



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

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**March 01-15, 2024**

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*Supervised by Dr. Muhammad Irfan*

*Data collected and compiled by Alishba Aslam, Munaza Amber, and Uzma Afzal*

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**March 01, 2024**

**Business Recorder**

### **Agro and food sector in Pakistan**

The Agro and Food Division of the Trade Development Authority of Pakistan (TDAP), in collaboration with Pakistan's Commercial Section in Beijing, warmly welcomed a three-member delegation from the Shandong Bomao Holding Group of China. The visit aims to foster collaborations and explore investment opportunities in Pakistan's agro and food sector. During their meeting at TDAP Karachi, Muhummad Zubair Motiwala, Chief Executive of TDAP, highlighted the immense potential of Pakistan's meat and meat products exports. He emphasized Pakistan's eagerness to attract foreign investments in the livestock and meat sector, underscoring the conducive investment policies in the country. Motiwala highlighted Pakistan's growing meat exports, which reached \$441 million in the fiscal year 2022-23. He also pointed out China's significant position as the world's largest meat importer, with imports exceeding \$26 billion in 2023. With Pakistan's recent approval to export heat-treated meat to China, facilitated by the opening of land, air and sea trade routes, Pakistan is poised to tap into this lucrative market effectively. The delegation, comprising representatives from the Shandong Bomao Holding Group, expressed their appreciation for TDAP's efforts and the support received from Pakistani government authorities. They commended Pakistan's commitment to enhancing bilateral trade relations and exploring mutually beneficial investment opportunities. The delegation's visit, scheduled until March 5th, 2024, includes field visits, meetings, and business-to-business interactions with Pakistani meat and agricultural product exporting companies. This collaboration between Pakistan and China holds promising prospects for both nations in the agro and food sector.

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2024/03/01/7-page/986613-news.html>

**Daily Times**

### **Exports to China increase by 44.53% in 7 months**

**ISLAMABAD:** Pakistan's export of goods and services to China witnessed an increase of 44.53 per cent during the first seven 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 \$1726.679 million during July-January (2023-24) against exports of US \$1194.639 million during July-January (2022-23), SBP data revealed. On a year-to-year basis, the exports to China also surged by 79.54 per cent from \$136.551 million in January 2023, against the exports of \$245.169 million in January 2024. Meanwhile, on a month-on-month basis, the exports to China decreased by 4.96 per cent during January 2024 as compared to the exports of \$257.978 million in December 2023, the SBP data revealed. Overall Pakistan's exports to other countries witnessed an increase of 9.32 per cent in the first seven months, from US \$16.444 billion to US \$17.977 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 \$6959.768 million against US \$6464.217 million last year, showing an increase of 7.66 per cent in July-January (2023-24). On a year-on-year

basis, the imports for China witnessed an increase of 91.49 per cent from US \$614.835 million in January 2023, against the imports of US \$1177.398 million in January 2024. On a month-on-month basis, the imports from China into the country also increased by 13.07 per cent during January 2024, as compared to the imports of US \$1041.271 million during December 2023, according to the data.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1175105/exports-to-china-increase-by-44-53-in-7-months/>

### **Pakistan gets \$2b lifeline from China**

China has rolled over a \$2-billion loan to Pakistan, caretaker finance minister Shamshad Akhtar confirmed in a response to Reuters on Thursday. The \$2-billion loan was due in March and has been extended for one year, Geo News which first reported the news said, citing sources in the Pakistan finance ministry. Beijing had communicated the decision to Islamabad, it added. Pakistan's cash-strapped economy is struggling to stabilize from a financial crisis and secured a \$3-billion Stand-By Arrangement (SBA) from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) last summer. On back of another Chinese loan, SBP-held forex reserves increase \$487mn, now stand at \$4.3bn Pakistan's vulnerable external position means that securing financing from multilateral and bilateral partners will be one of the most urgent issues facing the next government, ratings agency Fitch said last week.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1175219/pakistan-gets-2b-lifeline-from-china/>

### **Dawn News**

#### **\$2bn rollover by China shields forex reserves**

KARACHI: Extending a yet another major relief to cash-strapped Islamabad, the Chinese government has rolled over its \$2 billion loan, which was due in March, for one year. The finance ministry on Thursday confirmed that China has accepted Pakistan's request for the rollover, considering the country's current inability to repay the loan. Most of the foreign exchange reserves of the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) consist of loans from friendly countries. The central bank, which used to provide dollars for debt servicing, is now practically unable to repay foreign loans. The caretaker government, which managed to develop relations with the IMF under tough conditions and received \$1.8bn under the Stand-By Arrangement, failed to improve foreign exchange reserves or devise a strategy for their increase. In mid-June 2023, China provided a \$1bn loan to Pakistan. In fact, Pakistan repaid the amount, and China returned it upon the country's request. The rolled over of \$2bn will help Pakistan maintain a reasonable figure for foreign exchange reserves. However, the latest report from the SBP on Thursday showed that the reserves of the fell below \$8bn. This must be a serious concern for the government, as inflows have dried up, remittances are still behind last year's figures, exports of the core textile sector are falling, and talks with the IMF for new loans have yet to initiate. Media reports suggest that the government plans to initiate talks with the IMF for \$6bn in loans. The new political government will face this challenging task, as emphasized by the caretaker Finance Minister Dr Shamshad Akhtar, who reiterated several times that the country needs to remain in the IMF programme for economic sustainability. According to the SBP, reserves decreased by \$63 million to \$7.949bn during

the week ending on 23 Feb due to debt repayments. Financial market concerns arise as this trend could impact the exchange rate, which has been stable for over two months, providing positive signals for investors. Foreign investors have significantly increased investments in equities and treasury bills during this period. Since Dec 2023, the SBP has maintained \$8bn in foreign exchange reserves. Although reserves fluctuated during this period, they did not fall below \$8bn. However, this week's outflow brought the reserves below \$8bn, while the IMF aims to see reserves at \$9 billion by the end of June 2024. Informed sources in the Ministry of Finance are confident that the country will receive the third tranche of \$1.2bn by the end of March or April this year. This will increase the reserves of the SBP, but simultaneously, more foreign debt servicing will require dollars. During FY24, the country needs to pay about \$25bn for debt servicing. The government is attempting to roll over bilateral debts, pay the minimum, and negotiate further delays for payments. "The most daunting situation is that the country will need another \$25bn or more in the next fiscal year, FY25," said a senior analyst.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1818228>

### **Pakistan Observer**

#### **Pakistan's exports to China increase by 44.53% in 7 months**

Pakistan's export of goods and services to China witnessed an increase of 44.53 per cent during the first seven 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 \$1726.679 million during July-January (2023-24) against exports of US \$1194.639 million during July-January (2022-23), SBP data revealed on a year-to-year basis, the exports to China also surged by 79.54 per cent from \$136.551 million in January 2023, against the exports of \$245.169 million in January 2024. Meanwhile, on a month-on-month basis, the exports to China decreased by 4.96 per cent during January 2024 as compared to the exports of \$257.978 million in December 2023, the SBP data revealed. Overall Pakistan's exports to other countries witnessed an increase of 9.32 per cent in the first seven months, from US \$16.444 billion to US \$17.977 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 \$6959.768 million against US \$6464.217 million last year, showing an increase of 7.66 per cent in July-January (2023-24). On a year-on-year basis, the imports for China witnessed an increase of 91.49 per cent from US \$614.835 million in January 2023, against the imports of US \$1177.398 million in January 2024.

[https://pakobserver.net/pakistans-exports-to-china-increase-by-44-53-in-7-months/#:~:text=Pakistan's%20export%20of%20goods%20and,of%20Pakistan%20\(SBP\)%20reported](https://pakobserver.net/pakistans-exports-to-china-increase-by-44-53-in-7-months/#:~:text=Pakistan's%20export%20of%20goods%20and,of%20Pakistan%20(SBP)%20reported)

### **The Express Tribune**

#### **Exports to China jump 44.53% in 7 months**

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's export of goods and services to China witnessed an increase of 44.53% during the first seven months of the current fiscal year (2023-24) as compared to the

exports of the corresponding period of last year, the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) reported. The data revealed that overall exports to China were recorded at \$1726.679 million during July-January (2023-24) against that of \$1194.639 million the year before. On a YoY basis, exports to China also surged by 79.54% from \$136.551 million in January 2023, against exports of \$245.169 million in January 2024. However, on a MoM basis, exports to China fell by 4.96% during January 2024 against \$257.978 million recorded in December 2023, the SBP report stated. Cumulatively, Pakistan's exports to other countries witnessed an increase of 9.32% in the first seven months. On the other hand, imports from China into the country during the months under review clocked in at \$6959.768 million against \$6464.217 million last year, showing an increase of 7.66% in July-January (2023-24). On a YoY basis, imports from China rose 91.49% from \$614.835 million in January 2023, against \$1177.398 million in January 2024.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2458022/exports-to-china-jump-4453-in-7-months>

### **The Nation**

#### **Pakistan's exports to China increase by 44.53pc in 7 months**

ISLAMABAD - Pakistan's export of goods and services to China witnessed an increase of 44.53 per cent during the first seven 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 \$1726.679 million during July-January (2023-24) against exports of \$1194.639 million during July-January (2022-23), SBP data revealed. On a year-to-year basis, the exports to China also surged by 79.54 per cent from \$136.551 million in January 2023, against the exports of \$245.169 million in January 2024. Meanwhile, on a month-on-month basis, the exports to China decreased by 4.96 per cent during January 2024 as compared to the exports of \$257.978 million in December 2023, the SBP data revealed. Overall Pakistan's exports to other countries witnessed an increase of 9.32 per cent in the first seven months, rising from \$16.444 billion to \$17.977 billion, the SBP data revealed. On the other hand, the imports from China into the country during the months under review were recorded at \$6959.768 million against \$6464.217 million last year, showing an increase of 7.66 per cent in July-January (2023-24). On a year-on-year basis, the imports for China witnessed an increase of 91.49 per cent from \$614.835 million in January 2023, against the imports of \$1177.398 million in January 2024. On a month-on-month basis, the imports from China into the country also increased by 13.07 per cent during January 2024, as compared to the imports of \$1041.271 million during December 2023, according to the data. The overall imports into the country witnessed a decrease of 11.09 per cent, from \$33.476 billion to \$29.761 billion, according to the data.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/01-Mar-2024/pakistan-s-exports-to-china-increase-by-44-53pc-in-7-months>

**March 02, 2024**

**Daily Times**

**Pakistan's pearls and precious stones see 47% increase in China's market**

BEIJING: Pakistan's Pearls and Precious Stones saw a 47% increase in exports from Pakistan to China in 2023, signaling not only the growing demand for these natural beauties in the Chinese market but also the potential of Pakistan's mining and gemstone industry. Karim Jan, a Pakistani gem and jewelry exporter to China, told China Economic Net that Pakistan's northern and northwestern areas are rich in mineral resources, boasting gems like vibrant topaz, deep red rubies, green emeralds, and sapphires, Gwadar Pro reported on Friday. Extracting these gems is a delicate process, relying on the skilled hands and age-old techniques of local miners and artisans. Pakistan can further improve by utilizing Chinese skills. "As Chinese consumers increasingly seek out rare and high-quality gemstones, Pakistani gems, known for their unparalleled beauty and craftsmanship, are finding a prominent place in this competitive landscape. The reciprocal nature of this growing trade relationship promises a mutually beneficial future for both nations, with Pakistani gems shining brightly in the vast Chinese market," he stated. According to sources from Pakistan's Ministry of Commerce, Pakistan's Pearls and Precious Stones exported to China crossed \$4.34 million in 2023, whereas last year it was \$2.95 million, indicating an increase of 46.88%. He further mentioned that semi-precious stones under commodity code (71031000) were above \$3.72 million, marking an increase of 27.75% in 2023. He further stated that this remarkable achievement highlights the industry's resilience and the growing global appetite for its exquisite pearls and precious stones. As Pakistan continues to navigate the complexities of the international market, the focus on innovation, sustainable practices, and enhancing the skills of its artisans will be key to maintaining momentum. The success seen this year is a promising indicator of what's possible when tradition and modernity converge, ensuring that the luster of Pakistan's gem industry shines on the world stage for years to come.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1175509/pakistans-pearls-and-precious-stones-see-47-increase-in-chinas-market/>

**Jang News**

**پاکستان چین سے یکطرفہ 97 فیصد تک مزید مصنوعات کی کوریج کا خواہاں**

اسلام آباد (خالد مصطفیٰ) نئی منتخب حکومت کے باضابطہ طور پر چارج سنبھالنے کے بعد چین کے ساتھ مروجہ ایف ٹی اے ٹو میں 97 فیصد تک آئٹمز کی کوریج بڑھانے پر بات چیت شروع ہو جائے گی جیسا کہ (آزاد تجارتی معاہدہ) ایف ٹی اے ٹو کے تحت پاکستان کو ایک تجربہ کار دوست ملک کے ساتھ تجارت میں اب بھی 20 ارب ڈالر کے تجارتی خسارے کا سامنا ہے۔ وزارت تجارت کے ایک سینئر عہدیدار نے دی نیوز کو بتایا کہ پاکستان ایف ٹی اے ٹو کے تحت اپنے حق میں مزید مصنوعات کی کوریج اور تجارت میں بھی ٹریڈمنٹ چاہتا ہے جیسا کہ چین آسیان ممالک تک بڑھا رہا ہے۔ تاہم چینی حکام بیجنگ کے حق میں ایف ٹی اے ٹو میں اپنی اشیاء کی مزید کوریج بھی چاہتے ہیں لیکن پاکستان دو طرفہ نہیں بلکہ مزید مصنوعات کی یکطرفہ کوریج چاہتا ہے۔

<https://e.jang.com.pk/detail/641014%22>

**March 03, 2024**

**Daily Times**

### **Sports products exports to China registers increase**

Pakistan's exports of sports products such as football, basketball and volleyball to China registered 31 percent increase last year due to growing demand, Ghulam Qadir, Commercial Counsellor at Pakistani Embassy in Beijing. This growth trend underscores the quality and competitiveness of Pakistan's sports products in the global market, particularly in the realm of athletic equipment, he said in an interview. He said, the increase in sports products also indicates potential opportunities for further expansion and collaboration between Pakistan and China in this sector. "The city of Sialkot having a storied history as a hub for sports manufacturing, is recognized for supplying official match balls for prestigious global soccer tournaments. Pakistani's basketball, football, and volleyball export to China in 2023 crossed \$ 11.93 million whereas last year in the same period (January-December) it was only \$ 9.13 million. Similarly, the exports of the equipment for general physical exercise and gymnastics sports crossed \$ 0.83 million. The overall sports related products export to China from Pakistan crossed \$14.33 million in 2023," he added.

[https://dailytimes.com.pk/1175715/sports-products-exports-to-china-registers-increase/#google\\_vignette](https://dailytimes.com.pk/1175715/sports-products-exports-to-china-registers-increase/#google_vignette)

**Dunya News**

### **President Xi congratulates newly-elected PM Shehbaz Sharif**

BEIJING (Dunya News) - Chinese President Xi Jinping has congratulated Mian Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on his election as the Prime Minister of Pakistan for the second time. The Chinese President said that under the leadership of Shehbaz Sharif, Pakistan will set new heights of development and it will continue its traditional friendly relations. The Chinese President added that it is hoped that Pakistan will be able to achieve more achievements, strengthen exchanges and cooperation in all fields and jointly build an upgraded version of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor. The Chinese PM also sent a congratulatory message to his Pakistani counterpart Shehbaz Sharif.

<https://dunyanews.tv/en/Pakistan/795651-President-Xi-congratulates-newly-elected-PM-Shehbaz-Sharif>

**Pakistan Observer**

### **Pakistan's hosiery export to China up by 45pc**

Pakistan's hosiery export to China witnessed a substantial surge, marking a remarkable 45 percent increase in the last year. This significant uptick underscores the strengthening trade ties between the two nations and highlights Pakistan's growing prominence in the global textile market, said Muhammad Irfan, Trade and Investment Counselor at the Consulate General of Pakistan in Guangzhou on Saturday. He said that several factors contributed to this notable expansion in hosiery exports. Pakistan's competitive advantage lies in its robust



textile industry, which is known for its quality products and cost-effectiveness. “Overall pantyhose, tights, stockings, socks and other hosiery export from Pakistan to China in the year 2023 crossed \$14.32 million whereas in 2022 it was \$9.81 million, an increase of 45 percent. Hosiery and footwear made of cotton, commodity code (61159500), crossed \$11.55 million in 2023 while in 2022 it was \$ 7.61 million, up to 51 percent,” he mentioned. “The largest Chinese delegation participated in TEXPO, one of the largest textile exhibitions in Pakistan held last year, helped increase Pakistan’s export to China. This year the exhibition will also be held and I’m hoping a big increase in bilateral trade in 2024”, he stated. Muhammad Irfan further said that with the momentum gained from this surge, Pakistan is well positioned to capitalize on the evolving dynamics of international trade and further enhance its economic standing on the global stage, China Economic Net (CEN) reported. The surge in hosiery exports to China is poised to have a positive impact on Pakistan’s economy. Increased export earnings will contribute to increasing foreign exchange reserves, creating employment opportunities, and stimulating growth in the domestic textile sector, which is a vital engine of Pakistan’s economy

<https://pakobserver.net/pakistans-hosiery-export-to-china-up-by-45pc-irfan/>

### The News

#### **Pakistan, China strongly deny Indian charges**

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and China Saturday strongly denied and condemned allegations by India that the seized Pakistan commercial equipment by New Delhi was a dual-use consignment with implications for Pakistan’s nuclear and ballistic missiles programme. Indian media reports say that the detained ship was later allowed to sail to Pakistan. “These reports are reflective of Indian media’s habitual misrepresentation of facts. This is a simple case of import of a commercial lathe machine by a Karachi-based commercial entity, which supplies parts to the automobile industry in Pakistan. “Specifications of the equipment clearly indicate its purely commercial use. The transaction was being conducted through transparent banking channels with all relevant documentation. The relevant private entities are pursuing the matter against the unjustified seizure,” said Spokeswoman Mumtaz Zahra Baloch when asked about the Indian media reports. She added that Pakistan condemns India’s high-handedness in seizure of commercial goods. “This disruption of free trade underscores the dangers inherent in arbitrary assumption of policing roles by states with dubious credentials. Such acts also highlight the growing impunity of certain states in violating international norms and taking arbitrary measures in violation of international law,” she said. Indian media reports said that security agencies at Mumbai’s Nhava Sheva port intercepted and seized the consignment of a Karachi-bound ship from China after it was found carrying a dual-use consignment with implications for Pakistan’s nuclear and ballistic missile programmes, officials said on Saturday. India’s Defense Research and Development Organization (DRDO) said “The ship was detained in India’s Kandla Port on Feb. 3 when the autoclave was confiscated on the basis of an intelligence tip-off,” according to Indian officials quoted in the press. The ship was then allowed to continue to Pakistan. Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Zhao Lijian, according to reports, disputed the Indian description of the seized machine and said it was a heat-treating furnace, not an autoclave. Zhao said that the furnace

“is by no means a piece of military equipment or a dual-use item,” and therefore not subject to nonproliferation export controls. He said that the machine was produced by a private company in China and was declared correctly. “As a responsible major country, China has been strictly fulfilling the international nonproliferation obligations and international commitments,” he said. It is expected that the Pakistan Foreign Office will summon a senior Indian diplomat and issue a demarche on the “unjustified seizure” of a Pakistani ship, he added.

<https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/1163863-pakistan-china-strongly-deny-indian-charges>

**March 04, 2024**

**Dawn News**

### **27 Chinese containers with farm equipment enter Pakistan**

GILGIT: As many as 27 Chinese containers loaded with agricultural equipment have entered Pakistan after the Khunjerab Pass was temporarily opened as a trial run throughout the year for cross-border trade. According to a notification issued by the Ministry of Commerce, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs stated that the Chinese side had conveyed its willingness to open the crossing point from March 1 for the second trial this year. The Chinese government had closed the Khunjerab Pass on Nov 30 last year for four months in winter, almost a month after having agreed to keep the high-altitude road open throughout the year. Under an agreement signed between the two countries in 1986, the Pakistan-China border at Khunjerab Pass remains open from April till November-end for trade and travel. Subsequently, the Chinese authorities issued a notice stating that the two countries would need to amend and sign the agreement on border ports and management systems through diplomatic channels to keep the Khunjerab Pass open year-round. However, the Khunjerab Pass was opened from Jan 2 to 16 for 14 days for the transportation of goods from China to Pakistan. Three dozen Chinese containers carrying export items had arrived at the Sost Dry Port through the Khunjerab Pass. A source said 27 Chinese containers carrying agricultural equipment for the “Green Pakistan” initiative crossed the Khunjerab Pass on Saturday despite heavy snowfall. The Chinese had cleared the Karakoram Highway for transportation of the containers at their side. A police source said that after entering Pakistan, the Chinese containers were stuck in the Koksil area as Khunjerab received up to six inches of snowfall. The Chinese drivers with containers were also stranded in the area. The Chinese side made arrangements to clear the road for traffic; however, the lack of facilities on the Pakistan side to make the road open created difficulties.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1818921/27-chinese-containers-with-farm-equipment-enter-pakistan>

### **Reinvigorating CPEC**

In parallel with engaging the International Monetary Fund (IMF) for a more extensive, comprehensive 25th programme, Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif’s government is poised to prioritize the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). “As Pakistan enters the second decade of the flagship programme aligned with China’s ‘Belt and Road’ vision, the CPEC

holds the promise of diversifying and broadening the manufacturing base, enhancing agricultural productivity and fostering technological advancements through human resource development. These endeavors aim to overcome developmental bottlenecks and pave the way for sustainable growth, ultimately delivering prosperity to the multitude,” a former federal minister and a prominent member of the PML-N economic team contends. He emphasized that the groundwork to expedite CPEC had already been initiated during the 16-month rule of the PDM government, which assumed power after the ousting of the PTI government in April 2022. In his view, there was a noticeable slowdown in CPEC projects during the tenure of former Prime Minister Imran Khan’s government. “The PDM government revitalized CPEC during 2022-23. Notably, Chinese-funded energy projects totaling 3,800MW were completed, including the Shanghai Thar Coal 1,320 MW and the K-3 1,100MW nuclear plant. Pending payments to Chinese power plants and ongoing hydropower plants were cleared during the coalition government’s tenure. However, challenges persisted in dollar conversion and overseas fund transfers,” he shared. He attributed the unilateral stoppage of payments in energy projects and the disclosure of the details of confidential Chinese agreements with the IMF in April 2019 as reasons for the trust deficit between Pakistan and China during the former PTI government. Expressing regret over the apparent reluctance of the Chinese government, post-2018, to underwrite investment risk in Pakistan, which has deterred several private companies interested in various sectors, he remarked, “It won’t be easy, but we are hopeful of changing this situation over time. Our team has extensive experience in dealing with Chinese counterparts, and we intend to work diligently on repairing ties and regaining their trust and support.” He further voiced reservations about the role of the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) in the context of CPEC. “My sense is that the premium body of SIFC seems to prioritize investments from sources other than China, perhaps as a mean to strike a strategic balance.” Miftah Ismail, former finance minister turned thought leader, holds a different view on the investment facilitation body that also includes representatives of the powerful security establishment of Pakistan. “I think SIFC will definitely have a role in CPEC.” Echoing his logic, a private sector executive in the know of CPEC-related affairs asserted, “Since SIFC is primarily tasked with facilitating investments, providing a conducive environment for business, and resolving issues related to investment projects, it has a role to play in improving the regulatory mechanism of Pakistan.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1819018/reinvigorating-cpec>

### **Pakistan Observer**

#### **Pakistani Counselor hopes a big increase in Pak-China trade ties this year**

Muhammad Irfan, Trade and Investment Counselor at the Consulate General of Pakistan in Guangzhou hoped a big increase in Pak-China bilateral trade in 2024. Meanwhile, Pakistan’s hosiery export to China witnessed a substantial surge, marking a remarkable 45% increase in the year 2023. This significant uptick underscores the strengthening trade ties between the two nations and highlights Pakistan’s growing prominence in the global textile market, he said according to Gwadar Pro (GP). Several factors contributed to this notable expansion in hosiery exports. Pakistan’s competitive advantage lies in its robust textile industry, which is known for its quality products and cost-effectiveness. “Overall pantyhose, tights, stockings,

socks and other hosiery export from Pakistan to China in the year 2023 crossed \$14.32 million whereas in 2022 it was \$9.81 million, an increase of 45%. Hosiery & footwear made of cotton, commodity code (61159500), crossed \$11.55 million in 2023 while in 2022 it was \$ 7.61 million, up to 51%," he mentioned. "The largest Chinese delegation participated in TEXPO, one of the largest textile exhibitions in Pakistan held last year, helped increase Pakistan's export to China. This year the exhibition will also be held and I'm hoping a big increase in bilateral trade in 2024", Mohammad Irfan stated. He further said that with the momentum gained from this surge, Pakistan is well positioned to capitalize on the evolving dynamics of international trade and further enhance its economic standing on the global stage. The surge in hosiery exports to China is poised to have a positive impact on Pakistan's economy. Increased export earnings will contribute to increasing foreign exchange reserves, creating employment opportunities, and stimulating growth in the domestic textile sector, which is a vital engine of Pakistan's economy.

<https://pakobserver.net/pakistani-counselor-hopes-a-big-increase-in-pak-china-trade-ties-this-year/>

### **The Express Tribune**

#### **Agri-revolution via China's expertise**

KARACHI: China's agricultural modernization has been remarkable, ensuring food security for its billion-plus population. Pakistan can leverage Chinese expertise to revitalize its agricultural sector, a cornerstone of its economy. In Pakistan-China collaboration, both countries benefit from diverse environmental conditions conducive to crop cultivation and livestock rearing. "Effective management of postharvest losses and enhancing the value of fruits and vegetables through research and development (R&D) collaboration with China is crucial. With Pakistan producing 20 types of fruits and 40 types of vegetables, the high postharvest losses of about 40% in the supply chain result in significant waste, limiting consumer access," said Prof Dr Zahir Ahmed Zahir, from the University of Agriculture Faisalabad's Institute of Soil and Environmental Sciences, also serving as President of the Soil Science Society of Pakistan (SSSP). "Currently, Pakistan's export of fruits and vegetables stands at \$600 million, a figure that could potentially reach \$2 billion by improving postharvest practices, reducing losses, and fostering value-added products and industries," he said. China's staple food is rice, while Pakistan relies heavily on wheat. China made rice yield scaling a priority. In 1964, Chinese Scientist Dr Yuan Longping, recognised as the father of hybrid rice, dedicated himself to this task, achieving success in 1972 with the development of a high-yield hybrid rice variety, increasing yield by 20%. Presently, China boasts hundreds of hybrid varieties, effectively meeting local demand and bolstering food security. "We are harnessing China's hybrid varieties as well. In Sindh, we cultivate rice on two million acres, with half of this land dedicated to hybrid varieties imported from China," said Dr Nihaluddin Marri, Agriculture Research Sindh Director Technical-I. "To ensure food security, we must focus on three key areas: enhancing high-yield hybrid wheat, optimizing storage systems, and managing population growth to halt the conversion of agricultural land into housing schemes. With a rising population and diminishing agricultural land due to expanding housing societies across the country, these measures are imperative," he added.

Professor Zhou Chang Ming from Xinjiang Agriculture University in China highlighted the current robust state of China's agricultural production. As the world's leading producer of wheat, rice, and corn, China also cultivates significant quantities of soybean, cotton, sugar, and other agricultural products. This abundance not only sustains domestic needs but also fuels international markets. The agricultural landscape in China is evolving, transitioning from a focus solely on food cultivation to a diversified portfolio including vegetables, fruits, livestock, and poultry farming. This diversification enhances resilience within the agricultural sector, mitigating risks associated with reliance on a single industry. "China's 14th Five-Year Plan for Agricultural and Rural Modernization aims to advance rural farming practices, thereby boosting the income growth of rural residents. With significant investments in agricultural research, development, innovation, and mechanization, China has significantly enhanced the quality and profitability of its agriculture sector. Serving as a model for other developing nations, China's agricultural modernization efforts offer invaluable lessons. Notably, the China Maps centres by Syngenta exemplify innovation in the sector, providing comprehensive solutions for farming needs and leading to unprecedented yield improvements," highlighted Zeeshan Baig, General Manager of Syngenta Pakistan, an esteemed figure in agricultural technology. Pakistan stands to gain significantly from China's agricultural modernization on multiple fronts. Firstly, by enhancing cooperation with China through the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), Pakistan can access opportunities for infrastructure development, trade facilitation, and technology transfer within the agricultural sector. Secondly, drawing insights from China's successful agricultural policies, planning, and management practices can aid Pakistan in overhauling its agricultural productivity, efficiency, and sustainability. Thirdly, by tapping into China's vast market potential and demand for agricultural products, particularly high-value and niche items like fruits and vegetables, Pakistan can bolster its export revenue. Lastly, Pakistan can leverage China's support and assistance to address various challenges confronting its agriculture sector, including climate change, water scarcity, pests and diseases, and food safety concerns. Utilizing state-of-the-art machinery and cutting-edge components can produce high-quality seeds and breeds developed through biotechnology, genetic engineering, and hybridization. These advancements result in crops with higher yields, increased resistance, and enhanced adaptability. Embracing digital agriculture, including satellite imaging and Internet of Things (IoT) sensors, offers valuable data for improved decision-making, pest management, and soil and water crop management. Additionally, prioritizing research and development in biotechnology can lead to the creation of high-yielding and climate-resilient crop varieties tailored to Pakistan's unique agro-climatic conditions. Smart and precision agriculture utilize big data, Artificial Intelligence (AI), IoT, drones, sensors, and satellites to monitor and optimize agricultural production and management. Meanwhile, modern agricultural machinery and equipment, such as tractors, harvesters, planters, sprayers, irrigation systems, and storage facilities, enhance the mechanization and automation of agricultural operations. "China has placed a significant emphasis on value addition, concurrently reducing losses to a mere 2%, by enhancing the production, packing, and marketing of value-added products domestically and internationally. It is imperative for us to adopt and adapt to Chinese technologies in this regard. Currently, we suffer from substantial losses, particularly in horticulture, with approximately 40% of food and vegetables going to waste. Moreover,

China's proactive promotion of sustainable agriculture practices, including organic farming and conservation efforts, underscores its commitment to addressing environmental concerns and ensuring long-term sustainability. The journey of China's agricultural modernization exemplifies its dedication to transforming its agrarian economy into a technologically advanced and sustainable sector capable of navigating future challenges," remarked Prof Dr Muhammad Ismail Kumbhar, a renowned Researcher and Sustainable Development Expert from the Department of Agricultural Education Extension at Sindh Agriculture University (SAU).

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2458265/agri-revolution-via-chinas-expertise>

### The Nation

#### **China's success in innovation holds promise for Pakistan**

China's sustained economic growth over the past couple of decades is largely attributed to its remarkable performance in the field of innovation. China's success story provides valuable insights for Pakistan considering Islamabad's dismal performance on the innovation index. In an interview with WealthPK, Saranjam Baig, Executive Director of the Centre for Research on CPEC in Gilgit, lauded the steps taken by the Chinese government to foster innovation for a sustained growth. He underscored the importance of innovation for Pakistan to have sustained economic growth. According to World Intellectual Property Organization, China ranks 12 on Global Innovation Index (GII), and stands out as the sole upper middle-income economy among the top 30 countries on GII. Saranjam Baig explained how China's excellence in innovation has led the country toward sustained growth. "China has excelled in innovation, particularly in the areas of creative goods exports as a percentage of total trade (ranking first), domestic market scale in billion dollars (ranking first), and labour productivity growth percentage (ranking first)." He said China had more than 20 sci-tech clusters supported by the state that were playing an instrumental role in bringing innovations to industrial products. "China has initiated scientific and technological collaborations with over 160 countries and regions. The expenditure on research and development has surpassed \$418.2 billion, marking an 11% increase year-on-year," he pointed out. Unfortunately, he said Pakistan had least inclination toward innovation that explains how it is unable to sustain its growth. He lamented that the country allocated less than 1% of GDP for research and development. Saranjam Baig suggested Pakistan follow the footsteps of China and invest in research and development to sustain growth through innovative products and cutting-edge technologies.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/04-Mar-2024/china-s-success-in-innovation-holds-promise-for-pakistan>

#### **Pak-China cooperation to explore chemical industry digitalization**

BEIJING - Commercial Counsellor of the Embassy of Pakistan in China, Ghulam Qadir led a Pakistani delegation to visit TDD E-commerce Company, a chemical e-commerce platform under IBI Guolian providing digital supply chain and industrial big data services.

The two parties engaged in discussions and exchanges regarding potential cooperation in chemical industry, with the aim of jointly building a digital trading service platform. During the visit, the delegation toured the data center and the Guolian Cloud Digital Experience Hall, where they gained in-depth insights into TDD's operational model, business scope, as well as the technical capabilities and application scenarios of the Guolian Cloud, according to local media. In the subsequent discussions, the two sides explored various possibilities for international cooperation, primarily focusing on the joint construction of a digital trading service platform, a localized B2B e-commerce platform and a China-Pakistan digital supply chain service system. Ghulam Qadir stated during the discussions, "Pakistan will soon launch economic zones and industrial parks to provide a favourable business environment and strong support for enterprises. The achievements of TDD platform in the digital transformation of chemical industry are commendable. Leveraging TDD's operational experience and advantages in the entire industry chain, we want to jointly create an international one-stop full-chain service for various industries in Pakistan." Liu Zhai, CEO of TDD, provided a detailed introduction of the TDD platform and its global strategic layout. She also shared views on the development of TDD's cross-border e-commerce and the current business operations in Pakistan. Integrating the upstream and downstream segments of the chemical industry chain in Pakistan is an important strategic layout for TDD's cross-border e-commerce. To do that, TDD will cooperate with Pakistani enterprises and continuously expand the scope of services. Cooperating with the Belt and Road Initiative countries, we are also vigorously expand a global supply chain based on the industrial internet platform, she added. In March, TDD will send a delegation to participate in the Pakistan Coating Show 2024 and conduct market research on the local chemical industry. TDD will organise various activities, including visits to Pakistani companies, exchanges with associations and governments, together with other Chinese enterprises of the industry.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/04-Mar-2024/pak-china-cooperation-to-explore-chemical-industry-digitalisation>

### Express News

چین کی بھی ضبط شدہ سامان سے متعلق بھارتی الزامات کی تردید

بیجنگ (اے پی پی) چین نے بھی ممبئی میں ضبط کئے گئے سامان سے متعلق بھارتی الزامات کی سختی سے تردید کر دی۔ کشمیر میڈیا سروس کے مطابق ترجمان چینی وزارت خارجہ نے پاکستان جانیوالی مشینوں کی ممبئی میں ضبطگی سے متعلق بھارتی دعویٰ متنازعہ قرار دیتے ہوئے کہا کہ وہ آٹو کلیو نہیں بلکہ ایک فرنس یا بھٹی ہے، جو کہ کسی بھی طرح سے فوجی ساز و سامان یا جوہری استعمال کی چیز نہیں، نہ ان کی برآمد پر ایٹمی عدم پھیلاؤ کا قانون لاگو ہوتا ہے۔

[https://www.express.com.pk/epaper/PoPupwindow.aspx?newsID=1110843083&Issue=NP\\_I\\_SB&Date=20240304](https://www.express.com.pk/epaper/PoPupwindow.aspx?newsID=1110843083&Issue=NP_I_SB&Date=20240304)

**K2 Daily News**

پاکستان نئی حکومت میں ترقی کی منزلیں طے کریگا، چین  
 دونوں ممالک کے درمیان دوستانہ تعلقات جاری رہیں گے، تمام شعبوں میں تعاون مزید مضبوط ہوگا  
 سی پیک کا اپ گریڈ ورژن تعمیر کرنا ہوگا، چینی صدر اور وزیراعظم کی شہباز شریف کو مبارکباد

بیجنگ (آئی این پی) چینی صدر اور چینی  
 وزیراعظم نے میاں محمد شہباز شریف کو پاکستان کا  
 وزیراعظم منتخب ہونے پر مبارکباد پیش کی ہے، چینی  
 صدر شی جن پنگ نے کہا کہ شہباز شریف کی قیادت میں  
 پاکستان ترقی کی نئی منزلیں طے کرے گا، پاکستان  
 اپنے روایتی دوستانہ تعلقات کو جاری رکھے گا۔ چینی  
 صدر نے مزید کہا کہ امید ہے پاکستان مزید زیادہ  
 کامیابیاں حاصل کرنے (ہائی سٹیج 7 پیج نمبر 4)

[https://www.epaper.dailyk2.com/Home?Issue=NP\\_ICT&Date=2024-03-04](https://www.epaper.dailyk2.com/Home?Issue=NP_ICT&Date=2024-03-04)

**Nawaiwaqt News****شہباز شریف کی قیادت میں پاکستان ترقی کی منزلیں طے کرے گا، چینی صدر، وزیراعظم**

بیجنگ + تہران (نوائے وقت رپورٹ) چین کے صدر شی جن پنگ، وزیر اعظم لی کیانگ اور ایران سمیت دیگر ممالک نے شہباز شریف کو پاکستان کا وزیر اعظم منتخب ہونے پر مبارکباد دی ہے۔ چینی صدر شی جن پنگ نے کہا کہ شہباز شریف کی قیادت میں پاکستان ترقی کی نئی منزلیں طے کرے گا۔ چینی صدر نے مزید کہا کہ امید ہے پاکستان مزید زیادہ کامیابیاں حاصل کرنے میں کامیاب ہوگا، تمام شعبوں میں تبادلوں اور تعاون کو مضبوط بنانا ہوگا، مشترکہ طور پر چین پاکستان اقتصادی راہداری کا اپ گریڈڈ ورژن تعمیر کرنا ہوگا۔ عالمی خبر رساں ادارے کے مطابق چین صدر شی جن پنگ نے اس اعتماد کا اظہار کیا کہ وزیراعظم شہباز شریف اور نئی حکومت کی قیادت میں بھی چین اور پاکستان قومی ترقی اور پیشرفت کے مقصد میں نئی اور عظیم تر کامیابیاں حاصل کر سکیں گے۔ چینی صدر شی نے اس بات پر بھی زور دیا کہ چین پاکستان کو اپنی روایتی دوستی کو جاری رکھتے ہوئے مختلف شعبوں میں تبادلوں اور تعاون کو مضبوط کرنا چاہیے۔ چینی وزیر اعظم نے بھی وزیر اعظم پاکستان کو مبارکباد پیش کی ہے۔ اسی طرح ایران کے وزیر خارجہ حسین امیر عبداللہیان نے شہباز شریف کو پاکستان کا وزیراعظم منتخب ہونے پر مبارکباد پیش کرتے ہوئے باہمی تعلقات میں اضافے کے عزم کا اظہار کیا۔ ایرانی میڈیا کے مطابق وزیر خارجہ حسین امیر عبداللہیان نے اپنے بیان میں کہا کہ شہباز شریف کو 24 واں وزیراعظم منتخب ہونے پر مبارکباد پیش کرتا ہوں اور پاکستان میں امن و سلامتی کے لیے دعا گو ہوں۔ ایرانی وزیر خارجہ امیر عبداللہیان نے مزید کہا کہ اسلامی جمہوری ایران پاکستان کی نئی حکومت کے ساتھ تمام سطح پر باہمی تعلقات اور تعاون بڑھانے کا عزم کرتا ہے۔ علاوہ ازیں ایران کے صدر ابراہیم رئیسی نے شہباز شریف کو وزیراعظم منتخب ہونے پر مبارکباد دی ہے۔ ایرانی صدر نے شہباز شریف کی کامیابی کیلئے نیک خواہشات کا اظہار کیا اور دونوں برادر ممالک کے درمیان تعلقات کے مزید فروغ کی امید کا اظہار کیا۔

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2024-03-04/page-1/detail-37>



**March 05, 2024**

**Business Recorder**

**Gwadar's flood victims, China Overseas Ports Holding (Pakistan) donates relief supplies**

From February 27th to 29th, Gwadar suffered the heaviest and longest-lasting rainstorm over the last 16 years, which resulted in a large-scale flooding in the urban area, leaving the roads destroyed, and a large number of residential buildings collapsed. The production and daily life of the local people fell into extremely difficult situation. After the disaster, China Overseas Ports Holding (Pakistan) Co., Ltd. immediately launched a rescue operation. Under very difficult conditions, it urgently purchased 30,000 bottles of mineral water, 3,000 bottles of canned food, etc., and distributed them to the victims in time. During the flood, the China-Pakistan Faqeer Colony Middle School in Gwadar, built and managed with China's aid, took in hundreds of people affected by the disaster to take shelter

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2024/03/05/3-page/986908-news.html>

**The Express Tribune**

**Two Sessions fosters stronger Pak-China ties**

BEIJING: Pakistani experts have lauded the significance of the "Two Sessions" in fostering global economic stability in the context of jointly building the Belt and Road Initiative, particularly China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) initiatives. They believe that the foreign policies and incentives for foreigners in China during these sessions are pivotal in enhancing economic cooperation and promoting sustainable development in the region. Muhammad Asghar, a correspondent for the Associated Press of Pakistan in China, said that the strategic discussions held during the Two Sessions serve as a platform for fostering stronger ties between Pakistan and China. "I'm attending different meetings and briefings during the six-day Two Sessions. I will focus on jointly building the Belt and Road Initiative President Xi Jinping launched a decade ago to build a community with a shared future," he stated. "I am also looking forward to attending Foreign Minister Wang Yi media interaction and also the opening and closing ceremonies of Two Sessions in the People's Great Hall," he added. Shahid Afraz Khan, a foreign expert in Beijing, said that the strategic discussions and initiatives undertaken during these sessions serve as a testament to the strong partnership between China and the world and their commitment to sustainable economic development. "Jointly building the BRI has become the biggest mega development project of the 21st century which is successfully negating the spillover repercussions of geopolitics, protectionism, unilateralism, war-theatre mentality, isolation, marginalization and gearing the developing countries and Global South towards greater socio-economic integration," Pakistani expert Dr Mehmoodul Hassan Khan told CEN.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2458380/two-sessions-fosters-stronger-pak-china-ties>

## The Nation

### **NLC facilitates movement of Chinese vehicle amid heavy snowfall**

Rawalpindi - Amidst heavy snowfall and inclement weather conditions, the National Logistics Corporation (NLC) facilitated the movement of Chinese containers from Khunjerab to the Sost Dry Port in Gilgit- Baltistan. These containers, laden with agricultural machinery, are on transit to Bahawalpur. According to details, a convoy of 27 Chinese vehicles entered the Khunjerab Pass from China. Of these, 7 vehicles arrived at the Sost Dry Port on Saturday, while the remaining 19 completed the journey on Sunday. However, one vehicle encountered a mishap, slipping off the road amidst the snowfall. A team of NLC equipped with recovery machines is set to rescue the stranded vehicle on Tuesday. Once clearance procedures are finalised, the convoy will proceed towards its final destination. It's noteworthy to mention that the NLC Sost Dry Port is situated adjacent to one of the highest border crossing points near Khunjerab. This facility plays a crucial role in streamlining cross-border trade between the two friendly countries.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/05-Mar-2024/nlc-facilities-movement-of-chinese-vehicle-amid-heavy-snowfall>

## The News

### **NLC facilitates Chinese containers' movement**

Rawalpindi: Amidst heavy snowfall and inclement weather conditions, the National Logistics Corporation (NLC) facilitated the movement of Chinese containers from Khunjerab to the Sost Dry Port in Gilgit-Baltistan, says a press release. These containers, laden with agricultural machinery, are on transit to Bahawalpur. According to details, a convoy of 27 Chinese vehicles entered the Khunjerab Pass from China. Of these, 7 vehicles arrived at the Sost Dry Port on Saturday, while the remaining 19 completed the journey on Sunday. However, one vehicle encountered a mishap, slipping off the road amidst the snowfall. A team of NLC equipped with recovery machines is set to rescue the stranded vehicle on Tuesday. Once clearance procedures are finalised, the convoy will proceed towards its final destination. It's noteworthy to mention that the NLC Sost Dry Port is situated adjacent to one of the highest border crossing points near Khunjerab. This facility plays a crucial role in streamlining cross-border trade between the two friendly countries.

<https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/1164513-nlc-facilitates-chinese-containers-movement>

## K2 Daily

حوالے سے بلند توقعات کا اظہار بھی کیا۔ انٹرنیٹ پر پاکستان میں ایٹمی پراجیکٹ کا ایک عمده خیر اسدی نے کہا کہ دونوں سیشنوں کی براہ راست کوریج کرنے سے سماجیوں کو ایک بہت مختلف نقطہ نظر ملتا ہے، اور آپ جان سکتے ہیں کہ چین کی ترقی کتنی مثبت اور تیز رفتار ہے۔ چین نہ صرف اپنے لئے بلکہ بین الاقوامی برادری کی ترقی کو بھی فروغ دے رہا ہے۔ چین 2035 تک سوشلسٹ جدیدیت کے حصول کے لئے سخت محنت کر رہا ہے۔ چینی جدید کاری انسانیت کے ہم نصیب معاشرے کی تعمیر پر مرکوز ہے اور چینی جدید کاری کا عمل بین الاقوامی برادری، خاص طور پر ترقی پذیر ممالک کے لئے امید اور مواقع لائے گا۔

چین بین الاقوامی ترقی کو فروغ دے رہا ہے، ضمیر اسدی  
چین 2035 تک سوشلسٹ جدیدیت کے حصول کیلئے محنت کر رہا ہے  
جدید کاری کا عمل بین الاقوامی برادری، ترقی پذیر ممالک کیلئے مواقع لائے گا  
اسلام آباد (پ ر) چین کے "دو سیشن" ہے کہ یہ اہم سرگرمی چین کی ترقی کے مقابلے اور  
کے انعقاد سے قبل پاکستان کی میڈیا شخصیات نے مطالعے کے لئے ایک اہم درپے ہے۔ انہوں نے  
چینی میڈیا سے خصوصی بات چیت کرتے ہوئے کہا "دونوں اجلاسوں کے (باقی صفحہ 7 بجے نمبر 2)

[https://www.epaper.dailyk2.com/Home?Issue=NP\\_ICT&p=23856](https://www.epaper.dailyk2.com/Home?Issue=NP_ICT&p=23856)

**March 06, 2024**

**Business Recorder**

### **Last Chinese vehicle recovered**

The National Logistics Corporation (NLC) in coordination with local administration recovered the last Chinese vehicle that overturned due to heavy snowfall at Khunjerab Pass on Tuesday, said a press release. The vehicle was part of convoy of 27 trucks which entered Pakistan from China via Khunjerab crossing point. These vehicles were loaded with agricultural machinery imported from China. Out of these, vehicles 26 vehicles were safely moved to NLC Dry Port Sost. However, one vehicle skidded off the road due to slippery conditions at Kuksal near Khunjerab. NLC dispatched a 25 Ton Crane and other necessary equipment to the site of accident early this morning. After hectic efforts, the vehicle and agricultural machinery were successfully recovered

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2024/03/06/7-page/987003-news.html>

**Daily Times**

### **Pak Consul General views China's modernization journey as inspiration for Pakistan**

Pakistan's Consul General in Shanghai, Hussain Haider, has expressed his admiration for China's remarkable modernization journey, viewing it as a valuable source of inspiration for Pakistan as it strives to achieve similar development goals. He praised China's achievements in economic growth, technological advancement, and social progress, noting that the country's transformation from a closed economy to a global leader in many industries is truly remarkable. In an interview with China Economic Net during the ongoing China's two

sessions, namely the National People’s Congress (NPC) and the Chinese People’s Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC), which saw the gathering of China’s top legislators and political advisors to discuss and decide on key national policies, he said, the two sessions are a crucial event that showcases China’s democratic system and its commitment to improving the lives of its people. Haider said, “The decisions and policies outlined during these sessions will undoubtedly shape China’s future and its role in the global community.”• As Consul General in Shanghai for the past four years, he has closely followed the proceedings of the two sessions and is encouraged by the focus on economic policies, livelihood security and international collaboration. The World Economic Outlook report released by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) in January of this year predicts global economic growth this year to be 3.1%. China is expected to surpass the global average in 2024 and will remain a major contributor to global economic growth. “China’s GDP target for 2024 demonstrates its confidence in its economic future and its commitment to high-quality development,” he stated. The whole world acknowledges that China’s economic development over the past 45 years has been phenomenal. Hussain Haider highlighted that “China continues to open up and liberalize its economy, which has a significant impact on its trading partners and has played a crucial role in global economic stability and recovery.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1176533/pak-consul-general-views-chinas-modernization-journey-as-inspiration-for-pakistan/>

### **Pakistan Observer**

#### **China’s modernization journey as inspiration for Pakistan**

Pakistan’s Consul General in Shanghai, Hussain Haider, has expressed his admiration for China’s remarkable modernization journey, viewing it as a valuable source of inspiration for Pakistan as it strives to achieve similar development goals. He praised China’s achievements in economic growth, technological advancement, and social progress, noting that the country’s transformation from a closed economy to a global leader in many industries is truly remarkable. In an interview with China Economic Net during the ongoing China’s two sessions, namely the NPC and the CPPCC, which saw the gathering of China’s top legislators and political advisors to discuss and decide on key national policies, he said, the two sessions are a crucial event that showcases China’s democratic system and its commitment to improving the lives of its people. Consul General in Shanghai for the past four years, he has closely followed the proceedings of the two sessions and is encouraged by the focus on economic policies, livelihood security and international collaboration. The Consul General noted that China’s GDP growth target of approximately 5% for the year is a testament to its strong economic policies and commitment to sustainable and inclusive growth. The World Economic Outlook report released by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) in January of this year predicts global economic growth this year to be 3.1%. China is expected to surpass the global average in 2024 and will remain a major contributor to global economic growth. “China’s GDP target for 2024 demonstrates its confidence in its economic future and its commitment to high-quality development,” he stated. The whole world acknowledges that China’s economic development over the past 45 years has been phenomenal.

<https://pakobserver.net/chinas-modernization-journey-as-inspiration-for-pakistan-haider/>

## The Nation

### **Chinese uplift a source of inspiration for Pakistan: Diplomat**

ISLAMABAD - Pakistani Consul General in Shanghai, Hussain Haider, terming China's remarkable modernization journey a valuable source of inspiration, has said that Pakistan can also achieve similar development goals by taking this path. "The Two Sessions are a crucial event that showcases China's democratic system and its commitment to improving the lives of its people," said the Consul General while talking to China Economic Net during the ongoing China's two sessions, namely the National People's Congress (NPC) and the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC).

He said that the decisions and policies outlined during these sessions will undoubtedly shape China's future and its role in the global community. As the Consul General in Shanghai for the past four years, he has closely followed the proceedings of the two sessions and is encouraged by the focus on economic policies, livelihood security and international collaboration.

The Consul General noted that China's GDP growth target of approximately 5 per cent for the year is a testament to its strong economic policies and commitment to sustainable and inclusive growth. Hussain Haider highlighted that "China continues to open up and liberalize its economy, which has a significant impact on its trading partners and has played a crucial role in global economic stability and recovery.

As the world's second-largest economy and one of the largest importers, China's modernization process will bring great opportunities to trading partners, including Pakistan."

The joint building of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) has been a key driver of China's modernization efforts, connecting Asia, Europe, and Africa with a vast network of roads, railroads, ports, and other infrastructure projects.

Haider highlighted that Pakistan, as a key partner of China in the joint building of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), has benefited from this collaboration.

The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) has been a flagship project that has significantly transformed Pakistan's infrastructure landscape, boosting connectivity, energy security, and economic opportunities.

Beyond infrastructure, China's collaboration with other countries has extended to various fields, including trade, technology, and cultural exchanges.

China's commitment to opening up its markets, signing trade agreements, and promoting mutual economic growth has been remarkable.

Moreover, China's emphasis on cultural exchanges and people-to-people contact is commendable.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/06-Mar-2024/chinese-uplift-a-source-of-inspiration-for-pakistan-diplomat>

**March 07, 2024**

**Business Recorder**

**Thar Block-1**

Shanghai Electric promises development, welfare of workers

Thar Coal Block-1 Power Generation Company (Private) Limited (TCB-1) and Sino Sindh Resources Private Limited (SSRL), subsidiaries of Shanghai Electric, have reiterated their commitment towards development, welfare of its workers in Thar Block-1 and the environment. The two companies, who are jointly working on the 1320MW Thar Block-1 Integrated Energy Project — a mega China-Pakistan Economic Corridor Project (CPEC) — were once again in the limelight at the 16th Annual CSR Summit and Awards hosted by the National Forum for Environment and Health (NFEH) in Islamabad at a local hotel. Both TCB-1 and SSRL received a total of four awards at the event in categories that included CSR Initiatives; Livelihood and Waste Management / Recycling. Meng Donghai, Chairman of TCB-1 and SSRL, remarked that he was pleased over the fact that the two companies were awarded for their CSR projects, welfare and environment-related steps. “We are delighted for this acknowledgement and would continue to play our role in key fields like CSR, livelihood, waste management as well as other areas related to community welfare and development,” commented Donghai. Donghai pointed out that the Thar Block-1 Integrated Energy Project has provided more than 20,000 direct employment opportunities for the locals, with a cumulative tax payment of US\$150 million and CSR expenditure of over US\$1.5 million. Together, TCB-1 and SSRL are working on a coal-electricity integration project in Block-1 of Thar Coalfield, which is a CPEC priority implementation project. It includes construction and operation of an open-pit coal mine with an annual output of 7.8 million tons and 2X660MW supercritical lignite power station. SSRL is the sole operator of the 7.8 Mtpa Open-pit Coal Mine project.

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2024/03/07/30-page/987131-news.html>

**Daily Times**

**General Syed Asim Munir, NI (M), Chief of Army Staff (COAS), visited Heavy Industries Taxila (HIT) today as chief guest at the rollout ceremony of HAIDER tank**

The ceremony was attended by Ambassador of the Peoples Republic of China, key officials of Chinese state company NORINCO, high officials of Government of Pakistan & Pakistan Army, and various military and civilian officials of HIT. During the ceremony, HIT unveiled its new Tank HAIDER, which has been indigenously manufactured through collaboration with NORINCO China and various industries of Pakistan. HAIDER embodies cutting-edge technology and impressive capability in the domain of tank warfare having remarkable firepower, protection and maneuver characteristics. COAS was briefed in detail about the technical capabilities of the HAIDER tank and the progress being made in achieving indigenization in arms and armament. COAS also visited other manufacturing facilities

within the Heavy Industrial Complex and appreciated the commitment of the officers and workforce in successful achievement of another technological milestone. Earlier on arrival, COAS was received by Chairman HIT.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1176961/general-syed-asim-munir-ni-m-chief-of-army-staff-coas-visited-heavy-industries-taxila-hit-today-as-chief-guest-at-the-rollout-ceremony-of-haider-tank/>

### **Promoting green tech along Belt and Road vital for growth: expert**

“To boost green development of Belt and Road, we must adhere to the principles of extensive consultation, joint contribution and shared benefits. It is essential to strengthen international cooperation, promote green technology, and policy support for green finance. We should also strengthen the alignment with green international standards and enhance the development of green Belt and Road,” said Wang Tongzhou in an interview with China Economic Net. Regarding green development, Wang, a member of the National Committee of the Chinese People’s Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC) and chairman of Beijing-based China Communications Construction Co Ltd, put forward four specific suggestions. Firstly, he appealed for stronger policy guidance and institutional support. “We can establish a coordination mechanism for overseas investments by state-owned enterprises, where enterprises should mutually support each other in expanding overseas operations.” “Secondly, we look forward to more support for the development, promotion, and application of green technology. We should reduce carbon emissions and energy consumption of the whole industrial chain, and establish several green BRI project benchmarks,” Wang said. Thirdly, he suggested that we should actively convey China’s confidence in green development to the world, promote the alignment of the green BRI construction with the cooperation on climate change and biodiversity under the UN framework.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1176821/promoting-green-tech-along-belt-and-road-vital-for-growth-expert/>

## **The Nation**

### **Chinese farm equipment under green initiative arrives**

ISLAMABAD - The first shipment of agricultural equipment under the Green Pakistan Initiative (GPI) has reached Pakistan from China via the Khunjerab Pass, despite challenging weather conditions. The cargo includes 20 tractors, drip irrigation systems, hose reel-based irrigation systems, satellite, and drone intelligent control platforms. Additionally, the convoy brings smart agriculture management platforms and the Internet of Things (IoT) for agriculture. Since its inception in July of last year, GPI has been a significant part of the government’s new plan for economic recovery. With Pakistan still in the early stages of industrialization, much of its existing machinery and equipment, including power plants, is due for replacement, making this initiative especially critical for the country. GPI focuses on a variety of aspects related to forestry, wildlife, the environment, and biodiversity.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/07-Mar-2024/chinese-farm-equipment-under-green-initiative-arrives>

## The News

### **PCJCCI, UHE to work for women empowerment**

LAHORE: Pakistan China Joint Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCJCCI) signed an MoU with University of Home Economics, Lahore, at PCJCCI Secretariat for promoting women entrepreneurship through introducing contemporary and advanced technologies in fashion and interior designing, fine arts, IT, Visual Communication, textile, food and nutrition and other areas. The main agenda of this MoU was to introduce China's contemporary advancements in these areas and how they can be used in empowering the young women of Pakistan. The ceremony was attended by around 20 Chinese businesswomen and other young entrepreneurs from Pakistan. The PCJCCI aimed to connect maximum Chinese companies with University of Home Economics which would definitely help in arranging opportunities for our young women in various fashion and textile related degrees. University of Home Economics Vice-Chancellor Dr Faleeha Kazmi shared that the university had witnessed remarkable development in the past years due to the dedication of my team. We have initiated Business Incubation Centre to provide a modern and skill-based knowledge to empower our students in entrepreneurship and we are excited for this MoU with PCJCCI because this is not only a partnership but it represents our commitment to excellence innovation and mutual growth for our organisations.

<https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/1165332-pcjcci-uhe-to-work-for-women-empowerment>

**March 08, 2024**

## Dawn News

### **China's success lies in quality leadership, continuity of policy: Mushahid**

ISLAMABAD: Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed on Thursday said the ingredients of China's success story were its quality leadership, ability to do course correction, continuity of policy and peaceful foreign policy. He was speaking at book launch titled 'China at 75: China Story – Standing Up to Getting Rich to Becoming Strong', by Shakeel Ahmad Ramay, CEO Asian Institute of Eco-Civilization, Research and Development (AIERD). The event was jointly organized by the Institute of Regional Studies (IRS) and AIERD. Senator Sayed said China could be explained in three words - revolution, reform and rise, and each era was led by a leader right from the front. "If we look at all the leaders that have led China we will see that they were a product of merit-based system," he said. Giving the example of the current Chinese president, Xi Jinping, and its former leader Deng Xiaoping, Mr. Sayed said these leaders had integrity and had risen from the grassroots level. Talking about course correction, the senator explained: "When you feel that perhaps we are not on the right track, you do a course correction," which the Chinese leadership had done successfully. He said other aspects were continuity of policy that had spanned decades, humility and the urge to learn from others. However, the most important ingredient was China's peaceful foreign policy, he added. Elaborating his point, he said China was the only permanent member of the UN Security Council that had not fought a war with any country during the last 40 years. He said President Xi Jinping was a leader with a difference, who was confident, competent and had



strategic clarity. He said by the time Mao Zedong died, China had resolved the core issues of its people, which were food, clothing, shelter, health and basic education. He said Pakistan was fortunate to have China as its neighbour; which was its all-weather friend, strategic partner and an iron brother. Delving on Mr. Ramay's book, Mushahid Hussain Sayed said the author had told China's story very well and had captured the country's evolution in detail. Deputy Chief of Mission, Chinese embassy, Shi Yuanqiang praised Shakeel Ahmad Ramay for his study of China, his deep understanding of the country's dynamics and his in-depth analysis. He said Mr. Ramay's book was comprehensive as it had detailed China's growth right from its establishment to the present time. He said the fundamental reason behind China's growth was its strong leadership, whose main aim was seeking happiness and well-being of the Chinese people. He said the Communist Party of China had overcome numerous challenges. Speaking on the occasion, Shakeel Ahmad Ramay said he had divided his presentation into three parts – standing tall, getting rich and becoming strong. He said when the People's Republic of China was established in 1949, the country faced a number of challenges. "After the war, the opposing parties, while withdrawing, destroyed the production base like factories and irrigation system as a result, the country had to face weak production system, inflation, food insecurity and low life expectancy," he said. However, Mr. Ramay said, the greatest challenge confronting China at that time was not being recognized, especially by the western countries. These countries were more inclined towards Republic of China that was based in Taiwan. However, Pakistan was the fourth country to recognize China and establish diplomatic relations, the author said. From here, Chairman Mao Zedong took the lead and along with his companions, started building the country, he said, adding that China first controlled inflation and managed food security as it was the fundamental need of the people and vital for stability.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1819915/chinas-success-lies-in-quality-leadership-continuity-of-policy-mushahid>

### **Pakistan Observer**

#### **Human development-based approach needed to exploit Pak-China coop potential: Nadeem**

Former Caretaker Minister for Health Dr Nadeem Jan has emphasized the need for adopting an approach based on human development to fully exploit the development potential of Pak-China cooperation in diverse fields. The caretaker federal minister was addressing a round-table discussion titled "China's Economic Development: Opportunities for Pakistan" organized by CGTN-Urdu. Dr Nadeem Jan said the heart-to-heart connection between the peoples of Pakistan and China indicates a win-win scenario which is a positive indicator for swift development of Pakistan. He said Pakistan can take a leaf out of China's book to adopt policies based on consistency, accountability, and self-sufficiency to achieve its development goals. However, he said, Pakistan needs to take ground realities into consideration while setting short and long-term goals. He said dependence on donors shouldn't be an option, and self-reliance and competition should be a way forward. He said Pakistan has the potential to take pharmaceutical exports to \$2 billion and China could be an attractive destination for this. Political Counsellor, Embassy of People Republic of China, Wang Shengjie, said that work

on many projects under China- Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is continuing in Pakistan. He said development goals can be achieved swiftly by adopting the phenomenon of “New Quality Productive Process” in which strategies driven by innovative approach take precedence. Wang particularly emphasized the potential of growth in Pakistan’s information technology and mining sectors. Director China Media Group Ms Du Jianing, Director China Study Centre, National University of Science and Technology (NUST) Ms. Xiang Yang, Former Chief Executive Officer Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Board of Investment Dr Hassan Dawood Butt, Executive Director Pakistan Research Centre for a Community with Shared Future (PRCCSF) Khalid Taimur Akram, CEO of Asian Institute of Eco-Civilization, Research and Development Shakeel Ahmed Ramay, Director of Pak-China Study and Research Centre, Bahria University Islamabad, Commodore (Retd) Imran ul Haque, Vice Chancellor National Skills University Islamabad Prof Dr Muhammad Mukhtar and other participants also presented their valuable thoughts and suggestions. Executive Dean of Chongyang Institute for Financial Studies at Runmin University of China Dr Wang Wen attended the event through video link. In his remarks, he said development of China is a beacon of hope for Pakistan. He said being a close friend and neighbor, Pakistan has the potential to be the prime beneficiary of development prospects in China.

<https://pakobserver.net/human-development-based-approach-needed-to-exploit-pak-china-coop-potential-nadeem/>

### **CPEC boosts job opportunities for women in Pakistan: Chinese CG**

In a reception honoring International Women’s Day, Chinese Consul General in Karachi, Yang Yundong, highlighted the significant impact of China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) projects in creating job opportunities for women across Pakistan. He emphasized the growing cooperation between China and Pakistan, which is expected to generate more employment opportunities for women in the future. Yundong noted that women are actively participating in various fields and contributing to the economic and social development of Pakistan. He cited examples of women’s involvement in CPEC projects, such as the Thar Coal Mine project, where over a hundred women have received truck driving training, showcasing their capabilities and positively impacting local development. Furthermore, Yundong praised the efforts of organizations like the Ministry of Women Development of Pakistan and the All-Pakistan Women’s Association (APWA) in advancing women’s affairs and fostering mutual understanding between China and Pakistan. Highlighting China’s commitment to gender equality, Yundong underscored the progress made in women’s development in China, including improvements in life expectancy and educational attainment. He emphasized that women play a vital role in China’s high-quality development, constituting a significant portion of the employed population across various sectors. The event also featured remarks from Barrister Shahida Jameel, who paid tribute to women leaders in both Chinese and Pakistani history, and other speakers who stressed the importance of encouraging women’s participation in all aspects of life.

<https://pakobserver.net/cpec-boosts-job-opportunities-for-women-in-pakistan-chinese-cg/>

## The Nation

### **884MW Suki Kinari hydropower project to start power generation by November**

ISLAMABAD - Suki Kinari hydropower project (884-megawatt), a China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) portfolio project, which will be completed at the cost of \$2 billion, will start power generation by November 2024. This was stated by Shah Jahan Mirza, Managing Director Private Power Infrastructure Board (PPIB), and here while speaking at workshop aimed at developing a robust mechanism for tariff-based bidding of hydropower projects in Pakistan. The workshop was organized by PPIB in collaboration with the Agence Française de Développement (AFD), France. One of the key highlights of the event was sharing draft generic Request for Proposals (RFP) documents for hydropower IPPs prepared by Joint Venture – Tractable GmbH, Germany and NDC (the ‘consultant’) in line with international best practices and applicable local regulations. The event brought together key stakeholders, including government officials, industry experts, investors, local and international banks, and representatives from the energy sector, to deliberate on the critical aspects of tariff-based bidding and its significance in the development of hydropower projects in Pakistan. Shah Jahan Mirza remarked that PPIB has already accomplished significant success towards attracting private investment in establishing hydropower IPPs which is evident from the fact that so far 4 hydro IPPs of over 1,000 MW have been completed while another 13 hydro IPPs of 5,455 MW are at different stages of processing out of which 884 MW Suki Kinari project is scheduled to be in operation by November 2024. Suki Kinari is being constructed on River Kunhar located in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province. The project is being executed by Suki Kinari Hydro (Pvt) Ltd / China Gezhouba Group Company Ltd in IPP mode. Besides, hydropower, PPIB’s efficient facilitation has resulted in successful implementation of 54 wind/solar/bagasse based IPPs of 2,785 MW, he added. As Pakistan continues its journey towards attaining energy security, sustainability, efficiency and competitiveness, initiatives such as this workshop play a pivotal role in shaping the future of the country’s energy landscape. Mirza commended the consultant for its dedication and expertise in crafting a robust framework and remarked that this is a major step for moving towards award of projects through competitive bidding instead of present system. Other esteemed speakers delved into the intricacies of the RFP, highlighted its key features and potential to streamline the bidding process for hydropower projects. The workshop served as a platform for fostering dialogue, exchanging ideas, and building consensus on the way forward for accelerating the development of hydropower projects in Pakistan for lowering generation cost. Participants expressed their commitment to working collaboratively towards achieving the shared goal of ensuring a sustainable, reliable, and less expensive and eco-friendly energy supply for the nation.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/08-Mar-2024/884mw-suki-kinari-hydropower-project-to-start-power-generation-by-november>

## K2 Daily



کوٹھلیں دیا جاسکے جو زمین پر ہمہ جہت چھریہ چھن کے خواب کو پورا کرنے میں مدد دیں گے۔ گوادر پرو کے مطابق تیزی سے پہنچ ہوئی ترقی کے پس منظر میں جب عالمی طاقتیں مصنوعی ذہانت کی نیا لوجی، جدید ترین ٹیکنالوجی، ہائی ٹیک گرین گریڈ اور کوئلہ سائٹس کے ساتھ ہم آہنگ ہونے کی سوتے کرنے کی کوشش کر رہی ہیں، لیکن اگلے مرحلے کی معاشی منتقلی کو کھولنے کے لئے واضح منصوبے کے ساتھ آگے آیا ہے۔ گوادر پرو کے مطابق درحقیقت اس کا سہارا این پی ای کے قانون سازوں اور سی این پی سی ای کے شیروں کو جاتا ہے جنہوں نے پیٹنگ میں متفقہ ہونے والے عالمی سطح پر اہم دو اجلاسوں میں ہاسٹس ٹیم چھٹک حکمت عملی کا خاکہ پیش کیا۔ گوادر پرو کے مطابق جدید معاشی بنیادوں کی وسعت اور گہرائی کے مطابق، نئی میٹریکس پیداواری قوتیں جدید پیداواری صلاحیت کی نشاندہی کرتی ہیں جو روایتی معاشی مودے کے باوجود پیداواری ترقی کے مراحل سے آزاد ہے۔ یہ اعلیٰ ٹیکنالوجی، اعلیٰ کارکردگی اور اعلیٰ میٹریکس منتقلی کرتا ہے، اور نئے ترقیاتی شعبے کے ساتھ اسٹرکچرل دیتا ہے۔

چین، لین دین کا حجم 6.15 ٹریلین یو اے ڈالرز تک پہنچ گیا  
گزشتہ سال چین میں 9 لاکھ 95 ہزار ٹیکنالوجی معاہدوں پر دستخط ہوئے  
چین کا اعلیٰ معیار کی ترقی کو فروغ دینا نئے دور میں سرفہرست ہے، گوادر پرو  
اسلام آباد (آئی این بی) گزشتہ سال چین معاشی ذہانت ٹاس اقدام کے آغاز کی راہ ہموار  
کے 950,000 چنانچہ معاہدوں پر دستخط کرے گی۔ گوادر پرو کے مطابق 2024 کے دو  
ہوئے، لین دین کا حجم 6.15 ٹریلین یو اے ڈالرز تک  
پہنچ گیا۔ چین کا اعلیٰ معیار کی ترقی کو فروغ دینا نئے  
دور میں سرفہرست ہے، اقتصادی ترقی کی نئی جدلی  
ڈیجیٹل معیشت کی جدید ترقی کو فروغ دینے اور  
اور صنعتی نظاموں (آئی سی ٹی) 6 ہجرت نمبر 15)

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

[https://www.epaper.dailyk2.com/Home?Issue=NP\\_ICT&Page=International%20/%20Local%20News](https://www.epaper.dailyk2.com/Home?Issue=NP_ICT&Page=International%20/%20Local%20News)

**March 09, 2024**

**Daily Times**

## **Green CPEC and Sustainable Development**

*Saher Liaquat*

The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is a transformative endeavor poised to redefine Pakistan's landscape and future trajectory. Predominantly centered on infrastructure and energy initiatives, CPEC offers a substantial opening to emphasize environmental sustainability and advocate for green development in the area. This initiative harbors the potential to propel Pakistan into a novel phase of advancement, navigating the intricate interplay of growth, sustainability, and inclusivity. In the domain of Pakistan-China collaboration, particularly within the second phase of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), various foundational principles can guide this partnership towards its green potential. These principles epitomize the essence of this alliance, weaving a narrative of development, sustainability, and mutual growth. 'Alliance' emphasizes people-to-people exchanges, 'Bankability' ensures economic viability and sustainability, while 'Climate-smart policies' align with global environmental goals. Moreover, 'Diplomacy' and 'development' reinforce international engagements with environmental imperatives. 'Efficiency,' on the

other hand, addresses economic and environmental challenges holistically, and 'Financial governance' emphasizes sustainable investments. 'Greening' CPEC integrates environmental considerations, while 'Human development through communities' disseminates benefits to grassroots levels. Lastly, 'Integration' fosters regional collaboration in economic, environmental, and energy domains, transcending bilateral relations for sustainable development. While CPEC has faced historical criticism for its environmental impact, it could emerge as Pakistan's key strategy in combating climate change. Initially, the project prioritized rapid development over sustainability, particularly in coal-powered energy projects that raised substantial environmental concerns. However, a shift towards a more environmentally friendly CPEC is achievable. One of the most promising aspects of CPEC is its emphasis on renewable energy projects. With abundant solar, wind, and hydro resources, Pakistan has immense potential to shift towards clean energy sources. CPEC has already facilitated the development of several renewable energy projects, including wind farms and solar parks. By investing in renewable energy infrastructure, CPEC reduces carbon emissions, enhances energy security, and mitigates the impact of climate change. Pakistan's dedication to sustainability is also evident through imposing a moratorium on new coal projects and implementing ambitious renewable energy policies. The Thar Block-1 Integrated Coal Mine Power Project has provided over 18,000 jobs to locals and delivers cost-effective energy to millions of households. Moreover, notable progress has been achieved in green and sustainable energy projects, such as the Karot Hydropower Project, which includes a robust biodiversity management plan, safeguarding aquatic and wildlife habitats, and measures to preserve river water quality. China's move towards greener policies, characterized by decreased funding for fossil fuels and heightened investment in renewable energy within CPEC, provides optimism for a more sustainable future. Infrastructure development under CPEC offers an opportunity to integrate green principles into urban planning and construction practices. Green infrastructure initiatives such as eco-friendly buildings, sustainable transportation systems, and green spaces can help mitigate environmental degradation, improve air quality, and enhance the overall livability of cities along the corridor. The Matiari to Lahore Transmission Line ensures consistent and clean electricity to nearly 10 million households, even during Pakistan's flood season. By prioritizing environmentally sound infrastructure projects, CPEC can pave the way for sustainable urbanization and resilient communities. Special Economic Zones (SEZs) within CPEC can prioritize low-carbon strategies, while collaborations and workshops, like the Green China-Pakistan Economic Corridor Alliance, offer invaluable platforms for dialogue and action towards sustainable development. CPEC also presents an opportunity to address environmental challenges such as deforestation, habitat loss, and biodiversity conservation. Through initiatives like afforestation programs, wildlife conservation projects, and ecosystem restoration efforts, CPEC can contribute to preserving Pakistan's natural heritage and promoting ecosystem health. By incorporating environmental safeguards and conservation measures into project planning and implementation, CPEC can minimize adverse environmental impacts and ensure the long-term sustainability of development initiatives. Efforts to enhance Gwadar's environmental resilience and economic prosperity include initiatives like the Pak-China Friendship Green Park and the Gwadar Smart Environment Sanitation System. The collaboration between China and Pakistan under CPEC also provides a platform for

technology transfer and knowledge sharing in green technologies and practices. By leveraging China's expertise in renewable energy, waste management, and pollution control, CPEC can accelerate the adoption of sustainable solutions and spur green innovation in Pakistan. Furthermore, investments in research and development initiatives focused on environmental sustainability can drive economic growth and create new opportunities for green industries and entrepreneurship. While the green potential of CPEC is significant, it is not without challenges. Issues such as inadequate regulatory frameworks, institutional capacity constraints, and financing barriers may hinder the effective implementation of green initiatives. However, these challenges also present opportunities for collaboration, capacity building, and policy innovation. By addressing these challenges collectively and adopting a holistic approach to sustainable development, CPEC can realize its green potential and contribute to Pakistan's more resilient, inclusive, and environmentally sustainable future. The green potential of CPEC offers a unique opportunity to align economic growth with environmental conservation and sustainable development objectives. By prioritizing renewable energy, promoting green infrastructure, fostering environmental conservation, and encouraging green innovation, CPEC can catalyze positive environmental change in Pakistan. As CPEC continues to evolve, it is essential to leverage its transformative potential to build a greener, more sustainable future for future generations. To ensure the green and sustainable development of CPEC, it is crucial to commit to environmental strategies, adapt to global sustainability trends, and rigorously monitor and evaluate projects throughout their execution. Through collaborative efforts and stakeholder engagement, CPEC has the potential to become a flagship model for green development within the broader Belt and Road Initiative framework. By aligning with human development principles, implementing green policies, and fostering regional integration, CPEC can effectively address contemporary challenges while promoting inclusive growth. This approach, blending economic progress with sustainable practices, is pivotal for CPEC to catalyze comprehensive and enduring development in Pakistan. In essence, the success of CPEC's green potential hinges on its ability to harmonize economic growth with sustainable principles, thereby fostering mutual prosperity while upholding environmental stewardship. Together, Pakistan and China can forge a path towards a more sustainable and equitable future, setting a new standard for international cooperation in the modern era.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1177554/green-cpec-and-sustainable-development/>

### **Pakistan Observer**

#### **PM thanks China, Turkiye, UAE leaders**

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Friday expressed gratitude to the leadership of China, Turkiye and the UAE for their congratulatory messages on his assumption of office. Responding to Chinese President Xi Jinping's message of felicitation on X, the prime minister said that he looked forward to working with him to further strengthen Pak-China iron-clad friendship and for high-quality development of China Pakistan Economic Corridor as flagship project of Belt and Road Initiative. He also thanked Chinese Premier Li Qiang and said that Pakistan would continue to working with China to deepen the All-weather Strategic Cooperative Partnership and for harnessing full potential of CPEC. In a separate post, the

prime minister also thanked Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and said that he looked forward to working closely with him to further elevate the already historic bilateral relationship to unprecedented levels of fraternity and cooperation. Prime Minister Shehbaz also expressed gratitude to the UAE leadership including Vice President and Prime Minister Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum and Ruler of Dubai Sheikh Mohammed for their wishes and prayers.

<https://pakobserver.net/pm-thanks-china-turkiye-uae-leaders/#:~:text=Prime%20Minister%20Shehbaz%20Sharif%20on,on%20his%20assumption%20of%20office.>

### The Nation

#### **Pakistan exports to southern China witness 16pc growth in 2023**

BEIJING - Pakistan's exports to the southern region of China witnessed a 16% growth last year, partly due to the China-Pakistan Free Trade Agreement (CPFTA) that lowered tariffs as well as events like FoodAg 2023 and TEXPO 2023 which further facilitated exports in the textile and agricultural sectors. This was stated by Zhou Hanmin, a member of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC) and President of the Shanghai Public Diplomacy Association. "I had visited Pakistan before the Belt and Road Initiative was proposed and deeply felt the sincere emotions of Pakistani people towards China. The CPEC not only improved the bilateral trade but also provides substantial economic uplift to Pakistani people. In his proposal, he suggested implementing specific measures aimed at expanding the export of agricultural products from Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) countries, with a particular emphasis on the Least Developed Countries. Least developed countries (LDCs) is a classification used by the United Nations (UN) to identify and categorize countries that exhibit the lowest levels of socio-economic development. The designation of LDC is based on three primary criteria: low income, weak human assets (such as education and healthcare), and economic vulnerability. "At last year's China International Import Expo (CIIE), I noticed that nearly one-third of the participating countries were LDCs that maintain close and friendly relations with China, consistently offering significant support in international affairs. This year, I proposed that we must provide more assistance to the exports of goods from these countries," Zhou said. Zhou told CEN that China has complementary industrial and resource relationships with 43 LDCs that have joined BRI. "We should analyze China's import data for food and agricultural products from these countries and identify their advantageous varieties. China has a wealth of expertise in agricultural products, seafood, fruits and vegetables. We can enhance technical support for these countries by providing assistance and expertise." China's foreign trade in 2023 exceeded 41 trillion RMB in total import and export, with a year-on-year growth of 0.2%. Notably, trade with countries along the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) shows a growth rate of 2.8%, further highlighting the robustness and potential of the BRI."

<https://www.nation.com.pk/09-Mar-2024/pakistan-exports-to-southern-china-witness-16pc-growth-in-2023>

**March 10, 2024**

**The Nation**

**Silk Routes Forum launched to promote sustainable development**

ISLAMABAD - The Silk Routes Forum (SRF) had its launch at a local hotel here on Saturday, with an aim to promote sustainable development and peaceful coexistence in the region. The launch attracted attendees from various walks of life, including diplomats, politicians, and businessmen, said a press release. The diverse participation highlighted the broad interest and support for this initiative along with showcasing a collective commitment from different sectors towards the forum's objectives. The SRF's mission is to bring together governments, NGOs, corporations, and other stakeholders to work collaboratively for a future with sustainable, secure, prosperous, and equitable societies. The SRF emphasized three key goals in its agenda. The first goal of the forum is to achieve sustainable and equitable growth by reducing inequalities and promoting balanced regional development. The second goal focuses on advocating for peace and security, highlighting the importance of collective responsibility, ethics, and morality in preventing conflict and human insecurity. Lastly, the forum aims to promote coexistence and inclusivity through cultural exchanges, fostering synergy among diverse communities, and celebrating shared traditions. During the forum, speakers highlighted the importance of its impact on the lasting Pakistan-China relationship. The speakers highlighted the pathways that can bring positive changes including sustainable development, reducing inequalities, and enhancing regional stability. The Guest of Honor at the Silk Routes Forum launch, Senator Mushaid Husain Syed emphasized the close friendship between China and Pakistan. He commended China's leadership in the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and highlighted it as the most significant diplomatic and developmental initiative of the 21st century. Former Caretaker Information Minister, Murtaza Solangi stated that the friendship between Pakistan and China is akin to an "all-weather friendship." He highlighted that regardless of political systems, the enduring bond remains steadfast, consistently progressing with brilliant projects. Solangi emphasized the resilience of the Pakistan-China friendship, emphasizing its ability to transcend political changes and continue to thrive through collaborative initiatives and remarkable endeavors. Global climate expert, Sadaf Khalid emphasized the forum's crucial role in addressing climate challenges and contributing to UN Sustainable Development Goals. She highlighted its potential for collaborative efforts in mitigating climate change impacts and fostering sustainability across the region. Chairman Reza Shah opined that the Silk Routes remind of connecting cultural ideas, prosperity, and spanning far distances. He emphasized the commonalities and shared richness found in different cultures. He underlined the significance of fostering cultural exchanges and collaboration as integral aspects of the Silk Routes Forum's mission. He expressed gratitude to all the speakers and acknowledged their contributions to the discussion.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/10-Mar-2024/silk-routes-forum-launched-to-promote-sustainable-development>



**March 11, 2024**

**Business Recorder**

### **Speedy localization of solar panels**

MoC asks Chinese firm to consider forming JV

The Commerce Ministry has advised a Chinese company, M/s Sinotec Solar (Pvt) Ltd, to consider forming a joint venture (JV) with M/s Ghani Glass for speedy localization of solar panel-related items, official sources told Business Recorder. This proposal was floated at a recent inter-ministerial meeting, presided over by the Additional Secretary in charge Ministry of Industries and Production, Rashid Mahmood Langrial. Langrial asked about the progress on the decisions of the last (3rd) meeting held on February 26, 2024. He further queried about the use of items planned to be imported by Sinotec in other industries. He supported removal of the tariff and tax anomaly faced by the local solar industry. However, he suggested to avoid putting higher duties and taxes on the import of finished solar panels because it will make them expensive for the general public. He further emphasized that without a concrete indigenization plan of five to seven years by the Sinotec Solar Company, the government cannot offer them zero-rated duties and taxes on the import of their raw materials and machinery. The chair also directed the Ministry of Commerce (MoC) to make projections for the next 10 years based on the last 5-6 years' trajectory related to tariff, taxes, imports, exports, and local sales etc. The JS (Tariff) Ministry of Commerce, Muhammad Ashfaq, explained that items imported by Sinotec will be used as raw materials/ intermediate goods through the import quota determined by the Input/ Output Co-Efficient Organization (IOCO) of the FBR according to the utilization capacity of the companies. If the companies under-utilized their capacity, then this may be verified through a post-audit assessment which is conducted on an annual basis. In this regard, all sectors are facing the same treatment from the FBR. He further presented the projected import data for FY 2023-24 of raw materials and machinery with zero-rated duties and taxes (CD, ACD, RD and ST) resulting in an estimated revenue forgone worth Rs20 billion in comparison to projected total revenue collection of Rs31.9 billion resulting in net projected higher revenue collection of Rs11.9 billion. The Secretary (Tariff) FBR, Aftab Ullah Shah, endorsed the analysis and informed that the companies are bound to give details about their existing inventory, new imports, items used in local manufacturing, local sales, and exports. The General Manager (Tariff) EDB, KB Ali, apprised that import of solar cell is zero rated for sales tax, whereas, sales tax is applicable on other parts of solar panels. The Director of Port Qasim Authority (PQA) joined the meeting via Zoom link. He apprised the participants that they had submitted a summary for their Board meeting for the change of category of the Sinotec plant site from warehouse to industry. He further informed that Sinotec Solar Company has still not provided the signed agreement with their tenant. The representative of Sinotec Solar (Pvt) Ltd presented a conditional indigenization plan of only six items involved in the local manufacturing of solar panels. He said that their company will localize the solar cell, having a cost share of almost 60 per cent in the production cost of solar panel, in the next five years from the start of their operations in Pakistan provided that their self-manufacturing reaches 3GW and local

manufacturing industry reach to 10GW power producing capacity of solar. Similarly, he presented the localization plan of the other five items in the same way with the condition that the local manufacturing industry will reach 20GW in the next three years. He further stated that the value of their imports will be 88 per cent of their total production value with a two per cent share of depreciation and only 10 per cent share of value addition. The chair did not support the conditional indigenization plan of Sinotec Solar (Pvt) Ltd Co on the grounds that their conditions of local market volume of 10GW and 20GW power producing capacity from solar is not logical and practical because they should not consider only Pakistani market as they have a huge potential to export to the USA market along with rest of the world. The JS (Tariff) MoC suggested to the Sinotec Solar (Pvt) Co Ltd to have a meeting and make a JV with the M/s Ghani Glass Ltd Co for speedy localization of these items. This will lead to transfer of technology and promote local manufacturing/ value addition in real sense. After detailed discussions, the meeting took the following unanimous decisions; (i) EDB to prepare the matrix of responsibilities of the government department with the categories of tasks, sub-tasks along with timelines to finalize the matter; (ii) Ministry of Commerce to prepare the tariff and tax analysis containing projections for next 10 years based on the last 5-6 years trajectory in a summary form; (iii) the Sinotec Solar Co (Pvt) Ltd to provide a complete and unconditional indigenization plan of five to seven years from the list of imported raw materials parts, inputs, plant and machinery on which duties and tax exemption will be provided by the Government of Pakistan to the Sinotec company with the written agreement backed by a proper bank guarantee after having consultation with M/s Ghani Glass Co (Pvt) Ltd. The EDB will provide the technical evaluation report of the complete indigenization plan of Sinotec Solar Co (Pvt) Ltd

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2024/03/11/1-page/987395-news.html>

### **500MW solar system projects**

A significant milestone in the realm of solar energy has been reached as a joint venture agreement, valued at USD 700 million, has been inked. The agreement, focused on the solar energy sector, brings together the expertise of Chinese firm Hanersun Technologies and Pakistani Counterpart My Energy. The collaboration aims to spearhead the development of 500 MW solar system projects. The formal signing ceremony took place at a local hotel, with Vice President of Hanersun Technologies, Sunny Sun, and CEO of My Energy, Tariq Wazir Ali, sealing the deal. The joint venture entails an investment of USD 700 million, earmarked for various 500 MW solar projects. This encompasses the establishment of distribution networks, dealer networks, warranty and service centers, alongside flagship stores. During the ceremony, CEO of My Energy, Tariq Wazir Ali, underscored the critical importance of offering sustainable energy solutions in a nation heavily reliant on costly furnace oil and diesel for power generation. Ali also outlined plans to expedite the completion of multiple 500 MW projects within the inaugural year, with a specific focus on bolstering solar energy solutions in the steel and agriculture sectors. Vice President of Hanersun Technologies, Sunny Sun, acknowledged the prevailing dearth of quality solar energy products in Pakistan and affirmed the company's dedication to collaborating with My Energy to remedy this shortfall. <https://epaper.brecorder.com/2024/03/11/11-page/987469-news.html>

### Daily Times

#### **Pakistan and Chinese experts forge agricultural alliance**

To strengthen agricultural collaboration between Pakistan and China, the Diplomatic Insight Group (DIG) has hosted a distinguished delegation from China, comprising top agricultural scientists and business leaders. According to Gwadar Pro, this significant gathering aimed at fostering discussions on innovative agricultural practices, sustainable development, and the promotion of international agricultural cooperation, according to Dr. Farhat Asif, Chairperson of Diplomatic Insight Group, and CEO Mr. Muhammad Asif Noor welcomed the Chinese delegation to their office. The delegation included Prof. Dr. He Cheng from China Agricultural University, Prof. Dr. Wang Jingyu from Northwest A&F University, and executives from leading companies like Tianjin Henrylead Biotechnology Development Co., Ltd, and Fujian Shengnong Biotechnology Co., Ltd, etc. The Diplomatic Insight Group's subsidiary, the Centre for Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and China Studies- Institute of Peace and Diplomatic Studies (IPDS), is already playing a crucial role in enhancing Pakistan's agriculture sector. Through organizing seminars, webinars, and conferences, and facilitating Chinese agricultural companies in Pakistan, IPDS is at the forefront of bridging the knowledge and technology gap between Pakistan and China in agriculture. The discussion was enriched as the participants discussed the future of agriculture and livestock management, including discussions on the growth of livestock, advancements in vaccinations, and the manufacturing of dairy products like cheese. Particular emphasis was placed on the innovation in technological and scientific methods to enhance the health and productivity of cows, buffaloes, and other livestock, showcasing a shared vision for a more sustainable and efficient agricultural future. One of the most enlightening parts of the meeting was around the implementation of advanced scientific and technological strategies in livestock management. The experts explored the development of comprehensive vaccination programs for poultry, innovative cheese manufacturing processes, and breakthroughs in improving the health of cows and buffaloes. These discussions highlighted the potential for significant improvements in animal welfare and productivity and emphasized the importance of sustainable practices in the global food supply chain. This meeting has laid the groundwork for future joint ventures, exchange programs, and research initiatives that promise to bring about transformative changes in agriculture and livestock management across the globe.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1178088/pakistan-and-chinese-experts-forge-agricultural-alliance/>

### Dawn News

#### **Attracting China's relocating industries**

THE ongoing struggle of the world's second-largest economy against multiple challenges, such as geopolitical tensions with the West, troubled property sector, overcapacity in the manufacturing industry, and local government indebtedness to sustain economic growth, would lead many to believe that it is fading rapidly, even if it is not over yet. However, the dragon country seems to be undertaking strategic economic planning to mark a new phase of transition by transforming its development model as it has done repetitively in the past five

decades to stay on the growth trajectory. Delivering his maiden work report at the National People's Congress, Chinese Premier Li Qiang has announced an ambitious 2024 economic growth target of five per cent, vowing a new leap forward through accelerated industry modernisation and 'development of new quality productive forces', which means a 'systematic shift to high-end, smart and clean manufacturing industries' by diverting more resources for tech innovation as Beijing seeks to curb industrial overcapacity. The term actually refers to China's plan to leverage science and technological innovation to generate new industries and speed up the country's economic development. The emphasis on the quality productive forces the electric-vehicle supply chain, artificial intelligence, renewable energy, advanced infrastructure and cutting-edge semiconductors isn't new. The new quality productive forces are already a success story in China, as evident from the electric vehicle (EV) boom that displaced Japan as the world's largest vehicle exporter last year and its record installations of solar panels amounting to more than ever built by the United States or any other country. China's exports of electric vehicles, lithium batteries, and solar photovoltaic products increased by nearly 30pc to \$150 billion last year. The country accounted for more than 60pc of the world's total EV production and sales and over 50pc of the world's renewable capacity addition in 2023. In line with its strategic goals of transforming the development model, Beijing has boosted its budget for science and technology by 10pc to an unprecedented \$51.6bn the biggest increase since 2019. The emphasis on self-reliance in science and technology comes after the United States tightened control over the export of cutting-edge technologies to China, particularly in artificial intelligence (AI), which Washington said could be used to strengthen the Chinese military. The Biden administration has restricted American companies from selling advanced semiconductor chips to China and banned US investment in sensitive technologies, including AI, quantum computing, and semiconductors, in China. The government work report that reviews China's achievements in 2023 and sets goals for 2024 targets 5pc growth, 12m urban jobs with an urban unemployment rate of 5.5pc, and a reduction in energy consumption per unit of GDP of about 2.5pc. Additionally, it has set a deficit-to-GDP ratio of 3pc and plans to issue special purpose bonds of \$540bn for local government and invest \$98bn from the central government budget. Beijing will also lift all foreign investment restrictions in manufacturing to woo back foreign capital. Last year, according to the work report, the Chinese economy had generally recovered as it made breakthroughs in core technologies and continued to deepen reform as its GDP expanded by 5.2pc to \$17.5 trillion, ranking China among the fastest-growing major economies in the world. Opportunity for Pakistan China's emphasis on the development of new, high-quality productive forces and its systematic shift to high-end, smart, and clean manufacturing industries bring new opportunities for Pakistan. Zafaruddin Mahmood, Pakistan's first Consul General at Shanghai, who currently heads a think tank, Understanding China Forum, says Chinese businesses are actively looking to relocate to other countries. This is because China is focusing on new quality productive sectors while circumventing Western restrictions. Labour costs in China are also rising as workers graduate to higher-paying jobs. Other reasons include Beijing's policy to push out the sunset industries due to overcapacity, rising production costs, environmental factors, etc. 'The trend of relocating offshore among Chinese manufacturers presents a significant opportunity for Pakistan's economy as well. For now, the Chinese focus seems to be on venturing into

Vietnam, Myanmar, Cambodia, Indonesia, and Bangladesh rather than Pakistan. We could get China's firms to relocate their manufacturing here if we tackle the policy issues impeding Chinese investors, build special economic zones and offer them incentives like the other countries, he adds. He is of the view that by creating a special zone for Chinese investors at the vast land of the steel mills in Karachi and handing over its management to the Chinese could attract massive Chinese foreign direct investment (FDI) inflows and easily boost our exports by \$8bn-\$10bn within three to five years. Now it is for Islamabad to address the Chinese concerns on policy issues, provide developed infrastructure, ensure the security of Chinese personnel, and announce liberal tax and other incentives for joint ventures between Chinese and Pakistani investors to attract FDI flows from Beijing in the industrial sector to boost exports and substitute imports for longer-term economic stability, job creation and poverty reduction.

[https://epaper.dawn.com/DetailImage.php?StoryImage=11\\_03\\_2024\\_604\\_006](https://epaper.dawn.com/DetailImage.php?StoryImage=11_03_2024_604_006)

### **Pakistan Observer**

#### **Xi, Raeesi greet Zardari on becoming President**

Chinese President Xi Jinping has congratulated Asif Ali Zardari on his victory for coveted office of president of Pakistan. In his message, Xi Jinping asserted China and Pakistan are good neighbors, good friends, good partners and good brothers. He said the two countries have achieved fruitful results in the construction of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and maintained a high level of development of bilateral relations. The Chinese President said Beijing is ready to work with President Asif Zardari to carry forward the traditional friendship between the two countries. Meanwhile, President of Iran Syed Ebrahim Raeesi also in a message congratulated Asif Ali Zardari on his election as the president of Pakistan. President Raeesi expressed hope that during his presidency, the relations between the two countries, having historical, cultural and religious history, will be more developed and deepened than before. "As always, and especially in the new era, the Islamic Republic of Iran declares its readiness to expand relations with the Islamic Republic of Pakistan," he said.

<https://pakobserver.net/xi-raeesi-greet-zardari-on-becoming-president/>

### **The Express Tribune**

#### **China ready to work with Pakistan: Wang**

BEIJING: China attaches high importance to promote its relations with Pakistan and stands ready to jointly work to carry forward traditional friendship and advance practical cooperation between the two countries, a Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson said on Monday. "We send our warm congratulations to Mr Zardari on assumption as president," Wang Wenbin said in his regular briefing while commenting on oath-taking of Asif Ali Zardari as President of Pakistan. The spokesperson remarked that President Xi Jinping has already sent a congratulatory message to President Zardari on his oath-taking as the 14th President of Pakistan. He reiterated that China attached high importance to promote its relations with Pakistan and stands ready to work with Pakistan to carry forward traditional friendship, advance practical cooperation in various fields and upgrade China Pakistan All

Weather Strategic Cooperative Partnership to building an even closer China-Pakistan community with a shared future in the new era. On March 10, Asif Ali Zardari, the Co-Chairman of Pakistan People's Party (PPP), took oath for the second time as the president after securing majority in the presidential elections held on March 9.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2459065/china-ready-to-work-with-pakistan-wang>

### **The News**

#### **\$700 million solar energy projects signed**

LAHORE: A joint venture agreement has been signed in solar energy sector worth \$700 million. Chinese company Hanersun Technologies and a Pakistani company have agreed to collaborate on the provision of 500 MW solar system projects. The agreement was signed at a ceremony held at a local hotel, with Vice President of Hanersun Technologies, Sunny Sun, and CEO of My Energy, Tariq Wazir Ali, signing the agreement. Under the terms of the JV, an investment of \$700 million will be made for the joint venture involving different 500 MW solar projects. This will include the establishment of distribution networks, dealer's networks, warranty and service centres, as well as flagship stores. Speaking at the signing ceremony, CEO My Energy, Tariq Wazir Ali, emphasised the importance of providing sustainable energy solutions in a country that currently relies heavily on expensive furnace oil and diesel for electricity generation.

<https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/1166751-700-million-solar-energy-projects-signed>

## Express News

### چین کی ترقی عالمی معیشت کیلئے اہمیت کی حامل: پاکستانی طلباء

تائی یو آن (شہنہوا) چین میں جاری (این پی سی) اور چینی عوامی سیاسی مشاورتی کانفرنس قومی کمیٹی یا ”واجلاس“، چین میں ملکی سطح پر منعقد ہونے والے اجلاس ہیں، جو اب تک عالمی توجہ حاصل کر رہے ہیں۔ خیال کیا جاتا ہے کہ یہ عالمی ترقی کے نئے مواقع فراہم کریگا۔ چین کی شینسی یونیورسٹی میں پاکستانی طالب علم طارق چینی معیشت میں چلک اور ولولے کے بارے میں اعداد و شمار جان کر بہت متاثر ہوئے ہیں، گزشتہ سال چین کی مجموعی ملکی پیداوار 5.2 فیصد ترقی کی شرح کے ساتھ 1260 کھرب یو آن (تقریباً 8.174 کھرب ڈالر) تک پہنچ گئی ہے۔ بڑی معیشتوں میں افراط زر پر قابو پانے کے ساتھ چین کی شرح نمو بلند ہے۔ کیمسٹری میں ماسٹر ڈگری کے طالب علم طارق نے کہا کہ چین فعال انداز میں اپنی صنعتوں کو ترقی دے رہا ہے، ابھرتی ہوئی صنعتیں حکومتی سطح پر تمام شعبوں میں غیر معمولی طور پر اب بہت زیادہ آلودگی اور توانائی کی کھپت والی روایتی صنعتوں کی جگہ لے رہی ہیں۔ حکومت کی ورک رپورٹ کے مطابق گزشتہ سال چین کی الیکٹریک گاڑیوں کی فروخت دنیا کی کل فروخت کے 60 فیصد سے زیادہ رہی ہے۔ طالب علم کا کہنا تھا کہ ”عشروں پر محیط ترقی کی بدولت چین ایک بڑی آبادی والے غریب اور پسماندہ ملک سے اب دنیا کے بااثر ترین ممالک کی صف میں آ گیا ہے، جاوید منصور نے 2018 میں شینسی میڈیکل یونیورسٹی میں تعلیم حاصل کرنے کا آغاز کیا۔ وبا کے دوران انہوں نے دیکھا کہ کس طرح چین نے مربوط انداز میں اقتصادی اور سماجی ترقی کے ساتھ وبا کی روک تھام کی اور اس پر قابو پایا۔

[https://www.express.com.pk/epaper/PoPupwindow.aspx?newsID=1110857102&Issue=NP\\_1SB&Date=20240311](https://www.express.com.pk/epaper/PoPupwindow.aspx?newsID=1110857102&Issue=NP_1SB&Date=20240311)

## Jang News

### **چین، زرداری سے ملکر کام کیلئے تیار، پاک چین دوستی تاریخی سی پیک سے نتیجہ خیز نتائج حاصل کئے صدر شی کی نو منتخب صدر کو مبارکباد**

چین، ایران، ترکی، سعودی عرب اور افغانستان نے آصف علی زرداری کو پاکستان کا صدر منتخب ہونے پر مبارکباد دی ہے، چین کے صدر شی جن پنگ نے اتوار کو اپنے تہنیتی پیغام میں کہا کہ پاک چین اپنی دوستی تاریخ کا انتخاب اور عوام کا قیمتی خزانہ ہے، چین پاکستان اقتصادی راہداری کی تعمیر میں نتیجہ خیز نتائج حاصل کیے ہیں، بیجنگ صدر زرداری کے ساتھ مل کر کام کرنے کے لیے تیار ہے، ایران کے صدر سید ابراہیم رئیسی نے کہا کہ ہمیشہ کی طرح اور خاص طور پر نئے دور میں ایران، پاکستان کے ساتھ باہمی تعلقات کو وسعت دینے کے لیے اپنی آمادگی کا اعادہ کرتا ہے، ترکی کے صدر رجب طیب ایردوان کا کہنا ہے کہ پاکستان کے ساتھ اسٹریٹجک شراکت داری جاری رہے گی جبکہ افغانستان میں طالبان حکومت کے مرکزی ترجمان ذبیح اللہ مجاہد نے کہا ہے کہ ہم پاکستان کی نئی حکومت سے اچھے تعلقات چاہتے ہیں، امید ہے کہ نئی پاکستانی حکومت افغان مہاجرین کی ملک بدری سے متعلق لچک دکھائے گی۔ تفصیلات کے مطابق صدر شی جن پنگ نے آصف علی زرداری کو پاکستان کا صدر منتخب ہونے پر مبارکباد دی ہے۔ اپنے پیغام میں صدر شی کا کہنا ہے کہ چین اور پاکستان اچھے بڑوسی، اچھے دوست، اچھے شراکت دار اور اچھے بھائی ہیں۔ صدر شی جن پنگ نے کہا کہ دنیا کو ایک صدی میں نظر

نہ آنے والی تیز رفتار تبدیلیوں کا سامنا ہے اور چین پاکستان تعلقات کی تزویراتی اہمیت مزید نمایاں ہو گئی ہے۔ نہوں نے کہا کہ وہ چین پاکستان تعلقات کی ترقی کو انتہائی اہمیت دیتے ہیں اور چین اور پاکستان کے درمیان روایتی دوستی، مختلف شعبوں میں عملی تعاون کو آگے بڑھانے اور چین پاکستان کی وسیع تر ترقی کے لیے صدر زرداری کے ساتھ مل کر کام کرنے کے لیے تیار ہیں۔ ادھر ایران کے صدر سید ابراہیم رئیسی نے امید ظاہر کی کہ ان کے دور صدارت میں دونوں ممالک کے درمیان تاریخی، ثقافتی اور مذہبی تاریخ کے تعلقات پہلے سے زیادہ مستحکم ہوں گے۔ دریں اثناء طالبان حکومت کے ترجمان ذبیح اللہ مجاہد کا کہنا تھا کہ پاکستان کے ساتھ اقتصادی، سفارتی، ثقافتی اور مذہبی معاملات میں اچھے تعلقات چاہتے ہیں ہمیں امید ہے کہ نئی حکومت اس پر غور کرے گی

<https://e.jang.com.pk/detail/646429%22>

## K2 Daily

### بقیہ 41

درمیان زرعی اتحاد قائم ہو گیا، اس کا مقصد جدید زرعی طریقوں، پائیدار ترقی اور بین الاقوامی زرعی تعاون کے فروغ پر تبادلہ خیال کو فروغ دینا ہے۔ گوادر پرو کے مطابق پاکستان اور چین کے درمیان زرعی تعاون کو مضبوط بنانے کے لیے ڈیپو جیک انسائٹ گروپ (ڈی آئی جی) نے چین کے ایک وفد کی میزبانی کی جس میں اعلیٰ زرعی سائنسدان اور کاروباری رہنما شامل ہیں۔ اس اہم اجتماع کا مقصد جدید زرعی طریقوں، پائیدار ترقی اور بین الاقوامی زرعی تعاون کے فروغ پر تبادلہ خیال کو فروغ دینا ہے۔ وفد میں پروفیسر ڈاکٹر صاحب بھی شامل تھے۔ چائنا ایگریکلچر یونیورسٹی کے ای چیف، نارنڈ ویسٹ اسے ایڈ ایف یونیورسٹی کے پروفیسر ڈاکٹر وانگ جینگو اور تیانجن میٹری لیڈ ہائیڈرو لوجی ڈیولپمنٹ کمپنی لمیٹڈ اور فوجیان ہینگ ٹوگ ہائیڈرو لوجی کمپنی لمیٹڈ جیسی معروف کمپنیوں کے ایگزیکٹوز شامل تھے۔

پاکستان اور چینی ماہرین کے  
درمیان زرعی اتحاد قائم  
اسلام آباد (آئی این پی) پاکستان اور چین  
کے ماہرین کے (باقی صفحہ 6 بتیہ نمبر 1 4)

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

[https://www.epaper.dailyk2.com/Home?Issue=NP\\_ICT&p=23978](https://www.epaper.dailyk2.com/Home?Issue=NP_ICT&p=23978)



**March 12, 2024**

**Daily Times**

**SSRL vows to continue working towards women empowerment**

Sino Sindh Resources Private Limited (SSRL) is working on plans to empower women in the impoverished region of Thar, a top company official said on Monday. Mr Li Jigen, CEO of SSRL, a subsidiary of Shanghai Electric, said that his company which is working on a mega project of the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), was delighted to have recently received the EFP Women Empowerment & Gender Equality Recognition Award For The Year 2023. SSRL received the award at a ceremony which was preceded by the launch of the EFP Gender Equality Policy organised by Employers Federation of Pakistan. “SSRL puts a lot of emphasis on women empowerment and is working on many such initiatives for women in Thar,” commented Mr Li Jigen. “Our company also focuses on gender equality,” he added. In addition to hiring women workers in all fields of the Thar Block-1 Integrated Coal Mine Power Project, of which SSRL is a part, the company is also making efforts to empower local women in the surrounding villages of the area. The Thar Block-1 Integrated Coal Mine Power Project, which is producing 1320 MW electricity, has employed a group of over 20 local women for cleaning operations of its solar panels. The company has trained and employed the local women to work on the project as part of their initiative aimed at women empowerment in the impoverished region. “Generally in Thar women do not work outside of homes as there are not many opportunities. But SSRL is trying to bring about a change in that by creating opportunities for local women. Solar panel cleaning is one such successful ongoing activity which has brought women out of their homes making them responsible earning members of their families,” commented Mr Li Jigen.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1178304/ssrl-vows-to-continue-working-towards-women-empowerment/>

**Pakistan’s cutlery export to China surged 25% in 2023**

“In Wazirabad, the bustling markets are teeming with workshops and storefronts, where artisans diligently ply their trade, preserving age-old techniques while embracing modern innovation. It is a testament to the resilience and ingenuity of its people. The city’s craftsmanship has garnered global acclaim, with its products sought after by connoisseurs and collectors worldwide”, he stated. Faisal Shahzad, affiliated with a cutlery business in Wazirabad said that the industry not only provides employment opportunities but also serves as a source of pride for the local community. “Wazirabad stands as a shining beacon of craftsmanship and tradition in Pakistan, a testament to the enduring legacy of its artisans and their dedication to perfection in every piece they create. If we request the Chinese to invest and shift their related industries here, our export could be much bigger than we expect”, he said. Razzak Khan, a Pakistani exporter of cutlery and base metal tools said that Pakistan’s success in expanding its cutlery exports to China underscores the potential for further growth and collaboration in various sectors.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1178393/pakistans-cutlery-export-to-china-surged-25-in-2023/>

## The Express Tribune

### **JV with Chinese solar firm to bring \$700m in investments**

**LAHORE:** The shift towards electricity generation through solar energy is becoming a rising trend in Pakistan, driven by the soaring prices of electricity, which domestic, commercial and industrial users are paying through different distribution companies, haunting the public at large. Though the trend of installing solar panels by households is not new, many owners previously tended towards this cheap mode of electricity provision, and some are also benefiting from reverse metering. This fast-paced development is likely to further speed up, as governments are now also looking towards solar energy to provide cheap electricity to low-income households. Provincial governments like Punjab have successfully penetrated solar energy panels in rural areas, largely to operate tube wells, which previously were operated on costly diesel fuel. Against the backdrop of such developments, many companies are now looking to enter and invest in this lucrative market, either independently or via joint ventures. However, Chinese companies apparently are taking the lead in this race. In the latest development, a Chinese company, Hanersun Technologies, has entered into an agreement with a local company My Energy to collaborate for the provision of 500 MW solar system projects. Under the terms, an investment of \$700 million will be made for the joint venture involving different 500 MW solar projects. This will include the establishment of distribution networks, dealer's network, warranty and service centres, as well as flagship stores. My Energy, CEO, Tariq Wazir Ali emphasised the importance of providing sustainable energy solutions in the country. "Pakistan currently relies heavily on expensive furnace oil and diesel for electricity generation," he said. There is a potential for significant cost savings and the need to shift towards cleaner energy sources such as solar power, he added. Ali also stressed the importance of focusing on the steel and agriculture sectors in terms of solar energy solutions. He announced plans to complete several 500 MW projects under the joint venture within the first year of this JV. Hanersun Technologies, Vice President, Sunny Sun acknowledged the lack of quality solar energy products in Pakistan and expressed the company's commitment to working with the local counterpart to address this issue. "This JV aims to offer affordable energy solutions to the people of Pakistan and promote sustainable energy practices in the country," he said. Energy sector experts said that there is a dire need for the introduction of high-tech solar solutions in Pakistan. They said that energy prices are not likely to come down; in fact, there is a high probability that the per unit cost of electricity and gas will further increase due to International Monetary Fund conditions. People by and large are looking to control at least their electricity bills via solar energy. However, they warned that people may lose hope if they may not be able to get reliable and long-lasting solar energy solutions. "Solar energy is not a cheap product; the decision to install solar solutions may wipe out savings, especially for households. Government institutes should also initiate checks and balances on companies offering such solutions with price control mechanisms, besides promoting this sector, so that the desired results may be achieved," suggested the experts.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2459080/jv-with-chinese-solar-firm-to-bring-700m-in-investments>

## The News

### **Sahiwal power plant: Inquiry into coal purchase contract corruption allegations launched**

ISLAMABAD: An inquiry has been initiated into allegations of corruption surrounding a coal contract at the 1,320-MW Sahiwal Power Plant, a crucial project within the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). Former energy minister Muhammad Ali had voiced concerns about the procurement process, prompting the inquiry. Ali's inquiry, launched just three days before he departed from office as caretaker minister, stemmed from a letter penned over stakeholders' concerns. These stakeholders raised alarm over what they perceived as a lack of transparency in the long-term coal purchase contract for the Sahiwal Power Plant. The National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (Nepra) had previously cautioned Chinese-imported coal-fired power plants to pass on any "legitimate" discounts in coal prices to consumers. In a letter dated March 1, 2024, Ali referenced stakeholder worries regarding fairness and transparency in the bidding process, urging an urgent two-week investigation covering various aspects. These aspects include past coal purchases' conformity to prevailing rates and the delay in Nepra issuing guidelines for long-term coal procurement in Pakistani rupees. Additional areas of inquiry involve assessing efforts to ensure fair competition in supplier selection and suspending purchase contracts until a standardized, comprehensive procurement mechanism is established. The Power Division faces increasing pressure to address these concerns and maintain transparency in coal procurement for the benefit of consumers and the government. According to stakeholders, the contract, which ideally should have undergone a bidding process, appeared to favor a specific party, as indicated by the Request for Proposal (RFP) process. The minister's letter highlights the alleged preferential treatment of two suppliers in the financial year 2022-23, who were reportedly supplying coal at significantly higher prices than the market rate. The Sahiwal Coal Power Plant, reliant on imported coal, has faced criticism not only for its procurement practices but also for the environmental and economic implications of coal transportation over long distances. Following industry resistance, the National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (Nepra) introduced spot bidding, notably reducing coal prices to the benefit of consumers but disadvantaging initially favored suppliers. Despite these concerns, the economic burden of price discrepancies, resulting in additional monthly costs of multi-billion rupees, falls on electricity consumers due to the pass-through nature of fuel costs. During a public hearing in August last year on FCA for July 2023, Nepra highlighted the significant financial strain on power consumers due to costly imported coal inventory held by coal-based power plants, particularly the Sahiwal Coal Power Plant. Nepra raised concerns over lower base tariffs but higher claimed tariffs by coal-based power plants, particularly the Sahiwal plant, which submitted claims for Rs27.7 per unit despite Nepra's reference tariff of Rs16.18 per unit.

<https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/1167283-sahiwal-power-plant-inquiry-into-coal-purchase-contract-corruption-allegations-launched>

## Express News

ڈیزاسٹر وارنگ ٹیکنالوجی پاکستان کیلئے فائدہ مند ہے: چین

بیجنگ (اے پی پی) چائنا میٹرولو جیکل ایڈمنسٹریشن میں سائنس اینڈ کلائمٹ چینج ڈیپارٹمنٹ کے ڈپٹی ڈائریکٹر ژانگ زنگ یگ نے قبل از وقت وارنگ کی صلاحیتوں کو بڑھانے اور ماحولیاتی تبدیلیوں سے موثر طریقے سے نمٹنے کی تجویز پیش کی ہے۔ انہوں نے نیشنل پیپلز کانگریس (این پی سی) اور چائینز پیپلز پولیٹیکل کونسل ٹیو کانفرنس (سی پی پی سی سی) کے سالانہ اجلاسوں کے دوران کہا کہ میٹرولو جی کی کوئی سرحد نہیں ہے اور وہ بیلٹ اینڈ روڈ ممالک کے مفاد میں اہم کردار ادا کر سکتی ہے۔ چائنا آکٹانک نیٹ (سی ای این) نے رپورٹ کیا کہ ان کی تجویزیشن ڈیزاسٹر وارنگ سینٹر اور پارٹنرشپ الائنس کے قیام کی وکالت کرتی ہے۔

[https://www.express.com.pk/epaper/PoPupwindow.aspx?newsID=1110857626&Issue=NP\\_I\\_SB&Date=20240312](https://www.express.com.pk/epaper/PoPupwindow.aspx?newsID=1110857626&Issue=NP_I_SB&Date=20240312)

**March 13, 2024**

**Daily Times**

### **Tribute paid to the builders of Karakoram Highway**

The students, teachers, and officials of Karakoram International University paid tribute to the martyrs of the Karakoram Highway (KKH) at the Chinese Memorial Cemetery aka 'China Yadgar' in Danyore, Gilgit Baltistan. The event was organized by the China Study Centre (CSC) International Office, Confucius-Set, and School of Professional Development and Education (SPDCE) to pay tribute to the engineers and workers who lost their lives during the construction of KKH, a route that connects the two brotherly nations. During the event, participants laid flower wreaths over the graves of Chinese martyrs who sacrificed their lives during the construction of KKH, also known as the Eighth Wonder of the World. Senior officials from CSC, SPDEC, and Director of Public Relations at KIU, Amjad Ali, participated in the event. They spoke about the importance of KKH, Sino-Pak relations, and the role of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) in the economic development of Pakistan. Dr. Khalid Mehmood Alam, Assistant Professor at CSC, KIU, discussed the historical perspective of KKH. Fifty-four Chinese individuals are buried in the cemetery. "Due to the sacrifices of Chinese and Pakistani workers, today both countries are connected," said Mr. Mahmood, adding that China and Pakistan were always together in grief and happiness. Dr. Sajjad Haider remarked that the sacrifices of the Chinese martyrs would always be remembered. He highlighted that the journey, which began with the construction of KKH, has continued to evolve.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1178629/tribute-paid-to-the-builders-of-karakoram-highway/>

## Dunya News

### **Pakistan, China to march towards shared development, prosperity: PM**

SLAMABAD (APP) – Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif Wednesday said Pakistan and China will march toward shared development and prosperity with joint investments in diverse projects. In an interview with Xinhua news agency, PM Sharif said the friendship between Pakistan and China spanned more than 70 years and has been nurtured by both countries' leadership to promote friendly relations. He added that the two countries have developed as all-weather, "Iron Brothers" and have unique associations of friendship that have stood the test of time. "This friendship now must achieve higher heights," he added. Chinese President Xi Jinping had congratulated Sharif on his election as prime minister of Pakistan on March 3. In his response, Sharif deeply appreciated Xi's warm message of facilitation and continued support for Pakistan. "I deeply value his sentiments not only for the people of Pakistan, for our friendship, but our mutual cooperation," he said. "For me, it's a very good start." Highlighting Chinese modernization, a key term defining China's journey to rejuvenation, Sharif, who has served three terms as chief minister of Punjab province, stressed that Pakistan should emulate the model. "It is a great success model and success story," the prime minister said, adding that generations of visionary Chinese leaders have led their people to create unprecedented development miracles, lifting hundreds of millions of people out of poverty and providing vast rural populations with access to education, health, medical facilities, and employment. The Chinese modernization model created growth centers and sectors that produce competing products by procuring modern knowledge in science and technology, he said. "Despite challenges in recent years, China's growth has still gone steadily compared to other countries, which is a remarkable achievement," he added. Pakistan should replicate this model in the country to alleviate poverty, provide jobs to the youth, and encourage small and medium entrepreneurs to kickstart businesses in villages, towns and cities in sectors of agriculture, industry, information technology and on other platforms, the prime minister said. Citing Pakistan as one of the first batch of countries joining the Group of Friends of the Global Development Initiative (GDI), PM Sharif said that Pakistan fully and firmly supports China-proposed GDI and Global Security Initiative and believes the initiatives will further create strong connections between global communities. He commended the China-proposed Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) as a very visionary initiative, which spans continents and alleviates poverty and hunger in the countries, promotes investments, and boosts education and health. "There couldn't have been a better model for forging global societies together." Pakistan is now ready to move toward the second phase of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), a flagship project of BRI, he said, adding that Pakistan will attract modern technology in information technology (IT), industrial, and agricultural areas as China is now moving towards high-tech, higher quality production. The PM said CPEC is dovetailing with the Pakistan-proposed Special Investment Facilitation Council, which aims to cut red tape and remove delays and inefficiencies, adding that the country is planning to build industrial parks and export zones and looking forward to attracting Chinese entrepreneurs to establish joint ventures in the areas of textile, steel or other with the combination of Chinese technology and Pakistan's comparatively cheap labor. "Through those joint ventures, high-quality products in agriculture, industry, IT, etc., will be produced to create hundreds of

thousands of jobs and wealth, and increase our production and exports,” the prime minister added. He said, “China has been extremely helpful in promoting Pakistan’s economic progress, and CPEC has played a very important role which we really appreciate deeply.” The prime minister said Pakistan is expecting to shift its transport system towards electrification to control foreign exchange expenditures on imported fuel and to conserve wealth to build its economy. This will be done by acquiring the latest technology, which is available in China and other parts of the globe. Calling China Pakistan’s second home, Sharif said he looks forward to visiting it when possible as there is a tradition of new Pakistani leadership always taking great pleasure and honor in visiting China at an opportune time. “We made solemn commitments that we would work together, and we would be together through thick and thin,” he said.

<https://dunyanews.tv/en/Pakistan/797974--Pakistan,-China-to-march-toward-shared-development,-prosperity:-PM>

### The News

#### **Pakistan to repay \$4.33bn in debt servicing in last quarter of FY2024**

ISLAMABAD: The newly sworn-in Minister for Finance Muhammad Aurangzeb will have to manage heavy external debt servicing repayments of \$4.33 billion during the last quarter (April-June) period, including \$1 billion on account of the maturity of international bond. Pakistan will also have to pay back \$1 billion to China as Chinese SAFE deposit during the last quarter of the current fiscal year. Now the prime minister will have to send another request to the Chinese side for granting rollover on a \$1 billion SAFE deposit for another year.

The minister for finance and revenues chaired a high-level meeting at the Finance Division on Tuesday to ascertain the situation of external financing in the context of the upcoming IMF review talks scheduled to be held from March 14 to 18, 2024 here in Islamabad.

The 10-year sovereign bond, called the Pakistan Government International Bond, worth \$1 billion, will mature on April 15, 2024, meaning the government will return the borrowed money to investors.

The government will have to pay back \$32.88 million to commercial banks in the last quarter of the current fiscal year in principal and interest repayments.

The government is also bound to repay \$706 million to all bilateral creditors during the last three months of the current fiscal year, including \$218 million to Japan, \$149 million to France, \$48 million to Korea and several other countries.

Pakistan will also have to repay \$1.232 billion to commercial banks during the last quarter of the current fiscal year. The country will have to pay back \$265 million to the IMF as principal and interest repayment in the last quarter of the current fiscal year.

The Naya Pakistan Certificates-related repayments will be standing at \$66 million in the last quarter of the current financial year. Besides, the government will have to pay back \$754 million to multilateral creditors as external debt servicing repayments and the largest chunk

of debt repayments will be given to the Asian Development Bank (ADB) to the tune of \$406.8 million in the last quarter of the current fiscal year, and also WB's IDA lending of \$185.3 million and others.

The foreign exchange reserves held by the State Bank of Pakistan stood at \$7.8 billion on March 1, 2024, which had declined from \$8.1 billion in July 2023.

Despite entering into an SBA arrangement with the IMF, the foreign exchange reserves held by the SBP could not be built up in the wake of heavy debt repayments of both principal and interest repayments.

Under the SBA programme, the country committed to build up a buffer of raising the foreign exchange reserves but foreign inflows could not be managed up to the desired mark so far in the current fiscal year, making it hard to shore up the dwindling reserves.

<https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/1167553-pakistan-to-repay-4-33bn-in-debt-servicing-in-last-quarter-of-fy2024>

**March 14, 2024**

**Business Recorder**

### **China to help Pakistan overcome debt challenge: CG**

The Chinese debt is only 13 percent of the total foreign payable debt and its basic objective is to drag Pakistan out of the debt trap by extending necessary financial assistance, said Zhao Shiren, Chinese Consul General in Lahore. Addressing the business community at Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (FCCI), Shiren said China has never pressurized Pakistan for the repayment of the due loans and recently the Chinese government has rolled over the loan of \$2bn. He said Pakistan has got excessive foreign loans while its GDP is only \$350bn. "China is helping Pakistan to overcome its financial constraints", he added. Responding to a question about issuing multiple visas, Zhao said that a very limited number of multiple visas are being issued in addition to the single and double entry visas. He said multiple visas are being issued by assessing the financial status and its volume of trade with China. He said that eligible exporters from FCCI could contact him for multiple visas enabling him to recommend their case to the Chinese embassy. He said currently visas are being issued from Islamabad and Karachi while a proposal was under consideration to issue visas from Lahore also. He said 13 chambers of Punjab have been authorized to issue letters of support while the applicants could submit their applications through Gerry. About payment in local currencies, he said both governments have agreed on this issue but the agreement is yet to be signed. Mian Muhammad Adrees, former President of FCCI however said he was already making payments in local currencies. Responding to a question about gender equity, Zhao said he was already making efforts for the mainstreaming of the female population of Pakistan. He proposed that both governments should enhance cooperation in this field. About the trade deficit between Pakistan and China, he said Pakistan should enhance its exports to bridge this widening gap. He said that Pakistan could easily enhance its exports to Saudi Arabia, UAE and China which has opened its domestic market for the foreign products. He said Punjab could export agriculture, industrial and finished goods under Pak China Free Trade

Agreement<sup>2</sup>. He said that very recently China has allowed the import of red chili and beef from Pakistan. He said China was also helping Pakistan by providing the latest technology. “China is providing technology for the production of hybrid rice and corporate farming”, he said and added that Pakistan must make hectic efforts to bridge the trade deficit. He pointed out that during the last few years’ Pakistani exports to China have recorded a reasonable increase. He said that China’s global trade is around \$6trillion and in this context Pak China trade is very nominal. He said China was helping Pakistan in energy and infrastructure sectors while under CPEC<sup>2</sup> our focus would be on agriculture, relocation of industries, joint ventures and education etc. He said that Gwadar port is expected to be inaugurated in June this year while many projects in KPK and AJK are also nearing completion with Chinese help. He said that the Chinese ambassador would visit Lahore and Faisalabad very soon to interact with the local business community. Earlier, Acting President of FCCI Dr Sajjad Arshad welcomed the Chinese Consul General and introduced Faisalabad and FCCI. He said half of Pakistan’s population is living below the poverty line and China could help us to put Pakistan on the road to progress and prosperity.

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2024/03/14/12-page/987790-news.html>

### **Pakistan Observer**

#### **Pakistan, China to march toward shared development, prosperity: PM**

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif Wednesday said Pakistan and China will march toward shared development and prosperity with joint investments in diverse projects. In an interview with Xinhua news agency, PM Sharif said the friendship between Pakistan and China spanned more than 70 years and has been nurtured by both countries’ leadership to promote friendly relations. He added that the two countries have developed as all-weather, “Iron Brothers” and have unique associations of friendship that have stood the test of time. “This friendship now must achieve higher heights,” he added. Chinese President Xi Jinping had congratulated Sharif on his election as prime minister of Pakistan on March 3. In his response, Sharif deeply appreciated Xi’s warm message of facilitation and continued support for Pakistan. “I deeply value his sentiments not only for the people of Pakistan, for our friendship, but our mutual cooperation,” he said. “For me, it’s a very good start.” Highlighting Chinese modernization, a key term defining China’s journey to rejuvenation, Sharif, who has served three terms as chief minister of Punjab province, stressed that Pakistan should emulate the model. “It is a great success model and success story,” the prime minister said, adding that generations of visionary Chinese leaders have led their people to create unprecedented development miracles, lifting hundreds of millions of people out of poverty and providing vast rural populations with access to education, health, medical facilities, and employment. The Chinese modernization model created growth centers and sectors that produce competing products by procuring modern knowledge in science and technology, he said. “Despite challenges in recent years, China’s growth has still gone steadily compared to other countries, which is a remarkable achievement,” he added. Pakistan should replicate this model in the country to alleviate poverty, provide jobs to the youth, and encourage small and medium entrepreneurs to kickstart businesses in villages, towns and cities in sectors of agriculture, industry, information technology and on other platforms, the prime minister said. Citing



Pakistan as one of the first batch of countries joining the Group of Friends of the Global Development Initiative (GDI), PM Sharif said that Pakistan fully and firmly supports China-proposed GDI and Global Security Initiative and believes the initiatives will further create strong connections between global communities. He commended the China-proposed Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) as a very visionary initiative, which spans continents and alleviates poverty and hunger in the countries, promotes investments, and boosts education and health. "There couldn't have been a better model for forging global societies together." Pakistan is now ready to move toward the second phase of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), a flagship project of BRI, he said, adding that Pakistan will attract modern technology in information technology (IT), industrial, and agricultural areas as China is now moving towards high-tech, higher quality production. The PM said CPEC is dovetailing with the Pakistan-proposed Special Investment Facilitation Council, which aims to cut red tape and remove delays and inefficiencies, adding that the country is planning to build industrial parks and export zones and looking forward to attracting Chinese entrepreneurs to establish joint ventures in the areas of textile, steel or other with the combination of Chinese technology and Pakistan's comparatively cheap labor. "Through those joint ventures, high-quality products in agriculture, industry, IT, etc., will be produced to create hundreds of thousands of jobs and wealth, and increase our production and exports," the prime minister added. He said, "China has been extremely helpful in promoting Pakistan's economic progress, and CPEC has played a very important role which we really appreciate deeply." The prime minister said Pakistan is expecting to shift its transport system towards electrification to control foreign exchange expenditures on imported fuel and to conserve wealth to build its economy. This will be done by acquiring the latest technology, which is available in China and other parts of the globe. Calling China Pakistan's second home, Sharif said he looks forward to visiting it when possible as there is a tradition of new Pakistani leadership always taking great pleasure and honor in visiting China at an opportune time. "We made solemn commitments that we would work together, and we would be together through thick and thin," he said.

<https://pakobserver.net/pakistan-china-to-march-toward-shared-development-prosperity-pm/>

### **The Express Tribune**

#### **Shehbaz says Chinese modernisation created growth centres**

ISLAMABAD:Pakistan and China will carry shared values and march toward shared development, prosperity and progress together, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif said. Chinese President Xi Jinping congratulated Shehbaz on his election as prime minister of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan on March 3. In his response, Shehbaz thanked Xi for his warm congratulations and continued support for Pakistan. "I deeply value his sentiments not only for the people of Pakistan, for our friendship, but our mutual cooperation," Shehbaz said during an interview with Xinhua at the Prime Minister's Office in Islamabad. "For me, it's a very good start." This year marks the 73rd anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and Pakistan. Shehbaz said that over the past 70-plus years, the leaders of Pakistan and China have continuously cultivated and promoted bilateral friendship. The two countries have developed into all-weather strategic cooperative partners with a

unique friendship like "iron brothers" that has stood the test of time. "This friendship now must achieve higher heights," he added. Shehbaz, 73, served three terms as chief minister of Punjab province and has extensive experience in regional economic development and governance. When talking about Chinese modernisation, Shehbaz said Pakistan should emulate the model. "It is a great success model and success story," the prime minister said, recalling how generations of visionary Chinese leaders have led their people to create unprecedented development miracles, lifting hundreds of millions of people out of poverty and providing vast rural populations with access to education, healthcare and employment. Shehbaz said Chinese modernisation has created growth centres and sectors competitive in the global market. "Despite challenges in recent years, China's growth has still gone steadily compared to other countries, which is a remarkable achievement," he added.

The prime minister said that Pakistan could learn from the model to alleviate poverty, boost youth employment, and encourage small and medium entrepreneurship in agricultural, industrial, and information technology sectors across urban and rural areas. Noting that Pakistan is among the first batch of countries joining the Group of Friends of the Global Development Initiative (GDI), Shehbaz said that Pakistan fully and firmly supports the GDI and Global Security Initiative. He believes such initiatives will strengthen the bond among global communities. Noting that projects under the Belt and Road Initiative span across continents, Shehbaz said they contributed to alleviating poverty, reducing hunger, facilitating investment, and promoting education and health. "There couldn't have been a better model for forging global societies together," Shehbaz said. As a prominent project under the Belt and Road Initiative, the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) was featured in Shehbaz's first parliamentary speech after re-election. Pakistan is now ready to move toward the second phase of CPEC, Shehbaz said, aiming to promote technological development and agriculture through the corridor. Pakistan has established the Special Investment Facilitation Council, which will cut red tape and remove delays and inefficiencies for CPEC projects, Shehbaz said. The country is also planning to build industrial parks and export zones and looks forward to Chinese joint ventures in sectors such as textile and steel, which combine Chinese technologies with Pakistan's labour assets. "Through those joint ventures, high-quality products in agriculture, industry, IT, etc., are produced to create hundreds of thousands of jobs and wealth and increase our production and exports," he added. "China has been extremely helpful in promoting Pakistan's economic progress, and CPEC has played a very important role, which we really appreciate deeply," said Shehbaz. The prime minister said that Pakistan is working toward electrifying its transport system to cut import fuel costs and spend the money on development instead. The country also plans to acquire clean energy technologies from China and others. Shehbaz said that he looks forward to revisiting China, calling it a tradition for Pakistan's new leadership after inauguration. "China is our second home," he said. "We made solemn commitments that we would work together," said Shehbaz, "and we would be together through thick and thin."

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2459316/shehbaz-says-chinese-modernisation-created-growth-centres>

## The Nation

### **Govt to start work on five new economic corridors**

ISLAMABAD - Soon after the formation of the elected government, progress on the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), particularly the five new economic corridors, including the Corridor of Job Creation, Innovation, Green Energy and Inclusive Regional Development, has been expedited. The newly-appointed Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives, Professor Ahsan Iqbal, chaired an important meeting on Wednesday to initiate work on the five new corridors in the second phase of CPEC, said a press release issued here on Wednesday. The meeting was attended by the Secretary Planning Awaiz Manzoor Sumra and senior officials of the CPEC Secretariat. During the meeting, a comprehensive briefing was given to the minister on the progress of CPEC projects, recommendations of the Joint Coordination Committee (JCC), and working groups held last year. Additionally, the MoUs signed during the third Belt and Road Summit were also reviewed in the meeting. The minister was updated on key projects such as ML-1, Karakoram Highway (Phase 2) D.I Khan Zhob, Karachi Circular Railway (KCR), and others. While reviewing the projects, the Minister directed stakeholders to expedite their implementation process without further delay. "No further hindrance in the implementation of CPEC agreements will be tolerated," remarked the Minister, while instructing stakeholders to immediately coordinate with relevant ministries for speedy implementation of projects. Furthermore, the Minister directed stakeholders to submit pending PC-1s for various projects to expedite them effectively. Additionally, he instructed regular meetings on CPEC to properly monitor projects. It is noted that in 2022, the government revived CPEC under the leadership of then Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif, who visited China soon after taking office. Later, in 2023, Chinese Vice Premier also visited Pakistan and acknowledged its efforts, restoring confidence between the two countries. During meeting, Minister highlighted the importance of the Gwadar Port, a strategic project under CPEC, which is set to become a key maritime gateway connecting Pakistan with the rest of world.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/14-Mar-2024/govt-to-start-work-on-five-new-economic-corridors>

## The News

### **Zardari reiterates resolve to strengthen Pak-China ties**

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari Thursday reiterated Pakistan's commitment and resolve to further strengthen Pakistan-China relations and practical cooperation between the two countries. Thanking Chinese President Xi Jinping for his congratulations over becoming president, Zardari, in his letter, termed the former's support for the the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) as "indispensable". Recalling that both countries have made significant progress in bilateral cooperation including the economic corridor, Zardari stressed that the bilateral relations between the two countries have strengthened over the years due to common ideals, mutual respect and understanding. "Strong Pakistan-China relations are key to regional peace, stability and development," the president wrote while referring to the "unique" bilateral relations between the two countries. Last week, Xi, while congratulating Zardari on his election as the 14th of state, had said that his country was "ready to work" with him after the latter secured 411 electoral votes against his rival Mahmood Khan Achakzai's 189 to get elected for the president's office for the second time. In his message, President Xi said China and Pakistan are good neighbours, good friends, good partners and good brothers, adding that the two countries' iron-clad friendship is a choice of history and a precious treasure of the two peoples, reported state-run Xinhua. Xi noted that the two countries have in

recent years maintained close high-level exchanges, supported each other on issues concerning their respective core interests and major concerns, achieved fruitful results in the construction of the CPEC, and maintained a high level of development of bilateral relations. The Chinese president also called for advancing practical cooperation in various fields, pushing for greater development of China-Pakistan all-weather strategic cooperative partnership, accelerating the building of an even closer China-Pakistan community with a shared future in the new era, so as to better benefit the two peoples. On Tuesday, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan held a telephonic conversation with Zardari congratulating him on becoming the country's head of state. The President's Secretariat, in a statement, said both presidents exchanged views on matters of bilateral importance and underscored the need for further improving cooperation in all areas of mutual interest. Meanwhile, President Zardari thanked the Turkish president for his telephone call and warm wishes.

<https://www.thenews.com.pk/latest/1168087-zardari-reiterates-resolve-to-strengthen-pak-china-relations>

### **Jang News**

#### **سی پیک کے دوسرے مرحلے میں پانچ نئے کوریڈور شامل کرنے کا فیصلہ**

سی پیک کے دوسرے مرحلے میں پانچ نئے کوریڈور شامل کرنے کا فیصلہ کیا گیا ہے، ان میں کوریڈور آف گروتھ، کوریڈور آف روزگار، کوریڈور آف انوویشن، کوریڈور آف گرین انرجی اور کوریڈور آف انکلوسیو ریجنل ڈویلپمنٹ شامل ہیں۔ وفاقی وزیر منصوبہ بندی احسن اقبال نے حکام کو ماہرین کی مدد سے پانچوں نئے کوریڈور پر فوری طور پر کام شروع کرنے کی ہدایت کر دی، ذرائع کے مطابق سی پیک کے اعلیٰ ترین فورم جے سی سی (مشترکہ تعاون کمیٹی) کا اجلاس جلد منعقد کرنے کے لئے کام شروع کر دیا گیا ہے۔ متبادل توانائی کے منصوبوں کو بھی اجلاس کے ایجنڈے میں شامل کیا جائے گا۔ وفاقی وزیر منصوبہ بندی احسن اقبال کی زیرصدارت سی پیک جائزہ کمیٹی کے اجلاس میں حکام کی جانب سے گزشتہ سال ہونے والی جے سی سی، ورکنگ گروپس کی سفارشات پر بریفنگ دی گئی، احسن اقبال نے ہدایت کی کہ صوبوں اور دیگر وزارتوں سے ترقیاتی منصوبوں کے پی سی ون کے جائزہ کے لئے ماہرین کی شراکت کا دائرہ بڑھانے کے لئے میکنزم طے کیا جائے۔

<https://e.jang.com.pk/detail/648289>

### **March 15, 2024**

### **The Express Tribune**

#### **Seafood exports to China surge by 13%**

BEIJING: Pakistan's seafood exports to China increased by 13% in 2023 compared to the previous year.

The rise is due to the growing demand for seafood products in China, a trend that has been steadily increasing over the past few years, according to Ghulam Qadir, Investment and Trade Counsellor at the Pakistan Embassy in Beijing.

Qadir noted that Pakistan's seafood exports to China reached \$247.3 million, marking a 13% increase for the January-December period in 2023 year-on-year.

In 2022, exports were valued at \$219.3 million, while in 2021, they stood at \$139.29 million, as per data from the General Administration of Customs of the People's Republic of China (GACC).

“This growth can be attributed to various factors, such as improved trade relations between the two countries, participation in the China Fisheries and Seafood Expo held in Qingdao last year by a large group of Pakistani fisheries companies, and the implementation of efficient supply chain management strategies in the Pakistani seafood industry,” the counsellor elaborated.

Qadir informed that, according to GACC, exports of frozen fish crossed \$60.63 million in 2023.

Fresh/chilled crabs saw an increase to \$42.59 million and exports of frozen cuttlefish reached \$34.93 million from Pakistan to China in 2023.

He also highlighted that Pakistan organised the International Food and Agriculture Exhibition in Karachi last year, where a significant number of Chinese, particularly from the seafood association, participated to explore the Pakistani market.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2459391/seafood-exports-to-china-surge-by-13>

## **The Nation**

### **CPEC Revival**

After languishing in executive limbo, CPEC is set to make a well-deserved return as the government has indicated its intent to establish five new economic corridors – referring to sub-projects under CPEC With Planning Minister Ahsan Iqbal’s recent directive to expedite the implementation of these corridors, we can expect work to continue on what was once the crown jewel in PML-N’s developmental crown.

More than simple infrastructure, these projects are lifelines of growth, promising job creation, innovation, connectivity, and sustainable development.

By establishing avenues of growth, employment, innovation, green energy, and inclusive regional development, Pakistan can lay down a blueprint for a transformative future.

The resurgence of CPEC in Pakistan is nothing short of a comeback story.

After weathering storms of political upheaval and uncertainty for the past few years, we seem to finally be back on track, steering towards further economic opportunities.

Political fragility and increased interference in civilian administrations added to the stumbles of our past and created a sense of hesitation in our CPEC projects.

Such projects become more exigent given the volatile global political atmosphere. Maintaining strong relations with our long-standing allies is crucial, and the opportunity to form new connections through economic links cannot be ignored.

However, implementation is key.

We cannot afford bureaucratic red tape or sluggish progress.

It is time for action and collaboration to turn these plans into reality. The success of these corridors hinges not just on vision but on execution through transparent governance and streamlined processes.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/15-Mar-2024/cpec-revival>

**K2 Daily**

پاک چین سرحد یکم اپریل سے کھولنے کا فیصلہ

محکمہ داخلہ بارڈر پاس کیلئے درخواستیں 18 مارچ سے وصول کرے گا

بارڈر پاس بروقت ملنے سے چھوٹے تاجروں کی مشکلات کم ہونگی، عمران علی

گلگت (سٹاف رپورٹر) پاک چین سرحد یکم اپریل سے کھولنے کا فیصلہ کیا گیا ہے۔ چیئرمین آف کامرس اینڈ انڈسٹری گلگت سے کھل جائے گی۔ محکمہ داخلہ نے بارڈر پاس گلگت بھارت کے صدر عمران علی نے میڈیا کو جاری کے لئے پریس نوٹ کے ذریعے درخواستیں وصول کرنے کا بیان میں کہا ہے کہ چیئرمین (باقی صفحہ 7 پیج نمبر 4)

### بقیہ صفحہ 4

آف کامرس گلگت بھارت نے سال 2024 میں تاجروں کو بارڈر پاس جاری کرنے کیلئے محکمہ داخلہ سے درخواستیں وصول کرنے کی اپیل کی تھی۔ تاکہ تاجروں کو بروقت بارڈر پاس مل سکیں۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ گزشتہ سال چھوٹے تاجروں کی تعداد زیادہ ہونے کی وجہ سے بارڈر پاس ہانے میں مشکلات پیش آئی تھیں۔ اس لیے اس سال چیئرمین آف کامرس گلگت نے بروقت بارڈر پاس کے اجراء کیلئے محکمہ داخلہ سے اپیل کی تھی۔ محکمہ داخلہ نے انہماں میں پریس نوٹ کے ذریعے بارڈر پاس کے اجراء کے لئے درخواستوں کی وصولی کا اعلان کیا ہے تاکہ چھوٹے تاجروں کو بروقت بارڈر پاس جاری کیا جاسکے۔ تاکہ یکم اپریل سے شروع ہونے والی دو طرفہ تجارت کیلئے تاجروں کو کوئی بھی پریشانی نہ ہو۔ چیئرمین آف کامرس اینڈ انڈسٹری تاجروں کے مسائل کے حل اور سہولیات دینے کیلئے بروقت کوشاں ہے۔

[https://www.epaper.dailyk2.com/Home?Issue=NP\\_ICT&Page=Front\\_Page&Date=2024-03-15](https://www.epaper.dailyk2.com/Home?Issue=NP_ICT&Page=Front_Page&Date=2024-03-15)

[https://www.epaper.dailyk2.com/Home?Issue=NP\\_ICT&Page=Baqia&Date=2024-03-15](https://www.epaper.dailyk2.com/Home?Issue=NP_ICT&Page=Baqia&Date=2024-03-15)

## Chinese Newspaper

March 03, 2024

### Global Times News

#### **Xi congratulates Shehbaz Sharif on election as Pakistani PM**

President Xi Jinping on Sunday congratulated Shehbaz Sharif on his election as prime minister of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202403/1308058.shtml>

#### **China to test laser-based communication payloads for real-time maritime data transmission**

China's Weihai-1 laser-based communication payloads that were successfully sent to preset orbit on February 3, will soon carry out inter-satellite and satellite-ground technology convergence experiment in order to realize real-time transmission of maritime remote sensing data and fishing vessel monitoring data, China's state-owned China Aerospace Science and Industry Corp (CASIC,) a major space contractor, revealed on Sunday. Song Xiaoming, a member of the 14th National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference and the head of the Second Academy of CASIC, told the Global Times on Sunday that the Weihai-1 laser-based communication payload has successfully undergone the satellite-ground communication technology verification, laying ground for new experiment works. The payloads, developed by the 25th Institute under the Second Academy of CASIC together with the Harbin Institute of Technology's Weihai Campus, were onboard the Weihai-1/-2 satellites launched on February 3 atop the commercial firm China Rocket's Jielong-3 rocket. The second session of the 14th National People's Congress (NPC), the top legislature, and the second session of the 14th National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC), the top political advisory body, will open on March 5 and 4, respectively. Collectively, they are known as two sessions. According to Song on Sunday, just one day before the two sessions officially kick off, with the rapid development of the marine economy, China's demand for large-capacity and real-time transmission of marine data is on the rise. The Weihai-1 project is designed to assist in marine remote sensing applications, elevating the "information highway" to a "high-speed lane," Song said. In recent years, the real-time acquisition of marine information and fishing vessel management has been a key issue restricting the development of coastal cities. The on-orbit application of the Weihai-1 laser communication terminal will provide an important breakthrough in addressing this challenge, Song noted. The Weihai-1 laser communication payloads, relying on high-precision targeting, capture and tracking, atmospheric turbulence correction, and other technical advantages, will realize real-time transmission of large-capacity marine remote sensing data and fishing vessel monitoring data through laser "relay" by multiple satellites. Its communication capacity can reach hundreds of times that of traditional microwave methods, equivalent to transmitting a high-definition movie in every second, successfully extending the application of laser communication to the field of marine remote sensing and management, Song explained. The launch and on-orbit verification of the Weihai-1 marks an important

exploration of the CAISC Second Academy's laser communication technology in the field of marine information applications, the CASIC lauded in a statement it provided to the Global Times. The academy will construct a high-performance, reliable product line of inter-satellite and satellite-ground high-speed communications, contributing to the construction of a strong aerospace nation, it vowed. While ensuring social, economic, and livelihood needs, the academy is also providing aerospace capabilities to support the joint construction of the China-proposed Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) with the power of its technology. Over the past decade, the CASIC' Second Academy has provided various types and dozens of sets of meteorological equipment and tens of thousands of radiosondes to countries such as Pakistan and Malaysia. It has hosted more than 30 visiting exchange groups from BRI-participating countries, organized over 50 international science and technology exchange and cooperation seminars, participated in more than 30 large-scale international meteorological commercial exhibitions, and showcased the latest comprehensive meteorological detection technologies and equipment from aerospace "integration of space, air, land, and sea," continuously strengthening meteorological cooperation with these countries, according to the CASIC. Setting sail for another decade, the academy continues to advance the deepening and solidification of the joint construction of the BRI through international cooperation, continuously promoting the guarantee of meteorological detection equipment and data services. In 2024, the CASIC Second Academy will implement the construction task of multiple automatic meteorological stations at Gwadar Port in Pakistan, providing meteorological services for the BRIF flagship project of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor construction.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202403/1308062.shtml>

**March 04, 2024**

**China Daily News**

### **Xi greets Sharif on election as Pakistani PM**

Countries urged to advance traditional ties, upgrade joint economic corridor President Xi Jinping extended congratulations to Shehbaz Sharif on Sunday on his election as Pakistan's prime minister, in a diplomatic gesture underscoring the ironclad ties between the two neighbors and their shared commitment to upgrading the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor. The congratulatory message came as Sharif, 72, was elected to a second term by the newly formed Parliament of the South Asian country on Sunday. Xi expressed in the message his belief that under the leadership of Sharif and the new Pakistani government, and with the united efforts of all sectors in Pakistan, the country will surely secure new and greater accomplishments in the cause of national development and progress.

<https://epaper.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202403/04/WS65e4f94da310df4030f4fcd5.html>



**March 06, 2024**

**People Daily News**

### **SCO can play significant role in addressing healthcare challenges**

Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee of the Pakistan Army Sahir Shamshad Mirza on Tuesday said that cooperation among the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) countries can play a significant role in addressing healthcare challenges, the Pakistani military said in a statement. Addressing the opening session of a seminar "Challenges in Military Medicines" being hosted by Pakistan, Mirza highlighted that in the wake of new pandemics and humanitarian crises, the collective preparedness and response strategies by the SCO member states are of vital importance, the statement said. Strengthening of multilateral collaboration amongst SCO nations especially in the field of military medicines can help address the prevailing healthcare challenges, said the statement released by the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), the Pakistani army's media wing. Mirza also reiterated his country's commitment to expand cooperation with SCO member states, the statement added.

<http://en.people.cn/n3/2024/0306/c90000-20141225.html>

### **Pakistan-China relations stand steadfast: former Pakistani minister**

Pakistan's former Minister for Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi said that Pakistan-China relations stand steadfast and Pakistan's commitment to China and the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) remains unwavering. Speaking at the inauguration of an Islamabad-based think-tank, the "Silk Roads Forum," here on Tuesday night, Solangi said that China has consistently supported Pakistan through challenges, and the people of Pakistan are always proud of their friendship with China. He added that China is a role model of development for Pakistan, and his country can follow China's example to uplift the socio-economic lives of people. Speaking at the event, Mushahid Hussain Syed, a senator and chairman of the Pakistani senate's defense committee, said that China is the only permanent member of the UN Security Council which has never fought any war with anyone. "Instead, it fought a war against poverty in its own country and lifted millions of people out of it," he said, adding that Pakistanis are privileged that China is their reliable friend who launched the CPEC 11 years ago. "China invested billions of dollars in Pakistan to support the country's economy, it undoubtedly had other better options to invest, but Pakistan did not have any other investor then in 2013." Launched in 2013, the CPEC, a flagship project of the China-proposed Belt and Road Initiative, is a corridor linking the Gwadar port in southwestern Pakistan with Kashgar in northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, which highlights energy, transport and industrial cooperation. Under CPEC, Pakistan overcame the electricity crisis, hundreds of thousands got employment, a network of highways was built, and thousands of students are studying in China now, he added. "Gwadar port was established, coal in the remote area of Thar was exploited and used in generating electricity, only because of China's investment and technology transfer."

<http://en.people.cn/n3/2024/0306/c90000-20141488.html>

**March 07, 2024**

**Xinhua Net News**

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<https://english.news.cn/20240307/2e023f9f10754c05b6c8f1bd2e74a332/c.html>

**March 08, 2024**

**Xinhua Net News**

### **Pakistan-China wheat breeding cooperation ensures Pakistan's food security**

With wheat being a staple food crop of Pakistan, dominating all crops in terms of acreage, production and consumption, cooperation between Pakistan and China in enhancing the yield and quality of the major supply has ensured Pakistan's food security and helped in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the United Nations, experts have said. Pakistan produces 50 percent less wheat per hectare than China, but the country has a huge potential for improvement with Chinese assistance and an abundance of experience, said Pakistani and Chinese experts at the 2nd China-Pakistan Joint Wheat Molecular Breeding Conference held here on Wednesday. Speaking to Xinhua on the sidelines of the conference, Shahid Mansoor, a scientist and a senior advisor at the International Center for Chemical and

Biological Sciences, said Pakistan's per capita wheat consumption is one of the highest in the world and wheat contributes more than 70 percent of the South Asian country's daily caloric intake. With the growing population and challenges like climate change and diseases, Mansoor said Pakistan needs to grow better varieties that are weather and disease-resistant and full of nutrients, adding that the transfer of Chinese technology and new agriculture techniques can play a pivotal role in this regard. "At the moment, our aim is to not only increase wheat production but also use less area for that so that we can cultivate other crops to fulfill our dietary needs. There is a huge burden on our national exchequer as we need to import many edibles, including wheat and grains. We need to work with Chinese scientists to improve wheat breeding to make the country self-sufficient," he said. Owais Rasheed, head of the China-Pakistan Joint Wheat Molecular Breeding International Lab at Quaid-i-Azam University, Islamabad, noted that wheat is an important crop not only for China and Pakistan but for the whole world. The lab, funded by the Science and Technology Partnership Program of China's Ministry of Science and Technology, aims to enhance food security, human resource development, and the training of Pakistani students and scientists through knowledge and research sharing. Describing the key objectives of the joint lab, Rasheed told Xinhua that the idea behind the collaboration was to develop wheat varieties that could benefit both countries, adding that the project is also important for building the capacity of Pakistani scientists. "Over the last two years, we have been able to develop new wheat varieties in this lab that are better adaptable in the northern region of Pakistan. As a result, more than 10 percent increase in yield has been achieved, which would significantly benefit local farmers in terms of grains yield and income," he said. He added that agricultural collaboration between China and Pakistan is a good example of South-South cooperation in food security. On the occasion, He Zhonghu, a senior professor at the Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences, said agricultural cooperation, especially in wheat production, has strong support from the governments of both Pakistan and China. "Over the past 15 years, there have been successful collaborations in research and training, as well as the transfer of Chinese germplasm and molecular breeding technology, and both sides have been in close linkages with the International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center," the Chinese professor said. The professor said China has enhanced wheat production by significantly improving crop management technologies, including irrigation, fertilizer application, mechanization, and disease and pest control. "China stands ready to impart knowledge-based skills to Pakistan," he said. Zahid Mehmood said that the collaboration between Pakistan and China is very fruitful as it helps in building Pakistan's capacity in wheat development and agriculture sciences. "Under Pakistan-China cooperation, the speed breeding facility at the NARC has been developing superior wheat varieties in a much shorter period of time than it normally takes. Also, new wheat germplasm has recently been created at the facility by crossing Pakistani and Chinese varieties. It is under testing phase, and hopefully we will have quality wheat varieties with both Pakistani and Chinese traits," Mehmood told Xinhua.

<https://english.news.cn/asiapacific/20240308/aa6ac8e5bfb244e29f27e4fb9438931a/c.html>

**March 11, 2024**

**China Daily News**

**Xi congratulates Zardari on Pakistan presidency win**

President Xi Jinping congratulated Asif Ali Zardari on his election as president of Pakistan on Sunday, highlighting his readiness to work with Zardari in carrying forward the traditional bilateral friendship and advancing pragmatic cooperation in various sectors. Xi pointed out in his message that the two nations are good neighbors, friends and partners, saying that the ironclad friendship shared by the two countries is a choice of history and a precious treasure of the two peoples. Zardari, 68, was elected on Saturday by Pakistani lawmakers to a second term with an overwhelming majority. He previously held the job between 2008 and 2013 and will replace Arif Alvi, the outgoing president.

<https://epaper.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202403/11/WS65ee3546a310df4030f4ffac.html>

**March 13, 2024**

**China Daily News**

**Pakistan, China vow to cement ironclad ties**

Pakistan and China are planning more high-level exchanges and steps to take their relations to even greater heights, Islamabad's top envoy to Beijing said, with the recent election of Pakistan's new leadership fueling expectations for fortified bilateral cooperation going forward. Pakistani Ambassador to China Khalil Hashmi said in an exclusive interview with China Daily that the two nations are "resolved to further bolster high — level exchanges, instill additional substance to the already robust bilateral relations, and further fortify the ironclad friendship in the face of a complex geopolitical and regional milieu". Hashmi noted that President Xi Jinping was the first foreign leader to send a congratulatory message to both President Asif Ali Zardari and Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif of Pakistan "in a matter of a few hours" after the announcement of the election results, a diplomatic gesture underscoring the strong ties between the two neighbors.

<https://epaper.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202403/13/WS65f0cebba310df4030f500b5.html>

**People Daily News**

**Pakistan, China vow to cement ironclad ties**

*By Xu Wei*

Pakistan and China are planning more high-level exchanges and steps to take their relations to even greater heights, Islamabad's top envoy to Beijing said, with the recent election of Pakistan's new leadership fueling expectations for fortified bilateral cooperation going forward. Pakistani Ambassador to China Khalil Hashmi said in an exclusive interview with China Daily that the two nations are "resolved to further bolster high-level exchanges, instill additional substance to the already robust bilateral relations, and further fortify the ironclad friendship in the face of a complex geopolitical and regional milieu". Hashmi noted that

President Xi Jinping was the first foreign leader to send a congratulatory message to both President Asif Ali Zardari and Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif of Pakistan "in a matter of a few hours" after the announcement of the election results, a diplomatic gesture underscoring the strong ties between the two neighbors. In his messages, Xi underlined his readiness to work with the two leaders in carrying forward the traditional bilateral friendship and advancing pragmatic cooperation in various sectors. Sharif wrote in a post on social media platform X that he wished to extend sincere gratitude to the Chinese president for congratulating him on his reelection. "Look forward to working with him to further strengthen Pakistan-China ironclad friendship and for high-quality development of CPEC as flagship of BRI," he wrote, referring to the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor and the Belt and Road Initiative. The Pakistani envoy stressed that ties between China and Pakistan, as iron brothers and all-weather strategic cooperative partners, have weathered many storms and achieved many milestones. "They continue to grow from strength to strength. "We have a solid foundation to further expand our relations in economy, trade, investment, industry, science and technology, tourism, education, media and culture," Hashmi said. He highlighted the significance of the year 2023 in bilateral ties, as both sides celebrated the solid progress achieved in the first decade of the CPEC. As the development of the CPEC is transitioning to its second phase in 2024 and beyond, Hashmi said both nations "remained committed to jointly building corridors of economic growth, livelihoods, innovation, green development and inclusivity, infused with high-quality development". The economic corridor has transformed Pakistan's infrastructure and energy landscape, contributed to significant socioeconomic progress, and laid the foundation for accelerated economic growth, industrialization and more jobs, the envoy said. The CPEC, which is a landmark project of the BRI that includes a variety of infrastructure projects such as roads, railways and oil and gas pipelines, has created a total of 236,000 jobs and built 510 kilometers of highways for the South Asian country, according to the Chinese embassy in Pakistan. As China's strategic partner on both the bilateral and multilateral fronts, Pakistan has also been actively engaged with China in promoting and forging ahead with President Xi's vision of a community with a shared future for mankind. Pakistan, one of the earliest members of the Group of Friends of Global Development Initiative, has been an active partner with China in promoting the landmark initiative, as it aligns well with the United Nations' Sustainable Development Agenda 2030, Hashmi said. The Global Development Initiative, the Global Security Initiative, the Global Civilization Initiative and the BRI "represent a global road map for a more prosperous, harmonious and peaceful world", he said. Mushahid Hussain Sayed, the founding chairman of the Pakistan-China Institute and chairman of Pakistan's Senate Committee on Defense, said that with the country's new government taking office, the biggest impact will be "on taking CPEC forward with renewed vigor, plus enhanced bilateral trade and stronger diplomatic coordination on key issues". He highlighted the significance of the commitment from President Xi on the bilateral ties. "As President Xi rightly pointed out, with the world confronted with accelerated changes unseen in a century, the strategic significance of China-Pakistan relations has become more prominent," he said. "Pakistan-China relations remain solid and substantive, irrespective of any changes in the region or a change of governments, as these are based on mutual interests reinforced by supporting each other's core interests," he added. The Pakistani senator also highlighted the significance of greater

cooperation with China through the Shanghai Cooperation Organization. "Both countries oppose any new Cold War, any zero-sum game mindset, or hegemony of any kind, and support an international order based on the UN Charter and international law, with no double standards on any issues," he said.

<http://en.people.cn/n3/2024/0313/c90000-20144303.html>

**March 14, 2024**

**People Daily News**

### **Pakistan to develop 5 economic corridors under CPEC**

Pakistan geared up efforts to develop five economic corridors under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) for national growth, Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Ahsan Iqbal said on Wednesday. The initiative includes economic corridors of job creation, innovation, green energy, and inclusive regional development, the minister said while chairing a review meeting on CPEC projects. After the successful completion of the first phase of CPEC, Iqbal said that stakeholders need to immediately coordinate with relevant ministries for the speedy implementation of the projects under the second phase of CPEC, highlighting that there will be no further hindrance in the implementation of CPEC agreements. During the meeting, the minister underlined the importance of the Gwadar port, a key project in the country's southwest Baluchistan province under CPEC, which is set to become a key maritime gateway connecting Pakistan with the rest of the world. "The development of Gwadar port and its associated free zone is expected to attract foreign investment, stimulate economic activities, and create job opportunities in the region," he said. Talking about boosting exports, Iqbal called on the stakeholders to devise a strategy for increasing Pakistani exports in the Chinese markets. "Immediate research should be conducted with the help of experts to determine which sectors Pakistan can promote its exports to China," said the minister. Launched in 2013, the CPEC, a flagship project of the China-proposed Belt and Road Initiative, is a corridor linking the Gwadar port in southwestern Pakistan with Kashgar in northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, which highlights energy, transport and industrial cooperation.

<http://en.people.cn/n3/2024/0314/c90000-20145009.html>

**March 15, 2024**

**Xinhua Net News**

### **China's greener vision supports Pakistan in realizing renewable energy targets**

With Pakistan facing pressing environmental and climate change predicaments, Pakistani experts and officials believe that China's notable transition to greener policies is helping Pakistan realize renewable energy targets under the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). Pakistan aimed to generate 60 percent of the country's energy from renewable resources by 2030, and the role of China remained critical in this regard, said the experts on Wednesday while addressing a seminar titled "Renewable Energy and CPEC 2.0: The Way Forward." Speaking

on the occasion, Mustafa Hyder Sayed, executive director of the Islamabad-based think tank Pakistan-China Institute, said that China-proposed BRI provides a gigantic opportunity for joint efforts to address global environmental challenges and promote sustainable development goals, especially in the Global South. Over the last three decades, the country has witnessed over 170 percent increase in carbon emissions and gross domestic product losses owing to environmental degradation and climate change, Sayed said, highlighting that there is an urgent need for forging action plans and greener policies by learning from the Chinese experience and technology. Moin ul Haque, a diplomat and former Pakistani ambassador to China, said that other than laying a vast network of roads from the south, east and north of the country, China has helped Pakistan generate 8,000 megawatts of electricity, including clean and green energy by building hydro, solar and wind plants. "The two countries agreed to promote economic, social and fiscal as well as environmental sustainability of the CPEC (China-Pakistan Economic Corridor) projects. We are happy to have China on our side when Pakistan embarks on a journey of green transition," he said. Under CPEC, Pakistan and China also underlined the participation of third parties into the project, which is beneficial in terms of revenue, expertise, additional financing and advanced technology from other countries, he added. Calling for enhanced cooperation between Pakistan and China and other relevant international partners, Hassan Daud Butt, senior advisor at the China Study Center of the Sustainable Development Policy Institute, an Islamabad-based think tank, stressed the need to accelerate the transition towards renewable energy adoption. "Focus should be on new initiatives, investments, and technological advancements in the renewable energy sector of Pakistan," Butt said. "We need to promote knowledge-sharing among stakeholders, including the government, academia, industry, and civil society, to find bottlenecks, prospects, and best practices to foster environmental stewardship and expedite our journey towards sustainable development within the CPEC framework," he added. The expert also emphasized encouraging partnerships and consensus-building mechanisms to promote inclusive and equitable participation in CPEC-related renewable energy projects.

<https://english.news.cn/20240315/f400fd45bd9b4fada70f17d354b81af1/c.html>

### **Pakistan, China march toward shared development, prosperity, progress: PM**

Pakistan and China will carry shared values and march toward shared development, prosperity and progress together, Pakistani Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif said in a recent interview with Xinhua.

<https://english.news.cn/20240315/3c5cec6a9e34482d846ac930a55c2820/c.html>