



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

August 16-31, 2024

Table of Contents

01: August 16, 2024.....	03
02: August 17, 2024.....	05
03: August 18, 2024.....	14
04: August 19, 2024.....	17
05: August 20, 2024.....	21
06: August 21, 2024.....	25
07: August 22, 2024.....	38
08: August 23, 2024.....	44
09: August 24, 2024.....	44
10: August 25, 2024.....	53
11: August 26, 2024.....	61
12: August 27, 2024.....	70
13: August 28, 2024.....	75
14: August 29, 2024.....	88
15: August 30, 2024.....	95
16: August 31, 2024.....	97

Chinese Newspapers

01: August 16, 2024.....	103
02: August 17, 2024.....	106
03: August 19, 2024.....	107
04: August 20, 2024.....	108
05: August 21, 2024.....	110
06: August 22, 2024.....	111
07: August 23, 2024.....	114
08: August 26, 2024.....	116
09: August 27, 2024.....	118
10: August 28, 2024.....	121
11: August 29, 2024.....	123
12: August 30, 2024.....	124

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August 16, 2024

Business Recorder

CPEC should be turned into model green BRI project: PCJCCI

LAHORE: Moazzam Ghurki, President Pakistan China Joint Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCJCCI) stated that GREEN is the future of humanity on planet which has already been affected by severe climate change, during a think tank session held at PCJCCI on Thursday.

He said that China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) should be turned into a model green Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) to protect and preserve the natural environment in the region.

Hopefully, it will preserve the environment as well as accelerate pace of green technologies and production of green energies channels in the ongoing projects of the CPEC in the country. Intensified plantation, development/support of natural forestation, bee's honey hatcheries/production and last but not the least green tourism activities would play a pivotal role.

Fang Yulong, Senior Vice President PCJCCI said that China is one of the main drivers of green technologies, hub of alternative energies and biggest investor of renewables in the world having resources and appropriate expertise to assist Pakistan to maintain an ideal equilibrium between industrialization and green environment in the future. He added that the government of Pakistan had already launched an ambitious Protected Areas Initiative under the umbrella programme 'Clean Green Pakistan' aiming to expand the country's protected area from 13 percent to more than 15 percent by 2023 and create 5,000 green jobs across the country.

Hamza Khalid, Vice President PCJCCI shared that the details of the green initiatives taken by the government along with diversified but integrated programmes started by the Federal Ministry of Climate Change, including the world's largest Ten Billion Tree Tsunami Programme, Clean Green Pakistan, Protected Areas Initiative, Plastic-Free Pakistan and Recharge Pakistan Initiative.

The CPEC is now supporting massive industrialization and agricultural development in the country in which the private sector may play a positive, productive and participatory role through innovations, modern technologies and plenty of financial resources.

<https://www.brecorder.com/news/40317734>

Chinese solar panels production to begin in Punjab by year end

LAHORE: A Chinese solar energy company is setting up a solar panel manufacturing plant in Punjab and the manufacturing of solar panels will start in the province by the end of this year.

Provincial Minister for Industries and Commerce, Chaudhry Shafay Hussain said this during a meeting with the Punjab Governor, Sardar Saleem Haider Khan, here at Governor House Lahore. During the meeting, issues concerning investment and promotion of technical education in Punjab came under discussion.

The provincial minister informed the governor about the steps taken for the promotion of investment and technical education in the province.

Speaking on this occasion, the governor, Sardar Saleem Haider said that boosting trade and business activities is indispensable for the country's stability. He said that significant investment initiatives have been taken in Punjab due to which foreign investors including Overseas Pakistanis are also showing keen interest. He said that everyone should play a role to take the country on the path of development.

The governor Punjab further said that the future of Pakistan hinges on the promotion of technical education. He said that up-gradation of TEVTA institutions would improve the quality of technical education. He also inquired after the health of Muslim League President, Chaudhry Shujaat Hussain on this occasion.

Chaudhry Shafay Hussain said that TEVTA's institutions are being upgraded under a phased programme. He said that in the first phase, five colleges of TEVTA are being upgraded.

<https://www.brecorder.com/news/40317739#:~:text=LAHORE%3A%20A%20Chinese%20solar%20energy,the%20end%20of%20this%20year.>

The Express Tribune

4 tech zones set up amid increased surveillance

IT exports reached a record high of \$3.22 billion in 2024, marking a 24% increase from previous year

KARACHI: The Special Technology Zones Authority (STZA) has announced the creation of four new special technology zones (STZs), with an investment of Rs30 billion in infrastructure.

The initiative aims to generate 50,000 jobs and boost IT exports by \$350 million annually over the next two to four years.

In a statement issued on Thursday, the authority revealed that the newly designated zones include the NUST Special Technology Zone and Tech7 Special Technology Zone in Islamabad, the Mindbridge Special Technology Zone in Lahore, and the Capital Smart Technology Zone in Rawalpindi.

These zones will have the capacity to house more than 50,000 professionals, with an export potential exceeding \$350 million per year.

The four zones comprise 1.4 million square feet of high-quality tech infrastructure and 130 acres of land designated exclusively for use by technology companies.

The zone developers have already invested Rs30 billion in developing the specialised tech infrastructure, with additional investments of over Rs150 billion expected over the next two to four years from local and foreign technology companies.

Pakistan's IT exports reached a record high of \$3.22 billion in the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024, marking a 24% increase from \$2.59 billion in FY23.

Projections suggest that exports could rise to \$4-5 billion in the current fiscal year 2024-25, as IT exports remain a crucial pillar for the country's economic self-reliance and balance of payments improvement in the coming years.

The announcement of the new zones, offering facilities and incentives, comes amid reports that some IT firms are considering relocating their businesses abroad due to disruptions caused by a slowdown in internet speed, apparently resulting from increased government surveillance.

According to the STZA statement, the zones have been notified in alignment with the vision of the prime minister and the federal government to enable job creation for the youth and prioritise the technology sector, with a focus on business process outsourcing, information technology, high-tech production, research and development, tech skill development, and knowledge products.

These zones have been strategically notified to foster innovation, drive economic growth, enhance technology exports, and position Pakistan as a key player in the global technology arena.

The accelerated rollout of STZs aligns with the economic pillars of the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) and will increase both local and foreign direct investment in the technology sector.

In addition to the 12 existing zones, which are home to over 15,000 technology professionals, "the newly notified zones will offer state-of-the-art facilities, cutting-edge infrastructure, and high-speed internet connectivity, ensuring that enterprises can compete and thrive in the global market."

Exclusively designated for technology sector companies under STZA policy, these zones also offer significant incentives, including 10-year exemptions on income tax and customs duties, as well as forex benefits for licensed technology companies operating within them.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2488356/4-tech-zones-set-up-amid-increased-surveillance>

August 17, 2024

Business Recorder

Parliamentary panel informed

Upgradation of PR ML-1 project to be carried out in phases under CPEC

ABDUL RASHEED AZAD

ISLAMABAD: A parliamentary panel, Friday, was informed that the upgradation of the Pakistan Railway (PR) ML-1 Project would be completed in phases under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

Secretary PR Mazhar Ali Shah, while briefing the Senate Standing Committee on Railways meeting held under the chairmanship of Senator Jam Saifullah Khan, said that the ML-1 project from Karachi to Peshawar was critical for the communication network of the country.

Senior officials provided a briefing on the project's operations, key milestones, and existing railway lines.

Senator Kamil Ali Agha inquired about the cessation of railway tracks following the floods. It was reported that, despite the complications caused by the floods, the ML-1 design is structured with environmental resilience in mind. In addition to this resilience, the design incorporates features such as cross-drainage, proper fencing, and boundaries. Officials asserted that the project is transformational for the Railways.

Senator Jam Saifullah Khan recommended that the ministry ensure the loan for this project is cost-effective and results in reduced travel time as well as positive environmental impacts.

In response, the secretary reiterated that the project is indeed cost-effective and includes favourable conditions for loan repayment. He also mentioned that private-sector investment is being sought for the project.

The chairman, along with the other committee members, unanimously, agreed that the improvement and advancement of the railway system are essential for the long-term welfare of the people.

Senator Kamil Ali Agha suggested that the Ministry of Railways present the original plan for the ML-1 project and review the reasons for changes in its financial cost and structural changes. He recommended that the ministry may brief on the steps taken to incorporate measures to address climatic change in the light of heavy rains and floods in the country. Senator Jam Saifullah Khan further recommended prioritizing the ML-1 project and expediting its progress.

The meeting discussing a matter raised by Senator Shahadat Awan pertaining to the steps taken to control corruption and the number of railway officials held responsible or penalised on corruption charges over the past five years. He expressed concern that the response provided by the ministry was unsatisfactory. He highlighted discrepancies in the reported figures concerning the number of penalised cases and the actions taken against them.

According to the ministry's report, 93 cases were penalised, with legal action reported against 41 workers in Karachi. However, the written response indicated that action was taken against only 31 workers, revealing inconsistencies and a lack of coherence in the numbers provided. The railway department has suffered a loss of four billion over the past five years, with 10,000 cases reported during this period. The senator suggested the ministry provide comprehensive details regarding fraud within the department. He further stated that attributing the entire loss to pension issues is not justifiable.

The chairman committee stressed the importance of addressing the committee's responsibilities and recommended that the ministry provide a detailed briefing on the questions raised by Senator Shahadat Awan, specifically concerning theft, corruption, monetary losses, and the actions taken against the perpetrators.

The secretary Railways informed the panel that the ministry has a clear directive of zero tolerance for corruption and is prepared to scrutinise matters to the extent that this august house deems necessary. He emphasised they will thoroughly review the audit reports, guided

by the committee's direction. The secretary assured the committee that all decisions will be made in strict accordance with the rules and regulations.

The chairman committee, acknowledging Senator Shahadat Awan's concerns, directed the ministry to provide the relevant records.

Moreover, the committee members discussed the ratification of senators, Khalil Tahir and Ashraf Ali Jatoy as members of the Railway Advisory Committees for Lahore and Karachi, respectively. Senior officials from the relevant department presented the schemes, the foundations of the railway advisory council committees, the functions assigned to these committees, and the applicable railway laws and delegated legislation.

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2024/08/17/2-page/1003589-news.html>

Daily Times

Chinese delegation discusses infrastructure uplift during CDA HQs visit

A high-level delegation from the China State Construction Engineering Company (CSCEC) arrived at the Capital Development Authority (CDA) headquarters on Friday to discuss various infrastructure development projects in the city.

The delegation was briefed on several ongoing and upcoming projects in Islamabad, including transportation systems, public buildings, and urban development initiatives. Muhammad Ali Randhawa, Chairman of CDA, expressed his appreciation for the Chinese company's contributions to Pakistan's infrastructure development, citing their timely completion of projects with transparency.

The CSCEC, one of the world's largest construction and investment companies, has already completed several high-profile projects in Pakistan, including the Sukkur-Multan Motorway Section, Arfa Karim Tower in Lahore, and the JF-17 Thunder aircraft project. During the meeting, the Chinese delegation expressed deep interest in participating in various CDA projects, from design and construction to funding acquisition. The two sides discussed the various stages of project development, exploring opportunities for collaboration and innovation.

Chairman CDA, Muhammad Ali Randhawa, on Friday, presided over a meeting to discuss the ongoing plantation campaign and beautification plan for Islamabad. The meeting outlined the steps taken so far and the future plans to make Islamabad a more eco-friendly and beautiful city. As part of the plantation drive, free saplings are being distributed to citizens through stalls set up in various centers, markets, and parks. Additionally, door-to-door distribution of free plants is also underway.

The Chairman emphasized the importance of involving the business community and civil society to make the drive more successful. To ensure effective implementation, the city will be divided into four zones, with concerned officers and staff responsible for landscaping and beautification work in each zone.

The corporate sector is also expected to play a significant role in making Islamabad eco-friendly and beautiful. Renowned architects and landscaping experts will be consulted for the

beautification and uplift of Islamabad. The plan includes beautifying interchanges, flyovers, loops, and highways, as well as planting fruit trees on medians and green belts along roads. Inspiration will be drawn from other cities' horticulture, and adequate lighting arrangements will be made along flyovers and bridges. With this comprehensive plan, Islamabad is set to become a model city for beauty and sustainability.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1217929/chinese-delegation-discusses-infrastructure-uplift-during-cda-hqs-visit/>

Pakistan honors Chinese scientist with Tamgha-i-Quaid-e-Azam

Prestigious Tamgha-i-Quaid-e-Azam award was bestowed upon Chinese scientist Liu Xinmin for his outstanding contribution to bilateral relations and scientific advancement.

Announcement to this effect was made at a ceremony held on the occasion of Pakistan's 78th Independence Day, Gwadar Pro reported on Saturday.

Professor Liu, the Chief Scientist of the Institute of New Drug Technologies at Ningbo University and Co-Director of the Sino-Pakistani Cooperation Centre on Traditional Chinese Medicine (SPCCTC) received this national honor in recognition of his pivotal role in fostering Sino-Pakistani cooperation in traditional medicine.

The announcement highlighted Professor Liu's pioneering achievements since he spearheaded the establishment of the SPCCTC in 2021 – the first of its kind in Pakistan at the national level.

This center has catalyzed fruitful international collaborations between over 30 Chinese and Pakistani enterprises engaged in research and development, education, medical services, and production of traditional medicine products, particularly in the fields of Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM) and Unani Tibb.

With Professor Liu's efforts, partnerships were forged between Chinese institutions such as the Institute of Medicinal Plant Development and Laboratory Animal Research Institute of the Chinese Academy of Medical Sciences, the Institute of Agricultural Products Processing, Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences, Hunan University of Chinese Medicine, and the Xinjiang Uygur Medical and Pharmaceutical Research Institute, among others.

These institutions collaborated with Pakistani counterparts like the International Center for Chemical and Biological Sciences (ICCBS) at the University of Karachi, Hamdard University, etc.

Together, they have accomplished remarkable feats, including authenticating the origins of over 20 Pakistani herbal medicines, evaluating the pharmacological effects of more than 50 components, and publishing over 30 academic papers in international journals. Beyond research collaborations, Professor Liu has been instrumental in fostering people-to-people exchanges and capacity building in traditional medicine. Regular staff visits, seminars and doctoral/postdoctoral training programmes have nurtured a new generation of Pakistani researchers in traditional medicine development who now form the backbone of their respective institutions.

One of Professor Liu's most notable achievements is the orchestration of the first clinical multicenter study of a traditional Chinese patent medicine, Jinhua Qinggan Granules, for COVID-19 treatment at the International Center for Chemical and Biological Sciences' (ICCBS) National Clinical Research Center.

Moreover, he facilitated the inaugural Sino-Pak 'Seeds in Space' project, an unprecedented endeavor that saw seven types of Pakistani medicinal seeds journey into space aboard China's spacecraft.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1218236/pakistan-honors-chinese-scientist-with-tamgha-i-qaaid-e-azam/>

Pakistan observer

Chinese concerns

Naveed Aman Khan

THE China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is a framework of regional connectivity. It will not only benefit China and Pakistan but will have positive impact on Iran, Afghanistan, Central Asian Republics and the region. To improve the lives of people of Pakistan and China by building an economic corridor promoting bilateral connectivity, construction, explore potential bilateral investment, economic and trade, logistics and people to people contact for regional connectivity are the main objectives of the CPEC. The project is considered a milestone in the strategic partnership between Pakistan and China, as it benefits both the countries. However, the safety and security of Chinese workers and engineers working on CPEC projects in Pakistan has become a serious issue as they face terrorist attacks by Baloch separatists and their affiliated militant groups, especially the Tehreek-e-Taliban, Haqqani group and Hafiz Gul Bahadur group.

It is the most important need of the hour for Pakistan to deal with the security threats faced by the Chinese citizens on an emergency basis so as to ensure the friendly relations of the two neighbours by making the CPEC successful. The project is actually China's "Belt and Road Initiative", a key component of ETO is to enhance connectivity and cooperation between China and Pakistan through a network of roads, railways and pipelines. With more than US\$ 62 billion investment, CPEC is expected to increase employment opportunities for Pakistanis, help improve infrastructure and promote regional integration, which will improve Pakistan's economy. But at present this most important project is facing the most serious security challenges. Terrorist groups, particularly the Baloch Liberation Army or BLA, TTP and Hafiz Gul Bahadur group have started targeting Chinese nationals working on various projects in Pakistan.

High-profile terrorist attacks from Karachi to Gwadar and Quetta to GB have exposed Pakistani authorities' promises to provide the safest environment for Chinese residents. The Baloch Liberation Army has already demanded China to stop work on CPEC and withdraw from Balochistan immediately. The Baloch separatist group has repeatedly warned China against further CPEC-related deals with Pakistan, and has also condemned the Chinese role in the Gwadar port project. A spate of attacks on Chinese interests in Pakistan in recent months

has badly damaged the myth of foolproof security provided to Chinese officials and projects in Pakistan. The attacks raise security concerns for Beijing, which is currently the largest foreign investor in Pakistan. On the other hand, Pakistan has blamed “foreign elements” for the terrorist attacks on Chinese citizens and has taken a stand that their main aim is to damage Pakistan-China relations and China Pakistan Economic Corridor projects.

These terrorist attacks on Chinese citizens in Pakistan have not only claimed precious lives, but have also shaken the confidence of Chinese investors who are now rightly demanding foolproof security. It is also felt that China is not as enthusiastic about pursuing new China Pakistan Economic Corridor schemes as it was in the past. No significant progress was made during the recent visit of the Pakistani Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif to China, especially regarding the CPEC file. No such impression was given in the official statements issued by the two countries after the visit. In a meeting with Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, President Xi Jinping expressed hope that Pakistan would create a “safe and stable business environment” that would guarantee the safety of “Chinese” personnel and projects. The terrorist activities targeting Chinese engineers and workers involved in CPEC projects are part of a wider conspiracy against China Pakistan Economic Corridor.

The ideal friendship between China and Pakistan will thwart the nefarious intentions of the conspirators against the CPEC. The Pakistani leadership has once again assured the Chinese leadership that those responsible for these actions will face strict accountability and their networks will be destroyed. Neither China nor Pakistan is considering limiting the scope of CPEC projects or withdrawing from them at all. Firm measures should be taken under a comprehensive policy to eliminate terrorists involved in terrorist incidents against Chinese citizens. In this regard, intelligence sharing with the Chinese authorities should also be enhanced. Not only Baloch militants or Tehreek-e-Taliban are involved in terrorist incidents against Chinese citizens, but also the ETIM group that is campaigning for the establishment of a separate state in China’s Muslim-majority Xinjiang province.

Hundreds of Chinese militants belonging to the East Turkestan Islamic Movement (ETIM) are settled in North Waziristan, where they have formed a close relationship with the TTA, TTP and Haqqani group that have persisted to this day. Based on this relationship, Baloch militants and Taliban elements, together with these Muslim militants, plan attacks on Chinese residents working on CPEC in Pakistan. Pakistani authorities say that they have in the past arrested several militants belonging to the East Turkestan Islamic Movement and handed them over to China. But on the other hand, it is also a bitter reality that the series of attacks on Chinese citizens in Pakistan has not stopped, so it is necessary to take vigorous measures to uproot the network of terrorists involved in these attacks.

<https://pakobserver.net/chinese-concerns/>

The Express Tribune

Plan to set up Pharma Economic Zone

Govt aims to draw Chinese investment in pharma sector, promote medical tourism

ISLAMABAD: The Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) is pushing ahead with plans to establish a Pharma Economic Zone under public-private partnership (PPP) mode to promote medical tourism and draw investment in the pharmaceutical industry. Additionally, it desires to set up a Medical/Health City as part of the PPP model.

Sources told The Express Tribune that the Ministry of National Health Services, Regulation and Coordination had been directed to discuss the proposal of Pharma Economic Zone along with setting up a Medical City by bringing relevant stakeholders on board. These deliberations will help identify the right industrial mix and other development modalities with the objective of promoting medical tourism and effective health services.

Sources pointed out that Pakistan was already working on establishing Special Economic Zones under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor and the government was likely to allocate one economic zone for the pharma industry. This will encourage China to pour investment into the pharma zone.

Price deregulation

To attract investment in the pharma industry, the government is studying a proposal to deregulate prices of those pharma products which fall in the less essential category. Sources said that the government had directed the health ministry to explore viable options for separating the pricing function and the role of the Drug Regulatory Authority of Pakistan (DRAP) by taking DRAP and the Ministry of Industries on board. Its objective is to shield the rights of consumers as well as business objectives of pharma companies. In this context, the ministries concerned are drawing up recommendations for a new structure for regulation and implementation including effective but minimal monitoring by the government. Apart from that, Pakistan is looking to export manpower, especially nurses, to Middle Eastern countries. Pakistani nurses are already working in Saudi Arabia and the government wants to send more nurses to the Gulf Arab nation. In this regard, the government has asked the health ministry to share a concept note including suggestions to integrate and synergise the healthcare ecosystem with P3A (Public Private Partnership Authority) and the SIFC for the development of a pre-feasibility study. The health ministry has also been directed to take the Law Division and provinces on board while drafting the National Policy Framework for Nursing and Midwifery. The ministry has been asked to prepare an action plan with timelines for finalising the pre-feasibility study and the framework. The government has directed the health ministry to discuss the way forward with different stakeholders to cater to the rising demand for nurses abroad, by identifying supply-side bottlenecks and devising firm recommendations to enhance the availability of qualified and certified nursing staff for the international market. The health ministry will share the concept note with consultants in order to prepare a pre-feasibility study.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2488657/plan-to-set-up-pharma-economic-zone>

Chinese firm eyes investment in capital development schemes

ISLAMABAD: The China State Construction Engineering Company has expressed a strong interest in investing in over five significant development projects in Islamabad, including the proposed Jinnah Medical Complex, a Solid Waste Management Plant, two underpasses, and six interchanges. According to sources, the Capital Development Authority (CDA) chairman briefed the Chinese delegation on more than ten mega development projects under consideration. The next phase will involve a delegation of technical experts from the Chinese firm conducting a detailed review of the proposed projects. The Chinese company took keen interest in projects during the briefing, asking several questions and engaging in comprehensive discussions on the feasibility of the ventures. They showed strong interest in five specific projects and indicated their intention to invest. However, before finalising their commitment, teams of experts specializing in technical, planning, and engineering fields will visit the CDA for further briefings. On Friday, a delegation from the Chinese company visited the CDA headquarters, where they were briefed on various mega development projects by a high-level CDA team led by Chairman Muhammad Ali Randhawa. The proposed projects discussed included the Jinnah Medical Complex, Solid Waste Management Plant, Water Supply Project, construction of Eleventh Avenue, completion of delayed development works in various sectors, and the construction of two underpasses on the Kashmir Highway and near an adjacent hotel, along with more than six interchanges on various highways. Randhawa highlighted the crucial role that the Chinese Construction Company has played in Pakistan's infrastructure development. He expressed optimism about introducing innovation in Islamabad's infrastructure with the support of the Chinese firm and emphasised that ongoing projects in the city would be completed according to their deadlines with full transparency. Randhawa also noted the company's deep interest in various Islamabad projects.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2488695/chinese-firm-eyes-investment-in-capital-development-schemes>

The News

Chinese company shows interest in projects in Islamabad

Islamabad: A delegation of the Chinese State Construction Engineering Corporation at a meeting with Chairman of the Capital Development Authority (CDA) Muhammad Ali Randhawa showed keen interest in various projects in Islamabad. The CDA chairman met with a delegation of Chinese State Construction Engineering Corporation at the CDA Headquarters. The delegation was briefed about various development projects in Islamabad. The CDA chairman noted that that the Chinese Construction Engineering Corporation has played a vital role in infrastructure development in Pakistan. He said that CDA wants to bring innovation in Islamabad's infrastructure with assistance of Chinese State Construction Engineering Corporation. He assured that ongoing projects in Islamabad would be completed with transparency and in accordance with their deadlines. The meeting also discussed different stages of the projects, including design, construction work, and funding opportunities. <https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=333559>

August 18, 2024

Daily Times

Pak-China Ties: Strategic Partnership or Economic Gamble?

Fariha Farrukh

Pakistan's relationship with China has been heralded as a pillar of its foreign policy for decades. Referred to as an "all-weather friendship," the two countries share a deep and strategic partnership that dates back to the 1950s.

Over time, these ties have been strengthened through diplomatic support, military cooperation, and most significantly, economic collaboration. The recent manifestation of this relationship is the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), an ambitious multi-billion-dollar infrastructure project that aims to connect China's Xinjiang region to Pakistan's Gwadar Port on the Arabian Sea. While this alliance has brought many tangible benefits to Pakistan, it also poses several challenges that raise concerns about Pakistan's economic autonomy, global standing, and regional stability.

China's commitment to Pakistan, particularly under CPEC, is vast. The project, valued at around \$62 billion, is part of China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and is viewed as a game changer for Pakistan's economy. CPEC has spurred infrastructure development, including roads, railways, and energy projects, alleviating the energy shortages that plagued Pakistan for years. The construction of Gwadar Port has also put Pakistan on the global map as a strategic transit hub, potentially connecting China to the Middle East, Africa, and Europe.

Economically, CPEC has provided Pakistan with much-needed investments in its infrastructure. Pakistan, long struggling with chronic power shortages, has seen new coal, hydropower, and solar power plants spring up across the country. These projects have helped boost Pakistan's power generation capacity, which in turn has driven industrial growth and created jobs. The influx of Chinese capital into sectors like energy, transportation, and technology has provided a much-needed stimulus to the economy, particularly during times of economic distress when Pakistan was grappling with balance of payments issues.

Furthermore, China has been a key financial lifeline for Pakistan. During periods of economic turmoil, Beijing has provided Pakistan with loans, investments, and bailout packages. This financial support has enabled Pakistan to shore up its foreign reserves, reduce fiscal deficits, and avoid economic collapse. In a region marked by geopolitical instability, China has also served as a reliable military partner for Pakistan, providing military equipment and technology that strengthens Pakistan's defense capabilities.

However, Pakistan's growing economic dependence on China has raised significant concerns, both domestically and internationally. By 2024, Pakistan's debt to China exceeded \$30 billion, a figure that has raised alarms about the country's economic autonomy. Pakistan's debt levels, coupled with the long-term repayment obligations of these Chinese loans, have led to fears of a "debt trap" where Pakistan is unable to service its debt, giving China leverage over key national assets and decisions. This concern is not without precedent. Countries like Sri Lanka and Djibouti have faced similar challenges with Chinese loans, with

Sri Lanka ultimately leasing its Hambantota Port to China for 99 years after defaulting on its debt.

While CPEC is intended to promote economic growth and job creation, many of the jobs generated by Chinese investments have been filled by Chinese nationals rather than Pakistanis. Local businesses and labor markets have also voiced concerns about unfair competition from Chinese companies, which often have the advantage of superior resources and technology. As a result, the anticipated widespread economic benefits of CPEC have been unevenly distributed, with significant portions of the population, particularly in underdeveloped regions like Balochistan, feeling left out of the progress.

In addition to economic concerns, CPEC has become a focal point of regional tensions, particularly with India. The corridor passes through the disputed region of Gilgit-Baltistan, which is part of the larger Kashmir conflict between India and Pakistan. India views the development of infrastructure in this contested area as a violation of its territorial claims, exacerbating tensions between the two nuclear-armed neighbors. Furthermore, CPEC's heavy involvement in Balochistan has fueled insurgencies in the region, where local populations feel disenfranchised and fear that they will not benefit from the economic development happening on their land. These tensions have occasionally resulted in attacks on Chinese workers and infrastructure, further destabilizing the region.

Internationally, Pakistan's close alignment with China has strained its relationships with other global powers, particularly the United States. As US-China tensions have risen in recent years, Pakistan's heavy reliance on China has complicated its foreign policy and limited its ability to maintain balanced relationships with competing global powers. The US, once a significant economic and military partner of Pakistan, has scaled back its aid and support in recent years, a shift that is partially attributed to Pakistan's growing proximity to China.

The US-China rivalry is becoming more pronounced as global trade and security issues evolve, placing Pakistan in an increasingly precarious position. While Pakistan has traditionally maintained a delicate balancing act between competing global powers, it faces the risk of becoming overly reliant on China at the expense of its relationships with the West. The potential economic and geopolitical costs of this alignment with China are significant and may leave Pakistan isolated in an increasingly polarized world. Despite these concerns, it is important to recognize the benefits that the Pakistan-China relationship has brought. CPEC has undoubtedly played a role in modernizing Pakistan's infrastructure, addressing chronic energy shortages, and boosting industrial productivity. The economic benefits of this relationship are not to be dismissed. However, it is equally crucial for Pakistan to recognize the challenges posed by this partnership and to pursue a strategy that ensures the country's economic sovereignty, political stability, and long-term sustainability. Moving forward, Pakistan must find ways to diversify its economic partnerships. While China will remain an essential partner, it is crucial for Pakistan to strengthen its relationships with other regional and global powers, such as the United States, the European Union, and the Gulf States. Building stronger ties with these nations can provide Pakistan with a broader array of economic opportunities and reduce its dependence on any single country. For instance, increased trade and investment with the European Union could help Pakistan develop new

markets for its goods and services, while closer ties with Gulf States could bring in new investments in energy and infrastructure. Furthermore, Pakistan must ensure that the benefits of CPEC and other Chinese investments are equitably distributed across the country. This requires greater attention to regional disparities, particularly in Balochistan, where resentment towards Chinese projects is growing. Ensuring that local populations benefit from infrastructure development, job creation, and economic growth is essential to maintaining social cohesion and preventing unrest. Equally important is the need to promote transparency and accountability in Chinese investment projects. Ensuring that these investments adhere to international standards of labor rights, environmental sustainability, and governance will help to safeguard Pakistan's long-term interests. On the global stage, Pakistan must carefully manage its relationships with competing powers, maintaining its sovereignty while leveraging its strategic position to its advantage. Navigating the US-China rivalry will require diplomatic agility and foresight, but it is a challenge that Pakistan must embrace if it hopes to remain relevant in an increasingly multipolar world. By pursuing a balanced foreign policy and adopting a more diversified economic strategy, Pakistan can position itself as a key player in regional diplomacy and global trade, while mitigating the risks associated with its deepening ties with China.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1218391/pak-china-ties-strategic-partnership-or-economic-gamble/>

The News

China's BYD plans car plant in Karachi as part of Pakistan entry

ISLAMABAD/Lahore: Chinese electric vehicle giant BYD on Saturday announced plans to open a car production plant in Pakistan, where it will also start selling three models through a partnership with Mega Motors. BYD is the first major new electric vehicle (NEV) entrant in the Pakistani market, where there is a lack of charging infrastructure. "Our entry into the Pakistani market is not just about bringing advanced vehicles to consumers," said Liu Xueliang, BYD's general manager for Asia Pacific. "It's about driving a broader vision of environmental responsibility and technological innovation." BYD also plans to open three "flagship stores and experience centres" in Karachi, Lahore and Islamabad, the company said at a launch event in Lahore, adding it plans to start selling two SUV models and a sedan from the fourth quarter of 2024.

Mega Motors is a unit of Pakistan's largest private utility Hub Power Co Ltd, known as Hubco. "We will establish Pakistan's first NEV assembly plant... dedicated to producing BYD's cutting-edge new energy vehicles," said Hubco Chief Executive Kamran Kamal, who described the deal as a "landmark investment".

The new plant will begin operations in 2026, Kamal told Reuters.

Hubco will setup fast-charging stations across major cities, motorways and highways to enhance Pakistan's charging infrastructure. Meanwhile, Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb said that there is need to promote investment climate with the purpose to boost up exports here from Pakistan. The Finance Minister attended the BYD's Pakistan launch in Islamabad on Saturday. Senator Aurangzeb welcomed BYD's arrival, highlighting the company's commitment to cutting-edge technology and

environmental stewardship. “BYD’s entry into our market is not just about introducing new vehicles; it’s about embracing a sustainable future and aligning with Pakistan’s environmental goals, of achieving energy efficiency,” Aurangzeb said. He further emphasized that the government is committed to support such initiatives that will not only advance green technology but will also provide a significant boost to the local economy by creating new job opportunities and fostering technological advancements in the automotive sector.

Additionally, he said, the presence of a major global player like BYD could enhance Pakistan’s export potential in the burgeoning electric vehicle market, aligning with national strategies to increase high-tech exports and reduce trade imbalances.

The minister also asserted that the government and the industry stakeholders shall work together towards introducing such innovations that can contribute to the country’s sustainability goals and economic stability in the coming years.

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=334000>

Chinese CG proposes plan to send 200,000 Pakistani students to China for IT training

MULTAN: South Punjab Additional Chief Secretary Fawad Hashim Rabbani met Chinese Consul General Zhao Shiren to discuss matters of mutual interest, including plans to cultivate red chilli in the region. Zhao Shiren emphasised the strong, enduring friendship between China and Pakistan. He highlighted the successful completion of various projects under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), stating that all provinces, including Balochistan, would benefit from new development milestones. The upcoming inauguration of Gwadar International Airport was also mentioned. To address youth unemployment and poverty, Zhao Shiren proposed sending 200,000 Pakistani students to China for information technology training. He also announced that Huawei experts would provide artificial intelligence and IT training to South Punjab’s youth. China expressed its commitment to supporting Pakistan’s agricultural sector through initiatives such as corporate farming, seed research, improving cotton quality, and modern irrigation systems. Zhao Shiren indicated that a Chinese company would visit South Punjab to assess red chilli pepper cultivation, while a South Punjab delegation would be sent to China to study advancements in various sectors. Rabbani appreciated China’s educational and agricultural initiatives and expressed interest in learning from the Chinese model. He highlighted the potential of a special industrial zone in Jalalpur Pirwala and emphasized the importance of technology transfer to boost regional progress and reduce unemployment. South Punjab’s agricultural potential was emphasized, with a focus on highquality seed research, increased per-acre yield, and livestock breeding. Rabbani also shared plans for promoting the cottage industry and expanding the “Zero Out of School Children” pilot project.

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=333995>

August 19, 2024

Daily Times

Gwadar Free Zone inks agreement with Xinjiang Pilot Free Trade Zone

In a fresh strategic move, Gwadar Free Zone (GFZ) has inked a comprehensive economic agreement with Xinjiang Pilot Free Trade Zone (XPFTZ) to build a new pattern of interactive development for logistic, trade, and commercial growth under the framework of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). Gwadar Free Zone signed the economic pact and forwarded it to the administration of Xinjiang Pilot Free Trade Zone for needful action, Gwadar Port Authority official told Gwadar Pro. China Industry Overseas Development Association is also part of the agreement to expedite coordinated development of the two regions, he added. “It has been agreed by the contracting parties to jointly promote the economic development of the two trade zones.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1218652/gwadar-free-zone-inks-agreement-with-xinjiang-pilot-free-trade-zone/>

Pakistan Observer

Pakistan’s geo-economic imperative

Muhammad Riaz Shad

Pakistan’s foreign policy has significantly been shaped by the complex interplay of external geo-political factors including the great power contestation and regional security dynamics. Only recently, Pakistan has expressed its intent for a shift to geo-economics through National Security Policy (NSP) 2022. The Geo-economics is a widely used term that carries varying meanings for different actors depending on the context, objectives and economic tools ascribed to it. Geo-economics as a foreign policy approach emerged in the Western world in post-cold war era and ultimately became a Machiavellian concept. In this sense, it is perceived as the pursuit of power politics through economic means. This conception suggests that geo-economics is just an extension of geo-politics. However, in a liberal context, geoeconomics signifies the use of economic instruments and geographic location to benefit from international economic cooperation.

In Pakistan, the debate on geo-economics takes into account both realist and liberal approaches. The NSP adopts a cooperative framework for geoeconomics. This involves prioritisation of economic agenda in Pakistan’s external relations with an increased focus on intra-regional and inter-regional trade and economic connectivity. By implication, it is assumed that Pakistan’s foreign policy based on a geo-economic orientation can help the country adopt a neutral posture towards major powers. Notwithstanding the realist and liberal connotations of geo-economics, Pakistan’s shift towards geo-economics is need of the time.

Success of any policy depends on its effective implementation. Unfortunately, Pakistan has not yet undertaken a clear direction towards a foreign policy that prioritizes geo-economics. Having a volatile neighbourhood, Pakistan has always been concerned with its territorial integrity and national security. Ever since independence, it has confronted a number of issues

including territorial claims from Afghanistan and dispute of Jammu and Kashmir with India. Particularly, the conflict with India has majorly shaped Pakistan's foreign policy dispensation. It has consistently sought to ally itself with the foreign powers to counter Indian hegemonic ambitions in South Asia.

In this context, the US is the most important major power in Pakistan's strategic calculus. Pakistan has experienced the longest engagement with the US, characterized by both cooperation and estrangement. Both states were allies during the cold war and adopted common anti-Soviet policies aimed at the containment of communism. Recently, Pakistan has played key role in the US-led war against terrorism in Afghanistan. Though Pakistan received economic and military assistance, its collaboration with the US had a socio-economic and political cost. Still, the US discarded the previous levels of cooperation once its geopolitical purpose was fulfilled.

The past few years have witnessed another development causing further divergence between the US and Pakistan. The US is troubled with the Chinese rise, particularly in the Asia-Pacific region. This affects Pakistan as well. Pakistan-China relations have deepened over the years as the CPEC promises to enhance regional connectivity and bring economic boost in Pakistan. Chinese programmes for the development of global infrastructure pose challenges for the US regional and global influence. In this context, the US is concerned about the CPEC and Pakistan-China closer ties. This necessitates that Pakistan should adopt a balanced approach to deal with the two competing powers. And, a geo-economic orientation may prove a pragmatic way forward in this regard. These examples indicate that Pakistan's leveraging of strategic location for geopolitical objectives has yielded more challenges than benefits. In current scenario, the regional landscape following the US exit from Afghanistan does not carry much geo-political relevance of Pakistan. Further, India's rise and its growing economic influence in Middle East and Asia-Pacific undermine Pakistan's position in regional alignments and geo-strategic games. Meanwhile, Pakistan's internal dynamics show negative trends. Prolonged political instability has caused disruptions in the continuity of economic policies and achievement of sustained economic growth. CPEC is a big development in the economic realm of Pakistan, but it needs a conducive political and security environment to produce economic dividends. With these external and internal challenges, Pakistan can barely articulate its geo-political goals. As the countries throughout the world focus on economic growth and become part of regional and global economic groupings, Pakistan cannot afford to be a bystander. The country should not remain stuck in the old-fashioned geo-political games. Therefore, a paradigm shift towards geo-economics is in its best interest. The geo-economic paradigm can potentially steer Pakistan's course towards economic security as well as balanced relations with the major powers. For this, Pakistan has to prioritize production, investment, industrial growth and international trade. In short, Pakistan needs an action sooner rather than later towards robust economic growth and competitive economic interdependence characterized by a geo-economic approach. This article is based on the HEC-funded research project under National Research Program for Universities (NRPU).

<https://pakobserver.net/pakistans-geo-economic-imperative/>

The Express Tribune

Rulers alienating S Arabia, China: Fazl

JUI-F chief criticizes the rulers for their flawed policies

LAKKI MARWAT: JUI-F chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman has criticized the rulers for their flawed policies, which, according to him, have alienated Pakistan's trusted allies.

"Our friends like Saudi Arabia and China no longer trust us. Why is there this trust deficit? It's because of our attempts to please the United States," Fazl said on Sunday while addressing a large public rally in Lakki Marwat district of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (K-P) province. According to the JUI-F chief, the country's economy is in disarray, and it is also facing setbacks on other fronts due to the rulers' misguided policies. He noted that India's foreign exchange reserves have surpassed the \$500 billion mark, while Pakistan's reserves stand at only \$10 billion. He said Afghanistan, despite emerging from a 40-year-long civil war, has also a more stable currency than the Pakistani Rupee. Fazl claimed that Western powers aim to destabilize Pakistan's economy. He also questioned on whose orders the rulers are rolling back Chinese projects in the country. "They are assuring the United States of shutting down CPEC [China-Pakistan Economic Corridor] while extorting money from China in the name of building it," he alleged. The Maulana also warned the government against targeting religious seminaries, which, he said, are now struggling to get registered. "We provided protection to schools and colleges, so why can't these people protect the madrasas?" he asked.

The JUI-F chief vowed to protect religious seminaries, insisting that the rulers would never be able to eliminate these institutions. "We have led movements in this country, and now global powers want to erase the religious identity of my nation," he stated.

He also warned the government against its alleged attempts to seize control of mineral resources in the southern districts of K-P. "They are paving the way to take over minerals in the southern districts. We will never accept the occupation of our resources. We cannot allow anyone to take over our children's resources and rights. We will not back down from protecting our resources," he declared. Addressing the rulers, establishment, armed groups, and bureaucracy, he said the people, particularly those from the former tribal districts, are not satisfied with their actions. "We supported the establishment and the army, and they gave us unrest," he said.

He urged the establishment to stop its "so-called" war against terrorism. "The United States does not want to end terrorism; it is, in fact, the creator of terrorism," he claimed. Referring to his visit to Kabul earlier this year, he said he had achieved success during talks with the Taliban leadership, but that success was turned into failure. "Despite that, we are still ready to hold talks with the Afghan Taliban again. However, the rulers must first prepare themselves for them," he said. He lamented that Israel has killed over 40,000 people, mostly children, in Gaza since October 2023, yet the rulers of the Muslim world are watching all this as silent spectators.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2489177/rulers-alienatings-arabia-china-fazl>

The News

‘Pakistan — bridge aligning China, ME’

Rasheed Khalid

Islamabad: Prof Azhar Ahmad from Bahria University has said that China possesses technology and economic strength, while the Middle East rich in capital lacks technology. These interests can be aligned through Pakistan acting as a bridge by utilising its good offices, cheap labour and deep cultural understanding of both regions.

Prof Azhar Ahmad was participating in an event on “China, Middle East and the Role of Pakistan” organised here by Institute of Regional Studies (IRS). Prof Ahmad highlighted China's role as a mediator for the Global South. He highlighted remarkable examples such as its mediation efforts for Saudi-Iran rapprochement in 2023 and recent initiative to unite 14 Palestinian factions for bringing peace and stability. He noted that China's trade with the Middle East witnessed significant growth, surpassing that of the United States. He proposed that Pakistan, with its strategic importance, could help elevate the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) into a broader regional initiative linking China with the Middle East, Africa and beyond. According to Prof Ahmad, Pakistan, with its cheap labour and understanding of both Chinese and Middle Eastern cultures, can help align these interests effectively. Dr Munawar Hussain from Quaid-i-Azam University highlighted China's patience in foreign policy, its history of avoiding colonisation, adhering to a non-interventionist policy since the era of Mao Zedong and its primary foreign policy aspiration of achieving economic wellbeing. He discussed China's foreign policy shift from socialism to neoliberalism aimed at fostering a multipolar world. He also noted China's consistent pro-Palestinian stance and its position as the largest oil importer from the Middle East. He stressed Pakistan's pivotal geostrategic role in connecting Asia, the Middle East, and Africa, suggesting that Pakistan could enhance its diplomatic influence and contribute to regional stability by extending trade and infrastructure investments. However, he also acknowledged the challenges Pakistan faces, including navigating US-China rivalry, potential Indo-US ties, threats to strategic autonomy and increased risk of terrorism. Shakeel Ahmed Ramay, CEO, Asian Institute of Eco-civilisation, Research, and Development (AIERD) emphasised the shared values and common interests between China and the Middle East, while also underscoring the importance of Pakistan defining its identity and role on the global stage independently, rather than being viewed solely in relation to other states. The Middle East is inclined toward fostering friendship with China, largely due to the absence of historical conflicts or regional proxy engagements and the alignment of societal and moral values between the two regions. He said that Pakistan, although no longer an economic powerhouse, can still facilitate these relations. The nation must shift its foreign policy focus from balancing US and China relations to prioritising its interests, recognising that its strategic location is relative. Pakistan can seize opportunities from Saudi Arabia's Vision 2030 to support domestic security needs and develop trilateral trade relationships like with China and Iran by leveraging its cultural understanding and arable land, Mr Ramay said adding that by contributing to the agricultural sector, Pakistan could become the Middle East's breadbasket.

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=334079>

August 20, 2024

Pakistan Observer

China's leading role in green innovation

Engr Qaiser Nawab

IN recent years, China has emerged as a dominant force in green and low-carbon technology patents, marking a significant shift in sustainable innovation. A July 2024 report highlighted that China published 101,000 green and low-carbon patent applications in 2023, outpacing Japan, South Korea, the United States, and Germany. This surge not only showcases China's innovative capacity but also underscores its commitment to addressing global environmental challenges and combating climate change. As the world urgently seeks sustainable solutions, China's leadership in green innovation serves as both a beacon of hope and a model for other nations to follow.

The numbers are striking. From 2016 to 2023, Chinese patentees achieved a 12.3% annual growth rate in green patent applications, totaling 555,000 worldwide—nearly three times that of Japan. In 2023, China's green and low-carbon patent applications grew by 20.1%, outpacing the global average by 7.1 percentage points. This surge spans all sectors of green and low-carbon technology, including fossil fuel decarbonization, energy conservation, recycling, clean energy, energy storage, and greenhouse gas capture. China's innovation across the entire spectrum of green technologies solidifies its position as a leader in sustainable development.

Energy storage patents have surged, leading the field with a 19.3% average annual growth from 2016 to 2023. This rise is notable for breaking the traditional dominance of energy-saving and recycling technologies, paving the way for innovative solutions to global energy challenges. China's commitment to clean energy is evident in its leading position in the clean energy patent sector. From 2016 to 2023, China secured 18,000 solar energy patents and 12,000 hydrogen energy patents, representing 34.8% and 23.3% of the global total, respectively. These figures highlight China's crucial role in advancing the global transition to renewable energy sources.

Solar and hydrogen energy, in particular, have shown tremendous promise as key components of a sustainable future. Solar energy, with its vast potential and decreasing costs, has become a cornerstone of global efforts to reduce reliance on fossil fuels. Meanwhile, hydrogen energy, with its potential to decarbonize industries that are difficult to electrify, offers a versatile and sustainable alternative to traditional energy sources. China's leadership in these areas is not just a win for the country; it is a win for the planet. By pushing the boundaries of clean energy innovation, China is helping to accelerate the global transition to a low-carbon economy, reducing greenhouse gas emissions and mitigating the impacts of climate change.

China's impressive green patent portfolio is not just about numbers; it is about the broader impact on global sustainability. The surge in green innovation aligns with China's commitment to sustainable development and its active participation in international efforts to

combat climate change. This commitment is evident in China's involvement in global forums like COP29, where the country has consistently advocated for stronger international cooperation in addressing climate change. China's leadership in green technology innovation is a natural extension of its broader strategy to foster global sustainability, and it serves as a powerful example of how technological innovation can drive progress toward the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

At COP29, China is expected to play a key role in shaping the global climate agenda, leveraging its green patent portfolio to promote sustainable solutions and encourage other nations to follow suit. China's success in green innovation provides a strong foundation for its leadership in these discussions, offering practical examples of how technological advancements can be harnessed to achieve meaningful climate action. While China's achievements in green innovation are commendable, the path forward is not without challenges. The global transition to a low-carbon economy requires not only technological innovation but also the political will, international cooperation and significant investment in infrastructure and education.

China's green innovation success stems from strong government support, a robust intellectual property framework, and a thriving research and development ecosystem. To sustain this momentum, continued investment and efforts to address the social and economic impacts of transitioning to a low-carbon economy are essential. A key challenge will be ensuring that the benefits of green innovation are shared equitably within China and globally. As China leads in green technology, it's crucial to make these innovations accessible to developing nations, helping to bridge the gap between rich and poor countries in the global fight against climate change.

China's leadership in green innovation offers significant opportunities for international collaboration. By sharing its expertise and technology, China can accelerate the global transition to a sustainable future and build a more resilient, inclusive global economy. The country's commitment to sustainable innovation, reflected in its green and low-carbon technology patents, solidifies its role as a global leader in combating climate change. As nations face the complex challenges of the 21st century, China's example provides valuable lessons, demonstrating that economic growth and environmental sustainability can progress hand in hand through strategic investment in green technology and climate action.

As we advance, it is crucial for the international community to recognize and support China's efforts, leveraging this momentum to achieve the SDGs and foster a more sustainable, prosperous, and peaceful world for future generations. China's leadership in green innovation represents a global imperative, not just a national achievement. Facing climate change challenges and striving for a sustainable future, China's example underscores the importance of innovation, cooperation, and shared commitment to our planet's well-being. With continued investment in green technology and active participation in global climate discussions, China is set to play a pivotal role in shaping a brighter, greener future.

<https://pakobserver.net/chinas-leading-role-in-green-innovation/>

The News

Pak embassy in China working with devotion: Tarar

ISLAMABAD: Rebutting a news item, Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attaullah Tarar Monday said the entire team at Pakistan’s embassy in China — led by Ambassador Khalil Hashmi — was working with utmost commitment and devotion.

In a statement released to the media, the minister said Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif had also commended the embassy’s hard work during his recent visit to China. Meanwhile, the Foreign Office Monday categorically rejected a news item carried by The News concerning the recent visit to Pakistan by its ambassador in China. In a statement, the Foreign Office said, “It is unfortunate that the reporter and the news outlet did not seek confirmation from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs before filing this false report. “The ambassador was recently in Pakistan on a pre-scheduled visit during which he participated in the Food and Agri Expo in Karachi. The event, attended by the prime minister, brought together a large number of Chinese entrepreneurs and companies. “As per the established practice, Ambassador Hashmi called on the prime minister, and the deputy prime minister/foreign minister and other ministers and senior officials to discuss various aspects of Pak-China relations.” It further said that Ambassador Khalil Hashmi was a distinguished Pakistani diplomat who had served Pakistan over the last several decades, with the highest standards of professionalism and commitment.

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=334521>

PM orders shifting 50pc public cargo to Gwadar

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Monday explicitly instructed the authorities concerned to bring 50 percent of all public sector cargo inland via sea through Gwadar port.

Shehbaz issued these directives while chairing a review meeting on Chinese investment here, where he was briefed on the Chinese experts’ delegation visit to Pakistan from July 30 to August 6, 2024.

The forum was told that the Chinese delegation met representatives from various ministries, which offered suggestions to enhance cooperation in their respective fields. The visit resulted in significant progress in cooperation and investment across trade, energy, agriculture, information technology, communication, and infrastructure.

The forum was informed that the Chinese delegation engaged with top leaders of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry during their visit. It was briefed that Chinese experts would be enlisted for technology transfer, removing non-trade barriers, and boosting the country’s exports.

The meeting was informed that sectoral roadshows would be organised in various Chinese cities to boost exports of Pakistani products. Additionally, Chinese experts will be engaged for technology transfer, upgrading electric vehicles, electro-medical devices, and other sectors.

The meeting was told that a Chinese auto spare parts company has recently advanced significantly in establishing its plant in Pakistan. Efforts are underway to facilitate land leasing for special economic zones. Additionally, Pakistani students and researchers will receive agricultural training in China, with 572 applications already received.

The prime minister instructed that students from all provinces should have equal opportunities to participate in this training. The prime minister directed the creation of a committee, chaired by Federal Minister for Planning, Development, and Reform Ahsan Iqbal, to oversee the transparent selection of Pakistani students and researchers for agricultural training in China.

Federal Minister for Planning and Development Ahsan Iqbal, Federal Minister for Investment and Privatization Abdul Aleem Khan, Federal Minister for Economic Affairs Ahad Khan Cheema, Federal Minister for Industry and Production Rana Tanveer Hussain, Federal Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal, Federal Minister for Energy Awais Ahmed Khan Leghari, Federal Minister of Maritime Affairs Qaiser Ahmed Sheikh and relevant senior government officials attended.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has directed the authorities concerned to ensure timely completion of all projects of IT sector. He was chairing a meeting here in Islamabad on Monday to review the information technology IT projects and implementation of the measures to increase IT exports. Expressing satisfaction over the progress on IT Park project in Islamabad the prime minister said this project will significantly increase domestic IT exports.

The prime minister said citizens should be encouraged to use mobile applications for government services. He said it will prove to be a milestone in achieving the target of IT export of twenty five billion dollars.

The meeting was briefed that work on IT Park project is underway at a fast pace and the Korean company collaborating on the project has reduced its completion period from June to February next year.

The meeting was also briefed about the digital smart cities project being launched in Islamabad initially to provide easy access to citizens to 150 services through the Islamabad City Super Application under the project services of Capital Development Authority (CDA).

Islamabad Police, Health and Education departments will be available to citizens through a mobile application. The meeting was told that the services of the federal government will be made available across the country through mobile application in the final stages.

The meeting was also briefed about the performance of the IT sector in the last five months during which IT exports have increased by 30 percent, compared to last year. In the last five months three lakh students have registered for training in IT skills programmes, while four new incubation centers were also launched during this period.

The meeting was also given a detailed briefing on investment in various projects of IT sector and step by step increase in IT exports from them. Earlier, In a bold move to modernize the country's governance, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has issued a directive making it

mandatory for all federal ministries and divisions to switch to the E-Office system, abandoning manual filing systems.

The decision comes after several government departments failed to fully adopt the electronic platform, despite clear instructions issued in March 2024. The prime minister expressed deep concern over the delay, citing the need for enhanced efficiency, transparency and accountability.

All ministries and divisions have been given two weeks to fully implement the E-Office system, with a scheduled review meeting of the Secretaries Committee to ensure compliance. This move marks a significant step towards a fully digital government, streamlining operations and improving service delivery.

The mandatory switch to E-Office is seen as a major milestone in the government's efforts to embrace technology and enhance public service. By going digital, Pakistan aims to reduce bureaucratic red tape, increase transparency and provide citizens with faster and more convenient access to government services.

As the country moves towards a more modern and efficient governance model, citizens can expect improved delivery of public services, reduced corruption and increased accountability. The E-Office system is a key component of this vision and its mandatory adoption marks a significant step forward for Pakistan's digital governance agenda.

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=334509>

August 21, 2024

Business Recorder

Value of CPC 3rd plenum & impact on China-Pakistan relations

Zhao Shiren

The 20th Central Committee of the Communist Party of China convened its third plenary session in Beijing last month, marking a significant milestone in China's ongoing efforts to further deepen reforms and opening up in a comprehensive manner, and carry forward the Chinese modernization endeavors.

The 3rd Plenum, through active and thorough deliberations, produced both Communiqué and Resolution calling for comprehensive reforms to shape the future development of China, and outlined the goal of building a socialist market economy over the next decade, identifying several key areas as priorities for reform and opening up. By 2035, China will have finished building a high-standard socialist market economy in all respects, further improved the system of socialism with Chinese characteristics, generally modernized the system and capacity for governance, and basically realized socialist modernization. All these efforts will lay a solid foundation for building China into a great modern socialist country by the mid century.

The plenum emphasized the instrumental role comprehensive reforms and opening up can play to navigate through the headwinds and choppy waters. It introduced more than 360

reform measures as the phase-wise targets to be accomplished by 2029. Highlighting the CPC's mandate on and commitment to improving and developing socialism with Chinese characteristics, the Plenum aimed to push ahead with all-round economic reforms, enhance democratic governance, foster a strong socialist culture, improve people's livelihoods and advance its global outreach. The Plenum pledged to improve the institutions and mechanisms for fostering new quality productive forces in line with local conditions, for promoting full integration between the real economy and the digital economy, for developing the service sector, for modernizing infrastructure, and for enhancing the resilience and security of industrial and supply chains.

The Plenum announced that the Party and Government of China will bank on innovation, sustainable development and domestic consumption as the keys to the country's future growth. It stressed that education, science and technology, and talent function are the basic and strategic underpinnings for Chinese modernization, and stated that the country must fully implement the strategy of invigorating China through science and education, the strategy of developing a quality workforce, and the innovation-driven development strategy, making coordinated efforts to promote integrated reform of institutions and mechanisms pertaining to education, science and technology, and human resources, and improve the new system for mobilizing resources nationwide to make key technological breakthroughs.

The plenary session also called for the promotion of green development through carbon reduction, pollution reduction, and improvement of environmental governance systems and low-carbon development mechanisms, in an effort to achieve the peak carbon by 2030 and carbon neutrality by 2060, making the green economy a major long-term area of growth.

The moot touched upon stimulating cultural innovation and creativity, including drawing upon traditional Chinese culture, and reaffirmed that the Chinese modernization is about both material abundance and cultural-ethical enrichment, with the aim of promoting all-round social progress and full human development, noting that China must stay abreast of the latest trends in information technology, cultivate a vast pool of talented human capital in the field of culture, and ignite the cultural creativity of the entire nation.

On foreign policy front, it merits mentioning that the CPC session reiterated that the Chinese modernization is the modernization of peaceful development, declaring that China remains firmly committed to pursuing an independent foreign policy of peace and is dedicated to promoting the Belt and Road international cooperation. The Communiqué stated that by holding dear humanity's shared values, China will pursue the Global Development Initiative, the Global Security Initiative, and the Global Civilization Initiative, and call for an equal and orderly multipolar world and universally beneficial and inclusive economic globalization, so as to build better a community with a shared future for humanity.

The plenum provided the general principles, guidelines and roadmap on priorities and key areas for implementing reforms in all respects, together with building up a higher-standard open economy. The session adopted a holistic approach and the action plan to realize the Vision of 2035 in providing strong systematic and institutional support for setting China on a new journey of building a modern socialist country in all respects, and moving toward national rejuvenation on all fronts through Chinese modernization.

The Chinese modernization is essential to nation-building and national development. It covers a huge population of over 1.4 billion, a number that is larger than that of the developed countries combined. It works for shared prosperity for all, which means to meet the people's growing expectations and aspirations for a better life, and promote equity, fairness and social justice. It aims at both material and cultural advancement, striving to improve not only people's material well-being, but also the cultural enrichment. Chinese modernization promotes harmony between humanity and nature, responds to climate changes and environmental hazards, and ensures a sustainable development. It also commits to peaceful development, high-quality development, high-quality economic growth, cultural advancement, enabling security environment, and good institutional and capacity governance. It requires across the board reforms and opening up. Chinese modernization will make China great and provide more opportunities to the rest of the world. The peaceful development of China is a blessing to the world, and China's peaceful development path has set an exemplary example for other countries to learn and to follow. China's pursuit of equality, mutual respect and win-win cooperation in international relations brings valuable lessons to the Global South and the developing countries in their development and seeking fair justice in international relations. China's goal of sustainable development, common security and shared prosperity provides an alternative to the developing countries in their development endeavors. China's strong political leadership, governance experience, social harmony, and policy consistency can be shared by other countries in their modernization drive.

The CPC 3rd plenum also has positive impact on the development of China-Pakistan relations. Pakistan, as an all-weather strategic cooperative partner of China, and an important country in South Asia, can certainly benefit and get dividends from China's Three Major Initiatives and its modernization. The Belt & Road Initiative and the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) has tremendously shaped the energy and infrastructural landscapes of Pakistan. As the CPEC ushers in phase 2 development, the bilateral cooperation will further expand into agricultural modernization, industrial growth, mining and mineral resources exploration, science and information technology, educational and cultural partnership, transforming Pakistan's socioeconomic development. The Global Development Initiative will bring more Chinese support into Pakistan in poverty alleviation endeavors, capacity building efforts and green transition. China shares aspirations with Pakistan in achieving the UN 2030 Sustainable Development Goals. The Global Security Initiative calls for a common, comprehensive, cooperative and sustainable security, featuring dialogue over confrontation, partnership over alliance and win-win outcomes over zero-sum games. In implementing the GSI, China will continue to lend political, diplomatic, economic and security help to Pakistan in countering the menace of terrorism, maintaining political stability and financial stabilization, fostering peace and security in the region. The plenum has showcased China's strength of power and strong commitment to securing regional stability and world peace. The CPC Moot will further China's collaboration with Pakistan into technology and space research, uplifting the bilateral friendship from the land, sea and air boundaries into space frontier. The Global Civilization Initiative upholds the importance of cultural exchanges transcending estrangement, mutual learning transcending clashes, and peaceful coexistence transcending emotions of superiority. After the plenum,

more Pakistani young students will go to China to learn modern agricultural technology and receive the IT and AI-related professional training from China. Academic exchanges, cultural interactions and people-to-people contacts will also keep a pacing growth.

Upholding that further deepening reforms in comprehensive manner is the most effective weapon to realize the Chinese modernization in all respects, and that the Three Major Initiatives are the gateways to build a Community with a Shared Future for Mankind, the CPC 3rd plenum has injected a new impetus to the development of China-Pakistan relations. The unbreakable brotherhood, deep-rooted historical bond and strategic partnership between the two countries will become stronger, closer and yield more fruitful results in the years to come. The rest can be left to implementation and delivery.

(The writer is Consul General of China in Lahore)

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2024/08/21/7-page/1004130-news.html>

Daily Times

ISSI hosts launch of Naz Parveen's book 'Xinjiang ke Khushal Uyghur'

The China-Pakistan Study Centre (CPSC) at the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) organized a book launch for 'Xinjiang ke Khushal Uyghur,' authored by renowned columnist and author Naz Parveen.

The event was graced by Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed as the chief guest. Distinguished speakers included Ambassador Sohail Mahmood, Director General ISSI, Prof. Zamir Ahmed Awan, founding chairperson of the Global Silk Route Research Alliance, Professor Dr. Azhar Ahmed, Independent Analyst, and Nabila Jaffer, Research Analyst and Lead of the China Program at the Institute of Regional Studies Islamabad, a news release said.

In his welcome remarks, Ambassador Sohail Mahmood expressed gratitude to the guests for attending the book launch. He highlighted three key aspects: Firstly, the unique and cherished relationship between Pakistan and China — marked by strategic mutual trust and mutual support, nurtured by successive generations, and strengthened by transformational initiatives like CPEC.

Secondly, Naz Parveen, the author and director of China Window, has made notable contributions through her writings and facilitated deeper understanding of China's culture and traditions. Thirdly, this book contains her detailed account based on observations and experiences particularly in Kashgar and Urumqi, and debunks many of the motivated narratives emanating from the West regarding the treatment of Uyghurs in China's Xinjiang Region.

Prof. Zamir Ahmed Awan, emphasized the significance of cultural diplomacy in understanding China and lauded the author for her accessible and engaging writing style. He elaborated on the rich history and cultural heritage of China's Xinjiang region, noting how the book captures the essence of this dynamic area and encourages greater appreciation of Chinese culture among readers in Pakistan.

Professor Dr. Azhar Ahmed commended the author for her achievement in publishing such a detailed and vivid travelogue. He praised the book's ability to transport readers into the heart of Xinjiang, making them feel as though they were experiencing the journey alongside the author. He also stressed the importance of such works in dispelling negative perceptions and promoting a deeper understanding of China's cultural landscape.

Nabila Jaffer expressed her admiration for the book's imaginative and artistic narrative, which she found to be a refreshing departure from typical political discourses. She highlighted the book's emphasis on personal experiences and cultural exchanges, which she believes are crucial for fostering stronger ties between Pakistan and China.

Naz Parveen, the author, shared her motivation for writing the book, which stemmed from her experiences at China Window in Peshawar and her desire to counter the negative narratives surrounding China's treatment of Uyghur Muslims. She recounted her journey through Beijing, Chengdu, Kashgar, and Urumqi, where she was deeply moved by the warmth and hospitality of the Uyghur people and their socio-economic development, which starkly contrasted with the negative portrayals often carried by the Western media.

Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed congratulated Naz Parveen for her exceptional work and commended the book for its communicative style and insightful content.

He reflected on the evolution of China, highlighting its revolutionary reforms and criticized the Western media's attempts to demonize China.

He stressed the importance of Pakistani voices in countering such propaganda and called for greater efforts to promote understanding between the two nations.

Earlier, in his introductory remarks, Dr. Talat Shabbir, Director of the China Pakistan Study Centre, introduced the book.

He emphasized the importance of producing more literature on China-Pakistan cultural relations in Urdu to reach a broader audience.

He commended the author's literary skills and praised her work as a significant contribution to the literature on China's culture.

In his vote of thanks, Ambassador Khalid Mahmood, Chairman of the ISSI Board of Governors, emphasized the profound connection between Pakistan and China, rooted in mutual trust and respect.

He praised the book for its personal and thought-provoking insights into Chinese culture, which serve as a powerful rebuttal to negative narratives.

The book launch was well attended by academics, students, members of the diplomatic community, and civil society.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1219181/issi-hosts-launch-of-naz-parveens-book-xinjiang-ke-khushal-uyghur/>

Ahsan Iqbal orders concept papers for new CPEC corridors

Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Professor Ahsan Iqbal on Tuesday directed all Working Groups (WGs) to prepare concept papers on five new corridors, proposed by Chinese President Xi Jinping in August last, including growth, livelihood, innovation, green energy and regional connectivity for CPEC Phase-II.

“The concept papers for all CPEC Phase-II projects should be completed as soon as possible, aligning with these five new corridors,” he said while chairing a review meeting on CPEC projects.

Among others, the meeting was attended by Secretary Planning Awais Manzoor Sumra, secretaries of concerned ministries and senior officials.

Ahsan Iqbal informed the meeting that Pakistan and China have agreed to initiate work on these five corridors, which were aligned with Pakistan’s 5Es framework (Export, Energy, Equity, E-Pakistan and Environment) for its economic development.

Elaborating the five new initiatives, he said that under the Livelihood Corridor provision of the best amenities to the people and creating employment opportunities were included.

Under the Innovation Corridor, the minister said new projects would be initiated through modern technology and imparting information technology skills to the youth.

While the CPEC would be used to promote connectivity and establish more friendly relations with Central Asian states under the Open Regional Cooperation, he said.

He expressed confidence that comprehensive documents on these five corridors would be prepared by the end of current month, which would be shared with the Chinese leadership in due course of time.

The Planning minister also directed the ministries concerned to prepare five-year plans under the CPEC portfolio for submission in the Joint Cooperation Committee, stressing to hold regular meetings of joint working groups in September so that the next five-year CPEC strategy could be evolved.

“Our aim should be industrial and commercial development and increase in foreign investment,” he said adding long-term projects be included in the working group with sector-wise breakup.

Ahsan Iqbal gave a 15-day timeline to all the ministries concerned to submit their CPEC-related projects.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1219385/ahsan-iqbal-orders-concept-papers-for-new-cpec-corridors/>

Pakistan Observer

Xinjiang keKhushal Uyghur’ launched at ISSI

Zubair Qureshi

The rich history and cultural heritage of China’s Xinjiang region and the progress and prosperity of the Uyghur living there in perfect harmony with other communities are beautifully penned down by Pakistan’s renowned columnist and author Ms. Naz Parveen. These views were expressed by the speakers while addressing the launching of the book titled ‘Xinjiang keKhushal Uyghur’ or ‘The prosperous Uyghur of Xinjiang’ organized by the China-Pakistan Study Centre (CPSC) at the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) here Tuesday.

The book launch was well attended by academics, students, members of the diplomatic community, and civil society. Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed was the chief guest on the occasion while among the speakers included DG ISSI Ambassador Sohail Mahmood; founding chairperson of the Global Silk Route Research Alliance Prof. Zamir Ahmed Awan, an independent analyst Prof Dr Azhar Ahmed and Research Analyst and Lead of the China Programme at the ISSI Ms. Nabila Jaffer.

Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed congratulated Ms Naz Parveen on her exceptional work and commended the book for its communicative style and insightful content. He reflected on the evolution of China, highlighting its revolutionary reforms and criticized the Western media’s attempts to demonize China. He stressed the importance of Pakistani voices in countering such propaganda and called for greater efforts to promote understanding between the two nations.

Prof. Zamir Ahmed Awan, emphasized the significance of cultural diplomacy in understanding China and lauded the author for her accessible and engaging writing style. Prof Dr. Azhar Ahmed commended the author for her achievement in publishing such a detailed and vivid travelogue. He praised the book’s ability to transport readers into the heart of Xinjiang, making them feel as though they were experiencing the journey alongside the author. Ms. Nabila Jaffer expressed her admiration for the book’s imaginative and artistic narrative, which according to her was a refreshing departure from typical political discourses. She highlighted the book’s emphasis on personal experiences and cultural exchanges, which she believes are crucial for fostering stronger ties between Pakistan and China. The author, Ms. Naz Parveen expressing her gratitude shared her motivation for writing the book, which she said stemmed from her experiences at China Window in Peshawar and her desire to counter the negative narratives surrounding China’s treatment of Uyghur Muslims. She recalled her journey through Beijing, Chengdu, Kashgar, and Urumqi, where she was deeply moved by the warmth and hospitality of the Uyghur people and their socio-economic development, which starkly contrasted with the negative portrayals often carried by the Western media.

<https://pakobserver.net/xinjiang-kekushal-uyghur-launched-at-issi/>

CPEC and 3rd Plenum Green Transformation

Dr Mehmood Ul Hassan Khan

GREEN is the colour of survival, productivity and prosperity creating numerous matching boxes for humanity, ecology and geography in the world. The green CPEC Phase-II would be a value addition towards Pakistan's energy diversity, sustainability and stability. China in its 3rd Plenum chalked out comprehensive programs to gear-up green transformation in the country. In continuation to this, most recently the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee and the State Council announced a set of groundbreaking guidelines consisting of 33 points to accelerate green transition in all areas of economic and social development which would be its first systematic deployment of its green and low-carbon goals in China.

Its well-timed guidelines establish goals for key industries mainly green energy, recycling, green transportation, services, environmental protection, industrial parks and green remanufacturing transforming the country towards green transition and transformation. Interestingly, for the first time it proposed to build "world-class green and low-carbon industrial clusters" in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (GBA) and the Yangtze River Delta region which is indeed a paradigm shift. It seems that China is attempting to enhance the use of renewable energy through investment, financing, taxation and pricing policies in line with the global shift making it more reliable, relevant and functional.

Additionally, since the 18th CPC National Congress, China has made significant strides in eco-environmental protection and green growth. The country has reduced carbon dioxide emissions per unit of GDP by over 35% since 2012, and renewable energy capacity now exceeds thermal generation, accounting for over half of installed power capacity. The new guidelines are set to further advance China's commitment to eco-civilizational and high-quality development, aiming to balance growth with sustainability and enhance global climate governance. Despite these achievements, China's energy structure remains heavily reliant on coal and traditional industries. To meet carbon targets and achieve sustainable growth, a shift towards green technologies is essential.

It covers comprehensiveness and systematic approaches, covering territorial space, industrial structure, the energy sector, transportation and urban-rural development. Moreover, the key parts of macroeconomics, production, consumption, investment, and trade have all been highlighted in the recently announced guidelines. The development of different regions and different industries has been taken into account in the guidelines. Specific measures including establishing the collection, utilization and treatment system of agricultural wastes have been written into the documents to promote green growth in rural regions. Collaboration between traditional and emerging industries is another highlight of the guidelines. The scale of the energy-saving and environmental protection industry will reach about 15 trillion Yuan (US\$2 trillion).

The guidelines pledge to achieve remarkable results in green transition in all areas of economic and social development by 2030 and basically establish a green, low-carbon and circular development economic system and basically achieve the goal of Beautiful China by

2035 will further cement China's leading role in global green growth. China's environmental protection over the past decades is playing a leading role in the global green governance system. Recent guidelines will boost China's dedication to accelerate eco-civilizational and high-quality development. Through balancing growth and sustainability, China's leadership in green transition will transform global climate governance and create a global community with a shared future.

The guidelines provide a clear roadmap for how important economic and social sectors will advance significantly in green transition by 2030. By 2035, the economy will be mostly green, low-carbon, and circular, with carbon emissions reaching a peak and then progressively falling, and social and economic growth completely embracing a green trajectory. By 2030, the nation's non-fossil energy share will rise to roughly 25 percent of total energy consumption, the installed capacity of pumped storage hydropower will surpass 120 million kilowatts, and the energy conservation and environmental protection sector will be valued at approximately US\$2.1 trillion.

According to the guidelines, by 2030, the annual utilization of bulk solid waste will reach approximately 4.5 billion tons, and the output rate of main resources will increase by approximately 45 percent compared with 2020. The carbon emission intensity of commercial transport per unit of turnover will decrease by approximately 9.5 percent from 2020. In 2023, China produced and sold approximately 4.5 million electric vehicles, capturing about 55 percent of the global market share. This achievement underscores China's dominant position in the EV market, with over 2.1 million public charging stations, accounting for 65 percent of the global market.

The Three-North Shelter Forest Program, launched in 1978, has significantly boosted China's forest cover from 12% to 23%, adding over 76 million hectares of new forest—equivalent to Germany's size. Building on this success, CPEC should evolve into a model green Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), focusing on environmental preservation and green technology. Incorporating intensified plantation, supporting natural forestation, developing honey production, and promoting green tourism in CPEC Phase-II can further protect and enhance the region's environment. This approach will not only advance sustainable energy production but also set a global standard for eco-friendly development within the CPEC framework.

It is crystal clear that China is one of the main drivers of green technologies, hub of alternative energies and biggest investor of renewables in the world having resources and appropriate expertise to assist Pakistan to maintain an ideal equilibrium between industrialization and green environment in the future. It is good omen that Pakistan and China are deepening cooperation in emerging green sectors through the CPEC. The green CPEC project should be a global model of people-centred, promote win-win cooperation that significantly advances new energy transition and sustainable economic development.

Acceleration of the Chinese industry relocation and technology transfer to Pakistan will further enhance bilateral cooperation across green sectors that will definitely fuel local economic development and energy transition allowing Chinese firms to benefit from Pakistan's lower production costs, facilitating China's green engagements with Central Asia and the Middle East. Interestingly, seeking investments from the Chinese Panda Bonds and

green bonds issued by foreign entities in China and Chinese banks, will contribute to funding green projects and fostering sustainable development in Pakistan. Critical analysis reveals that China has been prioritizing ecological and environmental protection as integral to human development, focusing more on improving people's living standards, which Pakistan views as a model for its modernization.

<https://pakobserver.net/cpec-and-3rd-plenum-green-transformation/>

CPEC: Eleven Years of Strategic Growth and Future Prospects

Z.H. Khan

The two nations celebrate 11th anniversary of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) which has great significance. It has substantially consolidated Pakistan's macro-economy and various associated sectors and sub-sectors. China has emerged as Pakistan's biggest investors, stimulators and facilitator providing notable investments, concessional & unconditional loans, and brotherly grants that have been pivotal in driving Pakistan's growth in right direction but unfortunately various internal factors and external forces succeeded to derail its economy through constant political instability and social polarization.

The CPEC has not only strengthened provincial, regional and trans-regional connectivity but has also boosted long-term collaboration. China's investment has further transformed Pakistan's infrastructure, energy, and production sectors. It showcases a visionary commitment that has significantly shaped the trajectory of Pakistan's economic sectors. Right from the beginning, China pledged to invest US\$60 billion in investments aimed at invigorating Pakistan's infrastructure, energy, and production sectors.

According to many published reports, news items and research papers, CPEC was estimated to create over 2.3 million jobs between 2015 and 2030 and contribute an additional 2.0 to 2.5 percentage points to Pakistan's GDP. Therefore, the CPEC should not be treated merely as an investment but a strategic stimulus poised to regenerate Pakistan's national economy. Frankly speaking it remained a real lifeline to the country's sinking economy promoting the message of stability, sustainability and systematic development. Thus it has transformative power and highlights the deepening Pak-China partnership.

Critical analysis upholds that during the last 11 years China's investment of over US\$25.4 billion in Pakistan has overpoweringly affected key sectors mainly transport, energy, and infrastructure which vividly reflects Beijing's strong commitment of improving connectivity and promoting economic growth. Additionally, China also provided much needed 30 billion yuan in loans and the creation of a currency swap arrangement which are now promoting financial integration and banking cooperation. Thus modernization and digitalization of banking & financial sectors is the need of hour.

The Chinese loans and grants secured Pakistan's financial stability and further strengthened its debt management capabilities. It eased the pressure of debt repayments but also allowed Pakistan to diversify its trade options, decreasing its dependence on the dollar and improving its foreign exchange reserves. It simply underscores China's role in reinforcing Pakistan's economic resilience.

Building of the Special Economic Zones (SEZs) was formed to attract substantial investment and drive economic growth. Till today, four of these SEZs are nearing operational status, projecting a significant landmark in the CPEC's development. Hopefully, the remaining five SEZs are expected to become fully functional by 2030. Obviously, CPEC has made significant development in expanding Pakistan's power generation capacity. It addresses the immediate demands but also sets the stage for a more sustainable and environmentally conscious future. Actually, it diversified its energy sources and transformed Pakistan into an energy-surplus country. It represents a strategic shift that fosters industrial growth and enhances economic stability. Afterwards it has become a magnet for the FDIs projecting CPEC's role in reshaping Pakistan's economic domain.

It remained one of the biggest supporters of Pakistan's blue economy, with Gwadar port standing out as a central success. In near future Gwadar would be a thriving maritime hub, actively facilitating global trade and commerce. It would play an important role in Pakistan's economic strategy and emphasizes the substantial benefits of CPEC for both nations. Initially designed to connect Gwadar Port with China's Xinjiang region, CPEC has expanded into a comprehensive initiative that includes energy projects, infrastructure development, and industrial collaboration.

The transformation of the Gwadar Port into a fully operational trade centre is a demonstration to CPEC's ambitious scope and its potential to drive significant economic growth. It carries a wide vision, where infrastructure improvements and strategic investments not only elevate Pakistan's economic standing but also reinforce the bilateral ties between China and Pakistan.

CPEC Phase-II promises a significant expansion of the initiative. The new phase further widens the project's scope beyond its original focus, incorporating agriculture and information technology into its ambit. It aims to enhance economic collaboration and technological integration, reflecting a strategic evolution in China's ambitious BRI.

Beijing's promise of an additional US\$1 billion grant to Pakistan underscores a deepening partnership rooted in shared prosperity. Notably, over 35,000 Pakistani students are currently benefiting from educational opportunities in China, reflecting the rich cultural and academic exchange between the countries. According to different sources, the CPEC Phase-II plans to complete 63 new projects, with an estimated value of US\$35 billion by 2030. This ambitious expansion highlights a mutual commitment to not only enhancing regional connectivity but also to fostering economic integration that reaches into Afghanistan and Central Asia.

Its future is bright promising significant transformation, as both countries work together to realize a vision of holistic outlook and comprehensive development and cooperation based on qualitative industrialization, digitalization, ICT, Artificial Intelligence, hybrid agriculture, science & space development reinforcing the strategic importance of their joint cooperation on regional as well as global stage. The policy makers of Pakistan should try to include new projects of hydrogen power generation, lithium battery, solar panels production, EVs and last but not least, green energy technologies to promote community development, poverty eradication, women empowerment and generation of new jobs.

The CPEC Phase-II should be primarily focused on business-to-business arrangements, especially in the industrial sector. Decision to send 1,000 Pakistani agricultural graduates to China for advanced training should be formulated and implemented as soon as possible. It seems that the necessity of adopting modern technology and methods is necessary to increase agricultural output and the development of the value-added products for export. China could be a crucial partner in achieving these objectives. Coordinated efforts should be initiated to pursue the Chinese entrepreneurs, investors and businessmen to engage in business-to-business agreements with their Pakistani counterparts. Joint ventures between Pakistan and China in the textile industry and agricultural production should also be launched, with the products from these ventures exported to markets with high taxes. Both countries should adopt joint mechanisms for creating mutually beneficial propositions.

<https://pakobserver.net/cpec-eleven-years-of-strategic-growth-and-future-prospects/>

China is Pakistan's trusted friend, strategic partner: Faisal Malik

Zubair Qureshi

China is Pakistan's trusted friend and strategic partner and both countries value the strong bond of friendship that spans over decades and has stood all the tests of times and climes. These views were expressed by Chairman and Editor-in-Chief of Pakistan Observer Mr Faisal Zahid Malik in a meeting with a delegation of the Embassy of the People's Republic of China (PRC) that visited the offices of Pakistan Observer.

While referring to the Chinese President Xi Jinping's third term, Mr. Faisal Malik said it was again the biggest motivation and reflection of the Chinese people's abiding trust in their leadership. He expressed his confidence that under the leadership of President Xi Jinping, the people of China would continue their march towards success and glory. He also appreciated the Chinese mediation between the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA) and Iran. This further cements China's global leadership role for international peace. Regarding Pakistan-China relations, he was of the view that Pakistan was benefiting greatly from President Xi's Belt & Road Initiative (B&RI).

The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is a flagship project of the BRI and has proven to be a game-changer for Pakistan's economy, generating hundreds of thousands of employment opportunities and huge economic activity. CPEC, with an investment of over US \$62 billion, has brought the promise of economic prosperity and stability for Pakistan at a time when investment was scarce and the country was facing the worst financial challenges. Last year, both China and Pakistan celebrated the 10th anniversary of the CPEC and agreed to take it to the next phase with the same vigour and continue their cooperation for the common good and benefit of their people.

Besides industrial and business cooperation, cultural exchanges also contribute greatly to the stronger people-to-people and government-to-government ties, he said and urged activation of cultural linkages apart from the usual business and corporate trips from the two sides.

Minister Counselor Mr. Xu Hangtian thanked the Chairman of Pakistan Observer and his team for extending warm welcome and commended Pakistan Observer for giving good

coverage to the Belt Road Initiative (B&RI) and its positive impacts. Mr. Xu Hangtian also spoke about the Chinese innovations in the agri sector and proposed that Pakistan being primarily an agriculture country can greatly benefit from the Chinese technology and innovative meth-ods to enhance this particular sector. Later, the Chi-nese delegation visited various offices and sections of the Pakistan Observer and met the staff members of the newspaper and OTV there.

<https://pakobserver.net/china-is-pakistans-trusted-friend-strategic-partner-faisal-malik/>

The Nation

CPEC Phase-II: Ahsan directs WGs to prepare concept papers on 5 new corridors

ISLAMABAD - Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Professor Ahsan Iqbal on Tuesday directed all Working Groups (WGs) to prepare concept papers on five new corridors, proposed by Chinese President Xi Jinping in August last, including growth, livelihood, innovation, green energy and regional connectivity for CPEC Phase-II. “The concept papers for all CPEC Phase-II projects should be completed as soon as possible, aligning with these five new corridors,” he said while chairing a review meeting on CPEC projects. Among others, the meeting was attended by Secretary Planning Awais Manzur Sumra, secretaries of concerned ministries and senior officials. Ahsan Iqbal informed the meeting that Pakistan and China have agreed to initiate work on these five corridors, which were aligned with Pakistan’s 5Es framework (Export, Energy, Equity, E-Pakistan and Environment) for its economic development. Elaborating the five new initiatives, he said that under the Livelihood Corridor provision of the best amenities to the people and creating employment opportunities were included. Under the Innovation Corridor, the minister said new projects would be initiated through modern technology and imparting information technology skills to the youth. While the CPEC would be used to promote connectivity and establish more friendly relations with Central Asian states under the Open Regional Cooperation, he said. He expressed confidence that comprehensive documents on these five corridors would be prepared by the end of current month, which would be shared with the Chinese leadership in due course of time. The planning minister also directed the ministries concerned to prepare five-year plans under the CPEC portfolio for submission in the Joint Cooperation Committee, stressing to hold regular meetings of joint working groups in September so that the next five-year CPEC strategy could be evolved. “Our aim should be industrial and commercial development and increase in foreign investment,” he said adding long-term projects be included in the working group with sector-wise breakup. Ahsan Iqbal gave a 15-day timeline to all the ministries concerned to submit their CPEC-related projects.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/21-Aug-2024/cpec-phase-ii-ahsan-directs-wgs-to-prepare-concept-papers-on-5-new-corridors>

Nawaiwaqt News

بارانی سی، وی ربا کر مدد ممکن ہر میں شعبے کے تعلیم اور زراعت کی پاکستان چین

یونیورسٹی

راولپنڈی) سٹاف رپورٹر (پیر مہر علی شاہ بارانی زرعی یونیورسٹی راولپنڈی کے وائس چانسلر پروفیسر ڈاکٹر محمد نعیم نے کہا ہے کہ پاکستان اور چین کے درمیان دیر پا دوستی ہے اور چین پاکستان کی ترقی بالخصوص زراعت اور تعلیم کے شعبے میں ہر ممکن مدد کر رہا ہے اور موجودہ چینی وفد کا دورہ پاکستان چین دعوتی اور زرعی شعبے میں تعاون کو مضبوط بنانے میں اہم قدم ثابت ہو گا ان خیالات کا اظہار انہوں نے یونیورسٹی کے دورے پر آئے ہوئے چینی وفد سے ملاقات میں کیا اس موقع پر یونیورسٹی ڈین ڈاریکٹرز بھی موجود تھے۔ فریقین نے مستقبل میں تعاون کے لیے مختلف شعبوں میں باہمی دلچسپی کے شعبوں پر تبادلہ خیال کیا چینی وفد نے اجلاس کے شرکا کو یہ بھی بتایا کہ چین نے یونیورسٹی ریسرچ فارم، کونٹ میں جدید ترین آبپاشی کے نظام کو عطیہ کرے گا اور اس شراکت کو باقاعدہ بنانے کے لیے ایک مفاہمت کی یادداشت (ایم او یو) پر جلد ہی دستخط کیے جائیں گے قبل ازیں وفد کا استقبال وائس چانسلر پروفیسر ڈاکٹر محمد نعیم اور ڈین فیکلٹی آف ایگریکلچر پروفیسر ڈاکٹر طارق مختار نے کیا وائس چانسلر پروفیسر ڈاکٹر محمد نعیم نے یونیورسٹی کے مشن، کاموں اور پروگراموں کے بارے میں بتایا اور مختلف کامیابیوں اور اقدامات کا اشتراک کیا اور وفد کے ساتھ مکمل، جاری اور مجوزہ تعلیمی اور تحقیقی منصوبوں سے آگاہ کیا انہوں نے اعلیٰ کارکردگی کے نظام آبپاشی اور دیگر مشترکہ تحقیقی سرگرمیوں کے شعبوں میں تحقیقی اور علمی تعاون کی امید ظاہر کی۔

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2024-08-21/page-8/detail-43>

August 22, 2024

Business Recorder

Pakistan's FDI dilemma

Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) is often considered a crucial indicator of a nation's economic health, reflecting its attractiveness to global investors. As the fiscal year 2025 (FY25) begins, Pakistan has seen a notable rise in monthly FDI. However, the underlying dynamics of these inflows reveal a deeper, more concerning reality that has been ignored for a long time.

The start of FY25 has seen a rise in monthly FDI. The latest data from the State Bank of Pakistan shows that the country received a total of \$136.3 million in net foreign direct investment (FDI) in July 2024, marking an increase of 64 percent year-on-year compared to July 2023. The annual FDI for FY24 stood at \$1.9 billion, up by 17 percent year-on-year.

Despite the reported growth, foreign direct investment in Pakistan remains weak and lackluster—still far from the peak levels seen in the early 2000s or even during the more modest peak between 2014-15. This points to a much more serious issue, which is not just the low level of foreign investment but also the stagnant rate of inflows, which remains confined to a limited number of countries and sectors.

According to theories that explain the types of FDI in different countries, these inflows in Pakistan primarily represent investments by companies looking to meet domestic demand for consumer goods, retail, energy, telecommunications, and other import-driven sectors. There is little investment in areas that could bolster the country's exports, encourage technology transfer, or promote import substitution— except in a few rare cases. This trend is evident from the sector-wise and country-wise breakdown of net inflows, where FDI over the years has been concentrated in sectors like oil and gas, telecommunications, financial services, and the power sector. The power sector has been the leading recipient of FDI over the past six to seven years.

The power sector continued to attract the most FDI in July 2024, accounting for 46 percent of net inflows. This trend has remained consistent over the years, with the power sector comprising 42 percent of the total FDI.

Stagnation in foreign investor diversity is also a concern, with China (including Hong Kong) contributing a large portion of the total FDI into the country. In FY24, FDI from China made up 30 percent of the total, while other key investors, including the US, UK, and a few others, have shown little to no significant growth, leaving Pakistan's overall FDI at alarmingly low levels.

Pakistan's approach to attracting FDI requires a fundamental overhaul. Not all FDI is beneficial, but relying on a few countries or sectors will not drive the nation forward. Much of the issue stems from the country's overall investment climate, which, when compared to other countries in the region, might not be attractive to investors. To secure a more robust economic future, it must broaden its focus, improve its investment environment, and diversify the sectors and sources of FDI. Without these reforms and other necessary changes for the economy, the country risks continuing its cycle of slow growth and limited economic progress.

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2024/08/22/2-page/1004231-news.html>

Key visit to Beijing

Sesame exporters forge strong ties with Chinese partners

KARACHI: A delegation of 23 sesame exporters from Pakistan recently concluded a successful visit to Beijing and Handan city in Hebei Province, China, from August 18-21, 2024. The visit highlighted a significant step towards strengthening trade relations between Pakistan and China in the sesame sector.

On August 19, 2024, the delegation attended the Pakistan-China B2B Sesame Conference at the Pakistan Embassy in Beijing.

This pivotal event, organized by the Mission and the China National Grains Association (CNAGS), was inaugurated by Ambassador of Pakistan to China and Wang Zhenzhong, Vice President of CNAGS.

Hafiz Saad bin Mustafa, leader of the Pakistani delegation, also addressed the conference.

A notable presentation by an analyst from SCI Group provided insights into the current demand and supply dynamics of sesame in the Chinese market, including price trends.

The conference attracted representatives from 19 major Chinese enterprises, including COFCO, Beijing Capital Agribusiness & Foods Group, Jingliang Holdings, Hebei Grain Group, and Zhuochuang Consulting Co., Ltd.

Following the inaugural session, over 100 individual B2B meetings were conducted between the Pakistani delegation and Chinese companies.

These discussions underscored a strong interest among Chinese firms in sourcing sesame seeds from Pakistan, leading to fruitful exchanges and exploration of collaboration opportunities.

On August 20, the delegation visited Daming County in Handan City, Hebei Province.

The visit was led by the Commercial Counsellor of Pakistan at Beijing and received a warm welcome from Gao Wei, Secretary General of the Chinese Communist Party Committee of Daming County, who hosted a luncheon in honor of the Pakistani delegation.

The local government demonstrated exceptional hospitality, providing comprehensive arrangements for factory visits and a B2B seminar.

Daming County is a major consumer of sesame in China, accounting for 20 percent of the country's imports, with an annual intake exceeding 200,000 MT. Despite current imports from Ethiopia, Mozambique, India, and other countries, there is minimal importation of sesame from Pakistan. The delegation's visit was a key opportunity to introduce Pakistani sesame to new importers and explore potential for expanding exports.

The delegation toured four leading factories in Daming County: Jing Xinquan Sesame Oil, Wudelli Flour, Daming Fu Sesame Oil, and Taidu Group.

Following these visits, a B2B seminar organized by the Daming County Government facilitated meetings between Pakistani delegates and representatives from 10 top Chinese companies. The seminar, led by Wang Pei, a senior official from the Daming County Government, focused on discussions regarding pricing, quantity, quality, and flavor preferences for Pakistani sesame.

The negotiations between the Commercial Counsellor, Pakistani enterprises, and Chinese officials resulted in a preliminary agreement to support Pakistani sesame exports through the establishment of a warehousing facility in Daming County's industrial zone.

This agreement, which is in the early stages of development, underscores the Chinese commitment to increasing imports of Pakistani sesame.

This visit marks a significant milestone in fostering closer trade ties between Pakistan and China and sets the stage for future collaboration in the sesame industry. Now the delegation is visiting Shanghai from 21-24th August 2024.—PR

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2024/08/22/4-page/1004264-news.html>

Daily Times

LCCI launches Chinese language courses

The Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI) is set to launch Chinese language courses aimed at enhancing business communication and fostering stronger trade relations between Pakistan and China.

The initiative is part of LCCI's ongoing efforts to equip the business community with the necessary skills to navigate the growing economic ties between the two countries, LCCI spokesman told the media here Wednesday.

The Chinese language courses are designed to cater to professionals, entrepreneurs and individuals who seek to engage more effectively with Chinese businesses. The program will cover essential language skills including basic communication and business terminology enabling participants to better understand and interact with their Chinese counterparts.

Interested individuals are encouraged to register for the course before the deadline of August 25. The courses will be conducted by experienced instructors, ensuring a high standard of learning and practical application.

LCCI President Kashif Anwar and Acting President Zafar Mahmood Chaudhry highlighted the importance of this initiative saying that China continues to be one of Pakistan's most significant trade partners, understanding the language and culture is crucial for business community. This course will provide LCCI members with a competitive edge in the international market.”

For registration and further details, interested participants can visit the LCCI office or contact 111-222-499. The LCCI urges all prospective learners to secure their spots before the August 25 deadline, as spaces are limited.

This initiative is yet another example of LCCI's commitment to empowering the business community by providing them with the tools and resources needed to thrive in a globalized economy.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1219432/lcci-launches-chinese-language-courses/>

Pakistan's farm sector gets a boost as exports to China rise

Necessary measures have been adopted to promote Pakistani farm product pour into China, China Economic Net (CEN) reported on Wednesday.

Data released by the Pakistan National Bureau of Statistics recently showed that the country's total exports in the FY 2023-2024 (July 2023 to June 2024) were USD 30.64 billion, a year-on-year increase of 10.54%, among which agricultural product exports performed fairly well, reaching a record USD 8 billion, a year-on-year increase of 37%.

Particular attention should be given to the rice exports, which has increased from USD 2 billion to USD 3.6 billion in fiscal year 2024, an increase of 80% year-on-year, ranking first in the country's export crops.

Currently, Pakistan is the world's fourth largest rice exporter, and its rice has been exported to 193 countries and regions.

So far, many Pakistani seed companies have cooperated with Chinese counterparts to carry out hybrid rice breeding on a large scale, and have cultivated a variety of hybrid rice that adapts to the planting conditions in different regions, and their export competitiveness continues to increase.

Relevant departments in Pakistan predict that rice exports are expected to reach USD 5 billion this fiscal year.

In addition to rice, vegetables such as onions, peppers, tomatoes, and fruits such as mangoes and cherries that come from the south Asian country are also quite competitive in the international market.

Pakistan's fruit and vegetable products have been exported to including but not limited to Middle East, Central Asia, and Europe.

"The government is closely following the trends in the international agricultural product market as well as actively coordinating relevant measures with exporters.

With the active promotion of various departments, Pakistan's agricultural product exports will further grow," noted Waheed Ahmed, chairman of All Pakistan Fruit & Vegetable Exporters Importers and Merchants Association.

At present, China and Pakistan have signed a protocol on the export of high-class agricultural products such as onions, cherries, and dried peppers to China.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1219578/pakistans-farm-sector-gets-a-boost-as-exports-to-china-rise/>

Advance tech to enable Sahiwal Coal plant to generate clean energy

The Focal Person of Sahiwal Coal Fired Power Plant has said that the clean and green environment of the power plant is evidence of its environmentally friendly nature.

The advanced technology being used at Sahiwal Coal Fired Power Plant enables it to produce clean energy, according to a press release. The combustion of coal in the boiler produces the heat to convert water into high-pressure steam to rotate the turbines and ultimately rotate the electrical generator to produce electricity, along with ash and other gases like CO₂, NO_x, and SO_x majorly, it further said. Ash and these all gases are dangerous for the environment if they are not controlled. In the Sahiwal Coal Fired Power Plant, low NO_x burner technology is being incorporated in the super-critical boiler. So, significantly less NO_x is formed by reducing the peak flame temperature of burners in the boiler.

To control the effect of CO₂, more than 50000 trees have been planted in the power plant and more trees are being planted under the Pakistan Prime Minister's 10 billion Tree Campaign, the focal person further said. After the combustion in the boiler, the flue gas is treated in ESP (Electrostatic Precipitation) and FGD (Flue gas desulfurization). The incorporation of ESP technology has enabled the Sahiwal coal-fired Power Plant to remove ash from the flue gas while the FGD technology to desulfurize the flue gas to a value that is far less than that of the

standards set by the Punjab Environmental Protection Agency (PEPA) and even World Bank. All the emission values of flue gas are monitored through a Continuous Emission Monitoring System (CEMS). The values are monitored and controlled by the operation engineers 24/7 a day. The ash is removed from the flue gas with an efficiency of 99.9% in ESP. The ash is then dumped into the ash yard where the spraying water vehicle sprays water several times a day to keep the top surface of dumped ash wet so that it does not fly in the air to cause environmental pollution.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1219567/advance-tech-to-enable-sahiwal-coal-plant-to-generate-clean-energy/>

The News

Pak exporters open new trade channels in China

KARACHI: A recent visit by a 23-member delegation of Pakistani sesame exporters to Beijing and Handan in Hebei province, China, marked a pivotal moment in enhancing trade relations between Pakistan and China in the sesame industry. The trip, concluded on August 19, featured the Pakistan-China B2B Sesame Conference held at the Pakistan Embassy in Beijing. An analyst from SCI Group presented a comprehensive overview of sesame demand and supply trends in China, including price fluctuations. The conference was attended by representatives from 19 prominent Chinese enterprises such as COFCO, Beijing Capital Agribusiness and Foods Group, Jingliang Holdings, Hebei Grain Group, and Zhuochuang Consulting Co, Ltd. Following the conference, the delegation engaged in over 100 B2B meetings with Chinese firms, revealing a keen interest in sourcing sesame seeds from Pakistan. These interactions fostered valuable exchanges and opened doors to potential collaborations. On August 20, the delegation travelled to Daming County in Handan City -- a key hub for sesame consumption in China, accounting for 20 per cent of the nation's imports with an annual intake exceeding 200,000 MT. Despite current imports from Ethiopia, Mozambique, India, and other countries, Pakistani sesame has a minimal presence. The visit provided a crucial opportunity to introduce Pakistani sesame to new importers and explore expansion possibilities. The delegation toured four leading factories in Daming County: Jing Xinquan Sesame Oil, Wudelli Flour, Daming Fu Sesame Oil, and Taidu Group. Subsequently, a B2B seminar organized by the Daming County government facilitated discussions between Pakistani delegates and representatives from the top 10 Chinese companies. The seminar, led by Wang Pei from the Daming County government, focused on key aspects such as pricing, quantity, quality, and flavour preferences for Pakistani sesame. Discussions between the commercial counsellor, Pakistani enterprises, and Chinese officials led to a preliminary agreement to support Pakistani sesame exports through the development of a warehousing facility in Daming County's industrial zone. This early-stage agreement highlights China's commitment to boosting imports of Pakistani sesame.

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=334906>

August 23, 2024

Jang News

چین نے جارحیت کا مظاہرہ کیے بغیر عروج حاصل کیا: مشاہد حسین سید

سابق وفاقی وزیر مشاہد حسین سید کا کہنا ہے کہ چین گلوبلائزیشن کا آرکیٹیکٹ ہے کیونکہ چین نے جارحیت کا مظاہرہ کیے بغیر عروج حاصل کیا ہے۔

مشاہد حسین نے کتاب کی تقریب رونمائی سے خطاب کرتے ہوئے کہا کہ چین نے کسی پر قبضہ کیے بغیر، نوآبادیات قائم کیے بغیر اور جارحیت کے بغیر عروج حاصل کیا۔

انہوں نے کہا کہ دنیا کے مختلف ممالک چین کے بیلٹ اینڈ روڈ منصوبے کی مخالفت کرتے ہیں مگر اس کی نقل بھی کرتے ہیں۔

مشاہد حسین سید نے یہ بھی کہا کہ امریکانے چین کے خلاف پراپیگنڈے کے لیے 3 سو ملین ڈالر رکھے ہیں۔

<https://jang.com.pk/news/1383151>

August 24, 2024

Business Recorder

Economic corridor: unfinished agenda

Farhat Ali

Although much steam out of CPEC (China Pakistan Economic Corridor) has been let out, the unquestionable positivity demonstrated on it by Pakistan and China, from time to time, makes this mega infrastructure project stand firmly on the ground as an unfinished agenda item. On the occasion of the celebrations of the completion of a decade of CPEC, in August 2023, the Chinese Vice Premier paid a three-day visit to Pakistan and conveyed President Xi Jinping's message through which the latter congratulated Pakistan on the achievement of this milestone, and encouraged to enhance cooperation with China across multiple fronts. The Chinese President proposed five new corridors which are reported to be: growth, livelihood, innovation, green energy and regional connectivity for CPEC.

One year later, the Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Professor Ahsan Iqbal, this Tuesday directed all Working Groups (WGs) to prepare concept papers on five new corridors proposed by Chinese President Xi in August last year, including growth, livelihood, innovation, green energy and regional connectivity for CPEC Phase-II. The minister elaborated that many joint working groups' meetings would be held in the next month and instructed the relevant ministries to prepare concept papers for next five years under the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) projects Phase-2.

He said that Pakistan and China have agreed to start work on five economic corridors as soon as possible under CPEC Phase - 2.

But, the very fact that after one year from the announcement of CPEC Phase-2 in August 2023, this phase has just made the beginning of preparing concept papers. This approach makes it clear that Phase-2 is not materialising anytime soon. It lacks enthusiasm and urgency.

The CPEC, a decade ago, started with great enthusiasm under a hope of something real big happening. On 21st April, 2015, at the inaugural ceremony of the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), President Xi addressed the parliament of Pakistan. During his address, he signified the nature of the relationship between China and Pakistan with a Chinese saying “Strong wind reveals the strength of grass, and genuine gold stands the test of fire.”

In the first decade of the life-cycle of CPEC, termed as Phase-1, China has made an investment of around 25 billion dollars, notably in the energy and infrastructure sector. In the energy sector with 14 projects completed and 2 under construction a total of 7280MW of electricity has been added to the national grid, while the arrival of an additional 4428MW of electricity is in process. In the infrastructure sector, a total of 6 projects with 1656 km of road network have been completed across provinces, while 18 more projects of 4244.6km road network are reported to be under way.

The jewel of CPEC is Gwadar, where 4 major projects out of a total of 14 projects to develop the Gwadar Port have been completed, including Gwadar Port and free-zone, Gwadar Smart-port city master plan, Pak-China Technical and Vocational Institute at Gwadar, Pak-China Friendship Hospital and Gwadar Eastbay Expressway. Gwadar Airport is also underway to be fully operational anytime soon.

China’s priority under its ‘Belt and Road Initiative’ is the Gwadar port and its connectivity with China. This ambition has been accomplished by China and it appears satisfied on this account. As a give and take, China offered Pakistan, under the umbrella of CPEC, to develop its needs in the energy sector, infrastructure, industry, technology and businesses. This part did not go well for Pakistan.

CPEC for a long time was dreamed as a game changer for the economy of Pakistan and this could have held true if Pakistan’s leadership would have acted responsibly and made the right choices in the best national interests. This did not happen and the CPEC dream turned sour.

The then leadership went for expensive and superfluous unsustainable mega projects in infrastructure and energy sectors and that too recklessly without considering the demand side and gaps in the system and the fragile state of country’s economy. At the end of the day the installed capacity of electricity was made to increase to 42,000 MW while the demand at its peak turned out to be half of it. And same held true for the evacuation capacity of the electricity transmission network. The revenue generated out of the investment was too meager to pay back the Chinese loan, whilst, the accumulation of debt burdened the fiscal sustainability of the state.

In fact what is now CPEC Phase-2 should have been CPEC Phase-1 to start with. This would have prepared the nation with rapid industrial growth, innovation and employment, engaging the regional powers to share CPEC connectivity - all of it resulting in enhanced revenue generation, enabling the nation to benefit and absorb the output and investment in mega projects. The Special Economic Zones (EPZ) foreseen under CPEC, though earmarked, remain largely unpopulated. Today, the nation stands with sluggish industrial growth, heavy debt on investments made in the energy and infrastructure sectors under CPEC- lying mostly unutilized.

To put CPEC back on track is a great challenge. Security dilemma, which upsets the Chinese the most, is the foremost challenge followed by the settlement of the dues of the Chinese contractors engaged in projects in Pakistan.

CPEC is undoubtedly in the best interest of both China and Pakistan. In addition to bilateral benefits it promises to the two countries, it holds great benefits for other regional countries in the orbit as well. It provides connectivity between China, Russia, Iran, Pakistan, Turkey and Central Asian countries. CPEC can prove to be a useful linchpin for Pakistan. The unfinished agenda of CPEC needs focus.

(The writer is former President of Overseas Investors Chamber of Commerce and Industry)

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2024/08/24/4-page/1004593-news.html>

Daily Times

First batch of Chinese homegrown white broiler eggs exported to Pakistan

* Pakistani delegation of 23 sesame seeds exporters visits China

First batch of Chinese homegrown white broiler eggs has been exported to Pakistan, China Economic Net (CEN) reported on Friday.

As reported, in the early morning on August 22, 2024, a flight from Guangzhou Baiyun Airport touched down at the land of Pakistan after a long journey.

In the cargo hold of the plane stood a consignment of special “guests” – 172,800 “Guangming No. 2” White Feathered Broiler eggs from China.

The shipment, all domestically bred by Foshan Gaoming District Xinguang Agriculture and Animal Husbandry Co., Ltd. and Beijing Institute of Animal Science (IAS) of Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences (CAAS), marking the first time China has exported its own breed of poultry to Pakistan.

“This export of white-feathered broiler breeding eggs to Pakistan means a lot to us. More Chinese breeding eggs will go abroad, not only to Pakistan, but also to the globe, ” Liu Dawei, deputy general manager of Xinguang, and person in charge of White Feather Broiler project, said in excitement.

The reporter learned that the “Guangming No. 2” White Feather Broiler weighed more than 3kg at 42 days of age and had a feed-to-weight ratio of 1.32-1.5:1.

More than that, they have significant advantages such as rapid growth and high survival rate.

The 172,800 hatching eggs exported to Pakistan could provide more than 50,000 sets of “Guangming No. 2” parent broilers after 21 days of incubation.

Before long, they could provide more than 7 million commercial broilers, that is, more than 21,000 tons of chicken.

Over the past four decades, the vast majority of white-feathered broiler breeders in the world have been monopolized by developed countries in Europe and the United States, and China’s dependence on foreign white-feathered broiler breeders once reached 100%.

By the end of 2021, three varieties including “Guangming No. 2” had passed the review, thus domestic white-feathered broiler breeders were independently cultivated in China.

Today, Pakistan faces the same dilemma that China once faced. Statistics showed that there're only about half a dozen companies that import all of grandparent stock or GPs in the country.

GPs are the birds that produce the parent stock which, in turn, produce broilers for mass consumption.

Now, China-Pakistan breeding poultry export cooperation has taken a successful first step, which will lay a solid foundation for the two countries to jointly promote the innovative development of the global broiler breeding industry.

A delegation of 23 sesame seeds exporters from Pakistan visited Beijing and Handan city of Hebei Province of China near Beijing this week.

During the visit, they got big orders from Chinese companies and expected to become Pakistan's top exporter of sesame seeds to China this year, China Economic Net (CEN) reported on Friday.

On August 19, the delegation attended Pakistan China B2B Sesame Conference at Pakistan Embassy in Beijing.

The b2b conference was arranged by Mission and China National Grains Association (CNAGS). The conference was inaugurated by Ambassador of Pakistan to China Khalil Hashmi and Vice President of CNAGS, Wang Zhenzhong.

The leader of delegation Hafiz Saad bin Mustafa also spoke at the occasion.

Analyst from SCI Group made a presentation at the conference highlighting demand and supply situation in the Chinese market and related price dynamics.

The conference was attended by 19 top Chinese enterprises interested in importing sesame seeds from Pakistan including, inter-alia, COFCO, Beijing Capital Agribusiness & Foods Group, Jingliang Holdings, Hebei Grain Group and Zhuochuang Consulting Co., Ltd.

During the visit, the delegation also visited Daming County of Handan City, Hebei Province.

Daming city consumes 20% of Chinese sesame imports of China and currently imports over 200,000 MT of sesame seeds per annum whereas Chinese imports for the whole year constitute 1 million MT per annum.

Daming county currently imports from Ethiopia, Mozambique, India and others and have currently negligible imports from Pakistan. Visit of the delegation provided a wonderful opportunity to explore new importers and expand Pakistani exports to Daming County.

The delegation visited four top factories in Daming county which import large quantities of sesame seeds for producing food products and sesame oil.

The companies included Jing Xinquan Sesame Oil, Wudelli Flour, Daming Fu sesame Oil and Taidu Group.

During the seminar detailed conversations were held between the two sides about the prices, quantities, quality and flavor of the sesame from Pakistan.

In negotiations between Commercial Counsellor and Pakistani enterprises with the Daming Government and top Chinese companies, it was decided that an agreement between Pakistani enterprises and major Chinese state enterprises will be finalized to support Pakistani exports to the county through establishment of warehousing facility in the city's industrial zone.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1220167/first-batch-of-chinese-homegrown-white-broiler-eggs-exported-to-pakistan/>

Pakistan Observer

ISSI hosts book launch for CPEC beyond 2030

The China Pakistan Study Centre (CPSC) at the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) organised the launch of the book, 'China-Pakistan Economic Corridor Beyond 2030: A Green Alliance for Sustainable Development' edited by Dr. Rabia Akhtar and published by Friedrich Ebert Stiftung (FES).

The event was graced by Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed as Chief Guest and Xu Hangtian, Minister Counselor at the Embassy of China in Pakistan, as Guest of Honour, a news release said.

Distinguished reviewers included Ambassador Naghmana Hashmi, former Ambassador of Pakistan to China; Dr. Salma Malik, Associate Professor Quaid-i-Azam University; and Dr. Hassan Daud Butt, former CEO Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Board of Investment. In his remarks, DG ISSI Ambassador Sohail Mahmood highlighted the salience of the all-weather Pakistan-China Strategic Cooperative Partnership in Pakistan's foreign policy and of the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) as its central component. He said that the CPEC, as a flagship project of BRI, connects China's western provinces through Pakistan to the Arabian Sea.

<https://pakobserver.net/issi-hosts-book-launch-for-cpec-beyond-2030/>

China's nuclear threat theory: A reality check

Dr Mehmood Ul Hassan Khan

Despite economic and financial meetings and open communication channels, the U.S. political rhetoric against China continues unabated, reflecting double standards in efforts to establish sustainable ties between the two economic superpowers. In a recent development, according to a New York Times report, US President Joe Biden has ordered US forces to prepare for possible coordinated nuclear confrontations with Russia, China and North Korea. It sounds as if the US President is instructing the military to brace for doomsday. This indicates that the US is not yet ready to abandon its military misadventures.

Interestingly revelations that in March, the US president approved a highly classified nuclear strategy plan named "Nuclear Employment Guidance," which for the first time reoriented the US' deterrent strategy to focus on the so-called threat posed by China's rapid expansion in its nuclear arsenal. The Pentagon believes China's stockpiles will rival the size and diversity of

the US' and Russia's over the next decade. But frankly speaking it has no comparison, relevance and objectivity. Critical analysis ironically reveals that US' security is built on the insecurity of other countries. Apparently the US desires to maintain its hegemonic status and ensures its absolute superiority in power, with nuclear weapons being a crucial tool in maintaining its global dominance. So this new nuclear strategy plan is an excuse for expanding its nuclear arsenal and sustaining its military hegemony.

Many published reports and research papers clearly indicate that China and the US have fundamentally different narratives and perceptions of the strategic role of nuclear weapons. China's nuclear strategy is self-defense and is committed to the policy of no first use of nuclear weapons. Moreover, China does not engage in any nuclear arms race with any other country and keeps its nuclear capabilities at the minimum level required for its own national security. The notion of establishing an offensive nuclear hegemony or pursuing the so-called goal of rivalling the nuclear arsenal size of the US does not align with China's strategic logic. Thus China's development of nuclear weapons is aimed at avoiding threats from other nuclear-armed states.

Additionally, China's nuclear development follows its own set pace, including a measured increase in the quantity and quality of its nuclear arsenal, which will not be persuaded by the US' interference. Therefore due to rapidly emerging geopolitical and geostrategic scenarios in Asia Pacific, South Sea China, Middle East and around the globe, it is a necessary measure for China to safeguard its national security and territorial integrity which seems to be a legitimate act of self-defense. Many international watchdogs and security organizations indicate that in recent years, the US has invested heavily to miniaturize nuclear weapons, lowering the threshold of their use in real-combat, and used nuclear weapons as a bait to hijack its allies and partners. Actually the proliferation of nuclear risks has become a bitter reality.

It is better for the US policy makers to be unrestrained from the Cold War mentality, recognize that a nuclear war cannot be won and must never be fought, thus it should reduce the role of nuclear weapons in national and collective security policies, and take concrete actions to promote global strategic stability, instead of doing the opposite. Therefore, the US should stop or discontinue its smearing and hyping up against China and try to build bridges of mutual trust with China through dialogue and sincerity which is the way forward to secure peace, stability and harmony in the region and globe alike. Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Mao Ning termed the US China nuclear threat as a convenient pretext to shirk its obligation of nuclear disarmament, expand its own nuclear arsenal, and seek absolute strategic predominance.

It seems that the US Government and policymakers have acknowledged the growing threat posed by China's nuclear arsenal, with broad support from lawmakers on Capitol Hill. Pranay Vaddi, a key official on arms control at the White House's National Security Council, confirmed that the US has shifted its strategic focus toward China and other nuclear-armed nations, highlighting a "new and dangerous era" marked by evolving proliferation risks and rapid technological changes. In response, the US is pursuing a more than \$1 trillion modernization of its nuclear triad, including new intercontinental ballistic missiles, bombers

and submarines. However, programs like the Sentinel missiles, B-21 Raider and Columbia-class submarines are facing escalating costs and technical challenges.

In summary, the size of China's nuclear arsenal is not on the same level with the US. China follows a policy of no first use of nuclear weapons and always keeps its nuclear capabilities at the minimum level required by national security. We have no intention to engage in any form of arms race with others. On the contrary, the US possesses the largest and most advanced nuclear arsenal in the world. Even so, it prefers a first-use nuclear deterrence policy, and has invested heavily to upgrade its nuclear triad and blatantly devised nuclear deterrence strategies against others. It is the US who is the primary source of nuclear threat and strategic risks in the world. The document vividly reflects the US hysteria against China propelling for nuclear conflict, which is extremely dangerous.

Definitely, the US hype surrounding China's nuclear arsenal serves as a calculated tactic to justify and bolster its own nuclear weapons program for political manoeuvring and strategic objectives. Chinese policymakers have consistently urged the US to cease nuclear partnerships, avoid "extended deterrence" arrangements, withdraw nuclear weapons deployed overseas and halt the development of a global missile defence system. At international forums, including the UN Office for Disarmament Affairs, China has emphasized the need for nuclear-weapon states to adopt a no-first-use policy as an effective measure to reduce strategic risks. Both countries should focus on fulfilling their responsibilities for nuclear disarmament by significantly reducing their arsenals and creating conditions for broader global disarmament process. Last but not the least, both countries should promote the peaceful use of nuclear energy and stop hyping China's Nuclear Threat.

<https://pakobserver.net/chinas-nuclear-threat-theory-a-reality-check/>

The Express Tribune

IPPs not to blame for tariff hike: Leghari

Power minister says govt negotiating new terms with independent power producers

Federal Minister for Energy Awais Ahmed Khan Leghari has defended the independent power producers (IPPs), asserting that these private entities are not responsible for the rising cost of electricity in the country.

"The IPP policy is not the cause of expensive electricity," Leghari told Voice of America during an exclusive interview. "The high cost of electricity is not due to any government or past policies [either] but rather the result of the country's poor economic condition."

According to the minister, the greatest impact on electricity prices has come from the significant depreciation of the rupee, which alone has led to an increase of Rs8 per unit.

Defending the IPP policy, the energy minister stated that when the country was experiencing an electricity crisis, one country made investments under terms that were unprecedented globally, and thus, the spirit of those agreements cannot be altered.

"When the IPPs invested in dollars, payments must also be made in dollars. Which country borrows in dollars and repays in local currency?" he asked.

The minister said the government will not unilaterally terminate or alter agreements with the IPPs. However, it is negotiating new terms with them, explaining its constraints.

"Whether the IPPs are local or foreign, their agreements are being reviewed with mutual consent, and progress in this regard is actively ongoing. The nation will hear good news regarding IPPs within the next one to two months," he added.

Leghari said that as a result of reforms in the energy sector, electricity prices in Pakistan will soon be comparable to those in other countries in the region.

"The high cost of electricity is not due to production costs but rather due to the rental and repayment of loans for power plants, which is making electricity expensive and affecting the common person's income," he said. "People are forced to spend their savings to pay their electricity bills."

The minister said during Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's visit to China, it was agreed to "re-profile" the Chinese loans provided for the energy sector in Pakistan. Additionally, Chinese companies operating power plants will use local coal instead of imported coal.

He stated that these two measures are being implemented following an agreement with Chinese energy companies. Regarding delays in payments to Chinese companies, Leghari noted that 90% of dues are being paid on time, with delays occurring in only about 10% of payments.

He said improvements in foreign exchange reserves have also balanced payments, and this issue is expected to be resolved in the coming days.

Leghari urged other provinces to follow Punjab's example and take measures to provide relief to people on their electricity bills. He suggested that segments of society whose income is largely consumed by electricity bills should be protected by provincial governments.

"If provincial governments take on the additional burden of providing affordable electricity to the public, they will not need to pay a very large sum.

"Punjab has allocated Rs45 billion from its development budget to provide a discount of Rs14 per unit to the poor and middle class. If Sindh follows this approach, it would require Rs10 billion, and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa would need Rs8 billion," he said.

He said transitioning power plants from imported coal to local coal is a significant change. A railway line is being laid to transport coal extracted from Tharparkar to the power plants.

Leghari said the government is now working on improving the electricity transmission system and has allocated funds for it in the budget.

He rejected the notion that an increase in the installation of solar panels at homes reduces the burden on the national grid and results in higher electricity costs. "If managed responsibly, solar panels could provide electricity to domestic users without causing issues for the national grid."

He said the government is working to attract international export industries to Pakistan to increase electricity demand on the national grid.

Leghari noted that the United States has been a partner in Pakistan's energy sector for 50 years, with most of the country's hydropower projects established with American assistance. "I hope that the US will support Pakistan in reorganizing its electricity transmission system," he said.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2490577/ipps-not-to-blame-for-tariff-hike-leghari>

The News

‘Indo-Pacific strategy is to contain China’

Rasheed Khalid

Islamabad: Former Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed has said that Pakistan is against a regional situation similar to witnessed during Cold War years and disagrees with joining camps to counter any country, especially against its trusted friend China.

Mr Mushahid was addressing at an event on “US’ Asia-Pacific strategy: implications for Pakistan-India relations” organised by Institute of Regional Studies (IRS) here Friday.

Zameer Akram, Adviser, Strategic Plan Division, pointed out that under the so-called Indo-Pacific strategy, many analysts believed that US intended to act as a full-spectrum dominant power with evident control of sea lanes to counter China’s rise. For this objective, the US had even expanded the scope of NATO from Europe to Middle East and Asia, so to contain China. He also highlighted that the US backing emboldened India which was emerging as an aggressor in the region.

Prof Zafar Jaspal stated that India and the US already have a threshold alliance. In view of the aggressive policies of Prime Minister Modi, capacity building of India by the US as a non-NATO ally posed a serious challenge for Pakistan. However, while India was ostensibly working for American interests and receiving assistance accordingly, its regional challenges were multiplying because of its aggressiveness which was exposing its limitations and duplicity.

Former Ashraf Jehangir Qazi stressed that the change of nomenclature Asia-Pacific to Indo-Pacific for a containment strategy by US placed India in a central role fancying targeting China. But China, unlike the former Soviet Union, could not be challenged and defeated by no means through empowering India. He stressed that to avoid a dangerous global conflict, Pakistan must stay clear of any part in such hostile endeavours. He also emphasised that China had never projected itself as a Super Power but only as emerging global power.

Security expert Syed Muhammad Ali noted that China did not seek regional and global hegemon status, rather was economically countering US influence in regions all over the world by building mutually beneficial partnerships. He also noted that within the region, India’s act of aggression was witnessed in case of Pulwama, Galwan and Occupied Kashmir.

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=335583>

August 25, 2024

Business Recorder

Solar PV panels unit

Chinese firm seeks duty-free import of machinery

MUSHTAQ GHUMMAN

ISLAMABAD: A Chinese company has approached the government with a request to eliminate duties and taxes on components and manufacturing equipment used in the local production of solar PV panels to ensure incentives comparable to those offered to importers.

In a letter to SIFC Secretary Jamil Qureshi, the CEO of ReneSola Pakistan, stated that ReneSola Pakistan — a collaboration between the ACT Group and ReneSola, a Tier-1 Chinese solar panel manufacturer — is in the advanced stages of setting up a solar panel assembly facility at Port Qasim in Karachi.

In May 2024, Bo Li, Chairman of ReneSola, and other company representatives visited the SIFC offices as well as the Ministry of Industries, PPIB/AEDB, and Power Division, to discuss the project. During these meetings, the company was assured that a solar policy would be implemented to support the establishment of various solar-related manufacturing facilities in Pakistan.

Based on these assurances, the company expedited efforts to establish a solar assembly plant. The plant is planned to produce 750 MW of panels in Phase 1, an additional 750 MW in Phase 2, and 2 GW of solar cells in Phase 3, with a minimum export target of 50% of the total capacity.

Although the company anticipated that the solar policy would be included in the FY25 budget, it has not yet been announced. Despite this, the company is proceeding with the project, hoping for a rationalized customs duty and sales tax structure that will enable it to operate effectively.

The CEO highlighted an inconsistency in the sales tax and customs duty structure for solar panel manufacturing in Pakistan. Imported panels currently face 0% customs duty and 0% sales tax, while most components of a solar panel are subject to 18% sales tax, except for solar cells, which can be imported duty-free. Since imported panels are tax-exempt, local manufacturers face a disadvantage as the sales tax on components cannot be adjusted, making locally manufactured panels less competitive.

Additionally, equipment imported for the manufacturing of solar panels and cells incur 18% sales tax and 0% customs duty. As there is no sales tax on the sale of finished panels, this tax becomes a non-adjustable cost of manufacturing, further disadvantaging local manufacturers.

The company recommended the following as part of a long-term solar panel manufacturing policy for Pakistan:

Sales Tax and Duty Structure: Implement a sales tax and duty structure for panels and components as detailed below. This would encourage investment in the sector for both export

and import substitution, potentially saving Pakistan \$300-500 million in foreign exchange by year five and generating \$300 million annually. A clear duty structure would not only incentivize the assembly of solar panels but also promote the localization of components with a defined timeframe for establishing component manufacturing facilities.

Elimination of sales taxes and duties: Remove all sales taxes and duties on the import of machinery for the assembly of solar panels and the manufacture of components. This would encourage investment, particularly since the sale of finished goods is exempt from sales tax. This change would allow assemblers and manufacturers to be competitive both domestically and in the export market.

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2024/08/25/1-page/1004622-news.html>

China's plunging coal plant approvals signal energy policy pivot, report says

BEIJING: A sharp drop in new coal plant permits in China suggests the world's largest builder of the polluting power plants is pivoting its energy policy towards more renewable development, although coal will keep playing a major role, a report said on Thursday.

China approved just 10 new coal plants with 9 gigawatts of capacity in the first half of 2024 - an 83% drop on the year, according to a report by the Helsinki-based Centre for Research on Energy and Clean Air (CREA) and US-based Global Energy Monitor.

The report found China has added over 400 GW of wind and solar since 2023, which led to a 7% drop in coal power output between June 2023 and June 2024. "With new renewable energy build-outs now capable of meeting all incremental power demand in China, the need for new coal is waning, and there are signs the central government may be embracing this change," the report said.

"This economic powerhouse has transformed clean energy from a climate policy component into a cornerstone of China's broader energy and economic strategies," it said. China's economic planning body, the National Development and Reform Commission declined to comment on the report.

Other examples of the policy shift include China's decision not to approve any coal-based steel plants in the first half of 2024, and Beijing's move to prioritise carbon emissions reductions, where progress was previously measured by energy efficiency improvements. The permit findings are in line with a Greenpeace analysis also released this week based on a different data set.

Still, China started building 41 GW of previously permitted coal plants during the first half of the year - nearly as much as was built in all of 2022, and over 90% of the global total. In 2022 and 2023, a power crunch and the resulting focus on energy security drove a surge in coal permit approvals.

New project proposals are slowing down, the Thursday report said, but not at the same rate as permits, with 37.4 GW of new and revised proposals were submitted in January-June, down

from 60.2 GW a year earlier. With the government aiming for commissioning of 80 GW of coal-fired power this year, project completions could still surge in the second half of the year.

Experts polled by CREA late last year saw China on track to reach a peak in its carbon emissions before its stated goal of 2030. The new report argues China could accelerate its climate action by cancelling new coal plants, noting that China's existing baseload power capacity of 1,890 GW was already more than sufficient to meet estimated peak energy needs of 1,450 GW.—Reuters

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2024/08/25/7-page/1004657-news.html>

Daily Times

ISSI hosts book launch for ‘CPEC beyond 2030: ‘A green alliance for sustainable development’

The China Pakistan Study Centre (CPSC) at the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) organized the launch of the book, ‘China-Pakistan Economic Corridor Beyond 2030, A Green Alliance for Sustainable Development’ edited by Dr Rabia Akhtar and published by Friedrich Ebert Stiftung (FES).

The event was graced by Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed as Chief Guest and Xu Hangtian, Minister Counselor at the Embassy of China in Pakistan, as a guest of honour.

Distinguished reviewers included Ambassador Naghmana Hashmi, former Ambassador of Pakistan to China; Dr Salma Malik, Associate Professor Quaid-e-Azam University; and Dr Hassan Daud Butt, former CEO Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Board of Investment.

In his remarks, DG ISSI Ambassador Sohail Mahmood highlighted the salience of the all-weather Pakistan-China Strategic Cooperative Partnership in Pakistan's foreign policy and of the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) as its central component.

He said, “CPEC, as a flagship project of BRI, connects China's western provinces through Pakistan to the Arabian Sea.”

“The project is transformative for Pakistan, addressing critical issues such as energy shortages and infrastructural deficit, and enhancing regional connectivity. By revitalising trade routes and promoting economic integration, CPEC is envisioned to play a pivotal role in enhancing Pakistan's position as a central gateway to Asia, the Middle East, and beyond.”

He also highlighted the tangible outcomes accruing from CPEC projects since its commencement 11 years ago.

Ambassador Sohail Mahmood added, “This book emphasizes CPEC's potential to drive sustainable growth. It highlights how CPEC could be transformed into a green development initiative, aligning with global sustainability goals and the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).”

“By integrating green technologies and sustainable practices, CPEC is positioned not only to advance economic growth but also to lead in environmental stewardship. This approach reflected a strategic effort to balance economic benefits with environmental sustainability,

ensuring that CPEC contributes positively to the region's long-term development. In this context, with its actionable recommendations, the book can serve as a coherent roadmap to advance these objectives."

Felix Kolbitz, Country Director FES, expressed gratitude to the editor and authors of the volume and appreciated the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad for their support and collaboration.

He expressed the hope that the book would spark new ideas, encourage further research, and contribute meaningfully to the discourse on sustainable development under the framework of CPEC and beyond.

Ambassador Naghmana Hashmi stated, "It was difficult to come across an economic or connectivity project anywhere in recent times that evokes so many emotions and debates. In many ways, this was a function of the growing geo-political and geo-strategic tensions among major powers, where BRI and its related projects were also being targeted. Using a Chinese leader's dictum, she stressed the expression of 'seeking truth from facts.'

"The book does that by presenting a counter-narrative in support of the BRI and CPEC. The book not only discusses the challenges but also presents solutions in the long-term," she argued.

Dr Salma Malik noted, "The book delves into the political, geostrategic, and environmental aspects of CPEC. It advocates for "Green CPEC" as part of CPEC 2.0 and emphasizes sustainable development by aligning projects with Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and UN guidelines."

Dr. Hassan Daud Butt focused on how one of the main aspects of CPEC had been the development of environmentally sustainable Special Economic Zones (SEZs). He recommended that the government should contribute the right policies to facilitate the private sector investment in SEZs.

While commenting on the book, the editor of the volume Dr. Rabia Akhtar noted, "It is a call for action to re-imagine our future under CPEC beyond the economic statistics and focus on how to reconcile development with sustainability so that both can go hand-in-hand. CPEC must not be only a corridor of commerce but a corridor of consciousness and a keystone for forging a green alliance." Xu Hangtian said, "The dedication of the authors and their detailed work have produced a masterpiece that will serve as a valuable resource on CPEC for years to come." "During the implementation of CPEC, both China and Pakistan were confronted by challenges of sustainability. To offset those, numerous projects have been carried out including export and manufacturing of sustainable energy technology in Pakistan, including in solar and wind domains." In his address, Chief Guest Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed recalled how China undertook massive reforms, achieved modernization, and was now focused on 'peaceful rise.' China has the highest number of Fortune 500 companies and had helped 800 million people lifted from poverty, the biggest number in human history.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1220345/issi-hosts-book-launch-for-cpec-beyond-2030-a-green-alliance-for-sustainable-development/>

PU teacher honored for Chinese language education

Punjab University (PU) Chinese Language Teacher at Confucius Institute Abdullah Ze Hasham has been awarded the title of ‘Outstanding Local Chinese Language Teacher-2024’.

This prestigious accolade was conferred by the Center for Language Education and Cooperation (CLEC), an agency under the Ministry of Education of the People’s Republic of China. According to PU’s spokesperson, the award recognizes exceptional contributions to the promotion and teaching of the Chinese language, and as part of the honor, Abdullah Ze Hasham participated in a two-week intensive training program at Beijing Normal University.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1220344/pu-teacher-honored-for-chinese-language-education/>

Govt reviewing IPP deals, debt reprofiling with China

Power Minister Awais Leghari on Saturday said the federal government has begun reviewing terms of Chinese independent power producers (IPPs) regarding debt reprofiling and the sourcing of coal.

Last month, Islamabad requested Beijing to convert imported coal-based projects to local coal and re-profile more than \$15 billion in energy sector liabilities to create fiscal space amid difficulties in timely repayments.

Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb said both sides had discussed conversions of Chinese power projects to local coal and how to take their technical, logistical, and financial parameters forward.

Leghari previously said that such a transition would benefit the Chinese-owned plants in Pakistan by reducing pressure on foreign exchange reserves, making it easier to repatriate dividends and offering a better return in dollar terms. The transition could save Pakistan more than Rs200bn a year in imports, translating to a decrease of as much as Rs2.5 per unit in the price of electricity, the power minister had said.

Earlier this week, Leghari, in an interview with Voice of America, said that China, like the International Monetary Fund (IMF), wanted to see broader reforms from Pakistan. To achieve that, the minister had said Pakistan had “already authored and embarked upon an entire economic or power sector reform” as desired by China and the IMF.

“It’s going to be a win-win situation for everyone,” Leghari had said, rejecting concerns of reduced savings for Pakistan as a result of possible higher profit margins demanded by Chinese investors. “Unless that isn’t there, people will not invest, lenders will not give money.” Stating that terms and conditions decided with Chinese IPPs needed “another look”, Leghari had affirmed there was an “overwhelming response to have a look and run technical and financial feasibilities on all the aspects of coal conversion and reprofiling”. Expanding upon his VOA interview, Leghari told the media: “We are not beginning but have already begun the review together with the Chinese government in debt reprofiling and coal conversion to local coal.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1220391/govt-reviewing-ipp-deals-debt-reprofiling-with-china/>

The Express Tribune

US itself pushing Asean closer to China

Azhar Azam

A peaceful, stable and resilient region is the lifeblood of ASEAN Community Vision 2025, which is built upon three pillars: Political-Security Community; Economic Community; and Socio-Cultural Community. To implement this vision, the bloc strives to maintain peace and stability, integrate markets and build a community with enhanced capacity and capability to respond effectively to challenges and seize opportunities.

China's Global Security Initiative (GSI) – underpinned by six commitments, including respecting territorial integrity of all countries; abiding by the principles of the UN Charter; and peacefully resolving differences through dialogue – is believed to challenge the US-led security. It fits well with ASEAN's Treaty of Amity and Cooperation that embodies universal principles of peaceful coexistence and calls for mutual respect for sovereignty, non-interference and settlement of disputes peacefully.

There is another striking similarity between the GSI, which seeks to build partnerships based on mutual trust, inclusiveness and win-win cooperation, and consolidate the political foundation for regional peace and ASEAN's vision that aspires to collaborate and cooperate with like-minded partners to promote stability in the region.

The South China Sea (SCS) is perhaps the only major source of friction between ASEAN and China, making the strategic waterways a regional flashpoint and shoving it to a great power competition between China and the US. But the Southeast Asian states do not want to drag themselves in such a situation where they have to choose between the two economic and military heavyweights.

Then there is the Declaration of Conduct on the SCS that stipulates all parties to resolve their disputes by peaceful means. However, it doesn't mean China and ASEAN should not expedite the process of completing the Code of Conduct, which is crucial to prevent the region from sliding into instability as evidenced by the recent Beijing-Manila stand-offs in the SCS.

This is also vital for China given ASEAN in 2021 agreed to elevate their relationship with China to comprehensive strategic partnership and looked to strengthen their ties. Year 2023 marked a milestone for the China-ASEAN relationship since nearly all leaders of the bloc had visited Beijing. During Chinese President Xi Jinping's trip to Vietnam, the leaders of the two countries announced establishing a strategic China-Vietnam community of "shared future", indicating a region-wide consensus to safeguard regional stability and boost trade.

ASEAN's approach is further reflected in its economic relations with China. According to the ASEAN Secretariat, trade between China and ASEAN since 2010 had doubled to \$507.9 billion by 2019 and quadrupled since the entry into force of the China-ASEAN Trade in Goods Agreement in 2005.

While China and ASEAN are strong supporters of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership, this economic relationship has been bolstered by the ASEAN-China Free Trade Agreement, pushing bilateral trade per ASEAN statistics to \$702 billion in 2023 and posting a robust 10.5% growth in H1-2024, according to Chinese data. China has been ASEAN's largest trading partner since 2009; and ASEAN has become China's for three consecutive years.

Unlike the US that practises selective engagement by prioritising countries often seen as strategically important in containing China, Beijing pursues a policy of peaceful coexistence, mutually beneficial cooperation and shared growth – something that is viewed in ASEAN as an effort to build a closer China-ASEAN community with a shared future and enhance "regional peace, security and prosperity" including through upholding the principles of the UN and ASEAN Charter.

This affinity is also reflected in the people, academics and researchers of the ASEAN countries who consider China as an invaluable ally, thanks to their strong trade ties with Beijing, growing people-to-people exchanges and benefits brought about by the projects of China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) such as the China-Laos Railway, Jakarta-Bandung High-Speed Railway and Malaysia's East Coast Rail that promote regional integration and serve as a catalyst of growth for regional economies and domestic tourism and industry.

ASEAN is seeking a greater US role in the region but not at the cost of regional stability and its relations with China. While ASEAN Outlook of the Indo-Pacific (AOIP) strives to promote inclusiveness rather than rivalry in the region, the alliance is committed to reinforce their comprehensive strategic partnership with Beijing.

China is being helped by the US-led mini-lateral alliances such as: Squad, a refined version of Quad, leaving out India and signing on the Philippines alongside Australia, Japan and the US; the JAPHUS, a trilateral grouping of Japan, the Philippines and the US; and the AUKUS, an Australia-UK-US nuclear alliance. These all enfeeble the AOIP relevance by challenging its very principles.

What's more, the ASEAN Economic Community Blueprint 2025 envisages building a highly cohesive, integrated and resilient economy. In the coming years, these security architectures as well as the West's ambivalent attitude toward ASEAN, return of Donald Trump to the White House and labeling of China as "greatest strategic challenge" will likely widen the gap between ASEAN and the US, accelerating the trend of a robust ASEAN-China relationship.

The bloc's view of China radically varies from the West, which interprets the BRI as an emblem of its expansion strategy. Most Southeast Asian nations don't see Beijing as expansionist or a military threat and aspire to benefit from the world's second largest economy. This fundamental asymmetry in the respective approaches will continue to dominate the regional geopolitics and, to the dislike of the US, will cement China's position as ASEAN's comprehensive strategic partner.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2490732/us-itself-pushing-asean-closer-to-china>

The News

Mushahid for proactive efforts to counter negativity against CPEC

Rasheed Khalid

Islamabad : Former Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed condemning the global smear campaign against BRI has stressed the importance of proactive efforts to counter the negativity sought to be built around BRI and its related project CPEC.

Mushahid was addressing as chief guest on the launch Dr Rabia Akhtar's edited book "China-Pakistan Economic Corridor beyond 2030: a green alliance for sustainable development" organised here by Institute of Strategic Studies (ISS).

Mushahid said that China is the only country that helped other countries develop and grow by contributing to their strength without expanding or colonising them. He commended the editor and the authors for doing great work by highlighting the importance of CPEC and suggesting a futuristic course for its green development.

He recalled how China undertook massive reforms, achieved modernisation and was now focused on "peaceful rise." China has the highest number of Fortune 500 companies and helped 800 million people lifted from poverty, the biggest number in human history. He also noted that China's Belt and Road Initiative, despite being criticised by Western countries and their allies, has been copied into other projects like the Build Back Better World (B3W) and India-Middle East-Europe- Economic Corridor (IMEC) etc. Xu Hangtian, Minister Counselor, Embassy of China, speaking as guest of honour said that the dedication of the authors and their detailed work produced a masterpiece that will serve as a valuable resource on CPEC for years to come. During the implementation of CPEC, both China and Pakistan were confronted by challenges of sustainability. To offset those, numerous projects were carried out including export and manufacturing of sustainable energy technology in Pakistan including in solar and wind domains. Dr Salma Mehar Fatima Malik from QAU noted that the book delves into the political, geostrategic and environmental aspects of CPEC. It advocates for "Green CPEC" as part of CPEC 2.0 and emphasises sustainable development by aligning projects with Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and UN guidelines. Former ambassador Naghmana Hashmi stated that it was difficult to come across an economic or connectivity project anywhere in recent times that evokes so many emotions and debates. In many ways, this was a function of the growing geo-political and geo-strategic tensions among major powers, where BRI and its related projects were also being targeted. Using a Chinese leader's dictum, she stressed the expression of "seeking truth from facts." She argued that the book does that by presenting a counter-narrative in support of the BRI and CPEC. The book not only discusses the challenges but also presents solutions in the long-term. While commenting on the book, Dr Rabia Akhtar noted that it is a call for action to re-imagine our future under CPEC beyond the economic statistics and focus on how to reconcile development with sustainability so that both can go hand-in-hand. CPEC must not be only a corridor of commerce but a corridor of consciousness and a keystone for forging a green alliance.

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=335931>

August 26, 2024

Business Recorder

Govt decides to bring in 50pc govt imports thru Gwadar port

MUSHTAQ GHUMMAN

ISLAMABAD: The federal government has decided to divert 50 per cent of public sector imports to Gwadar Port destined for upcountry aimed at making Gwadar a financially viable project, well informed sources told Business Recorder.

The decision was taken at a meeting convened to follow up on Prime Minister's China visit in June 2024, presided over by the Prime Minister, Shehbaz Sharif. Ministry of Maritime Affairs (MoMA) has been directed to move a summary for the Federal Cabinet specifying areas/ sectors and items for mandatory import through Gwadar.

According to sources, Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives, Ahsan Iqbal, Secretary Railways and other relevant officials shall consider the Chinese offer for Karachi-Hyderabad Section of ML-1 keeping in view its financial viability and completion of Karachi-Multan Section, and place it before the Cabinet in the next meeting for consideration.

Planning Minister will also consolidate the activities by Ministries of Commerce, Industries and Production, Finance and BoI in order to facilitate the transfer of Chinese companies to Pakistan.

Board of Investment (BoI) has been directed to come up with a plan to facelift the Organization and improve its human resources, as per directives of the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC).

Board of Investment and Ministry of Commerce in coordination with SIFC is tasked to prepare a comprehensive plan for preparation of Pakistani firms/ exporters in international import Expo to be held in Shanghai on November 5-10, 2024.

Committee under Planning Minister and comprising Minister for National Food Security and Research is to ensure merit and proportionate provincial representation for training of 1000 Pakistani agriculture graduates in China.

Pakistan ambassador to China will actively engage with the Chinese experts and their parent departments to seek a timely and favourable visit report, in coordination with Minister for Planning as the next meeting on follow up of Prime Minister's China visit will be target oriented in terms of priority areas with investment, commerce and industries being the highest priority.

Power Division has been directed to resolve issue of bulk sales/ tariff related to supply of electricity to Special Economic Zones (SEZs).

In another meeting in Planning Ministry, CRBC/ RSEZDOC briefly shared progress on Rashakai Special Economic Zone.

While reporting on issues relating to the Rashakai SEZ, the developer mentioned that they applied for distribution and supply licences from NEPRA in November 2022. However, Nepra had not issued licences citing that Power Division/ Government of Pakistan must first provide policy decision on source of power supply either from CPPA-G-or PESCO.

Power Division apprised that draft policy has been prepared and is currently under review in the Ministry. Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives, stated that this issue has been pending for long time and directed Power Division to finalise and report the policy decision immediately for permanent solution. He emphasised that tariff decision should ensure that end user/ industrial consumers receive the same tariff rate as consumers outside the zone. He further stated that for calculation of tariff, backward calculation strategy could be adopted whereby end users/ industrial consumers would be offered unified tariff whereas developer of Rashakai SEZ could receive discount to recover the distribution cost.

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2024/08/26/1-page/1004715-news.html>

Electric Vehicles come to Pakistan

Anjum Ibrahim

Minister for Finance Muhammad Aurangzeb claimed at the launching ceremony of BYD, a Chinese company globally regarded as the frontrunner in the manufacture of electronic vehicles (EVs), in partnership with Mega Motor Company (a unit of Hubco, the first Independent Power Producer established in Pakistan), that the government has launched a comprehensive plan to achieve economic stability driven by private sector investment, export-led development and foreign direct investment.

BYD decision to set up a factory in Karachi must be appreciated, be it reflective of the Pakistani stakeholders' success in luring foreign direct investment, or be it BYD's perception that setting up a plant in this country will be profitable - from the perspective of a vibrant market and cheaper labour and/or lower taxes that would bring its manufacturing cost down to make its EVs even more competitive in the domestic market as well as internationally.

BYD would have almost certainly taken note of Pakistan's current GSP Plus status with the European Union (EU) granted in 2014 in the aftermath of the devastating August 2013 floods which affected 1.5 million people, destroyed 80,000 houses and 1.5 million acres of crops. A 21 November 2023 EU press release, citing the fourth biennial report covering the period from 2020 to 2022 tasked to assess effective implementation of 27 underlying international core conventions that cover areas of human rights, environmental standards, and good governance, noted that GSP: "serves as a special incentive arrangement to promote good governance and sustainable development by facilitating trade. The incentive grants Pakistan zero-rated or preferential tariffs on nearly 66% of tariff lines, enhancing the country's ability to export to the EU market." And it acknowledged "Pakistan's progress on the legislative front, while emphasising the need to improve practical application in both letter and spirit."

It is unclear whether EVs made in Pakistan by BYD will be eligible for zero-rated or preferential tariffs in the EU. Earlier this year the European Commission (EC) slapped prohibitive tariffs on EV cars though companies (Chinese or others including Tesla and

BMW) that cooperated with EU's anti-subsidy faced a lower hike – 17.4 percent on top of the existing 10 percent. While other companies have stated they will raise prices in the EU market, BYD faces the lowest hike of 17.4 percent (above the 10 percent) and has yet to reveal if it will raise the price of its car in the EU.

Be that as it may, Pakistan is not the first country where BYD has decided to set up a plant. In the first week of July 2024 BYD opened a factory in Thailand, its first outside China, at an estimated cost of 450 million dollars, a decision announced two years ago, with the declared intent to export to other ASEAN countries. The right-hand drive EVs will, there is speculation, potentially allow BYD to circumvent the prohibitive tariffs imposed by the EC on China-made EVs. The BYD plant in Thailand will be part of the 1.44 billion-dollar investment envisaged from Chinese EV manufacturers into Thailand, helped by subsidies and tax incentives.

Xueliang BYD General Manager for Asia Pacific stated in Thailand that “we will also assemble batteries and other important parts here.” Apart from Pakistan, BYD has signed deals to begin manufacturing in Hungary, Turkey, and Brazil.

Xueliang while attending the launching ceremony in Lahore stated that “our entry into the Pakistani market is not just about bringing advanced vehicles to consumers, it's about driving a broader vision of environmental responsibility and technological innovation.” He added that the company intends to open “three flagship stores and experience centres” in Pakistan and intends to sell two SUV models and a sedan from October-December 2024.

Hubco Chief executive during the launch referred to the “landmark investment” by BYD, adding that the plant will begin operations in 2026 and pledged the establishment of Pakistan's first electronic vehicle plant dedicated to producing BYD's cutting edge new energy vehicles. The amount of foreign direct investment that would be forthcoming, nor the envisaged and/or negotiated local and foreign equity or applicable taxes for the project, was revealed.

Pakistan to date has only 8 electric vehicle charging stations, as per Electromaps that globally tracks EV stations, 3 in Islamabad, 2 in Lahore, and one each in Karachi, Hafizabad and Sargodha. Hubco has pledged its intent to set up fast charging stations across major cities, motorways and highways to strengthen the charging infrastructure though there is one glaring impediment it faces: the power sector in Pakistan is appallingly poorly managed and accounts for the highest tariffs in the region partly due to reliance on imported fuel and partly due to contracts signed with the IPPs. At present, the circular energy debt is 2.4 trillion rupees, 3.8 percent of the country's Gross Domestic Product and 5.6 percent of government debt.

The energy sector issues remain hopelessly entangled in firm contracts with 2015 Independent Power Producers (IPPs), mostly Chinese firms, that envisage capacity payments (which will make electricity even more expensive if provincial attempts to shift to cheaper renewables come to fruition as demand from the IPPs will decline though capacity payments will not), with the consumers forced to pay interest on borrowings by the sector as well as losses due to the antiquated transmission system and theft.

To date the focus of energy reforms has been on (i) shutting off feeders where receivables are high though the focus should be on shutting off electricity to those who do not clear their bills (above a certain minimum bill after three warnings like in other countries) as shutting off feeders in poor areas is a serious human rights issue (as pointed out by the Law Ministry). Reports that Discos staff/law enforcement officials who went on site to disconnect supply were beaten up by staff of public and private sector entities needs to be dealt with through punitive law enforcement measures; (ii) providing untargeted subsidy to those consuming 200 units or less (with the Punjab government announcing a two-month subsidy of 14 rupees per unit to those who consume under 500 units per month), subsidies that should be channelled through Benazir Income Support Programme; and (iii) privatisation should not be entertained without an in-depth study of K-Electric's performance which was privatised in 2005 but remains the recipient of 174 billion rupees under the policy of tariff differential equalization from the federal 2024-25 budget – money sourced to all taxpayers and in addition is supplied 1400MW from the national grid.

The focus of the government must first be on reforming the power sector by out-of-the-box solutions including abandoning the tariff equalization policy and taking care that monopolies are not created after the sale of Discos. In addition, Pakistan's fragile economy militates against extending tax incentives and/or subsidies to any company – foreign or local.

To conclude, one hopes that the Law Ministry, the FBR and the Finance Ministry carefully review the agreement with BYD to ensure that the general public is not forced to pay a heavy price at a later date as has been the case with contracts signed with IPPs.

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2024/08/26/6-page/1004762-news.html>

Merits of BRI and its flagship project CPEC

S M Hali

In the past two years, China introduced three major initiatives for the benefit of mankind. These are Global Development Initiative (GDI), Global Civilization Initiative (GCI) and Global Security Initiative (GSI).

The first initiative, GDI, aims to promote economic development, poverty alleviation, and sustainable growth. GCI—the second initiative—emphasizes cultural exchange, understanding, and cooperation among nations to foster a shared global civilization. GSI, on the other hand, focuses on enhancing national security and safeguarding China's interests through Military Modernization, Counterterrorism and Cyber security, Maritime Security, Regional Stability, Space and Technology and Economic Security.

It is noteworthy that these initiatives—reflecting China's commitment to addressing global challenges and shaping a more interconnected world—came a decade after the unveiling of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) in 2013, as an extensive global infrastructure development strategy. More than 150 countries and international organizations have joined this mega project, fostering economic development and inter-regional connectivity across four continents. BRI comprises six urban development land corridors linked by road, rail, energy,

and digital infrastructure and the Maritime Silk Road (MSR) linked by the development of ports.

Studies conducted by World Bank analysts conclude that BRI can boost trade flows in the 150 participating countries by 4.1 percent, as well as cut the cost of global trade by 1.1 percent to 2.2 percent, and raise the GDP of East Asian and Pacific developing countries by an average of 2.6 to 3.9 percent.

Conservative economic experts like the London-based Centre for Economics and Business Research (CEBR) consultants, forecast that BRI is likely to increase the world GDP by \$7.1 trillion per annum by 2040, and that “benefits are likely to be widespread” as global trade increases from increasing infrastructure that reduces “frictions that hold back world trade”.

This envisions a shared future of economic prosperity by focusing on several key aspects, namely infrastructure development, trade facilitation, investment and financing, people-to-people connectivity, sustainable development and regional cooperation. Connectivity facilitates trade, investment, and economic growth. Trade facilitation comprises reducing trade barriers, streamlining customs procedures, and enhancing cross-border trade. China provides funding for BRI projects through various mechanisms, including the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) and bilateral agreements. People-to-people connectivity is achieved through cultural exchanges, educational programs, and tourism initiatives.

Sustainable Development receives major focus by BRI through supportable practices, environmental protection, and social responsibility, aiming to balance economic gains with ecological and social well-being.

Regional cooperation is envisaged through linking regions, encouraging joint ventures, technology transfer, and knowledge sharing, collaborative efforts, and economic diversification.

The major components of BRI are the Silk Road Economic Belt (SREB), 21st Century Maritime Silk Road (MSR) and Digital Silk Road (DSR). SREB is the land-based component, which aims to build and expand land routes for people and commerce across Europe, the Middle East, Central Asia, and Asia. The ocean-based component—MSR—originates from East China and connects various seaports in the South China Sea, the Arabian Sea, the Persian Gulf, and terminates at the Baltic Sea, referring to the Indo-Pacific Sea routes through Southeast Asia to South Asia, the Middle East and Africa. DSR aims to enhance digital connectivity in BRI countries by improving their technology infrastructure.

BRI was incorporated into China’s Constitution in 2018 and has a target completion date of 2049, which will coincide with the centennial of the People’s Republic of China’s (PRC’s) founding, which would also see the fruition of China’s Second Centenary Goal of “building a modern socialist country that is prosperous, strong, culturally advanced and harmonious.”

The land corridors of BRI include its flagship project, the China–Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), the New Eurasian Land Bridge, the China–Mongolia–Russia Economic Corridor, the China–Central Asia–West Asia Economic Corridor (CAWEC), the China-Indochina Peninsula Economic Corridor (CICPEC), and the Trans-Himalayan Multi-Dimensional

Connectivity Network (abbreviated (THMCN). Launched in 2015 during the official visit of China's President Xi Jinping to Pakistan, CPEC is a significant infrastructure network project spanning 3,000 kilometres in Pakistan, commencing from the deep-sea port of Gwadar, located on the coast of Balochistan in Pakistan and terminating at Kashgar, the focal point of the fabled Silk Road. CPEC aims to secure and streamline China's energy imports from the Middle East by circumventing the existing route through the Straits of Malacca, which could be blockaded during conflicts. Simultaneously, energy-starved Pakistan gets new dams and energy from the Central Asian states. The major benefits it accrues to Pakistan are envisaged as job creation and economic growth. CPEC is predicted to create over 2.3 million jobs in Pakistan between 2015 and 2030 and enhances Pakistan's exports and development capacity, providing a quarter of its total electricity. Despite its popularity, BRI also has a few detractors, which include the USA, India, Japan and Australia. They direct their criticism over alleged human rights violations and environmental impact, as well as concerns of debt-trap diplomacy which could lead to economic imperialism. For Pakistan, the challenges to CPEC arise from threats of terrorism and extremism, which deter investors and contribute to the slow pace of progress by Pakistan. Notwithstanding these hiccups and the global pandemic COVID-19, BRI—euphemistically referred to as the New Silk Road—and CPEC have played a major role in deepening international cooperation, promoting closer ties between countries and boosting global growth as they will empower the regional countries to reach their true potential by providing employment, investment, trade and commercial opportunities.

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2024/08/26/7-page/1004765-news.html>

The Express Tribune

Debunking misconceptions about CPEC energy projects

Without CPEC, Pakistan's economic situation would be even more dire

Shakeel Ahmad Ramay

ISLAMABAD: The Power Policy of 1994 was introduced as the ultimate solution to Pakistan's electricity problems. Western countries and institutions praised the policy as one of the best pro-private sector initiatives. The World Bank and USAID collaborated with other multilateral donors to ensure the policy's success by providing financial support. Both the World Bank and USAID backed the Private Sector Energy Development Fund, which extended special financing for the Independent Power Producers (IPPs) under the Power Policy. However, the policy turned out to be disastrous for Pakistan. Instead of addressing the core issues or revising the policy, certain forces have shifted the blame onto the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) energy projects, running nonstop malicious campaigns against them. In reality, CPEC energy projects have greatly benefited Pakistan on multiple fronts. The Asian Institute of Eco-civilisation Research and Development analysed the situation and presented several key observations. Let's begin with the circular debt. Pakistan's total circular debt stands at Rs2.66 trillion, of which Rs400 billion is owed to Chinese companies. If we subtract this Rs400 billion, the remaining debt is still Rs2.26 trillion. So, where does the blame lie? With the Power Policy of 1994, supported by USAID, the World

Bank, and other financiers of the policy. Secondly, the analysis shows that before the launch of CPEC energy projects, Pakistan was facing a severe electricity shortage, a crisis that was significantly impacting the country. The industry was beginning to shift away from Pakistan, and business opportunities were dwindling. The limited job prospects for the growing young population were a cause for concern. This situation was taking a heavy toll on the Pakistani economy, with government statistics indicating an annual loss of \$4-5 billion.

Thanks to the CPEC energy projects, Pakistan managed to significantly reduce, if not completely eliminate, the challenge of electricity load shedding. The improved availability of electricity also led to an increase in per capita electricity consumption. Data shows that per capita consumption rose from 431 kWh in 2014 to 644 kWh in 2022, signalling promising progress. Moreover, the percentage of people without access to electricity decreased from 25% in 2014 to 24.5% in 2022, even as the population grew from 188 million in 2014 to 241 million in 2022. Now, imagine a scenario where CPEC energy projects did not exist. What would be the state of electricity load shedding and its associated costs? First, there would be no additional 5,000+ megawatts of electricity in the national grid. Meanwhile, demand would have increased due to population growth and higher per capita consumption. A rough estimate suggests that the annual loss due to electricity load shedding would be around \$15-20 billion. How? Two major factors support this argument. First, Pakistan's population grew from 188 million in 2014 to 241 million, according to the latest census. Second, per capita electricity consumption also increased during this period. Both factors indicate that demand would have risen, meaning that by 2023, Pakistan would have faced its worst load shedding crisis. This would lead to deindustrialisation, unemployment, mental health issues due to sleepless nights, and the closure of businesses. To understand the impact of these costs, consider the current financial and economic crisis. Pakistan is struggling to find ways to avert a debt crisis and reignite economic growth. The International Monetary Fund compelled Pakistan to accept stringent conditions in exchange for a \$3 billion loan. Without CPEC energy projects, Pakistan's economic situation would be even more dire, and the IMF's demands would be even harsher. Furthermore, CPEC energy projects have created jobs and contributed to the capacity development of Pakistani engineers and staff. Let's examine three power plants in detail to understand how these projects have created jobs and developed skills. First, the Sahiwal power plant created 8,436 jobs during its construction, with Pakistani and Chinese employees making up 63% and 37% of the workforce, respectively. During the operational phase, the plant employs 1,683 people, with a 61:39 ratio of Pakistani to Chinese employees. Chinese companies and the government also contributed to building the capacity of Pakistani staff, training 245 engineers and 377 lower-level staff members. Second, the Port Qasim project created 4,000 jobs during its construction phase, with a workforce consisting of 75% Pakistanis and 25% Chinese. China also trained 600 engineers and 2,000 lower-level staff members. During the operational phase, the plant employs 1,270 workers, with 76% being Pakistanis and 24% Chinese. Third, the HUBCO power plant's story is similar. During construction, the workforce was 56.7% Pakistani and 43.3% Chinese. During operations, the workforce is 71.1% Pakistani and 28.9% foreign, including 39 employees from the Philippines and one British national during construction.

Additionally, China invested in other projects such as the Engro Thar Coal Power & Mine, Hydro China Dawood Wind Farm, Quaid-e-Azam Solar Park, UEP Wind Farm, Sachal Wind Farm, and the Three Gorges Second and Third Wind Power Projects, all of which have been completed. Many projects, like the Karot Hydropower and Suki-Kinari Hydropower projects, are progressing well. Pakistan and China also collaborated to build the HVDC +660 kV Matiari-Lahore HVDC Transmission Line, a much-needed modernization of the electricity transmission system. In conclusion, we can draw three key lessons from the above discussion. First, CPEC energy projects have helped Pakistan manage the load-shedding crisis, provided significant employment opportunities, and improved the skills of Pakistani engineers and workers. Second, it is evident that CPEC energy projects are not the cause of Pakistan's circular debt crisis or rising electricity prices; the real culprit is the Power Policy of 1994, supported by USAID, the World Bank, and other financiers. Third, the opportunity cost of not having CPEC energy projects would be extraordinarily high, beyond Pakistan's capacity to bear. The economic and social situation would be dire, and the IMF would impose even stricter conditions, pushing Pakistan to follow its dictates. Meanwhile, opponents would continue to create challenges for Pakistan on economic, social, diplomatic, and security fronts.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2491022/debunking-misconceptions-about-cpec-energy-projects>

The News

Raw material for textile industry: Two Chinese companies to set up plants in Pakistan

LAHORE: Two leading Chinese companies have announced to set up their plants in Pakistan with one setting up a sole entity while the other in a joint venture with a local company to manufacture raw materials for the textile industry. Both companies were expected to invest millions of dollars in both the projects with aim of manufacturing cheap raw materials for the local industries. Abdul Rahim Chughtai, the convener of the 9th Colour and Chemicals Expo 2024 and President of the Punjab Dyes and Chemicals Merchants Association, said that Napa Chemicals and Shao Shing Chemicals would make investments in Punjab. He said Rainbow Industries would go into a joint venture with Shao Shing Chemicals soon, adding with the Chinese investment our local dyes and chemicals industry would get the latest technology transfer and advancement. Chughtai said the federal government has already announced a 10-year tax holiday, duty-free import of machinery and setting up units in the Special Economic Zones for foreign investors. He was of the view that the law and order situation and energy tariffs are real challenges in the way of foreign investment in the country. Organiser Rashidul Haq said that the two-day 9th Colour & Chem Expo attracted more than 300 exhibitors representing the dyes, chemicals, and allied industries. They also included companies and their representatives from China, Malaysia, Turkey and Iran. The exhibition was organised by the Event and Conference International, Rainbow Group and Punjab Dyes & Chemicals Merchants Association. Haq further said the two-day event involved technology transfer, information on new products, signing of new contracts and improved interactions between the companies and their vendors, industry stakeholders, key professionals, policy influencers,

https://epaper.dailyk2.com/Home?Issue=NP_GB&Page=Back_Page&Date=2024-08-26

https://epaper.dailyk2.com/Home?Issue=NP_GB&Page=Classified&Date=2024-08-26

August 27, 2024

Business Recorder

Speakers say Pakistan can act as bridge between US, China

LAHORE: Speakers at a seminar highlighted the role Pakistan can play in bringing together the United States and China on a host of issues instead of siding with any one of it at the cost of its relations with the other power.

The seminar on Common Interests of US and China in Pakistan and a way forward for Pakistan was hosted by foreign affairs expert Syed Muhammad Mehdi here on Sunday. Michael Kugelman, Asia Programme deputy director at Woodrow Wilson International Centre for Scholars, Washington, Prof Zhao of the China Renmin University, Dr Amjad Magsi, director of the Pakistan Study Centre, and UCP Political Department chairman Dr Waheed Khan were prominent among the speakers.

Opening the discussion Muhammad Mehdi said Pakistan's importance can be denied neither by the US nor China. Islamabad's joining any defence pact with either power is a death knell for the other power in the region.

Leaving Pakistan alone in the rising terrorism threat is not a solution for US and China because the menace is and may destabilize the region if not the world.

The Pakistan-India conflict is not only damaging the two countries but also affecting world trade. If the Kashmir dispute is resolved, it would not only provide the much needed relief to the peoples across the borders but also the world. A trade corridor with the patronage of the US is being built from India to Israel and Europe that will pass by Pakistani seas and it would always remain insecure in case of tensions between Islamabad and New Delhi.

The shortest and cheapest possible route to get Iranian oil for both China and India passes through Pakistan. Likewise, India could get access to central Asian markets through Pakistan only.

The US is Pakistan's largest trade partner, while China invested in Pakistan when no country was coming forward for the purpose. Through an effective diplomacy a balance may be created in relations with both the world powers.

Mr Kugelman says Pakistan is one of the few countries who have good relations both with the US and China. Like in the past, Islamabad can play the role of a mediator on issues like climate change between the two biggest polluters of the environment.

Also, China has a significant influence on Taliban as is evident from its increasing investment in the energy exploration projects in Afghanistan while Pakistan has lost its leverage there. In the face of increasing terrorism threat from Afghanistan in the form of TTP

and ISET, China may use its influence to the benefit of not only Pakistan but also the region and the world, he said.

He said US and China confrontation is not a new cold war like situation because nowhere Washington seems to contain Beijing as happens during wars. Rather US president's emissary on climate change John Kerry convinced the US administration to end confrontation with China for creating an enabling environment to work together on climate change.

He said that Islamabad, as one of the worst victims of climate change, could also play a role in bringing together the two countries on the subject.

Prof Zhao said that developing a strategic relationship with the US is precarious, but critical for Pakistan. He said the US competes with China in Pakistan making it difficult for Islamabad to balance its ties with both the states.

Developing a strategic relationship with China is important but not enough to fully address Pakistan's economic and security concerns, he said. Thus, it seems reasonable to argue that Pakistan has no choice but to develop a strategic relationship with the US to secure its export market and arms supplies, to ensure that it can rely on the US to counterbalance India to some extent, although Pakistan sees that the US is not necessarily reliable in this regard. But to rely on the US seems to be a kind of inertia of Pakistani politicians.

He said China will in no way oppose the development of Pakistan-US strategic relationship but it must not harm Pakistan-China relations. It is also expected that Pakistan should not have unrealistic expectations from any friend.

Dr Magsi said a positive US-China relationship could help maximize the benefits of CPEC and pave the way for increased foreign direct investment in technology, infrastructure and energy sectors. Harmonious US-China ties means a more predictable and stable environment for economic development and regional stability helpful in enduring peace in South Asia, particularly Afghanistan. Both US-China may play a role in bringing Pakistan-India to the negotiation table.

Dr Waheed Khan from the UCP said like in the Cold War era Pakistan cannot remain neutral in the rivalry between China and US. He, however, suggested that Islamabad should separate its geo-economic and geo-political objectives and realize the US and other states that its geo-strategic and geo-political objectives would remain confined to its borders with India and Afghanistan.

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2024/08/27/4-page/1004890-news.html>

Pakistan Observer

China corner-stone of Pakistan's foreign policy with convergence of views on regional, issues :Asif

Minsiter for Defence and Defence Production, Khawaja Muhammad Asif on Monday, during a call on by People's Liberation Army (PLA) Ground Forces Commander of China, General Li Qiaoming, said that friendship with China was a corner-stone of Pakistan's Foreign Policy based on convergence of views on regional and global issues.

The Minister welcomed the Chinese Ground Forces' Commander and appreciated long history of Pak-China relations in all fields, a news release said.

He said these relations were focused on welfare of peoples of both countries and not against any other country. He added that Pakistan attached great importance to its relations with China.

The Minister appreciated existing bilateral mechanisms, like Strategic Dialogue, Consular Consultations and Counter Terrorism Consultations.

He mentioned that the strategic relations between the two neighbouring nations were based on mutual trust.

He pointed out that Pakistan deeply appreciated China's diplomatic and material support in its fight against terrorism at regional and international fora.

Khawaja Muhammad Asif expressed the views that Pakistan-China Security Cooperation was pillar of regional stability. Cooperation in security/intelligence sharing had increased amidst growing threats and advent of CPEC, he added

<https://pakobserver.net/china-corner-stone-of-pakistans-foreign-policy-with-convergence-of-views-on-regional-issues-asif/>

Media cooperation vital to deepen China-Pakistan ties: Amb Hashmi

Abdullah Gauhar Malik

Ambassador Khalil Hashmi hosted Pakistan-China media delegation at the Pakistan House in Beijing today.

The interaction was part of ongoing efforts of Pakistan Embassy Beijing to further strengthen bilateral ties through enhanced media collaboration.

The delegation included prominent journalists from both the countries, representatives of China International Communication Group.

While exchanging views with the delegation, Ambassador Khalil Hashmi emphasized the importance of media cooperation in deepening Pakistan-China relations, particularly in the context of shared regional and global opportunities and challenges.

He briefed the delegation about Embassy's efforts for the realization of the leadership's vision of both the countries for further enhancing cooperation in various sectors.

He also underlined the vital role of media in projecting the positive stories of Pakistan-China ties.

The Ambassador expressed satisfaction on media exchanges between Pakistani and Chinese, and elaborated on ways to further enhances this cooperation.

The Pakistan media delegation shared experiences from their visit to various parts of China.

The representatives from China International Communication Group and Chinese media elaborated opportunities for future collaboration with Pakistani media.

<https://pakobserver.net/media-cooperation-vital-to-deepen-china-pakistan-ties-amb-hashmi/>

China offers counter-terrorism support after Balochistan attacks

China has strongly condemned the recent terrorist attacks in Balochistan and expressed deep condolences to the victims, the Chinese Foreign Ministry said on Tuesday. He stated, “China firmly opposes all forms of terrorism and will continue to firmly support Pakistan in advancing counter-terrorism operations, maintaining social unity and stability, and protecting people’s safety.” “China is willing to further strengthen counter-terrorism and security cooperation with Pakistan to jointly safeguard regional peace and security,” Lin added. “China stands firm against all forms of terrorism. We will continue giving staunch support to Pakistan in its effort to advance counter-terrorism operations, uphold social solidarity and stability, and protect the safety of the people,” Lin Jian said. Similarly, taking the gravity of the situation into account, Washington strongly regretted the deaths of law enforcers and civilians in Balochistan’s Musakhail and other areas. “Our hearts go out to the families and loved ones of those killed in yesterday’s attacks. The United States will continue to stand shoulder-to-shoulder with Pakistan in its fight against terrorism,” the US embassy in Islamabad wrote on its official X account. Meanwhile, the European Union also condemned the heinous attacks in the southwestern province of the country. “Terrorism and violence in any form have no place. They threaten the foundations of democracy. Our thoughts are with those affected [by] this senseless act,” the EU Commission Spokesperson Nabila Massrali wrote on X. Moreover, Germany also extended support by showing solidarity with the attack victims and expressing concern

<https://pakobserver.net/china-offers-counter-terrorism-support-after-balochistan-attacks/>

The News

China’s PLA commander calls on PM, COAS

ISLAMABAD/RAWALPINDI: Commander of the Ground Forces of the People’s Liberation Army (PLA) of China General Li Qiaoming Monday called on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif and Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Asim Munir separately.

The prime minister warmly welcomed General Li to Pakistan and underscored that Pakistan and China are all-weather strategic cooperative partners and trusted friends. The prime minister highlighted that the deep-rooted ties between the two nations enjoy broad public, political, and institutional support in Pakistan, making them indispensable for the progress and development of both countries.

He expressed satisfaction at the deepening military-to-military exchanges, noting that the defense and strategic ties between Pakistan and China are vital for peace and stability in the region and these relations form the foundation of their bilateral relationship.

General Li, in his remarks, affirmed that China, as an iron brother, strategic partner, and reliable friend, places the highest priority on its relationship with Pakistan. He expressed China’s desire to elevate their bilateral friendship to new levels of cooperation and collaboration.

Recognizing the role of Pakistan's armed forces in promoting regional peace and stability and combating terrorism, General Li reiterated the PLA's commitment to further expanding its cooperation with Pakistan to enhance the capacity building of the two armed forces.

The two sides focused on various aspects of the Pak-China friendship, particularly the bilateral defense and strategic partnership. Meanwhile, Commander of the People's Liberation Army Ground Forces General Li Qiaoming called on Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Syed Asim Munir at the General Headquarters here on Monday.

The meeting afforded an opportunity for in-depth discussions on matters of mutual interest, regional security, military training, and measures to further augment bilateral defence cooperation, the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) in a statement said.

General Syed Asim Munir underscored the robust relations between the Pakistan Army and the People's Liberation Army, highlighting the ongoing bilateral military cooperation as a testament to the enduring brotherhood between the two nations.

The visiting dignitary expressed admiration for Pakistan's concerted efforts in combating terrorism and extremism, acknowledging the unwavering professionalism and dedication of the Pakistan Army. General Syed Asim Munir expressed his gratitude to the dignitary, reiterating that Pakistan deeply cherishes its fraternal ties with China. Earlier, upon arrival at the GHQ, General Li Qiaoming paid respects at the Yadgar-e-Shuhada by laying a floral wreath, and was presented with a guard of honour by a smartly turned-out contingent of the Pakistan Army, in a ceremonial display of respect and hospitality.

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=336714>

Express News

بلوچستان دہشتگردی؛ چین کی مذمت اور پاکستان کیساتھ سیکورٹی تعاون بڑھانے کا عزم

چین نے بلوچستان میں ہونے والی دہشت گردی کی کارروائیوں کی شدید الفاظ میں مذمت کرتے ہوئے کہا ہے کہ پاکستان کی بھرپور حمایت اور سیکورٹی تعاون میں بیچنگ اضافے کے عزم کا اظہار کیا ہے۔

عالمی خبر رساں ادارے کے مطابق ان خیالات کا اظہار چین کی وزارت خارجہ کے ترجمان نے پریس بریفنگ کے دوران کیا۔ چینی وزارت خارجہ کے ترجمان نے بلوچستان میں قیمتی انسانی جانوں کے نقصان پر گہرے دکھ کا اظہار کرتے ہوئے کہا کہ چین ہر قسم کی دہشت گردی کے خلاف ڈٹا ہوا ہے۔ ترجمان نے پاکستان کی حمایت کا اعلان کرتے ہوئے کہا کہ انسداد دہشت گردی کی کارروائیوں، امن اور سماجی یکجہتی کو برقرار رکھنے کے لیے دوست ملک کی بھرپور حمایت جاری رکھیں گے۔

یاد رہے کہ بلوچستان میں دہشت گردی کے مختلف واقعات میں 37 سے زائد افراد کو دہشت گردوں نے بسوں سے اتار کر اور شناختی کارڈ دیکھ کر قتل کر دیا تھا۔ جس کے بعد دہشت گردوں کے خلاف آپریشن کے دوران 21 دہشت گرد مارے گئے جب کہ پاک فوج کے 14 جوانوں نے شہادت کا رتبہ پایا۔

<https://www.express.pk/story/2693539/10/>

K2 Daily



https://epaper.dailyk2.com/Home?Issue=NP_GB&Page=Front_Page&Date=2024-08-27

https://epaper.dailyk2.com/Home?Issue=NP_GB&Page=Baqia&Date=2024-08-27

August 28, 2024

Dawn News

Pakistan, China explore ways to boost defence cooperation

Gen Li, army chief Gen Munir discuss situation at LoC, Beijing-Delhi border tensions, Afghanistan

- Chinese commander holds separate meetings with PM Shehbaz, defence minister

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and China held high-level military talks on Monday, delving into pressing regional security concerns and seeking ways to bolster their defence ties amid a rapidly shifting geopolitical landscape.

“The meeting afforded an opportunity for in-depth discussions on matters of mutual interest, regional security, military training, and measures to further augment bilateral defence cooperation,” according to a readout from Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) on the meeting between Army Chief Gen Asim Munir and visiting Commander of the People’s Liberation Army Ground Forces Gen Li Qiaoming at the General Headquarters.

Later, Gen Li called on Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Defence Minister Khawaja Asif.

The talks at the GHQ focused on pressing regional security concerns, including the volatile situation along the Line of Control (LoC), the China-India border tensions, and the evolving dynamics in Kashmir and Afghanistan.

Additionally, the discussions covered Pakistan’s strategic military modernisation efforts, particularly its planned acquisitions from China, underscoring the deepening defence cooperation between the two countries.

The Chinese general’s visit to Pakistan came hot on the heels of his trip to Moscow, a move analysts interpret as Beijing reaching out to its closest defence allies, potentially signalling a coordinated approach to emerging security challenges.

The commander of the PLA’s Ground Force is a pivotal figure in China’s military hierarchy, responsible for crafting the operational strategy and overseeing the operations of the country’s largest military branch.

This role is uniquely positioned at the nexus of military and political power, ensuring that the PLA's actions align with the Chinese Communist Party's strategic objectives.

As such, the commander plays a critical role in harmonising military might with political will, making this position a linchpin of China's national security apparatus.

Gen Munir, according to ISPR, during the discussion underscored the robust relations between the Pakistan Army and the People's Liberation Army, highlighting the ongoing bilateral military cooperation.

The ISPR quoted the Chinese general as praising Pakistan's fight against terrorism and extremism.

'Trusted friends'

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif warmly welcomed Gen Li to Pakistan and underscored that both countries are all-weather strategic cooperative partners and trusted friends.

The premier highlighted that deep-rooted bilateral ties enjoy broad public, political, and institutional support in Pakistan, making them indispensable for the progress and development of both countries.

PM Shehbaz expressed satisfaction at the deepening military-to-military exchanges, noting that the defence and strategic ties between Pakistan and China are vital for peace and stability in the region.

These ties form the foundation of their bilateral relationship.

Gen Li, in his remarks, affirmed that China, as an iron brother, strategic partner, and reliable friend, places the highest priority on its relationship with Pakistan.

He expressed China's desire to elevate the friendship to new levels of cooperation and collaboration.

Recognising the role of Pakistan's armed forces in promoting regional peace and stability and combating terrorism, Gen Li reiterated the PLA's commitment to further expanding its cooperation with Pakistan to enhance the capacity building of the two armed forces.

Cornerstone of foreign policy

During a call by Gen Li, Minister for Defence and Defence Production Khawaja Muhammad Asif said friendship with China was a cornerstone of Pakistan's foreign policy based on convergence of views on regional and global issues.

The minister appreciated the long history of Pakistan-China relations in all fields.

He said these relations were focused on welfare of people of both countries and not against any other country.

The minister appreciated existing bilateral mechanisms, like strategic dialogue, consular consultations and counter terrorism consultations. He mentioned that strategic relations

between the two nations were based on mutual trust.

Khawaja Asif expressed the view that Pakistan-China security cooperation was a pillar of regional stability.

He reiterated Pakistan was committed to stability and peace in the region, with particular focus on its relations with Afghanistan.

A peaceful Afghanistan was in the interest of Pakistan and the whole region, he added.

The visiting dignitary commended Pakistan's efforts to foster regional peace and stability.

With additional input from news agencies

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1855001>

Pakistan Observer

Li Qiaoming's visit

THE visit of General Li Qiaoming, the Commander of the People's Liberation Army Ground Forces underscores the enduring strength and strategic depth of the defense relationship between Pakistan and China. General Li's trip to Pakistan marks a significant moment in the ongoing partnership between the two nations, reflecting their shared commitment to regional stability and mutual security.

This relationship is underpinned by substantial military cooperation, including the acquisition of state-of-the-art military technology from China. Pakistan has long benefited from China's advanced military equipment and the recent procurement of J-10CE aircraft is a testament to the evolving nature of this collaboration. These aircraft represent a significant enhancement to Pakistan's air capabilities, illustrating the tangible benefits of their defence ties. During his visit, General Li engaged in high-level meetings with Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Chief of Army Staff General Syed Asim Munir. The discussions focused on strengthening defence cooperation and exploring new dimensions of strategic collaboration. This interaction served to reinforce the importance of the bilateral military relationship, which stands as a cornerstone for regional peace and stability. Undoubtedly strong defence ties between the two countries are in each other's interest and that they are not directed against any third country. A key aspect of their military collaboration involves joint exercises and shared experiences, which serve to enhance the operational capabilities of both forces. These exercises provide valuable opportunities for learning and adapting strategies, contributing to the overall effectiveness and readiness of their military forces. The emphasis on such practical cooperation underscores the mutual benefits derived from their partnership. As both countries look to deepen their defense relationship, continuing cooperation in the production of military hardware and technology will be pivotal. Joint production efforts can leverage the strengths and expertise of nations, fostering innovation and reducing costs while enhancing their strategic capabilities. <https://pakobserver.net/li-qiaomings-visit/>

CPEC under Scrutiny: Regional Narratives and Dynamics

Sher Ali Kakar

India's relations with most of its neighbors tell a tale of tensions and animosities. Today, the growing wave of Hindu nationalism is driving the region toward greater instability. The Indian national media and academia, which have a history of misrepresenting facts and constructing false narratives, are now playing a more central role in supporting the Hindutva-driven policies of the Indian government. The biased and misleading reports about the nature of Pakistan's relations with China, which the latter refers to as its "Iron Brother," clearly aim to undermine China-Pakistan friendship through deceptive propaganda. Over the past seven decades, relations between China and Pakistan have evolved based on mutual trust, respect, goodwill and shared goals for promoting broader regional interests. However, India's self-assumed role as a regional hegemon continues to pose challenges to peace and economic development in the region.

In recent years, despite the complexities in global and regional affairs, Islamabad and Beijing have taken significant steps to advance their mutual interests. Since its inception, the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) has served as a cornerstone of Pakistan-China relations, solidifying their economic and strategic partnership. CPEC is not merely an infrastructure development project; it is a transformative initiative designed to enhance regional connectivity and stimulate economic growth across South Asia. The corridor, stretching from Gwadar to Kashgar, comprises a network of highways, railways and pipelines aimed at improving logistics and trade routes while advancing Pakistan's industrial base. Critics, particularly from India, have labeled CPEC as a strategic tool for Chinese domination, but such claims overlook the tangible benefits that have emerged for Pakistan. The initiative has significantly contributed to the country's energy sector by addressing chronic shortages, alongside fostering technology transfer and human capital development. Moreover, Pakistan's pivotal role in CPEC positions it as a key player in regional trade dynamics, reinforcing the narrative that CPEC is mutually advantageous for both China and Pakistan, contrary to the misleading portrayals often seen in Indian media.

China, avoiding the temptation to engage in Pakistan's internal politics, supports Pakistan's stance on many regional and international issues while extending economic cooperation. Likewise, strategically located Pakistan serves as a key gateway to China's interests in the region and beyond, providing access to vital trade routes, regional connectivity and global outreach. Since the launch of CPEC, there has been a noticeable increase in media campaigns portraying the mega project as a tool of China's influence over Pakistan. For instance, some argue that the infrastructure development projects under CPEC primarily benefit China while burdening Pakistan with debt. However, the true picture of bilateral cooperation dispels the notion of a debt trap and tells a different story. CPEC has injected fresh momentum into cooperation between China and Pakistan.

It has played a significant role in the socio-economic development of Pakistan, attracting substantial investment, creating 236,000 direct job opportunities and leading to the construction of highways, power plants, transmission lines and fiber optics. Additionally, collaboration in sectors such as technology, health and green development has opened new avenues for innovation and growth.

In a bid to overcome its economic challenges, Pakistan recently established the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC), a dedicated body tasked with creating a conducive environment for investment in areas such as defence, agriculture, minerals, information technology, telecommunications and energy.

SIFC aims to enhance the ease of doing business by reducing operational costs and establishing Special Economic Zones (SEZs) to facilitate commerce. Headed by the Prime Minister of Pakistan and comprising federal and provincial ministers and secretaries, SIFC is expected to attract further investment under CPEC, boost foreign reserves and generate employment. Numerous Chinese companies have already expressed interest in setting up SEZs, highlighting the potential for significant economic growth.

It is important to emphasize that civil nuclear cooperation between China and Pakistan is solely focused on promoting the peaceful use of nuclear technology and revitalizing Pakistan's energy sector in line with International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) safeguards. At a time when Pakistan's energy crisis is worsening, with severe impacts on the industrial sector and economic growth, China's cooperation has been a milestone in enhancing energy security and advancing socio-economic development.

The civil nuclear collaboration has helped Pakistan increase its nuclear energy capacity, providing low-cost electricity to the national grid, addressing energy supply issues and reducing reliance on energy imports, thereby conserving foreign exchange reserves, which are crucial for economic stability.

Recognizing Pakistan's strong record on nuclear safety and security, the IAEA continues to work closely with the country to promote the peaceful application of nuclear technology.

In summary, the narrative that China is suffocating Pakistan's interests and autonomy is baseless. India's policies have been the primary obstacle to peace and prosperity in the region.

India remains the only country in South Asia that openly opposes CPEC, attempting to undermine it by spreading misinformation and sponsoring terrorism in Pakistan to disrupt development.

In recent years, the Modi government's Hindutva-driven policies have intensified regional disputes and rivalries.

India's actions in Kashmir, its aggressive military stance and its unjustified military buildup have further complicated the regional security environment.

Additionally, its network of extraterritorial killings has become a global concern.

India's negative role in the region is a significant hurdle to peace and stability and has evolved into a broader global issue, raising questions about the international community's response.

<https://pakobserver.net/cpec-under-scrutiny-regional-narratives-and-dynamics/>

CPEC becomes hostage of violence & terrorism: A Way Forward

Dr Mehmood Ul Hassan Khan

According to many prominent international economists, safety, security and systematic persuasion are the three main attributes of implementing long-term policies of socio-economic development and seeking more and more inflows of foreign investment. Unfortunately, we are lagging far away from these recipes of progress, prosperity and peaceful living in the country and frequent violent acts and terrorist attacks are pushing us now towards a close ally.

It seems that the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor has become hostage of violence and terrorism in the country. The recent surge in terrorist incidents in the KP, Balochistan and Southern Punjab all indicate formation of new fighting clubs, eroding prospects of socio-economic prosperity and especially the Chinese investment.

The expanding canvas of terrorism also reflects deteriorating law & order situation, poor capacity building and, to some extent, poor management, flashing out good works of the CPEC and, of course, the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC). Thus the Chinese people and the projects of CPEC are in the line of fire and all regional sponsors and global masters have already started a new end game, sabotaging paths of socio-economic prosperity in KP and Balochistan and suffocating inspirations of stability, sustainability, peace and harmony in the country. The elite are sleeping and enemies are slaughtering the common people conveying the message of fear, uncertainty and chaos compelling the potential investors and businessmen to stay away from this country.

Unfortunately local authorities, law enforcement agencies and notably provincial governments have become paralyzed portraying the rule of the jungle in which there is no respect for human life and credulous killing is going on without any check. Many security experts viewed the most recent massacre in different parts of Balochistan as a horrendous act against humanity and sovereignty and a clear cut message to visiting General Li Qiaoming, Commander of the People's Liberation Army Ground Forces. The message is loud and clear to China and its people/policy makers to stay away from Pakistan and no need of CPEC anymore.

Despite meetings with General Syed Asim Munir, at the General Headquarters and prime minister Shehbaz Sharif and had in-depth discussions on matters of mutual interest, regional security, military training and measures to further augment bilateral defence cooperation the timing, scale and canvas of the circus of ongoing bloodshed would produce diminishing returns in the days to come.

Unfortunately, most recently Balochistan faced a deadly surge in violence with multiple attacks across the province resulting in over 50 deaths, including 23 common passengers in Musakhail indicating frightful fractions in the different factions of the society and visible rift among the different ethnic groups in the province. On its part, security forces neutralised 21 terrorists and injured several others.

The Chief Minister of Balochistan Sarfraz Bugti said that 38 innocent lives were claimed by terrorists, while the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) confirmed in a press release that 14 security personnel, including four law enforcement officials, were martyred during clearance operations that resulted in the killing of the 21 terrorists.

It seems that the terrorists had coordinated a plan and attacked levies and police stations in Mastung, Kalat, Pasni, and Suntsar, resulting in numerous casualties. These forces of evil ransacked a police station in Suntsar, Gwadar, seizing official weapons. Armed men also took personnel hostage at Levies Thana Khadkocha and engaged in fire-fights with law enforcement in Kalat. Moreover, deadly explosions and grenade attacks were reported in Sibi, Panjgur, Mastung, Turbat, Bela, and Quetta, with terrorists blowing up a railway track near Mastung.

Additionally, eleven people, including four Levies personnel, were killed in Kalat. As the day progressed, it emerged that six bodies were discovered in Bolan.

Ironically, Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi stated that the government had a “good idea” of who orchestrated these attacks and who was responsible. The terrorists blocked the Quetta-Karachi highway. Six bodies were found in the Bolan district, with four recovered from under a damaged bridge.

In a separate incident, at least 23 people were killed in the Musakhail district when armed men forcibly removed passengers from trucks and buses and shot them after verifying their identity. The inter-provincial highway in the Rarasham area of the district was also blocked and passengers were massacred.

The perpetrators stopped buses, vans, and trucks, one after the other on a highway connecting Punjab with Balochistan. Those killed were reportedly from Punjab.

The Baloch Liberation Army (BLA), the most active militant group in the province, claimed responsibility for the attack, marking it as one of the worst shootings in the region in recent years.

According to a statement issued by ISPR on Monday, 21 terrorists were killed as security forces and law enforcement agencies (LEAs) responded to the attacks, while 14 soldiers laid their lives in the line of duty.

Security Forces and Law Enforcement Agencies immediately responded and successfully thwarted the evil design of terrorists and sent twenty-one terrorists to hell in ensuing clearance operations, ensuring security and protection of local populace.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif strongly condemned the attacks and expressed his deep grief on the martyrdom of policemen and Levies personnel. He also ordered that a probe be launched into the attacks to identify and punish the perpetrators.

In summary, somehow ongoing sanitisation operations against the instigators, perpetrators, facilitators, and abettors of these heinous and cowardly acts, targeting innocent civilians have restored the civilian government writ but collateral damage is huge and soft image has now been further marginalized resulting further delays in the ongoing mega projects of the CPEC in the province. One of the first and major casualties of this naked terrorism of the BLA is Gwadar Airport which has been further delayed amid security concerns. There is an urgent need to form an action plan to hold talks with the political leadership of Balochistan and subsequently reaching out to Naraaz (discontent) Baloch. Funds for operation Azm-e-Istehkam has been allocated, therefore, a full-fledged counter insurgent operation is the need

of hour to eliminate BLA, MB, TTP and ISIS-K from the country. The military establishment and government should not bow before the whims & wishes of the greedy opposition searching a new deal on this. Terrorism has become the biggest hurdle in immense social development, economic stability and sustainability which is constantly corroding our collective survival and even essential attributes, mainly safety, security and functionality of the system is also at stake. The policy makers of China should also realize that ongoing terrorism in the country has certain regional connections and international patrons because of its just stance against the imperialist forces in Asia Pacific, South China Sea, Taiwan and ongoing trade war has also spillover repercussions. Therefore a joint and comprehensive hybrid security mechanism is the need of the hour. Hopefully the current visit of General Li Qiaoming, Commander of the People's Liberation Army Ground Forces would make better understanding among different stakeholders to act swiftly against terrorists.

<https://pakobserver.net/cpec-becomes-hostage-of-violence-terrorism-a-way-forward/>

Motives behind rise of terrorism in Balochistan

Dr Muhammad Khan

THE tragic incidents of terrorism in parts of the Balochistan Province on 26 August 2024 have killed dozens of civilians and security forces personnel. These were the worst terrorist attacks witnessed in the province in the last many years. The banned terrorist organization, Baloch Liberation Army (BLA) has taken the responsibility of these terrorist attacks. These attacks were planned with a lot of meticulous planning and conducted in the cruellest manner. This speaks of the training of the banned BLA and similar other terrorist outfits in the Province. Whereas, Musakhel attack was much projected by media, since over two dozen passengers were offloaded from the vehicles and brutally killed after identification parade besides setting ablaze over a dozen vehicles, the other incidents of killings were even worse in nature and conducted more heartlessly. These attacks were conducted on the day when Commander of the Ground Forces of the People's Liberation Army of China General Li Qiaoming was visiting Pakistan and had a meeting with the Army Chief at the GHQ.

The terrorist attacks of the BLA can be analyzed from multiple angles: a) a message to China to stop collaboration and coordination with Pakistan, b) sabotaging the CPEC and Gwadar Port Project, and c) initiating and igniting ethnic conflict in Pakistan. Indeed, the commander of the banned BLA later issued a warning to Pakistan and China too. Keeping China away from cooperating with Pakistan and implementation of the CPEC seems more of the agendas of the regional and international powers rather than the local people of the Province. Rather, people of Pakistan should see these two agendas as more significant for the development of the Province. CPEC and Operationalization of Gwadar Port will benefit the local population more than any other part of Pakistan. These two projects will boost economic activities in the province, giving a lot of job opportunities for the people of Balochistan.

Nevertheless, these projects are irritants for the anti-Pakistan and anti-Province forces which would never like to see economic progress in the country and the Province. This means that the BLA is being used against the interests of Pakistan and especially against the interest of the people of Balochistan. How can this terrorist outfit talk about the rights of the people of

Balochistan?. This should be known to the people of Balochistan and indeed, entire Pakistan. Killing non-Balochi people who are contributing in various economic activities of the province is another act of antagonism with people of Balochistan. It clearly means two things; a) creating ethnic conflict in Pakistan which indirectly benefits the enemies of Pakistan and more so the enemies of the people of Balochistan province. It is an effort for stoppage of all economic activities in the Province which is a clear enmity with the people of Balochistan.

This analysis clearly leads towards a conclusion that all terrorists' activities of banned terrorist groups in the province are meant to keep the people in extremely backward economic status, alienated and isolated from the rest of the country. It is a clear exploitation of the people of Balochistan in the name of sub-nationalism and human rights. These are indeed the agenda of international forces that desire to dislocate and ruin Pakistan internally. These incidents and the objectives linked with these must be known to the people of the Province and every Pakistani national. As during the Cold War, the ultimate target of this major power competition is Pakistan and the current phase of terrorism in Balochistan is a manifestation of Pakistan's suffering. The clashing interests of major powers and regional states have created a strategic dilemma for Pakistan, which Islamabad needs to address with wisdom and foresight. The threats posed to Balochistan are indeed serious in nature, directly impacting the sovereignty and integrity of Pakistan. Though there is no direct threat from the conventional and traditional perspective of warfare, yet the transformed nature of these threats are seriously undermining the provincial security, the safety of masses and its economic prosperity and stability. Resources of the province belong to its people, thus must be utilized for the socio-economic uplift of the locals. The Reko-Diq project and other similar projects should play a significant role towards economic development including job creation for the local masses of the province. Marine resources should be utilized for the people of the coastal belt and the State should ensure that the rights of local fishermen are fully protected. Indeed, there is a need that there should develop a feeling and sense of belonging, sense of pride and ownership among the people, especially the youth of the province over their resources and provincial government in a tangible form. Indeed, owing to its strategic positioning, the major powers and regional states are directly and indirectly playing their active roles to keep the state of Pakistan in turmoil by waging indirect war (through terrorism) in the province. Apart from terrorism the distinctive feature of these challenges is a war of narratives, perceptions and opinion making against the state and its institutions implemented through hybrid warfare. As a way forward the Government must devise strategies for the direct social engagement with the masses of the province while addressing their socio-economic concerns and restoration of their trust over the state. A two- pronged strategy; a) engagement and dialogue with local population and those having grievances but not taken up arms against the State and b) combating the elements of banned terrorist organizations like BLA is a suggested way forward.

<https://pakobserver.net/motives-behind-rise-of-terrorism-in-balochistan/>

The Express Tribune

CM announces plans to reactivate SEZA

Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah has announced plans to reactivate the Special Economic Zone Authority (SEZA)

KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah has announced plans to reactivate the Special Economic Zone Authority (SEZA) with the aim of attracting investment, facilitating investors, and enhancing development within the province's Special Economic Zones (SEZs).

In a meeting held at CM House on Tuesday, CM Shah stressed the need for increased productivity and improved facilities in the nine notified special economic zones. These include both federal and provincial zones as well as those managed by the private sector.

The chief minister highlighted SEZA's role in managing zone applications, selecting developers, and coordinating with various authorities to develop infrastructure. He stressed that SEZA's effectiveness would be enhanced by appointing qualified professionals to handle its operations.

The meeting revealed that the nine notified SEZs in Sindh include SITE Larkana, Khairpur, Dhabeji, Bin Qasim Industrial Park, Korangi Creek Industrial Park, and Naushero Feroze Industrial Park (federal zones), as well as Service Long March, PFB, and Armstrong (private sector zones). CM Shah noted that while the Khairpur SEZ has complete infrastructure, it needs to be fully operational. He directed SEZA to evaluate the needs and challenges of each zone to address them effectively and boost the country's economy.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2491545/cm-announces-plans-to-reactivate-seza>

US, China pledge support to Pakistan

The European Union also joined the international condemnation of the attacks in Pakistan.

As Pakistan grapples with a wave of terrorist attacks, international allies, including the United States and China, have condemned the recent militant assaults in Balochistan and pledged their support in combating terrorism.

Pakistan's long-time regional ally, China, expressed deep sorrow over the attacks in the resource-rich province, home to major China-led projects such as the Gwadar port and the Saindak copper-gold mine.

The Chinese foreign ministry, through its spokesperson Lin Jian, condemned the attacks and reaffirmed Beijing's unwavering support for Pakistan in its counter-terrorism efforts.

"China stands firm against all forms of terrorism. We will continue giving staunch support to Pakistan in its effort to advance counter-terrorism operations, uphold social solidarity and stability, and protect the safety of the people," Lin Jian stated during a regular press briefing.

The United States also voiced strong condemnation of the attacks, particularly mourning the loss of law enforcers and civilians in Balochistan's Musakhail and other areas.

"Our hearts go out to the families and loved ones of those killed in yesterday's attacks. The United States will continue to stand shoulder-to-shoulder with Pakistan in its fight against terrorism," the US embassy in Islamabad stated on its official X account.

The European Union joined in condemning the attacks, with EU Commission Spokesperson Nabila Massrali saying that "terrorism and violence in any form have no place" and expressing solidarity with the victims of the senseless violence.

Germany also expressed concern over the "recent surge in violence in Balochistan," with the German Consul General in Karachi extending support to the victims and their families, hoping for a swift restoration of peace and stability in the region.

The recent attacks, claimed by the banned Balochistan Liberation Army (BLA), targeted civilians, police, and security forces. In response, security forces eliminated 21 terrorists and injured several others.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2491608/us-china-pledge-support-to-pakistan>

President for stronger ties with China

Says China is a trusted and great friend of Pakistan

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari has said that China is a trusted and great friend of Pakistan, and both countries need to further strengthen strategic cooperation for the mutual benefit of the two sides.

He said that both countries enjoyed historic relations, spanning over seven decades, and affirmed Pakistan's resolve to stand with China in view of the changing global scenario.

The President expressed these views while talking to the visiting Commander of the Ground Forces of the People's Liberation Army of China, General Li Qiaoming, who along with his delegation, called on him, at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

Welcoming the Chinese Commander, the President underscored the need for further enhancing military and defence cooperation, people-to-people contacts and cultural linkages to bring the two countries further closer.

He said that Pakistan was encouraging the learning of the Chinese language which would greatly help promote people-to-people ties. The President remarked that China Pakistan Economic Corridor was his initiative, envisioned during his previous tenure as the President of Pakistan. "Enemies of Pakistan and China did not want our bilateral relations to flourish," said Zardari, adding that the two countries should work closely to overcome shared challenges. Highlighting the importance of Pak-China friendship, General Li Qiaoming said that the friendship between the two countries was unbreakable. He added that both countries needed to work together to fight terrorism. He also condemned terrorist attacks in Pakistan and offered his heartfelt condolences to the government and people of Pakistan over the loss of life. Earlier, President Asif Ali Zardari conferred the award of Nishan-i-Imtiaz (Military) upon General Li Qiaoming in recognition of his meritorious services rendered towards enhancing defence cooperation between Pakistan and China, during a special investiture ceremony held, at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

The Chinese Commander thanked the President for the conferment of the Nishan-i-Imtiaz (Military) and said that the award was a testimony of the strong bonds between the two countries. Meanwhile, China strongly condemned the recent terrorist attacks in Balochistan and expressed deep condolences to the victims, the Chinese Foreign Ministry said on Tuesday. Foreign Ministry spokesperson Lin Jian, responding to a question at a daily press briefing, stated, "China firmly opposes all forms of terrorism and will continue to firmly support Pakistan in advancing counter-terrorism operations, maintaining social unity and stability, and protecting people's safety." The attacks saw terrorists targeting Pakistani security forces and police across multiple locations in Balochistan. The assailants stopped vehicles, killed innocent civilians and destroyed infrastructure, including roads and railways.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2491598/president-for-stronger-ties-with-china>

The Nation

President confers Nishan-i-Imtiaz (Military) on Chinese commander

ISLAMABAD - President Asif Ali Zardari has conferred the award of Nishan-i-Imtiaz (Military) upon Commander of the Ground Forces of the People's Liberation Army of China, General Li Qiaoming, in recognition of his meritorious services rendered towards enhancing defence cooperation between Pakistan and China. The award was conferred upon the Chinese commander during a special investiture ceremony held at Aiwan-e-Sadr on Tuesday. The Chinese Commander thanked the President for the conferment of the Nishan-i-Imtiaz (Military) and said that the award was a testimony of the strong bonds between the two countries. Earling, the Chinese commander held a meeting with President Zardari at the Aiwan-e-Sadr. On the occasion, the president said that enemies of Pakistan and China did not want our bilateral relations to flourish, adding the two countries should work closely to overcome shared challenges. He said that China is a trusted and great friend of Pakistan, and both the countries need to further strengthen strategic cooperation for the mutual benefit of the two sides. He also said that both the countries enjoyed historic relations, spanning over seven decades, and affirmed Pakistan's resolve to stand with China in view of the changing global scenario. Welcoming the Chinese Commander, the President underscored the need for further enhancing military and defence cooperation, people-to-people contacts, and cultural linkages to bring the two countries further closer. He said that Pakistan was encouraging the learning of the Chinese language which would greatly help promote people-to-people ties. The President remarked that China Pakistan Economic Corridor was his initiative, envisioned during his previous tenure as the President of Pakistan. Highlighting the importance of Pak-China friendship, General Li Qiaoming said that the friendship between the two countries was unbreakable. He added that both the countries needed to work together to fight terrorism. He also condemned yesterday's terrorist attacks in Pakistan and offered his heartfelt condolences to the government and people of Pakistan over the loss of life.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/28-Aug-2024/president-confers-nishan-i-imtiaz-military-on-chinese-commander>

K2 Daily

<p>بقیہ 4</p> <p>بھین کی پہلڑ لبریشن آری</p> <p>کے جزل لی چیا منگ کونستان</p> <p>اقتیاز مظری سے نواز آ گیا</p> <p>اسلام آباد (آئی این پی) صدر حکومت آصف علی زرداری نے پاک فوجی عملیات میں کردار ادا کرنے پر گنتی خوار (باقی صفحہ 7 بجہ نمبر 4)</p>	<p>لبریشن آری گروپ ٹورمز کے کمانڈر جزل لی بیا منگ کونستان اقامت مظری سے نواز دیے۔ اس ضمن میں ای این صدر میں تقریب منعقد ہوئی جہاں صدر حکومت آصف علی زرداری نے انہیں انعام کونستین کیا۔ تقریب میں دلایا اعظم شہباز شریف، آری جزیہ جزل ماسم تیسرے نمبر کی سال اور فوجی تیار سے موجود تھی جس کے ساتھ پاکستان آئے گنتی خوار اور گنتی نظام بھی موجود تھے۔ تقریب کا آغاز تلاوت سے ہوا جس کے بعد شہباز کو تاج کیا گیا۔ گنتی جزل لی بیا منگ 40 ہری سے نواز میں اپنے قرائن بھی انجام دے رہے ہیں، انہوں نے نکلے کے امن پاکستان اور بھین کے درمیان تعلقات میں کردار ادا کرنے کی خدمات انجام دیں جس کے اعزاز میں حکومت پاکستان انہیں ای ای اعزاز سے نواز رہی ہے۔ گنتی جزل کو اننگ پر آنے کی وجہ سے ہی گنتی اور صدر حکومت آصف علی زرداری نے ان کے بیٹے پر تمغہ کونستان اقامت مظری عطا کیا۔</p>
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<p>بقیہ 5</p> <p>جملے قابل خدمت، پاکستان سے سیکورٹی تعاون بڑھائیں گے، بھین</p> <p>بھین ہر قسم کی دہشت گردی کے خلاف مشیبتی سے کڑا ہے</p> <p>امن و استحکام برقرار رکھنے کیلئے پاکستان کی بھرپور حمایت کرتے ہیں</p> <p>جنگ (انٹرنیوز) بھین نے بلوچستان میں بے گنتی دہشت گردانہ حملوں کے دوران لے رہی ہیں حالیہ دہشت گرد حملوں کی شدید مذمت کرتے ہوئے بھینک کے دوران کہا کہ ہم دہشت گردوں کی پاکستان سے بیکرونی تعاون بڑھانے کا اعلان کیا۔ شدید مذمت اور امن (باقی صفحہ 7 بجہ نمبر 5)</p>	<p>ملوں میں ہاتوں کے نہ ہانے پر گرتے ہوئے کہا کہ بھین ہر قسم کی دہشت گردی کی کارروائیوں میں پاکستان کی بھرپور حمایت جاری رکھے گا۔ ترجمان کا کہنا تھا کہ بھین ہر قسم کی دہشت گردی کے خلاف مشیبتی سے کڑا ہے۔ امن و استحکام برقرار رکھنے اور لوگوں کے تحفظ کے لیے پاکستان کی بھرپور حمایت جاری رکھیں گے۔ بھین دہشت گردانہ حملوں کے دوران لے رہی ہیں پاکستان کے ساتھ ساتھ دہشت گردی اور بیکرونی تعاون کو ختم بڑھانے اور نکلے میں امن و استحکام کے مشورے کرنا کے لیے تیار ہے۔</p>
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Nawaiwaqt New

صدر مملکت نے چینی بری فوج کے سربراہ کو نشان امتیاز ملٹری سے نوازا

اسلام آباد (نمائندہ خصوصی) صدر مملکت نے پاک چائنہ تعلقات میں کردار ادا کرنے پر چینی پیپلز لبریشن آرمی گروپڈ فورسز کے کمانڈر جنرل لی چیواؤ منگ کو نشان امتیاز ملٹری سے نوازا۔ اس حوالے سے ایوان صدر میں تقریب منعقد ہوئی جہاں صدر مملکت آصف علی زرداری نے انہیں انعام تفویض کیا۔ تقریب میں وزیراعظم شہباز شریف، آرمی چیف جنرل عاصم منیر سمیت ملکی سول اور فوجی قیادت موجود تھی جس کے ساتھ پاکستان آئے چینی وفد اور چینی حکام بھی موجود تھے۔ تقریب کا آغاز تلاوت سے ہوا جس کے بعد شرکاء کو بتایا گیا کہ چینی جنرل لی چیواؤنگ 40 برس سے فوج میں اپنے فرائض منصبی انجام دے رہے ہیں، انہوں نے خطے کے امن، پاکستان اور چین کے درمیان تعلقات میں کردار ادا کرنے کی خدمات انجام دیں جس کے اعزاز میں حکومت پاکستان انہیں اس اعزاز سے نوازا رہی ہے۔ چینی جنرل کو اسٹیج پر آنے کی دعوت دی گئی اور صدر مملکت آصف علی زرداری نے ان کے سینے پر تمغہ نشان امتیاز ملٹری لگایا۔

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2024-08-28/page-1/detail-37>

August 29, 2024

Business Recorder

Political parties reaffirm support to CPEC

ISLAMABAD: Political parties, both from the government and the opposition side, on Wednesday, reaffirmed their support for China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

The Pakistan-China Institute (PCI) organised an event under its "Friends of Silk Road" series, which brought together leaders of eight political parties on one platform to reaffirm support for CPEC.

Leaders belonging to parties from government and opposition sides, PML-N, PPP, PTI, MQM, BAP, NP, NDM and JUI-F, from all provinces attended the event. They also

discussed the results of the recently-concluded 3rd Plenum of the Communist Party of China (CPC) and its impact on China and its foreign relations.

Mushahid Hussain Sayed, Chairman PCI emphasised the pivotal role of the CPC in China's ongoing journey of reform and modernisation, adding CPC is the world's biggest political party with 100 million members and longest-serving political party, which has transformed China.

Citing figures of China's phenomenal progress since the 1979 Reform & Opening Up, he said then China had per capita income of \$157 while now its \$12,000, then China's GDP was \$150 billion, now it is \$18 trillion. And Fortune 500 now counts China with 142, the largest number of companies.

Mushahid listed five reasons for the China success story in such a short time: Quality of leadership, ability to do course correction, continuity of policy, learning from others, and peaceful foreign policy.

Senator Sherry Rehman noted that the Third Plenary Session of the 20th Central Committee will have far-reaching impacts not only on China but also on the world. "China has played a crucial role in the development of the Global South, and the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) has created numerous investment opportunities in Pakistan," Senator Rehman stated.

She praised China's Global Security Initiative, calling it a commendable effort that will ensure peace and stability globally. Additionally, she highlighted China's role in clean energy development under CPEC as a significant contribution to sustainable development in Pakistan and the region.

Saadia Khaqan Abbasi commended China's leadership in technological advancement, human development, and labour productivity. "The focus on security and development is a unique selling point of China", she added.

Senator Shibli Faraz, leader of opposition belonging to Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) emphasised China's development story as a role model for the world and highlighted the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) as having the potential for shared development and prosperity across the globe. "CPEC stands as a beacon of hope for Pakistanis, symbolising the transformative impact of our strong bilateral relationship," he added. He also congratulated the PCI for hosting this important timely event.

Maulana Abdul Ghafoor Haideri, MNA, Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam -Fazl underscored the enduring strength of Pakistan-China relations, praising President Xi Jinping's vital role in China's development, noting that his leadership has been instrumental in driving China's remarkable progress on the global stage.

Afrasiab Khattak, senior leader of National Democratic Movement (NDM), underlined that the Communist Party of China is more than just a political party; it is a popular ruling force that has steered China towards unprecedented development, adding "Pakistan must learn from China, do a course correction and become a frontline state in economic development, focusing on geo-economics, rather than being a frontline state in conflicts".

Jan Muhammad Jamali said that the future of Balochistan is inextricably interconnected with Pakistan's broader development goals.

Shezra Mansab Ali, MNA, Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, reaffirmed Pakistan's unwavering support for the One-China policy and respect for China's unity, territorial integrity and sovereignty, adding that "China has consistently supported Pakistan on its core issues, including the Kashmir dispute."

Jan Muhammad Buledi, leader of National Party emphasised the importance of enhancing collaboration between Balochistan's universities and their Chinese counterparts.

"Our universities in Balochistan should strengthen ties with Chinese institutions to foster academic and research excellence."

Senator Abdul Qadir from Balochistan Awami Party emphasised the wealth of knowledge and experience that Pakistan can gain from China's successes across various sectors.

"Pakistan can learn a great deal from China's experience, especially in areas like economic development, infrastructure, and governance."

Taha Ahmed Khan from MQM highlighted the strategic importance of Karachi as Pakistan's trade hub, particularly due to its proximity to the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). "Karachi is not only the trade hub of Pakistan but also holds critical importance due to its close ties with the CPEC route," Khan stated.

He also expressed the MQM's strong condemnation of the recent attacks on Chinese nationals in Pakistan, reaffirming the party's commitment to ensuring the safety and security of all Chinese citizens in the country.

"We stand firmly against any attacks on our Chinese friends and partners," he added.

Senator Ali Zafar from Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) emphasised the importance of the Communist Party of China's (CPC) approach of policy continuity and its principle of "seeking truths from facts."

He noted that "The CPC's continuity of policy and countering corruption are key factors in China's sustained development, and Pakistan can benefit greatly from adopting a similar approach."

Yang Nuo, Minister-Counsellor at the Chinese Embassy in Pakistan, emphasised the importance of the Third Plenary Session of the 20th Central Committee, describing it as a pivotal event for China's future, stating "This session serves as a blueprint for further reforms in China, setting the stage for continued progress and development."

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2024/08/29/3-page/1005166-news.html>

Dawn News

CPEC termed lifeline for Pakistan economy

ISLAMABAD: Politicians belonging to the ruling coalition as well as the opposition reaffirmed unwavering support to the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor project on Wednesday, terming it a lifeline for the country's economy.

The speakers made this observation at a multiparty moot held at Pakistan-China Institute on Wednesday.

Senator Mushahid Hussain Syed, chairman of the institute, termed ties with China central to Pakistan's future, saying CPEC has the potential to bring progress and prosperity.

The event brought together leaders from eight political parties, including the PML-N, PPP, PTI, MQM and JUI-F.

Senator Mushahid highlighted the Communist Party of China's (CPC) pivotal role in the country's journey of reform and modernisation, adding that it is the world's biggest political party with 100 million members.

The senator listed five reasons behind China's success story in a short time: quality of leadership, ability to do course correction, continuity of policy, learning from others, and peaceful foreign policy.

Senator Sherry Rehman noted that China had played a crucial role in development of the Global South, and that CPEC had created numerous investment opportunities in Pakistan.

She praised Beijing's Global Security Initiative, calling it a commendable effort that will ensure global peace.

The PPP senator also highlighted China's role in clean energy development under CPEC as a significant contribution to sustainable development in Pakistan and the region.

Maulana Abdul Ghafoor Haideri, an MNA from the Jamiat Ulema-i-Islam, underscored the enduring strength of Pakistan-China relations, lauding President Xi Jinping's role in his country's march to progress.

"XI's leadership has been instrumental in driving China's remarkable progress on the global stage."

Saadia Khaqan Abbasi commended China's leadership for ushering in technological advancement, human development and labour productivity. "The focus on security and development is a unique selling point for China," she added.

PTI Senator Shibli Faraz, who is also Leader of the Opposition in the upper house, recounted China's development story as a role model for the world.

He described the BRI as a symbol of shared development and prosperity. "CPEC stands as a beacon of hope for Pakistanis, symbolising the transformative impact of our strong bilateral relationship."

Senator Afrasiab Khattak of the National Democratic Movement said the Communist Party of China is more than just a political party; it is a popular ruling force that has steered China towards unprecedented development. “Pakistan must learn from China, do a course correction and become a frontline state in economic development, focusing on geoeconomics rather than being a frontline state in conflicts.”

Senator Jan Muhammad Jamali said Balochistan’s future is inextricably interconnected with the country’s development goals and the past must not “impede CPEC at any cost”.

Shezra Mansab Ali, Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, reaffirmed Islamabad’s unwavering support for the One-China policy and respect for China’s unity, territorial integrity and sovereignty. “China has consistently supported Pakistan on core issues, including the Kashmir dispute.”

Senator Jan Muhammad Buledi, a leader of the National Party, emphasised the importance of enhancing collaboration between Balochistan’s universities and their Chinese counterparts.

Senator Abdul Qadir, a leader of the Balochistan Awami Party, pinpointed the wealth of knowledge and experience that Pakistan can gain from China’s success story.

“Pakistan can learn a great deal from China’s experience, especially in areas like economic development, infrastructure, and governance.”

MQM’s Taha Ahmed highlighted the strategic importance of Karachi as Pakistan’s business hub thanks to its proximity to CPEC.

“Karachi is not only the country’s business hub but also holds critical importance due to its close ties with the CPEC route,” Taha Khan stated.

Senator Ali Zafar of the PTI praised the Communist Party of China for maintaining continuity of policy and for its principle of “seeking truth from fact”.

Trailblazer

Yang Nuo, Minister-Counsellor at the Chinese embassy in Islamabad, emphasised the importance of the third plenary session of the 20th Central Committee held last month, describing it as a trailblazer for China’s future.

“This session serves as a blueprint for further reforms in China, setting the stage for continued progress and development.”

Qaiser Ahmed Sheikh, Federal Minister for Maritime Affairs, in his closing remarks highlighted China’s consensus-oriented decision-making process.

“In China, decisions are made through a consensus-driven approach, ensuring that all voices are heard and considered, which contributes to their effective governance,” he observed.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1855392>

The News

Political leadership resolves to support, sustain CPEC

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan-China Institute (PCI), headed by Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed, organised an event under its 'Friends of Silk Road' series, which brought together leaders of eight political parties to reaffirm support for CPEC.

Leaders belonging to parties from government and opposition, PMLN, PPP, PTI, MQM, BAP, NP, NDM, and JUIF, from all the provinces, were represented. They also discussed the results of the recently concluded 3rd Plenum of the Communist Party of China (CPC) and its impact on China and its foreign relations.

The event was also attended by over 200 participants from different sectors like academia, media, industry, civil society, students, scholars and think tanks. In the end, Mushahid Hussain Sayed read out a Joint Statement on behalf of all participating political parties.

The statement reaffirmed their commitment to deepening their relationship with China, acclaiming the significant outcomes of the Third Plenary Session of CPC and their unshakable resolve to support, strengthen and sustain CPEC as this initiative is a guarantor for a better tomorrow for Pakistan. Earlier, Mushahid emphasised the pivotal role of CPC in China's ongoing journey of reform and modernization which has transformed China. Citing figures of China's phenomenal progress since the 1979 Reform & Opening Up, he said China had a per capita income of \$157 then while now it was \$12,000, and its GDP has risen to \$18 trillion from \$150 billion. He attributed the quality of leadership, ability to course correction, continuity of policy, learning from others and peaceful foreign policy to making China a success story in such a short time.

Earlier, Senator Sherry Rehman noted that the Third Plenary Session of the 20th Central Committee will have far-reaching impacts not only on China but also on the world. "China has played a crucial role in the development of Global South, and China-Pakistan Economic Corridor has created numerous investment opportunities in Pakistan," she said.

Additionally, she highlighted China's role in clean energy development under CPEC as a significant contribution to sustainable development in Pakistan and the region.

Saadia Khaqan Abbasi commended China's leadership for technological advancement, human development and labour productivity. "The focus on security and development is a unique selling point of China," she added.

Senator Shibli Faraz, Leader of Opposition, Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), emphasised that China's development story is a role model for the world and highlighted the Belt and Road Initiative as having the potential for shared development and prosperity across the globe. "CPEC stands as a beacon of hope for Pakistanis, symbolizing the transformative impact of our strong bilateral relationship," he added.

Speaking on the occasion, MNA JUI F Maulana Abdul Ghafoor Haideri praised President Xi Jinping for being instrumental in driving China's remarkable progress on the global stage.

Senator Afrasiab Khattak, Senior Leader of the National Democratic Movement, (NDM), underlined that the Communist Party of China has steered China towards unprecedented development, adding ‘Pakistan must learn from China, do a course correction and become a frontline state in economic development, focusing on geoeconomics, rather than being a frontline state in conflicts’.

Senator Jan Muhammad Jamali said, “CPEC must not be impeded at any cost.” Shezra Mansab Ali, MNA, Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, reaffirmed Pakistan’s unwavering support for the One-China policy and respect for China’s unity, territorial integrity and sovereignty, adding that “China has consistently supported Pakistan on its core issues, including the Kashmir dispute.”

Senator Jan Muhammad Buledi, leader of the National Party, emphasized the importance of enhancing collaboration between Balochistan’s universities and their Chinese counterparts. Senator Abdul Qadir from Balochistan Awami Party emphasised “Pakistan can learn economic development, infrastructure, and governance from China.”

MQM’s Taha Ahmed Khan highlighted the strategic importance of Karachi as Pakistan’s trade hub, particularly due to its proximity to the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor. He also expressed MQM’s strong condemnation of recent attacks on Chinese nationals in Pakistan. Furthermore, Khan emphasized the importance of focusing on the Artificial Intelligence and Information Technology sectors under CPEC.

PTI’s Senator Ali Zafar said Pakistan can benefit greatly from adopting China’s sustained development. Yang Nuo, Minister-Counsellor at the Chinese Embassy in Pakistan, emphasized the importance of Third Plenary Session of the 20th Central Committee, describing it as a pivotal event for China’s future, saying “This session serves as a blueprint for further reforms in China, setting the stage for continued progress and development.”

Qaiser Ahmed Sheikh, Federal Minister for Maritime Affairs, in his closing remarks as Chief Guest, shared his experiences from numerous visits to China, emphasising the country’s consensus-oriented decision-making process. “The development I witnessed in Gwadar is a clear indicator of the transformative impact CPEC has had on the region,” he said. He highlighted the potential and benefits of the Gwadar Airport, noting that it will play a crucial role in the region’s economic growth and connectivity.

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=337533>

K2 Daily

https://epaper.dailyk2.com/Home?Issue=NP_GB&Page=Back_Page&Date=2024-08-29

https://epaper.dailyk2.com/Home?Issue=NP_GB&Page=Classified&Date=2024-08-29

Nawaiwaqt New**پاک چین انسٹیٹیوٹ کل جماعتی کانفرنس نے سی پیک کیلئے مکمل تعاون کا اعلان کر دیا**

اسلام آباد (نوائے وقت رپورٹ) پاک چین انسٹیٹیوٹ کی کل جماعتی کانفرنس ہوئی۔ کانفرنس میں تمام جماعتوں کے ارکان نے شرکت کی۔ سب نے سی پیک کیلئے مکمل تعاون کا اعلان کیا۔ کانفرنس میں (ن) لیگ، پی پی پی اور پی ٹی آئی سمیت آٹھ جماعتوں نے شرکت کی۔ پاک چین انسٹیٹیوٹ کے چیئرمین مشاہد حسین سید نے کہا کہ پاک چین تعلقات کی مرکزی اہمیت ہے، چین کی 1979ء میں فی کس آمدن 157 ڈالر تھی جو اب بڑھ کر 12 ہزار ڈالر ہو چکی ہے۔ چین کی جی ڈی پی 150 ارب ڈالر سے بڑھ کر 18 ہزار ارب ڈالر ہو چکی ہے۔ دنیا کی 500 بڑی کمپنیوں میں چین کی 142 کمپنیاں شامل ہیں۔ سینیٹر شیریں رحمان نے کہا کہ چین نے دنیا کے جنوبی حصے میں واقع ترقی پذیر ممالک کی معاشی ترقی میں بہت مدد کی ہے۔ پی ٹی آئی کے سینیٹر شبلی فراز نے چین کی ترقی کو دنیا کیلئے رول ماڈل قرار دیا۔ جے یو آئی کے مولانا عبدالغفور حیدری نے چین کی ترقی میں صدر ششی چن بنگ کے کردار کو سراہا۔

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2024-08-29/page-1/detail-26>

August 30, 2024**Business Recorder****Sesame exporters secure \$28m MoU with Chinese firms**

KARACHI: A delegation of 23 Pakistani sesame exporters has concluded a highly successful visit to China, which took place from August 18-24. This visit represents a pivotal step in enhancing trade relations between Pakistan and China in the sesame sector. Trade Development Authority of Pakistan (TDAP) has sponsored this delegation. In last fiscal year, sesame export was around \$423 million, and major market for export was China.

On August 19, the delegation participated in the Pakistan-China B2B Sesame Conference hosted at the Pakistan Embassy in Beijing. The conference brought together representatives from 19 leading Chinese enterprises, including COFCO, Beijing Capital Agribusiness & Foods Group, Jingliang Holdings, Hebei Grain Group, and Zhuochuang Consulting Co., Ltd.

The delegation then traveled to Daming County in Handan City, Hebei Province, on August 20. Daming County, a major hub for sesame consumption in China, imports over 200,000

MT of sesame annually, accounting for 20% of the country's total imports. Despite this significant demand, Pakistani sesame currently holds a minimal market share.

The delegation's visit aimed to introduce Pakistani sesame to new importers and explore opportunities for expanding exports. The visit included tours of four prominent factories: Jing Xinquan Sesame Oil, Wudelli Flour, Daming Fu Sesame Oil, and Taidu Group. The day concluded with a B2B seminar organized by the Daming County Government, which facilitated productive meetings between Pakistani delegates and representatives from 10 leading Chinese companies. An MoU between the Daming County Government and the exporters visited with the delegation for the procurement of 50,000 MT of sesame seed annually is under process.

From August 21-24, the delegation continued their visit in Suzhou and Shanghai. On August 22, 2024, the delegation visited the headquarters of Chef Ma, a company affiliated with the Alibaba Group. During this visit, an MoU worth USD 28 million was signed, marking a significant milestone in their trade negotiations. The delegation also attended a matchmaking session organized by the Mission in Suzhou, Jiangsu Province.

On August 23, 2024, the delegation toured three prominent food companies in Shanghai as part of their comprehensive trade promotion efforts.

This visit represents a significant advancement in strengthening trade ties between Pakistan and China and sets a promising foundation for future collaboration in the sesame industry.—
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<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2024/08/30/4-page/1005329-news.html>

Pakistan Observer

Bipartisan support for CPEC

IN a remarkable display of political unity, leaders from various political parties at an event organized by Pakistan-China Institute reaffirmed their support for China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). The event indeed highlighted a significant point: despite their serious differences on domestic issues, the country's political parties agree on the strategic importance of CPEC and the broader relationship with China. This unity is a powerful message to our Chinese friends, reflecting Pakistan's unwavering commitment to strengthening bilateral ties. Leaders from PML-N, PPP, PTI and other political parties collectively praised CPEC and China's role in global and regional development, reinforcing the partnership's vital role in Pakistan's future.

CPEC has certainly emerged as a cornerstone of Pakistan-China relations, offering a transformative platform for economic growth. The initiative has already made substantial contributions, from infrastructure development to energy projects. Looking ahead, CPEC's expansion into five new corridors—Innovation, Livelihood, Green Energy, Regional Development, and Employment Creation—presents unprecedented opportunities. These corridors are designed to address critical areas, including technological advancement, sustainable energy, regional development, and job creation, which are essential for our economic growth. The successful implementation of these corridors has the potential to

reshape our economic landscape. To achieve this, it is imperative for our authorities concerned to engage proactively and effectively with their Chinese counterparts. This collaboration will ensure that the goals of these new corridors are met and that the benefits are realized in a timely manner. Our political unity on CPEC and its future projects reflects a strategic alignment with China. It is also important for our political parties to move forward and also take requisite steps to bring political stability in the country. By doing so, we can fast track not only implementation of the new corridors but also can attract investment from other sources including from Pakistani Diaspora.

<https://pakobserver.net/bipartisan-support-for-cpec/>

August 31, 2024

Daily Times

Pak-China education cooperation goes online

The 2024 Online Summer Camp for Training Local Chinese Teachers in Pakistan successfully concluded, marking the end of a comprehensive four-day programme aimed at enhancing the skills and expertise of local educators on Friday. The event, which took place from August 23-26, was hosted by Xinjiang Agricultural University (XAU) and co-organized by the Confucius Institute at the University of Agriculture, Faisalabad (CIUAF), alongside the Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region Education International Exchange Association. A total of 37 local Chinese teachers and international Chinese language enthusiasts participated in the summer camp, representing seven universities, five Confucius Institutes, and two Confucius Classrooms across Pakistan. The camp was to bolster the teaching capabilities of its participants, ensuring a robust and competent teaching force in the country. The training sessions were enriched by the involvement of professors and experts from prominent Chinese academic institutions, including Shanghai Jiao Tong University, Hebei University, Zhejiang Normal University, and XAU. Teachers from various Confucius Institutes also contributed their valuable knowledge and experience to the program. The summer camp's curriculum was divided into two modules, each tailored to meet the specific needs of the participants. The first module, "International Chinese Education Theory and Practice," comprised five lectures covering topics such as technology-assisted Chinese language teaching, syllabus development, grammatical case studies, vocabulary instruction strategies, and professional planning for local Chinese teachers. The second module, "Chinese Culture Video Sharing and Hands-on Experiences," offered three interactive workshops designed to immerse participants in Chinese culture. These workshops included activities such as paper cutting, calligraphy, and an introduction to Peking Opera, providing a unique opportunity for participants to engage with and appreciate various aspects of Chinese culture. This successful event has underscored the growing educational collaboration between Pakistan and China, contributing to the further development of Chinese language education in Pakistan.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1222157/pak-china-education-cooperation-goes-online/>

Dawn News**Gwadar airport launch delayed**

ISLAMABAD: The launch of a Chinese-funded airport in Balochistan has been delayed for a security assessment following the recent fatal militant attacks in the province, according to officials.

Part of the Belt and Road Initiative, the \$200 million airport in Gwadar, a joint venture between Pakistan, Oman and China is close to completion.

The initial plan was for Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif to inaugurate the airport on Aug 14 alongside Chinese officials, but that was called off after a Baloch rights group started a protest sit-in in the port city, the officials said.

Following recent attacks, two officials at the CAA and two others in the Balochistan government told Reuters that the start of flights would be delayed as the authorities review security in the region.

“The Chinese already had concerns about the security situation, and the recent attacks will definitely cause more delay,” one senior provincial government official said, requesting anonymity.

In its comment, the Chinese foreign ministry said: “China is willing to work with the Pakistani side to continue to do a good job in the relevant security work and ensure ... progress of the corridor construction.”

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1855892>

Pakistan Observer**China-US strategic communication: A right way forward**

Dr Mehmood Ul Hassan Khan

HAWKS are fleeing and doves are flying high as highest policy makers of the USA and China are trying to make the bridges of mutual trust, better understanding maturing the spells of strategic communication which will hopefully pave the way of constructive negotiations. It seems that higher economic stakes, expanding social dividends and political consensus have become a magnetic force to pull both countries towards the common grounds of commerce, climate change and greater socio-economic integration providing the common ground of preventing the existing tensions. Thus, restraint, political decency, economic concessions and geopolitical accommodations should be the mantra to add pragmatic elements to China-US relations.

While meeting with US National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan the Chinese President Xi Jinping rightly put forward holistic and comprehensive and strategic roadmap strategic covering overall and directional guidance on China-US relations, demonstrating to the US side China's clear stance to maintain the stability of China-US relations and on that basis, improve and take forward the relationship. Despite rapidly changing socio-economic ties, widening geopolitical divisions and geostrategic conflicting realities China's policy toward

the US remains highly consistent, demonstrating a responsible attitude and injecting valuable positive energy into global peace and stability.

Xi's recipe consisting of solidarity and coordination, development, peaceful co-existence and mutual respect is the need of hour which would be a giant step towards achieving the strategic goals of global shared prosperity, global development, global security and global civilizational initiatives in the days to come. Thus joint work for stability, world peace and a propeller for common development is the way forward. It is good omen that the Chinese position of firmly safeguarding the country's sovereignty, security and development interests remains unchanged, and its efforts to carry forward the traditional friendship between the Chinese and American people remain unchanged.

Xi expressed the hope that the US side will work with China in the same direction, view China and its development in a positive and rational light, see each other's development as an opportunity rather than a challenge, and work with China to find a right way for two major countries to get along. During his three-day visit to China, Sullivan also met with China's top diplomat Wang Yi and Zhang Youxia, vice chairman of the Central Military Commission. It seems that Sullivan's wish to have communications with high-ranking Chinese officials in both diplomatic and military sectors as well as the top leader had been met, and show China's sincerity in managing and stabilizing bilateral ties. After Sullivan concluded his visit, commerce and trade teams from both sides will meet in China next week. Hopefully, the expected meetings of heads of both countries in the upcoming the G20 Summit and the APEC meeting, will bring more fortunes for both sides.

In marathon diplomatic meetings, Taiwan, democracy and human rights, path and system, and right to development dominated the entire engagements. The Chinese side raised serious concerns, articulated its position and laid out serious demands on these issues. It is suggested that the people-to-people exchanges, including visa and flight issues, may see improvement after a series of communications between the two countries. However, the China-US frictions or tensions on Taiwan question, South China Sea, trade war or sci-tech restrictions are unlikely to see much improvement as long as the US' China containment strategy remains in place. Thus sincere efforts should be made to make sure the existing tensions should not escalate and go out of control.

Obviously, the "three responsibilities" summarize the essence of China-US relations and profoundly reflect China's sense of responsibility as a major power. Unfortunately, in recent years the US' foreign policy remained inconsistent, with sudden emergency stops or even U-turns drawing vigilance and strong criticism from the international community. On the other hand, China has consistently maintained transparency in its foreign policy, with clear and open strategic intentions, and has upheld a high degree of continuity and stability. Thus China always views China-US relations and major power responsibilities through the lens of the "three responsibilities." Therefore, the US and China should demonstrate broad-mindedness, vision, and commitment, enhancing the well-being of their peoples and promoting the progress of human society.

Moreover, the US politicians and the policy makers should understand and realize that the Taiwan question, democracy and human rights, the system of governance, and the right to

development are the four red lines drawn by China in China-US relations. Sullivan reiterated that the US does not seek a new Cold War, it does not seek to change China's system, the revitalization of US alliances is not against China, the US does not support "Taiwan independence," and it does not seek conflict with China. In summary, hopefully both countries will maintain strategic communication and try to find a way for the peaceful existence of maintaining common attributes of global prosperity, stability, and harmony in a sustainable way.

First giant steps should be taken to find the right way for peacefully coexisting and common development despite their different civilizations, systems, and development paths. Hopefully the US will truly implement this attitude and come up with greater resolution inching towards greater matching boxes contributing sustainable inputs for global economic recovery and cooling down the hotspots. The US-China's widening trade war has become one of the biggest hot debates in the world and ongoing tariff therapy is actually eroding the American industrial sector, showing a strong desire for both Chinese and American business communities to interact and cooperate.

Political wisdom should prevail to avoid any camp confrontation in which economic diplomacy, trade consultation and commerce consensus will bring common peace and security, and decoupling only leads to trapping oneself. The emerging sensitive issues of EVs, renewables and overcapacity should be reassessed and ultimately readdressed for achieving the common goals of development, positivity, productivity and participation in the world. Economic compulsions should be converted into greater economic consensus, political itching points should be converted into icebergs of cooperation & coordination, war mentality and industrial tariffs should not trap fields of AI and outer spaces and, most importantly, geopolitical and geostrategic hang-overs of the history should not be in search of any new scapegoat in Asia-Pacific to tarnish the ongoing strategic communication meetings.

<https://pakobserver.net/china-us-strategic-communication-a-right-way-forward/>

Chinese business group plans to invest in key sectors

ISLAMABAD – China's major business group Hexing Electrical has expressed interest in investing in Pakistan's key sectors. The interest was expressed by Hexing Group China Chairman Liang Zhang Zhou during a meeting with Minister for Board of Investment and Privatization Abdul Aleem Khan in Islamabad. The Chinese delegation said they want to invest in renewable energy and to set up factories. Liang Zhang Zhou said we have factories in twenty countries and will also set up factories in Pakistan. He said they will set up a facility to manufacture inverters and batteries. The Federal Minister assured to extend facilities to the Chinese and other investors in Pakistan. He said transfer of industries from China to Pakistan is a welcome development. Abdul Aleem Khan said the business activities and bilateral cooperation will further strengthen Pakistan-China relations. He said that many Chinese companies are entering into joint ventures with Pakistani business community.

<https://pakobserver.net/chinese-business-group-plans-to-invest-in-key-sectors/>

The Express Tribune

ML-I: cabinet approves talks with China

The cabinet discussed and approved a two-point agenda during Friday's meeting.

ISLAMABAD: The federal cabinet on Friday approved starting negotiations on the Financial Commitment Agreement between China and Pakistan Railways to executed the ML-1 project, a crucial component of CPEC.

The cabinet meeting, chaired by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, instructed that the final agreement (on ML-1) be brought back to the cabinet for approval.

Also, the cabinet approved the immediate closure of the PWD.

The cabinet discussed and approved a two-point agenda during Friday's meeting.

The first point on the agenda involved amending the Rules of Business 1973 to facilitate the closure of the PWD.

The Prime Minister decided to shut down the PWD immediately, a move that received cabinet approval, rendering the department inactive.

The phase-II of the project is 797km long from Multan to Peshawar, which will cost \$3.36 billion but it will be taken up after the confirmation of financing – either from CPEC or other sources, according to the decision.

The cabinet also approved the decisions made by the ECC on August 29.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2492426/ml-i-cabinet-approves-talks-with-china>

Pakistan awards \$2 billion KKH contract to China

Govt also approved Rs78 billion in incentive package for its banks and exchange companies to boost foreign remittances

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan on Thursday relaxed bidding rules to directly award a \$2 billion contract to China for the construction of a strategically important road and also approved Rs78 billion in incentive package for its banks and exchange companies to boost foreign remittances. Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb-led Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) of the cabinet approved to invoke a special rule to exempt the requirement for the international competitive bidding to award a contract to Chinese firms for the construction of a section of the Karakoram Highway. The Thakot-Raikot section of the highway is critical to keep China-Pakistan connected through the land route. The ECC considered a summary of the Ministry of Communications regarding the Execution of Framework Agreement between China and Pakistan on Realignment of KKH (Thakot-Raikot) under CPEC, according to a statement by the Ministry of Finance. After detailed discussions and deliberations, and in order to comply with the codal requirements, the ECC allowed the Ministry of Communications and National Highway Authority to proceed with provisions of the Framework Agreement in accordance with provisions of rule-5 of Public Procurement Rules, 2004 for procurement of construction of realignment of KKH (Thakot-Raikot Section 241 KM) project under CPEC (Phase-II), it added. Pakistan had signed the

framework agreement for the construction of Thakot-Raikot section of Karakoram Highway in June this year during the visit of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif to Beijing. China will give a \$2 billion loan for the project. The existing road portion will be submerged due to the construction of the Diamer-Basha, Dasu, Azad Pattan and Thakot dams along the road. Pakistan's highest project approval authority has already given clearance to the 13.1 billion Chinese Yuan or \$2 billion worth project. According to the framework agreement, the Chinese companies will be responsible for the engineering design, procurement and construction (EPC) and supervision work. The identification of the Chinese companies for the project will culminate in selection of one company or a consortium after due negotiations on all technical and financial considerations with the Pakistani institutions responsible for the project, according to the agreement. China will provide a list of the recommended Chinese companies and Pakistan will select one of those for the construction work. Pakistan will use Chinese equipment for the construction of the project. The Public Procurement Regulatory Authority law binds the government to give contracts through competitive bidding. However, the PPRA rule 5 states that whenever these rules are in conflict with an obligation or commitment of the federal government arising out of an international treaty or an agreement with a state, or any international financial institution the provisions of such international treaty or agreement shall prevail to the extent of such conflict. The ECC also approved to relax competitive process conditions for hiring of foreign consultants for the construction of Chakdara-Timergara road connecting Peshawar with Chitral. The Export-Import Bank of South Korea has given a \$49 million loan for the project but on the condition that the consultants will be hired as per its desire. The Chairman ECC Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb directed that in future no foreign loans should be taken for those road projects, which cannot generate enough revenues to pay off these liabilities. Pakistan's external financing position remains thin and the government took a couple of incentives to ease pressure on the foreign exchange reserves. The government on Thursday banned the payment of pensions to retired pensioners residing abroad in foreign currency. The condition will be applicable on those who were recruited after January 1959. The ECC also approved a Rs78 billion incentive package for the commercial bank and foreign exchange companies to attract foreign remittances. The ECC approved revisions in incentives for the Reimbursement of Telegraphic Transfer (TT) Charges scheme and Incentive Scheme for Exchange Companies. It approved a Rs68 billion package to the commercial banks and another Rs10 billion for the exchange companies. The total benefit that the ECC approved to give these incentives amounted to Rs78 billion. The remittances grew 10.7% last fiscal year to \$30.3 billion, which the Finance Ministry attributed to its Remittances Initiative Scheme. The telegraphic transfer incentive was increased from Saudi Arabian Riyal (SAR) from 20 to SAR 30 in the last fiscal year. The ECC approved the flat reimbursement rate of SAR to be divided into fixed and variable components. The variable incentive is linked with the incremental rise in the home remittances. The fixed incentive will be SAR 20 for all eligible transactions of \$100 or more. For showing up to 10% increase in remittance the bank will get the benefit of additional SAR 8. For showing more than 10% growth, the bank will get the incentive of another SAR 7, taking his total additional benefit of SAR 15 or 50%. The total benefit per \$100 transaction to a bank would be in the range of SAR 28 to SAR 35.

The ECC approved to also increase the benefits of the exchange companies and divided the benefits into fixed and variable charges. On submission of 100% foreign exchange, the exchange companies are currently receiving Rs1 additional against each dollar mobilized. The ECC approved increasing the fixed benefit of a company for per \$100 surrender from Rs1 to Rs2. Likewise, the exchange company will get Rs3 per \$100 for showing 5% increase or \$25 million whichever is lower. For showing over 5% increase the dealer will get Rs4 per every \$100.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2492150/pakistan-awards-2-billion-kkh-contract-to-china>

Chinese Newspapers

August 16, 2024

Global Times

Pakistan-China friendship highlighted in Independence Day celebrations, two former diplomats awarded for contributions

Dong Feng

The Embassy of Pakistan in China celebrated the 78th Independence Day of Pakistan in Beijing on August 14. Activities were hosted at the embassy. The friendship between China and Pakistan was also celebrated at an award ceremony. In the early morning, officials and members of the Pakistani community participated in a flag-hoisting ceremony to celebrate the 78th Independence Day of Pakistan. Holding the national flag, Pakistani children smiled in the morning sunlight. Messages from the President of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, Asif Ali Zardari, as well as Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, were extended to those in attendance. In his keynote speech, Pakistan's Ambassador to China Khalil Hashmi said, "This day marks a celebration of our nation's enduring spirit, a testament to the sacrifices and unwavering resolve of our founding fathers, who paved the path for our freedom. As we unfurl our national flag today, let us reflect on the progress we have made and renew our commitment toward a prosperous and peaceful country." The ambassador also stressed the importance of Pakistan-China friendship. "Here in China, we are privileged to witness the blossoming of a friendship that has grown alongside our nation's journey. The bond between Pakistan and China, characterized by mutual respect and a shared vision, is unparalleled in inter-state relations," he said. Moreover, the Embassy of Pakistan in China hosted a Pakistan Civil Award Investiture Ceremony. Two representatives who contributed to the bilateral ties were awarded - Sha Zukang, former permanent representative of China to the UN in Geneva, who also served as president of the China-Pakistan Friendship Association, and Nong Rong, deputy director of the Hong Kong and Macao Work Office of the CPC Central Committee and Hong Kong and Macao Affairs Office of the State Council, who also served as the Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan. Ambassador Hashmi, on behalf of the President of Pakistan, conferred the prestigious "Hilal-e-Quaid-i-Azam" award. In his remarks, the Ambassador extended heartfelt congratulations and paid a rich tribute to the contributions made by the two dignitaries. He highlighted the significant impact of their efforts on bilateral relations and beyond. <https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202408/1318146.shtml>

Xinhua News

Chinese vocational college in Pakistan promotes skill development, career pathways

The Huaneng Pakistan Vocational and Technical College in Pakistan has empowered over 6,000 local youth by enhancing their employment skills through collaborative training with local universities, practical workshops, and advanced language courses, significantly contributing to workforce development.

ISLAMABAD, Aug. 16 (Xinhua) -- With an investment of 26 million yuan (3.6 million U.S. dollars), the Huaneng Pakistan Vocational and Technical College established by Sahiwal coal-fired power plant, a flagship project of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) in eastern Sahiwal district of Pakistan, has been helping the younger generation to improve employment skills and broaden career paths.

The vocational and training college was built by the Chinese operator of the 1,320-megawatt Sahiwal coal-fired power plant, one of the most efficient coal-fired power plants in Pakistan with advanced technology and best environmental protection indicators, helping Pakistan ensure energy security through its clean and cheap power generation.

Bracing the scorching peak summer heat as temperatures in Sahiwal reached up to 44 degrees Celsius, Muhammad Ramzan, currently working as a vice operator at the coal-handling department of the power plant, had to make do with a meager salary he was getting while working a 12-hour-long shift at a petrol station before joining the Sahiwal power station.

"I am the breadwinner for my family consisting of seven members. I studied until 10th grade and was searching for some opportunity to enhance my skills without any cost. Luckily, I got to know about the training center and enrolled myself in the Chinese language class. Later, I got a scholarship for an advanced Chinese language course to further improve my Chinese language skills in China," Ramzan told Xinhua.

After coming back from China, Ramzan got an opportunity to work at a fuel handling department of Sahiwal coal-fired power plant, changing his life for good.

"Not only did I improve my Chinese language, I learned a lot about machines from my Chinese colleagues. They helped me to grow significantly -- I started off as a Chinese language student, then buckle wheel operator, and now I am the vice operator at the coal handling department by improving my skills starting from the training college. I am quite optimistic about making great strides in the years to come."

In a conversation with Xinhua, Hafiz Muhammad Shahzad, a senior officer of the college and human resource manager at the power plant, said that so far over 6,000 locals have been trained and improved their employment skills in various disciplines including Chinese language, computer applications, electricians, mechanics, welding and fire safety and others.

He said that the vocational and training college has collaborated with top local universities such as the University of Engineering and Technology of Lahore and Punjab University,

providing free training bases for university students of specialized careers at par with high standards.

Highlighting the robust training process for youth, Li Yanlu, vice principal of the college and head of the administration department of the Sahiwal power plant, said that the college imparts valuable and more practical professional skills to students to achieve ambitious career goals.

"After students learn basic knowledge such as theoretical learning, they are referred to the equipment maintenance operation workshop in the power plant for practical training. By using the method of theoretical and practical training, students can better master skills required to work at power plants and other industrial enterprises, especially enterprises under CPEC," he said.

With his interesting and facilitating teaching style, the classroom of Sajjid Bashir, a teacher at the vocational college and senior executive of fire safety at the power plant, was all lit up during a question and answer time.

"I am diligently training every student who comes here and every time when I see my students are making accomplishments in their professional lives, I feel my hard work pays off," he told Xinhua.

Sajjid, who himself started as a firefighter at the power plant, said that his painstaking efforts and devotion bore fruit over the period of time, eventually being promoted to the senior-most position at a fire safety department, adding that many others also joined the power station at basic positions and gradually got promoted to management positions through the training by the Chinese staff and engineers.

Among the nearly 800 Pakistani employees working at the power station, there are more than 200 engineers, and currently, 26 of them have moved to the vital positions of management, production, and others, said Chen Wei, vice president of Huaneng Pakistan Company, the operator of the power plant.

With excellent training and performance, Pakistani employees have become the main force in the production and operation of the Sahiwal power station, accounting for nearly 80 percent, he added. Hamza Yaqoob, an intern at the vocational college and student of mechanical engineering at the COMSATS University, Sahiwal campus, is all set to join the Pakistani workforce with first-hand and practical knowledge of machines and their components. "I am a final-year student of mechanical engineering at COMSATS University and attending a six-week course at the training school run by the Chinese company. Other than theoretical classes, we get to visit site areas of the power plant. I learned how turbines, boilers, condensers and generators actually work. The teachers here helped us gain an understanding of the different techniques we needed to master in our professional life," Hamza told Xinhua. "The college administration also provides free-of-cost residence, transportation and meals, so we can completely focus on our goals without being worried about anything else," he said, hoping to bring his best out and contribute towards the development of Pakistan.

<https://english.news.cn/20240816/08248ae159fa48d5880996b53e92e2c3/c.html>

August 17, 2024

People's Daily

China-built hydropower project achieves river closure in NW Pakistan

ISLAMABAD, Aug. 16 (Xinhua) -- The China-built Mohmand Hydropower Project in Pakistan achieved river closure on Friday, showing that the project construction has entered the fast lane.

Located on the Swat River in northwest Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province of the South Asian country, the 800-megawatt hydropower is constructed by China Gezhouba Group Corporation (CGGC).

Commending the professionalism and excellent ability of the Chinese company, Asim Rauf, general manager and director of the project, a senior official from the project employer of Pakistan Water and Power Development Authority, said that the project will significantly improve people's livelihood, enhance the country's power supply capacity, and inject new impetus into Pakistan's economic development.

Pakistan and China enjoy profound friendship and smooth cooperation in various fields, the manager said, adding that the Pakistani government will continue to fully support the project's construction to ensure the project is completed and put into use on schedule.

Cui Jian, the project manager from CGGC, told Xinhua that nearly 6,000 jobs were created at the project's peak.

The project construction team has continued to overcome technical challenges and hopes to deliver this modern water facility to the people of Pakistan as early as possible, he said.

Once functional, the project will generate 2.86 billion kilowatt-hours of clean electricity annually, adding 16,700 hectares of irrigated area and providing 140 million cubic meters of drinking water to local people every year, according to the Chinese manager.

<http://en.people.cn/n3/2024/0817/c90000-20207003.html>

Xinhua News

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<https://english.news.cn/20240817/f97702840e6b4792ae5d6310bd641ae3/c.html>

August 19, 2024

China Daily

New technology experimented with to help drivers stay cool in summer

CAO YINGYING

As more electric vehicles feature panoramic sunroofs, which enhance visibility but can lead to unbearable temperatures during summers, automakers are exploring new materials to help keep interiors cool.

Japanese automaker Nissan recently displayed a so-called Cool Paint developed with Chinese company Radi-Cool, a cooling technology provider.

The paint can reflect light more effectively and generate electromagnetic waves that block the sun's rays, redirecting heat away from vehicles to keep the interior cooler.

Nissan has tested the paint on vehicles operating around Tokyo's Haneda Airport, an ideal location for assessing the technology due to the large open area.

According to Nissan, the paint reduced the roof panel temperature by 12 degrees Celsius and lowered the interior temperature by 5 C.

The material is six times thicker than standard car paint, measuring 120 microns — a result of testing more than 100 samples to find the optimal formula. The research team aims to make the new paint thinner in the future, focusing on reduced weight and more color options, the automaker said.

Susumu Miura, a manager at the Nissan Research Center, said: "My dream is to create cooler cars without consuming energy," adding that this goal is crucial in the era of EVs, where air conditioning usage can significantly reduce a battery's range.

A study of Recurrent, a United States company, shows that, at 38 C, the range of electric cars could decrease by up to 31 percent, when it tested the performance of 7,500 EVs.

Toyota Motor has also been experimenting with paint that lowers cabin temperatures, mostly focusing on colors that refract the sun's rays.

Hyundai launched the Nano Cooling Film in April, which is billed as a "revolutionary vehicle window tint" that offers better interior cooling than conventional tints.

The South Korean automaker tested the Nano Cooling Film on approximately 70 vehicles in Lahore, Pakistan, where summer temperatures can exceed 50 C. Hyundai said that the film's cooling effect is optimized for higher ambient temperatures.

During testing, the Nano Cooling Film reduced the temperature near the driver's head by up to 10.9 C compared to conventional tint film. When compared to a vehicle without any window tint, the film lowered the temperature by up to 12.33 C.

In addition to the materials under development, car manufacturers have implemented measures to help vehicles cool down during the summers.

Xiaomi Auto has used silver-plated glass to enhance sun protection, saying its sedan boasts a 99.5 percent UV blocking rate and a 97.6 percent infrared blocking rate.

According to data released by Xiaomi Auto, after being exposed to direct sunlight at 38 C for 90 minutes, the interior temperature of the Xiaomi SU7 reached 59.5 C, 10 degrees lower than other models.

The Ford Mustang Mach-E features a front windshield with IRR heat-balance technology coating and a panoramic sunroof with Low-E high-efficiency heat-insulating coating.

Engineers have tested materials and components to ensure they can withstand high temperatures and strong sunlight without being deformed or damaged. The glass of the Ford SUV underwent rigorous light exposure tests, including 49 days of laboratory testing and two years of outdoor exposure, to ensure that the adhesive of the glass met high strength standards.

<https://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202408/19/WS66c29dc2a31060630b923b48.html>

August 20, 2024

People's Daily

Beijing, Hanoi vow to advance traditional ties

Cao Desheng

China rolled out the red carpet on Monday for Vietnam's top leader To Lam, and the two socialist countries vowed to further enhance their comprehensive strategic cooperative partnership and advance the building of a community with a shared future that carries strategic significance.

During their talks at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, Xi Jinping, general secretary of the Communist Party of China Central Committee and Chinese president, welcomed Lam's state visit to China, which is the Vietnamese leader's first overseas trip since he became general secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee on Aug 3.

Xi said the visit reflects the great importance Lam attaches to the relations between the two parties and the two countries, and also embodies the high level and strategic importance of China-Vietnam ties.

Lam succeeded Nguyen Phu Trong, who passed away last month, and has been serving as the Vietnamese president since May.

The first stop of Lam's three-day state visit to China, which started on Sunday, took him to Guangzhou, Guangdong province, where former leader of Vietnam Ho Chi Minh spent time promoting revolutionary activities around a century ago.

Saying that the traditional friendship between the two parties and the two countries is as good as "comrades and brothers", Xi called for consistent efforts to build the China-Vietnam community with a shared future, a consensus reached between the two sides during his visit to Vietnam in December.

China regards Vietnam as a priority in its neighborhood diplomacy, Xi said.

Noting that both countries are at a critical stage of national development and revitalization, he underlined the need for them to solidify a pattern for the development of bilateral relations featuring higher political mutual trust, more substantial security cooperation, deeper pragmatic collaboration, stronger public support, closer multilateral coordination and better management of differences.

China is willing to maintain close strategic communication and high-level exchanges with Vietnam, and actively explore ways to expand the synergy between the Belt and Road Initiative and Vietnam's Two Corridors and One Economic Circle strategy, he said.

Xi also emphasized the need for both sides to step up the connectivity of railway, highway, and port infrastructure, enhance connectivity of smart customs, and work together to build secure and stable industrial and supply chains.

Lam highlighted the importance of the comprehensive strategic cooperative partnership between the two countries, emphasizing that China is a strategic choice and top priority in Vietnam's foreign policy.

The CPV and the Vietnamese government will inherit Trong's legacy, uphold the leadership of the Communist Party and the socialist path, and steadfastly advance on the path jointly set by the older generations of leaders of both countries, especially Trong and Xi, he said.

Lam told Xi that Vietnam adheres to independence and autonomy, firmly upholds the one-China policy and considers Taiwan an inseparable part of Chinese territory. He added that his country resolutely opposes any form of "Taiwan independence" separatist activities and firmly supports China in achieving reunification.

Lam also expressed Vietnam's willingness to work with China to properly manage maritime disputes, in order to jointly maintain regional peace and stability.

Vietnam is ready to have closer coordination with China on international affairs, and uphold multilateralism as well as international fairness and justice to contribute to world peace and development, he said.

After their talks, both leaders witnessed the signing of multiple bilateral cooperation agreements in various fields such as Party schools, mutual connectivity, industry, finance, customs inspection, and health.

Observers said that Lam's visit marks a milestone in China-Vietnam relations, which will be an example of a new pattern of cooperation between two socialist countries facing challenges and tasks of modernization based on a similar historical trajectory and common international environment.

Hannan Hussain, co-founder and senior expert at Initiate Futures, a policy think tank based in Islamabad, Pakistan, said the visit is an occasion for both countries to take stock of their cooperation achievements, promote a common vision for aligning markets, and increase favorable exposure for their industries and manufacturers.

China has been Vietnam's top trading partner for many years. Vietnam is China's top trading partner in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations and China's fourth-largest trading partner globally. Trade between China and Vietnam reached \$229.8 billion in 2023, according to the Foreign Ministry.

Hussain said Lam's visit is expected to play a crucial role in expanding future investments, fast-tracking development projects, and promoting new directions for trade and industrial cooperation.

<http://en.people.cn/n3/2024/0820/c90000-20207778.html>

August 21, 2024

Global Times

ARJ21 aircraft begins demonstration flights across Qinghai-Xizang Plateau

China's indigenously developed regional jetliner, the ARJ21, started month-long demonstration flights across the Qinghai-Xizang Plateau on Wednesday, a further step in charting future ultra high-altitude routes for the aircraft.

The plane took off from Chengdu Shuangliu International Airport and arrived at Hongyuan Airport in Hongyuan county of the Aba prefecture, Southwest China's Sichuan Province after a 50-minute flight.

The ARJ21 aircraft will use Chengdu, Xining and Lhasa, as operating bases, and fly to multiple high-altitude airports in Southwest China's Xizang Autonomous Region, provinces of Sichuan, Qinghai and Gansu, fully verifying the adaptability of the aircraft to high-altitude airports, according to the information the producer Commercial Aircraft Corporation of China (COMAC) shared with Global Times on Wednesday.

According to the Civil Aviation Administration of China, airports with an altitude of 2,438 meters or above are classified as high-altitude airports. There are 25 high-altitude airports in China, accounting for more than 50 percent of the total number of high-altitude airports in the world.

The plateau area has thin air, complex terrain and changeable weather, which places extremely high demands on aircraft performance, crew qualifications and operational support capabilities.

On July 2 of 2024, an ARJ21 aircraft from Chengdu Airlines launched the first high-plateau air route in Northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, connecting southern Xinjiang's Kashgar Laining International Airport with Khunjerab airport in Taxkorgan Tajik Autonomous County, a land port on the China-Pakistan border situated in the Pamirs region of south Xinjiang.

So far, the ARJ21 flying this route is in good shape, COMAC said.

COMAC said it took into consideration the air transport needs of high-altitude airports when designing and developing the ARJ21 aircraft. It added that this round of demonstration flights will further verify the aircraft's performance flying at high altitudes, paving the way for domestically-made commercial aircraft to operate more high-altitude routes.

A pioneer in Chinese commercial airplanes, the ARJ21 entered commercial service in June 2016.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202408/1318420.shtml>

August 22, 2024

People's Daily

CPEC offers opportunity to diversify Pakistan's energy mix, promote green investment

ISLAMABAD, Aug. 21 (Xinhua) -- As Pakistan targets generating 60 percent of its energy from renewable sources by 2030, experts believe that the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) offers a vital opportunity to diversify the South Asian country's energy mix and promote green investments in the energy sector.

Pakistan needs to capitalize on Chinese private sector investments to enhance renewable energy share, improve energy access, and reduce dependence on imported fuels, experts said Tuesday during a seminar on renewable energy organized by the Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI), an Islamabad-based think tank.

Speaking on the occasion, Vaqar Ahmed, joint executive director at the SDPI, noted that Chinese stakes in global renewable investments are high and its stance on green investment signals for sustainable development and clean energy are providing multiple opportunities for Pakistan under the CPEC.

The role of the Chinese private sector in expediting the uptake of renewable energy in Pakistan is crucial as the private sector holds an important position, Ahmed said.

"One of the private sector's primary functions is to extend green financing to sustainable industries at competitive interest rates, facilitating the mitigation of environmental

challenges. It also possesses the capability to fund the development of renewable energy projects, which would help in advancing Pakistan's energy transition," he added.

Mustafa Hyder Sayed, executive director of the Islamabad-based think-tank Pakistan-China Institute, said that after the successful completion of the first phase of the CPEC with energy and infrastructure projects being the highlights, the next phase of the CPEC would revolve around green and eco-friendly investments ensuring carbon-intensive development.

Sayed said that Pakistan can learn from China's best practices in renewable energy, adding that as the single largest corridor of energy investments in Pakistan, the CPEC is key to scaling up renewable energy investments in the country.

The experts were also of the view that the growth of renewable industry under the CPEC special economic zones needs to be focused upon, saying a joint working group between China and Pakistan is critical in this regard.

Special economic zones are designated areas across Pakistan that have additional facilities and lucrative benefits to local and international industrial investors with tax incentives, infrastructure support, and simplified investment procedures, Noorul Arifeen Zuberi, a senior advisor in the energy sector said.

"Relocation for the Chinese solar panel industry to Pakistan is a lifetime opportunity for Chinese and Pakistani investors due to abundant raw material, cheap labor, special zones, one window business facility and other benefits," he said.

Launched in 2013, the CPEC, a flagship project of the China-proposed Belt and Road Initiative, is a corridor linking the Gwadar Port in southwest Pakistan's Balochistan province with Kashgar in northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, which highlights energy, transport, and industrial cooperation in the first phase, while in the new phase expands to fields of agriculture and livelihood, among others.

<http://en.people.cn/n3/2024/0822/c90000-20208868.html>

Xinhua News

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It also possesses the capability to fund the development of renewable energy projects, which would help in advancing Pakistan's energy transition," he added.

Mustafa Hyder Sayed, executive director of the Islamabad-based think-tank Pakistan-China Institute, said that after the successful completion of the first phase of the CPEC with energy and infrastructure projects being the highlights, the next phase of the CPEC would revolve around green and eco-friendly investments ensuring carbon-intensive development.

Sayed said that Pakistan can learn from China's best practices in renewable energy, adding that as the single largest corridor of energy investments in Pakistan, the CPEC is key to scaling up renewable energy investments in the country.

The experts were also of the view that the growth of renewable industry under the CPEC special economic zones needs to be focused upon, saying a joint working group between China and Pakistan is critical in this regard.

Special economic zones are designated areas across Pakistan that have additional facilities and lucrative benefits to local and international industrial investors with tax incentives, infrastructure support, and simplified investment procedures, Noorul Arifeen Zuberi, a senior advisor in the energy sector said.

"Relocation for the Chinese solar panel industry to Pakistan is a lifetime opportunity for Chinese and Pakistani investors due to abundant raw material, cheap labor, special zones, one window business facility and other benefits," he said.

Launched in 2013, the CPEC, a flagship project of the China-proposed Belt and Road Initiative, is a corridor linking the Gwadar Port in southwest Pakistan's Balochistan province with Kashgar in northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, which highlights energy, transport, and industrial cooperation in the first phase, while in the new phase expands to fields of agriculture and livelihood, among others.

<https://english.news.cn/20240822/b469184d934c4c0aa15298d50eb7a485/c.html>

August 23, 2024

China Daily

Initiative in pursuit of equity, dialogue shine light on world

Shakeel Ahmad Ramay

The word civilization is derived from the Latin word civis, meaning citizen. In modern history, the word civilization was first used in France in the 18th century, drawing philosophical linkages to ancient Greeks and Romans.

The study of Western civilization today reveals embedded flaws and a sense of superiority. The superiority complex gathered strength after the West-led Industrial Revolution. Arrogant and ruthless, Western countries embarked on a colonization spree, enslaving humans and looting resources that finally culminated with World War II. The second attempt at colonization started with the building of new instruments of colonization in the name of global liberal order and continued till the conclusion of the Cold War, which provided them with another opportunity to strengthen their hegemony and dominance. They invented theories like the End of History and Clash of Civilizations to portray Western culture and liberal ideology as the ultimate reality of humanity.

Against these backdrops, China launched the Global Civilization Initiative. The GCI promotes the philosophy of harmony in diversity and peaceful and cooperative coexistence.

In contrast to Western superiority complex, harmony is deeply rooted in Chinese civilization. As Confucius said, a gentleman aims at harmony and not at uniformity.

The genesis of GCI is built on the belief that the world is home to numerous cultures, philosophies, economic development patterns, environment, diplomacy, and people with diverse beliefs, habits, attitudes, and countries with different geographies, resources and nationalities. People live within different geographical boundaries, enjoy unique identities, and strive to flourish.

In the same way, each country is a mini world in itself and carries characteristics of the world. However, the people within a country harmonize their diversity and strive for development, peace, and secure living. It is a well-recognized fact that a better-harmonized country ensures a pleasant and secure living experience.

President Xi Jinping echoed this sentiment while elaborating on the initiative at the Communist Party of China in Dialogue with World Political Parties High-Level Meeting in March 2023. The president's speech indicated that the GCI had many distinguishing characteristics.

First, the GCI recognizes that we belong to diverse cultures, believe in different systems, have distinctive histories, and are in different stages of development. We should adhere to respecting diversity.

Second, it promotes the idea that no one is superior to another; being human, we are all equal. We should strive to achieve our common aspirations for peace, development, equity, justice, democracy and freedom, which are common values of humanity.

Third, the GCI emphasizes that the world should uphold the value of learning and not let pride and prejudice hinder learning. We should not hesitate to recognize the diverse contributions of civilizations to human modernization. There should be no ambiguity that, historically, each civilization contributed to modernizing human civilization. Therefore, no one should become a victim of the illusion that only one particular civilization contributed to human civilization. Hence, the prime goal should be learning from each other, contributing to humanity's well-being, and meeting common people's expectations.

Moreover, learning is a two-way affair: learn and impart learning to others. China is cognizant that learning from others has helped it grow. Therefore, China is now responsible for imparting learning as a major economic and technological power. Fourth, the GCI negates the notion of the End of History. It forwards the idea, rather than belief, that human civilization always strives to modernize and look for better. Only the drivers and actors change, not the human aspiration to modernize. China is now a major driver and actor of a new wave of modernization. Fifth, it recognizes that we must respect and appreciate other cultures, such as their elders and writers. Sixth, the GCI adheres to the ancient Chinese philosophy of sharing prosperity. The Belt and Road Initiative is the most prominent example on this front, involving 152 member countries and 32 international organizations. China has invested almost \$1 trillion on numerous projects. The BRI has contributed to bringing millions of people out of the poverty trap. Seventh, China promotes common, comprehensive, coordinated and sustainable security. Eighth, the GCI negates the theory of the Clash of Civilizations, a byproduct of the hegemonic mindset and attitude. The initiative clearly spells out that China does not subscribe to this mentality. China believes in peaceful and cooperative living with other civilizations, as well as the equality of humanity and all civilizations. However, there is one important aspect China must not overlook. Certain civilizations have sub-civilizations, or there are more competitors to claim certain civilizations. For example, under Islamic civilization, we can find numerous sub-civilizations like Arab, Iranian, Indus, Egyptian, Turkish, etc. On the other hand, Pakistan and India claim the Indus civilization. Thus, China should promote a dialogue at the sub-civilization level, which will help minimize differences and pave the way for dialogue among civilizations. It can be inferred that the GCI prioritizes dialogue over confrontation, win-win cooperation over a zero-sum game, and advocates for a level playing field. The initiative gives due importance to principles of equity and equality without any prejudices. It aims to explore establishing networks of inter-civilization dialogue to enhance mutual learning and find new ways of cooperation. China is ready to share its experience, prosperity and cultural products to create a harmonious world. The country believes that every civilization has contributed to the development and modernization of the world. Thus, every civilization has something to celebrate.

<https://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202408/23/WS66c7e255a31060630b92489a.html>

August 26, 2024

People's Daily

China's aid programs help other Global South nations realize shared prosperity

Zhou Jin

Ogiji Sunday Uko's enriching journey in China came to an end in June, when he graduated from China Foreign Affairs University.

His experience not only broadened his understanding of international relations, but also provided him with insights into China's development model, which he believes offers valuable lessons for Nigeria and other developing nations.

The Nigerian government executive learned about a training program two years ago that would let him study at the university, and he jumped at the opportunity, as it had been his dream to study in China.

Uko, who studied in the master's program of international relations at China Foreign Affairs University, said his experience in China has very much enlightened him.

"The infrastructural development of China is amazing," he said, adding that witnessing it firsthand has shaped his view of how infrastructure could transform society in his home country.

"Studying in Beijing also helped me know more about the real image of China, more than what we are told by Western media," he said.

Uko is among 40,000 people who finished training as part of the China-proposed Global Development Initiative, which aims to provide 100,000 training opportunities to other developing countries to support their economic and social development.

Foreign Minister Wang Yi pledged in July to offer an additional 100,000 training opportunities for Global South countries in the next five years.

Following the philosophy that it is more helpful in the long term to teach people how to fish rather than just giving them fish, China has attached great importance to cooperation in human resources development, exemplifying China's evolving reform of foreign assistance.

A resolution adopted at the third plenary session of the 20th Central Committee of the Communist Party of China, which was held in July, pledged to open China's doors wider to the world's least-developed countries.

The resolution called for further reforming institutions and mechanisms for foreign aid to realize full-chain management.

Analysts said that foreign assistance is a systematic endeavor that requires a holistic approach, integrating the formulation and planning of foreign aid policies, project implementation and evaluation, in a bid to meet the needs of recipient countries as well as achieve China's diplomatic goals.

The full-chain management approach helps streamline systems and mechanisms of foreign aid, reduces management and communication costs among relevant departments, and enhances the effectiveness of foreign assistance, they added.

Challenges seen

Wang Yiwei, a professor at Renmin University of China's School of International Studies, said that foreign aid bolsters China's political influence, its ability to shape international rules, and its global reputation.

The professor said that advancing foreign aid faces several challenges, as its necessity is sometimes questioned, which can affect decision-making and the implementation of relevant policies of various departments.

"It is crucial to recognize the strategic importance of foreign aid," he said, adding that departments involved in the mission must better coordinate under the guidance of the China International Development Cooperation Agency.

The agency, established in 2018, clarified the responsibilities of the foreign aid system, Wang said, adding that this reform aligns with international development practices and represents an achievement in the institutionalization of China's diplomatic efforts.

He also said that China's foreign aid reform reflects its responsibility as a major country and its commitment to achieving the United Nations' 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Zhou Taidong, vice-president of the Center for International Knowledge on Development, said that deepening the reform of foreign aid systems and enhancing the efficiency and effectiveness of such assistance are essential for meeting the growing expectations of Global South countries, resolving global development challenges, and fulfilling the goal of building a community with a shared future for mankind.

Further efforts should be made to strengthen top-level design and tailor policies for different nations and regions, while multilateral, regional and bilateral channels should be integrated to foster a comprehensive aid approach, Zhou said.

Emphasis should be put on evaluation of aid, as this plays a crucial role in measuring and showcasing the outcomes of China's international development cooperation, he said, adding that China should also promote third-party cooperation and multilateral coordination in a more active manner.

Synergy with BRI

International development aid has boosted connectivity under the Belt and Road Initiative, with a large number of flagship infrastructure projects built over the past 11 years.

Among them is the China-assisted Eastbay Expressway of Gwadar Port in Pakistan, an early harvest project finished in 2022 as part of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor.

As a project initiated and managed by Pakistan and built by a Chinese enterprise, the host country has had decision-making authority throughout the process.

This arrangement allowed the project to be built to meet the specific needs and conditions of Pakistan, said Liu Fangtao, who was the manager of the project for China Communications Construction Co.

Despite numerous challenges, including the COVID-19 pandemic, harsh climatic conditions, and security risks due to terrorism, the expressway was completed in five years.

The expressway, which serves as the only external link for Gwadar Port, solved the transportation problem and also facilitated trade and connectivity, Liu said.

By establishing and promoting its standards, China, which is renowned for its infrastructure capabilities, can gain greater influence in international aid projects, he added.

"Looking forward, there is a pressing need for China to clearly introduce its foreign aid policies and system to recipient countries, such as issuing an English version of its policies and procedures," he said.

The resolution adopted at the third plenary session in July called for coordinated efforts to promote "small yet smart" public welfare projects under the BRI, while also advancing major flagship projects.

Zhou, from the Center for International Knowledge on Development, said that the BRI has reshaped China's international development cooperation and greatly increased its global contribution to development.

Though China has a key strength in large-scale signature aid projects, which address critical infrastructure gaps and the urgent needs of developing nations, "small yet smart" projects can deliver quick results that benefit people's livelihoods, he said.

Wang, from Renmin University, said that for large-scale flagship projects as well as small-scale livelihood projects, the key lies in sustainable development, which involves ensuring debt sustainability.

"Aid cannot increase the burden on recipient countries. It should enhance accessibility while laying a foundation for their long-term development," he said.

<http://en.people.cn/n3/2024/0826/c90000-20210266.html>

August 27, 2024

Global Times

Military remains, beast-shaped decorations found during latest restoration of Ming Dynasty Great Wall in Beijing

Same heritage, new strategies

Including rare discoveries like carbonized grains and ancient coins, more than 170 artifacts dating back to the Ming Dynasty (1368-1644) have been unearthed at the Jiankou section of the Great Wall in Beijing. Such gems were discovered thanks to an on-site archaeological project that is set to conclude at the end of August.

The implementation of archaeology at this time was meant to assist in the fifth phase of the Jiankou Great Wall's restoration. By adopting the "excavating while restoring" approach for the first time, it is one of the examples that highlights China's growing creativity in protecting the Great Wall in modern times.

Pivotal works

In April, archaeological works started at the Jiankou section of the Great Wall two months before the on-site restoration work began. Such an arrangement was "sensible" since it "gives immediate rescue to the yet-to-be-discovered Great Wall relics," archaeologist Wang Meng told the Global Times.

Three types of relics were "rescued" in the months after the project kicked off. There were architectural components such as a beast-shaped decoration, military remains like the Frankish machines, a type of small cannons, and ancient everyday items like coins.

Despite their small size, the unearthed carbonized plant seeds were important discoveries showing human interactions with the Great Wall.

Shang Heng, head of the archaeological project, told the Global Times that some of these remnants have already been identified as grains. According to the condition in which the relics were discovered, Shang said that they show ancient garrisoned soldiers' "eating habits and their outdoor barbecue-like cooking style."

"Such archaeological discoveries have added more interesting narratives to Great Wall culture. These narratives bring the ancient heritage to life and closer to us," remarked Shang, who is also a researcher at the Beijing Institute of Archaeology.

What made the Jiankou archaeological project special was its interdisciplinary nature, in which the archaeological process was integrated with studies of plants, animals, the environment, and digital technology into the archaeological process.

The incorporation of digital technology was a highlight. More than 8,000 photos, along with techniques such as unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) measuring, and 3D modeling were carried out on-site to establish a comprehensive digital record of the Jiankou section of the Great Wall.

Shang Jinyu, an expert responsible for the digital project, told the Global Times that digital works are pivotal to the entire restoration project, since the flexibility of machines like the UAV can help human beings detect "some neglected and extremely fragile parts that need to be repaired."

Similar to the digital strategy used at the Jiankou section of the Great Wall, Li Dan, a representative from the Administration Office of the Badaling Great Wall, told the Global Times that a total of 18 patrol routes for UAVs have been allocated along the Badaling section of the Great Wall to help with safety management while also boosting local tourism.

"Making a cultural heritage site come alive is a difficult task that demands not only the modern inputs like digital technologies, but also the societal power and the love of ordinary people," Xu Shuming, a cultural sociologist, told the Global Times.

Global attention

Themed "Love My China, Repair My Great Wall," a campaign encouraging societal-level sponsorships to protect the Great Wall was launched in Beijing 40 years ago.

The initiative was jointly launched by the media in Beijing at the time and was groundbreaking since it attracted individuals, enterprises, and social groups from different fields like art, entertainment, and sport to contribute to repairing the Great Wall.

The initiative was successful in preserving the Badaling section of the Great Wall, Li Dan told the Global Times. According to Li, between 1984 and 1994, it received donations from 100,000 organizations and groups, including international contributors.

Xu, an expert, told the Global Times that other than engaging the Chinese community, the campaign has left another legacy that has encouraged the world to join in the conservation of the Great Wall. During the "Love My China, Repair My Great Wall" campaign, for example, organizations from Pakistan, Greece, the US, and 24 other countries and regions also made active contributions, collectively raising tens of millions of yuan.

"It is thanks to such a well-established historic tradition of engaging the international community in the protection of the Great Wall that this cultural heritage can be enjoyed by the rest of the world, especially the younger generations," Xu remarked.

A brief scroll through international social media platforms such as X (formerly Twitter), YouTube, and TikTok, reveals a myriad of content shared by netizens related to the Great Wall, indicating that the world heritage site is perceived as a "marvelous spectacle" globally.

The Badaling section of the Great Wall has received nearly 200 million domestic and international visitors, including over 500 heads of state, government leaders, and numerous globally recognized figures, according to the data from the Badaling Great Wall Management Office. These influential figures shared their admiration for the cultural heritage site in their journeys.

To further promote the international influence of the cultural brand of China, various international exchange activities have been held on the Great Wall in recent years. The 2021 Belt and Road Great Wall International Folk Culture and Arts Festival kicked off in Qinhuangdao, North China's Hebei Province, presenting a grand cultural feast to audiences both at home and abroad. Moreover, the torch for the Beijing 2022 Winter Olympics was ceremonially transferred at the Badaling section of the Great Wall in Beijing's Yanqing district, capturing the attention of the world.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202408/1318748.shtml>

Xinhua News

China strongly condemns terrorist attacks in Pakistan: spokesperson

BEIJING, Aug. 27 (Xinhua) -- China voiced strong condemnation of terrorist attacks in Pakistan and expressed deep condolences to the victims Tuesday.

In response to a relevant query, foreign ministry spokesperson Lin Jian told a daily press briefing that China firmly opposes all forms of terrorism and will continue to firmly support Pakistan in advancing counter-terrorism operations, maintaining social unity and stability and protecting people's safety.

According to reports, a series of attacks occurred in Pakistan's southwest Balochistan province on Monday. Terrorists attacked Pakistani security forces and police in many places in Balochistan, stopping vehicles and killing innocent people, and destroying roads, railways and other infrastructure.

China is willing to further strengthen counter-terrorism and security cooperation with Pakistan to jointly safeguard regional peace and security, Lin said.

<https://english.news.cn/20240827/fc56c8add10d4cba9ac64221c6b11d6b/c.html>

August 28, 2024

Global Times

China, Pakistan to embrace enhanced cooperation in new energy, agriculture fields

Feng Fan

China and Pakistan are poised to enhance cooperation in agriculture and energy, leveraging advanced Chinese technology to improve Pakistan's agricultural sector and ensure stable energy supplies, said representatives from Pakistani media outlets and think tanks.

Following a recent three-day visit to Northwest China's Shaanxi Province, representatives from Pakistani media outlets and think tanks expressed optimism over deepening bilateral cooperation and expanding initiatives in the new-energy and agriculture sectors.

In Xi'an, the delegation visited key companies and institutions such as LONGi Green Energy Technology Co, the Institute of Water-saving in Arid Areas of China, and the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation Demonstration Base for Agricultural Technology Exchange and Training.

The visits highlighted the broad potential for collaborative efforts, underscoring a shared commitment to technological and agricultural advancement.

Murtaza Solangi, former Pakistani minister of information, shared with the Global Times his view on the potential for cooperation, especially after visiting companies like LONGi. "Energy and agriculture are significant areas where substantial cooperative ventures can be developed," Solangi said.

Pakistan is one of the worst-affected victims of climate change, so the government has adopted initiatives to expand green energy, and it is cooperating with China in wind power and solar power. These partnerships provide widely affordable new-energy products for Pakistan's rural areas, Arbab Ali Asghar, a journalist from PTV, told the Global Times.

Qamar Bashir, former press secretary to the Pakistani president, highlighted China's significant investment in agricultural research and development. "We have witnessed considerable capital investment and dedication of human and financial resources," Bashir said.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202408/1318787.shtml>

People's Daily

Which Hainan visa free policy is right for you?

Hainan, the shining pearl off the southern coast of China, attracts eager visitors from across the globe to explore the island province's breathtaking scenery, vibrant cultural tapestry, and increasingly open free trade port policy environment.

Over the past 20 years, Hainan's visa free policies have continued to grow more convenient, open, and broad, making this one of the easiest places to visit in China.

In 2000, Hainan implemented a 15 day visa free policy for tour groups with travelers from 21 countries.

In 2010, the policy was broadened to include travelers from 26 countries, and extended to 21 days.

In 2018, the policy was broadened to include travelers from 59 countries, and extended to 30 days. Individual travelers were also included for the first time.

In Feb. 2024, the purposes of visa free travel were expanded from only tourism to also include business, visiting relatives, and more.

As of July 30, 2024, citizens of 183 countries that have established diplomatic relations with China may enter Hainan visa-free in groups booked with Hong Kong and Macao travel agencies, and stay in Hainan for 144 hours.

Since Hainan's new 144 hour visa free policy was announced, some travelers have wondered — how do Hainan's 59 country and 144 hour visa free policies compare? Which are they eligible for? We've put together a simple chart to help you choose the best way for you to travel to Hainan visa free.

(a) List of 183 countries with diplomatic relations with China (As of Jan. 24, 2024)

Afghanistan, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Brunei, Cambodia, North Korea, East Timor, Georgia, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Israel, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Laos, Lebanon, Malaysia, Maldives, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Oman, Pakistan, Palestine, Philippines, Qatar, South Korea, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Syria, Tajikistan, Thailand, Türkiye, Turkmenistan, UAE, Uzbekistan, Vietnam, Yemen, Algeria, Angola, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Central

Africa, Chad, Comoros, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Republic of the Congo, Cote d'Ivoire, Djibouti, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Africa, South Sudan, Sudan, Tanzania, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Albania, Andorra, Austria, Belarus, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Moldova, Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands, North Macedonia, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russia, San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Ukraine, United Kingdom, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Bahamas, Barbados, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Grenada, Guyana, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Peru, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, United States, Uruguay, Venezuela, Australia, Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Micronesia, Nauru, New Zealand, Niue, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Vanuatu

(b) List of 59 countries eligible for visa free entry under Hainan's 59 Country Visa Free Policy

Russia, UK, France, Germany, Norway, Ukraine, Italy, Austria, Finland, Netherlands, Denmark, Switzerland, Sweden, Spain, Belgium, Czech Republic, Estonia, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Poland, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia, Ireland, Cyprus, Bulgaria, Romania, Serbia, Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Albania, USA, Canada, Brazil, Mexico, Argentina, Chile, Australia, New Zealand, South Korea, Japan, Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand, Kazakhstan, Philippines, Indonesia, Brunei, UAE, Qatar, Monaco, and Belarus.

<http://en.people.cn/n3/2024/0828/c90000-20211411.html>

August 29, 2024

People's Daily

China committed to advancing BRI cooperation in green energy: white paper

BEIJING, Aug. 29 (Xinhua) -- China has worked with Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) partner countries to deepen the energy transition, advance green cooperation, and achieve sustainable development, said a white paper issued on Thursday by China's State Council Information Office.

Under the BRI framework, China has devoted to open, green and clean cooperation that pursues high-standard, people-centered, and sustainable development, said the white paper titled "China's Energy Transition. In 2021, China pledged to stop building new coal-fired power plants overseas, and focused on green and low-carbon energy projects in its energy cooperation with its partner countries, the white paper said.

The country has collaborated with over 100 countries and regions on green energy projects and launched a number of key projects and some "small yet smart" projects that effectively address the accessibility and affordability of power supply in those areas, and provided them with clean, safe and reliable energy supply solutions, it said.

The white paper cited Pakistan's Karot Hydropower Station as an example, which is a priority project for energy cooperation under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor.

Built and operated by Chinese enterprises, the hydropower station boasts a total installed capacity of 720 MW and generates an annual average of 3,200 GWh of clean electricity, meeting the power demand of over 5 million people.

The country is also working on jointly building platforms for high-level energy cooperation, including the Belt and Road Energy Partnership, with its member countries reaching 33, according to the white paper.

Focusing on energy security, energy transition, energy access, and sustainable energy development, China has contributed its solutions to the reform of global energy governance, it added.

<http://en.people.cn/n3/2024/0829/c90000-20211840.html>

August 30, 2024

People's Daily

CPEC addresses development gaps in Pakistan with small debt: foreign ministry

ISLAMABAD, Aug. 29 (Xinhua) -- China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) has helped Pakistan address development gaps in energy infrastructure, industrialization and job creation with a small debt, said Pakistani Ministry of Foreign Affairs here on Thursday.

Spokesperson of Pakistan's Foreign Office Mumtaz Zahra Baloch rejected a foreign media report about CPEC, underlining, "CPEC is a transformational project that has contributed positively and transparently to Pakistan's national development."

The spokesperson said the CPEC has been enjoying support and popularity in all provinces of Pakistan and across the political divide in Pakistan.

Highlighting the success and importance of the CPEC, the spokesperson said, "We also believe that regional economic connectivity will provide a critical stimulus for creating broad-based growth across the region."

Launched in 2013, the CPEC is a corridor linking the Gwadar Port in southwest Pakistan's Balochistan province with Kashgar in Northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, which highlights energy, transport and industrial cooperation in the first phase, while the new phase expands to fields of agriculture and livelihood, among others.

<http://en.people.cn/n3/2024/0830/c90000-20212258.html>