusing on funding and investing in small programmes that address societal needs. This initiative emphasises livelihoods and the needs of small communities, with China Development Bank and the Export-Import Bank of China establishing a special window of \$48.7 billion. China will invest in 1,000 small-scale livelihood assistance projects and work with developing and least-developed countries to build their capacity to produce high-quality human capital. Investment in vocational training through the Luban programme and other initiatives is a key component.

This initiative presents excellent opportunities for Pakistan. For instance, Pakistan can develop a programme to support Gwadar's fishing community. Gwadar's fishing community requires assistance to modernise their practices, including access to modern equipment and technology to enhance their fishing methods, as well as training for preserving, marketing, and using modern technology for activities like e-commerce. This approach can improve the lives of the fishing community while countering anti-CPEC sentiments.

Additionally, Pakistan can devise capacity-building programmes for the agriculture, tourism, and mineral sectors, addressing the outdated skills prevalent in these sectors. For example, Pakistan's agriculture sector, a major part of the economy, is run by farmers with outdated skills, impeding production potential. With the added challenge of climate change, farmers lack the necessary skills to combat its impacts or adopt climate-smart agriculture practices. Pakistan currently lacks institutions for agricultural vocational training. Therefore, under the

“small but beautiful” initiative, Pakistan can collaborate with China to establish such schools or institutes, particularly with agriculture being a pillar of CPEC.

Finally, BRI’s future focus on green development provides opportunities for Pakistan to attract green investment for industrialisation and implement green development initiatives through capacity building programmes, training officials, and personnel to implement a green development agenda.

In conclusion, this discussion highlights only a few opportunities, with many more available. China is prepared to collaborate with Pakistan for future cooperation, provided that Pakistan enhances its working environment, presents improved proposals, and effective implementation plans. Failing to do so means that Pakistan must acknowledge that there are 151 competitors to CPEC and the opportunities it presents.

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<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2446089/1>

The Nation

Thousands of Miles with CPEC

The shared vision of China and Pakistan, under the guidance of the BRI, promises a future even more prosperous and vibrant for this enduring partnership.

Syed Ali Nawaz Gilani

In a celebration of an enduring partnership that has withstood the test of time, the All-Pakistan Chinese Enterprises’ Association (APCEA) and the Pakistan-China Institute (PCI) came together to launch a groundbreaking promotional endeavor titled “Thousands of Miles with CPEC: The Symbol of Pakistan-China Relations.” The event, held at the Pakistan Institute of Parliamentary Services (PIPS), not only commemorated the ten-year milestone of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) but also underscored the strength and significance of the diplomatic ties between Pakistan and China. CPEC, a monumental initiative that was set in motion in 2013, has evolved into a symbol of the unwavering brotherhood between Pakistan and China. Its influence is felt far and wide, touching every facet of life in both countries. Beyond its macroeconomic contributions in sectors such as Power, Infrastructure, IT, and Agriculture, CPEC has played a pivotal role in fostering cultural ties and forging a Pak-China community of shared interests. The “Thousands of Miles with CPEC” project look deep into the social aspects of this transformative endeavor. It captures the personal experiences of individuals who have witnessed the profound changes brought about by a decade of CPEC. From common citizens to government officials, from local employees to diplomats, this project paints a vivid picture of how CPEC has left an indelible mark on the lives of people from diverse walks of life. The event featured a powerful screening of an exclusive video documentary, which showcased the exceptional significance of CPEC as the flagship project of the “Belt and Road” Initiative. The documentary emphasised the strategic importance of Gwadar Port, the zenith and focal point of CPEC, serving as a bridge between the One Belt, One Road and the Maritime Silk Road. With breathtaking

scenic shots, the documentary provided a bird's-eye view of the major contributions made by CPEC projects, substantiated by compelling facts and figures.

To pay homage to the ten years of unfaltering support and cooperation offered by China, a special feature report titled “Thousands of Miles with CPEC: The Symbol of Pakistan-China Relations” was unveiled. This report not only outlines the narrative of CPEC but also extols its accomplishments as a landmark in the enduring Pak-China relationship. It narrates stories of Chinese companies fulfilling their Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) and shines a light on the depth of the friendship shared by Pakistan and China. As a testament to the spirit of collaboration and solidarity, Chinese enterprises operating across Pakistan, spanning various sectors, contributed mini documentaries. These films feature testimonials, personal accounts, and inspiring experiences of project employees and local individuals. They will be released as part of a docuseries under the “Thousands of Miles with CPEC” umbrella, exemplifying the shared journey towards a prosperous and promising future for both Pakistan and China. It has been elaborated that, CPEC stands as a testament to the enduring brotherhood between Pakistan and China. It is not just an economic initiative; it's a bridge of friendship, a symbol of collaboration, and a beacon of hope. As President Xi Jinping once said, “Our friendship with Pakistan is unbreakable, and our cooperation is unique.” CPEC's contributions extend far beyond the energy sector. It has catalysed the development of critical infrastructure projects. The Lahore Orange Line project, cross-border optical fiber cable, and the Sukkur-Multan Motorway have revolutionised transportation and connectivity within Pakistan. Chinese enterprises involved in CPEC have demonstrated their commitment to corporate social responsibility. During times of disaster, they generously donated funds and essential supplies. Moreover, these enterprises have invested in technical schools, offered scholarships to Pakistani students, and provided crucial technical training to local farmers and women. The results of these initiatives have been empowering, enriching the Pakistani workforce. Beyond the confines of Pakistan, CPEC has also created opportunities for local engineers and technicians. Many of those trained during the corridor's development have found opportunities to work abroad, contributing their expertise in countries across the Middle East, South Asia, Africa, and Europe. While international uncertainties persist, Pakistan's inherent strengths in terms of human resources and geographical advantages continue to instill confidence in CPEC's potential. It is firmly believed that the Pakistani government and its people will successfully navigate the challenges that may arise, bolstering the corridor's long-term success. CPEC has been a game-changer for Pakistan's economy. The project has helped Pakistan overcome its energy crisis by adding thousands of megawatts of electricity to the national grid. It has also improved Pakistan's transportation infrastructure through the construction of new highways, railways, and airports. Additionally, CPEC has created thousands of jobs in Pakistan, reducing poverty in the country. As Pakistan marks a decade of CPEC, it reflects on a remarkable journey that has had a transformative impact on its present and future. The shared vision of China and Pakistan, under the guidance of the BRI, promises an even more prosperous and vibrant future for this enduring partnership.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/13-Nov-2023/thousands-of-miles-with-cpec#:~:text=CPEC%20has%20been%20a%20game,highways%2C%20railways%2C%20and%20airports.>

K2 Daily



پاک چین بارڈر کیلئے سٹارٹی معاہدہ بھی ضروری ہندوؤں کی رضا مندی سے مارشی کھولا جائیگا

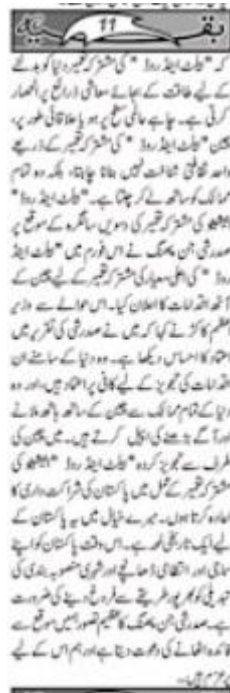
سرحد سال بھر کھلی رکھنے کیلئے ہارڈر ایگریمنٹ میں ترمیم دہلی کی ضرورت ہے، پورٹ کمیٹی

30 نومبر 2023 کو گلگت بلتستان کے ضلع کوٹلی کے علاقے ہارڈر میں مارشی کھولا جائیگا

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https://www.epaper.dailyk2.com/Home?Issue=NP_ICT&Page=Front_Page&Date=2023-11-13

https://www.epaper.dailyk2.com/Home?Issue=NP_ICT&Page=Baqia&Date=2023-11-13



سی پیک کا دوسرا مرحلہ زنگار کر کے بننے لائے گا کالٹر

یہ پاکستان کے لئے تاریخی موقع ہے، بنیادی ڈھانچے کی تعمیر پر بھی زیادہ گہرا اثر پڑے گا

صدر شی جن پنگ کا عظیم تصور موقع سے فائدہ اٹھانے کی دعوت دیتا ہے اور ہم اس کیلئے پرعزم ہیں

اسلام آباد (آئی این پی) گلگت بلتستان کے وزیر اعلیٰ نے کہا کہ سی پیک کا دوسرا مرحلہ زنگار کر کے بننے لائے گا کالٹر

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https://www.epaper.dailyk2.com/Home?Issue=NP_ICT&Page=Baqia&Date=2023-11-13

Nawaiwaqt News

سی پیک کا دوسرا مرحلہ روزگار، بنیادی ڈھانچے کی تعمیر پر گہرا اثر ڈالے گا: وزیراعظم

اسلام آباد (خبرنگار خصوصی + آئی این پی) نگران وزیراعظم انوارالحق کا کڑے سے سعودی دارالحکومت ریاض میں مشترکہ عرب اسلامی غیر معمولی سربراہی اجلاس میں شرکت کے دوران عالمی برادری پر زور دیا ہے کہ وہ فوری مداخلت کر کے فلسطین کے مسئلہ کے پائیدار حل پر عمل درآمد کرے، انہوں نے فوری اور غیر مشروط جنگ بندی کے ساتھ اسرائیل کی جارحیت اور بربریت کو ختم کرنے، غزہ کا محاصرہ ختم کرنے، تیز رفتار اور بلا روک ٹوک انسانی ہمدردی کی بنیادوں پر امداد کی ضرورت پر زور دیا۔ مسئلہ فلسطین کے حوالے سے پانچ ہفتوں تک جاری رہنے والی اسرائیلی فوجی جارحیت نسل کشی کا باعث بنی اور خطے کو وسیع تر تنازعات کی لپیٹ میں لے جانے کے خدشات کو جنم دیا۔ پاکستان کے وزیراعظم مسلم دنیا کے ان سرکردہ رہنماؤں میں شامل تھے جنہوں نے 17 اکتوبر کے بعد اسرائیل کی اندھا دھند فضائی اور زمینی بمباری کی وجہ سے غزہ میں 11,000 سے زیادہ اموات کے ساتھ موجودہ انسانی بحران کی بنیادی وجوہات کو بھرپور انداز میں اجاگر کیا۔ سعودی عرب نے مشترکہ عرب اسلامی غیر معمولی سربراہی اجلاس کی میزبانی کی جس میں اسرائیل کے جارحانہ فوجی حملے سے فلسطینی علاقوں میں آنے والی انسانی تباہی پر غور کیا گیا۔ اس سربراہی اجلاس کی اہمیت اس لیے سامنے آئی جب اس نے دنیا بھر اور براعظموں کے مسلمانوں کے رہنماؤں کو ایک پلیٹ فارم پر اکٹھا کیا۔ جنہوں نے متحدہ موقف کا اظہار کیا اور غزہ کے مظلوم شہریوں کے لیے بھائی چارے اور وابستگی کے جذبے کو فروغ دیا جو عالمی سطح پر اسرائیلی قابض افواج کی جانب سے ممنوعہ اور دیگر ہتھیاروں کے استعمال کی ہولناکیوں سے گزر رہے ہیں۔ نگران وزیراعظم کا کڑے سے اپنے خطاب میں اس بات کا اعادہ کیا کہ تنازعہ کا مستقل حل القدس الشریف کے ساتھ جون 1967ء سے پہلے کی سرحدوں کی بنیاد پر فلسطین کی ایک محفوظ، قابل عمل، متصل اور خود مختار ریاست کے قیام میں ہے جس کا دارالحکومت القدس الشریف ہو۔ انہوں نے زور دے کر کہا کہ اسرائیلی قابض افواج بین الاقوامی انسانی اور انسانی حقوق کے قوانین کی صریح خلاف ورزی کر رہی ہیں اور طاقت کا اندھا دھند اور غیر متناسب استعمال جنگی جرائم اور انسانیت کے خلاف جرائم کے مترادف ہے۔ اپنے تین روزہ دورے کے دوران وزیراعظم نے سربراہی اجلاس کے موقع پر عرب اور اسلامی ممالک کے رہنماؤں سے ملاقاتیں بھی کیں۔ وزیراعظم نے سربراہی اجلاس کے موقع پر سعودی ولی عہد اور سعودی عرب کے وزیراعظم محمد بن سلمان، کویتی ولی عہد شیخ مشعل الاحمد الجابر الصباح اور ملائیشیا کے وزیراعظم انور ابراہیم سے ملاقات کی۔ اپنی ملاقات کے دوران، وزیراعظم اور سعودی ولی عہد نے اسرائیل کو محصور اور معصوم فلسطینیوں کے خلاف وحشیانہ اور اندھا دھند جارحیت سے روکنے کے لیے فوری بین الاقوامی تعاون کی ضرورت پر زور دیا۔ انہوں نے مقبوضہ غزہ کی ناکہ بندی ہٹانے کی فوری ضرورت پر زور دیا تاکہ متاثرہ آبادی کو اہم انسانی اور طبی امداد کی فراہمی میں آسانی ہو۔ کویت کے ولی عہد شیخ مشعل الاحمد الجابر الصباح سے ملاقات کے دوران انہوں نے غزہ میں جاری اسرائیلی جارحیت اور محاصرے کے دوران شہریوں کے بنیادی ڈھانچے کی ہولناک تباہی اور ہلاکتوں کی تعداد کے ساتھ تشویشناک صورتحال پر گہری تشویش کا اظہار کیا۔ مشترکہ عرب اسلامی غیر معمولی سربراہی اجلاس کے موقع پر ملائیشیا کے وزیراعظم انور ابراہیم سے ملاقات میں وزیراعظم نے اسرائیلی افواج کی جانب سے جاری وحشیانہ مہم کی پاکستان کی شدید مذمت کا اعادہ کیا۔ درس اثناء نگران وزیراعظم انوارالحق کا کڑے سے کہا ہے کہ ہم توقع کرتے ہیں کہ چین پاکستان اقتصادی راہداری (سی پیک) کی تعمیر کا دوسرا مرحلہ پاکستان کے لوگوں کے ذریعہ معاش، روزگار اور بنیادی ڈھانچے کی تعمیر پر زیادہ گہرا اثر ڈالے گا۔ چائنا میڈیا گروپ سے انٹرویو میں نگران وزیراعظم نے کہا کہ بیلٹ اینڈ روڈ "انیشیٹو" مشترکہ تعمیر اور سابقہ کثیر جہتی میکانزمز کے درمیان سب سے بڑا فرق یہ ہے کہ "بیلٹ اینڈ روڈ" کی مشترکہ تعمیر دنیا کو بدلنے کے لیے طاقت کے بجائے معاشی ذرائع پر انحصار کرتی ہے۔ چاہے عالمی سطح پر ہو یا علاقائی طور پر، چین "بیلٹ اینڈ روڈ" کی مشترکہ تعمیر کے ذریعے واحد ثقافتی شناخت نہیں بنانا چاہتا، بلکہ وہ تمام ممالک کو ساتھ لے کر چلتا ہے۔ "بیلٹ اینڈ روڈ" انیشیٹو کی مشترکہ تعمیر کی دسویں سالگرہ کے موقع پر صدر شی جن پھنگ نے اس فورم میں "بیلٹ اینڈ روڈ" کی اعلیٰ معیار کی مشترکہ تعمیر کے لیے چین کے آٹھ اقدامات کا اعلان کیا۔ اس حوالے سے وزیراعظم کا کڑے سے کہا کہ میں نے صدر شی کی تقریر میں اعتماد کا احساس دیکھا ہے۔ وہ دنیا کے سامنے ان اقدامات کی تجویز کے لیے کافی پر اعتماد ہیں اور وہ دنیا کے تمام ممالک سے چین کے ساتھ ہاتھ ملانے اور آگے بڑھنے کی اپیل کرتے ہیں۔ میں چین کی طرف سے تجویز کردہ "بیلٹ اینڈ روڈ" انیشیٹو کی مشترکہ تعمیر کے عمل میں پاکستان کی شراکت داری کا اعادہ کرتا ہوں۔ علاوہ ازیں نگران وزیراعظم انوارالحق کا کڑے سے

جسٹس (ر) ارشد حسین کو بطور نگران وزیر اعلیٰ خیبر پختونخوا حلف اٹھانے پر مبارکباد دیتے ہوئے امید ظاہر کی ہے کہ نئے نگران وزیر اعلیٰ صوبے کے انتظامی امور کی بہتری اور شفاف انتخابات کے انعقاد میں الیکشن کمیشن آف پاکستان کی معاونت میں اپنا آئینی کردار بھرپور طریقے سے ادا کریں گے۔ وزیر اعظم آفس کے میڈیا ونگ سے جاری بیان کے مطابق نگران وزیر اعظم نے نگران وزیر اعلیٰ جسٹس ریٹائرڈ ارشد حسین کے لیے نیک خواہشات کا اظہار کیا ہے۔

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/lahore/2023-11-13/page-1/detail-21>

November 14, 2023

Business Recorder

China, Pakistan navies hold drills

BEIJING: The Chinese and Pakistani navies are holding weeklong drills in the Arabian Sea days after the Russian Pacific Fleet and Myanmar practised repelling attacks in their first maritime exercise, while India and the United States pledged security cooperation.

At a naval base in Karachi on Saturday, the Chinese and Pakistani navies kicked off the exercise in the waters and airspace of the northern Arabian Sea in drills that include anti-submarine operations. The exercise will end on Nov. 17.

During the exercise, China and Pakistan will conduct joint maritime patrols for the first time, the People's Liberation Army Daily reported on Monday.

The exercise follows what Moscow describes as "the first Russian-Myanmar naval exercise in modern history" held from Nov. 7-9 in the Andaman Sea on the northeastern fringe of the Indian Ocean, a milestone for Russia's naval presence in a sea that the United States counts as one of its global security interests.

Admiral Tributs and Admiral Panteleyev, two large Russian anti-submarine ships, conducted exercises with a frigate and a corvette of Myanmar's navy, according to Interfax news agency last week.

Amid the push for deeper security ties between China and Pakistan, and Russia and Myanmar, US Secretary of State Antony Blinken and Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin held defence talks in New Delhi on Nov. 10 with their Indian counterparts.

In a joint statement released after the so-called "2+2 Dialogue", the US and Indian governments expressed deep concern over the war in Ukraine but made no explicit mention of Russia. They also pledged their commitment to safeguarding a free and open Indo-Pacific. New Delhi has carefully preserved its longstanding relations with Russia, including cooperation in defence, even as its ties with Washington have grown steadily stronger.

China was also not mentioned in the joint statement, even though an Indian government official said ahead of the talks that China would be one of the "key focus points". The careful navigation of those talks comes ahead of a highly anticipated meeting between US President Joe Biden and Chinese President Xi Jinping in San Francisco this week, where Washington is expected to seek a re-establishment of military-to-military ties with Beijing. —Reuters

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2023/11/14/12-page/976991-news.html>

Khalil Hashmi assumes charge as new envoy to China

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador Khalil Hashmi, a career diplomat, has assumed responsibilities as Pakistan's new envoy to China.

According to a spokesperson of Pakistan's Embassy in Beijing, Ambassador Hashmi was received on arrival by Zhang Maoming, Deputy Director General of Asia Department of Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

He succeeds Ambassador Moinul Haque, who returned to Pakistan on retirement early this month.

In his first official engagement, Ambassador Hashmi on Monday presented a copy of his credentials to Hong Lei, Director General of the Protocol Department.

"Ambassador Hashmi expressed gratitude to the Chinese side for the warm welcome accorded to him, in keeping with the long-standing tradition of both countries," the spokesperson said.

Reminiscing of his previous stint in Beijing from 2008-2010, he expressed his resolve to further solidify the already-robust relationship between the two countries. "Director General Hong conveyed best wishes to the Ambassador for a successful tenure and assured him of full support," the spokesperson added.

Ambassador Hashmi is a senior Pakistani diplomat with 29 years of experience in both bilateral and multilateral relations. Prior to his arrival in China, Ambassador Hashmi served as Pakistan's Permanent Representative to the United Nations in Geneva from November 2019 onwards.—ALI HUSSAIN

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2023/11/14/4-page/976940-news.html>

Dawn News

Chinese experts advise Pakistan to focus on stability, growth

ISLAMABAD: Chinese experts have advised Pakistan to focus on stability, peace and growth rather than making a choice of friends between the US and China.

Speaking at an interactive session here in the Chinese Embassy the experts belonging to think-tanks and research institutes of China highlighted the achievements related to modernisation and development made by China since 1978.

Professor Victor Zhikai Gao, vice president of Centre for China and Globalisation (CCG), briefed the audience about the China-US relations and lauded Pakistan role in establishing the diplomatic ties between the economic powers in 1971.

"The world is changing and the US-China relations are now sour, but for Pakistan the US is very important at the same time China too is very important," Prof Gao said, adding, "The real choice for Pakistan is not the relations with the US or with China, the real choice has to be with the one doing the right thing."

Prof Gao said that the US policies over Palestine was wrong and using pressures and sanctions too was wrong.

He also spoke about some experts in the West who profess that China and America were destined for a war, but Prof Gao said that China and America were the two largest economies of the world and peace between the two were inevitable.

“They do not love each other, however, the relations have to be on the basis of live and let live.” Prof Gao added.

He stressed that the Chinese model for attaining power was simple and long lasting, and Pakistan has to take that path of development to steer the population out of poverty and work hard towards modernisation of the state.

“Pakistan can do it too by maintaining stability, peace and growth,” he said and cited the case of Afghanistan, as lack of peace in that country since 1979 has led to the total collapse of its economy.

He also added that his first visit to any foreign city was Karachi in 1982, and added that Karachi is still there whereas Shanghai, Beijing and others have gone beyond modernisation.

He added that the world was moving very fast and currently the development was dependent on data, IT and connectivity.

“CPEC was connectivity, while IT and artificial intelligence (AI) was the future, that is why the US imposed sanctions on China over semi-conductors. However, with hard work and dedication Chinese companies are set to produce semi-conductors,” he added, “The new version of CPEC will include IT development and cooperation too.”

The other speakers included Ying Liu, research fellow at Renmin University, China and Tianshu Liu executive director Cuihu International Research Institute elaborated Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).

They highlighted that BRI connects 150 countries and all are based on the China’s principle of amity, mutual benefit and inclusiveness in neighbourhood diplomacy along with modernisation.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1789059/chinese-experts-advise-pakistan-to-focus-on-stability-growth>

Pakistan Observer

China’s economic resurgence: Fuelling Asia’s renaissance

Dr Imran Khalid

IN a world constantly grappling with economic fluctuations and global challenges, China is taking centre stage in reshaping the landscape of Asia-Pacific regional cooperation and development. With a keen focus on collaboration and growth, China is exhibiting commitment to play a pivotal role in fostering economic resurgence in the region. These efforts are not only providing impetus for regional development but also contributing to the broader global economic recovery. China’s vision for the Asia-Pacific region was corroborated by a recent report “Regional Economic Outlook for Asia and Pacific” published

by the International Monetary Fund (IMF), which emphasizes China and regional economies' significant role in the global economy.

According to the IMF, the Asia-Pacific (AP) region is on track to contribute about two-thirds of global growth in 2023. This projection highlights the remarkable economic activity in the region which remains resilient and dynamic. With a projected growth rate of 4.6 per cent in 2023, compared to 3.9 per cent in the previous year, the Asia-Pacific region continues to demonstrate its economic vigour. China is undoubtedly the main growth engine in the region. This growth is driven by robust market demand and the rapid expansion of sectors such as tourism and the digital economy. Under the leadership of the Chinese economy, this is a testament to the region's adaptability and resilience, even in the face of adversity.

One of the significant developments that has bolstered the region's economic growth is the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) agreement. It came into full effect in June, significantly boosting regional trade and cooperation. China is an essential player in Asia-Pacific regional cooperation and economic integration. This development reflects China's pivotal role in fostering cooperation and economic integration throughout the Asia-Pacific. China stands as a vital participant, acting as a major trading partner for numerous economies in the region and serving as a linchpin in regional industrial development and supply chains.

Notably, this year, China's economy has sustained a resilient rebound, ushering in fresh opportunities for both regional and global economic recovery. China's commitment to working alongside its regional partners to shape the Asia-Pacific into a symbol of collaboration and progress is evident through the active engagement of neighbouring countries in a range of trade and business-related forums hosted by China. From the Belt and Road Forum (BRF) to the China International Import Expo (CIIE) and a multitude of gatherings convened by the Chinese government, regional nations are stepping up to the plate. This collective involvement underscores China's unwavering dedication to fostering the well-being of its neighbours, thereby contributing to the broader cause of global economic recovery.

China's role transcends mere participation; it emerges as a pivotal trading partner for a multitude of economies within the Asia-Pacific region, intertwined in the complex web of regional industrial and supply chains. The resurgence of China's economy in the current year has created new opportunities for regional and global economic recovery, breathing life into various sectors. Rather than merely spectating its own growth, China vigorously embraces a proactive stance. China is actively implementing the RCEP and collaborating with the members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) to promote the construction of the China-ASEAN Free Trade Area 3.0. China is also looking to join the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership and the Digital Economy Partnership Agreement.

Furthermore, China seeks to deepen trade and investment cooperation with regional economies, thus solidifying its commitment to the region's development. China's dedication to true multilateralism and open regionalism is a noteworthy aspect of its approach to

regional collaboration. These undertakings showcase China's resolve to fortify trade and investment cooperation with its regional counterparts, underscoring its unwavering commitment to regional development. The country is enthusiastic about building an Asia-Pacific community with a shared future that benefits a broader spectrum of people. In a world where interconnectedness is vital, China's approach to fostering collaboration is a breath of fresh air. Notably, China's engagement is marked by a profound commitment to authentic multilateralism and open regionalism. In a world where interconnectivity is the lifeblood of progress, China's approach to fostering collaboration stands as a breath of invigorating air. It is a testament to the nation's dedication to weaving a vibrant tapestry of prosperity and cooperation across the Asia-Pacific region.

The "2023 Asian Economic Integration Report" by the Asian Development Bank casts a revealing light on China's indelible footprint in the Asia-Pacific region. This comprehensive analysis underscores that China is poised to contribute a substantial 64.2 per cent to the economic growth of this vital region in the current year. This statistic is not merely impressive; it is emblematic of China's pivotal role in catalyzing regional economic progress. The Asia-Pacific region, boasting a population that constitutes a third of the world's total, wields an outsized influence on the global economic stage. It is responsible for over 60 per cent of the world's economic output and drives nearly half of the world's economic growth. Consequently, any positive strides made in this region resonate across the global economic landscape, casting an impact that extends well beyond its borders.

China's economic resurgence and its commitment to regional cooperation are not just localized efforts. They have far-reaching implications for the world's economic recovery and stability. By fostering economic growth in the Asia-Pacific region, China is contributing to the broader goal of global economic resurgence. The country's dedication to regional cooperation and development not only propels the economies of its neighbouring countries but also injects vigour into the global economy. As the Asia-Pacific region charts a course marked by resilience and expansion, China stands as an eager partner, fervently dedicated to the realization of a shared future for all. This spirit of collaboration, rooted in the principles of shared future and shared prosperity, is a testament to China's constructive influence. It underscores that China's influence extends far beyond its borders and reverberates as a force for global economic rejuvenation.

<https://pakobserver.net/chinas-economic-resurgence-fuelling-asias-renaissance/>

Sea Guardian 2023 to deepen Pak-China strategic partnership

Pakistan-China Joint Naval Exercise Sea Guardian 2023 will enhance bilateral security cooperation to develop a Pak-China multi-dimensional strategic partnership and also open new avenues for future maritime cooperation against common threats in the region. It was stated by Pakistan Navys Commodore Asim Sohail Malik and Chinese People's Liberation Army (Navy)s Senior Captain Qi Jian in a joint press conference held here on Monday to brief the media about objectives, contours and conduct of the exercise Sea Guardian 2023.

Commodore Asim Sohail Malik said that Pakistan and China have always enjoyed strategically unique and strong relationships and this exercise will further strengthen the

decades-old and time-tested friendship of both countries. The exercise will also open new avenues for future maritime cooperation between two friendly navies against common threats in the region, he added.

Senior Captain Qi Jian, while addressing the press conference, said that the main purpose of the exercise was to enhance bilateral security cooperation to develop a Pak-China multi-dimensional strategic partnership. The exercise aims at enhancing the capabilities of both the Navies to jointly deal with terrorism and crime at sea and to promote efforts for a safe maritime environment and defence of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), he noted adding that the exercise is a reiteration of commitment for further enhancing the all weather and time tested friendship of both the countries.

Frontline Destroyer, Frigates, Helicopters, Rescue Ship, Submarines and Special Forces from the Pakistan Navy and Peoples Liberation Army (Navy) are participating in this exercise, they informed. The exercise is divided into two phases i.e. Harbour and Sea phases. During harbour activities, both navies shared their experiences on contemporary maritime security threats and challenges through various workshops, seminars and tabletop discussions.

They stated that the Sea Phase of the exercise -to be conducted in the North Arabian Sea from November 14 to 16, 2023- would encompass advance-level naval operations including maritime security Operations, tactical manoeuvres, various warfare-related exercises and Search and Rescue operations to deal with a variety of threats at sea.

It is pertinent to mention that the First bilateral Exercise Sea Guardian with the Peoples Liberation Army (Navy) was held in 2014 and has regularly been conducted each year alternately in Pakistan and China.

<https://pakobserver.net/sea-guardian-2023-to-deepen-pak-china-strategic-partnership/>

The Express Tribune

Chinese envoy advocates ‘CPEC 2.0’

Emphasises importance of digital era, cautions Pakistan of being left behind

Shahbaz Rana

ISLAMABAD: China’s envoy to Pakistan, Jiang Zaidong, on Monday emphasised the consolidation of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and again offered cooperation in the agriculture and mining sectors, aiming to alleviate Islamabad’s financial woes. Zaidong articulated his country’s vision for the next decade under CPEC. This vision focuses more on the 21st century’s economy rather than the brick-and-mortar model cherished by Islamabad. The ambassador spoke moments before the introspective speech by Chinese scholar Viktor Gao, who urged Islamabad not to perceive CPEC only through the lens of infrastructure and energy projects. The Chinese ambassador outlined three key points for future cooperation: the consolidation of the current phase of CPEC, deepening cooperation in agriculture and mining, and improving people’s livelihoods through small but impactful projects. Ambassador Zaidong highlighted the need for consolidation, stressing the

completion of projects like the Mainline-I and KCR (Karachi Circular Railway). The ambassador did not mention any road projects.

During the visit of interim Prime Minister Anwaarul Haq Kakar, both countries signed an addendum to the Mainline-I project of CPEC, reducing its scope and design to a cost one-third less than \$6.7 billion. Pakistan and China signed an agreement for mineral sector development and industrial cooperation under CPEC, aiming to facilitate in-depth cooperation in the fields of geology, mineral resources investigation, evaluation and development, mineral product development, processing, trade, and investment promotion. The ambassador highlighted agriculture and mining sectors for deepening cooperation, stating, “Pakistan faces economic challenges and financial difficulties, and we can help transform its resources advantage into a capital advantage.” Regarding the third point, the ambassador stated that people’s livelihoods can be improved through small but strategic projects. He cited examples such as the Gwadar water desalination plant, Gwadar Friendship Hospital, and the provision of 3,000 solar panels in Balochistan as means of improving people’s lives. The ambassador mentioned President Xi Jinping’s proposal of eight major steps at the last Belt and Road Forum that provide opportunities for future cooperation among other countries. He added that China is on the path of modernisation for the prosperity of all the common people. Zaidong expressed China’s intention to bring more opportunities to other countries, particularly for their all-weather strategic partner. He highlighted CPEC’s role in resolving Pakistan’s energy shortages, noting the \$25.4 billion invested in the flagship project of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). The ambassador conveyed President Xi’s vision of an upgraded version of CPEC, revolving around five corridors: the growth corridor, people’s livelihood corridor, innovation corridor, green corridor, and open-up of all corridors. He stressed the need for substantial investment in human capital by Pakistan to implement these corridors. Viktor Gao, the Vice President of the Beijing-based Centre for China and Globalisation, set the tone for future Pakistan-China relations. Gao stressed that development is the only way to eradicate poverty, emphasising peace and stability as prerequisites for progress. Gao advised Pakistan to shift focus from infrastructure and energy projects under CPEC to the emerging digital era. He added that, “CPEC is traditionally focused on infrastructure, basic manufacturing, and energy projects, but as the world advances into a new digital era, Pakistan needs to integrate data, artificial intelligence, and algorithms.” Gao highlighted the necessity to think beyond the traditional view of CPEC and advocated for CPEC 2.0, emphasising the importance of the digital era. He cautioned that Pakistan might be left behind if swift action is not taken.

However, despite Chinese advice, Pakistani policymakers seem solely focused on obtaining more road projects from China rather than leveraging Chinese technological developments.

Gao also addressed US-Pakistan relations and US-China relations, suggesting that Pakistan need not choose between these countries but should align itself with the country that best serves its interests.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2446233/chinese-envoy-advocates-cpec-20>

Naval pursuits

China and Pakistan's navies have a lot in common, especially after the completion of Gwadar Port in Balochistan

It's the warm season on the high seas. The naval exercises in the Arabian Sea conducted by China and Pakistan came close on the heels of similar debut drills between Russia and Myanmar in the Indian Ocean. Both these pairs of drills had one thing in common: to contest the surging US influence in the region. Beijing and Islamabad turned a new leaf as joint maritime patrols were held for the first time. On a broader canvas, these naval collaborations were a tactical message to India which long desired hegemony on land and sea in the region, and was seen rubbing shoulders with extra-territorial forces.

China and Pakistani navies have a lot in common, especially after the completion of Gwadar Port in Balochistan, which will link Central Asia, Afghanistan and Iran to the warm waters up to the Strait of Hormuz. The Russia-Myanmar naval exercise held from November 7 to 9 in the Andaman Sea on the northeastern fringe of the Indian Ocean is a milestone for Moscow's naval presence in a sea that the US counts as one of its global security interests. Likewise, Moscow by partnering with Yangon, has directly posed riddles to Washington that wants to colonise the South China Sea and control its navigation for obvious reasons of blocking Chinese rise as an uncontested naval power. This has prompted India and the US to renew their security cooperation in the region, and the recently concluded high-powered '2+2' ministerial dialogue in New Delhi is a case in point.

It remains to be seen whether this surfing of waters by the allies, in both the respective zone, with big guns and submarines remains mere muscle flexing for professional upgradation of seamen, or translates into a rivalry of sorts. India, Australia, Japan, Taiwan and India have their own axe to grind, and with Washington sitting in cahoots, a deep sense of commitment for peace and open sea navigation for all is a must. Any attempt to monopolise the sea beyond territorial waters must be contested as per international law.

https://www.google.com/search?q=the+express+tribune&oq=the+express+tribune&gs_lcrp=EgZjaHJvbWUyBggAEEUYOTIGCAEQRRg5MgYIAhBFGDsyBggDEEUYO9IBCDI4NTVqMGo3qAIAAsAIA&sourceid=chrome&ie=UTF-8

The Nation

Joint Naval Drills

Joint naval exercises between partner countries and allies are a reaffirmation of sustained defence cooperation. Like all other areas, Pakistan and China work together in naval defence as well and ongoing joint drills are proof of that. Week-long drills are taking place in the Arabian Sea and for the first time, Joint Maritime Patrols will be a part of these joint exercises. China's key security interests in the Indo-Pacific vis a vis the United States make such joint endeavours even more significant.

Recently, the Russian Pacific Fleet carried out its first-ever joint naval exercise with Myanmar. This is important because the Indo-Pacific front remains the US's vital security interest. Add to that the fact that Russia-Myanmar exercises were held in the sea that the US

regards significant in safeguarding its interests in the Indian Ocean. This whole scenario makes the ongoing China-Pakistan drills very strategic in importance. Russia and China are the US's rival block in the Indo-Pacific and while China and Pakistan's joint exercises are routine, the Russia-Myanmar naval cooperation is a new happening in the complicated politics of the Ocean.

The US seeks to balance and preserve its interests by joining hands with India. Moscow's growing naval presence in the Indian Ocean is definitely worrying for the US.

Though the recent defence talks between India and the US do not make an overt mention of that, it is plausible to assume that Russia-Myanmar joint naval venture must have surfaced in the talks. Emerging alliances (Russia-Myanmar) as well as deepening naval defence cooperation between enduring partners (China-Pakistan Joint Maritime Patrol) is a tough competition for the US. While the sea-scape and control of the seas have been predicted to cause major conflicts, a particular restraint has been practised by all parties all these years. China remains largely pacifist and the US has gradually sought to strengthen its partnerships in the proximity because it does not have the benefit of geography in this case. Also, China's enduring reliance on and cooperation with Pakistan in naval defence makes the latter a trustworthy defence partner

<https://www.nation.com.pk/14-Nov-2023/joint-naval-drills>

Pak-China Nexus

In a significant move to fortify the enduring friendship between Pakistan and China, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was recently signed between the local government, election, and rural development department and China Window, a Chinese cultural center in Peshawar. This monumental agreement lays the groundwork for a multifaceted collaboration that extends beyond cultural enrichment.

Secretary Local Council Board, Mian Shafiqur Rehman, and Amjad Aziz Malik, the administrator of China Window, officially sealed the commitment by appending their signatures to the memorandum. This ceremonious act solidifies the dedication of both parties to the principles and initiatives outlined in the agreement, signifying a collaborative step forward in the shared journey of cultural exchange and developmental cooperation between Pakistan and China.

The establishment of a corner at China Window dedicated to promoting development initiatives in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa signifies a pragmatic approach to collaboration beyond cultural exchange. This initiative aligns with the broader vision of both nations to promote economic development and prosperity, emphasizing the practical and tangible outcomes for the socio-economic upliftment of the region.

A noteworthy provision of the agreement is the support pledged for teaching the Chinese language in Peshawar Municipal School and College. In an era where linguistic diversity plays a crucial role in fostering international relations, this initiative aligns perfectly with the evolving dynamics of global collaboration. By facilitating the learning of Chinese, this move

enhances educational opportunities and opens avenues for deeper cross-cultural understanding.

The involvement of the local government department in promoting culture, tourism, education, and industrial development is a testament to the holistic approach required for comprehensive partnerships. Secretary local government Dawood Khan rightly highlighted the constructive role that both China Window and the local government department will play in strengthening ties between the two nations.

As this MoU unfolds, it emerges not just as a symbol of cultural exchange but as a blueprint for broader collaboration across various domains. The initiatives outlined underscore the commitment of both nations to a relationship that transcends superficial diplomatic gestures. It is a visionary leap that sets the stage for a dynamic and enduring partnership between Pakistan and China, promising mutual growth, understanding, and shared prosperity.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/14-Nov-2023/pak-china-nexus>

The News

‘CPEC to develop, improve livelihood of people’

Islamabad: A leading Chinese scholar Zhikai Gao said that growing Sino-Pak brotherhood is a reflection of Chinese diplomacy that's brings peace and development Worldwide under leadership of Xi Jinping.

As a key-note speaker at a select gathering of journalists and members of a think-tank here on Monday at the Chinese Embassy, he reiterated that his country will continue to give unconditional support to Pakistan for its development and improving the livelihood of its people.

Chinese Ambassador Jiang Zaidong in his opening remarks on the occasion highlighted Chinese policy of brotherhood, particularly in context of BRI and CPEC.

The event was arranged in the framework of the "Dosti Park Club" with Theme: Chinese modernization and diplomacy. Zhikai Gao was accompanied by Ying Liu, research fellow of RDCY, and Tianshu Liu, the executive director of Cuihu International Research Institute.

He elaborated various topics such as the "Belt and Road" Initiative, China's principle of amity, sincerity, mutual benefit and inclusiveness in neighborhood diplomacy, Chinese modernization. It was followed by a Q&A session. It was pointed out that in October 2013, President Xi Jinping, who is also general secretary of the Communist Party of China Central Committee, put forward the principle of "amity, sincerity, mutual benefit and inclusiveness" for China's neighborhood policy at a meeting on neighborhood diplomacy, the first such meeting to be held since the founding of the People's Republic of China.

Over the past decade, this vision has served as a major guideline for the promotion and implementation of strategic initiatives such as the Belt and Road Initiative, and the building of a community with a shared future in the neighborhood, which has contributed to a better neighborhood environment for China and greater stability and prosperity for the region.

In the face of profound global changes unseen in a century, the vision, together with the implementation experience, remains relevant for regional peace, stability, development and prosperity.

First, the principle of "amity, sincerity, mutual benefit and inclusiveness" is a conceptual innovation based on decades of China's neighborhood diplomacy. The neighborhood is where China anchors to survive and thrive. The neighborhood is therefore always on top of China's diplomatic agenda.

Way back in 2013, President Xi stressed that the basic principle of China's neighborhood diplomacy is to pursue friendship and partnership with our neighbors, help build an amicable, secure and prosperous neighborhood, and follow a neighborhood policy featuring amity, sincerity, mutual benefit and inclusiveness.

Since the founding of the People's Republic of China, successive central leaderships have attached great importance to neighborhood diplomacy and put forward a series of strategic visions and policies. Developing amicable and friendly relations with neighboring countries has always been high on China's diplomatic agenda. Such policies were mainly practiced on the bilateral level before the mid-1980s, and began to gain in weight since the launch of reform and opening-up, when concepts like "close neighbor", "neighboring country" and "neighbors facing each other across the sea" appeared increasingly in China's diplomatic discourse.

Chinese Ambassador in his address further said the construction of CPEC was being carried out in order to share the Chinese modernization with Pakistan for achieving its development targets.

Enhancing livelihood of the people is another focus in implementing CPEC. In this connection, he referred to the ongoing development projects in the fields of energy, highways development, agriculture and social welfare sector.

The Chinese Scholar in his address also spoke about China-USA relations and said peace and working on equal basis is imperative for both of them. He said war and confrontation between them are not workable. He hoped the scheduled meeting of President Xi Jinping with his American counterpart will be productive for pushing forward the Chinese policy of brotherhood.

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=255035>

China welcomes new Pak envoy to Beijing

Mariana Baabar

ISLAMABAD: China on Monday welcomed Pakistan's new Ambassador Khalid Hashmi to Beijing with Director General of the Protocol Department, Hong Lei, conveying his best wishes to the ambassador for a successful tenure and assured him of full support.

Ambassador Khalil Hashmi, a career diplomat, reached Beijing over the weekend and assumed responsibilities as Pakistan's new envoy to China. He was received on arrival by Zhang Maoming, Deputy Director General of Asia Department of Chinese MFA.

He succeeds Ambassador Moin ul Haque who returned to Pakistan on retirement early this month. In his first official engagement, Ambassador Hashmi on Monday presented copy of his credentials to Mr Hong Lei, Director General of the Protocol Department. Ambassador Hashmi, according to his office, expressed gratitude to the Chinese side for the warm welcome accorded to him, in keeping with the long-standing tradition of both countries. Reminiscing of his previous stint in Beijing from 2008-2010, he expressed his resolve to further solidify the already robust relationship between the two countries. Speaking to The News from Beijing, Ambassador Hashmi said, "I am greatly honored to be appointed Pakistan's Ambassador to China. I am excited to be back in Beijing after 13 years. Even though I physically left China in early 2010, China never left me. The country and its people have always had a special place in my heart", he said. He pointed out that while reflecting Pakistan and China's joint achievements, he recognised the weight of responsibility that comes with this post. "Today, I embark on this journey with a sense of duty and dedication. I'm determined, along with my capable team, to further enrich the scope and depth of our strategic cooperative partnership with China in all its dimensions", he added.

Ambassador Khalil Hashmi is a senior Pakistani diplomat with 29 years of experience in both bilateral and multilateral relations and it is noteworthy that in his first remarks to the media he makes special mention of his "capable team". Prior to his arrival in China, Ambassador Hashmi served as Pakistan's Permanent Representative to the United Nations in Geneva from November 2019 onwards. He has also worked at Pakistan's Permanent Mission to New York twice, including as Deputy Permanent Representative. Ambassador Hashmi joined the Pakistan diplomatic service in 1994. His first diplomatic assignment was at Pakistan Embassy in Copenhagen from 1999 to 2002. In Islamabad, Ambassador Hashmi has served as Director General of the United Nations, European Region and Arms Control Divisions and as Director of South Asia, India and Disarmament Directorates. Taking to X, Ambassador Hashmi tweeted, "I began official work today after presenting copy of credentials as Pakistan's new Ambassador to DG Protocol of @MFA_China. I thanked him for warm reception. I had a productive exchange & agreed to further cement already robust Pakistan and China ties".

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=255143>

K2 Daily



https://www.epaper.dailyk2.com/Home?Issue=NP_ICT&Page=Back_Page

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November 15, 2023

Dawn News

Beijing to strengthen CPEC for another decade

Iftikhar A. Khan

ISLAMABAD: Chinese ambassador in Pakistan Jiang Zaidong has expressed his country's readiness to further promote the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) in partnership with Pakistan. "We are ready to work with our Pakistani colleagues from all walks of life to further promote the projects in the next 10 years of CPEC," the Chinese ambassador said at a seminar, "CPEC and My Life". "What was agreed between President Xi Jinping and the Pakistani leaders for high-quality, sustainable and enhanced cooperation and support in the fields of security and development, we can implement with mutual consensus," he said. The Chinese ambassador believed that Pakistan and China could jointly transform the CPEC corridor into a corridor of love and peace. He noted that mutual cooperation in new fields like industry, agriculture, mining, science and technology, and IT sectors could be expanded. "Thus, a new chapter can be added to CPEC, bringing the people of China and Pakistan closer in the common future," maintained Chinese ambassador Jiang Zaidong.

CPEC enters a new phase

Caretaker Information Minister Murtaza Solangi said that interaction between the top leadership of both countries in China would further enhance the bilateral relationship to new heights as caretaker Prime Minister Anwaarul Haq Kakar leaves for China on Monday (today) to participate in Belt and Road Forum being hosted by the Chinese President Xi Jinping in Beijing. Mr Solangi expressed his happiness about people at the grassroots level being invited to speak about the positive impact of CPEC on their lives.

He pointed out that people have greatly benefited from various CPEC projects, such as the Orange Train in Lahore, Thar coal in Sindh, and Gwadar in Balochistan.

Changing economic landscape

Discussing the establishment of the Special Investment Facilitation Council by Pakistan to provide one-window facilities to investors, the minister said as CPEC enters a new phase, Pakistan eagerly anticipates increased bilateral cooperation in mining, agriculture, IT, and other sectors. He emphasised that improving geographical linkages through enhanced road, rail and air transportation systems would foster more frequent people-to-people contacts and enhance mutual understanding through academic connections. Foreign Secretary Syrus Qazi, in his address, noted that the CPEC as President Xi's flagship Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) project, symbolises Pakistan-China strategic cooperation. "CPEC has broken new ground in regional connectivity and is multiplying opportunities for economic integration for the entire region, while taking our higher-than-the-Himalayas friendship with China to even greater heights," Mr Qazi said.

The foreign secretary said that from the Pakistan-China border in Xinjiang all the way to the deep-sea ports of Karachi and Gwadar, the economic landscape of Pakistan has been

transformed in the last 10 years. “Our infrastructure has been upgraded, unleashing the productivity of our large, youthful and skilled population,” he added.

Mr Qazi noted that CPEC ensured rapid economic development in the less privileged and remote sections of the country. He said that the shared goal of Pakistan and China was to develop Gwadar as the regional trade and connectivity hub, linking it with markets in Central Asia and the Middle East. “The implementation of such a massive project requires strong political and public support,” observed the foreign secretary.

[https://www.dawn.com/news/1781275/beijing-to-strengthen-cpec-for-another-decade#:~:text=ISLAMABAD%3A%20Chinese%20ambassador%20in%20Pakistan,CPEC\)%20in%20partnership%20with%20Pakistan.](https://www.dawn.com/news/1781275/beijing-to-strengthen-cpec-for-another-decade#:~:text=ISLAMABAD%3A%20Chinese%20ambassador%20in%20Pakistan,CPEC)%20in%20partnership%20with%20Pakistan.)

Pakistan, China likely to ink more highway deals

Syed Irfan Raza

Pakistani and Chinese national flags flutter next to an installation featuring a giant flower basket at the Tiananmen Square in Beijing, China on October 7, 2019. — Reuters

ISLAMABAD: China and Pakistan will ink significant agreements regarding motorways and highways during the upcoming four-day visit of caretaker Prime Minister Anwaarul Haq Kakar to Beijing, starting from Oct 16.

The agreements will be signed under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

PM Kakar is visiting China to attend ‘Third Belt and Road Forum (BRF) for International Cooperation’, being held in Beijing from Oct 17 to 18.

“The prime minister will attend the opening ceremony of the BRF and address the high-level forum entitled ‘Connectivity in an Open Global Economy,’” the PM office said in a post on X on Saturday.

Taliban to join forum

The premier will hold a bilateral meeting with Chinese President Xi Jinping on the occasion. Besides, he is expected to meet several other leaders during the two-day moot. Senior Chinese officials, business leaders and investors as well as leaders from 130 countries, ranging from Russian president to representatives of the Taliban administration, are expected to attend the Forum, according to Reuters and AFP reports.

The forum in Beijing marks the 10th anniversary of President Xi’s ambitious global infrastructure and energy initiative, billed as recreating the ancient Silk Road to boost global trade.

PM Kakar to leave for Beijing tomorrow to attend Belt and Road Forum

Highway Research & Training Centre

For Pakistan, one of the significant Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) to be signed is related to the establishment of a modern Highway Research & Training Centre (HRTC) with Chinese assistance. The project will prominently take centre stage during the PM’s discussion with Chinese authorities.

HRTC is a subsidiary of National Highway Authority (NHA) for carrying out indigenous research in various faculties of highway engineering not limited to pavements, bridges, tunneling environmental engineering, hydraulics and Geotech, but also covering technical training.

An NHA official said the HRTC also affiliated various engineering institutes in research, especially in pavements, including National University of Science & Technology (NUST). The highway authority has also proposed Frontier Works Organisation (FWO) Tunneling Institute to become an associate in research in tunneling. Under the ambit of CPEC, there is a promising joint research programme envisioned with the government of China from 2023 to 2027. The programme aims to foster collaboration and innovation in various domains of highway engineering.

A formal memorandum of joint research extension will be finalised and signed during the PM's visit to China.

“We anticipate its significance in furthering the infrastructure cooperation between China and Pakistan. This extension is poised to be a cornerstone of joint cooperation in the road infrastructure with the National Highway Authority being a vanguard of such mutual cooperation,” the official said.

Under the agreement, HRTC Research Institute will be constructed on 530 acres, already acquired by the NHA at cost Rs520 million.

The official said the institute would be built by a Chinese consultant under a Chinese grant of \$52 million (374 million yuans or Rs15 billion). It includes infrastructure, a test track and indoor and outdoor lab equipment. After completion and required training, it will be handed over to the NHA for operation. The institute will also conduct studies of long-term pavement performance under controlled and uncontrolled conditions. Similarly, various research projects in reclaimed asphalt, bridges and tunneling, training and degree courses in China and development of engineering design manuals and standards for Pakistan are also included in it.

KKH upgrade

Prime Minister Kakar will also sign an MOU to upgrade Karakorum Highway (KKH) from Raikot to Thakot, Raikot to Khunjerab (335 km), KKH phase-2 on the E-35 section from Havelian to Thakot, covering 120km and introduction of a motorway section connecting Havelian to Mansehra. In a second phase of KKH project, the official said, the road would be designed in a way that it will remain operational round the year, especially in winters when it is closed due to heavy snowfall. The KKH alignment is being designed in a way that it will not hit Bhasha Dam but it will go over it through tunnels.

Zhob motorway

The PM will also hold discussion on the construction of a motorway from Dera Ismail Khan to Zhob, while Gwadar port will remain the centre of discussion during the meetings in Beijing.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1781114#:~:text=ISLAMABAD%3A%20China%20and%20Pakistan%20will,Beijing%2C%20starting%20from%20Oct%2016.>

Pakistan Observer

Between China & US, Pakistan should go with one ‘who is doing right thing’

Pakistan should distinguish between China and the US and go with the one who is doing the right thing. These views were expressed by the Chinese experts at an interactive session hosted by the Chinese Embassy for media persons.

The experts were from various think-tanks and research institutes of China and they highlighted the achievements related to modernisation and development made by China since 1978. Prof Victor Zhikai Gao, Vice President of Centre for China and Globalisation (CCG), briefed the audience about the China-US relations and lauded Pakistan role in establishing the diplomatic ties between the economic powers in 1971. The world is changing fast and the US-China relations are now sour, but for Pakistan the US is very important at the same time China too is very important,” Prof Gao said, adding, “The real choice for Pakistan is not the relations with the US or with China, the real choice has to be with the one doing the right thing.” Prof Gao said that the US policies over Palestine were wrong and the country was using pressure tactics and sanctions as a tool that was wrong. He advised Pakistan to focus on stability, peace and growth since the challenges to its economy were grave and could only be overcome by focusing on their solutions instead of choosing between China and the United States. He also spoke about some experts in the West who profess that China and America were on a warpath, but Prof Gao said China and America were the two biggest economies of the world and peace between the two was inevitable. “They do not love each other, however, the relations have to be on the basis of live and let live.” Prof Gao added. He stressed that the Chinese model for attaining power was simple and long lasting, and Pakistan had to take that path of development to steer the population out of poverty and work hard towards modernisation of the state. “Pakistan can do it too by maintaining stability, peace and growth,” he said and cited the case of Afghanistan, as lack of peace in that country since 1979 has led to the total collapse of its economy. He also added that his first visit to any foreign city was Karachi in 1982, and added that Karachi is still there whereas Shanghai, Beijing and others have gone beyond modernisation. He added that the world was moving very fast and currently the development was dependent on data, IT and connectivity. “CPEC meant connectivity, while IT and artificial intelligence (AI) was the future, that is why the US imposed sanctions on China over semi-conductors. However, with hard work and dedication Chinese companies are set to produce semi-conductors,” he added, “The new version of CPEC will include IT development and cooperation too.” The other speakers included Ying Liu, research fellow at Renmin University, China and Tianshu Liu executive director Cuihu International Research Institute elaborated Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). They highlighted that BRI connects 150 countries and all are based on the China’s principle of amity, mutual benefit and inclusiveness in neighbourhood diplomacy along with modernisation.

<https://pakobserver.net/between-china-us-pakistan-should-go-with-one-who-is-doing-right-thing/>

BRI and Xinjiang: An ideal combination of greater regional connectivity

Dr Mehmood Ul Hassan Khan

THE BRI has already “transformed” numerous countries, communities and cities of the member countries in terms of building world class infrastructure, communication, connectivity and, above all, smart living. In this regard, Xinjiang has been at the “core” of China’s trade relations across the Eurasian region since the ancient Silk Road. It has “strategic” location in China’s westernmost frontier that borders eight countries Mongolia, Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Afghanistan, Pakistan and India which gives it a comparative advantage of trans-regional connectivity, trade, transport system and, mostly importantly, human capital development.

China’s Xinjiang has been dubbed as the “gateway” and “goldmine” to the BRI’s projects that envisions trade and cultural connectivity along the ancient Silk Road. It is indeed vivid reflection of multiculturalism, economic regionalism, window of greater trans-regional connectivity, connecting hub and one of the biggest stimulators of trans-regional trade and commerce.

Moreover, Xinjiang’s opening up is the true “essence” of China’s rich ethnic diversity, development and dialogue, negating all false and fake propaganda of the West. Due to Xi’s global initiatives of development, security, civilization and AI good governance it has become symbol of progress, prosperity and peaceful persuasions.

In recent years, as part of China’s BRI approach, Xinjiang has witnessed rapid infrastructure development. Urumqi International Land Port in Xinjiang’s capital city has been built as an integrated rail, road and flight logistics hub to facilitate trade with not only the neighbouring countries but all the way up to Europe via the China-Europe Railway Express.

At present, it has a total of 19 lines, reaching 26 cities in 21 countries. The regions with relative service advantages are mainly the Central Asian region around Xinjiang, including Russia and the countries along the Caspian Sea and the Black Sea.

It follows the holistic concept of balanced development and BRI-Xinjiang is equally focused on the international as well as domestic connectivity of the region. The Lanzhou-Xinjiang High-Speed Railway that opened in 2014 connecting Xinjiang to neighbouring Gansu Province has been transformative for the tourism sector.

According to China Railway Urumqi Group Co Ltd., as of early September, inbound and outbound China-Europe freight trains in 2023 passing through Xinjiang have totalled 10,017, up 10.1% year-on-year.

Till July, the International Land Port in Urumqi welcomed 772 China-Europe freight trains, up 9.35% year-on-year. The rail routes are connected with 26 cities across 19 countries. The port also serves as an important transit point for goods across China and from Southeast Asia to be transported to Europe.

Remarkably, Xinjiang has engaged in foreign trade with 170 countries and regions this year. Its foreign trade with five Central Asian countries increased by 59.1% year-on-year to 176.64 billion RMB, accounting for 80.6% of the region’s total export value.

It is evident that the BRI has driven up Xinjiang's foreign trade, which is a boon for local industries. It is also conducive to Xinjiang's economic development and boosting employment opportunities. The port authorities plan to set up a textile trading centre within the port to facilitate the exports and trade of clothes and other textile products.

The Xinjiang's Free Trade Zone (FTZ) will improve a service guarantee mechanism for foreign investment and support eligible foreign funded enterprises in enjoying equal access to preferential development policies

Foreign financial institutions will be supported in setting up banking, insurance, securities and other financial branches in the Xinjiang pilot FTZ to provide a wide range of internationalized financial products and services.

The FTZ plan encourages the area to carry out cross-border RMB trade settlements with the partner countries participating in the BRI in sectors including bulk commodity trade and overseas project contracting.

Xinjiang, sitting at the heart of the Eurasia continent as well as the intersection of the CPEC and the China-Central Asia-West Asia route, has an incomparable geographic advantage in access to massive neighbouring markets with a total population of 2.8 billion. The region is also a core area of the Silk Road Economic Belt after 10 years of BRI development.

Eastward, it could target the Asia-Pacific markets. Westward, the region is a gateway to markets in Central Asia, West Asia and the Middle East.

Xinjiang is an important node for China-Europe freight train, a flagship BRI project that is deemed as an Asia-Europe golden passage. And the region is home to two land ports tailored for undertaking express freight service. As of the end of September, over 60,000 China-Europe freight trains have passed through Xinjiang, accounting for more than half of the total in China.

It also encourages developing China-Kyrgyzstan-Uzbekistan multimodal highway-railway transport, exploring China-Pakistan multimodal transport and the joint construction of China-Kyrgyzstan-Uzbekistan Railway.

In summary, Xinjiang sits upon a geopolitical goldmine. It is one of four buffer regions for Beijing which protects the heartland of Han China.

The region takes up one-sixth of the Chinese landmass and it is the western gate of the country. Xinjiang also plays a significant role in the implementation of the BRI.

The BRI has provided the Xinjiang Uygur autonomous region with exceptional opportunities for development and has helped improve the livelihoods of the residents.

Interestingly, its regional enterprises have made investment in more than 60 countries and regions. They have also built four overseas economic and trade cooperation parks and have organized seven China-Eurasia expos and nearly 50 commodity fairs in the past 10 years.

Furthermore, the region has been accelerating the formation of a modern industrial system supported by major local industries such as green mining, grain and oil, cotton, textiles and clothing in recent years.

The series of preferential policies encouraging support for Xinjiang in trade, logistics, agriculture and energy, the region's advantageous industries have accelerated upgrading, which has provided new momentum for high-quality development,

Undoubtedly, the BRI has significantly improved connectivity in the region. Currently, all prefectures and cities in Xinjiang are connected to expressways, all county-level areas have better roads, and all townships feature paved roads. In addition, 25 civil transportation airports have been built and put into operation, more than any other provincial-level regions in China.

<https://pakobserver.net/bri-and-xingjian-an-ideal-combination-of-greater-regional-connectivity/>

China-Pakistan Health Corridor on Bilateral Healthcare

Dr. Muhammed Shahbaz

The China-Pakistan Health Corridor (CPHC), an integral component of the CPEC, stands as a testament to the power of collaboration and visionary leadership in times of health crises. In the wake of the novel Corona-virus outbreak in China, I, as an eyewitness, experienced the remarkable courage and cooperation of the Chinese nation in preventing and controlling this deadly virus. The rapid establishment of hospitals and health infrastructure, accomplished within days, highlighted the effectiveness of China's response under the visionary leadership of President Xi Jinping.

In 2006, when I was a student at Shandong University, the idea was conceived by me to establish the CPHC to make a significant contribution to the health sector in both China and Pakistan. Fast forward to 2013, when President Xi Jinping unveiled the Belt and Road Initiative for international development, this idea saw an opportunity to bring about transformative change in healthcare. The result was the establishment of the CPHC, a multidisciplinary collaboration aimed at bolstering healthcare infrastructure, knowledge exchange and mutual cooperation between the two nations.

The CPHC comprises a diverse array of stakeholders, including hospitals, nursing and auxiliary medical institutions, research and training centers, IT firms and pharmaceutical industries. This comprehensive approach reflects a commitment to addressing various aspects of healthcare, from service delivery to research and technological innovation. Key Initiatives include mobile hospitals, which allow for the extension of medical services to remote and underserved areas, addressing one of the critical challenges in Pakistan's healthcare system. This initiative brings healthcare closer to the people, improving accessibility and promoting preventive care. Next is technology integration which leverages cutting-edge technologies such as artificial intelligence, virtual reality and big data. The CPHC is at the forefront of healthcare innovation, enhancing diagnostic capabilities, streamlining data management and facilitating efficient healthcare delivery. The other key initiative is pharmaceutical collaboration, promoting the exchange of knowledge and resources, fostering the development of high-quality and affordable medications. This initiative contributes not only to the wellbeing of the population but also to the economic growth of both nations.

The recent acquisition of President Xi Jinping's book, "The Governance of China Vol-IV," sheds light on China's effective governance system across various sectors, with a specific focus on healthcare. The Chinese experience in managing and controlling health crises, exemplified by their response to COVID-19, provides invaluable insight for Pakistan as it strives to strengthen its own healthcare system.

President Xi Jinping's proactive approach to the novel Corona-virus outbreak was evident in his speech at a meeting of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the 19th CPC Central Committee. His guidelines emphasized the prioritization of epidemic prevention and control, stressing the need for a coordinated national response. The speech outlined the importance of unified command, coordination and arrangements at all levels of party committees and governments, ensuring the proper execution of orders. The CPC Central Committee, under President Xi's leadership, responded immediately to the emergency, exercising overall control over all fronts in the epidemic response and making timely decisions. This coordinated and swift response became a hallmark of China's success in preventing and controlling the spread of the coronavirus, showcasing the nation's resilience and commitment to public health.

The CPHC aligns with Sustainable Development Goal-3, which emphasizes the importance of good health and wellbeing. By sharing expertise and adopting best practices, this initiative contributes significantly to building a resilient healthcare infrastructure that can withstand current and future challenges.

The CPHC is not just a one-way transfer of knowledge; it represents mutual cooperation and a win-win situation for both nations. As China shares its advancements in healthcare, Pakistan reciprocates with its unique insight and experience, fostering a collaborative environment that benefits both countries.

The success of China's coordinated response to the novel Corona-virus can be attributed to the collective efforts of its people, backed by a government that prioritized the health and well-being of its citizens. The rapid construction of hospitals, implementation of stringent measures and the mobilization of resources demonstrated the efficiency and effectiveness of China's pandemic response strategy.

The experience of China in managing health crises can be invaluable for other countries, especially those involved in the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). The CPHC, an extension of the CPEC, provides a unique opportunity for collaboration in health diplomacy. By leveraging Chinese expertise and resources, BRI countries can enhance their capacity for epidemic prevention, control and healthcare infrastructure development.

President Xi Jinping's vision for a coordinated national response can serve as a model for BRI countries to strengthen their healthcare systems. The CPHC facilitates the exchange of knowledge, technology and resources, paving the way for a collective effort in addressing health challenges within the BRI framework. BRI countries can benefit from China's experience by sharing expertise in epidemic prevention, control measures and healthcare infrastructure development.

Collaborative efforts through the CPHC can contribute to the capacity building of healthcare professionals, equipping them with the skills needed to tackle health crises effectively. The collaboration can lead to the development of robust healthcare infrastructure, ensuring that BRI countries are better prepared to handle emergencies and provide quality healthcare to their citizens. Joint efforts in research and development can accelerate the discovery of vaccines, treatments, and diagnostic tools, fostering innovation in the field of public health.

The CPHC is not just a physical link but a pathway towards health diplomacy, demonstrating the potential for collaboration in addressing global health challenges. President Xi Jinping's visionary leadership during the Corona-virus outbreak showcased the importance of coordinated responses and unified efforts.

The CPHC stands as a testament to the power of visionary thinking and international collaboration in addressing crucial issues such as healthcare. This initiative not only enhances the healthcare landscape in Pakistan but also strengthens the bonds of friendship and cooperation between China and Pakistan. As the corridor continues to evolve, its impact on the health sector and beyond is poised to be a beacon of success in Sino-Pak relations.

<https://pakobserver.net/china-pakistan-health-corridor-on-bilateral-healthcare/>

The Express Tribune

Businessmen call for SIFC-CPEC collaboration

KARACHI: In a resounding endorsement, business leaders and market analysts are hailing the recently established Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) as a crucial necessity during these challenging times. "The SIFC is a necessity of the time as it includes all local stakeholders, such as the civil-military forum, trade bodies, businesspeople, bureaucrats, politicians, and others. It is a bouquet of all stakeholders, ensuring that issues faced by industrialists or investors are promptly addressed. Our Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) was nearly non-existent due to multinational companies struggling to repatriate profits. However, with the establishment of the SIFC, foreign investors have been assured of their profits, creating a conducive environment for potential \$60 billion investments within the stipulated five-year period. The SIFC is not only resolving foreign investors' issues but has also begun addressing local concerns. For instance, the fertiliser industry faced a severe shortage, leading to the black-market sale of Urea, negatively impacting the agriculture sector. Thanks to the SIFC, the Sui Southern Gas Company (SSGC) extended privileges to the fertiliser industry, ensuring it operates efficiently, and soon fertiliser will be available at economical rates. The SIFC is fully capable of resolving all issues, fostering substantial growth for local businesses," remarked Hyderabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry President Adeel Siddiqui in a conversation with The Express Tribune. Siddiqui believes the council will efficiently and swiftly tackle bureaucratic obstacles. "I appeal to the SIFC to extend the same facilities to local investors as foreign investors, allowing local investors to make swift investments, while foreign investors may take time to bring investment here," urged SITE Association of Industry Karachi President Muhammad Kamran Arbi. He underscored the importance of promoting local industrialisation and implementing a one-window operation to alleviate the burden of dealing with over 60 federal and provincial departments, which

currently poses a challenge for business growth. Arbi also stressed the need for imposing regionally competitive electricity rates, asserting that these initiatives could help achieve the government's ambitious investment targets. Economist Faizul Haq suggested utilising the SIFC as an extension of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) to attract foreign direct investment (FDI) and leverage the infrastructural and communication networks developed by CPEC. He highlighted CPEC's substantial contributions, such as power generation, efficient transmission networks, world-class highways, job creation, and special economic zones (SEZs). "It makes perfect economic sense to expedite the return on investments and enhance the resulting favourable cost-benefit equation, further solidifying CPEC, the crown jewel of BRI. Both CPEC and SIFC should be envisioned as constantly expanding enterprises, providing incremental economic utility," he said. Underlining key initiatives of the SIFC, Haq emphasised the transformative potential of granting uniform right-of-way (ROW) charges for telecommunications, asserting that it could revolutionise Pakistan's tech landscape, enabling rapid economic growth. <https://tribune.com.pk/story/2446505/businessmen-call-for-sifc-cpec-collaboration>

Pak-China collaboration to sweeten markets

PCJCCI explores joint efforts to modernise, boost sugarcane production

LAHORE: In a recent think tank session at the Pakistan China Joint Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCJCCI) Secretariat, Moazzam Ghurki, President of PCJCCI, highlighted the potential for Pakistan and China to revolutionise the sugar industry through collaborative efforts. Ghurki suggested that the two nations, with their strong friendship, can produce high-grade sugar abundantly and export it globally. Ghurki highlighted the importance of connecting experts from China and Pakistan, providing them a platform to enhance cooperation in sugarcane production and processing. He proposed that by leveraging technologies like 'Tissue Culture,' a significant transformation in sugarcane production could be achieved. Ghurki referenced the Chinese Academy of Tropical Agriculture Science (CATAS), which has been training scientists worldwide, offering 100 courses to over 4,000 participants from more than 90 countries. PCJCCI, Senior Vice President, Fang Yulong stressed the need for Pakistan to modernise its agricultural sector to meet international standards. He advocated for the use of disease-free seedlings and integrated techniques to eliminate pathogens, such as viruses and Red Rot (RSD), from sugarcane crops. As the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) nears completion, Yulong expressed China's commitment to providing its latest agricultural technology to modernise Pakistan's agriculture sector. PCJCCI, Vice President, Hamza Khalid emphasised that Pakistan's sugarcane industry requires access to leading sugarcane varieties with strong resistance against diseases for sustainable growth. He called for the initiation of a sugarcane breeding programme in Pakistan, with collaboration from China. Salahuddin Hanif, Secretary General of PCJCCI, underscored the vast scope of cooperation between China and Pakistan in the agriculture sector, particularly in the sugar industry. He stressed the importance of mutual learning, where both countries can benefit from each other's experiences and expertise.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2446486/pak-china-collaboration-to-sweeten-markets>

The Nation

Pakistan and China can produce high-grade sugar in abundance: PCJCCI

LAHORE-Pakistan and China can produce high-grade sugar in abundance and export it across the world. This was stated by Moazzam Ghurki, President Pakistan China Joint Chamber of Commerce and Industry, during a think tank session held at PCJCCI Secretariat yesterday. Sugarcane cooperation between China and Pakistan will bring sweet revolution, he remarked. President PCJCCI said that our responsibility is to connect people and experts from China & Pakistan and provide them a platform. This is what we are doing with zeal and zest, he added. "China and Pakistan should join hands to promote sugarcane production and processing to produce high-grade sugar. Believe me two iron friends can export sugar to the world if they enhance cooperation in this field." He added that 'Tissue Culture' can bring revolution in the production of sugarcane; Chinese Academy of Tropical Agriculture Science has been giving training to the scientists across the globe. It has introduced 100 training courses for 4,000 participants from more than 90 countries. More than 40 young scientists from Asia, Africa, and Latin America came to CATAS for medium and long term visits and exchanges. Fang Yulong, Senior Vice President PCJCCI, said that Pakistan is a traditional agricultural country, but there is still a lot more to do to modernize its agriculture sector. Conventional seeds are not suitable for planting. Breeding disease free seedlings are perfect for sugarcane production, he said and made clear that by applying integrated disease-free techniques, the pathogens of viruses and RSD can be removed, and problem of degradation and purification can be solved simultaneously.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/15-Nov-2023/pakistan-and-china-can-produce-high-grade-sugar-in-abundance-pcjcci#:~:text=LAHORE%20Pakistan%20and%20China%20can,held%20at%20PCJCCI%20Secretariat%20yesterday.>

Promotion of latest agri technology to help earn foreign exchange

LAHORE - Promotion of agricultural recommendations and latest technology will not only help achieve self-sufficiency but also earn precious foreign exchange as the progressive farmer is getting more than 60 maunds per acre wheat against 32 maunds per acre production in the country. This was stated by Prof Dr Iqar Ahmed Khan Vice Chancellor (VC) University of Agricultural Faisalabad (UAF) during a meeting with the delegation of 29th Diplomatic Course of Foreign Service Academy.

Dr. Iqar Ahmad said that timely sowing, balanced use of fertilizers, introduction of improved varieties and others techniques would increase the productivity. He said that Pakistan was producing a surplus of rice and corn.

The UAF had produced various varieties of cotton, wheat, chickpea, soybeans, sugarcane, chia and mango which led to agricultural development, he added. He said that the UAF had maintained excellent academic and research relations with various countries around the world.

He said that tangible work was being carried out under the Center for Advanced Studies, Pak Korea Nutrition Center, Chinese Confucius Center, International Seed Lab and other projects with international cooperation. He said that 33,000 university students had visited various villages across the province in the wheat production campaign organized from November 07 to 14 by UAF and Agriculture Extension Department Punjab. The UAF students informed the farmers about the recommendations of agricultural experts, he added. On the occasion, Pro-Vice Chancellor/ Dean Faculty of Agriculture Prof Dr. Muhammad Sarwar Khan, Deans Dr. Qamar Bilal, Dr. Farzana Rizvi, Dr. Ijaz Ahmed Bhatti, Dr. Khalid Mushtaq, Principal Officer Public Relations Officer Dr. Muhammad Jalal Arif, Director General National Institute of Food Science and Technology Dr. Imran Pasha and others were also present on the occasion.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/15-Nov-2023/promotion-of-latest-agri-technology-to-help-earn-foreign-exchange>

The News

Pakistan eyes China's sugarcane technology to boost sugar exports

LAHORE: Pakistan and China trade officials on Tuesday discussed measures to enhance their cooperation in the sugarcane sector, aiming to produce high-grade sugar and export it to the world market, a statement said on Tuesday.

The Pakistan China Joint Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCJCCI) held a think tank session at its secretariat in Lahore, where experts from China and Pakistan discussed the potential of collaboration in the sugar industry.

Moazzam Ghurki, president of PCJCCI, observed that there is a great scope of cooperation between China and Pakistan in the agriculture sector, including the 'sugar industry'. "Pakistan and China need to cooperate with each other so that they can learn from mutual experiences for mutual gains," Ghurki said.

PCJCCI president said that the sugarcane cooperation between China and Pakistan would bring a sweet revolution and make the friendship between the two nations "sweeter than honey". "Our responsibility is to connect people and experts from China and Pakistan and provide them a platform. This is what we are doing with zeal and zest," Ghurki said.

He said that China and Pakistan should join hands to promote sugarcane production and processing using modern technology and techniques, such as tissue culture, disease-free seedlings and integrated pest management. "Believe me, two iron friends can export sugar to the world if they enhance cooperation in this field."

Fang Yulong, senior vice president of PCJCCI, said that China's Academy of Tropical Agricultural Sciences (CATAS) has been providing training and assistance to scientists from more than 90 countries, including Pakistan, in the field of sugarcane.

He said that CATAS has developed leading sugarcane varieties that offer great resistance against diseases and pests, and can increase the yield and quality of sugar. "As CPEC inches near to completion in Pakistan, we are offering our latest agricultural technology to Pakistan.

We are here to modernize Pakistan's agriculture sector," Fang said, referring to the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, a flagship project of China's Belt and Road Initiative.

Yulong said that Pakistan is a traditional agricultural country, but there is still a lot more to do to modernize its agriculture sector to enable it to meet international standards.

Hamza Khalid, vice president of PCJCCI, said that Pakistan's sugarcane industry could not prosper until growers get access to the best sugarcane varieties and practices. He said that Pakistan should start a sugarcane breeding program with the help of China, and learn from its experience and expertise.

The PCJCCI officials also expressed their hope that the sugarcane cooperation between China and Pakistan would create more jobs, income and opportunities for the people of both countries.

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=255220>

Chinese Newspapers

November 01, 2023

China Daily

China, Pakistan work together on medicine

Anzal Mahnoor enjoys her time as a Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery student at Hainan Medical University, located in Haikou, Hainan province.

"Here in this university, I get a chance to make wonderful friends, and I get a chance to fulfill my dream to become a good doctor," said the 24-year-old from Pakistan. "I get a lot of knowledge regarding my studies from my best teachers."

She is among the abundant talent coming to Hainan because of the growing medical cooperation between China and Pakistan in the past decade thanks to the Belt and Road Initiative.

China proposed the idea of building an "economic belt along the Silk Road" in Kazakhstan in 2013, which, combined with the proposal of the 21st Century Maritime Silk Road, eventually became the Belt and Road Initiative.

As a primary hub along the 21st Century Maritime Silk Road, Hainan has made use of favorable supporting policies and its unique advantages to pioneer the country's high-level opening-up.

In the past 10 years, China has seen increasing medical cooperation with countries and regions building the Belt and Road, including Pakistan. Tens of thousands of health professionals have been trained in areas such as health management, public health and medical research.

In Hainan, the Belt and Road Tropical Medical Alliance was established in 2018, led by Hainan Medical University. The alliance has several member units from Pakistan.

The alliance has organized five medicine forums. More than 120 universities, medical institutions and research institutes from more than 30 countries and regions have joined the alliance.

Medical cooperation between China and Pakistan has brought opportunities for many students from Pakistan.

This summer, in Dongfang, Hainan, a number of students from Pakistan and China formed a medical team at a local health center to provide cardiopulmonary resuscitation training and other medical services to villagers.

"This university has given me a lot of education," said Malik Usman Haider, 27, a student from Pakistan studying medicine at Hainan Medical University. "In the future, I want to stay here. China has given me so much and the government helps me, and the university also helps me a lot, so I want to give them something in return. It is a way to say thank you."

"I want to become a good doctor in the future," said Fraz Ahmad Shams, 28, also from Pakistan and a Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery student at Hainan Medical University. "Maybe I will come back to China to do my master's degree."

Xia Qianfeng, dean of the Tropical Medical School at Hainan Medical University, said that the Belt and Road Tropical Medical Alliance will continue to work with all member units to build a bridge of friendship with the world, and provide more opportunities for public health cooperation.

<https://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202311/01/WS6541b319a31090682a5ebd41.html>

Global Times

Despite divergent security concepts, China, US should cooperate for world peace and stability

By He Lei

Peace and stability are two major issues crucial to the survival and well-being of humanity. Achieving, ensuring, and maintaining lasting security are significant issues directly related to the establishment of a just and reasonable international order.

In the face of a critical moment of world peace and development, Chinese President Xi Jinping put forward the Global Security Initiative (GSI) in April 2022. China also adheres to a national defense policy that is defensive in nature, as clearly stated in the newly revised National Defense Law.

Since 2009, China's total defense expenditure has ranked second in the world, but it is less than one-third of that of the US, which ranks first. Over the years, China's defense expenditure has accounted for less than 1.5 percent of GDP. By 2023, China's defense expenditure will be equivalent to 26.2 percent of the US'. China's defense expenditure is open and transparent. Since 2007, China has annually reported its military expenditures to the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

Working for the progress of humanity and the common good of the world is China's responsibility to the international community. In over 70 years since the founding of the People's Republic of China, there have been very few armed conflicts with neighboring countries, and they were all defensive counterattacks carried out when national territorial sovereignty, maritime rights and interests, and the lives and property of the people were severely threatened, and peaceful means were exhausted.

China is the second-largest contributor to UN peacekeeping funding and the largest troop-contributing country among the permanent members of the UN Security Council. Since the first deployment of military observers in 1990, China has sent nearly 50,000 peacekeeping personnel to participate in 25 peacekeeping operations. Currently, an 8,000-strong standby peacekeeping force has been formed. Since 2012, China has organized or participated in international rescue operations such as the search for the missing Malaysia Airlines Flight MH370, the fight against the Ebola virus disease in Africa, earthquake relief in Nepal and recent earthquake relief in Afghanistan. After the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, China provided assistance to the military forces of more than 30 countries, including Pakistan, Cambodia and Ethiopia, and received widespread praise from recipient countries and the international community.

China-US relations are the most important bilateral relationship in the world. Due to differences in history, culture, social systems and national strategies, China and the US have different global security concepts, which have different significant impacts on the establishment of a just and reasonable international order and world peace and stability.

In June 2023, at the 20th Shangri-La Dialogue held in Singapore, US Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin delivered a speech titled "A shared vision for the Indo-Pacific." The central argument was that security in the Indo-Pacific region could only be achieved under US leadership. However, every country in the world is a sovereign state, regardless of its size, strength or wealth, and they are all equal. No country should assume the role of a leader, display arrogance, interfere in others' affairs, or impose its terms on other nations.

China has consistently advocated that the affairs of a country should be decided by its own people and that regional and global affairs should be handled through consultation among countries. Contrary to this perspective, Austin's speech emphasized the necessity of US leadership in the Indo-Pacific region, which relies on creating cliques such as AUKUS, the Quad, and the US-Japan-South Korea alliance, as well as engaging in confrontations. This approach does not bring peace and security to the Asia-Pacific region. Instead, it fosters instability, disunity, and even turmoil and confrontation.

China's GSI promotes safety and security for all countries. It is not about sacrificing the security of other countries to ensure China's own security. It emphasizes comprehensive security in all aspects, ensuring that human beings live in a safe and stable environment. It promotes cooperative security, where countries coexist on an equal footing and jointly maintain security. It aims for sustainable security, which means permanent security.

In addition to establishing the correct global security concept, I believe the following three points should be implemented: First, we should fully implement the important consensus

reached by the heads of state of China and the US. Second, there should be sincerity and genuine efforts made to strengthen communication and exchanges. Third, it is essential to rectify provocative actions that interfere in China's internal affairs.

I suggest the formulation of an agreement between China and the US to implement the consensus of the heads of two states or an agreement on non-interference in internal affairs. I believe this should be the most important, highest-level and most reflective of sincerity in the legal construction that China and the US can undertake to make greater contributions to maintaining a just and reasonable international order, world peace and stability.

The author is a PLA Lieutenant General and former vice president of the Academy of Military Sciences of the PLA. This is extracted from his speech during the 10th Beijing Xiangshan Forum on October 30. opinion@globaltimes.com.cn

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202311/1300999.shtml>

Future cooperation in new-energy projects under BRI to contribute to a cleaner future: foreign media

By Qian Jiayin

After journalists from Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) partner countries entered Chinese cities and villages to experience China's infrastructure construction and witness the country's green energy transformation and development, they marveled at China's infrastructure achievements and expressed hopes that the Chinese experience could help accelerate their own countries' development.

From October 20 to 28, the "Belt and Road" Media Cooperation Forum's international press corps visited selected cities in China, including Beijing, Changsha, Xinyu, Zhangshu, and Wuhan.

Journalists from five continents including Nepal, Pakistan, Fiji, Vietnam, Indonesia, Cambodia, Hungary, Armenia, Chile, Argentina, Benin, Guinea, the Central African Republic and Burkina Faso participated in the event. Some of them have been to China before, while others are visiting for the first time. Codjo Amoussou, director of Benin's public media, La Nation, told the Global Times that he enjoyed the visit, and he fell in love with the modern and authentic China.

Infrastructure build-up

At the construction site of the T3 terminal project at Changsha International Airport, the journalists witnessed with their own eyes how China has leveraged advanced technology to vigorously and rapidly promote the construction of a green and low-carbon terminal that is scheduled to be put into operation in 2026.

The T3 terminal project of Changsha International Airport of China State Construction Engineering Corporation is currently the largest infrastructure project in Central China's Hunan Province. The total construction area of the T3 terminal is approximately 500,000 square meters.

The person in charge of project construction told the reporters that the construction was steadily progressing, and the topping out of the concrete main structure in the area, unaffected by the construction of other transport projects at the transport hub, including the terminal, was completed on September 30. He also said the first-area grid lifting, an important milestone, would be completed by October 31.

Foreign journalists from BRI partner countries visited the smart exhibition hall, safety experience center, and observation tower and also visited the exhibition areas showcasing green construction, safety management, quality benchmarks, and optimization models, gaining an in-depth understanding of various details and measures during the construction process. In the safety experience center, several foreign journalists showed great interest in the VR experience of the construction site. Codjo Amoussou, the director of Benin's public media, La Nation, said that it was a very novel experience.

Building a green and low-carbon terminal is one of the important concepts behind the new T3 terminal project of Changsha International Airport.

Currently, the project has adopted 50 green construction techniques, achieving green and low-carbon construction through the utilization of renewable energy such as solar panels. Foreign reporters experienced the digital sand table in the smart exhibition hall, experiencing how Chinese construction uses digitalization to monitor real-time data on various green construction indicators such as construction site noise and dust.

Sitaram Baral, a magazine editor at Nepalkhabar.com, told the Global Times that he knew Chinese construction companies had projects in Nepal. The KTFT Expressway project is currently the longest highway tunnel project being built in Nepal. He is very interested in understanding how Chinese construction projects are built and hopes that Chinese infrastructure can continue to invest in Nepal through the joint construction of the BRI.

Anahit Sargsyan, an international news editor at the information-analytic agency NEWS.am, said that the level of modern technology used in China has surprised her. The company's safety standards, concern for the workers' health, and the entire airport project have impressed her. "After the completion of the terminal, I really want to come and see what it looks like," Sargsyan said.

Smart carbon control

In Xinyu city, East China's Jiangxi Province, foreign journalists visited the Xinyu power generation plant. In China, photovoltaics have surpassed hydropower to become the country's second-largest electricity source. Foreign journalists visited the Fenyi administrative service center and the Fenyi power plant there, experiencing up close the exploration of green, clean, and low-carbon transformation done by Chinese energy companies.

The Xinyu smart power plant is one of the 155 integrated intelligent power plants developed by State Power Investment Corporation Limited (SPIC). Currently, the plant has put into operation four units with a total installed capacity of 6.96 megawatts.

At the Fenyi administrative service center, foreign journalists climbed to the top floor of the office building, where photovoltaic panels on the roofs and carports attracted everyone's

attention. The guide from SPIC explained that they installed 8,119 photovoltaic modules on the roofs of office buildings, dormitories, canteens and other buildings. The panels not only provide electricity for the entire office building but also help solve the charging problem for employees' electric vehicles through the supporting construction of photovoltaic carports and charging terminals. The green electricity generated there can be supplied to surrounding residents.

"This power plant is large and well-equipped. It is the best one I have ever seen. This visit has been an excellent experience for me," Mortada Abdelkhalik Abdelaziz Taha, the manager from Kuwait Alarab, said at the Fenxi power plant. In an exhibition hall of the Fenxi power plant, the guide introduced some projects including a light storage charging and discharging inspection project. These photovoltaic facilities aggregate relatively dispersed elements such as power generation, grid, load, and storage through a set of smart systems. "The light storage charging and discharging inspection project and the power plant that I visited have left a deep impression on me. I think photovoltaic projects are important for West African countries. Under the framework of the BRI, technology sharing between China and African countries and bilateral cooperation will enjoy a brighter future," Yameogo Benewende Nadege, a journalist from Burkina Faso, told reporters. At China Energy Engineering Group Co (CEEG) in Beijing and the Zhuzhou Qingshuitang Bridge in Central China's Hunan Province, infrastructure projects constructed by China overseas have left a deep impression on foreign journalists. "There are projects of new-energy power plants in the BRI that span the continents of Asia, Africa, and South America, which help countries produce power while creating a better environment," Ebraheem Faisal Malik, Social Media Manager of The Daily CPEC from Pakistan, told reporters. In Pakistan, the Neelum-Jhelum Hydropower Project, constructed by CEEG, is often referred to as the "Three Gorges Project of Pakistan." Malik said that new-energy projects in the BRI are a positive development both for the countries involved and for the world. "I am very optimistic that future cooperation on new-energy projects under the BRI will help create a cleaner and more sustainable future for all of us."

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202311/1300994.shtml>

Xinjiang Pilot FTZ officially established to make region a comprehensive logistics hub connecting Eurasia

Foreign-funded enterprises encouraged to invest in the region

The China (Xinjiang) Pilot Free Trade Zone (FTZ) was officially established on Wednesday, becoming the first such zone in China's northwest border region and the 22nd pilot FTZ in the country.

The new pilot FTZ is expected to make Northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region a model for promoting high-quality development in the central and western regions. Foreign-funded enterprises are encouraged to invest in the region, where they will have equal access to industrial and regional development policies.

The Ministry of Commerce (MOFCOM) said that it will support the Xinjiang pilot FTZ in attracting domestic and foreign resources, promoting investment facilitation, enhancing

financial services, promoting the development of the digital economy and strengthening service guarantees for talent.

The Xinjiang FTZ will improve the service guarantee mechanism for foreign investment and support eligible foreign-funded enterprises in enjoying equal access to industrial and regional development policies, Guo Tingting, a vice minister of the MOFCOM, said at a press conference.

"Foreign financial institutions will be supported in setting up banking, insurance, securities and other financial institutions in the Xinjiang pilot FTZ to provide international and diversified financial products and services," said Guo.

Analysts said that the Xinjiang FTZ will offer investment opportunities for foreign-funded enterprises in China, as in the past decade, Xinjiang's overall construction situation lagged behind the domestic average, which means that there is huge space to make up for shortcomings.

According to a report by the China Council for the Promotion of International Trade released on Tuesday, more than half of the surveyed foreign-funded enterprises that intend to increase investment in China are considering to raise capital in the western region. The report on China's business environment in the third quarter of 2023 was based on surveys of more than 700 foreign-funded enterprises.

There is also large scope for infrastructure exchanges between Xinjiang and the five Central Asian countries. The MOFCOM said that infrastructure construction in the Xinjiang FTZ will be accelerated.

The Xinjiang FTZ will strengthen the construction of staging centers for the China-Europe Railway Express, and speed up the development of railway and highway multimodal transport among China, Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan.

The FTZ will also explore new ways to develop China-Pakistan multimodal transport cooperation, Li Xuan, a deputy head of Xinjiang's commerce department, said at the press conference.

Xinjiang has 18 national ports open to the outside world, 118 international road transport lines, 23 China-Europe (Central Asia) Railway Express routes, 33 international air routes, three West-East Gas Pipelines, 26 cross-border optical cables and two outbound electricity transmission channels.

The region has initially formed a "six-in-one" interconnected network of roads, railways, civil aviation, pipe networks, communications and power grids, said Li.

The construction of the Xinjiang FTZ should speed up the customs clearance time, and other support services will be more convenient, a Yiwu-based logistics agent surnamed Yu told the Global Times on Wednesday.

"We used to use the outbound China-Europe Railway Express routes that go through [North China's] Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region. Now we are considering using the outbound route through Xinjiang. After all, the Xinjiang route can pass through more countries and reach more destinations," said Yu.

The agent disclosed that the company's cargo transport service by truck goes through Xinjiang's Alashankou Port.

Analysts said that enhanced infrastructure connectivity will give full play to Xinjiang's geographic advantage to make it a key transportation, trade, logistics, culture, science and education center. Xinjiang is also a core area on the Silk Road Economic Belt, which is part of the China-proposed Belt and Road Initiative.

The construction of the Xinjiang FTZ is a natural development, Bai Ming, a deputy director of the international market research institute at the Chinese Academy of International Trade and Economic Cooperation, told the Global Times.

"Xinjiang is at the forefront of China's westward opening-up and a major node of the route of the China-Europe Railway Express. Xinjiang is also the province that has the largest number of neighboring countries," said Bai.

Bai noted that the construction of the FTZ can also benefit local industries.

According to the MOFCOM, the Xinjiang FTZ will vigorously develop the garment and other textile industries, and build a national high-quality cotton yarn production base. The FTZ will improve the standardization and scale of the processing industry for forest fruits, wine, dairy products and other specialty foods.

Many shares related to the Xinjiang region rose on Wednesday after the Xinjiang pilot FTZ plan was announced by the State Council on Tuesday night.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202311/1300971.shtml>

People Daily News

'Firsts' achieved under Belt and Road win wide praise

Over the past decade, the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) has yielded fruitful outcomes, extending its cooperation from the Eurasian continent to Africa and Latin America. More than 150 countries and over 30 international organizations have signed Belt and Road cooperation documents.

Many "firsts" achieved under the BRI have significantly improved infrastructure in BRI participating countries, brought technology and skills to these regions, and enabled local people to enjoy better lives with more job and development opportunities.

In 2021, a consortium consisting of a wholly owned subsidiary of China Southern Power Grid Co. Ltd. (CSG), ISA Inversiones Chile and Transelec won the bid for the Kimal-Lo Aguirre high-voltage direct current (HVDC) power transmission project, marking the first of its kind in Chile. One year later, a joint venture of the consortium was established for the construction, operation, and maintenance of the Kimal-Lo Aguirre project.

The project stands as an important achievement of the BRI between China and Chile, aiding the latter's energy transition and green development. The transmission line, with a total length of about 1,350 kilometers, is expected to be completed in 2029. Upon completion, it will

become the transmission project with the highest voltage level, longest transmission distance, largest transmission capacity, and highest earthquake resistance level in Chile.

The project is projected to deliver over 12.4 billion kilowatt-hours of clean electricity annually, equivalent to a reduction of 9.4 million tonnes of carbon dioxide emissions.

"We must be good learners, familiarizing ourselves with local requirements, standards, and processes for power engineering construction. We must also build bridges of communication to help local communities and companies understand Chinese technology, solutions, and standards," said Gan Yunliang, a builder of the project, who has also participated in many direct current power transmission projects.

Since the beginning of this year, the joint venture has engaged with several communities in Chile, explaining HVDC technology and the project's environmental protection efforts to local individuals. Throughout this process, Gan has always been well-received by local young students.

"Winning the trust of local communities where our projects are located is the greatest recognition for Belt and Road builders like me," Gan said, adding that China's technology and experience will benefit more countries and individuals.

Under the BRI, the 356-meter-tall Lotus Tower, a landmark in Colombo, the capital of Sri Lanka, stands as the country's first TV tower and the tallest one in South Asia.

Construction of the tower commenced in 2012, reached completion in 2019, and opened to the public two years later. China Construction Second Bureau Installation Engineering Co. Ltd. managed the steel structure and electromechanical installation of the project from 2015 to 2019.

"This is the first overseas TV tower project that adopted Chinese standards for design and construction," said Zhang Lei, an engineer of the company, adding that Chinese builders completed the entire process of the project using Chinese technology and standards.

The majority of materials utilized during construction were sourced from China and shipped to Sri Lanka. Zhang also made a point to bring Chinese samples to the construction site. During numerous technical discussions of the project, he showcased the quality of Chinese materials in terms of corrosion resistance, strength, and other properties through detailed parameter data and on-site test data. His earnestness, along with the high quality of Chinese products, garnered recognition from foreign engineers.

The Lotus Tower will not only be known as the tallest structure in Colombo, attracting more tourists, but it will also play a pivotal role in Sri Lanka's journey towards development by standing as a landmark of the Sri Lankan nation, then Sri Lankan President Maithripala Sirisena said at the tower's inauguration ceremony.

Situated 55 kilometers away from the Pakistani capital of Islamabad, the Karot Hydropower Plant represents the first hydropower investment project under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor.

The hydropower facility marked its first anniversary of safe operation on June 29, 2023. Since its full operation, it has generated 3.64 billion kilowatt-hours of electricity, saving about 1.59 million tonnes of standard coal and reducing around 3.98 million tonnes of carbon dioxide emissions, thereby meeting the electricity needs of over 5 million people.

"The Karot Hydropower Plant was not scheduled to commence operation on June 29, 2022," said Zhang Jun, director of the corporate culture department of China Three Gorges International Co. Ltd. (CTGI). He noted that prolonged high temperatures last summer exacerbated power outages in several Pakistani cities.

"June is the hottest period when Pakistan experienced the most severe power shortages. Local people had been eagerly awaiting the initiation of power generation as soon as possible," said Zhang. In response to this need, the plant's operation commenced 54 days ahead of schedule.

"The Karot Hydropower Plant has changed my life," said a 25-year-old engineer at the plant. The engineer hailed from a village near the plant. He won a scholarship provided by the project, which enabled him to return to campus and obtain a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering. After graduation, he returned to Pakistan and became an engineer at the plant.

The construction of the plant has brought tangible benefits to the people of Pakistan. "The project improved local infrastructure and living conditions. Schools were expanded and roads were constructed. Now my children can go to school close to home," remarked a villager living near the plant.

<http://en.people.cn/n3/2023/1101/c90000-20091798.html>

Xinhuanet News

Economic Watch: Int'l agricultural firms eye western Chinese market

CHENGDU, Nov. 1 (Xinhua) -- Taourghist Abdessamad, head of a hypermarket called "XTRA" in Morocco, was excited about the richness of agricultural products at the 9th Sichuan Agricultural Expo, which concluded Monday in Chengdu, capital of southwest China's Sichuan Province.

"I thought I could only purchase some basic agricultural products such as wheat and soybeans, but I saw so many agricultural commodities here. I have been most interested in the local green tea, and I am planning to contact a Chinese tea company to buy some samples and take them back to my country," he said.

The expo was held from October 27 to 30 with an exhibition area of 140,000 square meters, attracting 3,000 enterprises from China and many foreign countries. Representatives from foreign enterprises actively sought cooperation with Chinese agricultural enterprises.

According to the organizer, foreign countries, including the United Kingdom, Nepal, the Republic of Korea, Pakistan, and Italy, held various special activities during the exhibition. Many foreign representatives attending the expo showed great interest in the agricultural products market in China's western regions.

At the expo, Kulager Abdecho Degaga from Ethiopia introduced coffee beans from his hometown and made coffee for visitors to taste.

"My company has been trading with Chinese companies for over a decade. In the past, we mainly imported agricultural machinery from Shandong Province to African countries. After getting familiar with the situation in China, I discovered that an increasing number of young Chinese people like to drink coffee. In 2016, we began to export Ethiopian coffee and sesame to China. Last year, our sales reached 150,000 U.S. dollars," he said.

This year, a special "Belt and Road" agricultural cooperation pavilion was set up at the expo, which aims to promote exchanges and cooperation between enterprises from "Belt and Road" partner countries in the field of agriculture, including agricultural industry and the import and export of agricultural products.

At the Pakistan National Pavilion (Pakistan is the guest of honor of the expo), He Xiaoyan, head of an international trade company in Sichuan, inspected more than a dozen kinds of rice displayed by Pakistan AMIR Rice Import & Export Company.

"I used to run a foreign trade business in northeast China, and this year, I moved my company to Chengdu," He said. "The agricultural resources in western China are rich, and the agricultural product market in Sichuan has good prospects. Besides, the China-Europe freight trains here could reach many "Belt and Road" partner countries, which is very convenient. It's a strong driving force for agricultural product imports and exports in the western region of China."

Chinese enterprises hope to boost the sales of their agricultural products in the international market via the expo.

Cui Bingqian, deputy general manager of Zhejiang Beilai Chaxiang Biotechnology Co., Ltd., said that to seize the opportunities brought by the Belt and Road Initiative, the company that once only sold traditional tea has begun to invest more on product research and development.

This year, they have launched a new product -- freeze-dried tea for the international market, said Cui.

<https://english.news.cn/20231101/cadc0a1c4e5a41689476253abd2fcee6/c.html>

November 02, 2023

Global Times

Pakistan: Ambassador participates in Sichuan Agricultural Expo cementing cooperation

Pakistani Ambassador to China Moin ul Haque inaugurated the Pakistan National Pavilion and attended the opening ceremony of the 9th Sichuan Agricultural Expo in Chengdu on October 28. Hu Yun, vice governor of Southwest China's Sichuan Province, presided over the opening ceremony.

The exhibition hall introduced famous tourist attractions in Pakistan and more than 10 Pakistani companies showcased some agricultural products. The exhibition hall attracted great interest from participants.

Pakistan is the guest of honor of this expo. The ambassador emphasized in his speech that Pakistan and China have established a solid bilateral relationship based on political mutual trust, strategic communication and practical cooperation. He also stressed the close cooperation between Pakistan and Sichuan, including through their sister cities.

Pakistan's participation in the 2023 CIIE will inject new impetus into the ongoing agricultural cooperation between Pakistan and China. Recently, the two sides reached five important agricultural agreement on the application of sanitary and phytosanitary measures, granting Pakistan access to the \$30 billion market for cooked beef, dairy products, chili peppers, cherries and other livestock products, which will help Pakistan expand its exports to China

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202311/1301074.shtml>

People's Daily

Int'l agricultural firms eye western Chinese market

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<http://en.people.cn/n3/2023/1102/c90000-20092238.html>

Pakistani diplomat: Visiting Xizang is a dream come true

"Seeing is believing," Pakistani diplomat Khalil Hashmi said, underlining his visit to China's Xizang and his observations of the region's development and prosperity.

GENEVA, Nov. 1 (Xinhua) -- Visiting China's Xizang Autonomous Region was a "dream come true," the permanent representative of Pakistan to the United Nations in Geneva has said, calling the trip "a pleasant surprise, contrary to what we hear from some Western delegates."

Ambassador Khalil Hashmi has recently finished a trip to Xizang. He told Xinhua that what he saw there was the full realization of the economic, social and cultural rights of local people.

"Seeing is believing," he said, recalling his visit to schools, health facilities, government offices, local towns and cities, and his experience of traveling by bullet trains. "We saw massive development in the form of highways, electricity, telecommunications, and an excellent airport in Lhasa."

Hashmi told Xinhua that every monastery in Lhasa could be a "living example of religious freedom." There, he saw thousands of devotees praying, performing their religious rituals in traditional dress.

As Pakistan's newly-appointed ambassador to China, Hashmi also saw Xizang children reading, writing, singing, practicing calligraphy and speaking their ethnic language during the trip. "What we saw in the museum was efforts made to preserve their very ancient Tibetan culture and heritage."

"We saw people in towns and schools, we interacted with them, we were free to take photographs and videos. We saw a general level of prosperity and we saw people there very content, very satisfied with their lives," he said.

"The fact is that Xizang alone is a 1.2 million square kilometer space, it takes a huge political, economic and financial commitment to connect this vast region for its inhabitants, to put in place the infrastructure, including roads, bridges, trains, electricity, running water, schools, hospitals and so on," he said.

According to Hashmi, one of Xizang's biggest achievements is to enable local children from remote areas to study in boarding schools at primary, middle and secondary levels, so that they can realize their full potential.

"There is much for a number of developing and developed countries to draw inspiration from and to learn from what China has been able to achieve," he said.

Commenting on "misinformation" about boarding schools in Xizang, Hashmi said: "The reality is that a lot of people live far away, so the Chinese government has not just provided them with schools at every level, but also provided them with boarding facilities."

"This is part of schooling in a 1.2 million square kilometer area, and should be appreciated," he added.

He stressed that in the boarding schools, the students can go back to their homes, and their parents can also visit them.

"What the Chinese government has done is a great service to human rights and generally empowering the Tibetan people. Unfortunately, for some countries, human rights are being used as a foreign policy tool to stereotype, to cast a country in a certain light, and then use different tools to disseminate disinformation. It's instrumentalization of human rights for certain interests," he said.

<http://en.people.cn/n3/2023/1102/c90000-20092291.html>

Savoring Pakistani flavors in NE China's Harbin

HARBIN, Nov. 2 (Xinhua) -- Nestled in an inconspicuous street in Harbin, capital of northeast China's Heilongjiang Province, Pakistani restaurant Man-O-Salwa has gained popularity despite its obscured location.

The restaurant, while not particularly spacious, boasts a cozy and immaculately maintained dining area. It has achieved an impressive rating of 4.5/5 on China's popular customer review app, Dazhongdianping.

"This is the only Pakistani restaurant in Harbin," said the restaurant's manager Muhammad Usama in fluent Chinese, as he introduced the dishes to the dinners. "I recommend you try the curry chicken and traditional milk tea."

The restaurant was established in 2019 by its founder, Muhammad Atif, shortly after he graduated with a doctorate degree from a university in Harbin.

"After graduation, I decided to stay in China. I wanted to open a restaurant to introduce authentic Pakistani taste to Chinese friends," Atif said.

He recruited chefs and a manager from Pakistan, including Usama, who had previously served as a chef at a five-star hotel in Pakistan.

Since its opening, the restaurant has faced challenging times, particularly during the COVID-19 pandemic. However, Atif and Usama never considered shuttering their business. Instead, they took proactive steps, such as showcasing their dishes and gathering customer feedback on short video platforms, to promote both Pakistani cuisine and the restaurant. "In the past few years, I have rarely visited my hometown. I have stayed in Harbin, even when there were few customers," Usama said. He noted that the restaurant is committed to delivering an authentic Pakistani flavor. Not only do they employ chefs from Pakistan, but a majority of their ingredients are also imported directly from Pakistan. Currently, the restaurant has four Pakistani employees working in the kitchen. According to the restaurant management, the restaurant has gained immense online popularity, with all tables being fully booked during the weekends. People from neighboring cities around Harbin visit the restaurant, and they often tell Usama that they've specifically come to Harbin to experience Pakistani cuisine. "I have never tasted Pakistani food and wanted to give it a try. The taste here is good and special," said Harbin resident Ai Mingzhe, adding that dining in the restaurant piqued his interest to learn more about Pakistan. With the restaurant's business growing increasingly bustling, Atif is busy working on expanding the dining area and making preparations to open another branch in the port city of Ningbo in east China's Zhejiang Province.

"I love China, and I will continue to do business here, using the power of food to build a bridge for exchange between China and Pakistan," Atif said.

<http://en.people.cn/n3/2023/1102/c90000-20092553.html>

November 05, 2023

Global Times News

Xinjiang shows ‘unlimited potential’ in becoming BRI business and logistics hub, boosted by new FTZ policies

Li Xuanmin

At China-Kazakhstan International Cooperation Center in Horgos, Northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, a group of tourists from neighboring Kazakhstan embarked on a shopping spree on Saturday, buying duty-free Chinese commodities including locally made Nang, a traditional flatbread, to clothes, shoes and home appliances.

The center, part of the first cross-border free trade zone in China, is welcoming an increasing number of foreign tourists as well as businessmen from Russia and Central Asian countries, amid the region's enhanced efforts in westward opening-up and well-developed local logistic network there.

Ji Gang, general manager of Jindiao Central Square, a large shopping mall at the cooperation center, envisioned that the center will be transformed into a shopping paradise for foreigners and a magnet for foreign investment.

The State Council, China's cabinet, on Tuesday publicized a plan to build the Xinjiang FTZ. Three areas were included in the 179.66-square-kilometers FTZ, including the regional capital of Urumqi, Kashi prefecture and Horgos. It is the first such zone in China's northwest border region and the 22nd pilot FTZ in China.

Local entrepreneurs said they have witnessed palpable changes due to a series of new FTZ policies.

"There are now more visitors from not only Central Asia and Russia, but also from Europe, South Korea and Dubai and elsewhere, in pursuit of business opportunities here," Ji told the Global Times.

Visitors thronging in

A Xinjiang-based Russian-language translator surnamed Wang told the Global Times that, lately she has been receiving more business representatives and other visitor groups from Central Asia and Russia. "The Horgos cooperation center and the Urumqi International Land Port are the hotspots, as they are windows to the FTZ. Some also visited new-energy vehicle (NEVs) enterprises and agricultural machinery companies," Wang said.

Xinjiang - which sits at China's westernmost frontier bordering eight countries including Mongolia, Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Afghanistan, Pakistan and India- will see its door open wider and wider thanks to the new FTZ. Local businessmen and observers also take note of the region's "unlimited potential" in transforming itself into a regional industrial, transportation, business and financial hub.

At a press briefing on Wednesday, Guo Tingting, a vice minister of the Ministry of Commerce (MOFCOM), said that the government will support the Xinjiang pilot FTZ in attracting domestic and foreign investment.

The Xinjiang FTZ will improve a service guarantee mechanism for foreign investment and support eligible foreign-funded enterprises in enjoying equal access to preferential development policies, according to Guo.

"Foreign financial institutions will be supported in setting up banking, insurance, securities and other financial branches in the Xinjiang pilot FTZ to provide a wide range of internationalized financial products and services," said Guo.

The FTZ plan encourages the area to carry out cross-border yuan trade settlements with the partner countries participating in the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) in sectors including bulk commodity trade and overseas project contracting.

Observers said that, Xinjiang, sitting at the heart of the Eurasia continent as well as the intersection of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor and the China-Central Asia-West Asia route, has an incomparable geographic advantage in access to massive neighboring markets with a total population of 2.8 billion. The region is also a core area of the Silk Road

Economic Belt after 10 years of BRI development. Those would all be the region's key drawers for overseas investments.

"Eastward, it could target the Asia-Pacific markets. Westward, the region is a gateway to markets in Central Asia, West Asia and the Middle East," Zhao Yi, assistant to the general manager at the International Land Port in Urumqi, told the Global Times.

The plan also supports the relocation of labor-intensive industries in China's eastern provinces to Xinjiang. Analysts said the relocation is conducive to reshape Xinjiang into a center in the Eurasia supply chain.

Magnet for investment

Currently, a number of foreign companies including German carmaker Volkswagen have built up manufacturing factories in Xinjiang. And, the new FTZ is expected to grow more mature after three to five years of development. Observers believe that the booming development of FTZ would further stimulate foreign investors' interest in investing in the resource-rich region.

The Xinjiang FTZ has a space of 179.66 square kilometers, larger than existing FTZs in other parts of China that generally have an area within 120 square kilometers.

The Global Times noticed that the Xinjiang FTZ could undertake certain unique tasks compared to other FTZs. The plan makes clear the FTZ's role in building a comprehensive logistical hub connecting Eurasia, in addition to carrying out common missions such as innovative experiments in trade, investment, finance and manufacturing.

Xinjiang is an important node for China-Europe freight train, a flagship BRI project that is deemed as an Asia-Europe "golden passage." And the region is home to two land ports tailored for undertaking express freight service. As of the end of September, over 60,000 China-Europe freight trains have passed through Xinjiang, accounting for more than half of the total in China.

In a detailed chapter on logistics, the plan said it encourages developing China-Kyrgyzstan-Uzbekistan multimodal highway-railway transport, exploring China-Pakistan multimodal transport and the joint construction of China-Kyrgyzstan-Uzbekistan Railway.

In response to the plan, Zhao said the Xinjiang port authorities have been mulling over plans to open more westward routes to Europe. "We are also negotiating with the Kazakhstani side, to establish business-to-business ties to facilitate custom clearing efficiency," Zhao noted.

Analysts noted that the improved connectivity will pave way for establishing a "Eurasia economic corridor," and the region's accelerated economic integration with Central Asia.

Yu Chengzhong, chairman of Xinjiang-based trading company Horgos Jinyi International Trade Co, told the Global Times on Thursday that the firm will seize the business opportunities brought by the FTZ and strengthen cooperation with companies in Central and West Asia.

The company plans to invest 500 million yuan to build a 500,000-square-meter overseas warehouse in Alma Ata, south Kazakhstan, and set up multiple exhibition centers including vegetable and fruit, small commodities and other daily necessities, as well as machineries within the warehouse, according to Yu. The company's export value to Central Asia could climb up to \$1.2 billion this year, almost doubling from \$683 million last year.

In the first eight months, Xinjiang's foreign trade surged by 51.2 percent year-on-year to reach 219.19 billion yuan (\$30 billion). Its trade with five Central Asian countries grew by 59.1 percent to hit 176.64 billion yuan, customs data showed.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202311/1301214.shtml>

November 06, 2023

China Daily

All-weather friends

WANG SHIDA

China-Pakistan cooperation has withstood changes and will be a solid anchor for peace, while bringing more benefits to their peoples through win-win cooperation

The world is undergoing significant changes that are driven by internal and external factors. The political landscape in South Asia and the northern Indian Ocean region, too, is undergoing a major shift. In this backdrop, increased cooperation between China and Pakistan, which share similar strategic and national interests, will help preserve regional and international stability and create a geopolitical landscape that serves the common interests of the two countries.

After taking office in 2021, US President Joe Biden largely inherited the national security strategy of the Donald Trump era, which is to tackle challenges to the US' global hegemony. To this end, the Biden administration withdrew US troops from Afghanistan in 2021, putting an end to its 20-year global war on terrorism. As a result, Pakistan, which served as a "front-line nation" in the United States' war against terror, has become less important to the US, while its neighbor India has become a close partner of the US thanks to its high geopolitical value.

In February 2022, the US released its "Indo-Pacific strategy", which recognized India as "a like-minded partner", "a leader in South Asia and the Indian Ocean", "a driving force of the QUAD and other regional fora" and "an engine for regional growth and development" and supported "India's continued rise and regional leadership". Likewise, the US National Security Strategy gave priority to "promoting a free and open 'Indo-Pacific'" in its strategy by region. It identified India as "a major defense partner" and "a partner with shared values" with whom the US will jointly advance the "shared vision of a free and open Indo-Pacific".

By contrast, US-Pakistan ties have reached a relative low point. After taking office, Biden did not call former Pakistani prime minister Imran Khan, making him a rare Pakistani prime minister who did not engage with a US president during his tenure. The bilateral ties improved after Khan was ousted. The US approved the sale of F-16 aircraft sustainment and

upgrading services to Pakistan, and resumed cooperation mechanisms including the mid-level defense dialogue and the Trade & Investment Framework Agreement Council.

Nevertheless, US-Pakistan ties face severe problems in areas such as political mutual trust, economic coordination, as well as cooperation in security and diplomacy compared with the Cold War era and the anti-terrorism war period. In spite of the positive remarks by the Pakistani government about the US, the memory of "US cold shoulder" is still fresh in the minds of Pakistanis, who are well aware of the US utilitarianism — "wooing Pakistan when it is needed, and discarding it when not".

In comparison, the all-weather strategic cooperative partnership between China and Pakistan has withstood changes in the international situation. Since the 1960s, the two neighbors have developed an ironclad friendship that is "higher than mountains, deeper than oceans, and sweeter than honey", which has extended to the 21st century.

When President Xi Jinping met with Pakistani Prime Minister Anwar-ul-Haq Kakar, who was in Beijing for the third Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation in mid-October, the two sides reaffirmed their iron brotherhood and all-weather strategic cooperative partnership. The two sides said they will continue to view their ties from a strategic and long-term perspective, move forward together on the path of development, and accelerate the building of an even closer China-Pakistan community with a shared future in the new era.

While attaching great importance to political, security and strategic cooperation, China and Pakistan lay bigger emphasis on economic collaboration, particularly the building of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor. China has helped alleviate the energy crisis and fill in the infrastructure gap that hindered the economic development of Pakistan. Since 2018, the CPEC has entered the second phase of construction. The two countries now aim to deepen economic cooperation in fields such as industrial parks, mining and new energy.

During Prime Minister Kakar's visit to Beijing, the two sides recognized that the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, as a pioneering project of the Belt and Road Initiative, has yielded fruitful outcomes in the 10 years since its inception, and has entered a new stage of high-quality development. The two sides reaffirmed the resolve to jointly build a growth corridor, a livelihood-enhancing corridor, an innovation corridor, a green corridor and an open corridor, and continue to build the CPEC into an exemplary project of high-quality Belt and Road cooperation.

Both sides reiterated their resolve to make Gwadar Port a high-quality port, a regional trade hub, and a connectivity node, acknowledging its significance in cross-regional connectivity.

Recognizing that the ML-1 railway upgrading project is of great significance to Pakistan's social and economic development, the two sides agreed to carry out the common understanding of the leaders of the two countries to implement the project at an early date. The two sides agreed to strengthen cooperation in the mining industry, including in the fields of geological survey, joint research on geology and minerals, training of talent, and planning of mining industrial parks.

China and Pakistan also agreed to strengthen cooperation in areas such as crop cultivation, prevention and control of animal and plant diseases, agricultural mechanization, exchange of

agricultural technology, and trade in agricultural products. The Chinese side expressed its willingness to support Pakistan in expanding exports to China under the framework of the China-Pakistan Free Trade Agreement, and will help Pakistan improve its export capacity through experience sharing, special studies, expert exchanges and personnel training.

In addition, the two sides have agreed to keep even closer coordination in regional and international issues. They reaffirmed their commitment to the purposes and principles of the UN Charter and to jointly uphold the international system with the United Nations at its core. Both sides stand for unity and cooperation of the international community, oppose hegemonism and power politics, and adhere to true multilateralism.

The Chinese side reiterated that Kashmir is a long-standing dispute left from history that should be properly and peacefully resolved in accordance with the UN Charter, relevant UN Security Council resolutions and bilateral agreements. The two sides condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. The Chinese side recognized Pakistan's contributions and sacrifices in combating terrorism and the two sides agreed to further enhance counter-terrorism cooperation to promote world peace and security.

It is foreseeable that China-Pakistan cooperation will be a solid anchor for regional and global peace and stability. The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor will grow into an important vehicle and foundation for the two countries to support each other in a changing world, and will bring more benefits to people of the two nations through win-win cooperation.

<https://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202311/06/WS654823b9a31090682a5ec84d.html>

November 07, 2023

China Daily

China-Pakistan Health Corridor on bilateral healthcare

Muhammed Shahbaz

The China-Pakistan Health Corridor (CPHC), an integral component of the CPEC, stands as a testament to the power of collaboration and visionary leadership in times of health crises. In the wake of the coronavirus outbreak, I, as an eyewitness, experienced the remarkable courage and cooperation of the Chinese nation in preventing and controlling this deadly virus. The rapid establishment of hospitals and health infrastructure, accomplished within days, highlighted the effectiveness of China's response.

In 2006, when I was a student at Shandong University, the idea was conceived by me to establish the CPHC to make a significant contribution to the health sector in both China and Pakistan. Fast forward to 2013, this idea saw an opportunity to bring about transformative change in healthcare. The result was the establishment of the CPHC, a multidisciplinary collaboration aimed at bolstering healthcare infrastructure, knowledge exchange and mutual cooperation between the two nations.

The CPHC comprises a diverse array of stakeholders, including hospitals, nursing and auxiliary medical institutions, research and training centers, IT firms, and pharmaceutical

industries. This comprehensive approach reflects a commitment to addressing various aspects of healthcare, from service delivery to research and technological innovation. Key initiatives include mobile hospitals, which allow for the extension of medical services to remote and underserved areas, addressing one of the critical challenges in Pakistan's healthcare system. This initiative brings healthcare closer to the people, improving accessibility and promoting preventive care. Next is technology integration which leverages cutting-edge technologies such as artificial intelligence, virtual reality and big data.

The CPHC is at the forefront of healthcare innovation, enhancing diagnostic capabilities, streamlining data management and facilitating efficient healthcare delivery. The other key initiative is pharmaceutical collaboration, promoting the exchange of knowledge and resources, fostering the development of high-quality and affordable medications. This initiative contributes not only to the well-being of the population but also to the economic growth of both nations.

The Chinese experience in managing and controlling health crises, exemplified by their response to COVID-19, provides invaluable insights for Pakistan as it strives to strengthen its own healthcare system. The coordinated and swift response became a hallmark of China's success in preventing and controlling the spread of the coronavirus, showcasing the nation's resilience and commitment to public health.

The CPHC aligns with Sustainable Development Goal 3, which emphasizes the importance of good health and well-being. By sharing expertise and adopting best practices, this initiative contributes significantly to building a resilient healthcare infrastructure that can withstand current and future challenges. The CPHC is not just a one-way transfer of knowledge; it represents mutual cooperation and a win-win situation for both nations. As China shares its advancements in healthcare, Pakistan reciprocates with its unique insights and experiences, fostering a collaborative environment that benefits both countries.

The success of China's coordinated response to the coronavirus can be attributed to the collective efforts of its people, backed by a government that prioritized the health and well-being of its citizens. The rapid construction of hospitals, implementation of stringent measures, and the mobilization of resources demonstrated the efficiency and effectiveness of China's pandemic response strategy. The experience of China in managing health crises can be invaluable for other countries, especially those involved in the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). The CPHC, an extension of the CPEC, provides a unique opportunity for collaboration in health diplomacy. By leveraging Chinese expertise and resources, BRI countries can enhance their capacity for epidemic prevention, control and healthcare infrastructure development.

The CPHC facilitates the exchange of knowledge, technology and resources, paving the way for a collective effort in addressing health challenges within the BRI framework. BRI countries can benefit from China's experience by sharing expertise in epidemic prevention, control measures and healthcare infrastructure development. Collaborative efforts through the CPHC can contribute to the capacity building of healthcare professionals, equipping them with the skills needed to tackle health crises effectively. The collaboration can lead to the development of robust healthcare infrastructure, ensuring that BRI countries are better

prepared to handle emergencies and provide quality healthcare to their citizens. Joint efforts in research and development can accelerate the discovery of vaccines, treatments and diagnostic tools, fostering innovation in the field of public health.

The CPHC is not just a physical link but a pathway towards health diplomacy, demonstrating the potential for collaboration in addressing global health challenges. It also stands as a testament to the power of visionary thinking and international collaboration in addressing crucial issues such as healthcare. This initiative not only enhances the healthcare landscape in Pakistan but also strengthens the bonds of friendship and cooperation between China and Pakistan. As the corridor continues to evolve, its impact on the health sector and beyond is poised to be a beacon of success in Sino-Pak relations.

<https://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202311/07/WS65499a57a31090682a5eccfb.html>

Pakistani finds Xinjiang friendly for business

Chen Meiling

Pakistani merchant Nazar Karim Ali in Tashikurgan Tajik autonomous county in Kashgar, Xinjiang Uygur autonomous region, said the county has made him feel at home for the last 32 years. He said as he shares the same culture and language with local people, it's easy to adapt to society. "We are the second generation of businessmen. First of all, my father and uncle had a silk business in China from 1989 to 1992," he said. Karim sells gemstones, jewelry, blankets, cotton bed sheets, clothes and handicrafts from Pakistan. The number of tourists saw significant growth after China adjusted its COVID-19 epidemic control measures, and his business is recovering quickly. He said many policies related to the Belt and Road Initiative and the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor make it easy for Pakistani to do business in China. "Chinese people come to Pakistan for investment. It's a good opportunity for the Chinese and also benefits the Pakistanis," he said. Tashikurgan Tajik autonomous county borders Pakistan, Tajikistan and Afghanistan. Although its population is only 41,000, many foreign traders cross the borders for export and import business.

https://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202311/07/WS6549f3f2a31090682a5ece8f_3.html

Global Times

ICH treasures at 6th CIIE show Chinese cultural diversity, promote global exchanges

As a melting pot of international resources from 154 countries and regions around the world, the ongoing 6th China International Import Expo (CIIE) in the Chinese mega city of Shanghai stages one of the most prominent global commerce galas in 2023 to be hosted by China. Encompassing six themed display areas such as "food and agricultural goods" and "technical equipment," the CIIE in Shanghai is indeed gravitating toward business consumption. Yet, with the appearance of assorted Chinese Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH) treasures and blockbuster artworks scattered in a 3,000-square-meter space, the CIIE is simply not just about "commerce," but is also a platform with a mission to promote diverse Chinese cultures to the world.

East meets West

Shanghai, as the current CIIE's host, is a city in which East meets West, with a combination of local traditions and a fusion of global cultures. To better introduce its Chinese characteristics to international traders, a "Shanghai ICH living room" has been installed at the CIIE's news center.

The space has on display a total of 117 ICH projects, including exquisite handicrafts such as enamel vases and purple clay sculptures, whose workmanship has been inherited by the city's local craftsmen for generations. As part of the local culture, ICH delicacies like Shen Dacheng sticky rice balls with a history of 148 years were also provided for visitors to taste.

Zhu Jingbo, deputy director of Shanghai Mass Art Center, told the Global Times that the "living room" is used to not only show the development of Shanghai's folk arts and crafts, but also intend to show to the audiences how such time-honored local traditions continue to thrive at present day.

Whether a fashionable accessory design inspired by the traditional silk tapestry weaving technique of kesi, or a purple clay pot incorporating a cute cartoon rabbit, the 20 sets of creative cultural products displayed in the booth showcase a contemporary evolution of style blended with old traditions.

Yao Yu, a creative cultural industry expert, told the Global Times that such new ICH products can "emotionally draw overseas visitors closer to traditional Chinese culture." Compared to the "collection" and "pricy" nature of traditional ICH products, those creative cultural items can build closer connections to people's daily life while they use them and gift them to others.

The "Shanghai ICH living room" is a regular agenda to the CIIE. Prior to the current show, a total of 710 local ICH treasures have been displayed at the CIIE since 2018 when the gala was first held in Shanghai.

"The goal of setting the area is to bring classic ICH legacies into modern life and make people feel their presence in life," Zhu told the Global Times.

Other than the "Shanghai style," the CIIE is also crowded with cultural legacies from other Chinese provinces and cities. To promote its distinctive ethnic minority culture, Yunnan Province has brought items such as paper cuttings unique to the people of the Yi ethnic minority group, and the exotic Shangri-La incense.

As a signature ICH legacy of Nanjing, yunjin brocade is on exhibition at the Jiangsu Province booth. Presented by the Nanjing Yunjin Brocade Research Institute, an ancient style garment called jifu (lit: garment of prosperity) with yunjin brocade patterns has intrigued international visitors.

He Guanyi, a staffer of the institute at the CIIE, told the Global Times that he has greeted many visitors wishing to take a photo with the yunjin brocade designs. An exhibitor who specializes in the precision machinery industry commented that he was able to see the special wisdom and ingenuity of the Chinese civilization through the ICH treasure by comparing it to

Germany's expertise in making "repetitive" and precision-prioritized inventions.

"We cherish the opportunity to showcase this legacy on an international platform like the CIIE. We want more international visitors to see the beauty of China through yunjin," Jian Mingwei, head of the institute told the Global Times.

In the China Pavilion at the CIIE, an installation called the Taihu Stone created by artist Qian Lihuai intrigued Samheng Bora, Secretary of State of the Ministry of Commerce of the Royal Government of Cambodia. The installation has been shaped like a stone despite being made of the bamboo. The work was presented by the Joint Laboratory of Digital Cultural Trade. The unique bamboo artwork is also part of the Chinese ICH treasures, which has thrived in Zhejiang Province.

Cultural sociologist Xu Shuming told the Global Times that such ICH treasures showcase Chinese cultural diversity as the CIIE also carries the mission of promoting such diverse Chinese cultures. "Due to diverse cultural backgrounds, international visitors have some very unique viewpoints on China's ICH. In my eyes, I think their opinions can also inspire Chinese inheritors and exhibitors," said Xu.

'A new mode'

The culture-sharing platform is also open to overseas exhibitors to showcase their own cultural legacies. An exhibitor from Pakistan, for instance, has brought the camel leather lamp to the Chinese gala. Such craftsmanship has a 900-year history, but there are only 60 people in the country who can make it.

"China also has a long tradition of making leather handicrafts. The display of the precious Pakistani art might open new collaborative opportunities between Chinese and Pakistani craftsmen," Xu said. Being imported through China's supportive "free tax display trade" term, the 6th CIIE has a section dedicated to "culture and arts" in particular. Top-notch artworks by masters such as French Fauvist movement pioneer Henri Matisse, contemporary Japanese artist Yoshitomo Nara, and Chinese master Zhang Daqian were also shown at the event for the first time. "We are exploring a new mode of customs regulatory services that is compatible with the development of international high-end art and culture trade in order to reduce exhibitors' time and capital costs through policy support and services," said the deputy customs director at the Waigaoqiao Free Trade Zone.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202311/1301386.shtml>

Chinese, US officials, scholars share river protection observations at Yangtze-Mississippi Forum

Huang Lanlanin Shanghai

Rivers nurture life and bring development and communication. The Yangtze-Mississippi Forum, focusing on China's and the US' largest rivers, was held in Shanghai on Monday amid the ongoing 6th China International Import Expo (CIIE). It was the latest example of regional and people-to-people exchanges between the two countries in the environment and hydrology field.

The forum gathered government officials, scholars and industry veterans from various countries such as China, the US, Pakistan, Egypt and Brazil. The attendees included a delegation that consisted of six city mayors from US heartland areas along the Mississippi River.

The delegation's head Jim Brainard, mayor of Carmel, Indiana, said that for many members of the delegation, it was their first time in China. In a speech he delivered at the forum, Brainard said that they had a wonderful time learning about China, as well as its efforts in protecting rivers and restoring the wetlands.

The US delegation visited Wuhan, Central China's Hubei Province, in the middle reaches of the Yangtze River, as well as the nature reserves on Shanghai's Chongming Island at the river's estuary.

"The Yangtze River is a beautiful part of China, and it is similar in some ways to our Mississippi water area," Brainard told the Global Times after the forum. "The two rivers are important to both of us, to both countries."

Brainard shared some joint efforts he thinks China and the US can make in protecting their rivers. "We need to do much work to improve the quality of water in the Mississippi River and to keep agricultural chemicals from polluting the river. China needs to do the same thing as well. I hope that we can learn from each other what works, what doesn't work, and collaborate on making both our famous rivers more sustainable," he said to the Global Times.

At the Monday forum, several Chinese and US experts made keynote presentations, at which they shared the situations and their observations on the green developments of the Yangtze River and Mississippi River, as well as some challenges the two rivers face.

The forum also held an unveiling ceremony for the International Research Center for Rivers and Deltas, an institute at East China Normal University (ECNU) to strengthen transnational academic cooperation in the field of rivers and deltas.

The new center will serve as an international collaboration platform so that people can discuss sustainable development methods in river basins and estuarine areas, said He Qing, director of the State Key Laboratory of Estuarine and Coastal Research at ECNU.

"Watersheds and estuaries are an inseparable system," He told the Global Times after the forum. "It is of great significance for global people living in different natural ecological environments and population densities to learn from each other."

According to the forum organizers, a similar forum that will also focus on the Yangtze River and Mississippi River is going to be held in the US next year. Many guest speakers said at the forum that they are pleased to see exchanges between China and the US have continued to recover after the COVID-19 pandemic.

"The China-US relationship is the most important bilateral relationship in today's world. It affects the overall interests of the two countries and has a bearing on world peace, security and development," said Chen Jing, president of the Shanghai People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries (SPAFFC).

Chen said in his speech that many enterprises from the Mississippi River basin showcased their products at the new American Food and Agriculture Pavilion at this year's CIIE. A \$5-million deal was signed at the pavilion on Sunday, the first day of the CIIE.

Echoing Chen, Daniel Delk, deputy consul general of the US in Shanghai, praised the US mayor delegation's trip to China as a wonderful opportunity. "Environmental protection, private mitigation, sustainable development, trade, educational and cultural exchanges, sub national diplomacy, and sister city relationships offer a local opportunity for sharing challenges and best practices," Delk said at the forum.

"Finding the right partners can help in finding new solutions not only for local problems, but also to help inform and reengage us on the national level and bilateral level between our two countries." Delk said. "I'm excited about the opportunities that may come not this day, but in the months and years ahead, to form new partnerships."

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202311/1301329.shtml>

Xinhuanet News

China's BRI paves way for global development, cooperation and inclusiveness, say Pakistani officials

"BRI is a testament to the transformative power of visionary leadership. The initiative aims to promote connectivity, cooperation and mutual development, not only within our region but far beyond," Chairman of the Senate of Pakistan Sadiq Sanjrani says.

Raheela Nazir

ISLAMABAD, Nov. 7 (Xinhua) -- The China-proposed Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) has paved the way for global economic development, win-win cooperation, and inclusiveness, said Pakistani officials.

The BRI is a cooperative model that benefits more than 150 countries and regions around the world, promoting prosperity, enhancing connectivity and integration across regions, as well as cultural and people-to-people exchanges, the officials said during a seminar here on Monday.

In his remarks, Chairman of the Senate of Pakistan Sadiq Sanjrani said the policy of sharing the dividends of development with other countries is a novel and praiseworthy vision of the Chinese leadership, inspiring and benefiting people across the globe.

"BRI is a testament to the transformative power of visionary leadership. The initiative aims to promote connectivity, cooperation and mutual development, not only within our region but far beyond," Sanjrani said.

He said that BRI, through its flagship project of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), has brought socio-economic benefits to Pakistan, greatly advancing the road and energy infrastructure and improving the lives of common people.

"The special economic zones along the CPEC route are all set to welcome Chinese industries that will promote industrialization, exports and create employment in Pakistan while offering

easy access to international markets and cost-effective labor to the Chinese companies," he added.

Commenting on the relationship between Pakistan and China, the chairman said that the two countries share a friendship that is deeply rooted in history, based on mutual respect and unwavering support, serving as a model for the world.

Speaking on the occasion, Minister for Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi said CPEC proved to be a real game changer for Pakistan, and a clear demonstration project of the BRI.

CPEC has brought nearly 26 billion U.S. dollars in direct investment, helped the country to add 8,000 megawatts of electricity and 510 km of highway, and created 236,000 jobs for locals, the minister said.

Hailing the recently held third Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation, Solangi said both countries have reaffirmed their commitment to pushing forward the Pakistan-China all-weather strategic cooperative partnership and deepening cooperation across various sectors. Mushahid Hussain Syed, a senator and chairman of the Pakistani Senate's Defense Committee, said the BRI participating countries are working together to create an open, inclusive, and interconnected world. He said China has made remarkable economic development over the last three decades, and the country, under various global initiatives, has been sharing the benefits and experiences with other countries as well. "The peaceful rise of China is a monumental development ... And we welcome that because that is a source of strength for small and medium countries, including Pakistan," Hussain added. Launched in 2013, the CPEC is a corridor linking the Gwadar port in southwestern Pakistan with Kashgar in northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, which highlights energy, transport and industrial cooperation.

<https://english.news.cn/20231107/fd71d6fba3d94fcaad01636dfb49c664/c.html>

November 08, 2023

People Daily

Khunjerab Pass, major land port connecting China and Pakistan

Located in Taxkorgan Tajik Autonomous County in northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, the Khunjerab Pass is a major land port on the China-Pakistan border, a major trade station between China and Pakistan, and an important gateway to South Asia and Europe. Since the resumption of passenger customs clearance on April 3, 2023, the Khunjerab Pass has recorded over 40,000 inbound and outbound passengers.

During the third Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation, China and Pakistan issued a joint press statement announcing that the Khunjerab pass will function all year round, which will play an important role in promoting Sino-Pakistani economic and cultural exchanges.

<http://en.people.cn/n3/2023/1108/c90000-20094384.html>

Xinhuanet News

Khunjerab Pass, major land port connecting China and Pakistan

Travelers heading abroad get on a passenger bus at the Khunjerab Pass in Taxkorgan Tajik Autonomous County, northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, Nov. 6, 2023. Located in Taxkorgan Tajik Autonomous County in northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, the Khunjerab Pass is a major land port on the China-Pakistan border, a major trade station between China and Pakistan, and an important gateway to South Asia and Europe.

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A traveler carrying food prepares to get on a vehicle at the Khunjerab Pass in Taxkorgan Tajik Autonomous County, northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, Nov. 6, 2023. Located in Taxkorgan Tajik Autonomous County in northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, the Khunjerab Pass is a major land port on the China-Pakistan border, a major trade station between China and Pakistan, and an important gateway to South Asia and Europe.

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A traveler heading abroad ties up his luggage on a vehicle at the Khunjerab Pass in Taxkorgan Tajik Autonomous County, northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, Nov. 6, 2023. Located in Taxkorgan Tajik Autonomous County in northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, the Khunjerab Pass is a major land port on the China-Pakistan border, a major trade station between China and Pakistan, and an important gateway to South Asia and Europe.

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A traveler waits for border inspection at the Khunjerab Pass in Taxkorgan Tajik Autonomous County, northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, Nov. 6, 2023. Located in Taxkorgan Tajik Autonomous County in northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, the Khunjerab Pass is a major land port on the China-Pakistan border, a major trade station between China and Pakistan, and an important gateway to South Asia and Europe.

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Travelers heading abroad get on a passenger bus at the Khunjerab Pass in Taxkorgan Tajik Autonomous County, northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, Nov. 6, 2023. Located in Taxkorgan Tajik Autonomous County in northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, the Khunjerab Pass is a major land port on the China-Pakistan border, a major trade station between China and Pakistan, and an important gateway to South Asia and Europe.

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A traveler is seen at the Khunjerab Pass in Taxkorgan Tajik Autonomous County, northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, Nov. 6, 2023. Located in Taxkorgan Tajik Autonomous County in northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, the Khunjerab Pass is a major land port on the China-Pakistan border, a major trade station between China and Pakistan, and an important gateway to South Asia and Europe.

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Travelers heading abroad get their luggage on a passenger bus at the Khunjerab Pass in Taxkorgan Tajik Autonomous County, northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, Nov. 6, 2023. Located in Taxkorgan Tajik Autonomous County in northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, the Khunjerab Pass is a major land port on the China-Pakistan border, a major trade station between China and Pakistan, and an important gateway to South Asia and Europe.

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This aerial photo taken on Nov. 6, 2023 shows a view of the Khunjerab Pass in Taxkorgan Tajik Autonomous County, northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region. Located in Taxkorgan Tajik Autonomous County in northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, the Khunjerab Pass is a major land port on the China-Pakistan border, a major trade station between China and Pakistan, and an important gateway to South Asia and Europe.

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A traveler has border inspection processed at the Khunjerab Pass in Taxkorgan Tajik Autonomous County, northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, Nov. 6, 2023. Located in Taxkorgan Tajik Autonomous County in northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, the Khunjerab Pass is a major land port on the China-Pakistan border, a major trade station between China and Pakistan, and an important gateway to South Asia and Europe.

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Travelers are seen at the Khunjerab Pass in Taxkorgan Tajik Autonomous County, northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, Nov. 6, 2023. Located in Taxkorgan Tajik Autonomous County in northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, the Khunjerab Pass is a major land port on the China-Pakistan border, a major trade station between China and Pakistan, and an important gateway to South Asia and Europe.

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A policeman checks travelers' information at the Khunjerab Pass in Taxkorgan Tajik Autonomous County, northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, Nov. 6, 2023. Located in Taxkorgan Tajik Autonomous County in northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, the Khunjerab Pass is a major land port on the China-Pakistan border, a major trade station between China and Pakistan, and an important gateway to South Asia and Europe.

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A policeman checks a vehicle entering the Khunjerab Pass in Taxkorgan Tajik Autonomous County, northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, Nov. 6, 2023. Located in Taxkorgan Tajik Autonomous County in northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, the Khunjerab Pass is a major land port on the China-Pakistan border, a major trade station between China and Pakistan, and an important gateway to South Asia and Europe.

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A policeman sticks a sign on a vehicle at the Khunjerab Pass in Taxkorgan Tajik Autonomous County, northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, Nov. 6, 2023. Located in Taxkorgan Tajik Autonomous County in northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, the Khunjerab Pass is a major land port on the China-Pakistan border, a major trade station between China and Pakistan, and an important gateway to South Asia and Europe.

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A traveler goes through border inspection formalities at the Khunjerab Pass in Taxkorgan Tajik Autonomous County, northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, Nov. 6, 2023. Located in Taxkorgan Tajik Autonomous County in northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, the Khunjerab Pass is a major land port on the China-Pakistan border, a major trade station between China and Pakistan, and an important gateway to South Asia and Europe. Since the resumption of passenger customs clearance on April 3, 2023, the Khunjerab Pass has recorded over 40,000 inbound and outbound passengers. During the third Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation, China and Pakistan issued a joint press statement announcing that the Khunjerab pass will function all year round, which will play an important role in promoting Sino-Pakistani economic and cultural exchanges. (Xinhua/Ding

Lei) Police officers process border inspection for travelers at the Khunjerab Pass in Taxkorgan Tajik Autonomous County, northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, Nov. 6, 2023. Located in Taxkorgan Tajik Autonomous County in northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, the Khunjerab Pass is a major land port on the China-Pakistan border, a major trade station between China and Pakistan, and an important gateway to South Asia and Europe. Since the resumption of passenger customs clearance on April 3, 2023, the Khunjerab Pass has recorded over 40,000 inbound and outbound passengers. During the third Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation, China and Pakistan issued a joint press statement announcing that the Khunjerab pass will function all year round, which will play an important role in promoting Sino-Pakistani economic and cultural exchanges. (Xinhua/Ding Lei) A policeman checks a vehicle entering the Khunjerab Pass in Taxkorgan Tajik Autonomous County, northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, Nov. 6, 2023. Located in Taxkorgan Tajik Autonomous County in northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, the Khunjerab Pass is a major land port on the China-Pakistan border, a major trade station between China and Pakistan, and an important gateway to South Asia and Europe. Since the resumption of passenger customs clearance on April 3, 2023, the Khunjerab Pass has recorded over 40,000 inbound and outbound passengers. During the third Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation, China and Pakistan issued a joint press statement announcing that the Khunjerab pass will function all year round, which will play an important role in promoting Sino-Pakistani economic and cultural exchanges. (Photo by Wang Zhilong/Xinhua)

<https://english.news.cn/20231108/e7f784624caa4711b5f65ffab8ee0adb/c.html>

November 09, 2023

Global Times

Woman drives herself through 13 countries to promote traditional Hanfu

A woman surnamed Yang from Xinxiang, Central China's Henan Province, drove to Asia, Europe, and Africa dressing in Hanfu for three months to promote Chinese traditional culture, according to media reports. Yang worked as a Chinese teacher in Pakistan last year and felt the need to do something positive after returning to China. So she specifically learned how to dress in Hanfu and started her global self-driving journey. She pasted the words "China at your doorstep" on her car, hoping to make more people to understand China. From August to November this year, Yang traveled through 13 countries and introduced Chinese culture to the people she met. "I wear my country's traditional costumes for foreigners to see, and they are very interested in it, so I tell them about Chinese history, as well as Chinese tea art, opera, and calligraphy," she said. According to Yang, she met a Polish mother and daughter at the Palace of Versailles, and the mother was excited and kept crying upon seeing Yang. The mother said she knew it was Chinese clothing and was lucky to meet a girl wearing Hanfu.

"I believe that as long as individuals like us keep working hard, Chinese culture will be experienced by more people in the world," Yang said.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202311/1301514.shtml>

Shanghai Daily

BRI exhibitors make an impression at 6th CIIE

Yang Meiping

Giguruwa Gamage Sathyajith Prasada is participating in the China International Import Expo for the sixth time. He was a sales representative for Ceylon Tea in the previous five years, but this year he has launched his own brand, "Prasada."

The Sri Lankan exhibitor, whose Chinese name is Li Delong, claimed the expo helped him realize his "Chinese dream."

Prasada came to China to study martial arts, but he was impressed by China's rapid development, which imprinted the "Chinese dream" in his heart.

He became a "cultural ambassador" in China to promote Sri Lankan culture and tourism. In 2017, he established a company in Shanghai to promote Sri Lankan tea brands. Fortunately, the first CIIE was held the following year, and his company has participated in every edition since then.

"Thanks to the CIIE, the annual sales growth rate of my company has averaged 60 percent, improving the lives of Sri Lankan farmers. This year, I'm here with my new brand, which includes not only tea but also sapphire and handiwork."

Sri Lanka was one of the earliest countries to join the BRI, and Prasada said that, over the past decade, the collaboration between China and Sri Lanka has resulted in significant achievements, such as the construction of the Colombo Port City and the Hambantota International Port, both of which have greatly contributed to improving the livelihoods of the locals.

"Sri Lanka is a small country with a small market. We have been seeking a good venue to showcase our items. So when the BRI came up, we got access to the enormous Chinese market, which has tremendously enhanced our output and solved our economic difficulty and employment problem," said Parasada.

Parasada's experience is not a solitary case at the CIIE. The expo has become a dependable venue for BRI member countries to discover opportunities in the Chinese market, exhibitors at the expo stated.

This year marks the 10th anniversary of BRI, and the participation of the Belt and Road exhibitors is one of the highlights. Among the 72 exhibitors in the Country Exhibition, an amazing 64 are from BRI countries. Additionally, over 1,500 firms from BRI nations are presenting their products in the Business Exhibition zone, covering a total exhibition area of nearly 80,000 square meters, which is 30 percent larger than in the previous edition.

TCP Group, a five-time CIIE participant, represented firms from another BRI nation, Thailand, bringing Chinese customers a diverse array of products from its "House of Great Brands."

Among them are Red Bull Vitamin Flavor Drink and Red Bull Vitamin Energy Drink, which were previously displayed at CIIE events and are popular among Chinese consumers, demonstrating how the CIIE and its exhibitors have achieved a mutually beneficial outcome.

In addition, to better meet the diverse needs of Chinese consumers, the firm developed the world's first bottled Red Bull Energy Drink this year.

"The CIIE's spillover effect and the BRI's driving effect complement one another. Through the excellent platform provided by the CIIE, new products and technologies are commercialized at a remarkably faster rate, turning exhibits into goods; worldwide enterprises are gathered for trade and form an international market in China, turning exhibitors into investors," said Saravoot Yoovidhya, CEO of TCP Group.

According to Yoovidhya, the BRI has played a positive role in improving connectivity between nations, assisting participating countries and regions in better integrating into the global industrial, supply and value chains, and generating greater space for development during the last decade.

"At a new historical juncture, we are more than ever looking forward to seizing new opportunities in China's market through regional cooperation and wider opening. And our belief in investing in the Chinese market has risen."

The multicolored camel skin lamps presented by Pakistani exhibitor Habib-ur-Rehman have caught the attention of many visitors.

Habib first participated in CIIE in 2021, exhibiting salt lamps with "great success."

"Thanks to the exposure at the CIIE, now every year, I have five to seven TEU (twenty-foot equivalent unit) of salt lamps exported to China," he said.

"It has benefited not only me but also other salt lamp producers in my country, as I am unable to meet the massive demand from the Chinese market alone. The entire salt business in Pakistan has improved."

He said that he brought the camel leather lamp this year because it is a beautiful cultural legacy of Pakistan.

"It's pure handmade and takes several days to finish one," he said. "It's not a well-paying job, and there are only about 60 artisans who know how to make it now, with the majority of them being elderly."

"Via the CIIE, I hope it will gain popularity in the Chinese market so that the huge demand will stimulate the government to introduce incentive policies for the development of the industry and attract more young people to work and pass on the heritage."

<https://www.shine.cn/news/metro/2311090015/>

People Daily

Sci-tech collaboration empowers Belt and Road Initiative

CHONGQING, Nov. 8 (Xinhua) -- Wajahi Hussain, a Pakistani student newly enrolled at Southwest University, Chongqing, is diligently immersing himself in the study of a unique potato variety, with a view to taking part in laboratory experiments.

He is pursuing a master's degree at the university, but his ultimate aim is to introduce this high-yield potato variety into his country.

Named Red Rose, the variety was developed by Southwest University for the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) participating countries. According to Hussain, the yield of this variety is more than 30 percent higher than that of local potatoes in Pakistan.

The potato seedlings are now growing vigorously in a laboratory at the university's Integrative Science Center of Germplasm Creation in Western China (Chongqing) Science City.

"After completing my studies, I will go back to my country to work on potato crops and develop new varieties that will benefit the public and my country," Hussain said.

In 2020, a Belt and Road international innovation institute of potato industry was established as a collaboration between Southwest University, the International Potato Center-China Center for Asia Pacific and over 10 BRI countries, including Kazakhstan, Russia, Egypt and Iran. The institute is dedicated to joint efforts on germplasm creation, utilization and promotion.

Under the initiative, China has shared advanced technologies for potato cultivation and seed-potato quality control with participating countries, thereby boosting local potato production and improving the economic benefits for the local potato farmers.

In recent years, China has been injecting new vitality into the BRI through various activities, such as scientific cooperation, academic exchanges, talent mobility and technology transfers with BRI countries. This in-depth and multi-dimensional scientific collaboration has invigorated the further development of the BRI.

Since China proposed the BRI in 2013, scientific and technological cooperation has consistently been a highlight. Over the past decade, China has inked government-to-government agreements on scientific and technological cooperation with more than 80 BRI participating countries and has established intellectual property cooperation relationships with over 50 BRI countries. Ghassan Karam, from the World Health Organization, said the BRI also contributes to international medical scientific and technological innovation, makes collaboration within the framework of international cooperation on scientific research more standardized and efficient, ensuring that it better meets the demands of clinical research to benefit people worldwide. China regards scientific and technological development and cooperation as solutions to addressing global challenges and has been strengthening technological collaboration within the BRI framework, said Istvan Jakab, deputy speaker of the Hungarian National Assembly. Speaking at the first Belt and Road Conference on Science and Technology Exchange in Chongqing, he said Hungary is looking forward to closer and more practical cooperation between the two sides within the context of the BRI.

<http://en.people.cn/n3/2023/1109/c90000-20095161.html>

Xinhuanet News

BRI yields fruitful results in China-Pakistan cooperatio

In October, in the Thatta district of southern Pakistan's Sindh province, more than 100 wind turbines are constantly delivering green power to households in the rural areas. "This is an important part of our wind power project portfolio, and at present, all 12 wind power projects, with a total installed capacity of 610 MW, have been connected to the grid," said Yang Jianduo, chief representative of PowerChina in Pakistan. According to Yang, the project portfolio has created over 20,000 jobs for locals, and once fully completed, it will provide 2 billion kilowatt-hours of clean energy annually, equivalent to a 2-million-tonne reduction in carbon dioxide emissions. These projects are under the framework of the 3,000-km-long China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), a flagship project of the China-proposed Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). Launched in 2013, the CPEC is a corridor linking Pakistan's Gwadar port with Kashgar in northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, highlighting energy, transport and industrial cooperation. The CPEC has achieved fruitful results, noted Hassan Daud Butt, senior advisor at the China Study Center of the Sustainable Development Policy Institute, an Islamabad-based think tank. By the end of 2022, the CPEC had brought a direct investment of 25.4 billion U.S. dollars to Pakistan, created 236,000 jobs and helped Pakistan add 510 kilometers of expressways and 8,000 megawatts of power supply, he said while attending the Second Conference of Global Economic Development and Security Forum of Boao Forum for Asia, held in late October in Changsha, central China's Hunan Province. "We are very happy and proud to say that we have actually achieved most of our targets and projects," he added. Over 2,500 representatives from government departments, international organizations, academia and leading multinationals attended the conference, which aimed to explore the interrelationship and impact between development and security and better cope with global economic risks and structural problems. Cooperation under the framework of the BRI was a major topic for discussion at the conference as this year marks the 10th anniversary of its launch. In Pakistan's northwestern province of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, the 272-meter-high Diamer-Bhasha Dam on the River Indus is under intensive construction. As a landmark project of China-Pakistan friendship and cooperation, it will be the tallest roller compact concrete dam in the world, with an installed capacity of 4.5 million kilowatt once completed, generating an estimated 18.1 billion kilowatt-hours of electricity every year. Tabi Satti, who returned to Pakistan in 2021 after six years of study and work in China, now works as the project manager. "When I was studying in China, every time I returned home, I could see the changes that BRI has brought to my hometown," he said. "We have smoother roads, easier travel, better quality and stable electricity, and more importantly, more job opportunities... BRI has brought broad development opportunities to Pakistan, and has given me the confidence to participate in it." Over the past decade, CPEC has turned vision into reality in Pakistan, and it continues to do so. The China-funded New Gwadar International Airport and Gwadar East-Bay Expressway will soon be put into operation, investment is pouring in for the first phase of the Rashakai special economic zone (SEZ), and China's hybrid rice has significantly increased Pakistan's total crop yield.

<https://english.news.cn/20231109/4b656fd1b9964f92830c480008a33622/c.html>

November 10, 2023

Xinhuanet News

Feature: China's contemporary art exhibition in Pakistan unites cultures, ignites creative inspiration

by Misbah Saba Malik

ISLAMABAD, Nov. 9 (Xinhua) -- Huda Abdul Basit, a student of English literature and a passionate art enthusiast, was deeply engrossed in the paintings by Chinese artists displayed at an exhibition in the Pakistan National Council of the Arts (PNCA) here in a fine autumn evening. The 22-year-old noticed a striking disparity between the works of Pakistani and Chinese art, primarily due to the dominant use of black color in the Chinese paintings, but simultaneously, she found the contrast intriguing because it presented a more audacious portrayal of life, pushing beyond the confines of traditional art forms. Talking to Xinhua about her impression of Chinese art, Basit said that it invites everyone to adopt a more vivid and dynamic perspective on life, challenging conventional norms and exploring the complexities of existence through the prism of creativity.

"Pakistan and China are cooperating in multiple sectors, and there are frequent exchanges in business, education, and other fields. I hope there will also be enhanced cooperation in the arts of culture because it is the most important and effective medium to strengthen people-to-people contacts," she said.

"Pakistani people want to see and know more about Chinese art and literature."

The exhibition "Star Moon Road" was inaugurated on Tuesday, featuring diverse works by Chinese contemporary artists, showcasing a mix of artistic expressions, including scrolls, sculptures, and various other mediums, and offering a captivating exploration of Chinese culture and creativity.

It also marked the commemoration of the 10th anniversary of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

Launched in 2013, the flagship project under the China-proposed Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) is a corridor linking Pakistan's southwest Gwadar port with Kashgar in northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, highlighting energy, transport, and industrial cooperation.

Speaking at the event, Syed Jamal Shah, Pakistan's caretaker Minister for National Heritage and Culture, said that the exhibition is a celebration of artistic excellence and cultural harmony, reinforcing the bond between Pakistan and China through the language of art.

"The CPEC has not only strengthened economic ties but also paved the way for cultural exchanges... Star Moon Road beautifully captures the essence of this collaboration, showcasing the artistic brilliance of Chinese creators," he added.

There was a fair share of calligraphy apart from paintings and sculptures at the exhibition that attracted the attention of the visitors and students of the art who thronged to the gallery to see the Chinese calligraphy style.

Shabbir Ahmad Zia, an Islamabad-based calligrapher with 40 years of experience in the field, was awestruck by the "free stroke" calligraphy works.

"I cannot understand the language, but the style is very impressive, and I can discern that it is a masterpiece of a very good artist ... the beauty of the work piqued my curiosity and inspired me to learn this style of the art and teach my students about it," Zia added.

He said that Pakistan's primary calligraphy genre is Islamic, with very measured and mathematical strokes. Still, the Chinese contemporary style, on the other hand, is in stark comparison, so it will be a great opportunity for Pakistani students to learn more if Chinese artists visit Pakistan, display their work, and conduct workshops.

The exhibition, which was previously held at other sites in the South Asian country's eastern Punjab and southwestern Balochistan provinces, attracted many students and art enthusiasts in the country's capital.

<https://english.news.cn/20231109/d542137162964b86801ec5f2803c7847/c.html>

November 11, 2023

Global Times

Concerns addressed, new means of cooperation discussed at BRI meeting

Zhang Changyue in Kunming

The issue of debt is not really a problem in the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) as China has means and ways of easing it, and is not making things difficult, said a senior Chinese official in a dialogue on Friday attended by more than 150 officials, political party leaders and scholars from 18 countries in Southeast and South Asia.

"For example, China will never chase the African countries to pay back debts. African countries do not complain that China is creating debt for them. Instead, they welcome China's loans, funding and financial support, which means so much for the improvement of people's living standards," said Liu Jianchao, head of the International Department of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee. Liu was speaking on Friday morning, after representatives from the Philippines, India, Pakistan and Nepal shared their views and concerns over the BRI.

Choosing the city of Kunming in Southwest China's border province Yunnan as the event location, the International Department invited guests from countries including Vietnam, Thailand, Laos, Myanmar, Cambodia, Malaysia, Singapore, the Philippines, Indonesia, and Brunei, as well as India, Nepal, Bhutan, Pakistan, Bangladesh, the Maldives and Sri Lanka. The dialogue is aimed at boosting future cooperation under the BRI.

Through the BRI, China is trying to provide sustainable public assets that target ordinary people's true needs and interests. The initiative is open to all countries, including the US, Australia, Japan, South Korea and European countries, Liu emphasized.

John Ross, former director of economic and business policy for the Mayor of London, was also invited to the event. He told the Global Times that compared with Europe, which is currently suffering low economic growth, severe inflation and disastrous conflict, Asia has a combination of peace and the most rapid economic development in the world. The BRI is a key underpinning of that, he said.

"If southeast Asia is the most rapidly growing area outside of China, then Yunnan is the perfect geographical link," Ross said.

Besides the Friday open dialogue, high-level meetings were held between Chinese and foreign officials to explore future cooperation prospects.

"I have met with Wang Yubo, the governor of Yunnan Province, and people in charge of Yunnan Energy Investment Group this afternoon to discuss the potential for cooperation, as the clean energy aspects of the BRI align with the clean energy policies proposed by our government," Pirapan Salirathavibhaga, deputy Prime Minister of Thailand and leader of the United Thai Nation Party, told the Global Times on Thursday evening.

When asked about the construction situation of the Thailand-China high-speed line, Pirapan said the Thai government is committed to promoting the project and is working to address problems such as land acquisition issues, given that some Thai people are worried about the impact on their farmland and on the residents living near the route. Three seminars were also held at Yunnan Academy of Agricultural Sciences, Yunnan University and Yunnan Minzu University on Thursday morning. Chinese scholars shared experiences and discussed cooperation prospects with the foreign guests in areas such as agriculture, the environment and talent cultivation. Madhav Kumar Nepal, former prime minister of Nepal and chairman of the Communist Party of Nepal, told the Global Times that he was impressed by Yunnan's agricultural development, after hearing professors from Yunnan University introduce the restoration of plateau lakes, the cultivation of distinctive green plants to support poverty alleviation in border mountain areas, and the technology for cultivating perennial rice. "Nepal also has abundant natural resources and can get more benefit from the experiences of China on how to develop our water resources, and how to develop agricultural products," said Nepal. Wang Ning, secretary of the CPC Yunnan Provincial Committee, vowed to deepen cooperation in rural industry and rural construction to support regional poverty reduction and to keep improving roads, railways, aviation and water transportation to facilitate the flow of people and goods. "Southeast and South Asian countries have rich agricultural, energy, and tourism resources that complement our strengths. We are willing to cooperate with countries to develop cross-border agriculture, cross-border tourism, and clean energy, and to strengthen international ecological environmental protection," said Wang.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202311/1301646.shtml>

November 12, 2023

Global Times

China, Pakistan hold largest-ever joint naval drills

Liu Xuanzun

The largest-ever joint exercise between the Chinese and Pakistani navies began in Pakistan on Saturday as the two countries continue to enhance their capabilities in jointly safeguarding strategic sea lanes as well as regional peace and stability, experts said on Sunday.

The Sea Guardian-3 joint maritime exercise kicked off with an opening ceremony at the Karachi Naval Dockyard on Saturday morning, China Central Television (CCTV) reported on the day.

Participating forces from the Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) Navy include the Type 052D guided missile destroyer Zibo, the Type 054A guided missile destroyers Jingzhou and Linyi, according to the CCTV report, with Pakistani media reporting that a conventional attack submarine and a submarine support ship along with a marines corps detachment from the PLA Navy are also involved.

Under the common aim of jointly responding to maritime security threats, the nine-day exercise in the waters and airspace of the northern Arabian Sea will organize training courses including formation maneuvering, VBSS (visit, board, search and seizure), helicopter cross-deck landing, joint search and rescue, joint anti-submarine and main gun shooting, plus professional exchanges and mutual visits.

It is the third and the largest edition of the Sea Guardian exercises, CCTV said. The first edition was held in 2020 in the northern Arabian Sea waters, and the second edition was held in 2022 in waters off Shanghai.

"The exercise is dedicated to enhance the all-weather strategic cooperative partnership, boost defense cooperation and deepen professional cooperation," said Rear Admiral Liang Yang, commander at a PLA Navy base and the general director of the exercise from the Chinese side, said at the opening ceremony.

Liang said he hopes the two navies can further enhance their joint operational capabilities in dealing with maritime security threats and safeguard maritime peace.

Admiral M Amjad Khan Niazi, chief of the naval staff of the Pakistan Navy, told the Global Times in an exclusive interview earlier this year that the Sea Guardian exercises serve the objectives of fostering interoperability and sharing professional experiences to deal with contemporary traditional and non-traditional security threats.

Wei Dongxu, a Chinese military expert, told the Global Times that China and Pakistan have common interests in jointly safeguarding strategic sea lanes in regions like the Indian Ocean, where piracy, terrorism and other dangerous activities pose threats to the maritime transport of energy and goods. Joint drills like these also safeguard the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, an important part of the China-proposed Belt and Road Initiative, and

comprehensively contribute to the peace and stability in the Indian Ocean region, an expert familiar with China-Pakistan military cooperation, told the Global Times under the condition of anonymity.

Outside of joint drills, China-Pakistan naval cooperation also includes high-level visits, expert talks, training exchanges and equipment cooperation.

In May, China wrapped up delivery of all four Type 054A/P guided missile frigates to the Pakistani Navy, with the Hangor-class submarines being built simultaneously in China and Pakistan.

Observers expect further in-depth cooperation between the PLA Navy and the Pakistan Navy in the future.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202311/1301682.shtml>

Xinhuanet News

Feature: CPEC empowers women, boosts education, promotes economic growth in Pakistan

Misbah Saba Malik

ISLAMABAD, Nov. 12 (Xinhua) -- Ghulam Khatoon, a native of the underdeveloped Thar Desert in Pakistan's south Sindh province, has evolved from a financially challenged housewife into a resilient and independent woman, all because of the waves of development brought by the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) to her hometown. Launched in 2013, CPEC, a flagship project under the China-proposed Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), is a corridor linking Pakistan's southwest Gwadar port with Kashgar in northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, highlighting energy, transport, and industrial cooperation. Khatoon is now a professional truck driver at CPEC's Thar Coal Block-II Coal Electricity Integration project. Her path to employment has not only improved her life but also profoundly impacted her entire family, which now enjoys a higher standard of living, improved access to education, better-quality food, and a newfound sense of peace and happiness. "Driving a mighty dump truck professionally and making good money out of it by a woman who had never even ridden a bicycle in her lifetime was implausible. No one, except the Chinese company, believed that I could do it," Khatoon told Xinhua. The project, built by China Machinery Engineering Corporation, has a major power plant under CPEC in Pakistan to help the country meet its electricity demands by using locally available coal. "There are several dozen women at work, and CPEC illuminated our lives with colors of happiness and prosperity," she added. CPEC is also acting as a game-changer for Gwadar, where it develops and operates the port as well as brings about positive changes to the lives of the city's residents.

Talking about the impact of CPEC on the education sector, Muneer Notezai, a district education officer in Gwadar, said he has witnessed first-hand the changes in his hometown and recalled how many local students had to quit their studies after high school due to poor road infrastructure to other cities.

He said it is nothing short of transformative, as a Chinese company supported the expansion of a small school with a capacity of 50 students to a big college building where over 500 students receive a high-quality education. "In the old town of Gwadar, where most of the residents were fishermen for generations, CPEC introduced a technical vocational training institute, offering a wide range of courses, including port management, information technology, and artificial intelligence," he added. Apart from that, a state-of-the-art hospital is being constructed. After its inauguration, healthcare access will be greatly improved so residents will not have to travel long distances to the country's big cities for medical treatment. "The Chinese are also constructing a desalination plant to cater to the need for clean drinking water of the residents of Gwadar, and after its inauguration, a substantial supply of clean drinking water will be available for the area that has long grappled with water scarcity," Notezai said. The China-aided New Gwadar International Airport is a monumental blessing for the region, as it will drastically reduce travel constraints and promise increased economic activities and opportunities, Notezai noted.

Infrastructural development in the country's northwest Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province under CPEC has made life comfortable for residents, significantly increased business opportunities, and brought prosperity to people's lives.

Muhammad Ashfaque, a trader of clothes and dry fruit in the provincial capital city of Peshawar, said that before CPEC, it took him hours to reach cities within the province and the country's north Gilgit-Baltistan region, but now his business has doubled as he can access new markets for buying.

"A great dream of businessmen is coming true with the construction of the Rashakai Special Economic Zone in Peshawar under the CPEC framework. It presents a fantastic investment opportunity as after its inauguration, the Chinese will bring investment and technology, which will be instrumental in training our labor force and enable Pakistan to leverage cutting-edge technology for its benefit," he added.

<https://english.news.cn/asiapacific/20231112/1f9a677dae9f4c8589e93e588d836b40/c.html>

November 13, 2023

People Daily

CPEC empowers women, boosts education, promotes economic growth in Pakistan

By Misbah Saba Malik

"No one, except the Chinese company, believed that I could do it," said Ghulam Khatoon, a professional truck driver.

ISLAMABAD, Nov. 13 (Xinhua) -- Ghulam Khatoon, a native of the underdeveloped Thar Desert in Pakistan's south Sindh province, has evolved from a financially challenged housewife into a resilient and independent woman, all because of the waves of development brought by the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) to her hometown.

Launched in 2013, CPEC, a flagship project under the China-proposed Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), is a corridor linking Pakistan's southwest Gwadar port with Kashgar in northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, highlighting energy, transport, and industrial cooperation.

Khatoon is now a professional truck driver at CPEC's Thar Coal Block-II Coal Electricity Integration project. Her path to employment has not only improved her life but also profoundly impacted her entire family, which now enjoys a higher standard of living, improved access to education, better-quality food, and a newfound sense of peace and happiness.

"Driving a mighty dump truck professionally and making good money out of it by a woman who had never even ridden a bicycle in her lifetime was implausible. No one, except the Chinese company, believed that I could do it," Khatoon told Xinhua.

The project, built by China Machinery Engineering Corporation, has a major power plant under CPEC in Pakistan to help the country meet its electricity demands by using locally available coal.

"There are several dozen women at work, and CPEC illuminated our lives with colors of happiness and prosperity," she added.

CPEC is also acting as a game-changer for Gwadar, where it develops and operates the port as well as brings about positive changes to the lives of the city's residents.

Talking about the impact of CPEC on the education sector, Muneer Notezai, a district education officer in Gwadar, said he has witnessed first-hand the changes in his hometown and recalled how many local students had to quit their studies after high school due to poor road infrastructure to other cities.

He said it is nothing short of transformative, as a Chinese company supported the expansion of a small school with a capacity of 50 students to a big college building where over 500 students receive a high-quality education.

"In the old town of Gwadar, where most of the residents were fishermen for generations, CPEC introduced a technical vocational training institute, offering a wide range of courses, including port management, information technology, and artificial intelligence," he added.

Apart from that, a state-of-the-art hospital is being constructed. After its inauguration, healthcare access will be greatly improved so residents will not have to travel long distances to the country's big cities for medical treatment.

"The Chinese are also constructing a desalination plant to cater to the need for clean drinking water of the residents of Gwadar, and after its inauguration, a substantial supply of clean drinking water will be available for the area that has long grappled with water scarcity," Notezai said.

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<http://en.people.cn/n3/2023/1113/c90000-20096462.html>

CPEC empowers women, boosts education, promotes economic growth in Pakistan

By Misbah Saba Malik

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changes in his hometown and recalled how many local students had to quit their studies after high school due to poor road infrastructure to other cities. He said it is nothing short of transformative, as a Chinese company supported the expansion of a small school with a capacity of 50 students to a big college building where over 500 students receive a high-quality education. "In the old town of Gwadar, where most of the residents were fishermen for generations, CPEC introduced a technical vocational training institute, offering a wide range of courses, including port management, information technology, and artificial intelligence," he added.

Apart from that, a state-of-the-art hospital is being constructed. After its inauguration, healthcare access will be greatly improved so residents will not have to travel long distances to the country's big cities for medical treatment. "The Chinese are also constructing a desalination plant to cater to the need for clean drinking water of the residents of Gwadar, and after its inauguration, a substantial supply of clean drinking water will be available for the area that has long grappled with water scarcity," Notezai said. The China-aided New Gwadar International Airport is a monumental blessing for the region, as it will drastically reduce travel constraints and promise increased economic activities and opportunities, Notezai noted. Infrastructural development in the country's northwest Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province under CPEC has made life comfortable for residents, significantly increased business opportunities, and brought prosperity to people's lives. Muhammad Ashfaque, a trader of clothes and dry fruit in the provincial capital city of Peshawar, said that before CPEC, it took him hours to reach cities within the province and the country's north Gilgit-Baltistan region, but now his business has doubled as he can access new markets for buying. "A great dream of businessmen is coming true with the construction of the Rashakai Special Economic Zone in Peshawar under the CPEC framework. It presents a fantastic investment opportunity as after its inauguration, the Chinese will bring investment and technology, which will be instrumental in training our labor force and enable Pakistan to leverage cutting-edge technology for its benefit," he added.

<https://english.news.cn/20231113/e8995b077eb64183ad4b34aa00159eec/c.html>

Xinhuanet News

Khalil Hashmi appointed as Pakistan's ambassador to China

ISLAMABAD, Nov. 13 (Xinhua) -- Pakistan has appointed senior diplomat Khalil Hashmi as the country's new ambassador to China, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Pakistan said on Monday. Hashmi succeeded Moin ul Haque, who served for over three years as Pakistan's ambassador to China after his appointment in 2020. The newly appointed ambassador expressed his resolve to further consolidate the already robust relationship between the two countries, the Pakistani foreign ministry said in a statement. According to the ministry, Hashmi is a senior Pakistani diplomat with 29 years of experience in both bilateral and multilateral relations. Before his assignment in China, he served as Pakistan's permanent representative to the United Nations in Geneva from November 2019 onwards.

<https://english.news.cn/asiapacific/20231113/8ab10c91e3ce4cbba13ffe91e5b2862e/c.html>

November 14, 2023

China Daily

Pakistani travelers flock to Khunjerab Pass for business purposes

CHEN MEILING

Many Pakistanis exited China through the Khunjerab Pass in Tashikurgan Tajik autonomous county in Kashgar, Xinjiang Uygur autonomous region on the morning of Nov 6.

On that day, hundreds of Pakistani passengers lined up to clear customs, carrying packages filled with Chinese goods.

Saifullah Baig, a Pakistani businessman, has travelled through the pass for the last 30 years, selling Pakistani handicrafts to China and bringing Chinese clothes and shoes to Pakistan. He commutes between the two countries about 10 times every year.

"The services of immigration inspection and customs clearance are very good," he said, "The staff members work till 3 am to help us."

He added that from the time he began making the trip, the number of daily travelers increased from 20-40 to between two and three hundred, but the efficiency is still very high. It takes about 10 minutes for him to complete the process.

"China is very friendly to Pakistanis doing business here. China is the best friend of Pakistan. We are neighbors and family," he said, adding that he earns about 800,000 yuan (\$109,000) annually.

Ismail Shah, a PhD student from Wuhan, Hubei province, planned to return home through the pass.

"I chose this route because it's very near to my hometown. It takes about six hours to reach my home. It's very convenient and cheap," he said, adding that using this route costs about 1,500 yuan, whereas taking an airplane would be double the price.

https://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202311/14/WS65536ecca31090682a5ee1e5_4.html

People Daily

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<http://en.people.cn/n3/2023/1114/c90000-20096866.html>

November 15, 2023

China Daily

BRI coordination urged to mitigate natural disasters

Li Hongyang

Several regions involved in the Belt and Road Initiative are among the most severely affected by natural disasters and the effects of climate change, according to a report released by China's Ministry of Emergency Management.

The ministry said at a news conference on Tuesday that countries involved in the BRI should coordinate more and share experiences and expertise in tackling challenges related to natural disasters and climate change.

It added that the Belt and Road International Cooperation Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and Emergency Management will be established at a ministerial-level forum to be held on Thursday.

The framework aims to enable participating countries and regions to enhance their resilience and capabilities in tackling the challenges posed by climate change and natural disasters.

Li Shengli, deputy head of the international cooperation department at the ministry, said China has already collaborated with some countries in reducing the impact of earthquakes and in emergency response.

Countries such as Laos, Myanmar, Pakistan, Indonesia and Nepal have all benefited from earthquake monitoring infrastructure assistance provided by China.

"The ministry has also provided support and humanitarian aid for flood prevention and disaster reduction, such as sending expert teams to Pakistan and providing supplies including rice, solar lamps, tents and blankets to Vanuatu and Nepal during disasters there," he said.

The Disaster Assessment Report for Belt and Road Countries, drafted under the framework, said that countries and regions involved in the BRI are among the most severely affected by natural disasters, and are highly sensitive to the effects of climate change.

It predicts an increasing trend in extreme precipitation, most notably in southern and southeastern Asia.

With global warming, the intensity of floods in BRI regions, particularly in the Bangladesh-India-Myanmar region and eastern China, is expected to increase.

These high-risk flood areas cover some 3.4 million square kilometers, potentially impacting around 1.7 billion people, or 31.8 percent of the total population in participating countries and regions, the report said.

<https://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202311/15/WS65542612a31090682a5ee307.html>

Pakistani student finds success at Dalian Medical University

Zhang Xiaomin

Pakistani Hidayat Ullah, 29, is pursuing his PhD degree in biochemistry and molecular biology at Dalian Medical University in Dalian, Liaoning province, and has found studying and living in China to be pleasant.

"China is like our second homeland. People here are quite cooperative and supportive," he said.

In the first year working in a lab in Dalian, Ullah published a research paper in the prestigious international biochemistry journal *Molecules*. The article has been cited many times, giving it a significant 4.5 impact factor. His second academic paper will be published soon.

Ullah attributes his success to the advanced techniques available at the lab and great support from the teachers, his Chinese counterparts, and fellow international students he has encountered.

"Dalian Medical University is famous in my country for medical studies. I am very grateful that the China government scholarship helped me to realize my dream of studying here," he said.

The university began enrolling international students in English medical education in 2004. Currently, over 1,200 international students from 81 countries are studying on campus, including 97 from Pakistan.

With a growing number of graduates from 119 countries, the university continues to attract students seeking a high-quality medical education in English.

Ullah arrived in Dalian in 2019. During a connecting flight through Urumqi, Xinjiang Uygur autonomous region, he felt the hospitality of the Chinese people.

"I couldn't imagine that a stranger at the airport would buy water for me, even invite me for lunch, when he knew I couldn't pay by mobile," he recalled. "My first perception of China was really impressive."

Ullah plans to continue his academic journey as a postdoctoral fellow in China to gain more research experience, then go back to serve his country.

He also encourages international students to consider coming to China for their studies, citing the hospitality and support he has received throughout his time there.

<https://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202311/15/WS6554616aa31090682a5ee487.html>