



# For Better Understanding on China–Pakistan and CPEC

## Gleanings from the National & Chinese Press

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**March 16-31, 2023**

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**March 16, 2023**

**Daily Times**

**Pakistan, China to focus on construction of agricultural industry chain**

Pakistan, China will focus on construction of the entire agricultural industry chain system, deep processing of agricultural products and related industrialization development.

This was stated by Chen Wei, Vice Mayor of Qingzhou City, in an interview with China Economic Net (CEN).

“Through bilateral cooperation projects, the two sides can increase the added value and utilization rate of Pakistan’s agricultural products, helping local farmers increase their income.

Meanwhile, the transformation and output of our agricultural technology can generate profits, which is undoubtedly a win-win situation,” said Chen Wei.

A Document of Understanding (DoU) was signed lately between National University of Sciences and Technology, Pakistan (NUST), Weifang Engineering Vocational College, Qingzhou Municipal Government and Weifang National Comprehensive Pilot Agriculture Zone, through which four sides will carry out a series of high-level agricultural industrialization construction.

“Transform our current agricultural infrastructure should be priority among priorities,” Dr Hussain Ahmad Janjua, Principal, Atta-ur-Rahman School of Applied Biosciences (ASAB), NUST said.

“Different initiatives such as development of high yielding varieties, seed hybridization projects, plant molecular biology and automation of farms are on our list.”

In answer to Dr Janjua, Chen Wei told the CEN that the four sides have agreed to work together in promoting technology cooperation under the framework of CPEC, with the focus on construction of the entire agricultural industry chain system, deep processing of agricultural products and related industrialization development.

“As for future, we will begin with three aspects: standardized cultivation as first, especially facility agriculture due to systematic agricultural facilities is one of the keys of agricultural modernization.”

The reporter learned that take the SAS self-controlled soilless cultivation technology as an example, using soilless cultivation facilities to cultivate fruits and vegetables in hilly areas can save land to the greatest extent.

At present, the first demonstration park has started construction in Qingzhou, which can increase the utilization rate of idle waste land in low hills by 5%-10%, release 40,000-80,000 mu (2667-5333 hectares) of land, and drive more than 10,000 people to achieve reemployment.

“Secondly, precise crop fertilization and harvest loss reduction are also our focus. Based on soil composition tests and fertilizer field experiments, we’ll scientifically guide local farmers to improve fertilizer utilization efficiency and crop yield through formula fertilization.

In addition, advanced agricultural machinery equipment and technology can also help Pakistani farmers to reduce the loss of machine harvest,” Pan added.

“The last but not the least, improving the level of the entire industrial chain of agricultural products needs to be resolved urgently in Pakistan. I hope to recommend our three characteristic industries of fruits, vegetables and flowers.

We are expecting to share all technologies and experiences with Pakistani friends.” Taking hawthorn in Qingzhou as an example, there are 135 fruit processing enterprises in Wangfen Town, Qingzhou, producing 200,000 tons of hawthorn products, with an annual output value of more than 2.5 billion yuan, accounting for more than 70% of the domestic market and more than 30% of the international market.

Further, Dr Janjua also listed the research field that ASAB is involved in, “including biofertilizers, biotic and abiotic stress on plants, post-harvest techniques, efficient drip irrigation systems, and so on,” which was echoed by Wang Wei, Deputy Director of the Promotion Office of Weifang National Comprehensive Pilot Agriculture Zone, “The utilization rate of soil testing and formula fertilization technology in Weifang has reached more than 95.4%, the area of water and fertilizer integration has exceeded 1.2 million mu (0.08 million hectare), and the utilization rate of crop straw has reached 93%. Through the use of agricultural machinery, daily soil plowing, deep loosening, and fumigation can not only effectively improve the soil structure to increase fertility, but also effectively kill pathogenic fungi, bacteria, weeds, soil-borne viruses, and pests.”

Regarding the agricultural machinery cooperation mentioned at the signing ceremony, Wang Wei indicated that “as the ‘China agricultural machinery city’, there are more than 650 agricultural machinery manufacturers in Weifang, with the total power of agricultural machinery has reached 10.82 million kilowatts, and the comprehensive mechanization level of main crop cultivation and harvesting has reached 92.7%. Among them, the most advanced Qingzhou smart glass greenhouse applies more than 120 patented technologies, which is 50% more energy-efficient than Dutch greenhouses, “all of which are experiences that we are so happy to share with Pakistan.”

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1073358/pakistan-china-to-focus-on-construction-of-agricultural-industry-chain/>

### **Pakistan Observer**

#### **Chinese embassy provides 250 bullet proof jackets**

The delegation of the China Embassy on Wednesday visited the Central Police Office and provided 250 bullet proof jackets for Islamabad Capital Police, Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Police.



Inspector General of Police (IGP) Islamabad Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan welcomed the delegation along with senior officers. Additional Secretary Interior Ministry Muhammad Ayub Chaudhry and IGP Islamabad Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan thanked the delegation and said that China has always provided all kinds of assistance in the work of the police which is a living example of Pakistan-China eternal friendship. The delegation including the Police Counselor China Embassy Mr. Li Qingchun, Second Secretaries Mr. Xu Peng and Mr. Liu Xinhua provided 250 bullet proof jackets to Islamabad Capital Police, Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Police in the ceremony. Additional Secretary Interior Muhammad Ayub Chaudhry was the chief guest in the ceremony while IGP Islamabad Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan, officers of Islamabad Capital Police, DIG Logistics Punjab Police Athar Ismail, Deputy Commandant Elite Force Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Irfan Tariq were also present on the occasion.

A total of 50 bullet proof jackets were provided to CPO Headquarters Islamabad Owais Ahmed Malik, 100 jackets to DIG Athar Ismail from Punjab Police and 100 jackets to SSP Irfan Tariq from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Police. On the occasion, Police Counselor China Embassy said that Pakistan Police have always made great sacrifices to eliminate terrorism.

<https://pakobserver.net/chinese-embassy-provides-250-bullet-proof-jackets/>

### **Sino-US contestation, policy options for South Asia**

*Usman Zulfiqar Ali*

THE United States as the status quo hegemony is cherishing the power structure for decades. Their global hegemony comes of their greater military capability, strong political and economic institutions, and other indicators like trade surplus, Export with extensive savings. Yet a country breaking the horns in the east, posing questions to the shaped international order of western giants. In the recent years, Beijing has been emerged as the challenger to the global hegemony to fulfil its organic capacity through the means which are reformed and reshaped, much similar but diverse than the incumbent super power. The competition among giants juggles on the economic battlefields as one noted “a battle of efficiency”, to match other’s capacity. China’s neoclassical economics let the country accumulate human capital, technological progress, and Industrialization process despite her extractive institutions.

Obviously, the Chinese emergence as a global competitor has found a loop left by the United States. The dysfunctional political system renders the super power less capable to compete in terms of efficiency with the country in the east which is growing miraculously. Chinese growth remained much ahead of the rest of the country with Beijing lifting up its economy with 2.1 % ahead than the rest of the world in the period of 1950 to 2001, aiming to reach at the peak of the world economic ladder by 2049. The western scholars and states perceive this as an emerging threat to the liberal world order. Yet China claims it to redraw it in its reformed shape. The rivalry among the two has many implications for the modern economies and developing nations particularly in Asia where there are almost 20 economic powers are holding their residence. This will be a test case for these countries to pick the side among two distinct forms of capitalism that is, the one is free, liberal, and democratic while the other is authoritarian yet more economically modernized.

South Asia, a highly volatile region and remained a home to the major power's interests and rivalries for decades. The regional geography intrigues the global power struggle in the dynamics of polarization. The United States visualizes the region as an opportunity to contain the rising challenger that is China. Throughout the Cold War history, India remained non-aligned or much inclined towards Russia. Pakistan and China have shared mutual destiny and an obvious strategic umbrella against the rival India especially for Pakistan. Yet the current dynamics has been exploring the other gateways of the policy options in South Asia to neutralize and balance the tension through adopting different parameters to engage US as well as China. Pakistan on the other hand is receiving billions of investments under CPEC and related projects from China and apparently there is no reason obstructing further cooperation between them.

Not surprising, despite having recent military clashes on border, India is a major trade partner to the China in the region while US was invisible in the time of crisis of Doklam and Galwan. India, a key ally to United States prior to Obama's 'Pivot to Asia' in containing China couldn't call Russian resurgent moves an 'Invasion' grabbing more fuel from the country as Russia became India's 4th largest exporter of Petrol. Similarly, India-China bilateral trade has crossed the 1 billion \$ mark for the first time in the history in Fiscal Year 2022. Such a dynamics and trade opportunities put the south Asian countries in a test case in a rising polarized world. Despite clear indication of India's reluctance to fall in American hands, United States wishes to continue the Indian balance against the China in the region, yet they believe on hedging.

The global conflict among the major powers has many implications for Pakistan as well. The country who decisively picked the side with western alliance in a historic Cold war, deciding to hedge this time in an emergence of the so called new cold war of the 21st century. In his speech to the Islamabad Conclave back in 2021, Pakistan's then Premier Imran Khan categorically stated to avoid bloc politics. Instead harkening back to Nixon's 70s, he pressed on to the bridging role between US and China when Islamabad's a secret diplomacy brought the conflicting parties together. Meanwhile, China managed the regional countries through luring them in incentivised economy. As Deep Pal notes it that Beijing has only the economic levers of influence and they wield them to achieve the global objectives. Also, the Chinese Belt and Road Initiative seems enlightened manifestation of their grand strategy and Pakistan is the part of it. In addition to it, the graph of Chinese imports to Pakistan is also flourishing with greatest help in technology. China had provided electrical and electronic equipment of US \$ 4.93 billion in the year 2021.

Despite the economic influence of China is increasing in Pakistan, the country also remained undecided in choosing a wise game. Neither a policy maker nor historian will suggest the country to put all eggs in the same basket nor Chinese demands are such high in return of providing economic incentives. The case of southeast Asia countries and their ability to hedge among the two giants draws more clear pathways for India and Pakistan to predict stable future. On the other, a suffocating scenario has been arising for the United States which historically found Pakistan by their side from Cold War to War on Terror. However,

the bitter past of alienation guides the Islamic Republic to hedge more likely to their neighbours in east.

<https://pakobserver.net/sino-us-contestation-policy-options-for-south-asia-by-usman-zulfiqar-ali/>

## **The Nation**

### **Darban SEZ to trigger robust economic activity in KP**

ISLAMABAD-The Darban Special Economic Zone (SEZ), which is being set up in the Dera Ismail Khan district of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, is located at the juncture of the Punjab, Balochistan and the KP provinces, thus giving easy access to 78% of Pakistan.

The SEZ will cover an area of 3,000 acres of land just off the main China-Pakistan Economic Corridor route. It will be the largest economic zone in KP, providing opportunities for investors to export products to Afghanistan, Central Asia and beyond. Arbab Haroon, Marketing and Communication Officer at the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Economic Zones Development and Management Company (KPEZDMC), told WealthPK that the Darban SEZ was located at an ideal location, only two kilometres from the CPEC route, giving easy access to the markets of KP, Balochistan and Punjab, which together account for over 78% of the population of Pakistan. He said that CPEC is a shining example of cordial relationship between Pakistan and China.

“The KP province stands to hugely benefit from the increased industrial activity and job prospects the Darban SEZ will create.” He said that Darban SEZ development projects have been documented and land provided to industrialists.

“The key features in the SEZ include a greater opportunity to attract new businesses through provision of integrated infrastructure and a business-friendly environment for sustainable industrial growth.” He further said that different types of industrial units would be established in Darban SEZ, including mineral, agro-based industries, food processing units, pharmaceutical and steel industries.

Talking to WealthPK, Prof Fakhru Islam, the director of the Pakistan Study Centre at the University of Peshawar, said the projects for special economic zones need to be prioritised, and small and agro-based industries should be established there as opposed to large industries, which are not very successful in the province owing to different reasons.

He said the special economic zones could play a key role in promoting the development of the province provided they are executed as per the plan. He believes that through SEZs the foreign investors will be able to tap the potential of CPEC and find export markets for their products, besides catering to the local needs.

“In order to make an SEZ sustainable, it should be built with the support of the local community to fit their needs, constraints, aspirations and vision of development,” he said. The second phase of CPEC focuses on increased industrial and agricultural cooperation between the two countries.

After the successful execution of the first phase of the multi-billion-dollar project, both China and Pakistan are striving to complete the second phase to develop the region and improve people's living standards.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2023-03-16/page-8/detail-2>

### Jang News

#### چینی بینک کی مزید 50 کروڑ ڈالر قرضہ فراہم کرنے کی یقین دہانی

اسلام آباد (مہتاب حیدر) ایک چینی بینک نے ری فنانسنگ کے تحت پاکستان کو آئندہ چند دنوں میں 50 کروڑ ڈالر قرضہ فراہم کرنے کی یقین دہانی کرائی ہے۔ اس طرح تجارتی قرضوں کی مجموعی مالیت ایک ارب 70 کروڑ ڈالر ہو جائے گی۔ وعدے دو ارب ڈالر کے ہیں۔ آئی ایم ایف کی غیر تحریری شرط ہے کہ پاکستان ری فنانسنگ کے تحت مطلوبہ کمرشل قرضے حاصل کرے۔

پاکستانی حکام دوست ڈونر ممالک اور کثیرالہی کرڈیٹرز کی جانب 100 فیصد تصدیق کے لیے تلگد میں ہیں۔ تاکہ آئی ایم ایف سے اسٹاف سطح پر معاہدہ ہو جائے۔ بدھ کے روز فنانس ڈویژن کے ایک اعلیٰ عہدیدار نے تصدیق کی کہ ”چینی بینک سے 500 ملین ڈالر کا ایک اور کمرشل قرضہ آرہا ہے“ اور مزید کہا کہ یہ جلد ہی انشاء اللہ ہو جائے گا۔

چینی بینک پہلے ہی حالیہ پچھلے ہفتوں میں 1.2 بلین ڈالر کے تجارتی قرضوں کی دوبارہ مالی اعانت فراہم کر چکے ہیں اور اب بیجنگ نے اگلے چند دنوں میں مزید 500 ملین ڈالر کے قرض کی دوبارہ مالی اعانت فراہم کرنے کی یقین دہانی کرائی ہے چینی بینکوں نے پہلے ہی سے ایک ارب 20 کروڑ ڈالر کی ری فنانسنگ کی ہے۔ چین کی جانب سے دو ارب ڈالر کے سیف ڈپازٹ کارول اور بھی آئی ایم ایف کی پیشگی شرائط میں شامل ہے۔

<https://jang.com.pk/news/1204947>

#### چینی بینک سے قرض کی دوسری قسط کیلئے کاغذی کارروائی مکمل ہو گئی: اسحاق ڈار

وفاقی وزیر خزانہ اسحاق ڈار کا کہنا ہے کہ چین کے بینک کے ساتھ مزید 50 کروڑ ڈالر قرض کی دوسری قسط کے اجراء کے لیے کاغذی کارروائی مکمل ہو گئی۔ وفاقی وزیر خزانہ اسحاق ڈار نے سوشل میڈیا پر جاری کیے گئے بیان میں کہا ہے کہ یہ قسط رول اور کیے گئے 1 ارب 30 کروڑ ڈالر قرض کا حصہ ہے۔ ان کا کہنا ہے کہ پاکستان نے یہ قرض چین کو ادا کر دیا تھا، فنڈز جلد اسٹیٹ بینک آف پاکستان کو جاری ہو جائیں گے۔ اسحاق ڈار نے مزید کہا کہ چینی بینک نے پاکستان کے لیے 1.3 ارب ڈالر کے رول اور کی منظوری دی تھی۔ وفاقی وزیر خزانہ کا یہ بھی کہنا ہے کہ پاکستان نے حال ہی میں یہ رقم چینی بینک کو واپس ادا کی تھی۔

<https://jang.com.pk/news/1205168>

#### چینی صوبے شنڈونگ کے اپنی صنعت پاکستان منتقل کرنے کے فیصلے کا خیر مقدم کرتے ہیں، وزیر تجارت

وفاقی وزیر تجارت نوید قمر نے چینی صوبے شنڈونگ کی طرف سے اپنی صنعت پاکستان منتقل کرنے کے فیصلے کا خیر مقدم کیا ہے۔ اسلام آباد میں چینی کاروباری وفد سے ملاقات میں وزیر تجارت نے کہا کہ صنعتیں منتقل ہونے سے ملک کے غیر ملکی ذخائر بچیں گے۔ ان کا کہنا تھا کہ برآمدات بڑھانے کیلئے بار ٹریڈ ماڈل کو استعمال کیا جاسکتا ہے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ کابینہ نے بار ٹریڈ ماڈل کے فریم ورک کی منظوری دے دی ہے، بار ٹریڈ ماڈل پاک چین تجارت کو فروغ دے گا۔ وفاقی وزیر کا کہنا تھا کہ چین پاکستان کی اقتصادی ترقی میں اہم کردار ادا کر رہا ہے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ برآمدات کو فروغ دینے والی چینی کمپنیوں سے مکمل تعاون کریں گے، مستقبل میں پاک چین تجارتی و اقتصادی تعلقات مزید مستحکم ہوں گے۔

ان کا کہنا تھا کہ نئی صنعت سے ملک میں روزگار کے مواقع بھی پیدا ہوں گے، کاروبار پاکستان منتقل کرنے میں دلچسپی رکھنے والی چینی کمپنیاں جامع تجاویز دیں۔ اس موقع پر چینی کاروباری وفد نے کہا کہ پاکستان میں سرمایہ کاری کیلئے سولر چینلز اسمبلی پلانٹ لانے پر غور کیا جا رہا ہے۔ وفد نے مزید کہا کہ میٹل پلانٹس، فریڈا سز پروڈکشن پلانٹ، فوڈ پروسیسنگ پلانٹس کے منصوبوں پر غور کر رہے ہیں۔

<https://jang.com.pk/news/1205207>

## Nawaiwaqt News

### چینی تعاون سے منافع بخش ہابہر ڈکینولا بیج کاشت میں اضافہ

کی کاشت زیادہ منافع بخش ہونے کی وجہ سے بڑھنے لگی۔ 10 سالہ زرعی تعاون کی وجہ سے "HC-021C" (لاہور) (پیشل کار سپانڈنٹ) پاکستان میں چینی ہابہر ڈکینولا بیج ایسی کاشت کو فروغ دیا جا رہا ہے جو کسان کیلئے منافع بخش کے ساتھ ساتھ قومی معیشت کے فائدہ مند ہو سکے۔ چینی کمپنی نے کینولا کی نئی دریافت شدہ قسم کی کاشت و پیداوار میں اضافہ سے متعلق گوجرانوالہ میں کینولا کے معروف کاشتکار و سابق ایم پی اے ناصر چیمہ کے تعاون سے "اپناکل بہترین بنائیں" کینولا فیملڈ کے کاہتمام کیا، جس میں کسانوں و کاشتکاروں کی بڑی تعداد نے شرکت کی۔ چینی کمپنی ہر سال مارچ میں کسانوں کے لیے فیملڈ کے کاہتمام کرتی ہے اور بہتر پیداوار کے لئے انہیں کاشت کی ٹیکنالوجی منتقل کرنے کے ساتھ ساتھ مقامی کسانوں کے لئے افزائش نسل اور ٹیکنیکی مدد کا انتظام بھی کرتی ہے۔ پاکستان میں چین کے تعاون سے کینولا فصل کی کاشت بیلٹ اینڈ روڈ انیشی ایٹو کے اہم کوریڈور "چین پاکستان اقتصادی راہداری" کا حصہ ہے۔ پاکستان میں کینولا کی کاشت منصوبہ کے ہیڈ اور وہان چنگفاہی شینگ سیڈ کمپنی کے انٹرنیشنل ڈیپارٹمنٹ کے ڈائریکٹر چاؤ شو شینگ نے تقریب سے خطاب کرتے ہوئے کہا کہ اس منصوبے سے پیداوار میں اضافہ ہو گا اور درآمدی بلوں میں کمی آئے گی کی نشوونما کا دورانیہ کم اور زیادہ بیماریوں کے خلاف قابل مزاحمت ہے۔ تیل کی "HC-021C" (گی) کینولا کی دیگر اقسام کے ساتھ موازنہ کرتے ہوئے انہوں نے کہا کہ یعنی نوکولیسٹرول۔ (Transfat) مقدار مقامی تمام سرسوں کے مقابلے میں 10 فیصد زیادہ اور پیداوار 37 من فی ایکڑ سے زیادہ ہو رہی ہے۔ اس میں زیرو ٹرانسفیت کینولا میں "ڈبل زیرو کینولا" آئل سب سے مفید ہے۔

ایک رپورٹ کے مطابق 2021 سے 2022 تک پاکستان نے قریباً 3.6 ارب ڈالر مالیت کا خوردنی تیل درآمد کیا جو پاکستان کی قومی سپلائی کا 89 فیصد ہے۔ جبکہ پاکستان میں صرف 11 فیصد خوردنی تیل پیدا ہوتا ہے۔ یہی وجہ ہے کہ یہ ملکی معیشت پر ایک بڑا بوجھ ہے۔ "چینی ہابہر ڈکینولا کا ایک دانے کا بیج، ایک بوتل پاکستانی صحت بخش خوردنی تیل کے عنوان سے تقریباً 50 روپے کا بیج، دوہان چنگفاہی شینگ سیڈ کمپنی کے منیجر آئل کراپ چین یا ڈونگ، صدر ایوول گروپ آصف مجید اور مارکیٹنگ ہیڈ غضنفر علی، کسان اتحاد پاکستان کے صدر خالد کھوکھر، کاشن کمشنر ملتان خالد عبداللہ، سابق ایم پی اے چودھری جاوید اور سرٹس سیڈ ای ڈی کے ہیڈ ظفر اقبال نے اظہار خیال کیا۔ کو پاکستانی "HC-021C" 2009 سے، وہان کنگ فاہینگ سیڈ کمپنی نے پاکستان میں کینولا کی تحقیق اور افزائش کے لیے سرٹس سیڈز پاکستان کے ساتھ تعاون کیا جبکہ حکومت نے 10 سال بعد 2019 میں منظور کیا۔ جس پر مقررین اور کاشتکاروں نے حیرت کا اظہار کیا۔ مقررین نے کہا کہ حکومت کو ملکی معیشت منافع بخش اور انسانی صحت کے لئے سود مند کینولا بیج کی کاشت کو فروغ دینے کے لئے بجٹ مختص اور ریسرچ کو ترجیح دینی چاہیے۔ اس سے نہ صرف زر مبادلہ کے ذخائر پر بوجھ کم ہو گا بلکہ کسان بھی خوشحال ہو گا۔ ہم زرعی ملک ہیں تو ہماری ترجیحات میں زراعت شامل بھی ہونی چاہیے۔ گوجرانوالہ میں کاشتکار ناصر چیمہ نے 100 ایکڑ ترقی پر چینی ہابہر ڈکینولا بیج کی "HC-021C" فصل کاشت کی ہے۔ تقریب کے شرکاء نے کینولا کھیت کا دورہ کیا۔ سیڈ ماہرین ظفر اقبال، ڈاکٹر اصغر، محمد جنید نے بریفنگ میں بتایا کہ پنجاب حکومت کاشت پر 5000 روپے/ہیکٹ بھی دیتی ہے۔ تحقیق کے مطابق چینی کینولا کی یہ قسم انسانی صحت کے لئے سب سے زیادہ سود مند ہے، اس میں یورک ایسڈ کے مواد کا وزن 0.7 فیصد ہے جو کہ 2 فیصد بین الاقوامی معیار سے بہت کم ہے۔ کسانوں کی کاشت میں بھرپور دلچسپی، سوالات پوچھتے رہے۔ چینی ماہرین نے بتایا کہ چین پاکستان میں انڈسٹری چین بنانے کے لئے کینولا ہارویسٹر ماڈیولز اور چینی آئل پریس ٹیکنالوجی اور یونٹ متعارف کرانے کا ارادہ رکھتا ہے۔

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/lahore/2023-03-16/page-6/detail-14>



**March 17, 2023**

**Business Recorder**

**Financial obligations**

*MUSHTAQ GHUMMAN*

ISLAMABAD: China Power Hub Generation Company (Private) Limited (CPGCL) has urged CPPA-G to allocate maximum funds to ensure that the company can fulfil its financial obligations.

China Power Hub Generation Company (Private) Limited (CPHGC) is a 2x660 MW coal-fired power plant with a dedicated coal jetty located in Hub, Balochistan. CPHGC has always supported the vision of government of Pakistan to create an economically viable environment in the power sector by providing reliable energy solutions. In pursuance of this vision, the Project achieved its Commercial Operations Date (COD) on 17 August 2019.

Since COD, CPHGC has generated more than 24.78 billion kWh of electricity till date.

With reference to the subject matter captioned above, we would like to highlight again (as the same has already been communicated to GoP/CPA-G through our various earlier correspondences and meetings) that the Company has to make payment for debt service of PKR 23.90 billion before 5th April, 2023. This payment includes PKR 16.12 billion for principal repayment against long-term loan, PKR6.29 billion for interest payment for long-term loan and PKR 1.49 billion for interest on working capital.

According to the company such funds requirement pertains to debt service only and does not include the funds requirement on account of coal procurement, CTS charges, O&M fee and insurance which has already been communicated to CPA-G through a letter of February 17, 2023.

Considering funds requirement of the Company for debt service, CPA-G has requested to prioritise higher allocation of funds to CPHGC so that the Company can fulfill its financial obligations in a timely manner and avoid default towards its long-term lenders which is not at all desirable by the counter-parts. But contrary to the funds' requirement, CPA-G has merely allocated Rs 2.93 billion to CPHGC till March 10, 2023, against capacity payments which is substantially lower than what is required to fulfill the debt service requirement of the Company. Such lower allocation of funds by CPA-G has put the Company in a critical situation and an immediate release of funds is requested from the Company's overdue receivables which can reinforce its dwindling financial position.

Moreover, the company's Capacity Purchase Price (CPP) receivables have also accumulated to a worrisome high level of Rs 63.85 billion including overdue receivables of Rs 46.07 billion as of March 10, 2023.

CPHGC has requested CPA-G to allocate maximum funds to ensure that the company can fulfil its financial obligations and provide uninterrupted power supply to the National Grid and avoid contractual defaults thereof. Recently, China's Charge d' Affairs met with SAPM on Coordination, Syed Tariq Fatemi and conveyed concerns of Chinese power companies saying that their overdue receivables have reached \$ 1.5 billion

SAPM on Coordination in a letter to Power Minister, a copy of which is available with Business Recorder, referred to his breakfast meeting with Chinese Charge d' Affaires, in which the latter stated that overdue payments to the Chinese IPPs currently stand at \$1.5 billion. This is causing huge concern among Chinese businesses, he added. Chinese Charge d' Affaires has complained that Chinese power plants at Hub, Sahiwal and Port Qasim are facing currency exchange restrictions, which was causing difficulty in coal import.

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2023/03/17/1-page/957508-news.html>

## **The Nation**

### **Barter trade model will inject new energy to Pak-China trade: Qamar**

*Imran Ali Kundi*

ISLAMABAD-Federal Minister for Commerce Syed Naveed Qamar on Thursday appreciated the barter trade model and said that the same could be used to enhance exports. He said that framework on barter trade model has been approved by the federal cabinet. The minister said this during a meeting with a Chinese business delegation led by Hou Jianxin, Chairman Shandong Xinxu Group Corporation China, held here in the Minister's Office.

Syed Naveed Qamar said that China is playing a significant role in the economic development of our country however the barter trade model will inject new energy to the bilateral trade. He also assured full support of Pakistani government to the Chinese companies to enhance export volume of the country. Hou Jianxin said the Shandong government would shift Chinese industry to the Pakistan. He came up with the vision to build industrial park in Pakistan. The industrial park will serve as a focal point for all the industrial requirements of Pakistan from China and vice versa, he continued.

The chairman said, the projects like solar panels assembly plant, metal refining plants, fertilizer production plant, food processing plants (dry milk production, seafood processing, meat processing) etc. are being considered for future investment. He said Pakistan and China enjoy strong relations and expressed the hope that the trade and economic ties between the two countries would be further cemented with the passage of time.

Syed Naveed Qamar appreciated the decision of the Shandong government to shift its industry to the Pakistan, which would not only save foreign reserves of the country but also create job opportunities in the country. However the minister sought comprehensive proposals from the Chinese companies which are interested in shifting their businesses to Pakistan, which would be forwarded to the Board of Investment (BOI) for expediting the investment process.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2023-03-17/page-8/detail-2>

## **Karot Hydropower Project**

*Muhammad Nasir*

IQBAL KHAN-A sun sets every evening to rise again after Azan-e-Sehri, but the sun of Pakistan-China friendship never sets. The friendship between Pakistan and China cannot fall

because it is unique and incomparable. Pakistan and China will maintain their natural friendship till doomsday and neither country will avoid paying a heavy price for it. Pakistan and China do not just share a border, but their hearts also meet and beat together. The Silk Road, which has been in use for decades between Pakistan and China, is a symbol of deep respect and friendship, modesty, patience, tolerance and trade activities in the region. If we turn the pages of history, many secrets will be revealed. Nature has made the 415 km long Silk Road a road map for trade and tourism for almost two thousand years. It will not be out of place to call this highway a sustainable bridge between the Chinese people and the people of Pakistan. The services of Chairman Great Mr. Mao, the architect of civilized China and tireless Chinese talents cannot be forgotten in building the Silk Road in a modern way. The alert and fearless “Chinese” leadership does not care about the “criticism” and “anxiety” of its enemies, including Washington and Delhi, but remains engrossed in its tunes for its economic goals. Silk Road (Shahraah-E-Resham) is actually “Shah Rah” meaning “King of highways”, many emperors have passed through this highway. The Silk Road is not just a highway but a beautiful masterpiece of nature and the eighth wonder of the world. It is not soft and delicate like its name, but passing through the foothills of the Rocky Mountains, it connects and unites two deeply friendly countries. The construction of the China Pakistan Economic Corridor under the Belt and Road Initiative has been carried out on the golden principles of large-scale consultation, joint partnership and protection of common interests. Through this, the torch of sustainable development that has been lit today will benefit the future generations and crops of both countries. Its construction will make trade more profitable and provide employment to countless skilled workers.

Adhering to the philosophy of being committed to its social responsibilities and selfless dedication to global betterment, China Three Gorges Corporation (CTG) is dedicated to building a close community of bright future jointly with Pakistan in the new era, based on Pakistan’s development needs. Certainly, no effort will be spared to meet the expectations of the people of Pakistan. Both Pakistan and China are determined and enthusiastic to work together with the intention of sharing common interests and making themselves more prosperous. In January 2016, the groundbreaking ceremony of the Karot Hydropower Project was held in Pakistan. In February 2017, the project completed its financing closure, setting a record for the fastest financing closure in Pakistan’s hydropower industry. The closure of the river was completed in September 2018, marking the entry into the comprehensive construction phase. On November 20, 2021, water storage was started when the sluice gate was closed. On March 29, 2022, the rotor hoisting of all four units was completed. On May 12, 2022, units 1 and 2 were officially connected to the grid for power generation. This project started work on 29 June 2022. The Karot Hydropower Project is the fourth of the five cascade HPPs to be developed along the Jhelum River.

The installed capacity of the project is 720MW with an average annual power generation of 3206 GWh and annual usage hours of 4452h. As a single power generation task hydropower complex, the project’s structural configuration includes rock fill dam, spillway, powerhouse, diversion tunnel, head race power tunnel and tail race tunnel. The project has been developed under the Power Policy 2002 on Own Build, Operate, Transfer (BOOT) basis with a construction period of five years and a grace period of thirty years. The 720 MW

Hydropower Project has been listed as one of the priority projects under the China Pakistan Economic Corridor. The project is located on the Jhelum River in District Rawalpindi and Azad Jammu and Kashmir. It is operated on a river type project with a total head of 79m. A maximum of four Francis turbine units are installed. The feasibility study of the project was approved on October 7, 2009. Karot Hydropower Station is located on the Jhelum, a tributary of the Indus River in the northern part of Pakistan. It is the first large-scale hydropower investment and construction project of the “Belt and Road Initiative”, which is the first hydropower investment project of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor. It is also the first hydropower project to be invested by the Silk Road Fund after its inception. The production capacity of the project is 720 MW.

It is developed on BOOT (build-own-operate-transfer) model with modern hydropower technology. It has emerged as the largest private sector hydropower project in Pakistan and provides more than 3.2 billion KWh of clean energy to the people of Pakistan every year. It aims to increase the share of clean energy in Pakistan, improve energy infrastructure, overcome the shortage of electricity in Pakistan, promote Pakistani economic and social development, and improve the lives and welfare of citizens and global carbon neutrality. It also plays an important role in achieving the goal. The total investment in the project is USD 1.74 billion. Average annual electricity generation is over 3.2 billion KWh. It can guarantee electricity supply for five million people. The capacity of the project is 720 MW. It will also provide more than 4,500 decent jobs for Pakistan every year directly or indirectly. By the end of 2021, China Three Gorges South Asia Investment Limited (CSAIL), an investment holding company created by China Three Gorges Corporation (CTG), has provided a total of nearly 6,000 jobs to Pakistan. It is welcome for economic and social development.

The company has joined hands with Pakistanis to help each other in the face of the growing pandemic, which has been closely related to the public. The friendship between China and Pakistan is higher and more enduring than the Himalayas and deeper than the oceans. The joint development process of Pakistan and China is sweeter than honey and is contributing to building a common future community in Asia. Despite the changing international conditions, CTG continues to pursue the path of openness and win-win cooperation. It is jointly developing a cooperation platform with Pakistan to share the fruits of cooperation. So that sustainable achievements can be achieved in the joint construction of the Belt and Road Initiative. Pakistanis can be benefited as much as possible. Remember that the wind does not always blow in the direction the sailor wants. Only through concerted and united effort can the people move towards a better future. Such valuable projects to overcome the power shortfall can transform the economic and social status of the region while having positive and lasting effects on the economy as well as the society. Pakistan and China still have a lot to surprise the world.

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<https://www.nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2023-03-17/page-9/detail-0>

## **Oilseed production can be boosted with Chinese coop**

ISLAMABAD-Pakistan has the potential to reap huge dividends in the oilseed sector through enhanced cooperation with China, said a senior official. “Despite ecological diversity, suitable climate, and vast fertile land, Pakistan is unfortunately among the lowest edible oil-producing countries,” said Dr Ehsan Ullah Khan, Senior Scientific Officer at National Agricultural Research Centre (NARC) while talking to WealthPK.

“Only 30% of Pakistan’s domestic oil needs are satisfied by local production, with the remaining 70% coming through imports. The cost of importing edible oil has surpassed \$4 billion annually to meet the pressing demand of its population,” Dr Ehsan pointed out.

“Given the substantial import bill for only one commodity, Pakistan needs a significant increase in the local production of edible oil,” said the official.

“To reduce its import bill, Pakistan has started focusing on developing its own oilseed industry,” Dr Ehsan said.

He said the government has introduced a number of incentives and policies to encourage farmers to grow more oilseeds, and there has also been an increase in private-sector investment in the industry. Additionally, he said, Pakistan has been exploring opportunities for international cooperation in this area, particularly with China. “China is one of the world’s largest importers of oilseeds and is also a major producer of edible oils. The country’s well-developed agricultural industry has invested heavily in research and development to improve crop yields and quality. Hence, there is great potential for cooperation between China and Pakistan in the oilseed sector,” he pointed out.

The official noted that the China-Pakistan agriculture cooperation has been gaining momentum in recent years, with both countries recognising the potential benefits of collaboration in this sector. “One of the areas of focus has been the development of Pakistan’s oilseed industry, which has long been considered an untapped resource with significant potential for growth,” he said.

He said the two countries recently initiated a joint venture to introduce hybrid canola seeds to Pakistani farmers, which has the potential to revolutionise the country’s agriculture sector.

According to WealthPK research, canola seeds developed by China have been sowed on about 80,000 hectares of land in Pakistan, which will help reduce the burden on Pakistan’s strained foreign exchange. The country consumes around 5 million tons of cooking oil a year, but farmers don’t prefer oilseeds due to their low economic potential. To help the country meet its edible oil demand and support its foreign exchange reserves, Chinese company Wuhan Qingfa Hesheng and a Pakistani company Evyol Group jointly provide high-quality hybrid seeds to Pakistani farmers.

The variety takes 10 years to produce yield and is compatible with climate change. It’s a good crop for farmers because a standard 2kg pack is enough to cultivate two acres, which has a yield of 1.5 tons, which is over 10% more than the other varieties currently available.

“Another benefit is that it produces fodder for cattle, which we usually import, and due to the devaluation of the currency it has become a substantial financial burden,” said the official.



“If farmers cultivate canola according to the instructions of agro-scientific researchers, then they can earn higher yields with less input cost, which will increase their income and will save a significant amount of foreign exchange,” he added.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2023-03-17/page-9/detail-5>

**March 18, 2023**

**Business Recorder**

**B2B bartering with China to boost exports: minister**

*MUHAMMAD SHAFI*

KARACHI: The dollar-strapped Pakistan is now expecting a Business-to-Business (B2B) bartering with the neighbouring China to give a boost to its dwindling exports, Federal Commerce Minister Syed Naveed Qamar said on Friday.

Also, he said Pakistan will continue to enjoy the EU-granted GSP Plus lucrative facility for the next couple of years. The ongoing program, which allows Pakistan to export GSP-eligible products across the EU under preferential tariffs (ie, reduced or zero import duties) was set to expire in 2023.

However, the minister said the EU has not yet given its final decision on what would be the next program's shape and size. It has extended for Pakistan the facility for at least two years. Pakistan has already met EU conventions and demands including those related to the Human Rights (HR). “We are confident; we will be going into the next program as well,” Naveed said.

Talking to business journalists at Trade Development Authority of Pakistan (TDAP) head office, he said: “The B2B Barter Policy has been approved by the federal cabinet, and we are just going for marketing of the launch.”

The policy has been designed in a manner that it will not ‘annoy anyone,’ he said, in a veiled reference to the global powers and financing institutions.

The scheme has been designed primarily focusing on countries like Iran and Afghanistan where the banking systems operations are not so easy due to international sections and other factors. Pakistan can also fetch fruits of this scheme from the Central Asian countries, and Africa where we don't have banking compatibility with their financial systems.

These countries have a huge trade potential, but we don't have an easy system for the flow of finances. Compatibility of goods' value can be a limitation for us. But, we have to work hard on this especially in those countries where we have trade deficit, he said. Barter or trade is defined as the exchange of goods and/or services between businesses, organizations, or individuals without using money to pay for them. The system has been going on for thousands of years now, he said.

“We are expecting barter system with the China,” the minister said. Barter system is an alternate mechanism and other banking transactions will regularly continue, he said. “Sky is

the limit,” he said when asked about the barter trade potential, and refused to share any estimated figures.

However the bartering will not be applicable for the countries where Pakistan’s trade is in surplus, like European Union (EU), the United States of America (USA), United Kingdom and, Middle East.

The government has just given a framework. It will be all about consolidation between the two agreeing parties in the system, and recording of imports and exports will be maintained at the customs level, and this will help make settlement between the two parties, the commerce minister said.

China’s eastern province, Shandong is set to relocate its labour-intensive industries to Pakistan to reduce production cost which is part of China Pakistan Economic Corridor. He said the Former President Asif Ali Zardari played key role in implementation of Currency Swap Arrangement (CSA) which gave positive signal to the market on the availability of liquidity of the other country’s currency on the onshore market.

The minister said, China to build an industrial park in Pakistan which will serve as a focal point for all the industrial requirements of Pakistan from China and vice versa. The Federal Minister said projects like solar panels assembly plant, metal refining plants, fertilizer production plant, food processing plants (dry milk production, seafood processing, meat processing) are being considered for future investment.

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2023/03/18/1-page/957591-news.html>

### **Pakistan receives \$500m from China’s ICBC bank**

KARACHI: Pakistan has received a loan tranche from China of \$500 million that will help the country shore up its depleting foreign exchange reserves as the government battles an ongoing economic crisis.

Finance Minister Ishaq Dar confirmed the receipt of the \$500m by the State Bank of Pakistan from the Chinese Industrial and Commercial Bank of China Ltd (ICBC) in a tweet on Friday evening.

“State Bank of Pakistan has received today in its account from Chinese Bank ICBC US \$ 500 million. It will shore up forex reserves of Pakistan,” the finance minister said.

The latest transfer is the second disbursement of US\$500m for Pakistan as part of a US\$1.3b rollover facility from China’s ICBC, documentation for which was completed earlier this week.

“Out of #Chinese ICBC’s approved rollover facility of US\$1.3 billion (which was earlier repaid by Pakistan to ICBC in recent months), documentation for second disbursement of US\$500 million has been completed by Finance Ministry for release of funds to the State Bank of Pakistan,” the finance minister had said in a tweet on Thursday.

The central bank had received the first \$500m installment from the ICBC earlier this month as part of efforts by the friendly country to help Pakistan avert an imminent default on foreign debt as it battled the ongoing financial crisis.

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2023/03/18/1-page/957592-news.html>

## **Daily Times**

### **China vows continued support to Pakistan**

Foreign Secretary Dr Asad Majeed Khan called on China's State Councillor and Foreign Minister Qin Gang in Beijing on Friday for strengthening the bilateral strategic partnership between the two countries. The foreign secretary reached China Thursday amidst Pakistan's deepening economic woes which have created an urgent need for economic assistance to avert the financial collapse. According to a statement issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the foreign secretary in his conversation with his Chinese counterpart reiterated the brotherhood between the two countries. "Pakistan and China are iron brothers, trusted friends and enduring partners for peace and development," Majeed was quoted as saying, adding that Qin Gang had reiterated China's strong commitment to "China-Pakistan All-Weather Strategic Cooperative Partnership" and to extend continued across-the-board support to Pakistan. Qin and Majeed reaffirmed the "significance of China-Pakistan strategic ties in the evolving regional and international milieu and noted with satisfaction the steady momentum in the relationship", the statement further added.

The two also agreed to further build on the consensus reached during Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's visit to Beijing in November 2022 to further advance comprehensive cooperation across diverse domains such as China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), trade and investment, financial cooperation, socio-economic development, cultural exchanges, and people-to-people ties.

As the country's economic crisis worsens, it was reported earlier that a Chinese bank had assured Pakistan of providing another refinanced \$500 million loan within the next few days.

The total Chinese loan will go up to \$1.7 billion out of the total committed amount of \$2 billion.

This was one of the conditions of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) that Pakistan must secure the refinancing of commercial loans as well as a rollover on deposits from China during the programme period, which is scheduled to expire in June 2023.

On Thursday, while speaking with the state broadcaster China Global Television Network (CGTN), the foreign minister Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari also said that he would be attending the upcoming Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) summit – scheduled to take place in autumn.

Bilawal had said that "of course, we will [participate in the BRI summit]. Pakistan has the CPEC which has made immense progress over time, and I look forward to being able to participate in such a summit and share with the world what we've achieved so far, what we plan to achieve together going forward".

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1074199/china-vows-continued-support-to-pakistan/>

## Dawn News

### **NTDC issues default notice to Chinese firm**

*Khaleeq Kiani*

ISLAMABAD: The national grid operator — National Transmission & Despatch Company (NTDC) — issued notice of default to a Chinese firm for inordinate delays in the completion of a 45-km transmission line near Lahore.

In a notice of default, the NTDC has conveyed to Sino-hydro Corp Ltd that the scheduled completion for the 220kV transmission line was April 24, 2021 (ie 540 days from the effective date of Nov 1, 2019) which had lapsed a long time ago but the performance was still not up to the mark even after the delay of more than three years.

The NTDC said that the contractor had shown a non-serious attitude towards such an important project from the start of the project. “Even more than 41 months have lapsed since the commencement of the project but ‘you are not carrying out the contractual obligations including the site activities’”.

This “situation is very alarming” and hence “a matter of grave concern”, said the NTDC, advising the contractor to take immediate remedial steps within 14 days of this notice to complete the project well in time. “Otherwise, the employer may terminate the contract forthwith by giving a notice of termination to the contractor” followed by encashment of performance guarantee.

The national grid operator reported that the transmission line is still far behind the revised completion schedule of May 2023.

The total material has not reached the site and civil works are not completed either as of now. The project is part of a larger \$800 million financing from the Asian Development Bank.

Interestingly, despite the slow progress on a smaller project of a 220kV line of 45km in the plains, the NTDC has already awarded a contract to the same firm for a larger 765kV transmission line in one of the highest altitudes a couple of weeks ago – Lot-1 of Dasu to Mansehra segment for evacuation of power generation from Dasu Hydropower project.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1742808>

## The Nation

### **Pakistan’s EV market widely attracts Chinese**

ISLAMABAD - Pakistan’s electric vehicle (EV) market is widely favoured and attracted by Chinese companies as it would lead to greener and environment-friendly Pakistan, Gwadar Pro reported quoting experts. They said that developing EVs in Pakistan is a potential solution for the country both in terms of improving the quality of the environment and making full use of electricity. Prof. Zaffar while talking to Gwadar Pro, noted that the transport sector contributes almost 43% to the total airborne emissions in the country.

Meanwhile, Pakistan has surplus electricity generation capacity, resulting in accumulation of a large sum of capacity payments. “Electric mobility has become indispensable for Pakistan,”

said Prof. Nauman. Under such situation, there is a need to introduce non-seasonal and flexible loads, and EVs have emerged as an effective solution.

A number of Chinese companies including Chery, MG, Changan, BAIC and Haval have also been making a push in recent years for the EV transport in Pakistan. Many favourable factors, such as the Pakistani government's supportive attitude towards EV, have contributed to the development of the national EV policy.

In Pakistan, EV manufacturing will need to rely strongly on imports in the short term due to the limited capacity of local manufacturers to develop various modules/components of EVs, especially batteries and battery cells.

Prof. nauman Zaffar, Director of Energy and Power Systems Cluster and the national Incubation Centre, told the media that the price of the battery in a BEV constitutes almost half of the price of the vehicle. "The supply chain of materials used in manufacturing of batteries for EVs is highly competitive with China occupying a significant market share. This presents a valuable opportunity for Pakistani auto manufacturers to collaborate with their Chinese counterparts in battery cell manufacturing, which can help bring down the upfront purchase price of EVs.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2023-03-18/page-10/detail-1>

### **Nadeem Qadri hails Chinese role in establishment of peace and stability in region**

Lahore - Director General Operations Nawa-i-Waqt Group Lt Col (Retd) Sayed Ahmad Nadeem Qadri met Acting Ambassador of the People's Republic of China Ms Pang Chunxui at the Chinese Embassy in Islamabad yesterday which lasted for an hour.

The meeting took place in a very pleasant and friendly atmosphere, in which the topics of Pakistan- China friendship and its historical background, geostrategic environment of the region, Pakistan-China mutual cooperation, Belt and Road Initiative and CPEC were discussed.

Col (Retd) Sayed Ahmad Nadeem Qadri congratulated Acting Ambassador on the election of Chinese President Xi Jinping for the third term and said that this election is a manifestation of the unwavering trust and confidence of the Chinese people in the President who in a short period of time, brought out 800 million Chinese people from below the poverty line and enabled them to live a prosperous and dignified life.

He expressed hope that the election of President Xi will help to achieve international peace and stability, prosperity and the goals of the Belt and Road Initiative.

He expressed confidence that President Xi's commitment to make China a prosperous, strong, democratic, civilized, harmonious and a great, modern socialist country will be fulfilled. He also conveyed the message of congratulations on the election of President Xi Jinping and good wishes for the Chinese people from Ms Rameeza Majid Nizami, Managing Director of Nawa-i-Waqt Group.



Col (Retd) Sayed Ahmad Nadeem Qadri highlighted the importance of CPEC in the context of South China Sea and said that this project is in the interest of the people of both countries and it should be completed as soon as possible.

He emphasized on the early completion of ML-1 and said that this project is of deep interest of both countries which will take the friendship of the people of both countries to new heights.

He appreciated the Chinese aid and cooperation during last year's disastrous floods and said that this cooperation is a reflection of the deep and strong relationship between China and Pakistan.

He highlighted the role of Nawa-i-Waqt Group under the guidance of Ms. Rameeza Majid Nizami for nationwide awareness of Belt and Road Initiative programme. He said that Nawa-i-Waqt has been continuously publishing the Belt and Road Initiative global programme series for the past four years, which is a record in Pakistan and has brought the readers of Nawa-i-Waqt closer to it.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2023-03-18/page-12/detail-3>

**March 19, 2023**

**Daily Times**

### **Chinese firm looks to establish industrial park in Pakistan**

Federal Minister for Commerce Syed Naveed Qamar assured all-out support to a Chinese company looking to invest in Pakistan. According to the Ministry of Commerce, a Chinese business delegation led by Mr. Hou Jianxin, Chairman Shandong Xinxu Group Corp., China, met the Minister at his office, according to a report published by Gwadar Pro. Mr. Hou Jianxin told the Minister that in line with the decision of the government of Shandong province to shift Chinese industry to Pakistan, he came up with the vision to build an industrial park in Pakistan.

The Industrial Park will serve as a focal point for all the industrial requirements of Pakistan from China and vice versa, he said.

The Chairman said that projects like solar panels assembly plant, metal refining plants, fertilizer production plant, food processing plants (dry milk production, seafood processing, meat processing) etc. are being considered for future investment. Syed Naveed Qamar appreciated decision of the Shandong government to shift its industry to Pakistan, which, he said, will not only save our foreign reserves but will also create job opportunities.

The Minister sought comprehensive proposals from the Chinese firms interested in shifting their businesses to Pakistan, which will be forwarded to the Board of Investment (BOI) for expediting the investment process.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1074729/chinese-firm-looks-to-establish-industrial-park-in-pakistan/>

## Pakistan Observer

### **CPEC — 10 years and ameliorating**

*Dr Hassan Daud Butt*

2023 sets the 10th year of the China-Pak Economic Corridor(CPEC) project at a time when countries are facing difficulties to recover from the vulnerabilities of climate change, high youth unemployment rate and depleting resources for effectively countering the security challenges and with disinformation flow like the one being projected against the CPEC. The beginning of the year has also seen a surge in deadly terrorist incidents and growing political instability posing daunting challenges to overall development. However, despite challenges and headwinds, trade between China and Pakistan has witnessed an increase with the new areas being explored especially in agri-based products where sesame seed export surged by 50% on a year-on-year basis in 2022, seafood export grew by 40% in 2022 and Pakistan's rice exports to China crossed the historical figure of one million tons. Overall, Pakistan's export to China rose by over 35% from 2013 to 2021.

Under China-Pakistan Economic Corridor numerous road networks have been established creating rural-urban synergy and the SEZs on these road links are finding new means to attract investments, especially in the post-COVID-19 scenario. The way globalization led by China has helped pull more than a billion people out of poverty, in Pakistan the CPEC initiative has created over 100,000 opportunities for employment, 6000 MW of electricity and over 510 KMs roads creating rural-urban synergy and regional connectivity. It has helped Pakistan develop its Blue Economy through Gwadar port and its connectivity with the hinterland through the western route and the rest of the world through the upcoming Gwadar airport which is being constructed with a Chinese grant of \$230 million and will be completed in March this year. The connectivity through optical fiber and through transmission lines is also helping Pakistan achieve the development targets for having an endogenous mechanism for sustainable economic growth.

The CPEC activities were initially focused on improvement in infrastructure and energy projects to help create favourable conditions for development, next phase critically is being crafted more towards agriculture sector development, socio-economic projects as well as forging an academic partnership for improved R&D collaboration. As a country in transition, confronted by a number of challenges, Pakistan is looking for further strengthening the economic ties between the two countries and looks for Chinese FDI and industrial support for a path of stability. Overall, BRI and CPEC are important initiatives that Pakistan wants to leverage to address all challenges from human development challenges, to sustainability challenges. Industrial development is imperative for future employment opportunities and attracting Chinese investment in CPEC SEZs are a must.

Going forward, the expectations from CPEC are high, however, rising terrorist incidents like the one in Peshawar continue to threaten the development agenda, especially at a time when the economic and political situation is unpredictable. However, despite the surge in recent terrorist activities, China's focus and plans to encourage regional prosperity through investment and technology remain firm and during the recently concluded 14th NPC sessions, China has set new development and investment targets with an improved

mechanism through BRI, GDI and the new initiative of Global Security Initiative. The GDP growth target of 5%, along with other economic development goals set by the Chinese Government promises enough economic activity and stability through the continuity of policies of which BRI is a major component. The fast-changing global environment led by the Chinese of which the recent agreement between Iran and Saudi is a sign of China's growing importance.

To benefit from all this, Pakistan needs to prepare well as conventional wisdom may not come into play and novel ideas led by technology may help address these challenges to attract investment flow. In the current unstable economic and security situation, Chinese investors will still continue to explore business opportunities in Pakistan, as long as the expected return on investment is sufficient and the risks are mitigated including the possibilities of unexpected and arbitrary changes in policies.

This requires a more prudent approach of high-level engagements with Chinese political and business leadership with projects and investment inducements that are imperative to mitigate the political, economic and social risks to minimize capital flight and build a positive narrative for the new investors. In all situations including financial and security challenges, the basic principles of attracting investment remain the same which is that any investment made must ultimately provide a fundamental economic return for which Pakistan has to prepare the enabling environment well for attracting new investment based on a partnership.

Importantly, Pakistan also has to accelerate targeted reforms designed on economic rationale rather than political agendas to improve the business climate through the ongoing regulatory reform initiative and respond to increased competition for which the mandate and role of the Board of Investment is vital to raise awareness of existing investment opportunities, remove bottlenecks, overcome negative perceptions and reduce information gaps while also focusing on existing investors and their concerns, especially in the energy sector.

We also need to explore the opportunities in the CPEC long-term plan for supporting Pakistan's economic stability for which understanding the preconditions for investment is imperative including a strong rule of law to address major systemic disparities more effectively, as the absence of any of these critical aspects can hinder investment and are often the failure of overall developmental efforts for which strengthening institutions and enhancing their capacity to provide ease of doing business based on principles of good governance and absolute harmony are perhaps essential and inexorable.

—The writer is a Projects Management specialist and is a faculty member and research fellow at various academic institutions. He has served as a diplomat in China and has been a former CEO of KPBoIT & Project Director of the CPEC project at MoPDR.

<https://pakobserver.net/cpec-10-years-and-ameliorating-by-dr-hassan-daud-butt/>

### **China's timely assistance**

AT a time when the country is facing foreign exchange crisis of an extreme nature, China has, once again, demonstrated its commitment to helping Pakistan overcome its problems by offering timely assistance. Finance Minister Ishaq Dar announced on Friday that the cash-

strapped country had received another \$500 million from the Industrial and Commercial Bank of China Ltd (ICBC).

Chinese President Xi Jinping affirmed his country's commitment to boost economic ties with Pakistan during visit of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif to Beijing in November last year and he has lived up to his pledge as it was basically due to the Chinese cooperation that Pakistan has been able to avert a default, especially when the IMF is deliberately prolonging the signing of an agreement for the restoration of a suspended loan. On March 4, ICBC had approved a rollover of a \$1.3 billion loan for Pakistan. At the time, Dar said the facility would be disbursed in three instalments, with the first instalment of \$500m received by the central bank. In a related development, Shandong Xinxu Group Corporation Chairman, Hou Jianxin, during a meeting with the Commerce Minister Naveed Qamar announced their decision to establish an industrial park in Pakistan which will serve as a focal point for all the industrial requirements of Pakistan from China and vice versa. These are highly encouraging developments as they come at a difficult juncture in the history of Pakistan, strengthening the belief of its people that China was the most sincere and reliable development partner. Look-China policy has always paid dividends and we firmly hope that the Government will initiate urgent measures to restore its previous momentum.

<https://pakobserver.net/chinas-timely-assistance-2/>

## **The Nation**

### **Zhejiang becomes top destination of Pakistan's exports to China**

BEIJING-Zhejiang Province has become the top destination of Pakistani exports to China in the past three years, said Ghulam Qadir, Commercial Counsellor at the Pakistani Embassy in China. In 2022, Zhejiang Province imported \$954.59 million Pakistani products and exported \$5.80 billion to Pakistan, adding that in 2021, Zhejiang Province imported \$968.77 million Pakistani products, up from \$436.47 million in 2020, he told CEN.

Zhejiang's imports from Pakistan in 2022 are mainly refined copper products (\$456.97 million), billets and copper unwrought (\$127.13 million), copper anodes for electrolytic refining (\$123.43 million), pine nuts (\$20.29 million) and frozen shrimps and prawns (\$11.14 million), he added. He further said that Beijing was the second destination in China to import Pakistan products (worth \$603.55 million) and the top destination for Pakistani rice. Last year, Beijing imported \$114.62 million semi or wholly-mulled Pakistani rice. "Pakistan would like to increase its export to China and the solution lies in producing higher value-added and therefore more expensive products so that even a small increase in exports can lead to a large increase in value. This year we will focus on enhancing our value-added products in China, therefore we are organizing two big expos on textile and food in Pakistan in May 2023 to bring Chinese investors to build factories in Pakistan", Ghulam Qadir said. It is to be noted that in 2022, Pakistan's exports to China were \$3.41 billion while China's exports to Pakistan were \$23.089 billion and overall trade between the two counties sustained at \$26.50 billion in 2022.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2023-03-19/page-8/detail-2>

## The News

### **Civil nuclear energy: Kasuri says China agreed to sign accord with Pakistan way back in 2003**

*Muhammad Saleh Zaafir*

ISLAMABAD: Former foreign minister Mian Khurshid Mahmud Kasuri has revealed that China agreed to sign an agreement with Pakistan way back in 2003 in the field of civil nuclear energy before joining the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG) while the United States declined to cooperate with Pakistan for the same in the face of AQ Khan affair. The Chinese continued their cooperation and facilitated in establishing many nuclear power plants in Pakistan.

The former foreign minister emphasized the need for internal unity if Pakistan was to ensure meaningful progress in the field of foreign policy.

“In the current state of disunity and lack of direction in Pakistan, no country, friend or foe, knows how or who to deal with in Pakistan. This is a very dangerous situation and cannot be allowed to continue. It is the primary duty of all the stakeholders in Pakistan to bring this to an end.”

Mian Kasuri was addressing a ceremony at the Government College University, Lahore, where he was bestowed with the Lifetime Achievement Award for his contributions in international relations and diplomacy, promoting Pakistan’s relations with major world capitals and neighbours and for his efforts to promote regional peace and connectivity.

The former foreign minister, who served the country from November 2002 to Nov 2007, also disclosed that Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi had asked Pakistan to continue the dialogue for Kashmir dispute’s resolution under the famous four-point formula that was mooted in his tenure as foreign minister.

He expressed his happiness at the fact that the recent book, ‘In Pursuit of Peace’ by former Indian ambassador to Pakistan and negotiator for backchannel talks during PM Manmohan Singh’s tenure Ambassador S K Lambah, had comprehensively confirmed that what Mian Kasuri had said in his book ‘Neither a Hawk nor a Dove’ published much earlier that Pakistan and India had agreed to resolve all the outstanding issues, including Jammu and Kashmir.

Kasuri expressed his pleasant surprise at Lambah’s revelation that Modi asked him to continue the dialogue in 2014 on the same four-point formula. The former foreign minister said that he was aware that because of the negativity engendered by Hindutva supporters under the Modi government, the relationship between the two countries had become exceedingly tense.

PM Modi, Kasuri said, cannot rule India forever. Even at the best of times, he was able to secure about 37% of the total votes with an overwhelming majority voting for parties who are, by and large, opposed to the current policies of the BJP government on Muslims, Kashmir and Pakistan.



“There was no guarantee that Modi would not change his extremist policies, either before or after elections. After all, Modi had paid a surprise visit to Lahore in December 2015 to meet former PM Nawaz Sharif,” Mian Kasuri said.

Besides India, he said, during his tenure, exceptionally close relationship was forged between Pakistan and Bangladesh and he remained in a close personal relationship with his counterpart, Morshed Khan.

He also made sure to cultivate close relationship with PM Khalida Zia and the then opposition leader and current PM, Hasina Wajed.

Similarly, close ties were developed with Nepal, Sri Lanka and Maldives.

Mian Khurshid Kasuri went on to describe the success of the government at that time in establishing close relationship with the US and China, at the same time. A broad-based Strategic Partnership Agreement with the United States was formalised, which aimed to promote cooperation in different fields, including economic development, science and technology, education, energy, agriculture, and a regular strategic dialogue.

Pakistan had the largest Fulbright program for sending students to the US. Additionally, he said that the US agreed to not only sell new F-16s, which it had denied to Pakistan for long, but also agreed to upgrade Pakistan’s fleet of F-16s.

In defence matters, cooperation between Pakistan and China has been comprehensive and it involved joint production of advanced weapon systems, including modern and sophisticated JF-17 aircraft, Al-Khalid main battle tanks and F-22P frigates for the navy. Pakistan paid special attention to its relationship with Muslim states and exceptionally close relationships were forged with Saudi Arabia, Turkey, the UAE and Iran.

Despite difficulties, there were many high-level visits to and from Afghanistan and trade increased from a mere US\$23 million to over US\$1.2 billion.

Khurshid Kasuri said that Pakistan forged very close relationships with Britain, France and Germany and despite the fact that Pakistan was a close ally of the US, it vigorously opposed the United States’ proposed attack on Iraq and closely cooperated in this connection with the foreign ministers of Germany, France and Russia.

As a result, the US was unable to get the support of the UN and consequently decided to attack Iraq anyway with the support of the Coalition of the Willing with disastrous consequences for both Iraq and the US.

Mian Kasuri emphasized the need to redress some of Pakistan’s weaknesses, particularly to ensure that there was continuation of policies to ensure economic development. There was also a need for basic agreement between major stakeholders, so that these policies could continue despite change in governments. This could not take place with so much internal disunity.

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=185492>

## Jang News

### بیجنگ میں پاک چین 'سلک روڈ کے ساتھ گندھارا ورثہ' نمائش

چین کے درالحکومت بیجنگ کے پیلس میوزیم میں 'سلک روڈ کے ساتھ گندھارا ورثہ' کے عنوان سے نمائش کا انعقاد کیا گیا۔ ترجمان محکمہ آثار قدیمہ خیبر پختونخوا کا کہنا ہے کہ نمائش کا اہتمام چین کی وزارت ثقافت و سیاحت نے کیا ہے۔ انہوں نے بتایا کہ بیجنگ کے میوزیم میں یہ نمائش 3 ماہ تک جاری رہے گی۔ اس نمائش میں کے پی، ٹیکسلا اور نیشنل میوزیم کراچی کے عجائب گھروں کی اشیاء رکھی گئی ہیں۔ ترجمان محکمہ آثار قدیمہ خیبر پختونخوا کے مطابق ہر سال 1 کروڑ 40 لاکھ سیاح اس میوزیم میں آتے ہیں۔

<https://jang.com.pk/news/1206200>

## March 20, 2023

## Daily Times

### **Experts urge transfer of China's renewable energy expertise to Pakistan**

“Cooperation between China and Pakistan can help Pakistan benefit from China's expertise in renewable energy, including solar and wind energy. Sino-Pak cooperation opportunities lie in renewable energy assessment, project investment and development, technology training, etc,” said Qin Haiyan, secretary-general of the China Wind Energy Association.

In a webinar titled “Pakistan's Green Energy Pathways – Inspirations from China” hosted by energy and environment think tank Renewable First (RF), Qin attributed China's wind power market growth to factors such as the Renewable Energy Law and a stable domestic market.

He added that China has significantly reduced the levelized cost of electricity (LCOE) for onshore and offshore wind projects over the past decade, with a 60% reduction in offshore projects.

As the world's largest market for wind power for 14 years running, China is sharing wind power technologies such as wind turbines with Pakistan, contributing to cost reductions in electricity generation in the country.

By the end of 2022, China's cumulative installed wind power capacity had exceeded 396 GW, the secretary-general said.

China has built more than 20 power plants in cooperation with Pakistan and trained thousands of local wind energy professionals, claimed Leo Deng, a Pakistan-based consultant on the power project, in an interview with Gwadar Pro.

According to Gwadar Pro, he further said, wind and solar power are the cheapest new forms of electricity generation and possibly could dramatically reduce Pakistan's dependence on expensive imported fuels.

The Indicative Generation Capacity Expansion Plan (IGCEP) 2047, issued by NEPRA, forecasts Pakistan's total power generation to increase from 33,000 megawatts in 2020 to approximately 168,200 megawatts in 2047, with wind and solar power accounting for 23% of the energy mix by 2030, up from around 3% in 2020.

Leo believes that the Pakistani government's push towards renewable energy is a great opportunity for Chinese and Pakistani companies to collaborate and enhance the supply chains both upstream and downstream.

Pakistan has abundant wind resources mainly concentrated in Sindh and Baluchistan. However, the country's existing power system has been non-robust, and large-scale wind power generation must be connected to the grid, which challenges the existing system.

It is therefore crucial to transfer Chinese knowledge and experience in RE deployment to Pakistan, which is facing electricity challenges and seeking ways to increase its use of renewable technologies.

To overcome such constraints and hurdles, Hassan Daud Butt, Associate Professor at Bahria University, highlighted the need for key interventions regarding ease of doing business in Pakistan, including the need for creating an enabling environment to reduce perceived risks for investors to promote investment in renewable energy in Pakistan.

He suggested that Pakistan should follow China's example by creating a comprehensive framework with clear objectives and a stable and predictable environment for investors.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1075031/experts-urge-transfer-of-chinas-renewable-energy-expertise-to-pakistan/>

### **Pakistan, China discuss bilateral cooperation during third BPC talks**

Pakistan and China discussed bilateral relations, agreeing to expand and reinforce political and security cooperation, bilateral trade, economic and financial cooperation, cultural exchanges, tourism, and people-to-people ties, Foreign Office said Sunday.

The two sides shared their views during the third round of Pakistan-China Bilateral Political Consultations (BPC) – which is a regular institutional mechanism between both countries – held in Beijing on March 18.

Foreign Secretary Dr Asad Majeed Khan led the Pakistan delegation while the Chinese side was headed by Vice Foreign Minister Sun Weidong.

According to FO, Pakistan and China will also enhance high-level engagements and dialogue mechanisms and make the channels of communication even more robust.

Noting the completion of a decade of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), the two sides reaffirmed their commitment to CPEC which remains a major pillar of bilateral cooperation and a symbol of ever-deepening friendship between both countries.

They also agreed to remain engaged in the expansion of CPEC including on participation of third parties to enhance regional connectivity and cooperation.

Dr Majeed thanked the Chinese side for its consistent and generous support for the economic stability of Pakistan and the humanitarian assistance during the devastating floods in 2022. Meanwhile, Sun reaffirmed China's support for Pakistan's sovereignty, territorial integrity and economic security. "The two sides exchanged views on a range of regional and global issues of mutual interest and expressed satisfaction over their close cooperation and

engagement on important regional developments including in Afghanistan,” said the statement.

It added that Pakistan and China will further strengthen dialogue and cooperation in multilateral platforms.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1074912/pakistan-china-discuss-bilateral-cooperation-during-third-bpc-talks/>

### **Pakistan Observer**

#### **Transfer of China’s renewable energy expertise to Pakistan urged**

“Cooperation between China and Pakistan can help Pakistan benefit from China’s expertise in renewable energy, including solar and wind energy. Sino-Pak cooperation opportunities lie in renewable energy assessment, project investment and development, technology training, etc,” said Qin Haiyan, secretary-general of the China Wind Energy Association. In a webinar titled “Pakistan’s Green Energy Pathways – Inspirations from China” hosted by energy and environment think tank Renewable First (RF), Qin attributed China’s wind power market growth to factors such as the Renewable Energy Law and a stable domestic market.

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<https://pakobserver.net/transfer-of-chinas-renewable-energy-expertise-to-pakistan-urged/>

### **The News**

#### **China in new era: new responsibilities and challenges**

*Shakeel Ahmad Ramay*

China is transforming from a fringe country to a major power. It has covered a long distance from poverty-ridden nation to poverty-free country. It has become second largest economy, centre of global trade, and is turning into new centre of innovation and technology.

China is consolidating its status of major power by launching numerous initiatives of global relevance. First it came up with Belt and Road Initiative which is now enjoying confidence of 152 countries and 32 international organisations. Second, Asian Infrastructure and Investment Bank was launched to create a non-political financial institution.

Third, China contributed to help global South materialise dream of development, and the efforts culminated in the establishment of Global Development Initiative. Fourth, China introduced Global Security Initiative to achieve the goal of sustainable peace and development without any discrimination. Fifth, Global Civilisation Initiative was launched to counter notion of clash of civilisations.

These initiatives indicate China wants to be a responsible major power. It is good omen in the prevailing global dynamics where unilateralism is on the rise and hegemonic powers are striving to consolidate their position. These powers are putting efforts to check the rise of China.

China is countering the stormy winds with patience and sailing through the unfriendly waters. However, it has to be conscious that with the passage of time situation will become complicated and complex. It will push China to look for new means of diplomacy, stability and development.

In this backdrop, Asian Institute of Eco-civilisation Research and Development (AIERD) is conducting a study on the future role of China as major power by keeping the current global dynamics as a barometer. AIERD conducted an international seminar on security and development and role of Global Security Initiative. The initial findings of study and outcome of webinar are quite interesting which are discussed below.

First, neutrality will not be an option. China will have to take position on issues which are important for global order. However, positions should be dictated by principles not economic interests. And principles should be devised to promote peace and development at all levels. Recently, China broke a deal between Saudi Arabia and Iran.

Second, China will have to refine its international engagement policy in all fields including diplomacy, economy and security. For that purpose, it will have to accelerate policy of constructive engagement and President Xi Vision of proactive diplomacy.

The outcome of two sessions indicates China is cognizant of this fact which is evident from the talk of Foreign Minister Qin Gang. Third, China will have to play a role to protect the legitimate rights, development and security interests of developing world. We know many countries are facing pressure from the powerful countries due to their close relationship with China or as a member of BRI. For example, Pakistan is constantly under pressure to leave CPEC.

Western countries are imposing different conditions and introducing challenges like grey list of FATF etc. Now, Pakistan is facing pressure from IFIs. Fourth, China should devise tools which can help it introduce Chinese ideology to world. It is pre-requisite to establish the status of a major power. Thus, China will have to share with world what is philosophy of its international relations, security, democracy, governance and economic linkages. However, ideology should not be presented as something supreme. Let the people analyse and decide



about the status of ideology. In this context, Global Civilisation Initiative is a step in right direction.

Fifth, China must devise tools which can help deter flattering and arrogance. Flattering is a silent enemy which destroys human or a state from inside. It does not show the impact until damage is done.

We have seen the implications of arrogance in the past which led to decline of superpowers. It gives them assurance their ideas are superior and world needs to act on them.

In nutshell, flattering and arrogance paralyse rational thinking and mind. and countries start believing they are immune to mistakes. Thus, China must devise mechanisms to counter flattering and arrogance.

Sixth, the real test of China being a major power would be how it will define the role of power, both economic and military, in the global affairs and bilateral relations. The fundamental questions would be whether China will use power as “deterrence” or “threat”.

It is suggested China should use power as deterrence as world is tired of using power as threat. It has given birth to endless conflicts and wars, turning world into home of multiple problems.

In this backdrop, Global Security Initiative is a good step, but we will have to wait how it will unfold in future. Let’s hope China will be part of solution not problem and work for peaceful co-existence, pursuing a policy of conflict resolution through dialogue. This approach will not only consolidate status of China as a major power, but also respect for it.

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=185787>

**March 21, 2023**

**Daily Times**

### **BRI bears fruit as women start getting jobs in Gwadar**

As an important development in social sector, women in Gwadar get jobs in local Garment Factory for having a respectable life in the society.

Gwadar Women Factory also known as Gwadar Women’s Development Employment Center is in operation since 2020 in collaboration with Chinese Consulate Karachi and managed by of Gwadar Women Development Organization of China Overseas Port Holding Company.

According to Gwadar Pro, “It came into being under deep insightfulness of China’s Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) to instill a significant impact on the gender equality and women empowerment in receiving countries.

“Such initiative like Gwadar Garment Factory for women is in line with China’s obligations to promote women mainstreaming and women empowerment within the BRI framework under international law,” Chinese official at Gwadar port said.

Equipped with relevant sewing apparatus, airy and lighted ambience, management room and store, Gwadar Women Garment Factory has become a talk of town as it is not only a new

window of opportunity to train unskilled women but also letting semi-skilled female tailors to hone their stitching acumen as per modern demands.

“If I had not been earning money reasonably and respectfully in Gwadar Garment Factory located in Gwadar Port, neither I would have managed to send my kids in schools nor I would have contributed in home budget to overcome mounting challenges of daily price hike,” said Balqis Iqbal, a senior worker in Gwadar Garment Factory.

“Such awesome financial autonomy has boosted my family status as now I am not billed as a burden, rather a self-supporting producer who can share the burden of family expenses. The honor I feel in the eyes of my husband and my family members is a cause of unending pleasure to me and let me say that all credit goes to Gwadar Women Garment Factory that is first of its kind in Gwadar,” she told Gwadar Pro.

Gwadar Garment Factory is also being supervised by local woman Zaitoon Abdullah, who is also a social worker in Gwadar. In exclusive interview to Gwadar Pro, she said that Gwadar Garment Factory is a true success story for creating spiral ripples in women empowerment.

All women working here are given pick and drop services free of cost and that is why their families are quite satisfied for their commutation. “As we have complete confidence in Chinese and Gwadar Port Operator, so sense always prevails that our women are safe in their workplace,” Rahim Baloch, a social worker in Gwadar said.

Gwadar Garment Factory Assistant Manager Zaitoon Abdullah noted that Gwadar Manufacturing jobs like tailoring is a rewarding career choice for creative women professionals in Gwadar who like working with fabrics.

With their skills and knowledge to create garments that meet clients’ expectations, all women working in Gwadar Garment Factory have a bright professional path on various upscale garment industry in Pakistan, she added.

She said that over the last two years Gwadar Garment Factory has become at least so efficient that it has been stitching almost all uniforms of workers of Chinese companies in Gwadar Port.

“Our women tailors are also stitching Pakistan traditional male clothes as souvenirs for Chinese high-ups facilitating them to wear them on Pakistan special days,” she added. As these women are so talented, so constant energy is being devoted to making embroidery work to scale up revenue, she added.

“Women in Gwadar are very talented, but previously, they did not have any platform to show their skills. There are several vocational training institutes to teach basic stitching skills to women, but the center is the first of the kind to provide an opportunity to skilled women to generate income in an organized way,” she said. Most of the women at the center are not much educated, while having big dreams to do something for themselves and their families, so they joined the center and work hard to see their dreams coming true, she said.

COPHC chairman Yu Bo said the Gwadar Garment Factory is also a starting point to help women to be financially independent, giving them an opportunity to play their pivotal role to improve their standards of living and fight against poverty. Information in this article comes

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<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1075539/bri-bears-fruit-as-women-start-getting-jobs-in-gwadar/>

## **Pakistan Observer**

### **Has CPEC reached its potential? Attendance Confucius successfully**

*Naghmana A Hashmi*

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

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

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

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

Pakistan and China consider these development initiatives a potential source of stability and prosperity for both countries. From a Chinese perspective, cooperation in the areas of security and economics are closely intertwined and improvements on one side can improve the other. It is almost as though security and economics are two separate wheels on the same vehicle

and both need to be spinning to move things forward. We believe economic development can strengthen Pakistan's internal stability, thus reinvigorating the economy through investment in infrastructure projects as well as the construction of oil and gas pipelines. We hope this will create a certain level of stability within Pakistan and in turn stabilize China's western periphery, particularly the province of Xinjiang.

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

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

China's logic behind this strategy is that fundamentally improving Pakistan's economy will help alleviate the challenges posed by political extremists, radicals and jihadists. China and Pakistan share the belief that economic development can help stabilize Pakistan and improve its domestic security situation. China and Pakistan regard the CPEC as a new source of potential synergy between their respective national development strategies, which may help the two countries translate their close political cooperation into multifaceted economic cooperation, attain mutual benefits and achieve win-win outcomes. For the economic corridor to reach its potential, however, there are security and political challenges in Pakistan that must be addressed.

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

The benefits of a successful SEZ programme include employment generation, infrastructure development and the development of allied industries through backward linkages, which are not generally covered under Regional Trade Agreements. If the RTA and SEZ policies are synchronized, it can lead to cross-country linkages and the establishment of regional manufacturing and services networks that use SEZs as hubs. The upcoming SEZs in Pakistan like Rashakai SEZ need to attract investment and relocation of industry in sectors like

engineering, pharmaceuticals, IT, manufacturing, food processing energy, jewellery, leather footwear, textile apparel etc.

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

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

<https://pakobserver.net/has-cpec-reached-its-potential-by-naghmana-a-hashmi/>

### **Pak-China BPC**

PAKISTAN and China have reviewed the entire spectrum of bilateral relations and agreed to expand and reinforce political and security cooperation, bilateral trade, economic and financial cooperation, cultural exchanges, tourism and people-to-people ties.

The understanding came in the third round of Pakistan-China bilateral political consultations (BPC) held in Beijing where Pakistan was represented by Foreign Secretary Dr Asad Majeed Khan while the Chinese side was led by Vice Foreign Minister Sun Weidong.

The bilateral consultations have been held in the backdrop of fast changing regional and global developments and deteriorating economic situation in Pakistan and, therefore, the commitment of the two sides to enhance high-level engagements and dialogue mechanisms and make the channels of communication even more robust assumes greater relevance. We have been emphasizing in these columns, time and again, that all-encompassing cooperation with China should be strengthened as it offers the surest way to tackle some of the fundamental economic and financial challenges facing Pakistan. People of Pakistan are thankful to China that at a time when the country was being squeezed by some countries, China is not only providing financial assistance to bail it out and prevent a default but also offers much-needed diplomatic and political support. This has once again been highlighted by an unequivocal statement made by Vice Foreign Minister Sun reaffirming China's support for Pakistan's sovereignty, territorial integrity and economic security. There are also consistent rumours about a halt in activities under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) but the BPC noted completion of a decade of CPEC, reaffirming their commitment to the historic project which remained a major pillar of bilateral cooperation and a symbol of ever-deepening friendship between Pakistan and China. They also agreed to remain engaged in the



expansion of CPEC including participation of third parties to enhance regional connectivity and cooperation. China believes in shared prosperity and has no intention of interfering in the internal affairs of any country. It has also established its credentials as a neutral arbiter by bringing estranged Saudi Arabia and Iran closer and as a follow up there is now an invitation from King Salman to Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi for a visit, which has been welcomed by Tehran. In the changing regional scenario, it is time that Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Chief of Army Staff General Asim Munir pay visits to China for in-depth talks with Chinese leadership.

<https://pakobserver.net/pak-china-bpc/>

## **The Nation**

### **Expanding CPEC**

The third round of the Pakistan-China Bilateral Political Consultations (BPC) in Beijing concluded positively, with both sides committing to broadening their partnership, particularly in extending the scope of CPEC.

Ever since 2013 when the project was first announced, the bilateral partnership between Pakistan and China has only increased in strength as a result of the cooperation in the realms of the economy, infrastructure, communication and development as a whole. However, this is not to say that the mega project has not seen its share of problems.

One of the biggest issues associated with CPEC has been the incessant delays and timeline mix-ups for the completion of projects under the CPEC umbrella. Of course, this is a common issue in projects in Pakistan, and CPEC is not immune to this either. It is hoped that the improved communication and coordination announced as a result of this bilateral meet can help alleviate some of those concerns.

There have also been questions raised on the lack of transparency around projects under CPEC, and perhaps it would help for the government to engage with projects more openly and in the public realm so that there is a greater impetus to finish projects on time and make sure everything is above board.

The meeting also touched upon bringing third parties into the project—this is a discussion that has taken place before, so it will be important to see how both Pakistan and China go about making this possible. The inclusion of Afghanistan and other regional partners has often been discussed, but without any specifics over how this will be operationalised. Ever since its inception, the idea behind CPEC has been to develop a regional route that helps benefit all members as much as possible. Adding more regions and states into the mix will only help improve cooperation and benefit all involved. Moving forward, it will be important to see how Pakistan and China bring third parties into the mix, and how quickly their inclusion can benefit the two allies and new entrants into the mega project.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2023-03-21/page-6/detail-0>

### **Gandhara heritage exhibition continues to promote Pak-China tourism**

ISLAMABAD - Pakistan and China have organised an exhibition titled ‘Gandhara Heritage along the Silk Road’ and it is continued at the Palace Museum in Beijing, China to promote the tourism between two countries. Minister for Culture and Tourism (MCT), Hu Heping inaugurated the exhibition and it would remain continued for three months to showcase relics and Gandhara objects that have been lent by all the renowned museums from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Taxila and National Museum Karachi.

According to a press release of Pakistan Tourism Development Corporation (PTDC), the exhibition organised by the Palace Museum and Department of Archaeology and Museums, China and National Heritage and Cultural Division, Pakistan, featured a wide array of artifacts, sculptures, and other items that were representative of the Gandharan culture.

The Palace Museum attracts 14 million tourists every year. The exhibition will prove to be a gateway in improving geopolitical relations between the two countries.

It would also contribute to promote tourism in Pakistan. China and Pakistan had already declared year 2023 as the year of tourism exchange between them. A large number of Pakistani expatriates residing in China, Chinese officials and others were attending the event.

Over 170 art pieces brought from various museums of Pakistan would be showcased at the Palace Museum, Beijing. On the occasion, Federal Secretary Ministry of National Heritage and Culture Division, Fareena Mazhar said the exhibition would also help in boosting the ties between the two nations by projecting mutual understanding.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2023-03-21/page-15/detail-5>

**March 22, 2023**

**Pakistan Observer**

### **BRI and Xi’s New Concepts of Development**

*Dr Mehmood Ul Hassan Khan*

Most recently, while interacting with the national and international media the new Chinese Foreign Minister Qin Gang termed Chinese Belt & Road Initiative (BRI) as pragmatic, positive, productive and participatory which would be instrumental to achieve desired goals of progress, prosperity and greater regional connectivity.

Moreover, during Two Sessions, the Chinese President Xi Jinping chalked out a new roadmap for socio-economic development and pinpointed persuasions of qualitative development, modernization, opening-up, structural reforms, people’s centric policies and last but not the least, further development of private sector as prerequisites of future socio-economic integration, economic sustainability and political stability.

Even Xi’s milestone Global Civilization Initiative (GCI) the extension of Global Development Initiative (GDI), Global Security Initiative (GSI) and shared prosperity have further enhanced the strategic importance of BRI and China- Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) in the days to come. Both are engine of regional as well as global economic

development and socio-economic integration, mitigating spillover repercussions of prevailing recession and price hike in the world.

Hopefully, the Chinese President Xi Jinping's new development paradigm would further enhance Chinese regional as well as global connectivity in terms of BRI, CPEC, economic stability and sustainability during 2023 and beyond. It would be a first giant step towards achieving the desired goals of building a great modern socialist country and advancing the rejuvenation of the Chinese nation.

It would be a new development philosophy to accelerate efforts to create a new pattern of development which would be holistic, comprehensive, positive, productive, participatory and people's friendly. It would demolish the walls of destruction and promote spirits of dialogue, diplomacy and development in the world.

Moreover, implementation of the strategy for invigorating China through science and education, the workforce development strategy and the innovation-driven development strategy would further diversify its macro-economy, systematize its massive modernization drive and provide new impetus to its private sector in the days to come which would be complimentary to the further growth of BRI and CPEC in the days to come.

Definitely, it would be beneficial to achieve greater self-reliance and strength in science and technology, promote industrial transformation and upgrading, advance coordinated urban-rural and regional development and foster green and low-carbon economic and social development. In this regard, the Chinese green persuasions of BRI and CPEC would be further accelerated around the globe. Additionally, the new development paradigm of China would be effective to further speed up the spirit of shared future for humanity. The new development integrated philosophy would advance high-standard of opening-up which would create win-win proposition for global markets, countries and communities alike.

It would foster its role in the global governance system and accelerate its Global Development Initiative and the Global Security Initiative. People-centered philosophy of development is the way forward which would benefit all people fairly through sustainable socio-economic development, protection of basic human rights along substantive progress for all.

The Chinese Government Work Report 2023 has highlighted the importance of the private sector and private businesses in growing and expanding, and support micro, small and medium-sized enterprises and self-employed individuals in business development. It has certain micro & macro-economic policies to further opening-up to address and revive the Chinese economy during the coming period in the light of the travel ban and the closure of the borders of China and the world to control the "Covid-19" pandemic.

Manufacturing sector would be further supported which constitutes about a third of the Chinese economy. The delegates of 14th National People's Congress (NPC) have taken keen steps to speed up mechanisms, programs and plans for implementing a comprehensive national reform package in the sectors of the economy, market, governance, health and others aimed at strengthening policy, governance and institutional systems through the system of giving loans, activating the system and tool for financing projects and eliminating

unemployment and poverty in the country which would also be useful for further development of the BRI during 2023 and beyond.

It has also decided to eradicate poverty by strengthening the relationship between poverty alleviation and rural revitalization, comprehensive encouragement to develop rural industries, talents, culture and the environment in the countryside as a guarantee to encourage the poor to integrate into society and combat unemployment. Furthermore, helping small and micro companies, reducing taxes and fees and promoting employment of key groups such as university graduates, migrant workers and people with work difficulties have also positive impacts on its qualitative development having direct correlation with BRI and CPEC.

To conclude, the Chinese President Xi Jinping's numerous proposals have further brightened the scope, importance, utility and strategic strength of Belt & Road Initiative in the region and beyond. In this regard, rigorous implementation of green policies, plans and projects in the ongoing projects of the BRI & CPEC would be beneficial. The Health Silk Initiative, as an extension of the Chinese BRI would be a value addition to China and its member-countries of BRI during 2023 and beyond. Moreover, brighter prospects of its tourism, entertainment, real estate, hospitality, e-commerce and last but not the least health industries would be a point of attraction for the regional as well as international multinational companies to invest in China and its member-countries of the BRI.

The BRI flagship project CPEC has drastically increased exports of sesame seed by 50%, seafood by 40% and rice to China crossed the figure of one million tons during 2022. Overall Pakistan's exports to China have surpassed by over 35% from 2013 to 2021. Moreover, CPEC has created over 125,000 new jobs, 6000 MW of electricity and over 510 KMs roads which has further reduced rural-urban disparity and enhanced provincial, regional and national connectivity.

Last but not the least, China released a set of opinions to push green infrastructure development in its BRI grand strategy to fund infrastructure projects in its member countries. Under its "Opinions on Jointly Promoting Green Development of the Belt and Road," China pledged to develop green capabilities of overseas enterprises and encourage domestic renewable energy companies to go global which should be implemented as soon as possible.

<https://pakobserver.net/bri-and-xis-new-concepts-of-development-by-dr-mehmood-ul-hassan-khan/>

### **Experts call for Pak-China joint working group for agricultural development**

The experts on Tuesday called for a joint Pak-China socio-economic working group under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) for promoting agricultural development and uplift to improve crop productivity, farmland health, and prosperity of farmers through climate-smart agriculture.

The Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI) organized a capacity-building workshop on Climate-Smart Agricultural Cooperation under CPEC here which was

moderated by Research Associate, SDPI, Zainab Naeem, and participated by members of academia, experts from the Chinese Embassy, PARC, students, and media.

Senior Advisor and Research Fellow, SDPI Dr Hassan Daud Butt said the joint working group with demonstration centers should be established across the country under the second phase of the CPEC for demonstrations of advanced techniques to train and acquaint farmers with the latest agricultural methodologies for better production.

Dr Butt said the export of agricultural products from Pakistan to China including rice 15%, and soybean 30% with dry red chilies and cherries were growing at a positive pace. Interestingly, he said, the Pakistani fish of Gwadar was being sold in Shenzhen and Urumqi.

He said the latest tech for Climate Smart Agriculture was available in the market due to China but the cost of tech, human resource capacity to absorb it, and poverty due to poor yield were the bottlenecks in Pakistan that should be resolved.—APP

<https://pakobserver.net/experts-call-for-pak-china-joint-working-group-for-agricultural-development/>

## **China transforming agriculture industry in Pakistan**

*Muhammad Zamir Assadi*

Formation of regional and global strategic movements around the world in the present century has led to geo-strategic and geo-economic partnerships among countries. China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is one of the best examples of such partnerships that has provided multiple and tremendous benefits to both sides, especially Pakistan in various sectors.

Pakistan's agriculture sector remained crucial for the country's economic development, so China under the CPEC is revitalizing the country's agriculture sector and combating the challenge of food insecurity.

China has also recently unveiled its "No. 1 central document" for 2023, outlining nine tasks in comprehensively promoting rural revitalization this year. The policy initiative indicates another opening for Pakistan to collaborate with China for agriculture promotion which has a huge potential. Pakistan, basically an agri-based country, can massively turn around its economy through collaboration with China.

Under the Pak-China cooperation, the Pakistan-China space and agricultural cooperation hit a new milestone last year, after the Chinese authorities sent seven varieties of Pakistani seeds to a space station for six months before returning them to the South Asian country to facilitate a major food security experiment.

This initiative shows that China's space program is open for cooperation with any country while on the other side China has extended full-fledged support to Pakistan for modernizing the agriculture sector.

Agriculture sector has emerged as a direct as well as indirect beneficiary of CPEC via development in backward and forward linkages. Agriculture has been the backbone of low-income economies. It is generally the primary source of income and employment in rural



areas. Agriculture sector of Pakistan has continuously been facing downfall during the last one decade.

The CPEC Long-Term Plan (LTP) envisages significant development of the agriculture sector of Pakistan that has a huge potential for enhancing its agriculture exports to the international community. Under this plan, there is a focus on increasing the use of modern machinery and synthetic fertilizers to enhance the yields, while food storage and processing zones would be constructed to reduce significant post-harvest losses.

Similarly, the building of cold storage stations and meat processing plants is also being planned to enhance productivity of livestock and fisheries sectors besides making their output more competitive in the international market. Being one of the countries included in the BRI initiative, Pakistan can benefit from China's increased food import dependence and gradual transition towards high value addition in the agriculture sector.

China is planning to outsource its agriculture supplies in the form of joint ventures by investing in and developing processing zones, warehouses, dairy farming and cold storage stations in Pakistan. It was recorded at the end of last year that the agriculture sector has gained manifold traction under China-Pakistan agriculture cooperation promising the phenomenal agriculture growth in the length and breadth of Pakistan.

Given the comprehensive spectrum of cooperation under "CPEC Green Corridor" throughout the year in 2022, the agriculture sector has recorded a remarkable growth of 4.4% and surpassed the target of 3.5% as well as last year's growth of 3.48% during FY2022.

Since Sino-Pak agriculture has continued to deepen in 2022, Pakistan's agricultural products exported to China from January to August 2022 reached \$730 million with a year-on-year increase of 28.59% and its agricultural exports to China are expected to exceed a record high of \$1 billion next year.

On the back of 2022 agri sector's milestone achievement, the focus of year 2023 under CPEC Green Corridor will be continuing on improving land cultivation area, water management, better access to markets for inputs (seeds, fertilizers, farm mechanization, credit, water) and outputs, improved infrastructure including storage and cooling facilities, reduction in post-harvest losses, greater investment in research, development and extension, improved quality and fulfillment of quarantine requirements for international markets and competitiveness, greater diversification, especially minor but high-value crops, farm input and effectiveness of markets.

The announcement of three new corridors under CPEC including China-Pakistan Green Corridor (CPGC), which focuses on agricultural environment and food security, speaks volumes about the significance of agricultural cooperation in CPEC.

According to a news report a few weeks ago, China's maize-soybean strip intercropping technology completed harvest at 65 demonstration sites in Punjab, Sindh and Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa recently, and the production of maize and soybeans reached 8,490 kg and 889 kg per hectare respectively in the intercropped fields. Compared with the production of solely cropped maize and soybeans at these 65 sites which are 8,995 kg and 1,531 kg per hectare respectively, the intercropping technology definitely creates much more economic benefits.

Good news is that the researchers are also developing the strip intercropping systems of maize-peanut, maize-pea, sugarcane-soybean, sugarcane-mustard, wheat-mustard, wheat-soybean, wheat-chickpea, potato-maize and canola-pea.

Another healthy development in the agriculture sector happened in June 2022 when a newly developed centre at Arid Agriculture University Rawalpindi (AAUR), the CPEC-Agriculture Cooperation Centre (ACC), announced to perform policy research, assist Chinese businesses in working in the agriculture sector, and foster institutional cooperation. Pakistan is also looking forward to enhancing banana production with Chinese cooperation.

According to Noshewan Haider, CEO of the Sprouts Biotech Laboratories, Pakistan contributes less than 0.5% to the global banana market whereas China contributes about 4.5%.

Cotton germplasm is another significant component in Pak-China agricultural cooperation. For many years, China and Pakistan have cooperated in the field of gathering and identifying cotton germplasm resources.

In order to determine which cotton germplasms are resistant to heat, drought, diseases, and insect pests in various locations and environments, Institute of Cotton Research (ICR) of the Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences (CAAS), collaborated with Cotton Research Institute (CRI), Multan, University of Agriculture Faisalabad (UAF), and some other universities and scientific research institutions.

During July, 2022, Tianjin Modern Vocational Technology College (TMVTC), China and MNS-University of Agriculture, Multan (MNSUAM), Pakistan signed an online agreement for an agricultural machinery training program of Luban Workshop in Pakistan. The two institutions will jointly promote the sci-tech exchanges and cooperation on agricultural machinery, germplasm resources and agricultural environment. Earlier this year, Zhang Jishu from Sichuan Litong Food Co., Ltd. announced that his company would implement a 1,000-acre pepper cultivation demonstration garden in Multan during the 2022-2023 growing season. In partnership with local agribusinesses and farmers in Pakistan, it intends to take over 15,000 acres of pepper orders in South Punjab, with a planned harvest of 30,000 tonnes of dried pepper. Additionally, the company intends to construct two pepper processing plants in Lahore and Multan and is in the process of locating suitable sites.

Pakistan is also working to grow the sorghum crops as, along with the three main basic foods of the globe, sorghum is a crop that has increasingly gained acceptance around the world. Therefore, Pakistan's cooperation under CPEC has huge potential to gain new agri-technology from China and revolutionize its agricultural sector.

<https://pakobserver.net/china-transforming-agriculture-industry-in-pakistan-by-muhammad-zamir-assadi/>

### **The Nation**

#### **Pakistan restores mangroves under CPEC: Ghurki**

LAHORE -Pakistan China Joint Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCJCCI) President Moazzam Ghurki said on Tuesday that Pakistan has a lot to learn from China's experience in

addressing climate change issues. Sharing his views during a think-tank session here at PCJCCI Secretariat, he mentioned that recently 16 acres of mangrove forest had been successfully restored in the Sonmiani Marsh Dam area of Balochistan under the CPEC (China-Pakistan Economic Corridor). It has made smooth progress in the construction of the mangrove biodiversity and mangrove restoration demonstration zones in Pakistan. Ghurki said that China had come a long way in its fight against climate change and environmental degradation, and Pakistan will benefit from China's experience, including the use of new techniques to counter climate change at home. "Pakistan will take a leaf out of China's book on the successful greening of degraded grasslands, deserts, and restoration of forests," he added.

PCJCCI Senior Vice President Fang Yulong said that according to China Economic Net (CEN), SCSIO was leading a project titled "Database Construction of Mangrove Biodiversity in South Asia and Southeast Asia, and Construction of Anti-pollution Ecological Restoration Demonstration Zones", which is being conducted in collaboration with the Lasbela University of Agriculture, Water and Marine Sciences (LUAWMS) in Pakistan.

As part of this project, the research team utilised the R&D technology of the Chinese Academy of Sciences to apply the mangrove anti-pollution ecological restoration afforestation technology to restore damaged coastal wetlands in Pakistan.

He added that Pakistan had over 5,000 large and small glaciers and more than 100 lakes, which jointly make up the world's largest fresh water reservoir. But Pakistan is one of the most vulnerable countries facing the risks of climate change, including the melting of glaciers; it is high time for Pakistan to seriously value its natural resources to combat the negative impacts of climate change.

On this occasion, Vice President Hamza Khalid said that mangroves, as one of the most productive and diverse ecosystems on earth, play a crucial role in preventing floods that could affect 39 percent more people annually if they were absent.

According to the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), mangroves are exceptional carbon sinks, with three to five times greater carbon storage capacity than tropical forests, so restoration of such an incredible forest is one of the major milestones of the CPEC.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2023-03-22/page-9/detail-6>

**March 23, 2023**

**Daily Times**

### **Int'l Conference on CPEC Held at NUML**

ISLAMABAD, March 22: One Day International Conference on "CPEC and People-to-People Links between Pakistan & China: Exploring the civilizational Engagements," organized by the International Relations Department of the National University of Modern Languages (NUML) here on Wednesday. Director General CPEC Cell, Higher Education Commission (HEC) Dr. Safdar Ali Shah was the chief guest, while Dr. Hassan Daud Butt

Associate Professor Bahria University, Islamabad was the keynote speaker. Rector NUML Major General Muhammad Jaffar (Retd), Pro-Rectors, Deans, Heads of Departments, faculty members and large number of students also attended the conference.

Dr. Safdar Ali Shah while highlighting the Socio-Cultural dimensions of CPEC said that China and Sub-Continent (Current Pakistan) have great historic background in terms of culture and neighborhood. He described in detail the history of the region and ancient China. He was the view that both the countries have natural alliance and can mutually be beneficial for each other.

Dr. Hassan Daud in his address shed light on the rapid economic growth of China and he was of the view that Pakistani youth have more talent and can do wonders to make Pakistan a stable & economically strong country. He stressed upon the uplift of industrial growth to get real fruits from CPEC.

Rector NUML Major General Muhammad Jaffar (Retd) in his address highlighted the importance of CPEC and specially ML-1 project. He said that Rail project under CPEC will pave a way for economic uplift in the country. Rector NUML thanked all the scholars from China and Pakistan who were participating in the conference and hoped that all projects under CPEC will be completed soon.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1076391/intl-conference-on-cpec-held-at-numl/>

### **Solar Exhibition to build Sino-Pak partnerships in energy sector**

“The recent Pakistan Solar Exhibition provided a unique platform for us to build partnerships with local governments and private sectors to find innovative solutions.

At this expo, we display product solutions dedicated to the local market, so as to further promote the development of renewable energy in Pakistan,” said Howard Fu, a Chinese exhibitor, according to Gwadar Pro. Howard, Pakistan Country Director of a Chinese power supply company, had a bumper harvest at the show, signing a total of 100MW+ distribution deals on the site. The product portfolio displayed includes residential solar-plus-storage solutions, commercial and industrial solutions, and “1+X” Modular Inverter for utility-scale markets. Pakistan is a fast-growing country with chronically tight energy supplies. It has a clear competitive advantage in photovoltaic power generation due to abundant light and land.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1076380/solar-exhibition-to-build-sino-pak-partnerships-in-energy-sector/>

**March 24, 2023**

**Daily Times**

### **Pakistan Day celebrated with national spirit, fervor in China**

Pakistan Day was celebrated with national spirit and great fervor at the Embassy of Pakistan, Beijing here on Thursday.

Pakistan Day commemorates the passing of the Lahore Resolution on March 23, 1940, when the All-India Muslim League demanded a separate homeland for the Muslims of the British

Indian Empire. The ceremony commenced with the recitation of verses from Holy Quran. Pakistan Ambassador to China, Moin ul Haque raised the national flag and hoisted it to the mast's summit, with the invigorating tune of the national anthem.

The messages of Presided Dr. Arif Alvi and Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif were read out on the occasion.

Addressing on the occasion, Ambassador Haque paid glowing tribute to the relentless struggle of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah and other founding father of the nation. He said that 83 years ago, father of the nation Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah presented the demand for an independent Muslim state in the subcontinent. And with the support of the millions of Muslims of the subcontinent, the dream of independence was translated into a reality on 14 August 1947.

Ambassador Haque said that Pakistan and China were all-weather friends and strategic cooperative partners and both the countries under the guidance of respective leadership would take the friendship to an even higher level in the future. He thanked the Chinese government and people for extending unprecedented help during last year's devastating floods in Pakistan.

Reiterating Pakistan's principled stand over Kashmir issue, the ambassador said that Pakistan would continue to extend its moral and diplomatic support to Kashmiris in their struggle for the right to self-determination granted by the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) resolutions. Ambassador Haque remarked that today, Pakistan was a fifth largest nation with 220 million proud, hardworking, and talented people. "Our armed forces and other security agencies along with the people have made unmatched sacrifices to protect the nation and fight against extremism and terrorism," he added.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1076621/pakistan-day-celebrated-with-national-spirit-fervor-in-china/>

### **“CPEC Goat” turned into a symbol of goat farming in Gwadar**

A newly-born baby goat named “CPEC Goat” is now walking, running and playing in one and only “Goat Farm” developed and run by China Overseas Ports Holding Company (COPHC) in Gwadar Free Zone at Gwadar Port.

According to a Gwadar Pro's report on Thursday, her birth and life is a symbol of the new beginning of systemized livestock farming in Gwadar.

Previously, it was out of the question to start goat farms for goats and animals because Gwadar was just a fishing town and neither broke the ground for animal husbandry business nor developed a sense of developing goat farms throughout its history.

“CPEC Goat” now is enjoying her life with nutritious food, hygienic ambience and medical care available in the farm, said Muhammad Zubair, a chief caretaker employed by COPHC in an interview with Gwadar Pro.

“CPEA Goat” is among 25 other new goat breeds housed in the farm which is located in the proximity of the 12-km-long Koh-e-Batil, he said.



“Currently we have more than 120 goats of different breeds including Makkan Chini, Gallabo, Teddi, local and Rajan puri,” he revealed. The best breed that demonstrated a high survival rate is the local one, he mentioned.

“In the farm we keep goats healthy following consistent grooming practice that includes brushing off hair and grime, washing with clean water, and so on.

The goats’ shelter is clean and spacious enough for them to feel at ease. The shelter’s roofs are sufficiently ventilated in order to protect them from adverse weather conditions,” he detailed. Goat Farm is sufficient enough to raise more than 400 goats in the coming days.

Constructed in July 2019, Goat Farm is spreading over 400 square meters. With a capacity to fatten 10,000 goats, it is evolving into a learning center for newcomers in the field of livestock farming.

It enjoys support of the Chinese Embassy in Pakistan and Pakistan Navy besides technical guidance of Ministry of Livestock, Balochistan and Beijing Zhongyu Biotechnology Co, Ltd.

Quetta livestock farmer Khurshid Baloch heaped praise for the development of Gwadar Goat Farm, “if local people are motivated to establish their own goat farms, the fishing town will start evolving smartly promising new avenue of livelihood as well as a tenacious step to cope with food security in Gwadar.”

“Goat farming isn’t just about producing milk or meat. It has a number of obligations and necessities to fulfill. We must take good care of livestock and manage it properly in order to meet human needs,” he added. Gwadar people told the reporter that they used to raise animals in their houses but neither their ancestors nor they ever mulled over developing goat farm in a systematic way.

Their animals often fall prey to disease, they said. “I heard about the goat farm in Gwadar and hope to see it one day to observe its functionality and benefits,” said Noor Mehtab Dashti living near Mulla Fazal Chowk in Gwadar. It is a good development that a Joint Working Group (JWG) on Agriculture and Livestock between China and Pakistan has already been established. That JWG examines different areas to revitalize Pakistan’s agricultural and Livestock economy. If Pakistan can meet China’s quarantine regulations, there is huge scope for Pakistan’s livestock and agriculture sector to grow and open up export opportunities of millions of dollars, said Sajid Baloch, an economist working for Pakistan Livestock and Dairy Development Project. He added, “CPEC is changing the economic and poverty profile of Pakistan.”

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1076733/cpec-goat-turned-into-a-symbol-of-goat-farming-in-gwadar/>

### **Pakistan Observer**

#### **China comes to Pakistan’s rescue again; rolls over \$2billion amid IMF uncertainty**

ISLAMABAD – In another financial relief for cash-strapped Pakistan, China again rolled over a safe deposit of \$2 billion on the existing terms to relieve its all-weather friend. Senator

and Finance Minister Ishaq Dar confirmed the good news on Friday as the rollover of Chinese SAFE deposits was said to be one of the major prerequisites laid forth by the IMF for the South Asian country to salvage the staff-level agreement.

The recent development is a sigh of relief for the country's dwindling economy as Islamabad assured the global lender that it would raise forex reserves to \$10 billion before the start of the next Fiscal Year. Meanwhile, after the rollover from Beijing, Islamabad is looking at Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and UAE for financial support in an all-out effort to woo IMF, which continue to give hard times to Pakistan.

Earlier this month, the Sharif-led government was seeking to get \$2 billion from China and Saudi Arabia, while officials are eyeing to get a further \$1 billion from the UAE to unlock much-needed funding.

In the latest developments, the country's finance czar Ishaq Dar assured that details of the staff-level agreement with IMF would be available for everyone, emphasizing transparency. He said once the staff agreement is signed, it will be available on the public platform of the Finance Ministry.

<https://pakobserver.net/china-comes-to-pakistans-rescue-again-rolls-over-2billion-amid-imf-uncertainty/>

### **The Nation**

#### **Ahsan to visit China next week to discuss stalled CPEC projects**

*Fawad Yousafzai*

ISLAMABAD - Federal Minister for Planning Ahsan Iqbal will visit China next week to jump start the stalled China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) projects including Azad Pattan and Kohala hydropower projects.

We have started work on the stalled project, and I am visiting China next week to discuss two or three stalled projects, the minister said while talking to The Nation/Nawa-e-Waqt here.

These projects are ready for the last three years, but work is stalled on it, he said.

Regarding delay in agreement with IMF, Ahsan Iqbal said, "We have met all the condition of IMF agreed by Imran Khan, as we are bound to."

IMF wants the guarantee of Pakistan's friendly countries regarding their pledges and we are using diplomatic channels to get it done, he added.

It is worth to mention that some friendly states had made pledges to support Pakistan during the IMF's review and now the IMF is asking the guarantees from those countries.

However, he made it clear that the country cannot run on loans from IMF or help of the friendly countries, as we have to develop our own resources.

When asked about \$1.5 billion dues of the Chinese IPPs under CPEC, he said that they are trying to resolve it. The minister said that all new projects with China are being done under

the Chinese currency. It also includes the ML-I project of Pakistan Railways which is being done through RMB, he added.

For the last 10 months we all are extraordinary focusing on the stabilisation of economy. Our first focus is to stop the slide in the economy. After stability the government will be able to control inflation and will reduce the prices of gas and electricity.

He said that during PML-N previous tenure projects worth \$29 billion were completed or were being started under CPEC.

The second phase from 2020 to 2025 was to start industrial cooperation, but not a single industrial zone could be created during the PTI period, he added. If we had paid attention to this, it was expected that these SEZs would have brought up to \$40 billion investment to Pakistan during this period.

He said that nine CPEC special economic zones (SEZs), which were supposed to be operationalised in 2020, have been delayed by almost for four years by the previous PTI government.

After coming to power last year we have started paying attention to these SEZs and other stalled projects of CPEC. The first SEZ will be operationalised next year, he added.

He said that they jump started the stalled CPEC projects, and the other day the Prime Minister had inaugurated coal fired plant in Thar.

“I am going to China next week to discuss two to three projects with China which are ready but work was stopped on them.”

The projects which are ready but stalled included Azad Pattan and Kohala Hydropower projects and some IT related projects, he added.

Similarly, for Gwadar the supply of 100 megawatts of electricity from Iran has been started. We have laid the transmission line for this in just eight months, he added.

He said that total supply of electricity to Gwadar will reach to 180MW soon.

In response to a query regarding transfer of pledged money to Pakistan for the rehabilitation of flood affectees, the minister said that \$2.20 billion have been utilised so far.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/24-Mar-2023/ahsan-to-visit-china-next-week-to-discuss-stalled-cpec-projects>

### **Pak-China friendship shines at space exhibit**

ISLAMABAD - The Pakistan-China friendship shined at 30 Years of China's Manned Spaceflight Achievement Exhibition' held in the West Hall of the National Museum of China, according to China Economic Net (CEN).

It was the 'Dreaming of the Universe and Asking the Sky: 30 Years of China's Manned Spaceflight Achievement.

The exhibition features an impressive collection of items that highlight China's success in space exploration.

Of particular interest is the commemorative flag on display, which celebrates the 70th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and Pakistan.

This flag was carried into space by the Shenzhou-12 spacecraft on June 17, 2021, and spent three months orbiting the earth before returning to the earth. It serves as a reminder of China's diplomatic ties with Pakistan.

“For Pakistani visitors, seeing the flag being presented here was really meaningful, representing not only the special relationship between Pakistan and China but also reminding people of the long-term cooperation between the two nations in the aerospace industry.

It is a fitting tribute to the significant contributions that China has made to Pakistan's space program over the years.” A Pakistani vlogger, Mahzaib Abbasi, who was shooting a vlog at the exhibition, told CEN.

Since the 1990s, China and Pakistan have had a strong relationship in terms of space collaboration. The collaboration began with Chinese assistance in the launch of Pakistan's first satellite, Badr-1. In 2019, Pakistan and China signed several space exploration agreements at the second BRI Forum, including one paving the way for Pakistan's first astronaut to go to space.

These agreements also established a framework for joint ventures in space and the development of Sino-Pakistani space committees. In June of last year, Pakistan sent seven sets of medicinal plant species seeds aboard China's Shenzhou 14 spacecraft to the Tiangong space station.

The objective of the experiment was to expose the seeds to cosmic radiation and microgravity in the hopes of inducing beneficial mutations in their genes.

“Many of my viewers in Pakistan are interested in China's scientific developments, especially since the ceremony celebrating the return of plant seeds from Tiangong last month.” Mahzaib said, “I have the opportunity to bring my followers to witness the development of China's aerospace industry and get up close to various advanced equipment.”

Other notable features showcased at the exhibition include a 1:1 model of the Tianhe core module, a 1:4 model of the space station combination, scale models of the Long March 2F, Long March 7, and Long March 5B carrier rockets, among others.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/24-Mar-2023/pak-china-friendship-shines-at-space-exhibit>

### **Solar expo to build Sino-Pak partnerships in energy sector**

ISLAMABAD - The recent Pakistan Solar Exhibition has provided a unique platform for Chinese to build partnerships with local governments and private sectors to find innovative solutions.

Pakistan is a fast-growing country with chronically tight energy supplies. It has a clear competitive advantage in photovoltaic power generation due to abundant light and land. More people are choosing renewable energy because of its competitive levelized cost of electricity (LCOE).

The increasing influx of foreign investment into the solar market encouraged by the government is also bringing more technology to the country.

“At this expo, we display product solutions dedicated to the local market, so as to further promote the development of renewable energy in Pakistan,” said Howard Fu, a Chinese exhibitor, according to Gwadar Pro.

Howard, Pakistan Country Director of a Chinese power supply company, had a bumper harvest at the show, signing a total of 100MW+ distribution deals on the site. The product portfolio displayed includes residential solar-plus-storage solutions, commercial and industrial solutions, and “1+X” Modular Inverter for utility-scale markets.

Pakistan has invested billions of dollars in solar projects to encourage businesses and individuals to invest in solar power projects and increase the share of renewable energy to 60 percent by 2030.

“China is a leading country in PV. Pakistan lacks an industrial base for photovoltaic products, while Pakistan, as the sixth most populous country in the world with huge consumer market and abundant human resources, has the advantages to undertake industrial transfer from China”, Exhibitor Eric Zhao told the media.

This was the second time Eric has attended the solar expo, and he feels the heat of the market atmosphere even more. “In the future, we are willing to participate in more photovoltaic projects in Pakistan and form consortiums with local enterprises to establish deeper and closer cooperative ties.” he added.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/24-Mar-2023/solar-expo-to-build-sino-pak-partnerships-in-energy-sector>

### Express News

#### چین نے پاکستان کی دو ارب ڈالر کی قرض ادائیگی موخر کر دی

چین نے پاکستان کے لیے دو ارب ڈالر کا سیف ڈپازٹ قرض رول اوور کر دیا ہے۔: اسلام آباد

ایکسپریس نیوز کے مطابق وزارت خزانہ کے حکام نے چین کی جانب سے سیف ڈپازٹ قرضہ رول اوور کرنے کی تصدیق کرتے ہوئے امید ظاہر کی ہے کہ چین کے بعد سعودی عرب اور متحدہ عرب امارات کی جانب سے بھی جلد فنانشنگ کی توقع ہے۔

وزارت خزانہ ذرائع کا کہنا ہے کہ رواں ماہ چین سے مزید 30 کروڑ ڈالر پاکستان آنے کی توقع ہے اور رواں ماہ زرمبادلہ کے ذخائر 5 ارب ڈالر سے تجاوز کرنے کی امید ہے۔

ذرائع وزارت خزانہ کا مزید کہنا ہے کہ چین نے 2 ارب ڈالر کے سیف ڈپازٹ کی واپسی ایک سال کے لیے موخر کی ہے، سعودی عرب اور متحدہ عرب امارات کی جانب سے بھی فنانشنگ کی امید ہے، پاکستان کو عالمی مالیاتی فنڈ (آئی ایم ایف) سے معاہدے کے لیے بیرونی فنانشنگ کی تصدیق ضروری ہے۔

واضح رہے کہ آئی ایم ایف کی جانب سے جاری کردہ بیان میں کہا گیا ہے کہ بیرونی مالیاتی یقینی دہانیوں کے بعد پاکستان کے ساتھ اگلا قدم اٹھائیں گے، پاکستان کو دیگر مالیاتی اداروں اور دوست ممالک سے بھی مالی تعاون یقینی بنانا ہے۔

<https://www.express.pk/story/2459844/1/>

**March 25, 2023**

**Daily Times**

**Pak-China MoU inked to empower flax seed research**

The Gansu Academy of Agricultural Sciences and Sindh Agricultural University signed a memorandum of understanding for the China-Pakistan flax research and innovation hub.

“Our new flax varieties, the Longya series, are all selected according to the climate conditions of dry with little rainfall in Northwest China. In the planting experiments, the yield is generally more than 10 percent higher than that of the local varieties, and the resistance to diseases and insect pests is stronger. At present, Longya No. 11, No. 14, and No. 15 have been planted in Pakistan preliminarily. I firmly believe that the Longya series should be able to exert a good effect of drought resistance and increase yield under the climate conditions of Pakistan,” Zhao Wei, Researcher at the Crop Research Institute of GAAS, indicated in an interview with China Economic Net.

“It is a variety most Pakistani farmers are not familiar with but it can produce edible oil much needed in the country”, project leader Abdul Ghaffar Shar, a doctoral candidate of Northwest A&F University who has been studying in China for nine years told CEN, adding, “Experiment has started at SAU, Tandojam. Flaxseed contains 35-44 percent oil. The seed oil, rich in unsaturated fatty acids mainly linolenic acid, serves as a nutritional supplement, in addition to its huge role in coatings, textiles and animal husbandry. Flax is a promising economic crop.”

As Abdul Ghaffar Shar pointed out, the average production of flaxseed in Pakistan is as low as 692 kg per hectare because of less soil fertility, blind use of fertilizers, lack of high-yield hybrid varieties and old cultivation practices.

Looking into the importance of edible oil and low yield of oil crops in Pakistan, it is vital to focus on the short and long-term studies on imported potential hybrid flaxseed varieties suitable for cultivation under the soil and climatic conditions of Pakistan.

“Our experiment will be conducted in the greenhouse of the Department of Soil Science, SAU Tandojam to evaluate Chinese flaxseed hybrids for better growth, grain, and oil yield under different fertilizer doses,” Shar added.

Furthermore, Zhao Wei emphasized the current planting area of the Longya series accounts for about 1/3 of the flax area in China, and about 3.3 million hectares has been planted in the main flax producing areas of the country, with an increase of more than 300 million kg of flaxseeds and an increase of more than 1.5 billion yuan in output value. It has made important contributions to the poverty alleviation of farmers in arid and barren areas in Northwest and North China. In this regard researchers from the two countries should have a lot of experience to exchange.

Up to now, Dr. Abdul Ghaffar has proposed the saline-alkali land improvement technology of applying desulfurized gypsum, as well as the technology of precise application of organic fertilizer, which have obvious effects on local soil improvement. More than that, he pointed



out that the identification of salt tolerance in the germination stage of flax seeds as the key, and proposed an effective identification method.

The good news is that the Technical Regulations for Flax Cultivation in Saline-Alkali Land drafted by the team has been officially implemented, and a rapid identification method for salt tolerance of flax seeds during germination has been authorized as a national invention patent in 2021.

“In addition to flax cultivation, our value-added products, such as  $\omega$ -linolenic acid capsules, eye care solution, as well as technical achievements such as flax seeds used as livestock feed to increase the content of  $\omega$ -linolenic acid in milk and meat, can share the experience with Pakistani counterparts to develop more products suitable for the local market.”

Researcher Zhao told the reporter that through tireless efforts of Dr. Abdul Ghaffar, they have a deeper understanding of the flax industry in Pakistan. To their surprise, the protection and application of flax resources in Pakistani universities is impressive. “Next, we hope to carry out more exchanges on the innovation of stress-resistant germplasm resources of flax and the selection of new varieties.”

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1077068/pak-china-mou-inked-to-empower-flax-seed-research/>

### **Ahsan Iqbal reiterates commitment to CPEC’s development, successful implementation**

Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Professor Ahsan Iqbal on Friday reiterated a firm commitment of the incumbent government to the development of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and ensuring its successful implementation. “We are taking all necessary steps to address pressing issues and enhance the country’s exports, and we are grateful to China for its continued support in this regard,” the minister said while chairing a meeting to review progress on CPEC-related projects.

The meeting, according to a news release, also discussed progress on Special Economic Zones (SEZs), ML-1, Karachi Circular Railway and various new development initiatives that would be discussed in upcoming sittings of the Joint Working Groups.

During the meeting, the Planning minister emphasised the importance of strengthening the country’s export sector, directing the quarters concerned to follow up on the PM’s proposal with regard to seeking Chinese professionals’ help in the development of Pakistan’s export sector. Ahsan Iqbal said the top priority of the Government’s 5Es agenda was to enhance exports, and Pakistan could benefit from China’s expertise in that regard. He instructed making SEZs a medium to enhance exports, adding the zones could foster collaboration and innovation, which could lead to the development of new products and services that were better suited to the demands of international markets.

The meeting also discussed proposals for upcoming sittings of JWG’s including the Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI), Solar projects and Identification study of pumped storage hydropower projects.

The meeting concluded with a strong emphasis on the need for close collaboration between Pakistan and China to ensure the successful implementation of CPEC and to achieve the common goal of regional prosperity.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1077065/ahsan-iqbal-reiterates-commitment-to-cpecs-development-successful-implementation/>

### **Gwadar fisherman lauds China donated Solar Systems amid power failures**

Gwadar Fisherman have lauded China donated Solar Systems amid power failures, according to Gwadar Pro.

“We no longer have a problem with power breakdowns as China’s solar systems continue to provide service to the people of Gwadar,” said Abdul Rashid, a fisherman and resident of the Gazarwaan area near Masjid-e-Aqsa in Gwadar’s old city.

Abdul Rashid is among the beneficiaries of a package of solar equipment that was donated by China in collaboration with the Chinese Embassy and the Ministry of Ecology and Environment.

Last year, the initiative donated 4,000 sets of solar photovoltaic systems and LED lights.

“Due to some technical issues a few days ago, there was an electricity outage in Gwadar for a week. In such a dire situation, my children were able to sleep peacefully for six nights because the solar set and battery donated by China provided 4 to 5 hours of power to keep the fan running,” he added.

Speaking to Gwadar Pro, Abdul Rashid shared how his family’s life has improved since their home was solarized with a donation from China’s Ministry of Ecology and Environment in collaboration with the Chinese Embassy. He said, “Previously, during prolonged power outages, my sick mother used to suffer in the dark at night and was very uncomfortable. But for the past five months, thanks to solar power in our home, my mother has been cheerful and offering good wishes to China.”

He added that during the day, his wife can now use the washing machine and other electric appliances to do household chores thanks to solar power. When asked about the donation process, he said it was fair and transparent, except for one or two cases.

The solar system has also helped keep their electricity bill in check, even during the price hikes in Ramazan.

Regarding the verification process, he stated, “The authorities personally collected information and inquired with our neighbors to confirm our status as deserving recipients of the solar system.” After the verification was completed, the authorities installed the solar system free of cost. Raheem Buksh, a social worker, informed Gwadar Pro that Chinese solar donations were distributed to the deserving local residents in all 42 wards of Gwadar City, based on his information.

Zainab, another beneficiary, expressed her satisfaction with the process, stating that the solar team reached out to them and installed the solar system after verification, without them having to approach the team themselves. “Prior to receiving the solar apparatus, we had no

knowledge about China and its presence in Gwadar, but now we have gained some insight into its role,” she revealed. She also mentioned that one solar panel and battery are sufficient for their family’s daily needs. In another ward, resident Majeed Zareen expressed his gratitude for the solar system donated by China. “When I checked the market price for the entire solar system installed in our home, it was worth more than Rs. 100,000.

As someone who is financially struggling, it was only a dream to afford such an expensive system. We are very grateful to China for this generous initiative for the poor in Gwadar,” he stated. In the course of the survey, it was discovered that the population of Gwadar exceeds 150,000 (0.15 million) people, the majority of whom are impoverished and fishermen.

The contribution of solar photovoltaic systems and LED lights is just one of the most recent illustrations of China’s commitment to aiding developing countries to improve their ability to cope with the challenges brought about by climate change. To assist with mitigation and adaptation efforts, China has signed memorandums of understanding on climate change cooperation with 37 countries, donating materials worth over 1 billion yuan (\$147 million).

According to Noor Mohsin, the president of the Gwadar Press Club, after evaluating the situation and gathering information, at least 95 percent of the deserving individuals in Gwadar received solar photovoltaic systems and LED lights in a fair and systematic manner, without any interference from politics. Mohsin also praised the positive impact made by China and expressed the need for such projects to continue benefiting the community in Gwadar.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1077032/gwadar-fisherman-lauds-china-donated-solar-systems-amid-power-failures/>

### **Pakistan Observer**

#### **China’s cotton industry to advance high-quality development**

China’s cotton industry will continue to improve supply quality to stimulate market demand and promote high-quality development, said the All China Federation of Supply and Marketing Cooperatives on Thursday.

China is the world’s largest producer, importer, and consumer of cotton, as well as the largest exporter of textile and garment products, said Hou Shunli, deputy director of the federation’s council at an annual industrial conference.

Hou urged efforts to advance product innovation, expand domestic demand, and apply digital technologies to all industrial chain links to accelerate the sector’s upgrading.

Efforts should also be made to optimize the distribution of cotton production, ensure the supply of raw materials for the textile industry, and continue to improve the resilience and safety of the industrial and supply chain, Hou said.— Xinhua

<https://pakobserver.net/chinas-cotton-industry-to-advance-high-quality-development/>

## The Nation

### **Pakistan, China renew pledge for CPEC, its expansion**

*SHAFQAT ALI*

ISLAMABAD - Pakistan yesterday said that Islamabad and Beijing were committed to the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor and its expansion.

Speaking at a weekly news briefing here, Foreign Office spokesperson Mumtaz Zahra Baloch said that CPEC was a sterling symbol of Pakistan-China strategic partnership.

“CPEC is a bilateral project between our two countries, but it is also a project for regional connectivity. You are also aware that Pakistan and China have agreed in the past to extend CPEC to Afghanistan. Proposals for participation of third parties including private entities to join CPEC projects proposals remain under consideration of the two sides. When we have a final outcome we will make an announcement,” she said. The spokesperson said Foreign Secretary Dr Asad Majeed Khan visited China last week and called on China’s State Councillor and Foreign Minister Qin Gang. He also held meetings with Vice Foreign Minister Sun Weidong and with Chairman CIDCA Lou Zhaohui, she added.

On 18 March, she said, Dr Asad Majeed Khan and Vice Foreign Minister Sun Weidong co-chaired the Third Round of Pakistan-China Bilateral Political Consultations (BPC).

“The two sides reviewed the entire spectrum of bilateral relations, and agreed to expand and reinforce political and security cooperation, bilateral trade, economic and financial cooperation, cultural exchanges, tourism, and people-to-people ties. It was also agreed that Pakistan and China will enhance high level engagements and dialogue mechanisms and make the channels of communication even more robust,” she elaborated.

The two sides, she said, reaffirmed their commitment to CPEC and agreed to remain engaged in expansion of CPEC including on participation of third parties to enhance regional connectivity and cooperation. Pakistan and China will further strengthen dialogue and cooperation in multilateral platforms. She said Pakistan and China are all-weather strategic cooperative partners and the two countries cooperate on a range of issues including economic and financial matters.

“We are grateful to the Chinese Government and people for the economic and financial support that China has provided to us in these difficult times. People of Pakistan will remember this for a long time. Exchange of high-level visits is a hallmark of Pak-China friendship,” she mentioned. To a question regarding former US Special Representative on Afghanistan Zalmay Khalilzad’s recent statement, she said Pakistan was a confident democratic country.

“We are confident that any outside voices cannot influence our democratic polity and governance. People of Pakistan are wise enough to make political decisions on their own and do not need outside advice,” she maintained. Asked if there was more to Zalmay Khalilzad’s statement than an individual opinion, she said, “Ask him directly whether it is his personal

opinion.” Baloch said Pakistan will continue to raise its voice against these grave and systematic human rights violations in held Kashmir.

“We will also continue to extend political, diplomatic and moral support to our Kashmiri brothers and sisters for the just and peaceful settlement of the Jammu and Kashmir dispute in accordance with the UN Security Council Resolutions,” she said.

To a question about calling back Pakistan’s Ambassador to Saudi Arabia Khurram Rathore being called back, the spokesperson said postings and transfers were normal happenings in the Foreign Ministry.

“Some of these reports about Ambassador Rathore (however) are incorrect and unfair.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2023-03-25/page-1/detail-3>

### **Chinese, Pakistani scientists join hands to combat citrus diseases, insect pests**

BEIJING - Chinese and Pakistani scientists are collaborating to develop biological control measures to enhance the quality and quantity of citrus fruits in Pakistan.

To this end, a research centre was launched in the two countries in 2018 to jointly explore green and sustainable solutions to the growing prevalence of citrus diseases across the South Asian nation. Speaking to China Economic Net (CEN), Prof Dr Qiu Baoli and Prof Dr Shaukat Ali, director and deputy director of the China-Pakistan citrus pest management centre, said that while chemical measures can provide quick responses to citrus disease outbreaks, they also increase the resistance of pests against pesticides, posing grave environmental and health threats.

The researcher told CEN reporter that the centre, initiated by South China Agricultural University and Sargodha University, has undertaken four strands of research work to produce environmentally friendly solutions. The first line of research, Dr Qiu and Dr Ali noted, focuses on the use of “lure and kill” technology to dispel pests. For example, the researchers have investigated how different types of traps and lures will affect the efficacy of capturing pests in citrus orchards across six citrus-producing Pakistani cities.

Dr Qiu said that the researchers have also been developing technologies to breed parasitic wasps and predatory insects, which are natural enemies for citrus pests. “So far, we have discovered 22 new species of predatory insects and reported 7 new genera and 2 new subgenera,” he noted. “In addition, the centre has been researching biological pesticides for emergency control. We aim to develop commercial formulas for entomopathogenic fungi targeting citrus pests and evaluate their toxicity under laboratory and field conditions,” Dr Ali told CEN, adding that strides have been made in the investigation and evaluation of Pakistan’s entomopathogenic fungal resources. Dr Qiu noted, “To effectively combat the pests, we will also develop a comprehensive pest management approach that combines various pest control strategies. The technology mix will be tested in citrus orchards in Pakistan for demonstration and promotion.”

Meanwhile, the Gansu Academy of Agricultural Sciences and Sindh Agricultural University have signed a memorandum of understanding for the China-Pakistan flax research and

innovation hub. “Our new flax varieties, the Longya series, are all selected according to the climate conditions of dry with little rainfall in Northwest China. In the planting experiments, the yield is generally more than 10 percent higher than that of the local varieties, and the resistance to diseases and insect pests is stronger. At present, Longya No. 11, No. 14, and No. 15 have been planted in Pakistan preliminarily. I firmly believe that the Longya series should be able to exert a good effect of drought resistance and increase yield under the climate conditions of Pakistan,” Zhao Wei, Researcher at the Crop Research Institute of GAAS, indicated in an interview with China Economic Net.

“It is a variety most Pakistani farmers are not familiar with but it can produce edible oil much needed in the country”, project leader Abdul Ghaffar Shar, a doctoral candidate of Northwest A&F University who has been studying in China for nine years told CEN, adding, “Experiment has started at SAU, Tandojam. Flaxseed contains 35-44 percent oil. The seed oil, rich in unsaturated fatty acids mainly linolenic acid, serves as a nutritional supplement, in addition to its huge role in coatings, textiles and animal husbandry. Flax is a promising economic crop.”

As Abdul Ghaffar Shar pointed out, the average production of flaxseed in Pakistan is as low as 692 kg per hectare because of less soil fertility, blind use of fertilizers, lack of high-yield hybrid varieties and old cultivation practices. Looking into the importance of edible oil and low yield of oil crops in Pakistan, it is vital to focus on the short- and long-term studies on imported potential hybrid flaxseed varieties suitable for cultivation under the soil and climatic conditions of Pakistan. “Our experiment will be conducted in the greenhouse of the Department of Soil Science, SAU Tandojam to evaluate Chinese flaxseed hybrids for better growth, grain, and oil yield under different fertilizer doses,” Shar added.

Furthermore, Zhao Wei emphasized the current planting area of the Longya series accounts for about 1/3 of the flax area in China, and about 3.3 million hectares has been planted in the main flax producing areas of the country, with an increase of more than 300 million kg of flaxseeds and an increase of more than 1.5 billion yuan in output value. It has made important contributions to the poverty alleviation of farmers in arid and barren areas in Northwest and North China. In this regard researchers from the two countries should have a lot of experience to exchange.

Up to now, Dr. Abdul Ghaffar has proposed the saline-alkali land improvement technology of applying desulfurized gypsum, as well as the technology of precise application of organic fertilizer, which have obvious effects on local soil improvement. More than that, he pointed out that the identification of salt tolerance in the germination stage of flax seeds as the key, and proposed an effective identification method.

The good news is that the Technical Regulations for Flax Cultivation in Saline-Alkali Land drafted by the team has been officially implemented, and a rapid identification method for salt tolerance of flax seeds during germination has been authorized as a national invention patent in 2021.

“In addition to flax cultivation, our value-added products, such as  $\hat{I}\pm$ -linolenic acid capsules, eye care solution, as well as technical achievements such as flax seeds used as livestock feed



to increase the content of  $\hat{\pm}$ -linolenic acid in milk and meat, can share the experience with Pakistani counterparts to develop more products suitable for the local market.”

Researcher Zhao told the reporter that through tireless efforts of Dr. Abdul Ghaffar, they have a deeper understanding of the flax industry in Pakistan. To their surprise, the protection and application of flax resources in Pakistani universities is impressive. “Next, we hope to carry out more exchanges on the innovation of stress-resistant germplasm resources of flax and the selection of new varieties.”

<https://www.nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2023-03-25/page-9/detail-0>

## The News

### **Conference on CPEC held at NUML**

Islamabad: One-day international conference on “CPEC and People-to-People Links between Pakistan & China: Exploring the civilizational Engagements,” organized by the International Relations Department of the National University of Modern Languages (NUML) here, says a press release.

Director General CPEC Cell, Higher Education Commission (HEC) Dr. Safdar Ali Shah was the chief guest, while Dr. Hassan Daud Butt Associate Professor Bahria University, Islamabad was the keynote speaker. Rector NUML Major General (r) Muhammad Jaffar, Pro-Rectors, Deans, Heads of Departments, faculty members and large number of students also attended the conference.

Dr. Safdar Ali Shah while highlighting the Socio-Cultural dimensions of CPEC said that China and Sub-Continent (Current Pakistan) have great historic background in terms of culture and neighborhood. He described in detail the history of the region and ancient China. He was the view that both the countries have natural alliance and can mutually be beneficial for each other.

Dr. Hassan Daud in his address shed light on the rapid economic growth of China and he was of the view that Pakistani youth have more talent and can do wonders to make Pakistan a stable & economically strong country.

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=187236>

### **Chinese brand commits to R&D cooperation**

Islamabad: “As a Chinese brand committed to independent research and development, Chery has been driven by technology to advance its global strategy in order to ensure the continued growth of sales volume, vehicle quality, and client reputation. “We are always willing to share its scientific and technological achievements with our Pakistani clients in real time,” said Qi, director of Southern Asia Region in OMODA, Chery Group.

Qi revealed, in a recent interview with Gwadar Pro, that Chery’s new brand will be added to the list of consumer choices for Pakistani customers in the second half of this year.

He termed it a technological and stylish work, following the popularity of Tiggo4 and Tiggo8 in Pakistan.

The OMADA series has the spatial performance of an MPV, the chassis of an SUV, and the handling of a sedan, and can be described as a combination of features from various models. As the first product, comprehensively meets the needs of a new generation of users. It is equipped with cutting-edge technology configurations and stunning, surging power, with intelligent assistant driving and power performance that leads products in its class, giving it an infinite sense of future and movement.

According to Euro NCAP's latest safety test results, the OMODA 5 has passed the most professional and rigorous safety evaluation, earning the highest five-star safety rating for its outstanding performance in four areas, including adult and child occupants, vulnerable road users, and safety assist.

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=187238>

## K2 Daily

بقیہ 29  
کے مرکزی راولپنڈی اور حسین دورہ جارجی امراتھے،  
بعد ازاں یاور حسین نے GBCCI اور وطنی  
انگامیہ ہنزہ کے جانب سے تاجروں کے دہریہ  
مسئلہ حل کرنے پر عمران علی اور ڈپٹی کمشنر ہنزہ کو شراج  
حسین پیش کیا، انہوں نے کہا کہ پاک چائنہ ہارڈ  
کی بندش کی وجہ سے تاجروں کو ہنگامے تھے، سوسٹ  
ڈراما پورٹ کی سرگرمیاں بحال ہونے سے تاجروں  
کے مالی مشکلات دور ہوگی۔ اس سے گل صدر ایوان  
تہارت و صنعت گلگت بلتستان عمران علی نے ڈپٹی  
کمشنر ہنزہ کو گلگت بلتستان چیئر آف کامرس اینڈ  
اظہار کے جانب سے یادگاری شیلڈ پیش کیا۔  
ڈپٹی کمشنر ہنزہ نے ایوان تہارت و صنعت گلگت  
بلتستان ایوان تہارت و صنعت کے صدر عمران علی کے  
جانب سے شیلڈ پیش کرنے پر اظہار کیا، انہوں نے  
دہریہ مسائل کے حل کیلئے اپنی کوششیں  
جاری رکھنے کا اعلان کیا۔

پاک چائنہ ہارڈ رکھنے تاجروں کی مشکل ادورنگی عمران علی؟  
بارڈر کھولنے کیلئے وفاقی حکومت کے ساتھ مقامی انتظامیہ بالخصوص ڈپٹی کمشنر ہنزہ نے بڑا کردار ادا کیا  
انتظامیہ کی تہارت دوست پالیسیوں کی قدر کرتے ہیں، صدر ایوان تہارت و صنعت کی ڈی وی ہنزہ سے ملاقات میں گفتگو  
ہنزہ (غلاف رپورٹ) صدر ایوان تہارت و صنعت گلگت بلتستان عمران علی نے کہا کہ پاک چائنہ ہارڈ رکھنے تاجروں کی مشکل ادورنگی عمران علی نے ڈپٹی کمشنر ہنزہ کو شراج حسین پیش کیا، انہوں نے کہا کہ پاک چائنہ ہارڈ کی بندش کی وجہ سے تاجروں کو ہنگامے تھے، سوسٹ ڈراما پورٹ کی سرگرمیاں بحال ہونے سے تاجروں کے مالی مشکلات دور ہوگی۔ اس سے گل صدر ایوان تہارت و صنعت گلگت بلتستان عمران علی نے ڈپٹی کمشنر ہنزہ کو گلگت بلتستان چیئر آف کامرس اینڈ اظہار کے جانب سے یادگاری شیلڈ پیش کیا۔ ڈپٹی کمشنر ہنزہ نے ایوان تہارت و صنعت گلگت بلتستان ایوان تہارت و صنعت کے صدر عمران علی کے جانب سے شیلڈ پیش کرنے پر اظہار کیا، انہوں نے دہریہ مسائل کے حل کیلئے اپنی کوششیں جاری رکھنے کا اعلان کیا۔

[https://www.epaper.dailyk2.com/Home?Issue=NP\\_ICT&Page=Gilgit%20Baltistan%20News&Date=2023-03-25](https://www.epaper.dailyk2.com/Home?Issue=NP_ICT&Page=Gilgit%20Baltistan%20News&Date=2023-03-25)

[https://www.epaper.dailyk2.com/Home?Issue=NP\\_ICT&Page=Classified&Date=2023-03-25](https://www.epaper.dailyk2.com/Home?Issue=NP_ICT&Page=Classified&Date=2023-03-25)

**March 26, 2023**

**Pakistan Observer**

### SDPI, WWF- Pakistan sign MoU to strengthen ecological & biodiversity protection in CPEC development

The Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI) and WWF-Pakistan signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to strengthen research, technical support and policy influencing to take into consideration the ecological, biodiversity protection and environmental concerns in development projects under CPEC. The cooperation between SDPI and WWF-Pakistan also aims to bridge the gaps in policies of environmental

protection, and ecological and biodiversity conservation during the planning and execution of infrastructure projects and reinforce green transition in infrastructure development in CPEC projects.

Dr Shafqat Munir, Deputy Executive Director, SDPI said that the cooperation between SDPI and WWF is not new and stems from the keen interest of both organizations on environment and conservation strategies.

He expressed that the formalization of this cooperation will pave new ways for both organizations to collaborate in different areas of research and extend technical support to public institutions.

He further said that energy, transport and agriculture contribute the major carbon footprint and both organizations can play a critical role in advocating the case of climate finance onwards to COP28 and beyond to support the green transition in these areas.

Rab Nawaz, Senior Director Conservation and Biodiversity, WWF-Pakistan said that “Pakistan is at the cross-roads of climate change and today’s actions will determine if Pakistan is going to emerge as the Climate Champion or Climate Victim”.

Neshmiya A. Khan, Manager, Policy and Safeguards, WW-Pakistan stressed on evaluating the impacts of infrastructure development on ecology and biodiversity and taking measures to mitigate these impacts.

She said that local communities’ welcome infrastructure development and investments, but the key is to ensure they are sustainable and do not threaten the historic biodiversity and local ecology.

Ubaid ur Rehman Zia, Senior Research Associate, SDPI said that China has emerged as a global leader in environmental conservation and protection by transforming its Belt and Road Initiative into the model of green development. He further said that after infrastructure development, the cooperation under CPEC has extended in the realms of climate smart agriculture, renewable energy and green transportation.

He sustained that research and technical assistance in facilitating the uptake of these technologies is crucial for sustainable economic development of the country.

<https://pakobserver.net/sdpi-wwf-pakistan-sign-mou-to-strengthen-ecological-biodiversity-protection-in-cpec-development/>

### **The Nation**

#### **Rise of ‘Girls Education’ for poor in Gwadar to translate BRI’s spirit**

ISLAMABAD - Currently, around 550 girls are enrolled in the China-Pakistan Gwadar Faqeer Middle School. Moreover, a recently established digital lab with 30 new computers, in collaboration with a Chinese company, is fully functional in the school, providing computer literacy among the girls, Gwadar Pro reported on Saturday.

Around the world, 129 million girls are out of school, including 32 million of primary school age, 30 million of lower-secondary school age, and 67 million of upper-secondary school age,

says a 2022 UN report. In Gwadar, the Middle School Faqeer Colony has risen as an illustrious promoter of girls education that meets UN global goals and BRI's spirit. "My journey of study in the middle school has been empowering me to do something substantial for my hometown Gwadar as well as my country," Faiza, an 8th grade student of the Faqeer Middle School told Gwadar pro.

"Coming from a marginalised community, my parents could never afford to send me to top quality schools. However, Girls Middle School Faqeer Colony Gwadar, which is one of the best schools in Gwadar, made it possible for me to continue my studies. I wish that the school could be upgraded to include 10th grade so that I can further my education," she said. Educationist Tahir Manzoor stated that investing in girls' education can transform communities, countries and the whole world.

"Girls' education strengthens economies and reduces inequality. It contributes to more stable and resilient societies that give all individuals, including girls, the opportunity to fulfil their potential." Headmistress Parveen Nawaz of China-Pakistan Government Middle School Faqeer Colony praised the Chinese philanthropy in introducing girls' education for the impoverished people of Gwadar. "Although it is a public school, it has surpassed other private schools in terms of qualitative facilities and educational standards. Even education in private schools in Gwadar is expensive, but in this school, education is free," she said.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2023-03-26/page-3/detail-5>

### **Pakistan needs diversification of products to boost meat exports**

ISLAMABAD-Pakistan has the potential to massively enhance its meat exports with diversification into the boneless and frozen category with a particular focus on gaining access to the Chinese market, WealthPK reported.

Data from the Trade Development Authority of Pakistan (TDAP) shows that the exports of bovine meat reached \$24.8 million during February 2023 against \$24.3 million during the same period of 2022, showing a growth of 2%.

TDAP/WealthPK research

According to a report published by TDAP, Pakistan's export-oriented meat processors have a significant opportunity to tap into the Chinese market, which is the largest importer of frozen beef. To capitalise on this thriving market, Pakistani meat processors need to diversify into other meat segments, particularly frozen, boneless beef.

The TDAP report stated that diversifying away from fresh carcasses is essential to gain a foothold in the Chinese market, as the China-Pakistan Free Trade Agreement-II (CPFTA-II) does not grant concessions for fresh or chilled bovine carcasses, which are subject to a prohibitive 20% tariff. The report said Pakistani bovine meat processors enjoy duty-free access to all other market segments, including frozen bovine meat products, fresh boneless meat, and fresh bovine cuts with bone in. This provides Pakistan with a significant advantage over other major beef exporters, it added.

The report pointed out that to penetrate the promising Chinese market, meat processors must devote significant efforts and resources to comply with the strict phytosanitary standards

imposed by Chinese authorities. Furthermore, the need to shift towards the frozen beef market segment is also crucial to expand to other major markets in Asia, including Malaysia, Indonesia, and Vietnam, where similar consumption patterns are observed, the report said.

Meat exports from Pakistan are largely concentrated in the fresh or chilled market segment, specifically in the carcasses and half carcasses category, with most exports going to Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries.

Pakistan Business Council (PBC) has explored the potential of Pakistan's bovine meat sector for the export market, highlighting that the industry presents an opportunity for growth, but is currently hindered by a lack of traceability of cattle stock, the presence of foot and mouth diseases (FMD), outdated methods and technologies used in aggregating, transporting, and slaughtering animals, and the lack of capacity to produce frozen deboned beef cuts for international markets. The PBC highlighted that Pakistan has a significant opportunity to diversify its exports and improve its economy, given its existing agrarian base and the involvement of around 12.5 million families in cattle-rearing activities. However, there is limited focus by livestock farmers to rear animals exclusively for meat production, with older animals that no longer produce sufficient milk typically sold for meat.

According to the PBC, yield gap for buffalo meat produced in Pakistan, when compared to the top three best meat-producing countries (Australia, US, and Brazil), is around 35%, with the low yield being driven by the unattractive domestic market for beef.

The PBC mentioned that the three largest meat exporting countries, including Australia, Brazil, and India, export frozen beef, which is considered lower quality and cheaper, but has a longer shelf life and can be transported by sea to far markets, improving marketability and providing better returns. To compete in the international market for frozen beef, Pakistan must comply with the quality and phytosanitary standards of importing countries. The FMD in Pakistan currently limits access to most global markets, but the government is undertaking vaccination programs and making an animal quarantine zone in Cholistan to address the issue.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2023-03-26/page-8/detail-4>

## K2 Daily

پاکستان چین سے الیکٹریک گاڑیاں درآمد کرنے کیلئے تیار

2030 تک 30 فیصد الیکٹریک گاڑیوں کی فروخت کا ہدف مقرر کر دیا گیا

بھیرہ کے قریب دو پبلک ای وی چارجرز پہلے ہی بنائے جا چکے ہیں

اسلام آباد (آئی این پی) پاکستان پاور 13 مین ان تک کی کی ہوگی، بھیرہ کے قریب دو نقل و حمل کو فروغ دینے اور کاربن کے اخراج کو کم کرنے کی کوششوں کے تحت چین سے الیکٹریک گاڑیاں درآمد کرنے کے لیے چار ہے۔ 2030 تک 30 فیصد الیکٹریک گاڑیوں کی فروخت کا ہدف مقرر کر دیا گیا۔

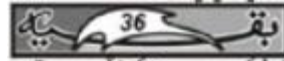
بھیرہ کے قریب دو پبلک ای وی چارجرز پہلے ہی بنائے جا چکے ہیں۔ ای وی گاڑیوں کو درآمد کرنے میں مدد ملے گی جس سے چین پر انحصار کم کرنے میں مدد ملے گی۔ بھیرہ کے قریب دو پبلک ای وی چارجرز پہلے ہی بنائے جا چکے ہیں۔ ای وی گاڑیوں کو درآمد کرنے میں مدد ملے گی جس سے چین پر انحصار کم کرنے میں مدد ملے گی۔ بھیرہ کے قریب دو پبلک ای وی چارجرز پہلے ہی بنائے جا چکے ہیں۔ ای وی گاڑیوں کو درآمد کرنے میں مدد ملے گی جس سے چین پر انحصار کم کرنے میں مدد ملے گی۔

بھیرہ کے قریب دو پبلک ای وی چارجرز پہلے ہی بنائے جا چکے ہیں۔ ای وی گاڑیوں کو درآمد کرنے میں مدد ملے گی جس سے چین پر انحصار کم کرنے میں مدد ملے گی۔ بھیرہ کے قریب دو پبلک ای وی چارجرز پہلے ہی بنائے جا چکے ہیں۔ ای وی گاڑیوں کو درآمد کرنے میں مدد ملے گی جس سے چین پر انحصار کم کرنے میں مدد ملے گی۔

بھیرہ کے قریب دو پبلک ای وی چارجرز پہلے ہی بنائے جا چکے ہیں۔ ای وی گاڑیوں کو درآمد کرنے میں مدد ملے گی جس سے چین پر انحصار کم کرنے میں مدد ملے گی۔ بھیرہ کے قریب دو پبلک ای وی چارجرز پہلے ہی بنائے جا چکے ہیں۔ ای وی گاڑیوں کو درآمد کرنے میں مدد ملے گی جس سے چین پر انحصار کم کرنے میں مدد ملے گی۔



بھارت کی ترقی سے ناکامہ اٹھا سکتی ہے۔ حکومت  
خریڈاروں کو گھس میں چھوٹ، ٹریف میں کمی اور دیگر  
مرامعات دے کر ای وی کی خریداری کو ترغیب دینے  
کا ارادہ رکھتی ہے۔ ترقی ہے کہ پالیسی سازوں میں  
ای وی کو اپنانے کی حوصلہ افزائی کرے گی اور  
پاکستان میں ای وی مارکیٹ کی ترقی کو فروغ دے  
گی۔ پاکستان کا بھارت سے الیکٹریک گاڑیاں درآمد  
کرنے کا اقدام باجولپاتی اور معاشی تنظیموں کے  
دباؤ کے خاطر میں سامنے آیا ہے۔ پاکستان کا امر  
موسمیاتی تبدیلیوں سے سب سے زیادہ متاثر ہونے  
والے دنیا کے 10 ممالک میں ۲۲۷ ہے جہاں  
دیگر ممالک میں اضافہ پائی کی کمی اور پارہ آنے  
والی قدرتی آفات سے تباہی کا خطرہ ہے۔ ملک کو نقصانی آلودگی کی اعلیٰ  
سطح کا بھی سامنا ہے خاص طور پر شہری علاقوں میں۔  
جہاں ایک کی بجائے اور پرانی گاڑیوں کی کینٹینوں  
اہم شراکت دار ہیں۔ الیکٹریک گاڑیوں کی پالیسی  
2021 روایتی گاڑیوں کے لیے صاف موثر اور  
سستی تبدیل کے طور پر فروغ دے گا کہ ان تنظیموں  
سے ملنے کی کوشش کرتی ہے۔ پالیسی کے تحت  
حکومت 2030 تک 30 لاکھ الیکٹریک  
گاڑیوں کی فروخت کا ہدف حاصل کرنا چاہتی ہے  
جس کے نتیجے میں پیدھن کے اخراجات میں سالانہ  
2 ملین ڈالر تک کی بچت ہو سکتی ہے اور کاربن ڈائی  
آکسائیڈ کے اخراج میں سالانہ 13 ملین ٹن تک  
کمی ہو سکتی ہے۔ بھارت سے ای وی کی درآمد  
پاکستان کے ٹرانسپورٹیشن سیکٹر کے لیے ایک اہم قدم  
ہے۔ اس اقدام سے نہ صرف پائیدار نقل و حمل کو  
فروغ ملے گا بلکہ ملک کو معاشی، سماجی اور باجولپاتی  
فوائد بھی حاصل ہوں گے۔ ای وی مارکیٹ کو ترقی  
دینے کے لیے حکومت کے مزید ساتھ پاکستان  
کم کاربن واپی معیشت کی طرف ترقی میں ایک رہنما  
بننے کے لیے تیار ہے۔



سکیم کی راہ امور ہونے کی توقع ہے۔ یہ اقدام  
پاکستان کی الیکٹریک گاڑیوں کی پالیسی 2021 کا  
حصہ ہے جس کا مقصد ملک کے نقل و حمل کے نظام کو  
فوسل بنول سے تاشی چہ چہ توانائی کے ذرائع پر مبنی  
کرنے ہے۔ بجلی کی فائز سکتی برائے ٹرانز اور  
محصولات نے ای وی سیکٹر کی ترقی میں معاونت کے  
لیے بجلی پر دیو پیرز سے الیکٹریک گاڑیاں درآمد  
کرنے کا مشورہ دیا ہے۔ سب سے زیادہ حجم پر کردہ  
درآمدات بھارت میں بنی گاڑیاں ہیں۔ عالمی سطح  
پر سٹی الیکٹریک گاڑیاں بنیادی طور پر کامیاب ہیں۔  
حکومت ای وی سیکٹر کو متحدہ فوائڈیشن کرے گی اور  
ای وی مارکیٹ اسٹیٹوں کی تعمیر میں مدد سے  
گی۔ نی ایم اے کے ذریعے ڈائریکٹرز کو بھی ہے  
کہ بھارت کے قریب وہ سیک ای وی مارکیٹ پر پیلے  
ہائے جاتے ہیں۔ حکومت نے کی بجلی کمپنیوں کی  
نفاذ کی ہے جو ساتھی کمپنیوں پر الیکٹریک  
کاربن، ایس اور دیگر گاڑیاں فراہم کریں گی۔ بھارت  
سے ان کی درآمد سے پاکستان کو ملنا ای فراہم حاصل  
ہونے کی امید ہے جس میں نقصانی آلودگی میں کمی  
ایجنٹ کی کم قیمت، اور توانائی کی حفاظت میں  
اشانہ شامل ہے۔ ای وی روایتی گاڑیوں کے برعکس  
کوئی اخراج پیدا نہیں کرتی ہیں جو نقصانی آلودگی اور  
گلوبل وارمنگ میں اہم کردار ادا کرنے والے  
نقصان دہ آلودگیوں کا اخراج کرتی ہیں۔ ای وی  
کے استعمال سے پاکستان کو درآمد شدہ تیل اور گیس  
پر انحصار کم کرنے میں مدد ملے گی جس سے جتنی  
درمیانہ کے فائز کی بچت ہوگی۔ ای وی میں  
تبدیلی مقامی آٹوموبائل سٹری کے لیے سہولت  
بھی پیدا کرے گی اور چنانچہ ای وی کی ترقی اور ترقی پائی

[https://www.epaper.dailyk2.com/Home?Issue=NP\\_ICT&Page=Gilgit%20Balistan%20News&Date=2023-03-26](https://www.epaper.dailyk2.com/Home?Issue=NP_ICT&Page=Gilgit%20Balistan%20News&Date=2023-03-26)

[https://www.epaper.dailyk2.com/Home?Issue=NP\\_ICT&Page=Classified&Date=2023-03-26](https://www.epaper.dailyk2.com/Home?Issue=NP_ICT&Page=Classified&Date=2023-03-26)

**March 27, 2023**

**Business Recorder**

**CPEC IPPs**

EPTL threatens to shut down plant

ISLAMABAD: M/s Engro Powergen Thar Private Limited (EPTL) has cautioned the federal government that it would shut down the plant if its financial issues remain unaddressed.

The company has written several letters to Central Power Purchasing Agency -Guaranteed (CPPA-G), specifically the letter of February 22, 2023, wherein it requested for payment of its outstanding liabilities and informed CPPA-G about upcoming debt servicing requirements to the tune of Rs 28 billion.

The power company claimed that it has only received Rs 4.125 billion as of March 20, 2023 and still requires Rs 24 billion to ensure successful debt servicing by end of May 2023.



The Company's Chief Financial Officer (CFO), Wang Pu, in a letter to CFO CPPA-G has clarified that this amount required for debt servicing is over and above the normal payments required for continued and sustainable operations of power plant, including fuel, O&M and insurance, i.e., Rs 7 billion per month.

According to CFO EPTL the power company's outstanding receivables from CPPA-G have increased to a alarmingly critical level of approximately Rs 63.5 billion, with approximately Rs 55 billion overdue, adding that this significant overdue amount has resulted in a severe liquidity crunch for the company, as it is now facing substantial liabilities to settle, with payments to lenders and suppliers becoming due.

"This situation poses a severe threat to our operations and, if left unaddressed could potentially force us to shut down," said Pu in his letter.

He has also claimed that EPTL is one of the most cost-effective power plants on the Economic Merit Order (EMO). The electricity produced from Thar Coal is providing critical relief to the national exchequer by reducing the overall basket price of electricity and resulting in foreign exchange savings of \$ 50-60 million every month.

CFO, in his letter requested prompt payments to reduce the outstanding receivables of EPTL and ensure the continued operation of the plant and the benefits it provides to the national economy.

China's embassy has also raised the issue of Chinese IPPs at the highest level but the government has not yet formulated any mechanism to sort their financial issues which is the main reason for M/s Sinosure denying insurance of loans for new projects in Pakistan, said in insider in government who is dealing with Chinese IPPs.

The government recently sought approval from the power regulator, i.e., National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (Nepra) to impose surcharge of Rs 3.23 per unit from November 2023 onward for indefinite period meant to pay interest on loans of Power Holding Limited (PHL) and power generators. The Authority is expected to issue its determination within a week or so.

The issue of Pakistan Energy Revolving Accounts (PERA) meant for Chinese IPPs is still unresolved.

Finance Division has stated that pursuant to the ECC's decision of October 31, 2022, it has accorded concurrence to Power Division/CPPA-G for draw of 56 instalments for the month of March 2023 from PERA amounting to Rs. 4 billion for onward exclusive payment to CPEC-IPPs after completion of all codal, financial, procedural and legal formalities as per laid down rules and regulations.

Regarding ex-post facto approval/ concurrence of the Finance Division for the period from Nov 2022 to Jan 2023, it will be processed once the requisite data of payables to CPEC-IPPs is received on specified format duly verified/ signed by Power Division/ CPPA-G. The data is required to ascertain the undisputed payable amount and remittance made by the CPPA-G from Nov 2022 onwards. —MUSHTAQ GHUMMAN

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2023/03/27/1-page/958200-news.html>

## Chinese grass emerging as ‘super food’ for animals in Gwadar

BEIJING: “King Grass” pioneered by Chinese Technology is emerging as super food for animals with impactful features of cash crop and land fertility in Gwadar as well as Pakistan.

After its successful growth in the length and breadth of the free zone area of Gwadar Port, local enterprises are motivated to seek the assistance of Chinese JUNCAO technology to grow King Grass to boost their business profitability.

As per the pilot project, it was grown and used to raise livestock in a cattle farm established in Gwadar Port more than two years ago.

Throughout the time span, 80 per cent of proceeds had been utilized as food for all breeds of goats.

Not only animals turned fattened but also stayed fit without suffering from any lethal disease, Free Zone official said.

Goats, he said, love to eat King Grass with zeal due to its lush green colour, palatability, fragrance, inbuilt properties and quality, CEN reported.

This grass provides many of the nutrition requirements for cattle. It has fibre, protein and good energy content. It can replace expensive feeds in the ration and therefore reduce feeding costs while maintaining good nutrition, he mentioned.

Pakistan Farmer Association President Mian Mansha Syed said, it is a particular breed of grass discovered by Chinese scientists which is an economical and environment-friendly substitute for timber.

So far, more than 500 counties across China have participated in planting Juncao or King grass. The grass significantly lowered farming costs, and reduced annual tree clearing by 20 million cubic meters in the country, he added.

Gwadar area, by virtue of its arid climate, land degradation, saline or alkali soil and various other ecological challenges, was a litmus test for King grass.

Gwadar Port Operator COPHC initiated a project with the assistance of the Chinese Embassy and experts from Chinese Universities. In the early stage of 2020, King Grass was planted on 5 acres of land in Gwadar Port.

Results, eventually proved that it is survivable and commercially feasible. Its yield is 120,000 per acre, according to official documents.

In order to proliferate it in other part of Balochistan and Sindh, COPHC official said, seeds were donated to farmers and companies in Dasht area near Milini dam as well as Karachi. The activity generated tremendous outcome and farmer companies are in a mood to grow it further to be beneficiary of advantages of King Grass, he added.

Pak-Green NGO director Muhammad Fakhar said that Gwadar port King Grass is strong footprint of Chinese public good initiatives that aim to empower people to stamp out poverty, to earn better and boost afforestation.

In China, he said, King Grass has made milestone achievements in uprooting poverty. Thousands of people grew King Grass and used its stock for raising their animals in their cattle farms.

Owing to its low-cost growth and more than 20 years survivability, Chinese farmers income multiplied with minimum hassles as compared to other crops, he added.—APP

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2023/03/27/4-page/958230-news.html>

### **PDP says refocus on CPEC to augur well for economy**

KARACHI: Pasban Democratic Party (PDP) Chairman Altaf Shakoor has said in Pakistan the policies are mostly based on the input from bureaucracy; however, the input of the industry is more important particularly when making decisions about the industrial development. Altaf Shakoor said that vital national projects like CPEC should be kept above political considerations so that their continuity should be ensured even in case of the change of political governments. He said previous government wasted crucial four years of the CPEC which is loss to the nation and country. He said the business to business cooperation phase of the CPEC should be spurred for fast track socioeconomic uplift of society.

After a lull in vital CPEC project during the previous regime, now refocusing on this vital initiative is a welcome development which will augur well for economy, said Altaf Shakoor. He said that the CPEC was put on the back burner by the previous government but the sitting government has now put a big momentum in it which will prove beneficial for the national economy.

He said that the federal cabinet has approved the commencement of the second, and most important, phase of the CPEC project for industrial development of Pakistan. It has granted its approval for signing the draft Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC) to promote industrial cooperation with China, within the framework of the CPEC.

He said that the CPEC is the most prominent project of China's Belt and Road Initiative, consisting of various economic and infrastructure projects throughout Pakistan. It is a \$62 billion project, which includes a 3,000-kilometer network of railways, oil and gas pipelines connecting both countries, as well as new renewable energy projects.

Altaf Shakoor said that to provide firsthand experience of the successful industrial models in China, the Chinese stakeholders shall facilitate the field visits of the concerned teams from Pakistan, including the Chinese SEZs. He suggested that the industry leaders should be included in these visits so that their valuable input could be utilized.

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2023/03/27/5-page/958232-news.html>

### **Daily Times**

### **Chinese scientists help enhance quality, quantity of citrus fruits in Pakistan**

Chinese scientists help to enhance quality and quantity of citrus fruits in Pakistan, China Economic Net (CEN) reported.

In this connection, they are collaborating with Pakistani scientists to develop biological control measures to achieve the purpose.

To this end, a research centre was launched in the two countries to jointly explore green and sustainable solutions to the growing prevalence of citrus diseases across the South Asian nation.

Speaking to China Economic Net (CEN), Prof Dr Qiu Baoli and Prof Dr Shaukat Ali, director and deputy director of the China-Pakistan citrus pest management centre, said that while chemical measures can provide quick responses to citrus disease outbreaks, they also increase the resistance of pests against pesticides, posing grave environmental and health threats.

The researcher told CEN reporter that the centre, initiated by South China Agricultural University and Sargodha University, has undertaken four strands of research work to produce environmentally friendly solutions.

The first line of research, Dr Qiu and Dr Ali noted, focuses on the use of “lure and kill” technology to dispel pests. For example, the researchers have investigated how different types of traps and lures will affect the efficacy of capturing pests in citrus orchards across six citrus-producing Pakistani cities.

Dr Qiu told CEN that the researchers have also been developing technologies to breed parasitic wasps and predatory insects, which are natural enemies for citrus pests. “So far, we have discovered 22 new species of predatory insects and reported 7 new genera and 2 new subgenera,” he noted.

In addition, the centre has been researching biological pesticides for emergency control. “We aim to develop commercial formulas for entomopathogenic fungi targeting citrus pests and evaluate their toxicity under laboratory and field conditions,” Dr Ali told CEN, adding that strides have been made in the investigation and evaluation of Pakistan’s entomopathogenic fungal resources.

Dr Qiu noted, “To effectively combat the pests, we will also develop a comprehensive pest management approach that combines various pest control strategies.” The technology mix will be tested in citrus orchards in Pakistan for demonstration and promotion.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1077659/chinese-scientists-help-enhance-quality-quantity-of-citrus-fruits-in-pakistan/>

### **MoU signed to protect environment in CPEC projects**

The Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI) and World Wildlife Fund (WWF)-Pakistan signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to protect environment in CPEC-related projects, Gwadar Pro reported on Sunday.

It will help strengthening research, technical support and policy influencing to take into consideration the ecological, biodiversity protection and environmental concerns in development projects under the CPEC.

The cooperation between SDPI and WWF-Pakistan also aimed to bridge the gaps in policies of environmental protection, and ecological and biodiversity conservation during the planning and execution of infrastructure projects and reinforce green transition in infrastructure development in CPEC projects.

Dr Shafqat Munir, Deputy Executive Director, SDPI said that the cooperation between SDPI and WWF stems from the keen interest of both organizations in environment and conservation strategies.

He expressed that the formalization of this cooperation will pave new ways for both organizations to collaborate in different areas of research and extend technical support to public institutions.

He further said that energy, transport and agriculture contribute the major carbon footprint and both organizations can play a critical role in advocating the case of climate finance onwards to COP28 and beyond to support the green transition in these areas.

Rab Nawaz, Senior Director of Conservation and Biodiversity, WWF-Pakistan said that “Pakistan is at the crossroads of climate change and today’s actions will determine if Pakistan is going to emerge as the Climate Champion or Climate Victim”.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1077661/mou-signed-to-protect-environment-in-cpec-projects/>

### **The Nation**

#### **Gandhara art exhibition attracts large number of visitors in Beijing**

BEIJING - The Pakistan-China joint exhibition being held at the Palace Museum to showcase the cultural heritage of Gandhara has attracted a large number of visitors. The exhibition titled “Gandhara Heritage along the Silk Road” was jointly organised by the Palace Museum and Department of Archaeology and Museums, National Heritage and Cultural Division, Pakistan. The exhibition featured a wide array of artifacts, sculptures, and other items that were representative of the Gandharan culture. Pakistan Ambassador to China, Moin Ul Haque said that the exhibition had generated a lot of interest among Chinese people and it would further promote cultural ties and the people to people exchanges between Pakistan and China. He said that initially, the exhibition was organised for three months but owing to interest shown by the people, it was expected to continue for months. The exhibition also included a multimedia presentation, art installations, and interactive activities to help visitors understand the cultural history of the region. Over 170 art pieces brought from various museums of Pakistan would be showcased at the Palace Museum, Beijing. The event was also an important part of the Year of Tourism Exchanges being celebrated by China and Pakistan this year. Ambassador Haque said that a large number of people from both countries, including government officials, academics, and members of the public had so far visited this exhibition and learnt more about Gandhara Heritage. The Gandhara exhibition was a great opportunity for both countries to learn more about each other’s culture and history. The exhibition will also help strengthen the ties between the two nations and promote mutual understanding, he added. Ambassador Haque said that Pakistani and Chinese cultures had several similarities. He said that the cultural exchanges would further strengthen all weather friendship between the two countries.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2023-03-27/page-15/detail-2>

## Nawaiwaqt News

**زیر تکمیل منصوبوں اور ہائیڈرو الیکٹرک کیلئے جلد چین کا دورہ**

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وفاقی وزیر منصوبہ بندی پروفیسر احسن اقبال کی فکرا نگیز گفتگو

عزت جعفری

یوم پاکستان اور روزنامہ نوائے وقت کی سالگرہ 23 مارچ کو ایک ہی دن منائی جاتی ہے، 1940ء میں برصغیر کے مسلمانوں نے اپنے لئے جب الگ وطن کے حصول کی جد جہد میں قرارداد پاکستان منظور کی تھی ٹھیک اسی روز تحریک پاکستان کی آبیاری کے لیے روزنامہ نوائے وقت بھی شائع ہونا شروع ہوا تھا۔ آج جب ملک ترقی کی شاہراہ پر گامزن ہے پاکستان اور چین کے درمیان سی پیک پروجیکٹ زیر عمل ہے اور جس پر 2013 کے بعد سے مسلم لیگ ن کی حکومت اس کی تکمیل کیلئے تندی سے کام کر رہی تھی، اور اس بار دوبارہ حکومت سنبھالنے پر ملک کو توانائی کے بحران سے نکلنے کیلئے نہایت سنجیدگی کے ساتھ کوشش جاری ہے۔ یہی وجہ ہے کہ سی پیک کے پہلے مرحلے میں جن انرجی منصوبوں کو ترجیح دی گئی تھی، انہیں ممکنہ حد تک جلد از جلد مکمل کیا جا رہا ہے۔ یہ حقیقت ہے کہ گزشتہ دور حکومت میں سی پیک پر عملدرآمد میں سست روی پیدا ہوئی، تاہم ایک بار پھر سی پیک کے قومی منصوبے کو اسی جوش اور جذبے سے مکمل کرنے کی کوشش کی جا رہی ہے۔

قومی دن کے مناسبت سے تین روز قبل وزیر منصوبہ بندی احسن اقبال کیلئے اسلام آباد میں نوائے وقت کے دفتر میں سالگرہ اور یوم پاکستان کے حوالے سے ایک کاٹنے کی تقریب رکھی گئی تھی۔ اس دوران وفاقی وزیر سے سی پیک، ملک کی سیاسی صورتحال اور اقتصادی معاملات کے حوالے سے بات چیت کی گئی۔ تقریب میں احسن اقبال نے سالگرہ کا ایک کاٹنے کے بعد ریڈیو ایڈیٹور نوائے وقت اسلام آباد شاہزاد انور فاروقی، ایڈیٹر دی نیشن سلمان مسعود، رپورٹر نوائے وقت شاہد اجمل، رپورٹر دی نیشن نواد یوسف زئی اور راقم السطور کے ساتھ آئندہ دورہ چین اور اپنی وزارت سے متعلق اہم امور پر بات چیت کی۔

ملک میں جاری انرجی منصوبوں کے حوالے سے جمعرات کے روز وزیر منصوبہ بندی احسن اقبال نے اس نشست کے دوران بتایا کہ وہ اگلے ہفتے چین کا دورہ کرنے والے ہیں۔ حالیہ دنوں میں وزیر اعظم میاں شہباز شریف نے تھر پارک میں چینی مدد سے 1650 میگا واٹ بجلی پیدا کرنے کے ایک منصوبے کی بنیاد رکھی، جس سے ملک میں بجلی کی قلت پر قابو پانے میں کافی مدد ملے گی۔ اس میں نواپور پلانٹ شامل ہے جو 330 میگا واٹ اور دوسرا شنگھائی الیکٹرک پاور پلانٹ ہے جو 320 میگا واٹ کا منصوبہ ہے، ان دونوں منصوبوں پر ساڑھے تین ارب ڈالر کی سرمایہ کاری ہوگی اور جب یہ دونوں منصوبے مکمل ہوں گے تو کونہ سے بجلی کی مجموعی پیداوار تین ہزار تین سو میگا واٹ ہو جائے گی۔ وفاقی وزیر احسن اقبال کے چین کے دورے کا ایک اہم مقصد ملک میں ہائیڈرو الیکٹرک کے منصوبوں کو آگے بڑھانا ہے۔ ان منصوبوں میں کوہالہ اور آزادپتن کے منصوبے شامل ہیں۔ اس علاوہ سی پیک کے اگلے مرحلے کیلئے بھی بات چیت ہوگی جس میں پاکستان کے اندر صنعت کو ترقی دینا اور چینی صنعتوں کی پاکستان میں ری لوکیشن کے لیے بات چیت کرنا شامل ہے۔

پروفیسر احسن اقبال نے کہا کہ عمران خان چار سال اقتدار میں رہے، کسی ایک منصوبے کا نام بتادیں جو انہوں نے شروع کیا ہو، مسلم لیگ ن نے 2013 سے 2018 کے درمیان اس ملک کو لوڈ شیڈنگ سے نجات دلائی، سی پیک کے منصوبے کو کامیاب کرایا ہے شمار ایسے منصوبے ہیں جن کے بارے میں ہم کہہ سکتے ہیں کہ یہ ہم نے لگائے اور ان کو مکمل کیا۔ احسن اقبال نے کہا کہ ہم نے پانچ سال میں دھرنے دیکھے، سازشیں دیکھی ہیں لیکن اس کے باوجود کام کر کے گئے۔ ہمارے دور میں اسلام آباد کے ہر سیکٹر میں چینی کمپنیوں کے دفاتر کھل گئے تھے، چین کے صدر نے تمام چینی کمپنیوں سے کہا تھا کہ پاکستان جا کر سرمایہ کاری کریں۔ عمران خان نے ان تمام کمپنیوں کو بھگا دیا اور چین کے ساتھ تعلقات کو خراب کیا۔ جس ملک کا سربراہ بیرون ملک جا کر یہ کہے کہ ہم وطن چور ہیں تو کون اس ملک میں سرمایہ کاری کے لئے آئے گا۔ جب ہم برسرِ قدر آئے معیشت دم توڑ رہی تھی، معیشت کا رکنا 22 کروڑ لوگوں کی معیشت کا دم توڑنا ہے، ہم معیشت کو بچانے کی کوشش کر رہے ہیں۔ احسن اقبال نے کہا کہ الیکشن



کمیشن نے پنجاب میں انتخابات کے التوا کا جو فیصلہ کیا ہے وہ آئین کے مطابق ہے۔ آئین کی منشاء یہ ہے کہ عام انتخابات اکٹھے ہوں، سب کو لیول پلیننگ فیڈ میسر ہو، انہوں نے کہا کہ مردم شماری کا عمل شروع ہو چکا ہے، جب مردم شماری ہو جائے گی تو نئی حلقہ بندیاں ہوگی۔ 2023 سے 2028 درمیان جو ضمنی اسمبلی الیکشن ہوں گے وہ کس بنیاد پر ہوں گے۔ احسن اقبال نے کہا کہ پاکستان میں آئینی انتشار اور سیاسی انتشار کی اجازت نہیں دیں گے، عمران خان کا ون پوائنٹ ایجنڈا ہے اور وہ یہ ہے کہ انتشار پیدا ہو اور ملک کی تعمیر و ترقی رکے۔ عمران خان کشمیر کمیٹی کے ممبر رہے، ایک دن اس کے اجلاس میں نہیں آئے پی اے سی میں ممبر رہے، کبھی اس کے اجلاس میں نہیں آئے، وزیر اعظم رہے قومی اسمبلی کے اجلاس میں نہیں آئے، 2018 میں دھاندلی کے ذریعے حکومت حاصل کر لی۔ اب تک وہ اسمبلیوں سے استعفوں کی ہیٹ ٹرک مکمل کر چکے ہیں، حکومت اب تک ان کے پیدا کردہ نقصان کے ازالہ کی کوششوں میں مصروف ہے، ہمارا مقصد ہے کہ ملک دیوالیہ ہونے سے بچائے۔ حکومت نے ترقی کا ایجنڈا بنایا ہے، ہم فائینو ایز پر عمل کر رہے ہیں، جس کے تحت برآمدات کو بڑھانا ہے، موسمیاتی تبدیلی کا مقابلہ کرنے کے لیے سٹرکچر بنانا ہے تاکہ فوڈ سکیورٹی میسر آسکے اور انرجی کے چیلنج سے نمٹا جائے۔ ہمیں جلد شمسی توانائی اور قابل تجدید توانائی کی طرف جانا ہے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ سی پیک کے تحت ہمارے دور میں 29 ارب ڈالر کے منصوبے مکمل ہوئے یا ان پر کام ہو رہا تھا، دوسرے مرحلے میں صنعتی تعاون کرنا تھا، مگر پی ٹی آئی کے دور میں ایک بھی صنعتی زون نہ بن سکا۔ 140 ارب ڈالر تک پاکستان میں آسکتے تھے، ہم نے دوبارہ اس جانب توجہ دینا شروع کی ہے۔ آئندہ نئے چین جا رہا ہوں آزاد پتہ اور کوالہ پراجیکٹ پر بات ہوگی، گوادر کی بندرگاہ کو گہرا کرنے کے منصوبے پر عمل کیا جا رہا ہے یہ کام مکمل ہوتے ہی بڑے بحری جہاز بندرگاہ تک آنا شروع ہو جائیں گے۔ ایک سوال کے جواب میں انہوں نے بتایا چین کے ساتھ نئے منصوبے چینی کرنسی کے تحت مکمل ہی کر رہے ہیں ان میں ریلوے کا ایم ایل این کا منصوبہ بھی شامل ہے۔

وفاقی وزیر منصوبہ بندی پروفیسر احسن اقبال نوائے وقت کی ساگرہ کایک کاٹ رہے ہیں۔۔۔ آڈیٹر نیشن سلمان مسعود، ریڈیڈنٹ ایڈیٹر نوائے وقت اسلام آباد شہزاد انور فاروقی، عزت جعفری۔ چودھری شاہد اجمل بھی موجود ہیں۔

وفاقی وزیر احسن اقبال اسلام آباد نوائے وقت آمد کے موقع پر ان کا خیر مقدم کیا جا رہا ہے: Com: itratjafri17@gmail [4:29 pm, 25/03/2023]

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/lahore/2023-03-27/page-9/detail-1>

**March 28, 2023**

**Daily Times**

### **Gwadar Port handles 200,000 MTs wheat in last 25 days**

Despite many challenges, Gwadar port with fast-track processing has handled 200,000 metric tons of wheat import from Russia over the last 25 days, said a COPHC official. The rest of the wheat, he said, to be administered at Gwadar Port is around 250000 MTs, China Economic Net (CEN) reported. The official said that four vessels that include MV Lila Chennai, MV Rich, MV Veruda and MV Dorado out of a total of nine vessels bringing wheat to Gwadar port have arrived so far. Gwadar port witnessed zero handling loss for the discharge and dispatch of wheat since March 2 when the first ship was anchored.? All loading, offloading and transportation, he mentioned, have been handled and administered with precision. Eastbay Expressway which exclusively connects Gwadar Port with Makran Coastal Highway bypassing city roads is the sole route being used for the movement of wheat-loaded trucks. Previously the trucks used to squeeze through congested city roads of Gwadar not only used to add extra load on local city arteries but also used to impair the flow of movement of trucks, Haji Razzaq, a transporter said. Gwadar Port connectivity with Eastbay Express has smoothed the activity, he added. China Overseas Ports Holding

Company, Trading Corporation of Pakistan, Pakistan Agricultural Storage and Services Corporation Limited, Pakistan Customs and National Logistics Cell, Gwadar Free Zone and GITL are working in cohesion to keep all work spot-on. The Ministry of National Food Security and Research official told Gwadar Pro that for lifting the assigned quantity of million metric tons of wheat under G2G arrangements from Gwadar Port, NLC has been transporting wheat through the shortest and most feasible route to PASSCO storage centres. Passco storages are located in 13 Zones and 16 Districts of the country. Its storage capacity comprises 29 silos (Storage Tower) and 335 godowns having a covered storage capacity of 572,482 MTs. The remaining stock is being stored in open Gunjees in scientific ways and procedures. Ministry of National Food Security and Research official said that ECC in its meeting held on July 28, 2022, allowed the import of wheat through the Trading Corporation of Pakistan (TCP) and directed MNFS&R to submit a logistic plan of Passco for transportation of imported wheat for consideration of ECC. Gwadar Port is processing the import of Russian wheat under an official agreement inked between the Trading Corporation of Pakistan (TCP) and Gwadar International Terminal Limited (GITL). Gwadar International Terminals Limited official said that as Gwadar port handled 200000 MTs of what successfully, processing of the rest of the 250000 MTs wheat will be administered accordingly. He dubbed the import of wheat using Gwadar port a new milestone, saying wheat import will spur up trade activities in Gwadar. It will also boost employability as when bustling activities get underway, skilled, semi-skilled and unskilled man forces are required to handle the entire scale of work, he added. On the question of how Gwadar port surpassed other ports in Pakistan in handling and processing wheat consignments, All Gwadar Shipping Clearing Agents Association (AGSCAA) members said that the facts are that the Gwadar Port is more economical than any other port like KPT and Qasim Ports. Both the said ports are always congested and ships go to demurrage and the storage charges of KPT and Qasim Ports are very high.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1078117/gwadar-port-handles-200000-mts-wheat-in-last-25-days/>

### **Spring sowing of Sino maize-soybean intercropping tech completed**

The spring sowing of maize-soybean strip intercropping technology, a high-yielding solution from China and optimized based on Pakistan's local conditions by young Pakistani scientists, is just completed in Pakistan, Gwadar Pro reported on Monday.

According to the National Research Center of Intercropping (NRCI), the Islamia University of Bahawalpur (IUB), the total area under cultivation with this technology this season is more than 1,100 acres across the country. The Chinese maize-soybean strip intercropping technology was introduced to Pakistan in 2018 by Dr. Muhammad Ali Raza, a post-doc who graduated from Sichuan Agricultural University (SAU), China and now acts as the Director of NRCI.

Compared with the 400-acre land in 2022 spring, the demonstration area this season is increased by 175% year-on-year, a giant leap indeed. "This year, we have arranged demonstrations in three provinces i.e. Punjab, Sindh, and KPK, and the total number of demonstrations arranged by NRCI is 71," Dr. Muhammad Ali Raza told Gwadar Pro. More specifically, in Punjab, maize-soybean strip intercropping trials are being carried out at 50

different locations, including Khairpur Tammewali, Bahawalpur, Pakpattan, Vehari, Gojra, Sheikhpura, Layyah, Loudhran, etc. In Sindh, they have arranged 15 demonstrations trials at Badin, Hyderabad, Tandojam, Jam Shoro, etc. In KPK, 6 demonstrations have been arranged at Charsada, Swabi, and Mardan.

Remarkably, it's learned that over 600 Pakistani farmers have contacted the scientists of NRCI through phone/online to inquire about the possibilities of using maize-soybean strip intercropping technology on their own land. "These trials will play a significant role in raising awareness of this intercropping system as well as its benefits among farmers and policymakers," Dr. Muhammad Ali Raza said. Besides maize and soybean, various kinds of crops such as wheat, sugarcane, rapeseed, clover and chickpea are also being included in the intercropping research under NRCI, which shows the local scientists' ambition to improve crop yields and soil productivity in Pakistan.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1078095/spring-sowing-of-sino-maize-soybean-intercropping-tech-completed/>

### The Nation

#### **Pakistan, China high level visits to pick up this year**

*SHAFQAT ALI*

ISLAMABAD - High-level exchange of visits between Pakistan and China will pick up this year as the two countries come out of the Covid restrictions.

Senior Pakistani diplomats told The Nation that the visits of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari and other cabinet members are expected this year before the general elections, expected in October. "The PM and the FM are eager to visit Beijing before going into the elections. The options are being considered through the diplomatic channels," said one diplomat. Planning Minister Ahsan Iqbal is already scheduled to visit China this week for discussions on the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor and other bilateral matters.

Another diplomat said Pakistan also expects high-level visits from China during the next few months. Last week, cash strapped Pakistan received a rollover of \$2 billion in deposits for a pe-riod of one year from China to help Islamabad get a much required bailout from the International Monetary Fund to stabilise its economy.

The rollover, which basically is not a loan but a financial deposit to be kept at Pakistan's central bank for a period of one year, is one of the requirements of the IMF in meeting its external financ-ing needs in order to move towards inking the staff-level agreement.

Pakistan and the IMF have been negotiating the release of a \$1.1 billion loan since February but so far without any success due to the tough conditions by the donor which Pakistan is slow to fulfill. Pakistan is scrambling to increase its forex re-serves which are estimated to be at \$4.8 billion after China refinanced \$500 million last week. Earlier, a Chinese bank provided \$700 million to Pakistan. Despite a slight improvement in the reserves, the situation is still grim as the country needs to pay \$7 billion till June this year, making further

borrowing necessary. The total Chinese SAFE deposits stand at \$4 billion and the remaining maturity would become due in a few months. China's support has been critical as it has already provided financial support in this critical hour to help Pakistan avoid the default. This month, Foreign Secretary Dr Asad Majeed Khan visited China from March 16-18. He called on China's State Councillor and Foreign Minister Qin Gang and held meetings with Vice Foreign Minister Sun Weidong and with Chairman CIDCA Lou Zhaohui. On the 18 March, Dr Asad Majeed Khan and Vice Foreign Minister Sun Weidong co-chaired the Third Round of Pakistan-China Bilateral Political Consultations (BPC).

<https://www.nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2023-03-28/page-1/detail-3>

**March 29, 2023**

**Business Recorder**

### **China has spent \$240bn bailing out 'Belt and Road' countries?**

JOHANNESBURG: China spent \$240 billion bailing out 22 developing countries between 2008 and 2021, with the amount soaring in recent years as more have struggled to repay loans spent building "Belt and Road" infrastructure, a study published on Tuesday showed. Almost 80% of the lending was made between 2016 and 2021, mainly to middle-income countries including Argentina, Mongolia and Pakistan, according to the report by researchers from the World Bank, Harvard Kennedy School, AidData and the Kiel Institute for the World Economy.

China has lent hundreds of billions of dollars to build infrastructure in developing countries, but lending has tailed off since 2016 as many projects have failed to pay the expected financial dividends.

"Beijing is ultimately trying to rescue its own banks. That's why it has gotten into the risky business of international bailout lending," said Carmen Reinhart, a former World Bank chief economist and one of the study's authors.

Chinese loans to countries in debt distress soared from less than 5% of its overseas lending portfolio in 2010 to 60% in 2022, the study found. Argentina received the most, with \$111.8 billion, followed by Pakistan with \$48.5 billion and Egypt with \$15.6 billion. Nine countries received less than \$1 billion.

The People's Bank of China's (PBOC) swap lines accounted for \$170 billion of the financing, including in Suriname, Sri Lanka and Egypt. Bridge loans or balance of payments support by Chinese state-owned banks and companies was \$70 billion. Rollovers of both kinds of loans were \$140 billion.

The study was critical of some central banks potentially using the PBOC swap lines to artificially pump up their foreign exchange reserve figures.

China's rescue lending is "opaque and uncoordinated," said Brad Parks, one of the report's authors, and director of AidData, a research lab at The College of William & Mary in the United States.

China's government hit back at the criticism, saying its overseas investments operated on "the principle of openness and transparency".

"China acts in accordance with market laws and international rules, respects the will of relevant countries, has never forced any party to borrow money, has never forced any country to pay, will not attach any political conditions to loan agreements, and does not seek any political self-interest," foreign ministry spokesperson Mao Ning said at a news conference on Tuesday. —Reuters

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2023/03/29/1-page/958542-news.html>

### **Gwadar needs attention**

The port city of Gwadar remains tense following crackdown on the Haq Do Tehreek (HDT — give rights movement) led by Jamaat-e-Islami's Maulana Hidayatur Rehman, who was arrested in January. Following the lifting of Section 144 last week, hundreds of women, many clad in burqas, staged demonstrations led by a HDT leader Husain Wadela and Senator Mushtaq Ahmed to press for the release of the Maulana. The movement started in September 2021, organised several sit-ins and protest demonstrations, gaining massive public support for raising demands that affect the lives of local people, such as an end to illegal fishing — by Sindh's trawlers and foreign trawlers — removal of unnecessary security check posts, supply of clean drinking water, and opening of trade route to Iran. All these issues are justified except, perhaps, the last one related as it is to wider security/diplomatic matters.

Last December when the situation became unmanageable, Balochistan Home Minister Ziaullah Longove and Adviser to the CM Lala Rasheed arrived in Gwadar and met with the HDT's second tier leaders. Officials later said that considerable progress had been made to address the protesters' demands, claiming that eight trawlers were confiscated by the Fisheries Department while the police, and that the Pakistan Maritime Security Agency and Coast Guards would carry out joint patrolling to curb illegal trawling. The fee for boat registration and licensing was also reduced. It is not known if any headway was made on the other demands. Maulana Rehman, however, contended that the government had failed to keep its promises, and that his movement was left with no option but to restart protests. Things took an ugly turn when the police tried to break up a protest rally. In the ensuing violence a constable died from a gunshot. The Maulana along with three other persons was booked for the murder, and apprehended when he appeared before a court to seek interim bail. That prompted the Balochistan Bar Council to issue a statement condemning the arrest without waiting for the court ruling; it also gave a different version of the unfortunate incident. The HDT leader may or may not be responsible for the tragic loss of life. That needed to be determined via due process. He has since been booked in 17 more cases.

It is worth noting that when the trouble was at its peak the Quetta Corps Commander, Lt-Gen Asif Ghafoor, visited Gwadar and after meetings with political leaders and administrative officials he had acknowledged that the HDT's demands were genuine, adding though that "this was not the way" to make demands. The people, of course, have the right to express their disaffection through protests, which tend to become 'this way' when instead of facilitating that right force is employed to suppress them. Reckless resort to force by the State



has consequences as seen not only in Gwadar, the centrepiece of the China Pakistan Economic Corridor, but all over that restive province.

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2023/03/29/6-page/958496-news.html>

### Daily Times

#### **China hails PM's remarks on Thar coal power project**

A Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Tuesday appreciated Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's remarks on the Thar Coal Block-I Coal Electricity Integration project and said, "Just as the prime minister has stated, the project will turn the region of sand dunes into a source of power."

"China appreciates Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's statement. Just as the prime minister has said, Thar Coal Block-I electricity integration project will turn the region of sand dunes to a source of power," Mao Ning said during her regular briefing in response to a question asked by APP. On March 23, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif formally inaugurated the Thar Coal Block-I Coal Electricity Integration project, an energy cooperation project under the framework of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). Addressing the inauguration ceremony, Shehbaz Sharif said that it was a moment of great delight for the whole of Pakistan. "This was a desert region with the sand dunes only. Now it has been transformed and industrialized. This great project would provide a lot of boost to Pakistan's economy in the years to come," the PM added.

The spokesperson said the project would transmit electricity across Pakistan and serve the interest of local economy and people's livelihood. "The project epitomizes the CPEC as a pilot project of Belt and Road cooperation."

Mao Ning remarked that CPEC had been in steady progress with fruitful outcomes in energy cooperation, and many job opportunities locally, providing a positive contribution to improving the energy structure and improving energy security in Pakistan. "China is ready to work with Pakistan to act on the consensus between the two leaders, promote high quality development of CPEC, inject impetus to sustainable socio-economic development and contribute to the well-being of the two countries and to peoples," she added.

The plant, which was officially put into commercial operation in early February, has two 660-megawatt high-parameter coal-fired generating units, supported by an annual output of 7.8 million tons of lignite open-pit coal mine. It is capable of meeting the electricity demand of four million households in Pakistan. The Thar Coal Block-I is likely to help Pakistan in reducing fuel imports, saving foreign exchange reserves, optimizing power supply structure and enhancing energy security.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1078276/china-hails-pms-remarks-on-thar-coal-power-project/>

#### **China-led AIIB to support Pakistan and other most vulnerable countries**

"While liquidity continues to tighten, we need to help those countries that are insolvent. The Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) stands ready to support the world's most



vulnerable countries, and we have increased our multilateral assistance to countries including Pakistan.

In addition, we are considering post-earthquake support for Turkey,” said AIIB President Jin Liqun, according to a report published by China Economic Net (CEN) on Tuesday.

During the China Development Forum 2023, Jin said that the international community is confronted with multiple risks and challenges. Prolonged high inflation, tight Labour markets and spillover effects from high commodity prices are likely to keep central banks tightening monetary policy all over the world.

“At the same time, supportive policies during the pandemic have led to higher government debt, with bond yields rising and bond prices falling globally,” said Jin.

Risks to financial stability have increased. At a time of higher debt levels, the situation may be even more troubling for some developing countries and low-income countries with high levels of debt, said Jin, adding that risks also exist in the banking sector in some advanced economies. For those developing countries, higher uncertainty means a change in investors’ risk tolerance. Jin believes that amid such pessimism, more investment is needed, especially in infrastructure. The development bank will continue to firmly support developing economies in building the conditions for long-term economic growth, Jin said. At present, we need to reform the governance system so that developing countries can get more involved and reach more consensus under the multilateral framework, Jin added.

Touching on the Chinese economy, Jin and some other participants expressed their optimism, saying that its 5% GDP growth target will be achieved in a quality manner and China will a role of stabilizer for the world economy in the face of downward pressures and uncertainties. Moreover, the huge potential and sound development of the Chinese economy will provide broad cooperation space and development opportunities for domestic and foreign investors, Jin said.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1078381/china-led-aiib-to-support-pakistan-and-other-most-vulnerable-countries/>

### **The Nation**

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

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

Total exports to the US during July-February (2022-23) were recorded at \$4044.494 million against the exports of \$4410.227 million during July-February (2021-22), showing a decline of 8.29 percent, according to the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP). This was followed by China, wherein Pakistan exported goods worth \$1334.747 million against the exports of \$1841.168 million last year, showing a decrease of 27.50 percent.

UK was the third top export destination, where Pakistan exported goods worth \$1329.832 million during the months under review against the exports of \$1472.927 million during last

year, showing a decline of 9.71 percent, SBP data revealed. Among other countries, Pakistani exports to Germany stood at \$1141.651 million against \$1132.029 million last year, showing an increase of 0.84 percent while the exports to UAE were recorded at \$945.023 million against \$1180.589 million last year. During July-February (2022-23), the exports to Holland were recorded at \$982.076 million against \$923.911 million whereas the exports to Afghanistan stood at \$346.522 million against \$296.109 million.

Pakistan's exports to Italy were recorded at \$759.390 million against the exports of \$831.691 million while the exports to Spain were recorded at \$922.379 million against \$699.382 million last year. Whereas, the exports to Bangladesh stood at \$525.017 million against \$559.135 million. Similarly, the exports to France during the months under review were recorded at \$393.592 million against \$334.009 million while the exports to Saudi Arabia stood at \$300.613 million against \$260.260 million. Pakistan's exports to Turkiye were recorded at \$207.245 million during the current year compared to \$206.538 million last year whereas the exports to Canada stood at \$315.120 million against \$255.460 million, and Australia stood at \$202.538 million during the current year against US\$ 181.102 million during last year.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2023-03-29/page-9/detail-6>

### **Express News**

#### **چین کا سی پیک اور اقتصادی ترقی کیلئے پاکستان کیساتھ مل کر کام کرنے کا عزم**

چین نے کہا ہے کہ اقتصادی راہداری کی اعلیٰ معیار کی تعمیر و ترقی اور پائیدار سماجی اقتصادی ترقی کے لیے پاکستان کے ساتھ کام کرنے کو تیار ہیں۔ بیجنگ عالمی خبر رساں ادارے کے مطابق چینی دارالحکومت بیجنگ میں معمول کی بریفنگ کے دوران وزارت خارجہ کی ترجمان ماؤنگ نے تھرکول پروجیکٹ کو سراہتے ہوئے کہا کہ اس سے پاکستان میں بجلی کے بحران میں کمی واقع ہوگی۔ ایک سوال کے جواب میں چین کے ترجمان نے مزید کہا کہ سی پیک پر تیزی سے پیش رفت جاری ہے۔ پاکستان کے ساتھ مل کر سی پیک اور اقتصادی ترقی کے لیے کام کرنا چاہتے ہیں۔

ترجمان ماؤنگ نے یہ بھی کہا کہ اس حوالے سے دونوں ممالک اتحاد و اتفاق سے آگے بڑھ رہے ہیں جس کے مثبت نتائج اقتصادی ترقی اور توانائی کے شعبے میں بہتری صورت میں نظر آئیں گے۔ چین کی وزارت خارجہ کی ترجمان ماؤنگ نے مزید کہا کہ سی پیک اور تھرکول پروجیکٹ سے ملکی معیشت کو ترقی ملے گی، لوگوں کو روزگار حاصل ہو گا اور خوش حالی آئے گی

<https://www.express.pk/story/2462138/10/>

### **March 30, 2023**

#### **Business Recorder**

#### **Dhabeji SEZ to get 250MW of power by June next year, NA panel told**

*WASIM IQBAL*

ISLAMABAD: Dhabeji Special Economic Zone (DSEZ) will be supplied 250 MW of power by June 2024 with a delay of five years, a parliamentary panel was informed on Wednesday. The Public Accounts Committee (PAC) met on Wednesday which examined the audit report of the Ministry of Energy (Power Division) for the year 2021-22.

Member Committee Mushahid Hussain said the DSEZ came under China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and initiated five years back and asked the reason for the delay in supplying electricity. The 1,530 acres of land has been allocated to establish DSEZ in Thatta. Development of DSEZ is planned in three phases. Dhabeji Industrial Zone has been proposed to be constructed in 2 phases comprising 750 acres for Phase I and 780 acres for Phase II. Secretary Power Rashid Mahmood Langrial informed the committee that the task of the supply electricity was initially awarded to K-Electric and then asked Energy Division to carry out the task in 2020. The main reason for the delay was due to acquiring land for the installation of the grid and 104 km transmission lines. In the development expenditure of the Power Division for 2020-21, a grant of Rs 958 million was remained unutilised and not surrendered to the Finance Division in the given time frame. The secretary said the grant was surrendered on May 28, 2021, but Finance Division raised the objection and could not surrender in time. The chairman committee observed that the committee played a role in expediting the process of supply of electricity to the SEZ by engaging Sindh government and other stakeholders in acquiring land but still it could not be completed which resulted in escalating the cost of the project.

The committee also expressed its serious concern over around Rs 9 billion spending on free electricity annually to officers and lower staff of the Wapda and Discos when addition in circular debt in the current fiscal year will reach approximately Rs 590 billion. The secretary power said that a summary to discontinue the free electricity units to employees of the energy sector in the light of recommendations of the PAC was declined by the federal cabinet. Even the austerity committee endorsed the proposal and suggested for monetization of the free electricity units' facility to officers.

The chairman committee directed the PAC secretariat to write a letter to the prime minister and to recommend him to not allow grade-16 and above officials to use free-of-cost electricity.

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2023/03/30/2-page/958643-news.html>

## Daily Times

### **President Xi in Moscow: View from Pakistan**

*Muhammad Asif Noor*

The recent visit of Chinese President Xi Jinping to Moscow, marking the first high-level engagement after the COVID-19 pandemic and one year of conflict in Ukraine, has attracted significant attention from across the globe, including Pakistan. President Xi presented a proposal to act as a mediator in the ongoing conflict between Russia and Ukraine, which received a positive response from his Russian counterpart, President Vladimir Putin. This move towards peace mediation is a significant development and highlights China's growing role in shaping international affairs. Additionally, discussions were held on other areas of cooperation, including reforming the international political and economic system, regional peace, and security. Given China's emerging leadership in the region and as an "All Weather Strategic Partner," Pakistan is putting high hopes on China and the way the country has emerged as a global peace builder.

The geopolitical landscape of the world is complex and dynamic, with multiple actors competing for influence and power. The meeting between President Putin and President Xi occurred in a challenging environment, with the ongoing conflict in Ukraine and Western-sponsored escalation further complicating matters. However, the leaders' decision to engage in candid discussions on various matters of mutual interest, such as energy, trade, international law, and global governance, indicates a growing recognition of the importance of dialogue and diplomacy in resolving complex global challenges. This meeting highlights the emergence of a strategic partnership between China and Russia, which could have significant implications for the international system's balance of power.

The recent diplomatic progress between Saudi Arabia and Iran, after years of strained relations, has raised hopes for peace and stability in the region.

This was President Xi Jinping's first visit to Russia since assuming office as the President of the People's Republic of China. It was a continuation of President Xi's outstanding diplomatic efforts at the regional and global levels, which have been widely acknowledged. Additionally, President Xi's decision after successfully mediating between the regional rivals of Saudi Arabia and Iran underscores the importance that China places on its strategic partnership with Russia. The recent diplomatic progress between Saudi Arabia and Iran, after years of strained relations, has raised hopes for peace and stability in the region.

The visit was primarily aimed at exploring ways to create conditions for peace in the region and to strengthen bilateral ties between the two countries. Discussions were held on how to address global threats and deal with the aggressive behaviour of some powers. Both China and Russia agreed to work together on various fronts, including offering trade in each other's currencies. If successful, this move could challenge the dominance of the Western world, particularly the US dollar, in the global economic order.

President Xi's deep personal ties with President Putin have also been a key factor in the growing strategic partnership between China and Russia. He is expected to use his influence to engage in dialogue with the President of Ukraine to de-escalate the tension in the region, which could bolster China's image as a global power committed to building communities and promoting peace, rather than imposing its ideologies on others.

Pakistan's decision to remain neutral in the ongoing conflict between Russia and Ukraine is understandable given its own experience with long-standing conflicts and their repercussions, particularly in the aftermath of the Soviet era and the US-led Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan. Past wars have resulted in significant destabilization and resentment, both regionally and globally. China and Russia are important partners for Pakistan, with China being a longstanding strategic ally and sharing numerous global and regional interests. The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), which is a crucial component of China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), reflects China's commitment to supporting Pakistan's economic growth. Russia, on the other hand, shares a history of diplomatic ties with Pakistan and is an important partner in energy cooperation and economic relations. The evolving dynamics between China, Russia, and Pakistan, therefore, have important implications for regional and global politics, and it is essential for all stakeholders to carefully evaluate their interests and act accordingly.

Pakistan's geopolitical positioning in the Asia-Pacific region and its relationship with China and Russia are becoming increasingly important in shaping the country's foreign policy. The recent peace deal between Saudi Arabia and Iran highlights the potential benefits of aligning with the forces of development, peace and prosperity in the region. As energy-rich countries, Russia, Iran and Saudi Arabia offer a valuable source of hydrocarbons for Pakistan to meet its energy needs. Moreover, China's leadership in promoting democratic transformation in global governance offers smaller countries like Pakistan a more effective platform to achieve their foreign policy goals. In the face of politically motivated sanctions such as those imposed by the FATF, Pakistan's decision to align itself with these forces of positive change is crucial in determining its future direction. As such, it would be wise for Pakistan to closely observe developments in the region and position itself strategically for long-term success.

The writer is Founder (Friends of BRI Forum).

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1078728/president-xi-in-moscow-view-from-pakistan/>

### **Pakistan T-shirt exports to China increase in Jan-Feb 2023**

Pakistan's T-shirt export industry has been experiencing enrichment in recent years. In the first two months of 2023, the Pakistani T-shirt market increased by more than 100%, growing for the second year in a row, said Ghulam Qadir, Commercial Counsellor at the Pakistan Embassy in Beijing. He said that Pakistan's T-shirt exports to China reached USD 5.53 million in the first two months of 2023, up by 106% compared to the same period in 2022. Despite the flood which affected cotton crops, Pakistan continues to be a significant player in the global T-shirt export industry, China Economic Net (CEN) reported on Wednesday. Ghulam Qadir said that last year, in the first two months, Pakistan exported \$2.68 million worth of t-shirts to China, whereas the whole year of 2022 Pakistan's T-shirt exports to China were USD 19.6 million. "Pakistan's T-shirt export industry has several major markets, including the United States, France, and China," he added.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1078745/pakistan-t-shirt-exports-to-china-increase-in-jan-feb-2023/>

### **China provides first-class platform for Pakistani furniture enterprises**

China will keep providing first-class platform for Pakistani furniture enterprises, Gwadar Pro reported on Wednesday.

China's furniture industry integrates R & D, design, manufacturing, marketing and service, with modernization and scale. Large-scale industry exhibitions in China provide an advanced learning platform for Pakistani enterprises, said Ali Ansar Ghumman, ex-chairman of All Pakistan Furniture Maker Association (APFMA) and associate member of board of directors, Council of Asia Pacific Furniture Association (China). In the recently held 51st China International Furniture Fair (Guangzhou), Ali Ansar Ghumman won the international furniture leadership award for outstanding young leader 2021-2022.

He appreciated the organizer for recognizing his efforts to promote furniture trade cooperation between China and Pakistan over the past decade, which also reflected the organizer's concern for the development of furniture in Pakistan .



As a giant manufacturing hub, the Chinese furniture industry has a pivotal role in the global supply chain. Ali underscored that in recent years, high-tech elements, environmental protection and health concepts have also been injected into the production of Chinese furniture products. Brands focused on the smart and functional home furnishings scene have sprung up at the show.

The main products of Pakistani exhibitors at the CIFF were handmade furniture. Pakistan has a very long history and exquisite craftsmanship in this field. In the sub-sector, handmade furniture prices remain high.

Pakistani furniture can penetrate the international market in this way. He is also exploring the prospect of working with Chinese companies in this regard.

Exports are particularly important in the current economic challenges facing Pakistan and the furniture sector has shown great potential and resilience at this stage. Pakistan exported furniture worth USD 9.413 million during July-February (2022-23) against the exports of USD 6.147 million during July-Feb (2021-22), showing a surge of 53.14 percent, according to Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS).

The total quantity of its exports reached 793 pieces, up 11.73 percent over the same period last year.

Ali Ansar Ghumman pointed out in a recent interview with Gwadar Pro that the surge in exports showed the recovery of the global industry in the wake of the pandemic. Pakistan has the raw materials, equipment and manpower for local furniture production, and the supply chain is improving after years of development.

Ali added that Pakistan's furniture industry would also pay more attention to product quality, design, material selection and promote the spirit of craftsmanship.

"I am planning to organize member enterprises to participate in various exhibitions in China this year to display furniture and handicrafts with Pakistani characteristics, so as to attract friends from China and Asian countries to invest in Pakistan," he added.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1078758/china-provides-first-class-platform-for-pakistani-furniture-enterprises/>

### **Dawn News**

#### **'CPEC to change destiny of Pakistan'**

TOBA TEK SINGH: On Wednesday, a seminar on the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) was held at the Government College University in Faisalabad to educate students on the CPEC initiatives.

The economic, social, and cultural dimensions of the CPEC were addressed by chief guest Dr Azim Sardar, a resource person from the Punjab Urban Unit Planning and Development Board.

He claims that the initiative will alter Pakistan's fate. Instead of focusing on political and regional divisions, the project should be executed in a patriotic spirit.



The Orange Train, highways, the GT Road, and the Quaid-i-Azam and Allama Iqbal Industrial Estates were also built as part of this project. He said that the corridor fostered agricultural innovation through training seminars.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1744857>

### **Dunya News**

#### **Pakistan awaits China's decision on rollover of \$2bn loan: govt official**

KARACHI (Reuters) - China is working on a request from cash-strapped Pakistan to roll over a \$2-billion loan that matured last week, a top finance ministry official told Reuters, amid a stalemate in bailout talks with the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

Such a rollover is critical for Pakistan, where foreign exchange reserves have dipped to just four weeks' worth of imports, at a time when it is seeking an IMF bailout tranche of \$1.1 billion.

"It is a work in progress," the official said in a text message on Wednesday, referring to the rollover of the Chinese loan, which matured on March 23. "Formal documentation is underway."

A formal announcement will be made, added the source, who spoke on condition of anonymity, without giving further details.

China's finance ministry and its central bank, the People's Bank of China, did not respond immediately to a Reuters request for comment on the matter.

As Pakistan struggles to avoid defaulting on its obligations, the only help so far has come from longtime ally Beijing, through a refinancing of \$1.8 billion already credited to Pakistan's central bank.

The IMF funding is critical for Pakistan to unlock other external financing avenues, and the two have been negotiating since early February to resume \$1.1 billion in funding held since November, part of a \$6.5 billion bailout agreed in 2019.

One of the lender's last remaining conditions for release of the tranche is securing an assurance on external financing to fund Pakistan's balance of payments.

[https://dunyanews.tv/en/Business/711340-Pakistan-awaits-China/'s-decision-on-rollover-of-\\$2bn-loan:-govt-official](https://dunyanews.tv/en/Business/711340-Pakistan-awaits-China/'s-decision-on-rollover-of-$2bn-loan:-govt-official)

### **Pakistan Observer**

#### **Pakistani adventures book published in Chinese language**

The Chinese version of Travels in a Dervish Cloak has been published recently by the Commercial Press.

Travels in a Dervish Cloak is a memoir of Isambard Wilkinson, a foreign correspondent who took several journeys to the heart of Pakistan. It reveals real life in Pakistan with the highs and lows of the author who loves this country with all its flaws and splendor, China Economic Net (CEN) reported on Wednesday.

According to Luo Xin, chief editor of the Chinese version, the book includes Wilkinson's travels in Pakistan between 2006 and 2009. It is both a classic travelogue and a travel guide, illuminating aspects of Pakistan that do not generally get media coverage.

The main purpose of his adventurous travels across Pakistan is not to explore the current political disputes, but to seek out the vanishing ancient traditions, the holy places, the saints, and the tenacious local claims. In the midst of turbulence, he tries to glimpse the light of the past and the possibilities of the future.

<https://pakobserver.net/pakistani-adventures-book-published-in-chinese-language/>

## The Nation

### **Gwadar student participates in UN 2023 Water Conference**

Islamabad - Director General Gwadar Development Authority (GDA) Mujeeb-ur-Rehman Qambarani hailed Miss Bahar Tahira Khalil, a young leader from Gwadar for representing Balochistan at "The UN 2023 water Conference," which was held on 22-24 March in New York. Miss Bahar Khalil, who is a medical student in China, represented Gwadar and Balochistan province as a young leader. GDA provided financial assistance to the young leader to participate in the conference. "GDA is proud to encourage young lady ambassador Miss Bahar Tahira Khalil from Gwadar to represent Balochistan and Gwadar in International United Nations Conference on Water," Qambarani wrote on his official Twitter account, according to Gwadar Pro.

The UN 2023 Water Conference concluded with a breakthrough response to the global water crises and to advance the water agenda, a deal maker for accelerating sustainable development overall. Miss Bahar Tahira Khalil was one of some 10,000 participants who gathered at UN Headquarters and online to urgently scale up action to address the water crisis and ensure equitable access to water for all.

The shortage of drinking water has always remained a problem in Gwadar and other adjoining areas of the province. However, since the inception of the China-Pakistan economic Corridor (CPEC), special attention has been given to addressing the drinking water issue in Gwadar. Various projects under CPEC are being executed to resolve the water issue. A 1.2 MGD seawater desalination plant is near its completion. The plant is a grant from the Government of China for the people of Gwadar.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2023-03-30/page-4/detail-6>

## Nawaiwaqt News

### **پاکستان سے ملکر سی پیک، اقتصادی ترقی کیلئے کام کرنے پر تیار: چین**

بیجنگ (نیٹ نیوز) چین نے کہا ہے کہ اقتصادی راہداری کی اعلیٰ معیار کی تعمیر و ترقی اور پائیدار سماجی اقتصادی ترقی کے لیے پاکستان کے ساتھ کام کرنے کو تیار ہیں۔ بیجنگ میں معمول کی بریفنگ کے دوران وزارت خارجہ کی ترجمان ماہنگ نے تھرکول پروجیکٹ کو سراہتے ہوئے کہا کہ اس سے پاکستان میں بجلی کے بحران میں کمی واقع ہوگی۔ ترجمان نے مزید کہا کہ سی پیک پر تیزی سے پیش رفت جاری ہے۔ پاکستان کے ساتھ مل کر سی پیک اور اقتصادی ترقی کے لیے کام کرنا چاہتے ہیں۔ اس حوالے سے دونوں

ملک اتحاد و اتفاق سے آگے بڑھ رہے ہیں جس کے مثبت نتائج اقتصادی ترقی اور توانائی کے شعبے میں بہتری کی صورت میں نظر آئیں گے۔ سی پیک اور تھر کول پروجیکٹ سے ملکی معیشت کو ترقی ملے گی، لوگوں کو روزگار حاصل ہوگا اور خوش حالی آئے گی۔

[nawaiwaqt.com.pk](http://nawaiwaqt.com.pk) (پاکستان سے ملکر سی پیک اقتصادی ترقی کیلئے کام کرنے پر تیار: چین)

## **March 31, 2023**

### **Daily Times**

#### **China-Pakistan border to reopen on April 1**

The Khunjerab Pass, a key border crossing between Pakistan and China, is to reopen for trade activities on April 1, Gawadar Pro reported on Thursday quoting an official notification. The pass was closed in an attempt to contain the spread of coronavirus transmission between the two countries. Authorities in Gilgit-Baltistan (G-B) had stopped two shipping containers carrying goods from entering Pakistan through Khunjerab Pass in January 2020 while requesting the federal government to delay the reopening of the border crossing for trade as a precautionary measure. However, with the recent decline in positivity rates, relevant authorities are presently making efforts to green-light customs clearance, hoping to drive up cross-border trade and business in the post-COVID-19 era. Notably, Khunjerab Port is the only land port linking Pakistan and China and a strategic point on the Karakoram Highway, linking G-B, Pakistan and Xinjiang Uigur Autonomous Region, China.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1078910/china-pakistan-border-to-reopen-on-april-1/>

### **Pakistan Observer**

#### **MoU signed to promote Chinese language teaching**

A MoU signed here on Thursday to promote Chinese language teaching in Pakistan. Signing ceremony was held between Baluchistan Government and Taaleem Foundation at Baluchistan House Islamabad. Mr. Abdul Aziz Uqaili Chief Secretary Baluchistan was also present on the occasion. Through this MOU the Kharan Institute the B-TEVTA institute is handed over to Taaleem Foundation through public private partnership. This project is jointly developed by Tang Pakistan and Taaleem foundation through months of efforts where the Tang's advanced Technical Courses and Chinese language programs will be taught in the remote areas of Baluchistan.

This ceremony was headed by Mr. Uqaili Baluchistan Government Chief Secretary, Mr. Tariq Qamar Baluchistan Secretary Labor and Manpower, Dr. Zafar Qadir, Chairman 'Taaleem Foundation' High-level Delegations of World Bank, European Union and others.

<https://pakobserver.net/mou-signed-to-promote-chinese-language-teaching/>

## The Nation

### **China to help promote cloudbased early warning system in Pakistan**

ISLAMABAD - “We look forward to promoting the construction of cloud-based early warning supporting system with Pakistan,” said Zhang Zuqiang, Deputy Administrator of China Meteorological Administration (CMA), while talking to China Economic Net (CEN).

Meteorological officers and experts from China and Pakistan held talks on deepening cooperation in meteorological science and technology in Beijing on March 24. Both sides reviewed the cooperation in the field of meteorological science and technology, and consulted on topics like early warning supporting system, operational capacity building, and training.

“Pakistan will continue to support CMA in international meteorological governance,” Mahr Sahibzad Khan, Director General of Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD) and permanent representative of Pakistan with the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO), pinpointed, adding that Pakistan was grateful for CMA’s technical support when Pakistan was hit by severe floods last year. Mahr Sahibzad Khan and the Pakistani delegation also visited relevant agencies under CMA to learn about the progress of the cloudbased early warning support system in Pakistan and discussed customized plans for Pakistan.

“PMD and CMA will strengthen cooperation in monitoring, forecasting, hydrology and communication, and research & training,” he said. China and Pakistan are important members of WMO Regional Association II. Bilateral cooperation between the two countries is of vital significance for meteorological development in Asia.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2023-03-31/page-10/detail-0>

## The News

### **Pakistan awaits China’s decision on rollover of \$2bn loan**

KARACHI: China is working on a request from cash-strapped Pakistan to roll over a \$2 billion loan that matured last week, a top finance ministry official said, amid a stalemate in bailout talks with the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

Such a rollover is critical for Pakistan, where foreign exchange reserves have dipped to just four weeks’ worth of imports, at a time when it is seeking an IMF bailout tranche of \$1.1 billion.

“It is a work in progress,” the official said in a text message, referring to the rollover of the Chinese loan, which matured on March 23. “Formal documentation is underway.”

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As Pakistan struggles to avoid defaulting on its obligations, the only help so far has come from longtime ally Beijing, through a refinancing of \$1.8 billion already credited to Pakistan's central bank.

The IMF funding is critical for Pakistan to unlock other external financing avenues, and the two have been negotiating since early February to resume \$1.1 billion in funding held since November, part of a \$6.5 billion bailout agreed in 2019.

One of the lender's last remaining conditions for release of the tranche is securing an assurance on external financing to fund Pakistan's balance of payments.

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=189139>

## *Chinese Newspapers*

**March 16, 2023**

**Global Times**

### **Largest Gandhara art exhibition unveiled at Palace Museum, showcasing long history of China-Pakistan exchanges along Silk Road**

*By Lin Xiaoyi*

A walk through the Hall of Literary Brilliance of the Palace Museum in Beijing, visitors felt transcending time and space to the ancient Pakistan on a display, which offers a better understanding of time-honored cultural exchanges between China and Pakistan along the Silk Road.

As the largest Gandhara cultural exhibition ever held in China, the Gandhara Heritage along the Silk Road: A Pakistan-China Joint Exhibition, has on display 203 artifacts available for the enjoyment of history and culture enthusiasts in China starting from Thursday. The event was jointly organized by the Palace Museum and the Department of Archaeology and Museums at the National Heritage and Culture Division of Pakistan.

China and Pakistan are the proud inheritors of the archaeological and cultural heritage of the remotest integrity, said Fareena Mazhar, secretary of the National Heritage and Culture Division of Pakistan, at the opening ceremony of the exhibition on Wednesday.

"Our cultural ties rooted in our history are a source of inspiration and strength for our present and future relations," she said.

The exhibition will be a landmark in the cooperation between China and Pakistan in cultural heritage preservation and presentation, Mazhar told the Global Times. "To take our relationship and join endeavors further, this exhibition will help promote our shared heritage at the international level," she said.

The archaeological sites of ancient Gandhara are mainly located in the area from the Peshawar Valley in northern Pakistan to the east bank of the Indus River and the eastern part of the Kabul Valley in Afghanistan, which was once a major transportation route on the ancient Silk Road.

Experts from the Palace Museum told the Global Times that Gandhara culture was a product of the amalgamation of diverse civilizations, including Greek, Persian and Indian along the Silk Road, which not only promoted the development of Buddhist statue art, but also played an important role in the process of introducing Buddhism to China and gradually localizing it.

Among the exquisite artifacts on display, 173 came from seven museums in Pakistan, which were mostly excavated from archaeological sites dating back from the second century BC to the 10th century AD. In addition to early Buddha and Bodhisattva statues, pagoda building components and stone carvings, there are also gold and silver artifacts and pieces of jewelry, fully demonstrating the stylistic diversity of Gandhara culture and its artistic charm, as well as the historical originality of the intermingling of multiple cultures.

Most of the 30 artifacts from the Palace Museum can be traced back to the ancient Gandhara region to China's Qinghai-Tibet Plateau through centers of the time such as Swat and Kashmir on the Silk Road, which acted as catalysts for the development of China's Tibetan Buddhism art after the 10th century, demonstrating the long history of cultural and artistic exchanges between the two countries.

According to the Palace Museum, preparations for the exhibition started in 2019, and the project was twice listed in the joint statements between the two countries on February 6 and November 2, 2022.

This year marks the 10th anniversary of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). The Palace Museum, will further become a cultural meeting place for the exchange of multi-civilization, Director of the Palace Museum Wang Xudong said at the opening ceremony, adding that he looks forward to making this exhibition a base for extensive cooperation between China and Pakistan in heritage conservation and personnel exchanges, and contribute further to the bilateral friendship.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202303/1287410.shtml>

## **Pakistani art at Palace Museum**

*By Lin Xiaoyi and Li Hao*

The largest exhibition of Gandhara art ever held in China, showcasing the diverse cultures of Pakistan and the long history of China-Pakistani relations, kicked off at the Palace Museum in Beijing on Wednesday, receiving widespread attention at home and abroad.

The Gandhara Heritage along the Silk Road: A Pakistan-China Joint Exhibition, co-organized by the Palace Museum and the Department of Archaeology and Museums at the National Heritage and Culture Division of Pakistan, aims to promote mutual understanding between China and Pakistan, in particular to make Chinese people aware of the depth and charm of Gandhara culture, according to the Palace Museum.

The exhibition displays 203 artifacts, of which 173 come from seven museums in Pakistan and 30 from the Palace Museum. The exhibits fully demonstrate the artistic charm of Gandhara culture and its far-reaching influence in China and East Asia.



As early as 100 BC, China opened up the Silk Road, which promoted the prosperity of Chinese culture and also built a bridge of friendship between the two ancient civilizations of China and Pakistan, Wang Xudong, director of the Palace Museum, said at the opening ceremony of the exhibition.

Gandhara is the ancient name of a region in northwest Pakistan. Archaeological sites for this culture mainly dot across the southern end of Hindu Kush and Karakorum. According to historical records, between 400 and 630 AD, ancient Chinese monks and pilgrims such as Faxian, Song Yun and Xuanzang visited the area, leaving records of Gandhara's material culture that later became crucial historical sources for the study of the early history of Pakistan.

With active and continuous exchanges and mutual inspiration along the Silk Road, Gandhara showed unparalleled vitality and creativity and had a profound impact on the spread of Asian civilization. According to Wang, Gandhara Buddhist art, which originated in the Kushan Empire, entered central China through the Silk Road via what is today's Northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region and the Hexi Corridor, promoting the development of early Chinese Buddhist culture and art.

Swat, Kashmir and Gilgit art, influenced by Gandhara art, crossed the western part of Southwest China's Xizang Autonomous Region and entered the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau of China, which provided sustenance for the development of Tibetan Buddhism art after the 10th century, experts noted.

This year marks the 10th anniversary of the Belt and Road Initiative. The Palace Museum, as an important bearer of 5,000 years of Chinese civilization, will further become a cultural meeting place for the exchange and mutual building of civilizations, Wang said.

"We are honored that Pakistan can co-support the exhibition and provide a platform to showcase the intimate relationship between the two countries," he noted.

Preparations for the exhibition started in 2019, but the event itself had to be postponed several times due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

"Because of COVID-19 we couldn't do much for the last three years, now things have started picking up. This is the first exhibition in China that we have done, so we're very proud of that and we hope to do more in the future," Fareena Mazhar, secretary of the National Heritage and Culture Division of Pakistan, told the Global Times, adding that on the basis of this exhibition, extensive cooperation in cultural relic protection and personnel exchanges between China and Pakistan will be carried out, which will contribute more to the friendship between the two countries.

"We are also planning on exchanging scholars from both countries, so they [Chinese scholars] can visit our site and scholars from Pakistan can come and visit China. Maybe they can have some time in the Palace Museum to see all the beautiful things that they have heard and learn more advanced techniques to preserve relics," she noted.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202303/1287363.shtml>

**March 18, 2023**

**People's Daily**

**Chinese FM meets Pakistani foreign secretary on bilateral ties**

*(Xinhua)*

BEIJING, March 17 (Xinhua) -- Chinese State Councilor and Foreign Minister Qin Gang on Friday met with Pakistani Foreign Secretary Asad Majeed Khan in Beijing, saying that China will advance and deepen friendly cooperation with Pakistan.

Noting that the iron-clad friendship between China and Pakistan has withstood the test of time and the changing international landscape, Qin said China appreciates Pakistan for its strong support on issues concerning China's core interests.

China stands ready to work with Pakistan to implement the consensus reached by the leaders of the two countries, unswervingly advance and deepen friendly cooperation, and push for greater progress in the construction of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor and bilateral all-round cooperation, Qin said.

Majeed said Pakistan regards its relations with China as the most important bilateral relationship and firmly pursues the one-China policy.

Pakistan is willing to further deepen cooperation with China in various fields, strengthen coordination and cooperation on international and regional affairs and constantly consolidate the all-weather strategic cooperative partnership between Pakistan and China, Majeed said.

(Web editor: Zhang Wenjie, Liang Jun)

<http://en.people.cn/n3/2023/0318/c90000-10224230.html>

**March 22, 2023**

**People's Daily**

**Pakistan scholar: I am a follower of the Chinese development path**

*By Chen Caixia*

(ECNS) -- "China is looking at steady domestic product growth towards the set target of around 5%, and it will have a stimulating effect on the economy for countries like Pakistan," said Hassan Daud Butt, associate professor at Bahria University and former director of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) project, during an online interview with China News Network.

During December 2022, Dr. Butt took part in a two-month research in Beijing. He witnessed the impact of the (Chinese) government's policies on ordinary people, whose buying powers and consumption activity were on the rise. Butt expects that China will stage a much better recovery in 2023, since the country has seen significant improvement in overall consumption.

"I look at China as a factory of the world. So if the factory is operating and producing good-quality products that are cheap, I think this can also address some of the global economy's

inflation challenges,” said Dr Butt. Butt noticed that under the leadership of the Communist Party of China, China is taking very fundamental steps to pursue sustainable development regarding green environment, biodiversity and providing renewable sources of energy. He thinks other leading economies should take a look at it.

2023 marks the 10th anniversary of the Belt & Road Initiative (BRI) and CPEC. As an expert investor, Butt said CPEC and BRI have done good work for socioeconomic stability in Pakistan since BRI has actually brought the world together and linked markets both from Asia and Europe to Turkey. He also mentioned that a lot of infrastructure projects, energy products, fiber connectivity and agriculture products are now taking place in Pakistan.

“Some of our smaller towns are now linked with larger urban centers. Also, we are seeing numerous road networks being established, creating rural-urban synergy. This year, the Gwadar Airport and Gwadar Expressway will be ready and operational,” said Butt. For the coming years, Butt hopes to see China and Pakistan have more cooperation projects, especially in agriculture, science and technology, special education, and the socioeconomic spectrum such as health care, vocational training and e-commerce.

Since 2012, China has helped nearly 100 million people out of poverty. Butt believes that the Chinese development path should be followed by all developing countries, because countries like Pakistan also have challenges such as poverty and unemployment. In his view, the Chinese path to modernization is a good model for Pakistan.

He also emphasized that China has created jobs for young people who entered higher education institutions, demonstrating its responsibility. China also makes significant efforts in terms of environmental protection, particularly in ensuring that there is no environmental degradation as it moves towards achieving a net zero carbon emission goal. Butt highly appreciates these good steps taken by China. He thinks China’s high-quality development brings shared prosperity, which helps countries like Pakistan that seek win-win situations and shared benefits.

“I am a follower of the Chinese development path. China has developed beliefs in harmonious development, not just for itself, but also for its friends and partners. I think this is something that we should honor,” Butt concluded.

(Web editor: Zhang Kaiwei, Liang Jun)

<http://en.people.cn/n3/2023/0322/c90000-10225637.html>

**March 23, 2023**

**Xinhuanet News**

### **Pakistani PM inaugurates coal power plant under CPEC**

THARPARKAR, Pakistan, March 23 (Xinhua) -- Pakistani Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif here on Wednesday formally inaugurated the Thar Coal Block-I Coal Electricity Integration project, an energy cooperation project under the framework of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

The plant, which was officially put into commercial operation in early February, has two 660-megawatt high-parameter coal-fired generating units, supported by an annual output of 7.8 million tons of lignite open-pit coal mine. It is capable of meeting the electricity demand of 4 million households in Pakistan.

Addressing the inauguration ceremony, Sharif said that it is a moment of great delight for the whole of Pakistan.

This was a desert region with the sand dunes only, the prime minister said, adding, "Now it has been transformed and industrialized."

It is producing electricity which is being transmitted all across Pakistan, bringing prosperity into the entire country, he said.

"This great project would provide a lot of boost to Pakistan's economy in the years to come," Sharif added.

On the occasion, Pang Chunxue, charge d'affaires of the Chinese embassy in Pakistan, said that Thar Coal Block-I would help Pakistan in reducing fuel imports, saving foreign exchange reserves, optimizing power supply structure and enhancing energy security.

"It has provided more than 18,000 direct employment opportunities for the locals, with a cumulative tax payment of 120 million U.S. dollars and corporate social responsibility expenditure of over 1.3 million dollars," said Pang.

This photo taken on March 21, 2023 shows the view of Thar Coal Block-I Coal Electricity Integration project in Sindh province, Pakistan. Pakistani Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif here on Wednesday formally inaugurated the Thar Coal Block-I Coal Electricity Integration project, an energy cooperation project under the framework of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

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Staff members work at the control room of Thar Coal Block-I Coal Electricity Integration project in Sindh province, Pakistan on March 21, 2023. Pakistani Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif here on Wednesday formally inaugurated the Thar Coal Block-I Coal Electricity Integration project, an energy cooperation project under the framework of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

The plant, which was officially put into commercial operation in early February, has two 660-megawatt high-parameter coal-fired generating units, supported by an annual output of 7.8 million tons of lignite open-pit coal mine. It is capable of meeting the electricity demand of 4 million households in Pakistan. (Xinhua/Ahmad Kamal)

This aerial photo taken on Feb. 28, 2023 shows the view of Thar Coal Block-I Coal Electricity Integration project in Sindh province, Pakistan. Pakistani Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif here on Wednesday formally inaugurated the Thar Coal Block-I Coal Electricity

Integration project, an energy cooperation project under the framework of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

The plant, which was officially put into commercial operation in early February, has two 660-megawatt high-parameter coal-fired generating units, supported by an annual output of 7.8 million tons of lignite open-pit coal mine. It is capable of meeting the electricity demand of 4 million households in Pakistan. (Thar Coal Block-I Power Generation Company (Pvt) Limited/Handout via Xinhua)

<https://english.news.cn/20230323/27db617b3c4747ceb1ff6b7487e8fd7b/c.html>

**March 25, 2023**

**China Daily**

### **World sees benefits of key concept**

In the spring of 2015, during a state visit to Pakistan, his first to the country, President Xi Jinping delivered a speech at the nation's Parliament entitled "Building a China-Pakistan Community with a Shared Future to Pursue Closer Win-Win Cooperation".

It was the first time such an arrangement was proposed at the bilateral level after the Chinese president first put forward the vision of building a community with a shared future in Moscow in 2013.

Eight years on, the results of this fruitful visit can be seen across the South Asian country and a closer China-Pakistan community with a shared future has become a reality.

Following in Pakistan's footsteps, another 15 countries including Laos, Cambodia, Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan have agreed to build a bilateral community with a shared future with China. In 2019, action plans were signed with Laos and Cambodia respectively to work for more fruitful results in that regard.

Over the past decade, China has been striding forward in building a community with a shared future for mankind with practical efforts, achieving fruitful results at regional and global levels, State Councilor and Foreign Minister Qin Gang wrote in an article published in People's Daily on Friday.

Impressive progress has been made with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations and in Central Asia. And the building of such a community with African, Arab, Latin American and Pacific Island countries respectively has set an example of unity and cooperation among developing countries, Qin said.

By advocating the building of a closer Shanghai Cooperation Organization community with a shared future, China has also positively contributed to lasting peace and common prosperity in the region and across the world at large, Qin added.

"Faced with changes unseen in a century and the COVID-19 pandemic, people are increasingly aware that no country could by itself address all kinds of challenges or completely isolate itself from others, today" said Wang Yiwei, a professor of international studies at Renmin University of China.

"To find a way out of the current dilemma, it is essential to take global action, provide a global response and ensure global cooperation," he said.

As Xi has stressed on many occasions, there is only one shared future for humanity, and mankind needs to stand united and work together to cope with difficulties and endeavor to make a better day for everyone.

In the wake of the pandemic, Xi proposed the building of a global community of health for all, calling for solidarity and cooperation among the international community to fight the novel coronavirus.

In the past three years, China fully leveraged its strengths to ensure the stability of global anti-epidemic supply chains and provided a large quantity of pandemic response supplies to 153 countries and 15 international organizations.

As the first country to announce it would make vaccines a global public good, China also supplied more than 2.2 billion doses of vaccines to more than 120 countries and international organizations.

China has also advocated building a community with a shared future in terms of cyberspace, nuclear safety and maritime cooperation, among others.

In 2021 at a United Nations meeting on enhancing global biodiversity protection held in Kunming, Yunnan province, in a speech via video link, Xi called for efforts to build a community of all life on Earth in order to promote harmonious coexistence between man and nature and create a clean and beautiful world for all.

When Xi met with the media after he was elected general secretary of the 20th Central Committee of the Communist Party of China in October, he reaffirmed China's steadfastness in the quest for a community with a shared future for mankind.

The vision of building a community with a shared future for mankind, which champions humanity's common values and creates more opportunities for global development, has won growing support around the world.

Pakistani President Arif Alvi said that Xi's vision of building a community with a shared future for mankind has a great significance globally because it is different from the cooperation proposed by other countries that are in pursuit of narrow self-interest.

"Xi's vision is an idea dedicated to the peace of mankind. The Belt and Road Initiative and its flagship project the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor are examples of specific efforts that help to realize the vision," Alvi said in a recent interview with China Central Television.

Thanks to the CPEC, the Pakistani president said that roads, power stations and economic zones have been built along the corridor over the past decade, greatly improving local livelihoods and winning support from the Pakistani people.

Maria Osterloh Mejia, a researcher at the Research Center for a Community with Shared Future and BRI in Peru, said as the world struggles with economic recovery, climate change and geopolitical fragmentation, the concept of building a community with a shared future for mankind is more relevant than ever.



As an initiative under this concept, the Belt and Road Initiative is contributing greatly to the world economy, and is especially benefiting the developing world, including Latin America, by helping to build infrastructure in countries such as Peru, she said in an opinion piece published on the China Global Television Network's website.

<https://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202303/25/WS641de65ba31057c47ebb6721.html>

**March 29, 2023**

**China Daily**

### **Envoy says Pakistan shares China's vision**

Beijing-proposed initiatives seen as essential in addressing urgent needs

The Global Development Initiative and the Global Security Initiative, both proposed by President Xi Jinping, carry significance for human progress, according to Moin ul Haque, Pakistan's ambassador to China.

A staunch advocate of common development, security and prosperity, China has put forward the GDI and the GSI, which are essential in addressing the urgent needs and difficulties of a divided and unstable world. Pakistan has supported both initiatives.

The GDI is aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations, which are about poverty reduction and socioeconomic development, Haque said.

Haque said that the GDI, proposed by President Xi back in September 2021 in his speech to the United Nations General Assembly, "has been a very important initiative after the BRI", or the Belt and Road Initiative, "which has been about the development of infrastructure and connectivity".

When Pakistan's prime minister visited Beijing in November last year, the two countries signed a memorandum of understanding, with Pakistan becoming one of the first partner countries under the GDI, according to the diplomat.

"So, under this MoU, we will be cooperating in the areas of education, health, agriculture, and of course, climate change, which has become a very important subject not only for Pakistan but also for the entire world community," Haque said.

Citing the recent floods in Pakistan, the envoy said climate change under the GDI framework will become a very important topic of cooperation between China and Pakistan. The Pakistan flooding "is a clarion call for everybody", he continued.

The GDI has won international recognition as a blueprint for more inclusive development globally. To date, more than 100 countries and international organizations, including the United Nations, have committed support to the GDI, and close to 70 countries have joined the Group of Friends of the GDI.

The group, officially launched at the UN headquarters in New York in January 2022, aims to support UN's work in development.

**Green efforts**

"We need to promote green development through biodiversity protection, speed up the green transition of development modes and lifestyle, and leverage the Global Development Initiative to deliver greater benefits to people of all countries," said President Xi Jinping in December when addressing, via video link, the opening ceremony of the high-level segment of the second part of COP15, or the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, held in Montreal, Canada.

Separately, over 70 countries to date have endorsed and expressed support for the GSI. Proposed by China last April at the Boao Forum for Asia 2022, it calls on the international community to uphold a vision of common, comprehensive, cooperative and sustainable global security.

Haque said Pakistan has fully supported the GSI because Pakistan and China are important members of the international community. He added: "Both are very responsible members of the United Nations, and the GSI is aligned with the purposes and principles of the UN."

The diplomat pointed out that security remains an important issue for both China and Pakistan. Pakistan has suffered over the years due to an adverse security environment around it. It has been in the eye of the storm, he said.

Not only physical security about borders, but security for people, food security, energy security, these are all important aspects of security for both countries, Haque said. "So, in this respect we feel very proud that Pakistan and China have similar visions and similar positions on global peace and security."

China stands ready to work with the international community to put into action the Global Development Initiative and the Global Security Initiative and promote the shared values of humanity, according to the Government Work Report adopted by the first session of the 14th National People's Congress which concluded on March 13.

"We will remain firm in pursuing a strategy of opening up for the mutual benefit. We will continue working to safeguard world peace, contribute to global development, and uphold the international order," the report said.

<https://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202303/29/WS6423719ca31057c47ebb7136.html>

### **BRI welcomes global participation**

The Belt and Road Initiative welcomes everyone to jointly explore opportunities for shared growth, according to the ongoing Boao Forum for Asia Annual Conference 2023.

Since the BRI was first proposed by President Xi Jinping in 2013, the ambition is still the right sentiment going forward, said former World Bank president Jim Yong Kim, who is also partner and vice-chairman of private equity fund Global Infrastructure Partners, thus rejecting the notion of "debt trap diplomacy" as groundless.

"When I heard President Xi make this announcement about the BRI ... (I thought) that is the most ambitious development project in human history," Kim said during a panel discussion entitled "The Belt and Road: Sharing the Opportunities of Development".

Paolo Borzatta, a board member of The European House — Ambrosetti, said it is important to let people know that the BRI is not just a China-proposed initiative because there are companies around the world that have benefited and could benefit from it.

To make the infrastructure work, Renat Bekturov, governor of Astana International Financial Centre, said more efforts should be placed on trade facilitation agreements to lower trade barriers between economies.

The BRI provides developing countries with the most critical investment to fill in gaps in the economy, said Ahsan Iqbal Chaudhary, Pakistani minister for planning, development and special initiatives.

For example, when Pakistan was only able to provide electricity for 16-18 hours a day, China — under the BRI — allowed its companies to invest in the energy sector when no other foreign investors were coming, said Chaudhary.

Noting peace is in the interest of the countries like Mongolia, Chimed Khurelbaatar, the country's deputy prime minister and minister of economy and development, said he hopes to see cooperation instead of competition between big powers as everyone can benefit from it when the world is in harmony.

<https://global.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202303/29/WS642376bba31057c47ebb7170.html>

## Global Times

### **Global Security Initiative revisited at Boao, highlights Chinese wisdom and leadership in turbulent world**

Nation's diplomatic capacity and leadership lead to bigger role in mediation: delegates

*By Zhang Han and Hu Yuwei in Boao*

The Global Security Initiative (GSI) was revisited at the Boao Forum for Asia (BFA) 2023, one year after it was raised at the forum's 2022 annual conference by President Xi Jinping, when delegates discussed the ideal approach as well as China's role in tackling global and regional security challenges.

While addressing the panel themed "Global Geopolitical Outlook," Assistant Minister of Foreign Affairs Nong Rong called on the international community to "make the right choice between peace and war, unity and division, development and decline" against the backdrop of lingering Ukraine crisis and rising "temperatures" in the Asia-Pacific, namely the intensifying geopolitical competition and military rivalry and the unfolding of an "Asian NATO."

The recently released Global Security Initiative Concept Paper identified 20 pressing international security concerns, and put forward suggestions on the platforms and mechanisms for GSI-related cooperation, Nong said. More than 80 countries and international organizations have expressed appreciation and support for the GSI.

It aims to provide more systematic thinking and more feasible measures to solve global security challenges, and demonstrates China's sense of responsibility for maintaining world peace and its firm resolve to safeguard global security, said the senior official.

Danilo Türk, former president of Slovenia and member of the BFA Council of Advisors, said that China's Concept Paper provided a platform for communication and brought together all the elements that need to be worked out to bring peace, as he commented on the Ukraine crisis which the Wednesday panel was very much focused on.

It is important to engage as many countries as possible to support the Concept Paper, and then form a "core group" for communications that can lead to a serious negotiation, Türk told the Global Times. He stressed China's rising diplomatic capacity and leadership in mediation, such as bringing together Saudi Arabia and Iran.

Panelist and Pakistan's former national security adviser Moeed Yusuf told the Global Times that the GSI proposed by President Xi in 2022 is exactly what the world needs. An effort to put forward a vision on how to get to more cooperation and less competition is really welcomed.

Pakistan has special relations with China, as well as close economic and military ties with the West, Yusuf said. The country seeks to lower the rising temperature in the Asia-Pacific to prevent it from becoming a proxy battlefield of major powers. "Therefore the GSI as a conceptual framework is very important for many Asian countries and we need to keep building on it."

The remarks were seen as pertaining to NATO-like security arrangements in the Asia-Pacific under the prompting of the US, which Liu Zhenmin, former under secretary-general of the UN, firmly opposed at the Wednesday panel.

Liu advocated the ideal of common security of Asia and a security architecture that is built by and serves the interests of Asian countries, which is resilient to external noises and interruptions.

Nong Rong stressed that regional development has a bearing on where security in the Asia-Pacific is headed, the well-being of the people, and the future of the world. The concepts and principles of the GSI point the way for all parties to jointly maintain security and stability and achieve sustained prosperity.

President Xi has participated in the Boao annual conferences and delivered keynote speeches five times since 2013. In his speeches, words like "together" "joint" "shared" and "cooperation" appear frequently, which demonstrate a Chinese approach in front of challenges that requires consultations on an equal footing, solidarity and inclusiveness, and global justice based on mutual respect and mutual learning, analysts said.

At a time when security and development are closely intertwined, China-proposed initiatives like the Global Development Initiative, the Global Security Initiative, and the Global Civilization Initiative show Chinese commitment and provide Chinese wisdom to tackle global challenges faced by all, Boao delegates noted.

Türk said the world would expect China to come with specific ideas of how to move development globally ahead by introducing its own experience, including that in the ongoing projects of the Belt and Road Initiative.

A World Bank report suggests that by 2030, projects under the BRI could help lift 7.6 million people from extreme poverty and 32 million people from moderate poverty worldwide.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202303/1288209.shtml>

**March 30, 2023**

**China Daily**

### **BRI members seek cooperation on renewable energy**

Countries involved in the Belt and Road Initiative will enhance cooperation with China on renewable energy technology, ministers said.

Chimed Khurelbaatar, Mongolia's minister of economy and development, told a Belt and Road subforum of the Boao Forum for Asia Annual Conference 2023 on Tuesday that Mongolia is very willing to develop renewable energy, including wind and solar.

He said the country has the capacity and is willing to work with partners.

The Boao Forum for Asia runs from Tuesday to Friday in Boao, a coastal town in Hainan province, which this year is themed "An Uncertain World: Solidarity and Cooperation for Development amid Challenges".

"Mongolia is a mining country. So we should pay more attention to our environmental issues," Khurelbaatar said.

The country plans to plant 1 billion trees by 2030 to address desertification, he added.

Ahsan Iqbal Chaudhary, minister for planning, development and special initiatives of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, told the forum that China has technologies that can be leveraged by the BRI countries.

He said Pakistan is shifting from fossil fuels to renewable energy, and that will be an important window in which the country will be relying heavily on the technology and investment from China to help them move forward.

Pakistan along with other countries is facing the challenge of water and food security.

"My country has faced climate change with less than 1 percent global carbon emissions. We had the worst climate disaster last year. So we are attending several green economy initiatives, some of which are under the BRI, to help withstand a lot of disasters," he said.

China will deepen cooperation on clean energy by promoting low-carbon international energy cooperation, especially on technology and equipment, according to a guideline promoting the green development of the Belt and Road released by the National Development and Reform Commission last March.

The guideline said that cooperation should focus on joint research and exchange training on high-efficiency and low-cost renewable energy power generation, energy storage and carbon dioxide capture, utilization and storage.

It encourages Chinese solar and wind power companies and other related enterprises to go global in the wake of the nation's pledge not to start any new overseas coal power projects.

The guideline calls for the existing overseas enterprises that use coal to work in a clean and efficient way by upgrading energy-saving and environmental protection facilities.

<https://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202303/30/WS6424e5b3a31057c47ebb7598.html>