



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

October 01-15, 2023

Table of Contents

01: October 01, 2023.....	03
02: October 02, 2023.....	07
03: October 03, 2023.....	19
04: October 04, 2023.....	25
05: October 05, 2023.....	29
06: October 06, 2023.....	31
07: October 07, 2023.....	33
08: October 08, 2023.....	41
09: October 09, 2023.....	44
10: October 10, 2023.....	49
11: October 11, 2023.....	58
12: October 12, 2023.....	62
13: October 13, 2023.....	68
14: October 14, 2023.....	83
15: October 15, 2023.....	89

Chinese Newspapers

01: October 02, 2023.....	103
02: October 03, 2023.....	103
03: October 04, 2023.....	104
04: October 06, 2023.....	106
05: October 08, 2023.....	107
06: October 09, 2023.....	109
07: October 10, 2023.....	111
08: October 11, 2023.....	113
09: October 12, 2023.....	115
10: October 13, 2023.....	119
11: October 14, 2023.....	122
12: October 15, 2023.....	125

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October 01, 2023

Daily Times

Chinese vision of inclusive development only way forward: Mushahid

** Senate defence committee chairman says China invested in Pakistan when many others were not willing due to terrorism*

Chairman Senate Standing Committee on Defence, Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed Saturday said that the Chinese vision of global and inclusive development was the only acceptable way forward as Asia of 21st century could bear the brunt of a new cold war.

He was addressing as Chief Guest at the All Pakistan China Overseas Youth Federation (APCOYF) special ceremony held in connection with 74th National Day of People's Republic of China. Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed said the world is witnessing a great transformation, whereas the great poet of the East Dr Allama Muhammad Iqbal 90 years ago predicted the rise of the Asian century and China.

“Allama in his poetry talked of springs of hope from the Himalayas and Chinese rising from slumber. Today, the balance of economic, cultural and political power is shifting from the West to the East and we welcome that but I want to warn that many forces are talking of dispute, division, and a new cold war and we reject it as Asia cannot afford a new cold war. We reject any talk of dispute, containment and division of Asia,” he said. The chairman Senate Committee underlined that China's worldview is on promoting inclusivity and it did not impose its values and hegemony on others but rather advocates for a win-win situation for all nations.

He added that China a decade back invested in Pakistan some \$26 billion in the massive China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) project that resulted in 8000 MW of power generation capacity, 200,000 jobs creation, and the development of 800 km of new transmission lines.

China, he said had invested in Pakistan when no country even the Muslim countries was not ready to invest capital due to terrorism. “We have seen Thar women driving dumper trucks, coal power projects, local community development through CPEC,” he added. Women and children (youth) would lead the future as both the leaderships of China and Pakistan namely Chairman Mao and Quaid-e-Azam shared the same thoughts, he said.

Shedding light on the history of China, Senator Sayed said on October 1, 1949 at Tiananmen square Chairman Mao announced the liberation of China, adding, “Chairman Mao said, ‘today Chinese people have stood up’, and that was the start of the journey of Chinese progress.”

The Chinese, he said went through a great struggle from cultural, social and economic progress to come out of feudalism and western hegemony. China had a strategic culture, he said with three key ingredients namely it's peaceful rise as it is the only country that has risen without occupation, colonialization and bloodshed.

Secondly, the Silk Route that was started from China 2,000 years ago and connected Asia, Middle East with Europe which was the first instance of globalization through culture and commerce.

“Holy Prophet (P.B.U.H) some 1,400 years ago said that seek knowledge if you have to go to China. It was a developed civilization then,” he added.

Thirdly, he said the Great Wall of China that symbolizes strong defence and resistance to threats against China. “The long march in 1934-35 was participated by 100,000 people with Chairman Mao and only 25,000 survived that showed China’s never give up philosophy, patience and perseverance. It had been very clear that China had its culture to defend itself,” he added.

Senator Sayed said China had emerged on it’s own power and self-reliance, adding, “It is not a country but rather an ancient civilisation 5,000 years old.”

Senator Mushahid said CPEC is the pivot and the flagship project of the Belt Road Initiative (BRI) initiative. China had spent \$1 trillion on BRI in its three thousand projects and created 450,000 jobs.

China is the best friend and strategic partner that had always stood like a rock with Pakistan on every issue and position.

“Pakistan is one country that stands steadfast with China on its all core issues and interests be it Xinjiang and South China Sea, BRI, Taiwan or any other. We stand with China in all circumstances.”

The Senator while stating his own experience said he had witnessed the historic transformation of China in the past four decades.

“Paksitan was the first country in 70s to connect communist China with the rest of the world and that China was poor and weak. Today’s China is rich, powerful and leading the world and well connected with the outside world,” the Senator said.

Prior to the keynote address, cultural performances on Chinese music by Pakistani artists were made followed by the Chinese Song performed by Sherry Khan and a dance performance by artist attired in traditional Pakistani dress of northern area.

The cake cutting ceremony was presided by Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed and President APCOYF, Aasma Ismail Butt along with others.

https://dailytimes.com.pk/1136486/chinese-vision-of-inclusive-development-only-way-forward-mushahid/#google_vignette

Balochistan delegation visited Henan for agri cooperation

** Main purpose of delegation's visit to Henan is to seek cooperation in corn, wheat, soybean, peanut, sugarcane, vegetables and related agricultural technologies*

A Pakistani delegation from Balochistan led by Nawabzada Shazain Bugti, Pakistan’s former minister for narcotics control, traveled to Grain Innovation and Development Center of

Henan University of Technology in Henan, China to attend an agricultural forum organized by Pei Shaofen, director of the Center.

The main purpose of the delegation's visit to Henan is to seek cooperation in corn, wheat, soybean, peanut, sugarcane, vegetables and related agricultural technologies and equipment.

Chinese entrepreneurs from seed companies in Henan province, including Henan Qiule Seed Technology, Henan Jifeng Group and Henan Bio King Company, were invited to participate in the forum, according to a report published by Gwadar Pro.

The delegation visited the experimental base of Henan Jifeng Group located in Xingyang, China, accompanied by Dr. Yuan Liang, a young breeder of the company.

“Henan Jifeng Group has an excellent research and development team and advanced breeding technologies of maize, wheat and other crops.

We'd like to invite the leaders and experts of the company to Pakistan for field trip. We hope that they can have more cooperation with Pakistan,” said Nawabzada Shazain Bugti.

Other Pakistani visitors, impressed by the excellent performance of the experimental fields, expressed their intention to be the general agent of seeds in Pakistan.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1136565/balochistan-delegation-visited-henan-for-agri-cooperation/>

Pakistan Observer

CPEC projects gave new shade to Pakistan's economy: Murtaza

Minister for Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi has said projects initiated with Chinese investment under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor in various areas, including basic infrastructure and energy, have given a new shade to Pakistan's economy.

Interacting with China Radio International, he said now CPEC is entering a new phase, entailing projects like ML-1 railway line. He said several infrastructure and mass transit projects like Orange Line Train have already been completed under CPEC.

The Minister expressed the optimism that the new phase of CPEC will have particular focus on Special Economic Zones. He said projects worth over 26 billion dollars have been launched, while new ones are ready to take off.

<https://pakobserver.net/cpec-projects-gave-new-shade-to-pakistans-economy-murtaza/>

The Nation

US, UK and China top 3 destinations of Pakistani exports during July-August

ISLAMABAD-The United States (US) remained the top export destination of Pakistani products during the first two months of the current financial year 2023-24, followed by the United Kingdom (UK) and China.

Total exports to the US during July-August 2023 were recorded at \$934.666 million against the exports of \$1122.883 million during July-August 2022, showing a decline of 16.76 percent, according to the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP). This was followed by the UK, wherein Pakistan exported goods worth \$351.135 million against the exports of \$338.304 million last year, showing an increase of 3.79 percent.

China was the third top export destination, where Pakistan exported products worth \$350.297 million during the months under review against the exports of \$333.077 million, SBP data revealed.

Among other countries, Pakistani exports to UAE stood at \$295.565 million against \$244.889 million last year, showing an increase of 20.69 percent while the exports to Germany were recorded at \$253.155 million against \$303.754 million last year, data said. During the months under review, the exports to Holland were recorded at \$226.624 million against \$259.448 million whereas the exports to Italy stood at \$195.539 million against \$197.279 million. Pakistan's exports to Spain were recorded at \$242.2023 million against the exports of \$211.454 million while the exports to Afghanistan were recorded at \$88.393 million against \$81.795 million last year. The exports to Bangladesh stood at \$98.589 million against \$143.757 million.

Similarly, the exports to France during the months under review were recorded at \$91.043 million against \$96.921 million while the exports to Belgium stood at \$96.515 million against \$134.864 million.

Pakistan's exports to Saudi Arabia were recorded at \$95.174 million during the current year compared to \$75.154 million last year whereas the exports to Turkiye stood at \$61.354 million against \$62.972 million.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2023-10-01/page-8/detail-0>

Express News

چینی صدر کا پاکستان میں بم حملوں پر صدر مملکت سے اظہارِ تعزیت

چینی صدر شی جن پنگ نے پاکستان میں بم حملوں پر صدر مملکت ڈاکٹر عارف علوی سے اظہارِ تعزیت کیا ہے۔

شی جن پنگ نے کہا کہ چینی حکومت اور عوام حملوں میں سوگوار خاندانوں اور زخمیوں سے ہمدردی کا اظہار کرتی ہے۔ چینی صدر نے کہا کہ چین ہر قسم کی دہشتگردی کی سختی سے مخالفت کرتا ہے۔

چینی صدر نے کہا ہے کہ قومی استحکام اور سلامتی کو برقرار رکھنے کیلئے پاکستان کی حمایت جاری رکھیں گے۔

<https://www.express.pk/story/2545183/1/>

Jang News

چین کا قومی دن: نگران وزیر اعظم کی چینی صدر کو مبارکباد

نگراں وزیر اعظم انوار الحق کاکڑ نے چین کے قومی دن پر چینی صدر شی جن پنگ کو مبارکباد دی ہے۔

ایک بیان میں نگران وزیر اعظم انوار الحق کا کڑے کہا ہے کہ پاکستان کو اپنے آرن برادر کی کامیابیوں پر بہت فخر ہے۔

انہوں نے مزید کہا ہے کہ آج کی دنیا میں چین امن واستحکام کے ساتھ ساتھ ترقی کا انجن بھی ہے۔

اسپنے بیان میں نگران وزیر اعظم انوار الحق کا کڑے کہا کہ پاک چین دوستی زندہ باد۔

وزیر اطلاعات کی چین کے قومی دن پر مبارکباد

دوسری جانب نگران وفاقی وزیر اطلاعات مرتضیٰ سولنگی نے عوامی جمہوریہ چین کے قومی دن پر مبارکباد دیتے ہوئے کہا ہے کہ امید ہے کہ پاکستان اور چین کے تعلقات مزید سنگ میل عبور کریں گے۔

مرتضیٰ سولنگی کا یہ بھی کہنا ہے کہ یہ تعلقات ہرگزرتے دن کے ساتھ پہلے سے زیادہ مضبوط اور خوش گوار ہوں گے۔

<https://jang.com.pk/news/1274032>

October 02, 2023

Daily Times

PM congratulates ‘Iron Brother’ China on 74th National Day

Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Sunday extended his warmest felicitations to China on its 74th National Day.

In a statement on social media platform X, PM Kakar congratulated Chinese President Xi Jinping, Premier Li Qiang and the Chinese nation.

“Pakistan takes great pride in the achievements of our Iron Brother,” he added. The PM termed Beijing as an anchor of peace and stability as well as the engine of development and progress in today’s world.

Caretaker Foreign Minister Jalil Abbas Jilani also extended his heartiest felicitations to Foreign Minister Wang Yi and the people of China on their National Day. In his post on X, he said that they pay tribute to the rich history, culture, and achievements of this great nation and reiterate the resolve to take China-Pakistan’s iron-clad friendship to greater heights. In an interview with

The Washington Post during his visit to New York to attend the 78th United Nations General Assembly session earlier this week, Premier Kakar had said that Pakistan was focusing on its own interests without choosing sides in the great power competition, and the West was “over-obsessed” with efforts to contain China.

Pakistan, he had also said, intended to stay “neutral” on Russia’s war with Ukraine and saw China as its “all-weather friend” and “strategic partner”. “It’s not a Cold War. There is no Iron Curtain here. It’s not that opaque. Everybody sees what is happening,” the prime minister had said. He had further said the West was “over-obsessed” with efforts to contain China.

He had told the American newspaper that Pakistan was charting a path, designed to avoid getting caught up in the competition between the West and Russia and China. PM Kakar had

said Pakistan had no intention of committing to either camp in the growing US-China rivalry. In his congratulatory message to the decade of CPEC celebration event held in Islamabad in July, President Xi had reiterated China's unwavering support to Pakistan, saying:

“No matter how the international landscape may change, China will always stand firmly with Pakistan”. Speaking about the bilateral ties, President Xi had stressed that both countries will continue to improve overall planning and expand and deepen cooperation.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1136764/pm-congratulates-iron-brother-china-on-74th-national-day/>

Naqvi greets China on National Day, hails strong Sino-Pak ties

Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi heartily congratulated the President of China, Prime Minister and other leadership on the National Day of the People's Republic of China. CM Mohsin Naqvi expressed his good wishes to the Chinese Ambassador in Pakistan, Chinese Consul General and the people of China. China is an excellent neighbour, a time-tested friend and a great strategic partner of Pakistan. The significant successes and achievements of China are worth emulating for all the developing countries including Pakistan. CM Mohsin Naqvi outlined that Pakistan-China relations steadfastly moved forward and will become even more stronger than before in times to come. China Pakistan Economic Corridor project is a game changer which is providing a lot of benefits to the people of both the countries. Pakistan is fully determined to further augment this unique partnership with China. CM Mohsin Naqvi underscored that our prayers and good wishes will always remain with the people of China. I pray that the morning of this National Day brings lasting peace, prosperity and joy for the people of China. The Government of Pakistan and its people will continue to stand shoulder to shoulder with their Chinese brothers.

Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi's school closure formula paid off as a significant decrease in the number of conjunctivitis patients has occurred in Punjab. 1 thousand 134 conjunctivitis patients have been reported across Punjab while four days ago approximately 15 thousand patients were reported in a single day. CM Mohsin Naqvi announced to observe holiday in the schools on seeing conjunctivitis affected children during his visit to the Ravi Road Girls School four days earlier. The total number of conjunctivitis patients across Punjab have become 98 thousand 627. 236 more new patients are reported during the past 24 hours and the total number of conjunctivitis patients in Lahore have become 8 thousand

Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi has paid tribute to the patrolling police on foiling the attack of terrorists at Isa Khel Kundal check post in Mianwali. Mohsin Naqvi lauded that the brave sons of Punjab Police foiled nefarious designs of the terrorists through their valour and bravery. The police personnel by taking timely action and putting their lives in danger countered the attack of terrorists. CM Mohsin Naqvi commended the police personnel who boldly foiled the terrorists attack. Mohsin Naqvi paid homage to the martyred police personnel Haroon Khan who embraced martyrdom during the attack. Mohsin Naqvi extolled that the martyred police personnel Haroon Khan by sacrificing his precious life during performance of his duty has set a high example adding that the martyred Haroon Khan is the hero of the nation and we salute his great sacrifice. CM Mohsin Naqvi while expressing

his heartfelt sympathy and condolence with the family members of martyred Haroon Khan assured that the family members of martyred Haroon Khan will be looked after in every possible manner.

Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi paid a visit to Punjab House Karachi and granted approval of revenue generation and upgradation plan of Punjab House Karachi. The rent of ground and first floor will be rupees 3 lakh and online booking facilities will also be available. Private companies and institutions can hold their celebrations in Punjab House Karachi. CM Mohsin Naqvi inspected the dining hall, drawing room and rooms of Punjab House Karachi. Mohsin Naqvi comprehensively reviewed the ground and first floor and issued necessary directions for its upgradation. Provincial Information Minister Amir Mir also accompanied him.

Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi after the upgradation, inaugurated Ibn-e-Sina reading room and cafeteria of King Edward Medical College University. CM Mohsin Naqvi along with the Punjab Cabinet visited the upgraded reading room and the cafeteria. CM Mohsin Naqvi and the Provincial Ministers reviewed the facilities being provided in the reading room and cafeteria. CM Mohsin Naqvi and the Provincial Ministers checked the quality of edible items in the cafeteria.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1136664/naqvi-greets-china-on-national-day-hails-strong-sino-pak-ties/>

Pakistan Observer

Ministry of PD&SI dispels misgivings, misperceptions about CPEC

Pakistan and China are unequivocally dedicated to the expansion of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), and any reports in certain sections of the media suggesting China's reluctance to broaden the CPEC are inaccurate, stated the Ministry of Planning, Development, and Special Initiatives (PD&SI).

According to an official notification, water resources, climate action, tourism, and all critical sectors are integral components of the CPEC Long-Term Plan, Gwadar Pro reported on Saturday.

As per the Ministry of PD&SI statement, some articles have claimed that China does not want to expand the scope of the CPEC. "These claims are factually incorrect and misleading," reads the statement.

It further reads that China and Pakistan are committed to expanding the scope of CPEC to include new areas of cooperation, such as water resources management, climate change, and tourism.

These areas were already part of the CPEC Long Term Plan, and both sides agreed during the deliberations before the 11th Joint Cooperation Committee (JCC) to work out the detailed contours of these projects in upcoming sessions of respective Joint Working Groups (JWGs).

<https://pakobserver.net/ministry-of-pdsi-dispels-misgivings-misperceptions-about-cpec/>

Gwadar Port: 5 lakh tons of silt scooped out

Since the project's inception in March 2023, nearly 0.5 million (5 Lakh) tons of silt have been excavated from the bed of the navigational channel and anchorage area at Gwadar Port.

The project is set to be completed in 12 months. Dawood Baloch, the Gwadar Port Dredging Plan Project Director told Gwadar Pro that CHEC has successfully removed 5 lakh tons of silt since the desilting process began in March.

This desilting process aims to restore the original depth of the navigational channel at Gwadar Port, allowing heavyweight ships to navigate efficiently.

This restoration will ensure the seamless movement of various types of vessels, facilitating easy docking without interruptions. Another official from Gwadar Port Authority (GPA) stated that the plan is to reclaim the natural and original operational depth of 14.5 metres at Gwadar Port, at a cost of Rs 4.7 billion.

He expressed satisfaction with the operation's pace. The official added that the project, titled "The Maintenance Dredging of the Navigational Channel of Gwadar Port," will be completed in 12 months per the agreement signed between CHEC and GPA.

<https://pakobserver.net/gwadar-port-5-lakh-tons-of-silt-scooped-out/#:~:text=Since%20the%20project%E2%80%99s%20inception%20in%20March%202023%2C%20nearly,is%20set%20to%20be%20completed%20in%2012%20months>

Pak leaders congratulate Chinese leadership on National Day

Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar, Foreign Minister Jalil Abbas Jilani and Caretaker Information Minister Murtaza Solangi on Sunday conveyed warmest felicitations to President Xi Jinping, Premier Li Qiang and the Chinese nation on the 74th National Day of People's Republic of China.

In their separate messages, the Pakistani leaders extended warmest felicitations to China on its 74th National Day.

In a statement on social media platform X Sunday, Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar congratulated Chinese President Xi Jinping, Premier Li Qiang and the Chinese nation and said Pakistan takes great pride in the achievements of our Iron Brother.

The Prime Minister termed China as an anchor of peace and stability as well as engine of development and progress in today's world. "Pakistan takes great pride in the achievements of our Iron Brother. In today's world, China is an anchor of peace and stability as well as engine of development & progress. Long live Pak-China friendship," Kakar posted on X, formerly twitter.

Meanwhile, Caretaker Foreign Minister Jilani extended his heartiest felicitations to his Chinese counterpart Wang Yi and people of China on the National Day.

<https://pakobserver.net/pak-leaders-congratulate-chinese-leadership-on-national-day/#:~:text=In%20a%20statement%20on%20social%20media%20platform%20X,pride%20in%20the%20achievements%20of%20our%20Iron%20Brother>

Pak, China bilateral coop to further strengthen in coming days: Jiang Zaidong

Faisal Zahid Malik reiterates gratitude for China's unwavering support

Ambassador of China Jiang Zaidong has held that China and Pakistan cooperation will multiply in the years to come. Speaking at a reception marking the 74th Anniversary of the Founding of the People's Republic of China, the newly arrived ambassador expressed his joy to be in Pakistan as Ambassador of China and said Pakistan and China were iron brothers and had been cooperating in all fields for decades.

Senate Chairman Sadiq Sanjrani, Interim Foreign Minister Jalil Abbas Jilani, Caretaker Information Minister Murtza Solangi, Culture Minister Jamal Shah and others also participated in the event. A large number of diplomats and people from different walks of life were also in attendance.

Ambassador Jiang Zaidong said China was committed to strengthening the strong friendship and enduring strategic cooperation between the two countries. He said the cooperation between the two friendly countries was benefitting both the countries.

The Chinese Ambassador reaffirmed the strong friendship between China and Pakistan, emphasizing China's commitment to support Pakistan. He stressed that China's experiences would significantly contribute to Pakistan's social and economic well-being and expressed his delight at being in Pakistan.

Speaking on the occasion, Foreign Minister Jalil Abbas said Pakistan and China were close friends and committed to strengthen this partnership further. He said the two countries stand together for the peace and prosperity of the regional.

Jilani said the Pakistani nation was also celebrating the National Day of China together with their Chinese friends.

He said the Pakistani government was committed to enhance the cooperation between the two countries to new levels. In his speech, Senate Chairman Sadiq Sanjrani acknowledged the transformative influence of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) initiative, marking the beginning of a new era of collaborative growth and prosperity.

Chairman and CEO daily Pakistan Observer Faisal Zahid Malik during the cake cutting ceremony extended wishes of "peace, happiness, and prosperity" to the Chinese people as they celebrate China's National Day.

"We welcome the cooperation of the People's Republic of China in addressing shared challenges, including the climate crisis, public health, food security, and global macroeconomic stability, said Faisal Malik.

"We wish the people of the People's Republic of China peace, happiness, and prosperity in the year ahead," he added.

The Chairman Pakistan Observer reflected on the historical ties between Pakistan and China, emphasized the strength of the bond between Pakistan and China that has grown over the years.

Faisal Malik reiterated gratitude for China's unwavering support during challenging times, including natural disasters and the global health crisis posed by COVID-19.

During the National Day holiday, known as Golden Week, Chinese people engage in various activities, including travel, both domestically and internationally. Festivities, including flag-raising ceremonies, fireworks, and light shows, take place nationwide, with Beijing hosting the largest celebrations.

<https://pakobserver.net/pak-china-bilateral-coop-to-further-strengthen-in-coming-days-jiang-zaidong/>

China's Chang'e 6 mission to carry Pakistani satellite to moon

The Chang'e 6 mission, China's upcoming robotic lunar expedition set for next year, has finalised to also carry ICUBE-Q cubesat satellite from Pakistan, according to an official government statement released on other day.

In a groundbreaking development, China's upcoming Chang'e 6 mission to the Moon is set to include a payload [satellite] from Pakistan. This significant collaboration was finalized following meticulous selection and discussions, as announced in an official government statement.

The primary objective of the Chang'e 6 mission is to achieve what has never been done before: collecting samples from the far side of the Moon. Comprising an orbiter, lander, ascender, and re-entry module, the spacecraft is poised to touch down in the South Pole-Aitken Basin together dust and rock samples. This mission promises to shed light on the composition of the Moon's far side, advancing our scientific understanding of this enigmatic region.

Notably, this mission reflects the international nature of lunar exploration, where countries come together to pool resources and expertise for scientific advancement. India, through its Chandrayaan 3 mission, made history as the first country to achieve a soft landing near the lunar south pole.

<https://pakobserver.net/chinas-change-6-mission-to-carry-pakistani-satellite-to-moon/#:~:text=The%20Chang%E2%80%99e%206%20mission%2C%20China%E2%80%99s%20upcoming%20robotic%20lunar,an%20official%20government%20statement%20released%20on%20other%20day>

The Nation

Pakistan-China friendship strong, ideal: Bilawal

ISLAMABAD - Pakistan People's Party (PPP) chief Bilawal Bhutto Zardari yesterday extended greetings and warm wishes to the people and government of "the brotherly country", China, on its National Day. In a statement, the PPP Chairman said that China was the best friend of Pakistan and Pakistan-China friendship has been strong and ideal in every era. "The game changer projects like the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) are a result of bilateral friendly relations, which will bring great economic opportunities to the world as well," he added. Bilawal pointed out that the foundation of strong Pakistan-China

friendship was laid by his party, PPP, which, subsequently, has been gaining new heights in every era. “The people and government of China have supported Pakistan in every difficult hour,” he said.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2023-10-02/page-2/detail-1>

Pakistan-China friendship everlasting

SHAFQAT ALI

Friendly relations have transformed into an all-weather strategic cooperative partnership characterised by mutual trust, respect, good will.

ISLAMABAD- Pakistan-China friendship is nearly as long as Pakistan’s own age as an independent nation and it is no surprise that China’s National Day is celebrated across Pakistan like a national event.

The iron-brothers, as they call themselves, have cultivated a robust and enduring relationship. This diplomatic partnership, initiated in May 1951, has evolved into a close friendship and col-laboration that spans various domains. Yesterday, Prime Minister Anwaar ul Haq Kakar and Foreign Minister Jalil Abbas Jilani conveyed warm felicitations to their Chinese counterparts, emphasizing the enduring friendship between the two nations. Pakistan Ambassador to China, Moin ul Haque, also extended greetings, highlighting China’s remarkable achievements and its role as a pillar of peace, stability, development, and progress in the world.

They all acknowledged that Pakistan and China’s close and friendly relations have trans-formed into an “All-Weather Strategic Cooperative Partnership” characterized by mutual trust, respect, and goodwill. They maintained that the economic dimension of this partnership has been particularly significant. Several events were held across Pakistan at the official and unofficial levels in the last few days to mark China’s National Day. Both nations, upholding principles of sovereignty, have forged a strong bond while asserting their roles on regional and global stages.

Pakistan, facing two significant wars in the 1960s and 1970s, received vital support from China, solidifying their bilateral ties. China’s consistent backing of Pakistan on the Kashmir issue and its investments in infrastructure projects underscore the depth of their partnership. In the early 2000s, Beijing and Islamabad expanded their cooperation by embarking on projects such as the development of Pakistan’s Gwadar Port and the signing of a free trade agreement in 2006. The launch of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) in 2015, under the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), further strengthened their economic links, leading to a notable increase in bilateral trade. Despite speculations by rivals, the China-Pakistan partnership remains resilient, with no evidence of rifts undermining their enduring collaboration. This partnership is anchored in historical foundations and contemporary developments grounded in mutual trust and shared strategic interests.

China’s recent decision to extend a \$ 2 billion loan to help Pakistan cope with its ongoing economic crisis underscores China’s commitment to its all-weather partnership with Paki-stan. Chinese investments in infrastructure and energy projects in Pakistan had a

positive impact, addressing chronic energy shortages and enhancing connectivity within the country and with neighboring states. Several infrastructure projects, including motorways, railways, and ports, have been initiated, with some already completed and others under construction.

CPEC has also contributed over 12,000 megawatts of electricity to alleviate Pakistan's energy crisis. While there has been criticism regarding the slow development of industrial and Special Economic Zones (SEZs) with Chinese assistance, progress is being made. Land has been allocated for SEZs in various regions, particularly in Punjab and Sindh, which are expected to drive initiatives in this area. Economic collaboration, however, remains a relatively underexplored aspect of the partnership, requiring time and joint efforts to flourish.

The most critical facet of bilateral cooperation is security, and there has been extensive collaboration between Pakistan and China in recent years. Both countries have aligned closely on military cooperation and key strategic issues in regional security and counterterrorism. They maintain a strategic partnership focused on ensuring a stable and secure regional environment.

This strong partnership is exemplified by the remarks of Pakistan's former army chief, General Qamar Javed Bajwa (retired), who described China's People's Liberation Army (PLA) and Pakistan Army as "brothers in arms" dedicated to safeguarding their collective interests during a ceremony marking the 95th anniversary of the PLA. China plays a crucial role in maintaining a balance of power in South Asia, with Pakistan being the largest recipient of Chinese arms, accounting for nearly 40 percent of Chinese arms exports. Military interactions between China and Pakistan have surpassed China-Russia engagements between 2017 and 2021, encompassing joint exercises, defense cooperation, and the exchange of military technologies and expertise.

China's unwavering support for Pakistan on critical matters like Afghanistan and the Kashmir dispute highlights their alignment in shared interests. China's swift call for a UN Security Council meeting in 2019, following border escalations and air skirmishes between Pakistan and India, demonstrated its steadfast support for Pakistan within the United Nations. As the two friendly nations celebrated China's National Day, the leadership of both the countries have pledged to stand together as everlasting friends and jointly work for peace and prosperity of the region.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2023-10-02/page-2/detail-6>

The News

'Hard work, reforms changed face of China'

LAHORE: In a festive mood and style, Lahore Overseas China Association (LOCA) and Understanding China Forum (UCF) held a boisterous ceremony to commemorate the founding of the People's Republic of China called China National Day.

Celebrating 74th China National Day, sizeable number of Chinese nationals gathered at LOCA office and shared pleasantries with one another. During this gala day, Chinese people felt a strong sense of patriotism and cherished the event's festive mood.

Ceremony was attended by Acting Chinese Consul General Lahore Cao Ke, LOCA president Mr Luo, diplomat Mr Du, Institute of International Relations and Media Research (IIRMR) president Yasir Habib Khan, Chinese companies CEOs and many other notables of Lahore.

Acting Chinese Consul General Lahore Cao Ke congratulated everyone on holding of China National Day with joyful sentiments. 'On the occasion of the Mid-Autumn Festival and the National Day, overseas Chinese and the people across the country will surely unite as one to write a more splendid chapter in the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation,' he added.

LOCA president Mr Luo said that customs and activities of the Mid-Autumn Festival convey the good wishes of reunion, play the role of inheriting customs, raising consensus, and gathering strength, awakening overseas Chinese's memory of traditional Chinese culture, enhancing group identity, and inheriting and promoting traditional Chinese culture.

'Today is the 74th anniversary of our National Day. In the blink of an eye, 74 years have passed. China has risen from poverty and weakness to the second largest country in the world.

Over the past 44 years, it has opened up a great chapter in socialist revolution and construction through reform and opening up,' he added. 'It has greatly changed the face of China. The Chinese nation has grown from standing up to becoming rich and then becoming strong,' he went on saying.

Institute of International Relations and Media Research (IIRMR) President Yasir Habib Khan said the festivities of China National Day galore with prettiest extravaganza. He gave a big round of applause on the singing performance of Chinese children in the event bedecked with flamboyant decorative stuff.

After the decent ceremony, China National Day cake was cut in the backdrop of music and Chinese traditional prayers for the national rejuvenation. The venue was embellished using a festive, patriotic theme. Wording of national leaders, including Mao Zedong, was displayed.

Presently, China's National Day is celebrated over a one week period. The seven-day holiday begins from October 1st and runs until the 7th, and this period is called 'Golden Week' in China. During this week, many Chinese people travel around the country to enjoy the holiday.

During this period, people have a week-off to reunite with their family and take trips within China and to surrounding countries. Since 1950, October 1st every year has been celebrated as a great national festival in China.

At the National Day Evening Gala, attendees basked in songs and dances that focus on themes like love for one's motherland and celebrations of the country's development.

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=242706>

Four years of green BRI and role of BRIGC

Shakeel Ahmad Ramay

The Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) is part of China's grand strategy for a peaceful, prosperous and beautiful world.

President Xi Jinping summarised China's grand strategy by putting forward the vision of a community with a shared future. He launched four global initiatives – Belt and Road Initiative, Global Security Initiative, Global Development Initiative and Global Civilisation Initiative – for the purpose.

Belt and Road Initiative was the first programme. It was designed to cater to the needs of people – decent employment, poverty eradication, quality infrastructure, etc. It was envisioned the objectives of BRI would be achieved by investing in infrastructure, industrial base and revolutionising agriculture among others.

China was cognizant that achieving these objectives would be meaningless if the environmental needs and emerging challenge of climate change are ignored or undermined. Hence, during the second BRI forum in 2019, it tasked BRI-relevant Chinese ministries, institutes and companies to lead the discourse and path in promoting green and environment-friendly development under the BRI.

Ministry of Ecology and Environment, National Development and Reforms Commission, Ministry of Commerce and other institutions joined hands to realise the dream of green and environment-friendly development.

These ministries and institutes launched numerous initiatives. These include Green Silk Road Envoys Programme, BRI Environmental Big Data Platform, Belt and Road South-South Cooperation Initiative on Climate Change, Belt and Road Green Lighting Initiative, Belt and Road Green Cooling Initiative, Belt and Road Bankers Roundtable Mechanism, Belt and Road Green Cooling Initiative and BRI International Green Development Coalition (BRIGC).

Being the focal ministry of BRI, the National Development and Reform Commission is working to design and execute the projects according to the principles of sustainable development and ecological civilisation. NDRC is closely working with the Ministry of Ecology and Environment to develop comprehensive guidelines and policies for implementing the green BRI agenda.

NDRC, in collaboration with the Ministry of Ecology and Environment and others, introduced new guidelines on March 28, 2022 to foster implementation of the vision of green BRI. The Ministry of Finance and Ministry of Commerce are also playing their role in executing the agenda of green BRI.

The BRI International Green Development Coalition (BRIGC) is one of the most important initiatives to realise the dream of green and environment-friendly development. It is a joint venture of the Ministry of Ecology and Environment and over 100 international intergovernmental and non-government organisations. Many BRI member countries'

environmental and climate change ministries have also joined BRIGC. The Ministry of Ecology and Environment is hosting BRIGC and leading the implementation of its agenda.

The BRIGC came into existence with three specific objectives: promote policy dialogue and communication, act as an environment knowledge platform, and technology transfer platform. It was envisioned BRIGC would assist in changing the mindset of policymakers and help integrate sustainable development principles into the design, execution and implementation of BRI projects.

BRIGC, under the auspices of the Ministry of Ecology and Environment, has forged close partnerships with NDRC, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Commerce, companies and other institutions to achieve the prescribed objectives. It also assists them in creating knowledge and policy guidelines and steering the policy dialogue with stakeholders.

BRIGC has ten thematic areas – biodiversity and ecosystem management; green energy and energy efficiency; green finance and investments; improvement of environmental quality and green cities; south-south environmental cooperation and SDG capacity building; green technology, innovation and corporate social responsibility; sustainable transportation, climate change governance and green transformation; environmental legislation and standards; maritime community with a shared future and marine environment governance. The list shows all the essential areas for building a green and sustainable future have been covered.

Since its launch, BRIGC has been striving hard to change the mindset and promote green growth and development policies. It has launched numerous initiatives on multiple fronts. It started the work by engaging institutions to build a global movement for green growth and development. It has involved various stakeholders in policy dialogue and research projects.

BRIGC promotes open and transparent dialogue among governments, intergovernmental organizations and non-government organisations. The dialogue and communication process has accelerated during the last two years.

The continuous engagement is bearing fruit, and BRI countries are focusing more on designing and executing projects by adhering to principles of sustainable development. It is helping to mainstream the agenda of green growth and environment-friendly development under the BRI.

BRIGC is equally focused on the creation of quality knowledge.

It has launched several projects and commissioned studies to understand the needs of the member countries and provide policy guidance to them for green transition.

A few examples are the BRI Green Development Case Study Report 2020, BRI and Carbon Pricing Mechanism, Biodiversity Areas and Impact Assessment in BRI-covered Areas etc.

BRIGC is also busy issuing different reports and policy documents to guide the implementation of green BRI. For example, in 2020 it developed and issued Green Development Guidance for BRI Projects Baseline Study (GDG).

It again developed and published Application Guide for Enterprises and Financial Institutions and Guide for Railways and Highways Infrastructure Sectors for the GDG in 2021.

These are a few examples of the success story. The good thing is that BRIGC is not content with it. It is working to enhance its impact further. BRIGC is also coordinating with the Ministry of Ecology and Environment to make the upcoming high-level Green BRI forum a success. It is in the process of engaging stakeholders from across the world.

However, there are certain areas where BRIGC can further refine its work. First, BRIGC should launch a special initiative for youth engagement. Youth engagement will ensure sustainability of BRIGC activities and carry forward the message of green BRI.

It will also help disseminate the message on a grander scale. Youth engagement will help promote a culture of innovation and technology adaptation.

Second, there should be some dedicated initiatives for young girls. BRIGC should launch a “Girls Alliance for Green BRI”. The proposed alliance should be mandated to promote females’ role in policymaking and implementation.

Third, BRIGC should include agriculture and livestock theme in its list of thematic areas. It would be easier for it because agriculture is emerging as one of the significant areas of cooperation under BRI. Agriculture is one of the major areas of collaboration in the second phase of CPEC.

The inclusion of agriculture is needed because it plays multiple roles in achieving sustainable development goals. It helps developing and least-developed countries secure food security and provide low-cost raw materials.

It is also a major source of employment and income for many developing nations. Agriculture is important because it is a leading emitter of GHG in developing countries. Many of these countries are BRI members. They need help to lower emissions without compromising the agriculture sector’s economic and development role.

BRIGC should create a dedicated group at the secretariat and develop sustainable and climate change smart agriculture guidelines under the BRI to guide the member countries.

In conclusion, it is hoped BRIGC, under the auspices of Ministry of Ecology and Environment, will continue to innovate the path for smooth implementation of green BRI agenda. Moreover, it will continue to assist NDRC, the Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Commerce by providing them with high-quality knowledge and leading the policy dialogue and discussion on the agenda.

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=242709>

China’s new mission will also carry Pakistani satellite to moon

Hanif Khalid

ISLAMABAD: China’s new mission to the moon, Cheng E6, will also carry a Pakistani satellite to the moon.

The China National Space Administration (CNSA) has stated in a statement on the social media site Waco that the Chang’e 6 mission will be launched to the moon in the first half of 2024. The mission will carry payloads to the moon from Pakistan, European Space Agency, France and Italy.

The Chang'e 6 mission will carry French instruments that will test for radioactive gas. Similarly, the European Space Agency's Negative Ion Detector and Italy's Valle Brett Radar System will also be taken to the moon by this mission. According to the statement, Pakistan's satellite named CubeSat will also be sent to the moon's orbit. It said that China is accelerating the International Lunar Research Station project. More international partnerships are expected to follow.

The CNSA said the mission will carry payloads and satellites from four countries to increase international cooperation. The Chang'e-6 mission will travel to the dark side of the moon and collect samples from the surface and return to Earth. According to CNSA, this will be the first time that samples from the dark side of the moon will be brought back to Earth.

Earlier, such missions had collected samples from the near surface of the moon. According to the statement, the purpose of the mission is to collect samples from different parts of the moon to gather more details about its age. After Chang'e 6, China's Chang'e 7 robotic mission will be sent to the moon's south pole. The mission will look for signs of ice there while also examining the region's atmosphere and weather.

The Chang'e 8 mission will conclude the Chang'e missions that will be sent there to possibly establish a research station. It should be noted that in 2013, China's Chang'e-5 mission collected samples from the moon and brought them to the earth, thus becoming the third country in the world to do so after the United States and Russia.

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=242685>

Naqvi visits Chinese consulate on national day

LAHORE: Punjab Caretaker Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi Sunday congratulated the Acting Chinese Consul General, Cao Ke, on the National Day of the People's Republic of China.

Naqvi met the acting Chinese consul general at the Chinese consulate here. Information Minister Amir Mir and chief secretary jointly cut the cake.

Naqvi presented a bouquet and traditional sweets to the acting consul general. Ke thanked the chief minister for visiting the consulate on the national day. The chief minister said the National Day of People's Republic of China was celebrated with zeal and fervor across Punjab, including Lahore, and portraits and banners were displayed at the main roads to express complete solidarity with China. Ke said the Pakistan-China relations were promoted further under the able leadership of CM Naqvi.

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=242694>

October 03, 2023

Business Recorder

Third-party participation in CPEC

MUSHTAQ GHUMMAN

Accord likely at third Belt and Road Forum

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and China are likely to sign a pact on participation of a third party in China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) projects during the forthcoming Belt and Road Forum (BRF). This was revealed by Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) at a recent meeting convened to review progress on CPEC projects, presided over by Caretaker Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Sami Saeed.

In June last year, MoFA had imposed a ban on announcements regarding inclusion of third party in CPEC projects, saying both Pakistan and China have already decided to refrain from making public announcements in this regard.

In a letter written by Director General (China) Ministry of Foreign Affairs, there have been several instances involving mention of third-party inclusion in CPEC, clarifying that the CPEC Joint Cooperation Committee (JWG) has mandated the Joint Working Group on International Cooperation and Coordination (JWG-ICC) with all matters related to prospective third parties' inclusion in CPEC.

MoFA had made it clear that as per the policy, consensus reached by both Pakistan and China at the 1st and 2nd JWG meetings, pronouncements on third-party participation are to be made only after mutual consultation after consensus.

According to sources, On September 22, 2023, MoFA provided a briefing to the meeting regarding the progress made by the JWG on International Cooperation & Coordination. They stated that this group was established in the year 2018 with the primary objective of fostering a favourable international environment to facilitate the development and promotion of CPEC. The first meeting of the group was held in April 2019, and subsequently, three more meetings have been convened. The fourth meeting is scheduled for this year, although the specific date is yet to be confirmed by the Chinese side.

MoFA further informed the Modalities/ ToRs for participation of 3rd parties in CPEC have been conclusively determined through comprehensive inter-ministerial consultations. They have submitted these procedures for review and feedback to the Ministry of Planning.

The Caretaker Minister for Planning expressed his satisfaction on progress achieved by the JWG and reiterated the significance of finalising of Modalities/ ToRs for ratification of 3rd party in CPEC projects. He directed that these matters be concluded at the earliest in order to get it ready for signing during the forthcoming Belt and Road Forum.

MoITT noted that the first JWG meeting on IT was held on July 28, 2022 wherein 10 projects/ proposals were discussed under six different topics: ICT infrastructure, ICT application, Policy and regulation, Radio spectrum regulation, cyber security and HR development.

Furthermore, they noted that, as agreed in the 11th JCC meeting the following six Sub Working Groups have been established to formulate plans for cooperation in each area and their maiden meetings have been held except for sub working group on Human Resource: (i) Sub-Working Group on ICT Infrastructure Development; (ii) Sub-Working Group on ICT application innovation; (iii) Sub-Working Group on Cyber security; (iv) Sub-Working Group

on Policy and Regulation; (v) Sub-Working Group on Radio Spectrum Regulation; and (v) Sub-Working Group on Human Resource Development .

The Chair directed to enhance connectivity and promote the ICT industry development and to carry out cooperation in 5G technologies and provide assistance towards formulation/ implementation of the 5G Pakistan Plan.

Power Division informed that agenda of the 9th and 7th EPEP has been finalised with National Energy Administration of China. Draft minutes are being finalised between Power Division and NEA. However, the date for holding 9th JWG meeting is yet to be confirmed by the Chinese side.

It was decided that as minutes of 11th JCC have been signed and in compliance certain items need discussion/ recommendation of the EPEP. Therefore, meeting of EPEP shall be arranged at the earliest before consideration of JEWG.

Caretaker Minister for Planning directed to arrange a separate meeting on the security aspects of CPEC projects with relevant stakeholders.

Ministry of National Food Security and Research (MoNFS&R) provided a briefing on the progress achieved by the JWG on Agriculture Cooperation. It was reported that several protocols for the export of agricultural commodities from Pakistan to China have already been signed, and efforts are under way to finalise additional protocols. MoNFS&R emphasised its role in facilitating Chinese companies in pursuing business opportunities aligned with the agreed-upon agendas in JWG.

Additionally, MoNFS&R conveyed information regarding the PC-I for the establishment of the Centre for Sustainable Control of plant pest and diseases. MoNFS&R was advised to expedite the processing of this PC-I proposal to ensure timely progress in this area of cooperation.

The Ministry of Science and Technology shared the following proposed agenda and way forward for upcoming meeting of JWG: (i) joint work on value chain of lithium-ion batteries; (ii) establishment of Technology Pak in Medical Equipment and device development; (iii) linking Pakistan's AL/ Big Data Companies of China; and (iv) promoting innovation and entrepreneurship in the Hi-Tech industry.

Furthermore, they stated that the PC-1 of the Joint Research Centre on Earth Sciences at Quaid-e-Azam University Islamabad has been approved by the Planning Commission which will be subsequently shared with the CIDCA via EAD and MoU on the "establishment of China-South Asia Technology Transfer Centre (CSTTC) Sub Centre Pakistan at PCSIR" has been signed.

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2023/10/03/1-page/973318-news.html>

Trans-Himalaya Forum

FM to leave for China tomorrow

ISLAMABAD: Care-taker Foreign Minister Jalil Abbas Jilani will embark on a two-day official visit to China Wednesday (Oct 4) to participate in the 3rd Trans-Himalaya Forum for

International Cooperation, being held in Nyingchi, Tibet Autonomous Region, from 4-5 October.

Jilani is undertaking the visit at the special invitation of the Foreign Minister of China, Wang Yi, according to a statement from the Foreign Office.

During his stay in Tibet, the statement added that caretaker Foreign Minister Jilani will address the opening ceremony of the Trans-Himalaya Forum.

He will also meet with several regional dignitaries including the deputy prime minister of Mongolia, the foreign minister of China, and Interim Foreign Minister of Afghanistan Amir Khan Muttaqi.

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2023/10/03/3-page/973330-news.html>

Pakistan Observer

Ali, Zhang discuss Pak-China cooperation in diverse fields

Caretaker Federal Minister for Power and Petroleum, Muhammad Ali has held a significant meeting with the Vice President of China National Petroleum Corporation, Mr. Zhang, during the sidelines of the Abu Dhabi International Progressive Energy Congress (ADIPEC).

The discussions revolved around various issues of mutual interest between the two nations, according to a news release received here on Monday.

Both sides expressed their willingness to enhance future cooperation in the vital energy sector.

ADIPEC, renowned as one of the world's largest energy events, is currently underway in Abu Dhabi, attracting participation from 2,200 companies and featuring 30 country pavilions that showcase cutting-edge energy strategies and innovations.

Pakistan is actively participating in ADIPEC, with the event scheduled to run from October 2 to October 5, boasting a representation of more than ten companies.

This participation underlines Pakistan's commitment to engaging with the global energy community and exploring opportunities for advancement and collaboration in the energy sector.—APP

<https://pakobserver.net/ali-zhang-discuss-pak-china-cooperation-in-diverse-fields/>

The Nation

China National Day: CPEC & Pakistan

Dr Asif Channer

China National Day, celebrated on October 1st, is a joyous occasion for the Chinese people. It marks the founding of the People's Republic of China and serves as a reminder of their unity, progress, and cultural richness. The friendship between China and Pakistan has stood the test of time, rooted in mutual trust, support, and shared interests. China and Pakistan have consistently supported each other on regional and international platforms. Both nations have stood together on issues of mutual concern, such as territorial integrity, sovereignty, and

regional stability. This unwavering support has deepened their bilateral ties and created a foundation for further cooperation.

The economic cooperation between China and Pakistan has reached new heights with the inception of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). Under this initiative, a series of infrastructure and energy projects have been undertaken, fostering economic connectivity and enhancing trade between the two nations. CPEC has not only revitalised Pakistan's economy but has also played a crucial role in regional development.

China National Day in the Context of CPEC has a significant role in these ties. CPEC has become a vital component of China National Day celebrations, symbolising the joint efforts of both nations in promoting regional connectivity and economic development. The construction of highways, railways, ports, and airports under CPEC has significantly improved transportation infrastructure in Pakistan, facilitating trade and attracting foreign investment.

Energy is a critical aspect of CPEC, contributing to Pakistan's power generation capacity. The construction of coal, hydro, wind, and solar power projects has addressed Pakistan's energy deficit, ensuring a stable supply and supporting its industrial growth. Coordinated Economic Cooperation has been vital. Recognising the potential of a coordinated approach to economic development, China and Pakistan have strategically aligned their economic policies to maximise the benefits of CPEC.

Through industrial cooperation, technology transfer, and joint ventures, CPEC has created new avenues for job creation, skill development, and economic diversification in Pakistan. Collaboration in sectors such as agriculture, textiles, manufacturing, and information technology has strengthened the industrial base of both nations.

Looking towards the future, the celebrations of Chinese National Day hold promising prospects for the continued growth and deepening of relations between China and Pakistan. The longstanding friendship, rooted in shared values and strategic interests, is poised to evolve into a more comprehensive and mutually beneficial partnership. The vision encompasses strengthened economic ties, collaborative innovation, sustainable development initiatives, and a comprehensive approach to regional stability. As both nations remain committed to enhancing people-to-people exchanges, cultural understanding, and academic collaborations, the foundation for a lasting and fruitful friendship is solidified. China National Day acts as a beacon, illuminating the path towards a future where the China-Pakistan relationship continues to flourish, fostering peace, prosperity, and progress in the region and beyond. The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) will continue to play a pivotal role in this shared journey, amplifying the positive impact on both nations' economies, industries, and societies.

Lastly, as China celebrates its National Day, it reaffirms its commitment to fostering friendship, cooperation, and cultural richness. The deep-rooted friendship between China and Pakistan has been further strengthened through the comprehensive collaboration under the CPEC initiative, leading to tangible benefits for both nations. The celebration of China National Day serves as a reminder of the unwavering bond, shared aspirations, and

coordinated economic cooperation that form the foundation of the China-Pakistan relationship. This friendship and cooperation continue to lay the groundwork for a prosperous and peaceful future not only for both nations but also for the entire region.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2023-10-03/page-6/detail-4>

Zong 4G celebrates China's National Day and Mid-Autumn Festival with international roaming offer

ISLAMABAD-Zong 4G celebrated cultural diversity and togetherness by introducing China Roaming Prepaid Bundles on China's National Day on October 1st and the upcoming Mid-Autumn Festival. These bundles bridge geographical distances and embrace the rich tapestry of global traditions and celebrations, reflecting Zong's commitment to connecting people across borders.

Zong 4G's exclusive international roaming prepaid bundles enhance the Chinese holiday experience, offering an exclusive opportunity to stay connected with uninterrupted connectivity; offering resources starting from 30 minutes, SMS and 1 GB data to 90 minutes, SMS, and 5 GB data. On top of that, only data offers including 1 GB, 3 GB and 5GB are being offered as well, starting from as low as just Rs.950.

Zong 4G's China Roaming Bundles offer travelers an incredible opportunity to immerse themselves in the essence of China. Whether you're exploring the bustling streets of Beijing, savoring authentic cuisine in Shanghai, or admiring the natural wonders of the Great Wall, our bundles ensure you stay connected with your loved ones and share your adventures seamlessly.

"Our China Roaming Bundles exemplify our commitment to fostering global connectivity while honoring cultural diversity. We believe that staying connected is a convenience and a bridge that brings people closer, especially during important cultural celebrations." – Zong Spokesperson said. Not just for travelers, these bundles are key for Chinese residents abroad using ZONG SIM, enabling them to stay in touch and partake in cultural festivities even when far from home.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2023-10-03/page-9/detail-1>

The News

FM to attend forum meeting in China tomorrow

Mariana Baabar

ISLAMABAD: At the special invitation of Foreign Minister of China Wang Yi, Foreign Minister Jalil Abbas Jilani will visit China to participate in the 3rd Trans-Himalaya Forum for International Cooperation, being held in Nyingchi, Tibet Autonomous Region, on October 4-5, according to the Foreign Office.

Ten countries have been invited to attend the forum but there is speculation that India is not likely to attend it, even though it has been invited. Of special interest will be a meeting between the foreign ministers of Pakistan and Afghanistan where a host of bilateral issues including return of unregistered Afghans and terrorism from Afghanistan will be discussed.

Many delegates, The News has learnt, who have reached Nyingchi, are suffering from slight altitude sickness.

The Trans-Himalaya Forum was initiated in 2018 to deepen practical cooperation among regional countries on diverse subjects including geographical connectivity, environmental protection, ecological preservation and cultural linkages. The last in-person meeting of the Forum was held in 2019. The theme of this year's Forum is "Ecological Civilization and Environmental Protection".

"During his stay in Tibet, Jilani will address the opening ceremony of the Forum. He will also meet several regional dignitaries including the deputy prime minister of Mongolia, the foreign minister of China and the interim foreign minister of Afghanistan," said the Foreign Office. This is the first time that the Forum has been upgraded to the ministerial level. Previously an ambassador from Pakistan had attended it. This is a Chinese forum and does not have members per se, and is not an institutionalised format.

"It's a conference that's very important for the Chinese to showcase their connectivity strengths and show the developmental successes of Tibet to the world," says a source. The China Tibet Trans-Himalayas Forum for International Cooperation was founded in 2018 and is hosted by the Tibet Autonomous Region. It aims to promote interconnection and common development of countries in the region and beyond through holding international discussions, exchanges and cooperation. So far, it has successfully held two forums and an online seminar on ecological and environmental protection. In October 2019, the second Trans-Himalayas Forum was held in Nyingchi, Tibet. Representatives from the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor Committee of Senate of Pakistan and the Pakistan National Medical Services Regulatory Commission attended. The Forum further focused on the goal of interconnection and expanding characteristic cooperation in the humanities field. In the spirit of "open cooperation, mutual benefit and win-win", the Forum integrated superior resources and built a communication platform for regional development. In February 2021, the Trans-Himalayas Forum held a track 1.5 online seminar on ecological and environmental protection, focusing on ecological and environmental protection, international cooperation in the field of climate change, green and low-carbon, sustainable development, etc and achieved positive results.

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=242988>

October 04, 2023

Pakistan Observer

CPEC: Emerging trends & end-game and way forward

Dr Mehmood Ul Hassan Khan

It seems that Indian media outlets and western powers along with their so-called "pseudo puppets" are once again "purposefully" very active in propagating against China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). Ironically, even "political wings" of many foreign missions in the country are trying to "mapping" the route of the CPEC in Gwadar and Gilgit-Baltistan regions.

Their visits got tremendous “momentum” after the announcement of the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC) during the recently concluded G20 in New Delhi and have already started a new debate in the country about the fate of CPEC which is not a good omen.

Despite all “false” and “fake” propaganda, the CPEC is moving forward to bring “economic prosperity”, stability and sustainability in the country. According to the Ministry of Planning Development and Special Initiatives, China and Pakistan are committed to “expanding” the scope of the CPEC to include new areas of cooperation and categorically “rejected” the propaganda that China does not want to expand the scope of the CPEC.

It termed the published story in the local media and India as “fabricated”, “factually” “incorrect”, and had “misleading” information. It upheld that the CPEC projects have already been implemented and are currently ongoing in Gilgit-Baltistan, Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa, Azad Jammu and Kashmir and the coastal areas producing “substantial” dividends for the socio-economic uplift of the local population and country alike.

There is no “ambiguity” that areas such as water resources management, climate change and tourism were already part of the CPEC long-term Plan and both sides agreed during the deliberations before the 11th Joint Cooperation Committee (JCC) to work out the detailed contours of these projects in upcoming sessions of respective Joint Working Groups (JWGs).

In this regard, it is pertinent to mention that the JWGs are technical bodies comprising experts from both sides, who are responsible for conceiving and evaluating project proposals in their respective areas. Therefore, sponsored media speculations and manipulating tactics do not have any “credibility” and “relevance”.

Technically speaking, it holds the goals and objectives of the CPEC Long-Term Plan which is indeed based on standard procedure of the approval of CPEC projects, ensuring all careful consideration of all proposals.

In addition to this, China and Pakistan have a time-tested friendship, and CPEC has greatly already enhanced Pakistan’s energy, logistical and physical infrastructure capabilities and hopefully CPEC Phase-II will further “enhance” its capacity building mechanism in terms of trans-regional connectivity, infrastructure development, qualitative industrialization, agriculture development and last but not the least, social development in the country. It is a good omen that the benefits of CPEC are widely distributed throughout Pakistan. There is no regional or provincial prejudice in this regard.

Diplomatic sources and regional experts are still “confident” that both sides are fully resolved to harness the investment in infrastructure for economic growth, particularly in export-oriented industries, agriculture productivity, and natural resource management, all while enhancing partnerships in addressing the concerns of climate change and sustainable development.

However, there is an urgent need to reaffirm the scope, utility, productivity and strategic importance of the CPEC in the country through “integrated efforts” mitigating the spill-over repercussions of the “Indian lobby”, “western powers” ill intentions and “paid-agents” in the country. Role of professional experts and think tanks is paramount in this regard.

Critical analysis unearthed that the media “hybrid war” against CPEC has had been staged and schemed on the “arrival” of new Chinese Ambassador “H.E. Jiang Zaidong” presenting dismal picture of the CPEC and bilateral relations between two iron-clad friends. Moreover, incidents of deadly terrorist attacks in Gilgit-Baltistan, Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan, constant infiltration and intensified and indiscriminating firings from the soil of Afghanistan and last but not the least sudden activation of the TTP and other franchises are now posing threats to even CPEC projects in the country all indicate start of new “End Game” in the region targeting CPEC and containing Pak-China relations.

The two countries are jointly working to protect environment and climate change priorities under the flagship project of CPEC in the country. Many news stories have been published about the alleged usage of inferior quality coal in the CPEC power plants spreading numerous health hazards and polluting the environment and bio-diversity in the country.

On the contrary, all coal-fired power plants built by Chinese companies in Pakistan have been consistently using high-quality coal imported from other countries. Moreover, all the coal-fired plants under the CPEC have advanced technologies and operational mechanisms which cannot run on low-quality coal like a fighter jet cannot start and run on regular fuel. Thus all these subsidized news stories are intentionally planted to allege CPEC energy projects harming the environment, public health, bio-diversity and agriculture yields in the country.

It seems that the “schemers” of these news items tried to play down on the energy projects of CPEC even because of the upcoming COP28 in the UAE, raising doubts of the pledged “greening” of CPEC and BRI alike in the eyes of international audience and organizations.

In summary, there is an urgent need of counterproductive “media diplomacy/campaign” trying to remove all doubts and propagandas against the CPEC and Pak-China ties.

It is imperative to introduce new “re-branding” of the CPEC, especially the Phase-II in the country highlighting the scope and importance of its different projects.

It is high time to resolve all pending issues relating to “safety & security” of the Chinese personnel and CPEC projects in the country, especially in Gilgit-Baltistan, Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa, Azad Jammu and Gwadar. The issue of “deferred payments” of the Chinese private companies may also be amicably settled.

Obviously, the regional “landscape” of “geopolitics” is going to be merged with global geo-strategic power politics which must be tackled with dialogue, diplomacy, development and determination.

Activation of many foreign missions in the country is a “wake-up call” for the Foreign Office and policy makers of both sides which should be controlled through close liaison and political consultations.

Moreover, announcement of new trans-regional corridors and middle corridors are “potential risks” to CPEC and BRI which need to be thoroughly studied and countered.

It is vital to introduce a new financial, security and economic ties model to protect the mutually agreed vested interests pertaining to the CPEC and BRI. In this regard, the policy makers of Pakistan should avail the golden opportunity from the upcoming 3rd BRI forum for

International Cooperation and should showcase the regional and trans-regional strategic importance of CPEC seeking more and more FDIs in the country.

The CPEC Phase-II should introduce green energy mix (solar, wind, green/blue hydrogen power generation), lithium & sand batteries projects, hybrid cropping of rice, wheat, digitalization, artificial intelligence, building & completion of special free economic zones, de-desertification massive drive in the desert areas, qualitative industrialization, nuclear & solar power plants and last but not the least, mining & metal exploitation in the country. The policy makers should avoid any drastic change in their policies, priorities and game plans.

<https://pakobserver.net/cpec-emerging-trends-end-game-and-way-forward/>

The Nation

Rashakai Economic Zone likely to generate 250,000 jobs: Kakakhel

KP minister greets Chinese people on 74th National Day

Peshawar - Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Caretaker Minister for Information, Tourism, and Culture, Barrister Feroz Jamal Shah Kakakhel, extended warm congratulations to the Chinese people on their 74th National Day. He celebrated the profound and enduring friendship between Pakistan and China, emphasizing that it was "higher than the Himalayas, deeper than the sea, sweeter than honey, and stronger than steel."

Minister Kakakhel highlighted China's role as an "iron brother" to Pakistan, acknowledging China's substantial investments of over \$65 billion in Pakistan under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). He expressed optimism about a new era of prosperity on the horizon.

Speaking at an event in Peshawar, Minister Kakakhel discussed the economic potential of the region. He pointed out that the Rashakai Economic Zone project in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa is expected to generate approximately 250,000 jobs in the industrial sector. He also highlighted ongoing road projects, including the D I Khan Motorway and Dir Expressway, aimed at accelerating economic development in the region.

The event gathered distinguished guests, including government officials, journalists, members of the business community, and cultural figures. Consul General of the Iran Consulate Peshawar, Ali Banafsheh Khah, was also present.

Minister Kakakhel emphasized the enduring strength of the Pakistan-China friendship, which has spanned seven decades. He expressed confidence in its continued growth. He stressed the importance of learning from China's experience in good governance and merit-based systems. He urged the adoption of Islamic values and principles to achieve progress, citing developed countries that have embraced these principles.

Highlighting the significance of merit and transparency in society, Minister Kakakhel commended China's efforts to combat corruption and prioritize merit, which has led to remarkable development. He also suggested drawing lessons from Iran's experiences.

Minister Kakakhel revealed plans to establish a Khyber Pakhtunkhwa corner at 'China Window' and a China corner at Nishtar Hall, with the possibility of an Iran corner. The event

concluded with a cake-cutting ceremony and additional speakers addressing various aspects of Pakistan-China relations.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2023-10-04/page-3/detail-0>

October 05, 2023

The Nation

UoP holds event to mark 74th founding anniversary of China

Peshawar - The University of Peshawar's China Study Centre, in collaboration with the Pakistan-China Friendship Association's Khyber Pakhtunkhwa chapter, organized a cake-cutting ceremony to commemorate the 74th Founding Anniversary of the People's Republic of China on Wednesday (October 4) at the China Study Centre.

The event featured Dr. Najeeb Ullah, Minister for Science and Technology, IT, Sports, and Youth Affairs, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, as the esteemed Chief Guest. Prof. Dr. Kausar Takrim, Director of the China Study Centre at the University of Peshawar, extended a warm welcome to the Chief Guest, vice-chancellor of the University of Peshawar, Deans, Faculty members, students, and government and media officials. She highlighted the remarkable journey of China, founded on the principles of socialism, unity, and prosperity for its people.

Syed Ali Nawaz Gillani, Secretary-General of the Pakistan-China Friendship Association Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, delved into China's history, emphasizing its enduring struggles and impressive economic growth. He underscored the unique bond between Pakistan and China, characterized by mutual support during challenging times.

Dr. Najeeb Ullah praised the China Study Centre for fostering closer ties between the two nations through higher education and people-to-people interactions. He encouraged students to explore Chinese culture, history, and civilization, recognizing the need for Pakistan to learn from China, particularly in the fields of science, technology, and economic growth.

Dr Najeeb highlighted the significance of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) and skilled labour in economic growth, drawing attention to China's strategic use of FDI to become a global leader across various industries. He revealed plans to initiate bankable feasibility studies in agriculture, mining, information technology, and energy sectors in collaboration with the Chinese government.

Prof. Dr. Jehan Bakht, vice-chancellor of the University of Peshawar, extended congratulations to the Chinese people and highlighted the growing cooperation between Pakistan and China, especially in the knowledge industry. He emphasized the role of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) in elevating bilateral relations and promoting economic development. The event concluded with a cake-cutting ceremony, marking the 74th Founding Anniversary of the People's Republic of China.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2023-10-05/page-3/detail-1>

CPEC will continue to be improved and upgraded to new heights: Cao Ke

LAHORE-The Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry on Wednesday celebrated the 74th founding anniversary of the People's Republic of China.

The spectacular ceremony was attended by acting Consul General of China Cao Ke. LCCI President Kashif Anwar spoke on the occasion while Senior Vice President Zafar Mahmood Chaudhry, Vice President Adnan Khalid Butt, Vice President Pakistan (China) Shandong Chamber of Commerce Chen Qianjiang, Vice President Pakistan Chinese Federation He Yubing, Vice President Pakistan Chinese Chamber Chen Qianjiang, President Pakistan Tax Bar Association Rana Munir Hussain and LCCI Executive Committee Members were also present.

Acting Consul General of China, Cao Ke emphasized the significance of Lahore as a pivotal city and lauded the Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry for its commendable efforts in promoting trade and industry. He expressed a strong desire for knowledge sharing and technology transfer between China and Pakistan, highlighting the importance of mutual learning. Furthermore, Cao Ke noted that this year marks the 10th anniversary of both the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and the Belt and Road Initiative, along with the 74th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China. He underscored CPEC's transformative impact on Pakistan's economy, with a substantial \$24.4 billion investment and said, I am confident that, with the bilateral attention and efforts, the construction of the CPEC will continue to be improved and upgraded to new heights.

Cao Ke also emphasized the commitment of the leadership of the Communist Party of China, the Chinese people, and President Xi Jinping in modernizing and socializing China and said that China is committed to uphold global peace. He pledged continued support for Pakistani businesses, facilitating their participation in events such as the China International Import Expo (CIIE) and the Canton Fair.

LCCI President Kashif Anwar said that it has been great honour for all of us to have the opportunity to host very important Chinese business leaders in this event who are not only representing the key business support organizations in Pakistan but also doing excellent job for bringing the business people from both the countries close to each other. He extended warmest congratulations to all the Chinese friends who celebrated their National Day on 1st October 2023. This day signifies not only the birth of a great nation but also a reminder of their remarkable journey towards making excellent progress in almost all fields of life. We applaud the achievements and advancements that China has made, serving as an inspiration to other nations across the globe.

The LCCI president said that the diplomatic relations between Pakistan and China began in 1950 which brought two countries very close as dependable strategic allies and trustworthy neighbours. The enduring friendship between Pakistan and China is a cornerstone of our foreign policy. This friendship is based on mutual respect, trust, and a shared vision for social and economic prosperity. You all will agree with me that China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) has added great value to these mutual ties.

He said that the 10th Anniversary of CPEC speaks itself about the collective vision of China and Pakistan whose prime aim is to shift the focus from geo-politics to geo-economics. Pakistan's strategic location as a crossroads between South Asia, Central Asia, China, and the Middle East is ideal to transform it into a regional hub for trade, commerce, manufacturing, and agriculture. Kashif Anwar said that we have already witnessed tremendous infrastructure development in recent years on account of numerous projects being carried out under CPEC. We are pinning great hopes on these partnerships which have already laid solid foundation for transfer of technology and transfer of knowledge from China through direct investments and joint ventures in many sectors of economy.

He said that it is paramount responsibility of organizations like Lahore Chamber of Commerce to play an instrumental role in promoting these partnerships which are not only essential for the development and progress of our respective countries but also important for promoting peace, stability, and prosperity in the region and beyond. The LCCI president hoped that the strong bonding among Lahore Chamber of Commerce, Consulate of China, and Joint Pak-China Business Support Organizations will go a long way in reaping the sweetest fruits of friendship between China and Pakistan.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2023-10-05/page-8/detail-0>

October 06, 2023

Daily Times

PCI receives hundreds of entries for photography competition on CPEC

A nationwide photography competition, launched to showcase the progress of China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), a flagship project under China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), was gaining momentum as Pakistan-China Institute (PCI) has received hundreds of entries for the contest. Closing date for receipt of photographs to be included in the "Nationwide Best Belt & Road Initiative Projects Photography Competition" launched by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting in collaboration with PCI is October 7, 2023.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1137846/pci-receives-hundreds-of-entries-for-photography-competition-on-cpec/>

Gwadar Port receives 34000 tons fertilizers for export

** Pacific Integrity, vessel loaded with 34,000 tons of DAP fertilizers, arrived at Gwadar Port on morning of October 3rd*

As a fresh impetus to the Gwadar transshipment drive, Gwadar Port has received a mega vessel loaded with 34,000 tons of DAP fertilizers to be processed and discharged to Afghanistan as per the Pakistan-Afghanistan transit trade deal. The Pacific Integrity, a vessel loaded with 34,000 tons of DAP fertilizers, arrived at Gwadar Port on the morning of October 3rd.

The fertilizer is imported by a joint venture of Agven Private Limited and KB Fertilizer, two private enterprises registered in the Gwadar Free Zone area.

An Agven official told Gwadar Pro that after offloading the fertilizers, the next step is to pack a huge quantity of fertilizer at a warehouse jointly sub-leased by both entities in the Gwadar Free Zone.

After the packing process is completed, all packets will be transported by trucks to Afghanistan, he added.

This is the second consignment delivered to Afghanistan in 2023. The last time during the current year, a private sector consignment of 20,000 tons of DAP fertilizer was sent from Gwadar Port to Afghanistan on May 31, 2023.

This batch of DAP fertilizer was imported from Australia. DAP is used in various industrial processes, such as metal finishing. It also improves crop yield besides the development and growth of flowering plants or leafy plants. In 2022, Gwadar Port processed a private sector consignment of 8,000 tons of DAP fertilizers and transported it via road to Afghanistan. In 2021, a total of 500 tons of fertilizers were shipped out of the port's warehouse by a fleet of Pakistani trucks from Gwadar Port.

In April 2020, the federal government allowed the import of fertilizers at Gwadar Port and onward transit to Afghanistan through bonded carriers – insured and sealable trucks with a tracking device.

The Ministry of Commerce (MoC), at the request of the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI), the Pakistan-Afghanistan Joint Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PAJCCI), the Gwadar International Terminals Limited, and other stakeholders, issued an Office Memorandum (MO) titled 'Implementation of the Import and Export Policy Orders through Shipping Procedure and Instructions for the Operationalization of Gwadar Port'.

The petitions of all stakeholders were examined in the light of the Afghanistan-Pakistan Transit Trade Agreement (APTTA) of 2010, specifically Article 21(1)(c) which allows transit of "bulk cargo (not imported in containers – like ship load) in open trucks or other transport units." Economist Shahid Hussain told Gwadar Pro that Pakistan can reach its true potential for transshipment when China, Afghanistan, and other Central Asian economies are connected with Gwadar through land routes.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1137815/gwadar-port-receives-34000-tons-fertilizers-for-export/>

Pakistan Observer

China invites PM to BRI ceremony

China has invited Pakistan Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar for participating in a Belt and Road Initiative ceremony.

The invitation was extended during a meeting between the foreign ministers of China and Pakistan which was held in Tibet on Thursday.

The meeting between FM Jalil Abbas Jilani and his Chinese counterpart Wang Yi focused a raft of issues including the ongoing Hamalya Region Conference being held in Tibet.

Jilani thanked Wang Yi for the warm welcome accorded to him in China. “The relations between Beijing and Islamabad are of great significance,” he added.

Both the leaders also discussed the ongoing development projects in Pakistan. Pakistan’s Ambassador to China Moeen ul Haq was also present in the meeting.

<https://pakobserver.net/china-invites-pm-to-bri-ceremony/>

October 07, 2023

Business Recorder

COPHC chairman told

Govt committed to fast-tracking CPEC projects

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Sami Saeed Friday said Pakistan is committed to fast-tracking the ongoing projects of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

He made these remarks during a meeting with the Chairman of China Overseas Port Holding Company (COPHC), Yu Bo, on Friday.

Saeed said Gwadar is the heart of CPEC and a gateway to prosperity for Pakistan and the region.

He said that they are developing Gwadar into a world-class port and logistics hub. This will create new jobs and opportunities for the people of Pakistan and boost the economy. He also reiterated that Pakistan is committed to resolving all outstanding issues related to the CPEC on a priority basis. China and Pakistan have established a high-level mechanism to address any concerns that may arise.

Chairman Yu Bo briefed the minister about the progress of the Gwadar Free Zone and Gwadar Free Port. He underscored the significance of Gwadar within CPEC and said that the first stage of Gwadar’s port and city development, along with the Gwadar Free Zone, has been completed, marking a substantial achievement.

He also highlighted how COPHC’s decade-long stewardship had remarkably transformed Gwadar from a modest village into a thriving modern city, replete with cutting-edge technology. Both sides reaffirmed their commitment to further strengthening cooperation in this area.

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2023/10/07/1-page/973685-news.html>

Daily Times

China’s Private Economy in Asian Games

Yasir Habib Khan

Given the centrality of private enterprises to the vibrancy, growth, and stability of China’s overall economic development, China’s Private Economy has taken centre stage in the ongoing Hangzhou Asian Games 2023.

The fervent development has invalidated categorical speculations of the West and the US that China's economy is heading toward a dismal stage.

China's Private Economy pivoted on the private sector contributing over 60 per cent of the gross domestic product (GDP), over 50 per cent of the total tax revenue and over 80 per cent of urban employment, besides more than 70 per cent of technological innovations and 90 per cent of market entities in China.

In the heart of Hangzhou, where innovation meets tradition and the spirit of Alibaba pulses through the city's veins, the 19th Asian Games is not just an athletic spectacle-it's a testament to the unflinching resilience of China's private economy. Hence pundits in the West that speculate about a looming slowdown, Hangzhou stands tall, showcasing a robust economic landscape that defies the narratives of collapse.

The city, birthplace of tech giant Alibaba, has transformed the Asian Games into more than just a sporting event; it's a dazzling display of China's prowess in embracing the digital age. In a groundbreaking move, Hangzhou has orchestrated the first-ever "cloud-based Asian Games," where cloud technology not only takes centre stage but propels the city into a realm where traditional data centres are a thing of the past. This isn't just about sports it's about a city that breathes innovation, with AI seamlessly enhancing the sports experience and setting a new standard for technological prowess.

Moreover, the city has harnessed artificial intelligence (AI) technology to enhance the sports experience for residents. AI facilitates various convenient functions such as reservation, payment, and video tutorials across public sports venues, municipal fitness centres, and private fitness locations. This not only adds a layer of sophistication to the sporting events but also showcases China's commitment to technological innovation.

The economic impact of the Asian Games on Hangzhou is substantial. Data from Zhejiang provincial authorities indicates that the investment made between 2016 and 2020, in preparation for the Games, contributed approximately 414.1 billion yuan (\$56.65 billion) to Hangzhou's local economy, constituting 7.6 percent of the city's overall growth. This investment has translated into tangible benefits for the local population, with around 670,000 jobs created, representing 2.4 per cent of total local employment during the same period.

Furthermore, the city has used the occasion to revamp its urban infrastructure and improve the well-being of its residents. By the end of 2022, more than 1,057 old residential neighbourhoods had undergone renovation, benefiting over 410,000 households. This not only contributes to the aesthetic appeal of the city but also enhances the quality of life for its inhabitants.

The Hangzhou Asian Games is also poised to set a new record in terms of tourism, with the cultural and tourism big data centre forecasting over 20 million visitors during the event. This surge in tourism indicates the vibrancy of the city and its ability to attract people, showcasing the resilience and attractiveness of China's private economy.

As the Western media persists in propagating negative narratives against Chinese development, the verifiable facts and figures consistently debunk their misleading assertions. Organization for Economic Cooperation & Development remains optimistic about China's

economic trajectory, forecasting a robust 5.1 per cent annual growth in the gross domestic product by the close of 2023 and setting a 4.6 per cent growth target for 2024. Despite a dip in China's exports attributed to global consumer demand, the Chinese government has proactively implemented new economic stimulus measures geared toward promoting consumption and sustainable development.

To counterbalance the challenges posed by weakened global demand, Beijing has initiated a series of strategic measures, including nationwide tax cuts on automobile, electronics, and home furnishing purchases. Unveiled in July, these 20 stimulus measures have already shown tangible results. China's retail sales of consumer goods saw a notable 4.6 per cent year-on-year increase in August, amounting to 3.79 trillion yuan, as reported by the National Bureau of Statistics. Moreover, services consumption has experienced a remarkable surge of 19.4 per cent in the first eight months of 2023 when compared to the corresponding period in 2022.

Despite recent concerns and anticipations of China's economic destabilization, particularly fueled by issues in the real estate sector and a decline in exports, the recent data and policy interventions debunk such predictions. Critics prematurely celebrating China's economic challenges failed to recognize that a decline in Chinese exports may indicate a broader global economic downturn. Major importers like the US, the UK, and the EU are interconnected with China's economy, and reduced imports suggest a potential fragility in the supposedly robust Western economies, debunking sensationalist claims in the Western media.

The Hangzhou Asian Games stand as a robust counter-narrative to claims of China's economic slowdown or collapse. The integration of cutting-edge technologies, the substantial economic impact, the creation of jobs, and the enhancement of urban infrastructure all underscore the vitality of China's private economy. The government's focus on bolstering the private sector is evident in the proactive steps taken to ensure the success of this international sporting event. As the Games unfold, they not only provide a platform for athletic excellence but also serve as a testament to the strength and resilience of China's private economy.

The writer is a senior Journalist. He is also President of Institute of International Relations and Media Research (IIRMR).

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1138202/chinas-private-economy-in-asian-games/>

ML-1 project to be launched soon: envoy

At the 74th founding anniversary celebration of the People's Republic of China, organized by the Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI), Acting Chinese Consul General in Lahore, Cao Ke, assured that the Mian Line 1 Project will be launched soon.

The spectacular ceremony was attended among other by LCCI President Kashif Anwar, Senior Vice President Zafar Mahmood Chaudhry, Vice President Adnan Khalid Butt, Vice President of the Pakistan (China) Shandong Chamber of Commerce Chen Qianjiang, Vice President of the Pakistan Chinese Federation He Yubing and Vice President of the Pakistan Chinese Chamber Chen Qianjiang.

According to Gwadar Pro, Cao Ke emphasized the significance of Lahore as a pivotal city and lauded the Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry for its commendable efforts in promoting trade and industry.

He expressed a strong desire for knowledge sharing and technology transfer between China and LCCI, highlighting the importance of mutual learning.

Furthermore, Cao Ke noted that this year marks the 10th anniversary of both the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and the Belt and Road Initiative, along with the 74th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China.

He underscored CPEC's transformative impact on Pakistan's economy, with a substantial \$24.4 billion investment, and

LCCI President Kashif Anwar extended warmest congratulations to all the Chinese friends who celebrated their National Day on 1st October 2023.

This day signifies not only the birth of a great nation but also a reminder of their remarkable journey towards making excellent progress in almost all fields of life.

"We applaud the achievements and advancements that China has made, serving as an inspiration to other nations across the globe," he said.

The LCCI President said that the diplomatic relations between Pakistan and China began in 1950 which brought two countries very close as dependable strategic allies and trustworthy neighbours.

The enduring friendship between Pakistan and China is a cornerstone of our foreign policy. This friendship is based on mutual respect, trust, and a shared vision for social and economic prosperity. You all will agree with me that China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) has added great value to these mutual ties.

He said that the 10th Anniversary of CPEC speaks itself about the collective vision of China and Pakistan whose prime aim is to shift the focus from geo-politics to geo-economics.

Pakistan's strategic location as a crossroads between South Asia, Central Asia, China, and the Middle East is ideal to transform it into a regional hub for trade, commerce, manufacturing, and agriculture.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1138072/ml-1-project-to-be-launched-soon-envoy/>

China-Pakistan relations maintaining sound momentum of development:

Wang Yi

** Wang says that China stands ready to work with Pakistan to promote high-quality development of CPEC*

China and Pakistan are all-weather strategic cooperative partners and ironclad brothers, senior Chinese diplomat Wang Yi said on Thursday, adding that bilateral relations have withstood the test of time and continued to maintain a sound momentum of development.

Wang, a member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee and director of the Office of the Central Commission for Foreign Affairs, made

the remarks when he met with Foreign Minister, Jalil Abbas Jilani at the third China Xizang Trans-Himalaya Forum for International Cooperation held in Nyingchi, southwest China's Xizang (Tibet) Autonomous Region, CGTN reported.

This year marks the 10th anniversary of the China-proposed Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and the launch of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), said Wang, noting the CPEC has brought tangible benefits to the economic development of Pakistan and to local people. Wang said that China stands ready to work with Pakistan to promote high-quality development of the CPEC.

For his part, Jilani spoke highly of the fruitful results of bilateral cooperation and the CPEC, stressing that the Pakistan-China relationship has always been the cornerstone of Pakistan's foreign policy.

The CPEC has helped Pakistan transform its economic landscape and brought tangible benefits to the country, the foreign minister added.

He also extended congratulations on the 74th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China.

According to Pakistan Ambassador to China, Moin ul Haque, at the invitation of the Chinese government, Foreign Minister, Jalil Abbas Jilani attended 3rd China Tibet Trans-Himalayan Forum in Tibet, China.

In his speech, he emphasized the importance of regional cooperation for green development, ecological preservation and connectivity for inclusive and sustainable development, Ambassador Haque posted on the social media platform 'X'.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1138186/china-pakistan-relations-maintaining-sound-momentum-of-development-wang-yi/>

Pakistan Observer

Chinese global community of shared future: A way forward

Dr Mehmood Ul Hassan Khan

SINCE its inception, the Chinese Global Community of Shared Future (CGCSF) has been characterized as pro-peace, prosperity, harmony, and stability in the world. It has served as an antidote to confrontation, conflicts, and conspiracies, with a focus on people-centric initiatives. The most recently published white paper by China's State Council Information Office, titled "A Global Community of Shared Future: China's Proposals and Actions," reaffirms its strategic importance in achieving the desired goals of socio-economic development, poverty eradication, job creation, and peaceful conflict resolution in the world. The paper emphasizes human development without any hidden agenda. The CGCSF is timely, holistic, suggestive and futuristic in its approach to promoting cooperation, transparency, openness, modernization and, most importantly, a shared future for the entire world. It advocates for development that rejects all forms of deficits and destruction occurring worldwide.

The policy makers in China demonstrate a humanistic modus operandi by propagating joint efforts, unity, cooperation and the construction of a global community with a shared future. The CGCSF embodies universality, uniformity and dignity which have now become historic and harmonious in their persuasions. It precisely outlines integrated and interactive means to achieve the desired goals of equitable development, poverty eradication, job creation and the rejection of all forms of discrimination. It underscores the strategic importance of global cooperation, security, prosperity and dialogue among different civilizations and faiths which forms the real essence of the CGCSF.

It is hopeful that the CGCSF will further strengthen its holistic model of the global community of shared future, especially in Africa, Latin America, the Eurasian Continent, ASEAN, South Asia, Central Asia, and, last but not the least, the Middle East. These regions will prosper with technological advancement and collective cooperative projects. In this regard, the role of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) is paramount in creating bridges of cooperation, coordination and collaboration through sustainable trust and teamwork among all the member countries.

China, as a pioneer of the Global South, rightfully harnesses the collective wisdom of developing countries, realizing their potential with economic and infrastructure development support from institutions such as the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) and the New Development Bank. This innovative and integrated model of financial integration refrains from attaching any conditions to participating countries. Moreover, the BRI has successfully created interconnected networks of infrastructure, transportation and trade corridors since 2013. These networks enable developing economies to connect to regional as well as international markets, stimulating socio-economic growth.

Recent incidents like black swan events, grey rhino occurrences and the rise of right-wing politics in the West have exposed flaws in their systems, resulting in widespread discrimination, division, destruction and disapproval within their societies. However, the CGCSF is liberating the Global South from colonialism, neo-colonialism and Cold War modalities, supporting a free world for all. Thus, the role of the CGCSF is permanent. Presently, human society is under the increasing influence of white supremacist ideologies and an obsessive euphoria about DNA composition, leading to a vicious cycle of continuous confrontation and division. Urgent rectification is needed through grand dialogue, diplomacy, cooperation and mutually beneficial propositions, ensuring a promising quality of life for the entire world.

This white paper is inclusive and integrated in nature. It incorporates mechanisms of peaceful conflict resolution, including dialogue, diplomacy, development and determination of the Chinese leadership. It presents facts in a fraternal and friendly manner, halting all fatal trends in the world. It promotes global public goods that China offers to the world.

Despite false, fake and fabricated propaganda from the West that creates doubts about its aims, objectives and mission, the CGCSF has been honoured in the UN General Assembly resolutions for six consecutive years. It has also been recognized in the joint declarations of multilateral mechanisms such as the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) and BRICS, reaffirming the constructive nature of this noble concept in serving humanity.

In conclusion, since its inception, the CGCSF has gained immense popularity, promoting better understanding and seeking support from international countries and communities, especially developing nations. The CGESF rejects the self-centric notions of the Western intelligentsia, hawkish political cronies and elite class that the CGCSF is intended to challenge or compete with the West. It actively includes the participation and cooperation of developed western countries. The secret of human civilization and modern political systems lies in the integration and an integrated world, where developed societies and developing countries jointly contribute to the common cause of peace and development under the flagship of CGCSF. Furthermore, the economic stability and sustainability of the world also depend on multi-polar and multilateral partnerships, with rising global organizations such as BRICS and the Group of 77 with its 135 coalition partners, the Shanghai Cooperation Organization and ASEAN creating new rules of engagement and equitable developments.

Even the Chinese BRI, comprising 153 countries out of 194 and reaching more than 83 percent of the world, is actively creating a new model of holistic development based on the harmony of all nations, campaigning for world peace and building economic foundations for global prosperity. It seems that the power politics of western countries is pushing NATO forces into the Asia-Pacific region, along with their regional allies, mainly Japan, South Korea and the Philippines. Moreover, the US is increasing its military presence in the region. AUKUS has been formed to contain China. The US is creating legal and media-focused crises between China and the Philippines. Now, the US and its regional allies are rigorously working on the Theory of China Economic Collapse through the imposition of unilateral sanctions against China. It is a good omen that despite constant and continued propaganda, China maintains its patience and superior cultivation of peaceful dialogue with other countries for the sake of the greater cause of the community's shared future.

—The writer is Executive Director, Centre for South Asia & International Studies, Islamabad, regional expert China, BRI & CPEC & senior analyst, world affairs, Pakistan Observer.

<https://pakobserver.net/chinese-global-community-of-shared-future-a-way-forward/>

The Express Tribune

China ready to promote quality development of CPEC

In meeting with FM Jilani, Wang Yi says CPEC brings tangible benefits for Pakistan

BEIJING: China expressed its readiness to promote high-quality development of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), a mega project of China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) that brought tangible benefits to the economic development of Pakistan and its people, Chinese media reported on Friday.

According to the China Global Television Network (CGTN), senior Chinese diplomat Wang Yi met with caretaker Foreign Minister Jalil Abbas Jilani on the fringes of the third Trans-Himalaya Forum for International Cooperation held in Nyingchi, in China's Xizang (Tibet) Autonomous Region.

Wang, a member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee and director of the Office of the Central Commission for Foreign Affairs, noted that Sino-Pak relations had withstood the test of time and continued to maintain a sound momentum of development.

“This year marks the 10th anniversary of the BRI and the launch of CPEC,” CGTN quoted Wang as saying during the bilateral meeting with Jilani.

Wang noted that the CPEC had brought tangible benefits to the economic development of Pakistan and its people.

Wang said that “China stands ready to work with Pakistan” to promote high-quality development of the CPEC, the report added.

On the occasion, the report continued, Jilani also spoke highly of the “fruitful results of bilateral cooperation and the CPEC”.

Jilani stressed that the Pakistan-China relationship had always been the cornerstone of Pakistan’s foreign policy.

The foreign minister acknowledged that CPEC had helped Pakistan transform its economic landscape and brought tangible benefits to the country.

Earlier, Jilani participated in the third China-Tibet Trans-Himalayan Forum. In his speech at the forum, Jilani underscored the importance of regional cooperation for green development, ecological preservation and connectivity for inclusive and sustainable development.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2439629/china-ready-to-promote-quality-development-of-cpec>

Exports to China increase by 5.16%

Reach \$350.297 million in first two months of FY24

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan’s exports of goods and services to China have increased by 5.16% in the first two months of the fiscal year 2023-24, reaching \$350.297 million, compared to \$333.077 million in the same period last year. This marks a substantial 25.09% increase yearly as reported by the State Bank of Pakistan.

In August 2023, exports to China reached \$198.932 million, a significant increase from \$159.021 million in August 2022, showing a remarkable 31.42% monthly growth. In contrast, Pakistan’s overall exports to other countries dropped by 8.26% during the same period, falling from \$4.951 billion to \$4.541 billion.

On a yearly basis, the growth is even more remarkable, with exports to China registering a remarkable 25.09% increase whereas in August 2022, exports stood at \$159.021 million, while in August 2023, they increased to \$198.932 million. Pakistan’s exports to China increased by 31.42% in August 2023 compared to July 2023, which totalled \$151.365 million. While exports to China are increasing, Pakistan’s overall exports to other countries dropped by 8.26% during the same period, falling from \$4.951 billion to \$4.541 billion.

Overall, Pakistan’s imports experienced a decline of 26.01%.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2439758/exports-to-china-increase-by-516>

Nawaiwaqt News

سی پیک کو زیادہ نتیجہ خیز بنانے کیلئے کام کر رہے ہیں: وزیر خارجہ

بیجنگ (نوائے وقت رپورٹ) نگران وزیر خارجہ جلیل عباس جیلانی نے چینی میڈیا سے گفتگو میں کہا ہے چین کے ساتھ تعلقات ہماری خارجہ پالیسی کا بنیادی حصہ ہیں۔ سی پیک کو زیادہ نتیجہ خیز بنانے کیلئے کام کر رہے ہیں۔ عالمی مسائل پر چین اور پاکستان کا مقف ایک ہے۔ وزیر اعظم چینی قیادت سے ملاقات کے خواہاں ہیں۔

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/lahore/2023-10-07/page-1/detail-12>

October 08, 2023

Pakistan Observer

China building ‘a global community of shared future’

ON the occasion of the tenth anniversary of Chinese President Xi Jinping floating the idea of building a global community of shared future and the eve of the 74th Anniversary of China’s Independence Day, a White Paper has been released to elaborate the theoretical base, practice and development of a global community of shared future by presenting China’s vision of the course of human development.

Titled “A Global Community of Shared Future: China’s Proposals and Actions”, the White Paper elucidates the way forward amidst the mayhem created in the tumultuous challenges in which the world seeks solutions to the myriad issues faced by it. Still teetering from the effects of the global pandemic COVID-19, economic meltdown, global warming and likelihoods of conflict, the White Paper offers a path which can boldly alleviate the suffering of the entire humankind.

The paper provides a ray of hope, promising “To build a global community of shared future to pursue openness, inclusiveness, mutual benefit, equity and justice.” The proposal elucidates that the goal is not to replace one system or civilization with another. Instead, it is about countries with different social systems, ideologies, histories, shared rights and shared responsibilities in global affairs.

It is essential to appreciate that in the face of diversity, it is prudent to shed biases aside and remove the myopic blinkers of hegemonic design since Xi Jinping’s proposals and actions are not for China’s own benefit or self-interest, but for the common good of humanity. The concept of a global community of shared future has deep roots in China’s extremely rich cultural heritage and its unique experience of modernization. It carries forward the diplomatic traditions of China and draws on the outstanding achievements of all other civilizations. The White Paper also manifests China’s time-honored historical traditions, distinct characteristics of the times and a wealth of humanistic values.

Not being content with highlighting only the issues and enumerating the merits of the document, the White Paper also provides a compass to ascertain the direction and plan to build a global community of shared future including pressing ahead with a new type of economic globalization in which countries need to pursue a policy of openness and explicitly oppose protectionism, the erection of fences and barriers, unilateral sanctions and maximum-

pressure tactics, so as to unite various fiscal pursuits and jointly build an open world economy.

While volumes have been written on the mega projects like China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB), New Development Bank (formerly BRICS Bank) and other initiatives, it is imperative to acknowledge Beijing's active implementation of its own ideas, offering the world a glimpse of its immense achievements. In the decade since the concept of building a global community of shared future was first introduced by Xi Jinping, China has demonstrated its capacity of building a global community of shared future with firm conviction and solid actions to validate the efficacy of its proposals that have been tried and tested.

In the previous decade, who could have conceptualized China's contribution to resolving volatile issues through diplomacy. The mediation of China between Saudi Arabia and Iran set a precedent that hostilities in the region can be halted and rapprochement achieved by resolving disputes to achieve good neighborly relations through dialogue and consultation, catalyzing a wave of conciliation in the Middle East.

Besides offering to settle the Ukrainian crisis and addressing other flashpoints, Beijing has also proposed a range of regional and bilateral initiatives on building communities of shared future and working with stakeholders to build consensus and expand cooperation, thereby playing a constructive role in promoting regional peace and development. A case in point is building international cooperation in challenges of combating the COVID-19 pandemic, addressing disorder in cyberspace governance and dealing with the global climate challenge.

It is heartening that in the interregnum of the past decade, the vision of a global community of shared future has gained broader support. The White Paper rightly identifies the observation that more countries and people have come to the realization that this vision serves the common interests of humanity, represents popular calls for peace, justice and progress, and can create the greatest synergy among all nations for building a better world.

The timing of the issuance of the White Paper is also noteworthy. International academics have concluded that apart from marking the 10th anniversary of the proposal of the substantial concept, as mentioned earlier, the world is in severe turbulence and experiencing profound changes which have not been seen in the past century. Resultantly, think tanks and intelligentsia across the world have been in the quest of solutions. In this grim backdrop, taking up the challenge and signifying its role as a responsible state which has gained a remarkable stature in economic and scientific growth, China has come forward to contribute its experience, wisdom and actions to meet the exigence of this era.

Chinese culture, which necessitates deeper study, motivated this scribe to author the book "Gleaming Gems of Chinese Culture". My humble dedication is that the scarlet thread of this ancient wisdom provides the concept of nature and promotes "uniting human and universe". In simpler terms, it proliferates the concept of international relations which can be perceived in the realm of "affinity between all people and peace among all nations".

This is in consonance with the new Law on Foreign Relations of the People's Republic of China (PRC) which was adopted at the Third Meeting of the Standing Committee of the 14th

National People's Congress on June 28, 2023. By promulgating the new law, PRC has resolved to continue pursuing a path of peaceful development and adhere to the fundamental policy of opening to the outside world and a strategy of opening-up for mutual benefit.

Moving beyond the domain of its foreign policy, China's White Paper on building a global community of shared future focuses on Beijing's contribution to global efforts to protect the shared home and create a better future of prosperity for all. —The writer is a Retired Group Captain of PAF, who has written several books on China.

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<https://pakobserver.net/china-building-a-global-community-of-shared-future/>

The News

PM to embark on first visit to China on 16th

Muhammad Saleh Zaafir

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar is set to undertake a three-day official visit to China from 16th of this month. He will be among the guests of honour in the third Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation (BRF) being hosted by Chinese President Xi Jinping.

Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar, in his maiden trip to China, will have bilateral meeting with the host Chinese President Xi Jinping and it would be his first one-to-one interaction with any top leader of P-5 countries ever since he assumed the office in August this year.

Highly placed sources in the PM House told 'The News' on Saturday that Kakar will also have meetings with some other world leaders on the sidelines of the forum. He will stay in Beijing till October 18.

Chinese Foreign Ministry had earlier said that with 2023 marking the 10th anniversary of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), slated forum would encompass deliberations and discussions about various aspects of the initiative. China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is flagship project of the gigantic plan that was conceived by President Xi. The accord for the project was inked by former prime minister Nawaz Sharif on April 20, 2015 in Beijing with Chinese President Xi.

China has said that 90 countries have confirmed attendance for its BRI Forum, with several world dignitaries accepting the invitation to attend the forum, including Russian President Vladimir Putin, Serbian President Aleksandar Vucic and Argentine President Alberto Fernandez.

China's Foreign Ministry said that the country has signed Belt and Road cooperation documents with more than 150 countries and over 30 international organisations.

Chinese spokesman reminded that over the past decade, Belt and Road cooperation had achieved fruitful outcomes as it had established more than 3,000 cooperation projects and galvanised nearly \$1 trillion of investment.

Foreign Minister Jalil Abbas Jilani, who had a sideline meeting with his Chinese counterpart early this week at a regional conference held in Chinese autonomous region Tibet, had a discussion about the CPEC. Both the dignitaries also expressed satisfaction about the trajectory of the future planning of the project which is entering into second phase.

Foreign Minister Jilani, Minister for Planning Sami Saeed and Foreign Secretary Dr Muhammad Syrus Qazi will also be part of the entourage of the prime minister for Beijing, the sources added.

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=244414>

October 09, 2023

Business Recorder

‘Organic Meat’: First Pakistani firm to export meat to China

BEIJING: In a groundbreaking development for Pakistan’s meat industry, a local meat company named Pakistan’s Organic Meat has achieved a historic milestone by becoming the first Pakistani entity to be registered with the General Administration of Customs of China (GACC).

This achievement not only opens up new avenues for Pakistan’s meat exports but also solidifies the country’s position in the global meat market, said Ghulam Qadir, Commercial Counsellor at the Pakistan Embassy in Beijing.

The company that has achieved this remarkable feat is “The Organic Meat Company Ltd,” a leading player in Pakistan’s meat processing and export industry. This achievement comes after years of rigorous quality control measures and compliance with international standards, he told China Economic Net (CEN).

He further said that to secure registration on the GACC, Organic Meat Company Ltd underwent rigorous inspections and quality audits. This demonstrates their commitment to maintaining high-quality standards in meat production, processing, and packaging.

“Registration on the GACC opens the doors to the vast Chinese meat market, which has a growing demand for high-quality meat products. This milestone positions Pakistan as a credible and reliable supplier of meat to China. This achievement has the potential to significantly boost Pakistan’s meat exports, contributing to the country’s economic growth. It also creates opportunities for job creation within the meat processing industry,” he added. He further said that this achievement enhanced the country’s reputation on the global stage. It showcases Pakistan’s ability to meet the stringent requirements of international markets.

Chaudhary Javed Saleem, affiliated with the meat and related products business expressed his delight at this historic achievement.

“It reflects the huge effort of Pakistan’s meat processing industry to expand markets and Pakistan is committed to delivering the highest quality meat products to the Chinese market,” he added.

“This achievement sets a precedent for other Pakistani meat companies to follow suit and strive for excellence in quality and compliance with international standards. It also

underscores the importance of maintaining high standards in the food industry to tap into lucrative international markets”, he mentioned.

He further said that it not only signified a major breakthrough for the company but also paved the way for stronger trade relations with China and a brighter future for Pakistan’s meat exports on the global stage.—APP

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2023/10/09/5-page/973855-news.html>

Pakistan, China mulling extending CPEC to Afghanistan: ambassador

BEIJING: The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), a pilot project of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) is a game changer and very important for socio-economic development of Pakistan and now, both Pakistan and China have agreed to invite third parties to participate in this project, Pakistan Ambassador to China, Moin-ul-Haque said on Sunday.

“This project has been a game changer and very important for socio-economic development of the country. Now, our two countries have agreed to invite third parties to participate in this project,” he told CCTV in an interview.

“We are now working to extend it to Afghanistan, the neighbouring country of both China and Pakistan,” he added.

Ambassador Haque said that China is a global leader in terms of many technologies like artificial intelligence, e-commerce, green technologies.

“So, it has been identified as one of the most important areas for the second phase, and we have established Joint Working Groups for cooperation,” he added.

He said that new corridors like China-Pakistan Digital Corridor, Green Corridor and Health Corridor have been launched to benefit on the emerging opportunities in the area science and technology and Information Technology (IT) fields.

Responding to a question about the transportation projects, he said that Lahore Orange Metro Train was one of the first early harvest projects under the CPEC framework.

“It was built in the second largest city of Lahore, a city of over 10 million people. It has provided efficient and affordable and very modern transport services to the people of Lahore,” he added.

Ambassador Haque said that the number of passengers on the Lahore Orange Metro Train has touched 100 million. In the last two years, it has provided the transport services to 100 million people.

He said the major focus was on the energy sector because at that time, Pakistan was facing acute shortages of energy and long hours of load-shedding, and added, the new projects have put in almost 8,000 megawatts of new energy into Pakistan’s system helping the not only the needs of the common man, but also the industrial needs.

About Gwadar port project, he said it is going to serve many of the Central Asian countries which are landlocked countries. “So, we provide very easy quick and very shortest route to the Arabian Sea.”

He expressed the confidence that the advantages which are occurring from CPEC will not only help Pakistan, but also the regional countries.

While highlighting bilateral relationship between the two countries, he said, “In Pakistan, we consider China is our best friend and in China, I know, Pakistanis are known as ‘Battie’, the iron brothers, an expression which is only reserved for Pakistan. It’s very heart-warming.” To yet another question, he said that besides promoting economic relationships, trade, investment industry, both our countries are focusing on cooperation in culture, education and tourism.

He said that there are now 25,000 plus Pakistani students in China and they are also serving as China-Pakistan friendship ambassadors.—APP

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2023/10/09/11-page/973898-news.html>

The Express Tribune

CPEC brought over \$25b investment to Pakistan: Chinese envoy

Project also created 155,000 jobs, 510 kilometres of expressways and 8,200 megawatts of power, says Jiang Zaidong

Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan Jiang Zaidong has stated that the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) has been fruitful along its 10-year journey, cementing the solid foundation of ironclad friendship between the two countries.

He said, while quoting statistics, CPEC has brought a total of \$25.4 billion in direct investment, 155,000 direct jobs, 510 kilometres of expressways, 8,200 megawatts of power capacity and 886 kilometres of core power transmission grid to Pakistan, injecting strong momentum into Pakistan’s economic and social development.

He said that Pakistani leaders and all sectors of the society applaud the achievement and speak highly of the project.

Zaidong said that China will host the Third Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation in Beijing, to bring more development opportunities to the world.

“China, with the spirit of extensive consultation, joint contribution and shared benefits, is ready to take this opportunity to promote the world’s earliest realisation of GDI, GSI and GCI with Pakistan, so as to provide more stability and positive energy to regional and world peace and development,” he added.

“I strongly believe that as long as we are guided by the important consensus reached between President Xi Jinping and Pakistani leaders, focus on building a closer China-Pakistan community of shared future in the new era with faster paces, and take high-quality construction of the CPEC as the platform, the all-weather strategic cooperation between China and Pakistan will constantly deepen and strengthen, allowing us to better protect mutual interest and benefit both peoples amid the change on a scale unseen in a century.”

During the past decade, he said that China proposed the Global Development Initiative (GDI), the Global Security Initiative (GSI) and the Global Civilisation Initiative (GCI), guiding the advance of human society across these three dimensions.

“To turn people’s longing for a better life into reality, China also promotes the endeavour to build an open, inclusive, clean and beautiful world that enjoys lasting peace, universal security, and common prosperity. The past ten years have seen the vision of a global community of shared future increasingly enriched, implemented and supported,” he added.

“To improve understanding and expand consensus in the international community, the Chinese government published the white paper, A Global Community of Shared Future: China's Proposals and Actions, on September 26th, to introduce the theoretical base, practice and development of the idea.”

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2440134/cpec-brought-over-25b-investment-to-pakistan-chinese-envoy>

The Nation

Pakistan, China to step up academic coop in rapeseed

BEIJING-“We are willing to assist Pakistan in the development of the rapeseed industry. We have discussed with the Pakistani delegation and reached a cooperation intention in rapeseed which includes the exchange of germplasm resources, cooperative breeding and regular exchange visits.”

This was stated by Li Dianrong, rapeseed expert at Hybrid Rapeseed Research Center in Shaanxi, China, according to Gwadar Pro. Last Wednesday, a delegation led by Fateh Marri, vice chancellor of Sindh Agriculture University, visited the Hybrid Rapeseed Research Centre for investigation and exchange, accompanied by Li Dianrong and Li Youli, deputy secretary of the centre.

During the visit, Li Dianrong introduced the latest progress in rapeseed research. Engaged in research of rapeseed breeding and cultivation technology for 50 years, Li has independently cultivated 22 hybrid rape varieties.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2023-10-09/page-8/detail-0>

The News

Pakistan, China agree to invite more nations to participate in CPEC

Muhammad Saleh Zaafir

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and China have agreed to invite third parties to participate in China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) initiative, and a process is under way to extend it to Afghanistan, the neighbouring country.

This was revealed by Pakistan’s Ambassador to China Moinul Haque on Sunday, a week ahead of maiden visit of Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaarul Haq Kakar to China and initiation of the third BRI [Belt and Road Initiative] international conference to be held in Beijing.

In an interview, the envoy reminded that new corridors like China-Pakistan Digital Corridor, Green Corridor and Health Corridor have been launched to benefit on the emerging

opportunities in the area of science and technology and Information Technology (IT) fields. He said that China was a global leader in terms of many technologies like artificial intelligence, e-commerce, green technologies.

For the reason, it has been identified as one of the most important areas for the second phase, “and we have established joint working groups for cooperation for the purpose”.

Responding to a question about the transportation projects, he said that Lahore Orange Line Train was one of the first early harvest projects under the CPEC framework. It was built in Lahore, the second largest city of Pakistan, a city of over 10 million people. Ambassador Moeen said the number of passengers on the Lahore Orange Line Train has touched 100 million.

The major focus was on the energy sector because at that time, Pakistan was facing acute shortages of energy and long hours of load-shedding, and added, the new projects had put in almost 8,000 megawatts of new energy into Pakistan’s system, helping the not only the needs of the common man, but also the industrial needs.

The ambassador said that Gwadar port project was going to serve many of the Central Asian countries, which are landlocked countries. “We have provided very easy quick and very shortest route to the Arabian Sea,” he added. The envoy expressed the confidence that the advantages which are occurring from CPEC will not only help Pakistan, but also the regional countries.

While highlighting bilateral relationship between the two countries, he said, “In Pakistan, we consider China is our best friend and in China, I know, Pakistanis are known as ‘Battie’, the iron brothers, an expression which is only reserved for Pakistan. It’s very heart warming.”

To another question, he said that besides promoting economic relationships, trade, investment industry, both our countries are focusing on cooperation in culture, education and tourism. There are now 25,000 plus Pakistani students in China and they are also serving as China-Pakistan friendship ambassadors.

Ambassador Moeen recalled that CPEC is a pilot project of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and it is a game changer and very important for socio-economic development of Pakistan.

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=244718>

Nawaiwaqt News

موجودہ سال چین پاک سیاحتی تبادلوں کے سال کے طور پر منایا جا رہا، معین الحق

اسلام آباد (خبرنگار خصوصی) موجودہ سال چین پاک سیاحتی تبادلوں کے سال کے طور پر منایا جا رہا ہے۔ چین میں پاکستان کے سفیر معین الحق نے چائنہ میڈیا گروپ سے گفتگو کرتے ہوئے کہا کہ اس مناسبت سے بیجنگ میں پاکستانی سفارت خانے کے زیر اہتمام دو دستاویزی فلموں کی رونمائی کی گئی۔ ان دستاویزی فلموں میں پاکستان کے شمالی علاقہ جات کے خوبصورت مناظر، لاہور کے تاریخی مقامات اور روایتی کھانوں کی شاندار منظر کشی کی گئی ہے۔

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/lahore/2023-10-09/page-6/detail-10>

October 10, 2023

Business Recorder

\$10bn refinery

PSO interacting with Bank of China/Sinopec

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan State Oil (PSO) is reportedly interacting with Bank of China/Sinopec for establishment of either oil refinery or petrochemical refinery with an investment of over \$ 10 billion, well-informed sources told Business Recorder.

The sources said Secretary Petroleum recently updated Executive Committee of SIFC on discussions with the Saudi side and PSO's with Bank of China/ Sinopec, adding further progress is expected during the forthcoming visit of caretaker Prime Minister, Anwar-ul-Haq Kakar to China.

The SIFC has also directed Secretary Petroleum, Secretary Finance, Secretary Law and Justice, Chairman FBR and Chairman OGRA that Host Government Agreement (HGA) on TAPI may be finalised as per timelines and consensus be developed among, Finance, Petroleum, Law and Justice, FBR and OGRA, etc, on pending matters.

Secretary Foreign Affairs, Secretary Petroleum and Secretary Planning have been directed to discuss Pakstream gas pipeline project in Working Group and an update be shared with Executive Committee of SIFC.

OGRA will lead as regulator for devising the plan for provision of virtual LNG in collaboration with Petroleum Division, including finalization of codal formalities for issuance of NOC.

Minister for Maritime Affairs (MoMA), Secretary Petroleum and Chairman OGRA have been directed that an Action Plan to fully utilize and optimize existing LNG terminals to import maximum possible LNG, preferably in business to business (B2B) mode, without any obligation on part of government be devised. The endeavor should enable additional LNG cargoes before onset of winter 2023.—MUSHTAQ GHUMMAN

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2023/10/10/12-page/973998-news.html>

Daily Times

China-Pakistan Community of Shared Future

Jiang Zaidong

Ten years ago, bearing in mind the wellbeing of all humanity, President Xi Jinping propounded the idea of building a global community of shared future, answering a question raised by the world, by history, and by the times: "Where is humanity headed?" It introduces a new approach for international relations, provides new ideas for global governance, opens up new prospects for international exchanges, and draws a new blueprint for a better world.

During the past decade, to put this significant idea into practice, China proposed the Global Development Initiative (GDI), the Global Security Initiative (GSI) and the Global

Civilization Initiative (GCI), guiding the advance of human society across these three dimensions. To turn people's longing for a better life into reality, China also promotes the endeavor to build an open, inclusive, clean and beautiful world that enjoys lasting peace, universal security, and common prosperity. The past ten years have seen the vision of a global community of shared future increasingly enriched, implemented and supported.

To improve understanding and expand consensus in the international community, the Chinese government published the white paper, A Global Community of Shared Future: China's Proposals and Actions, on September 26th, to introduce the theoretical base, practice and development of the idea.

As it is highlighted in the white paper, throughout history, peace and development have been the primary aspirations of humanity. Living on the same planet, all countries, adjacent or distant, large or small, developed or developing, are members of an emerging community of shared interests, responsibility, and destiny, whose wellbeing and security are interrelated. Only when appropriate attention is paid to the collective future of humanity is it possible that the wishes of every country, people and individual come true. Whatever we may encounter on our journey ahead, the only right choice is to work together for the benefit of all.

Among the earliest and living practices in implementing the idea, and exemplary in terms of universal and shared benefit, the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor has been fruitful along its 10-year journey, cementing the solid foundation of our ironclad friendship. According to statistics, the CPEC has brought a total of 25.4 billion US dollars in direct investment, 155,000 direct jobs, 510 kilometers of expressways, 8,200 megawatts of power capacity and 886 kilometers of core power transmission grid to Pakistan, injecting strong momentum into Pakistan's economic and social development. Pakistani leaders and all sectors of the society all applaud the achievement and speak highly of the project.

October, as the most beautiful month in China's golden autumn, is featured with great events. Soon, China will host the Third Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation in Beijing, to bring more development opportunities to the world with our latest achievement. China, with the spirit of extensive consultation, joint contribution and shared benefits, is ready to take this opportunity to promote the world's earliest realization of GDI, GSI and GCI with Pakistan, so as to provide more stability and positive energy to regional and world peace and development.

I strongly believe that as long as we are guided by the important consensus reached between President Xi Jinping and Pakistani leaders, focus on building a closer China-Pakistan Community of Shared Future in the New Era with faster paces, and take high-quality construction of the CPEC as the platform, the all-weather strategic cooperation between China and Pakistan will constantly deepen and strengthen, allowing us to better protect mutual interest and benefit both peoples amid the change on a scale unseen in a century.

May China and Pakistan enjoy lasting prosperity! Chin-Pak Dosti Zindabad!

The writer is Ambassador of People's Republic of China to Pakistan.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1138907/china-pakistan-community-of-shared-future/>

Pakistan Observer

Speed up on Building a Closer China-Pakistan Community of Shared Future in the New Era

Ten years ago, bearing in mind the wellbeing of all humanity, President Xi Jinping propounded the idea of building a global community of shared future, answering a question raised by the world, by history, and by the times: “Where is humanity headed?” It introduces a new approach for international relations, provides new ideas for global governance, opens up new prospects for international exchanges, and draws a new blueprint for a better world.

During the past decade, to put this significant idea into practice, China proposed the Global Development Initiative (GDI), the Global Security Initiative (GSI) and the Global Civilization Initiative (GCI), guiding the advance of human society across these three dimensions. To turn people’s longing for a better life into reality, China also promotes the endeavor to build an open, inclusive, clean and beautiful world that enjoys lasting peace, universal security, and common prosperity. The past ten years have seen the vision of a global community of shared future increasingly enriched, implemented and supported.

To improve understanding and expand consensus in the international community, the Chinese government published the white paper, A Global Community of Shared Future: China’s Proposals and Actions, on September 26th, to introduce the theoretical base, practice and development of the idea.

As it is highlighted in the white paper, throughout history, peace and development have been the primary aspirations of humanity. Living on the same planet, all countries, adjacent or distant, large or small, developed or developing, are members of an emerging community of shared interests, responsibility, and destiny, whose wellbeing and security are interrelated. Only when appropriate attention is paid to the collective future of humanity is it possible that the wishes of every country, people and individual come true. Whatever we may encounter on our journey ahead, the only right choice is to work together for the benefit of all.

Among the earliest and living practices in implementing the idea, and exemplary in terms of universal and shared benefit, the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor has been fruitful along its 10-year journey, cementing the solid foundation of our ironclad friendship. According to statistics, the CPEC has brought a total of 25.4 billion US dollars in direct investment, 155,000 direct jobs, 510 kilometers of expressways, 8,200 megawatts of power capacity and 886 kilometers of core power transmission grid to Pakistan, injecting strong momentum into Pakistan’s economic and social development. Pakistani leaders and all sectors of the society all applaud the achievement and speak highly of the project.

October, as the most beautiful month in China’s golden autumn, is featured with great events. Soon, China will host the Third Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation in Beijing, to bring more development opportunities to the world with our latest achievement. China, with the spirit of extensive consultation, joint contribution and shared benefits, is ready to take this opportunity to promote the world’s earliest realization of GDI, GSI and

GCI with Pakistan, so as to provide more stability and positive energy to regional and world peace and development.

I strongly believe that as long as we are guided by the important consensus reached between President Xi Jinping and Pakistani leaders, focus on building a closer China-Pakistan Community of Shared Future in the New Era with faster paces, and take high-quality construction of the CPEC as the platform, the all-weather strategic cooperation between China and Pakistan will constantly deepen and strengthen, allowing us to better protect mutual interest and benefit both peoples amid the change on a scale unseen in a century. May China and Pakistan enjoy lasting prosperity! Chin-Pak Dosti Zindabad

<https://pakobserver.net/speed-up-on-building-a-closer-china-pakistan-community-of-shared-future-in-the-new-era-11/>

Chinese envoy commends Pakistan govt's commitment to implement CPEC

Planning minister underlines CPEC's significance in various sectors

Ambassador of China, Jiang Zaidong has appreciated Pakistan government's efforts for implementing the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), particularly its second phase.

He expressed these views during a meeting with Caretaker Minister for Planning and Development Sami Saeed here on Monday.

With the joint efforts of both sides, CPEC has achieved fruitful outcomes covering areas of industry, agriculture, Information Technology (IT), disaster prevention and mitigation, said the Ambassador while appreciating the efforts of the Planning Ministry which played a vital role in the implementation of the CPEC.

The interim minister reiterated Pakistan's commitment to accelerate the implementation of projects under China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

He welcomed him in Islamabad and congratulated him on assuming the charge as Head of China's mission in Pakistan. During the meeting, both sides discussed CPEC projects and reiterated resolve to further strengthen relations between the two countries.

It is noted that the second Phase of CPEC has already started as both the countries have been celebrating the decade of CPEC.

Highlighting the ongoing development projects under CPEC, the minister elaborated on their potential to transform Pakistan's infrastructure and economy.

He underlined that these projects are not merely about physical connectivity but also aim to uplift the lives of the people and boost socio-economic development across the country.

He further said that the interim government is committed to implement the CPEC projects while emphasizing the importance of the long-standing friendship between the two countries and reiterated the commitment to further strengthening the ties.

The importance of the Gwadar Port, a strategic project under CPEC, which is set to become a key maritime gateway connecting Pakistan with the rest of the world was also underlined on the occasion. The development of Gwadar Port and its associated free zone is expected to

attract foreign investment, stimulate economic activities, and create job opportunities in the region.

The CPEC, the Chinese envoy said had made significant contributions to promoting Pakistan's economic and social development, upgrading Pakistan's infrastructure, improving Pakistani people's well-being, enhancing people to people contact and deepening regional connectivity.

<https://pakobserver.net/chinese-envoy-commends-pakistan-govts-commitment-to-implement-cpec/>

The Express Tribune

Pakistan to export heat-treated beef to China

Poised to ship first consignment of frozen beef this month

KARACHI: Pakistan has won the eligibility to export cooked, heat-treated frozen beef to China, which is the world's largest consumer of meat, as the country is set to ship the first consignment this month.

In a notification to the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX), The Organic Meat Company Limited (TOMCL) reported on Monday that it "...has successfully become the first and only company from Pakistan to secure approvals from GACC (General Administration of Customs of the People's Republic of China) to export cooked/ heat-treated frozen beef to China."

"Let's make Pakistan proud," Company Secretary Imran Khan said in the notification.

Talking to The Express Tribune, company CEO Faisal Hussain said that the scope of cooked/ heat-treated frozen beef export from Pakistan to China was significantly high.

The demand for beef from China stood significantly higher than what Pakistan was exporting in "raw form", he said.

China alone consumes 23% of the world's total beef production, while Pakistan provides (exports) only 0.5% of the world's consumption.

"We are very close to them (Chinese) in proximity and we are the cheapest nation in providing things to the world," he said. "Pakistan's beef is far above than a lot of countries in terms of quality and secondly it is cheaper too."

Pakistan is a viable export partner of China when seen in the context of proximity and logistics. "The completion of China's Belt and Road Initiative will provide the best corridor for export of beef and other things soon."

The company is set to send its first shipment of beef this month. "It will get there. People will check it, comment on it...if they want to change something (specification)...we will be dispatching regular consignments with full force in two to three months."

There are 15 private slaughter houses in Pakistan including those of TOMCL. They are engaged in exporting meat to different countries including the UAE, Saudi Arabia, Oman and Bahrain. The Annual Report 2023 says the company is expanding its export market in the UAE.

TOMCL's exports in the fiscal year to June 30, 2023 stood at 6,163 tons, comprising fresh chilled meat, frozen meat, frozen offal and pet chews.

They represented a slight decrease of 2% from the previous year. The export volume of fresh chilled meat dropped by 6%, while that of frozen meat increased by 66%, resulting in a marginal growth of 0.36% in total meat exports.

The company during the year ended June 30, 2023 was able to increase export revenues by 36.35% on a net basis, whereas export volumes increased by 0.57% and the devaluation benefit came in at 38.56% against the US dollar. The company posted a net profit of Rs722 million in FY23 compared to Rs411 million in FY22.

Average prices declined by 2.78%. Cost of sales increased from Rs646/kg to Rs894.56/kg in FY23 due to higher procurement costs and higher depreciation charges given the capitalisation of fixed assets.

Mari finds gas

Mari Petroleum Company Limited reported to the PSX that it had found new deposits of gas in its exploratory well Mari Ghazij-1 located in Mari development and production lease.

The well was spud on September 11, 2023. "Post-acid gas flow rate was 11.1 million standard cubic feet per day....," the company said in a notification to the PSX.

It is pertinent to mention that Ghazij-2 is the first well in a series of planned appraisal wells to evaluate the Ghazij-1 discovery and determine its extent. The well will be put on extended well testing in due course for supply of gas to the government-designated buyer, after completion of requisite regulatory formalities.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2440282/pakistan-to-export-heat-treated-beef-to-china>

Pakistan, China discuss smart city construction

Delegation visits Beijing to explore possibilities of cooperation

BEIJING: A Pakistani delegation, led by Faisal Saleem, Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Senator and Muhammad Imran Masood, member of the Board of Investment (BOI) visited Anlu International Technology Company in Beijing. The delegation held in-depth discussion with the company's chairman on smart city construction in Pakistan.

"Our company is one of the earliest Chinese enterprises to go global in the field of smart city. Following the Belt and Road Initiative, we have provided services to more than 30 countries and regions," said Liu Quanjun, Chairman of Beijing Anlu.

The company has also participated in the construction of Peshawar BRT Project and Lahore Safe City Project, which gave the company a better understanding of Pakistan's current situation and demand in this sector.

"I believe that China and Pakistan have great potential to cooperate in the construction of smart cities and smart transportation," Liu added, expressing his wish to further increase cooperation.

“We appreciate Beijing Anlu’s contribution to Pakistan’s ‘informatisation’ construction, and welcome more and more Chinese companies to participate in building the safe city, intelligent transportation and smart campuses in Pakistan,” Saleem said during the meeting.

“We also want to invite Beijing Anlu to build connections with Pakistani universities to promote industry-university-research cooperation,” he added.

The two sides also exchanged views on the existing problems and countermeasures in Pakistan’s modern governance and the construction of smart cities.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2440270/pakistan-china-discuss-smart-city-construction>

The Nation

Chinese envoy, planning minister discuss CPEC projects

ISLAMABAD-Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan Jiang Zaidong Monday called on Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Muhammad Sami Saeed and discussed projects being executed under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

During the meeting, the two sides discussed the ongoing CPEC projects especially related to energy, infrastructure, industrial zones; agriculture and information technology, a news release said. Secretary Ministry of Planning Awais Manzur Sumra also attended the meeting. The minister apprised the visiting envoy, who assumed the office charge last month, that the caretaker government was fully committed to completing the CPEC projects on a fast-track basis.

Sami Saeed said the Planning Ministry reviewed progress on ongoing projects regularly and Special Economic Zones’ work was in full swing. He said the government was taking all possible measures to further improve the security of the staff working on the projects, being executed under CPEC. The Chinese envoy appreciated the efforts of the Planning Ministry for its active role in carrying forward CPEC projects. Jiang Zaidong said the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) was an extremely important forum where Pakistan’s participation carried great significance. He invited the caretaker minister to attend the BRI Forum-2023, scheduled for 17-18th of the current month in Beijing, the capital city of China.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2023-10-10/page-8/detail-2>

The News

NUST holds roundtable on ‘Expanding BRICS and new alignments’

Afshan S. Khan

Islamabad: The NUST Institute of Policy Studies (NIPS) organised a high-level roundtable on ‘Expanding BRICS and the New Alignments.’ Moderated by Amir Yaqub, director NIPS, the roundtable witnessed multinational participation consisting of senior diplomats, academics, veteran state officials, think tank experts, scholars and students.

Dr Asad Majeed Khan, Pakistan’s former foreign secretary, delivered the keynote address on the impact of BRICS’s expansion on prevailing global geopolitics. He highlighted that BRICS represents 41% of the world population, 24% of the world GDP, and more than 16% share of the world trade. He stated that BRICS is both undergoing the process of

institutionalisation and strategically expanding its external relations, thereby solidifying its position as a prominent global player. He underscored that while the case for Pakistan's closer engagement with BRICS is indeed strong, the country could expect unique challenges in terms of the question of the membership of the global grouping. In the roundtable's second keynote on the expansion of BRICS and the new alignments, Dr Ashfaq Hasan Khan, DG NIPS, proposed the concept of 'New Geoeconomics.' He argued that the new geo-economics can be viewed as a global response to the geopolitical upheavals of the last two decades. This response, he said, is based on the efforts of emerging states to resist traditional power politics by means of the new forms of connectivity, cooperation, trade partnerships and financial integration.

The Ambassador of Brazil to Pakistan, Alfredo Leoni, highlighted the dynamic nature of the world today and the emergence of new alignments in the global landscape. The Ambassador of Russia to Pakistan, Danila V. Ganich, said that the BRICS nations prefer cooperation over conflict. He welcomed any potential participation in BRICS, emphasising the significance of collaboration in the contemporary international community. The High Commissioner of South Africa to Pakistan, Mthuzeli Madikiza, highlighted the potential of BRICS expansion to serve as a catalyst for achieving economic independence and prosperity among its constituent members. The Ambassador of Ethiopia to Pakistan, Jemal Beker Abdula, emphasised the need for balance in international relations based on national interests and advocated for inclusivity, equality, and representation within the global system. Prominent among the attendees of the roundtable were Lt Gen (r) Naeem Khalid Lodhi, Dr Shoaib Suddle, Ambassador (r) Masood Khalid, Ambassador (r) Fauzia Nasreen and Dr Zamaraeva Natalia.

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=244985>

Pakistan committed to accelerating CPEC projects: minister

Mehtab Haider

ISLAMABAD: Without even mentioning of much-awaited Mainline (ML-1) construction for the upgradation of the rail line from Karachi to Peshawar in the official statement, caretaker Minister for Planning and Development Sami Saeed has reiterated Pakistan's commitment to accelerate the implementation of projects under China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

Talking to the Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan Jiang Zaidong on Monday, the Planning Minister congratulated him on assuming the charge. During the meeting, both sides discussed CPEC projects and reiterated their resolve to further strengthen relations between the two countries.

The Ministry of Planning issued a press release in the aftermath of the official meeting with apparent efforts to give the impression that the CPEC entered the second phase but the flagship project known as ML-1 was not even mentioned in the official statement.

The statement said that it is noted that the second Phase of CPEC has already started as both the countries have been celebrating the decade of CPEC.

Highlighting the ongoing development projects under CPEC, the minister elaborated on their potential to transform Pakistan's infrastructure and economy. He underlined that these

projects are not merely about physical connectivity but also aim to uplift the lives of the people and boost socio-economic development across the country.

He further said that the interim government is committed to implement the CPEC projects while emphasising the importance of the long-standing friendship between the two countries and reiterated the commitment to further strengthening the ties.

Furthermore, the minister highlighted the importance of the Gwadar Port, a strategic project under CPEC, which is set to become a key maritime gateway connecting Pakistan with the rest of the world. The development of Gwadar Port and its associated free zone is expected to attract foreign investment, stimulate economic activities, and create job opportunities in the region.

Chinese Ambassador, Jiang Zaidong appreciated Pakistan's efforts to implement the CPEC particularly the second phase of CPEC. With the joint efforts of both sides, CPEC has achieved fruitful outcomes covering areas of industry, agriculture, IT, disaster prevention and mitigation, said the Ambassador, while appreciating the efforts of Planning Ministry which not only played a vital role in the implementation of the CPEC but made significant contributions to promoting Pakistan's economic and social development, upgrading Pakistan's infrastructure, improving Pakistani people's well-being, enhancing people-to-people contact and deepening regional connectivity.

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=245078>

Initiative to empower Gwadar youth launched

Muhammad Saleh Zaafir

ISLAMABAD: The federal government has launched an initiative aimed at empowering the youth of Gwadar with contemporary education and essential skills.

It would enable brilliant students to secure employment opportunities within the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) projects and at other labour markets. Official sources told The News on Monday the programme was designed to support exceptional and talented students from Gwadar, who aspire to pursue undergraduate studies (BS-4/5-year programme) at HEC-recognised public sector universities and degree-awarding institutions (DAIs), located in Punjab, Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa (KP) and Sindh. Scholarships are being offered for the academic year up to Fall 2023, covering a wide range of academic disciplines, under the project titled "Scholarship Program for Students from Gwadar".

The scholarship is specifically designed for the students holding residence or domicile certificates of the district of Gwadar and who have completed their 12-year education including FA/FSs/ICS, I.Com., and DAE or equivalent.

Students from Gwadar currently enrolled in 4-year BS programmes at any public sector university in Punjab, KP and Sindh, with a minimum of three years left in their academic session, are also eligible to apply for the scholarship. Sources reminded that selection of students would be made solely based on merit, determined by their performance in an aptitude test administered by ETC-HEC and their academic records in SSC and HSSC. The scholarship will cover tuition fees, hostel fees, and other charges of the selected students.

The students will also get a monthly stipend as well as yearly books and traveling allowances. Students from Gwadar, aged up to 22 years, can apply for the programme online through the HEC website until the application deadline of October 31, 2023.

In April, the HEC granted 200 scholarships through the Coastal Region Higher Education Scholarship Programme (CRHESP) for undergraduate students from Balochistan's coastal region, including Gwadar, in HEC-recognized universities and institutions.

The federal and provincial governments of Balochistan are prioritising education in Gwadar to empower the youth. Many educational institutions, supported by CPEC, are offering quality technical and vocational education.

The University of Gwadar (UG) recently granted the Chinese Ambassador Special Scholarship to its students. The UG and the Pak-China Technical & Vocational Institute (PCTVI) offer free shipping industry-related short courses. The university has partnered with TANG International Education Group, China, facilitating students and employees to access online short courses at renowned Chinese universities and colleges.

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=245076>

October 11, 2023

Business Recorder

CPEC projects in Gwadar: minister reviews progress of work

NAVEED BUTT

ISLAMABAD: The Caretaker Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives, Muhammad Sami Saeed, directed the ministries and divisions to further accelerate the work on the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) projects in Gwadar.

The minister gave these directions while chairing a meeting on Tuesday to review the progress of CPEC projects in Gwadar.

The meeting was attended by the secretary Planning Ministry, the secretary Ministry of Maritime Affairs, chief economist, the chairman Gwadar Port Authority, the director-general Gwadar Development Authority, and other representatives from various ministries.

The representatives of various ministries and divisions gave a detailed briefing on the implementation status of their respective projects in Gwadar.

All major projects under CPEC in Gwadar, including Gwadar Power Plant, distribution of 2,000 boat engines to fishermen of Gwadar, Khuzdar-Panjgur Transmission line (via Nag-Basima) which connect Makran with National Grid, New Gwadar International Airport Project, the China-Pak Friendship Hospital, China-Pak Technical and Vocational Institute in Gwadar, the Gwadar East-bay Expressway Project, Gwadar Free Zone and Gwadar Port would become a shining pearl in the region.

The minister asked the relevant ministry and provincial governments to further beef up the security in order to avoid any untoward incidents. He said that the interim government is

committed to implement the CPEC projects, while directing the relevant ministries and divisions to further expedite the work on these projects in order to come timely.

He said that in the recent budget, the allocation for Balochistan has been doubled which indicated that the federal government is committed to uplifting the province.

He said that several projects have been completed in Balochistan related to the education, health, and social sectors to facilitate the people of Balochistan, said the minister while reiterating that the government will continue its efforts to uplift the province.

During the meeting, officials from the Interior Ministry gave a detailed briefing on the security of Chinese working in Pakistan.

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2023/10/11/1-page/974005-news.html>

Pakistan Observer

3rd BRI Forum and Pakistan's Expectations: A Reality Check

The 3rd Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) forum for international cooperation is scheduled to take place on October 17-18 in Beijing. During this event, Chinese policymakers intend to unveil new priorities, plans, policies and projects aimed at advancing regional and global development through the BRI, often referred to as the “Project of the 21st Century.” Over 120 countries have confirmed their participation in this significant gathering.

In the last ten years, BRI has successfully introduced and institutionalized a new concept of development, cooperation and coordination which has never been “expansionary”, “exploitative”, “conquest” and “conspiratorial”. For these reasons, more than 153 countries, 200 documents and 32 international organizations have joined and signed the BRI which vividly reflects its “global importance” and “stimulating capacity” to speed up the world’s economy in the right direction. It is now “responsible” for a new era of transit routes, trade and growth for economies in Asia, Central Asia, ASEAN, Africa, EU and around the world.

According to the Chinese International Development Cooperation Agency (CIDCA) the BRI has so far completed over 3,000 projects in the last ten years. This expansive effort has garnered support from more than 180 countries and international organizations which is a good omen for the regional as well as international economy.

Hopefully, the next decade would also be full of economic, industrial, green energy transformation, human capital development, health, climate change and last but not the least, true reflection of multiculturalism in which Global South will achieve its desired goals of socio-economic prosperity and sustainable growth. Moreover, despite severe geopolitics of the US, EU and now India to contain China and collapse its economy have announced their own trans-regional projects namely Build Back Better World (BBBW), Global Gateway (GGW) and India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC) but all of these projects have not yet “surfaced” and “materialized”. The most recent Israel-Hamas war would further produce strains on IMEC and BBBW.

It appears that propaganda targeting China, CPEC and BRI has gained momentum, even within Pakistan. This is not a positive development. Despite sponsored criticism, China has

reiterated its willingness to support the high-quality development of the CPEC, which has brought tangible benefits to Pakistan's economic development and its people.

During the third Trans-Himalaya Forum for International Cooperation held in Nyingchi, China's Xizang (Tibet) Autonomous Region, while meeting with the Caretaker Foreign Minister of Pakistan, Jalil Abbas Jilani, the Chinese Foreign Minister, Wang Yi, asserted that the CPEC had brought tangible benefits to the economic development of Pakistan and its people. Mr. Jilani acknowledged that CPEC had helped Pakistan transform its economic landscape and brought tangible benefits to the country. He underscored the importance of regional cooperation for green development, ecological preservation and connectivity for inclusive and sustainable development.

Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan, Jiang Zaidong, has also reconfirmed the fruitfulness of the CPEC in the last decade cementing the solid foundation of ironclad friendship between the two countries. He shared that CPEC has brought a total of \$25.4 billion in direct investment, 155,000 direct jobs, 510 kilometres of expressways, 8,200 megawatts of power capacity and 886 kilometres of core power transmission grid to Pakistan, injecting strong momentum into Pakistan's economic and social development.

He was of the view that China's spirit of extensive consultation, joint contribution and shared benefits would further promote policies of Global Development Initiative, Global Security Initiative and Global Civilizational Initiative with Pakistan, providing more stability and positive energy to regional and world peace and development.

According to reliable diplomatic sources, Pakistan and China are set to sign over two dozen pacts at the 3rd BRI Forum. The Chinese embassy has confirmed that the National Development and Reform Commission of China (NDRC) has proposed to sign Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) with relevant Pakistani authorities during Caretaker Premier Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar's upcoming visit to China to attend the forum. The agreements will cover eight key areas: Urban Sustainable Development, major issues of Belt and Road Cooperation, Mineral Development and Industrial Cooperation, Research on Routes for Industrial Cooperation, Expert Exchange Mechanism, Expert Communication Mechanism on Gwadar Port Development, Green and Low-carbon Development, and Digital Economy Cooperation.

Meanwhile, Pakistan's Mission in Beijing has shared a list of 19 MoUs which are expected to be signed/announced during the visit of Mr. Kakar. Moreover, Main Railway Line-1, Karachi Circular Railway (KCR), realignment of KKH (Thakot-Raikot) will also be discussed during the 3rd BRI forum. D I Khan- Zhob Road Project, Mirpur-Muzaffarabad-Mansehra road, Babusar tunnel and Karachi-Hyderabad Motorway (M-9) will also be discussed.

China has shared a draft MoU on development of renewable energy projects in Pakistan on September 26, 2023. Pakistan is reviewing the proposal.

The Pakistani side has completed all formalities pertaining to 1320-MW Thar Block-1(Shanghai) and 300-MW coal project Gwadar, hopefully both sides will make substantive progress.

In summary, it is predicted that the genie of geopolitics would further divide the world in the future. The regional as well as global economies would be on the mercy of obsessive power politics of the US and the West. The incidents of de-coupling and de-risking would be further accelerated creating serious hurdles in global value supply chains.

The ongoing Israel-Hamas conflict has regional as well as global socio-economic, geopolitical and geostrategic ramifications which would further derail and delay the process of grand normalization in the Middle East which would lessen futuristic orientations of Saudi-Iran peace agreement. Connectivity, economic cooperation and political stability would be in the line of fire due to naked aggression of both sides which should be settled through peaceful negotiations.

Nevertheless, the future belongs to green energy(wind, solar), blue/green hydrogen power generation, EVs, lithium batteries, smart living, conservation of water resources, disaster management and joint efforts anti-looming threats of climate change in which CPEC and BRI would play important role in the days to come. BRI carries true spirits of geo-economics which would reduce ripples of the geopolitics in the world.

<https://pakobserver.net/3rd-bri-forum-and-pakistans-expectations-a-reality-check/>

The Nation

PM Kakar to visit China on 16th for BRI summit

by MATEEN HAIDER

ISLAMABAD - China will hold the 3rd summit on international cooperation under the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) on 17-18 October in Beijing.

Diplomatic sources said China will host this summit, which will be an important platform for developing cooperation under this initiative.

Prime Minister Anwaar ul Haq Kakar would lead the Pakistani delegation in the summit and would arrive in Beijing on 16th October.

The sources said this is not only the highlight in commemorative events to mark the BRI's 10th anniversary, but also an important platform for all partners to plan high-quality Belt and Road cooperation. Several leaders from around the world including President Vladimir Putin, are expected to attend the summit as China has invited leaders for more than 50 countries of Asia, Middle East, Europe, Africa and Latin America.

The 1st Belt and Road Forum was held in Beijing in May 2017 with the participation of top officials from Russia, China and 28 countries of Eurasia, Africa and Latin America. The 2nd forum took place in the Chinese capital in April 2019. Chinese President Xi Jinping launched the Belt and Road initiative in 2013.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2023-10-11/page-1/detail-4>

October 12, 2023

Business Recorder

Chinese envoy calls on PM

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar has stated that the government will continue to work closely with Chinese authorities to ensure timely implementation and completion of various projects envisaged under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

The caretaker prime minister while talking to Chinese Ambassador Jiang Zaidong who called on him on Wednesday stated that Pakistan and China were fully committed to ensuring the success of the CPEC.

The caretaker premier said that Pakistan and China enjoyed a unique relationship as all-weather strategic cooperative partners, iron brothers, and trusted friends.

He lauded the vision and leadership of President Xi Jinping, particularly the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).

The caretaker prime minister also noted the centrality of CPEC in enhancing economic, trade and technological ties between the two countries and highlighted its role as the flagship project of BRI.

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2023/10/12/12-page/974200-news.html>

Daily Times

Pakistan- China glass manufacturing unit starts operations in SEZ

Faisalabad

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Dawn News

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

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

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

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

It is the third forum of its kind since China launched the vast investment initiative, with events previously held in 2017 and 2019.

Mega-project has already delivered 'real gains' to participating nations, Beijing says

Russian President Putin has said he will attend the event, in what will be his first visit to China since the Ukraine war began last year.

Top Russian diplomat Sergei Lavrov will also attend and hold talks with Chinese counterpart Wang Yi, Moscow said.

China and Russia describe each other as strategic allies, frequently touting their "no limits" partnership and economic and military cooperation.

China has refused to condemn the war, and has tried to position itself as a neutral party, while at the same time offering Moscow a vital diplomatic and financial lifeline.

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

'Significant debt distress'

Beijing hailed the BRI on Tuesday as having "delivered real gains to participating countries".

It also said the balance of loans for BRI projects from the Export-Import Bank of China (Eximbank) — a key BRI creditor — now totalled 2.2 trillion yuan (\$307.4 billion).

Eximbank has financed major transport and energy projects across the BRI and has been linked to foreign loan plans everywhere from Africa to Central Asia. But some of Beijing's partners are increasingly wary about the cost involved.

Italy, the only one of the group of leading developed democracies to sign up to the investment scheme, said last month it was considering opting out of the deal.

A report by experts at Boston University's Global Development Policy noted the BRI's role in providing "additional resources for the Global South" and fostering "significant economic growth".

But it also added, "Many of the recipients of Chinese finance are subject to significant debt distress, with several countries owing China a significant share of their external debt."

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

Pakistan Observer

CPEC bolsters Pak-China P2P contacts: Solangi

Caretaker Minister for Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi Wednesday said the launch of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) had not only deepened the economic cooperation between the two brotherly countries but also bolstered people-to-people contacts in a remarkable way.

"Over 28,000 Pakistani students were currently studying in China.

This aspect of cooperation is of prime importance in the framework of the Belt and Road Initiative," the minister said while addressing the Art Exhibition & Cultural Show at Pakistan National Council of Arts.

Since the launch of CPEC, he said people-to-people connectivity between Pakistan and China had soared to new heights.

In Pakistan, the minister said the number of Chinese language learners was growing exponentially with the establishment of Confucius institutes in top universities like the University of Punjab, NUML University and others. Likewise, Pakistani students also visited Chinese universities on Chinese government scholarships to learn Chinese language and do professional degrees/diplomas, he added.

He said similarly artists from Pakistan and China frequently exchanged visits to showcase their artwork in each other's countries through art exhibitions.

<https://pakobserver.net/cpec-bolsters-pak-china-p2p-contacts-solangi/>

Planning minister, Chinese official discuss energy projects

Caretaker Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Muhammad Sami on Wednesday met with the General Manager of China Energy International Group Limited Wang Huihua and discussed matters pertaining to bilateral relations with a special focus on energy projects.

During the meeting, the two sides exchanged views on exploring new opportunities for cooperation in diverse fields including energy and green energy, a news release said.

The Planning minister appreciated the China Energy International Group Limited's investment efforts in Pakistan, which is working on various projects including Suki Kinari (SK), Neelum-Jhelum and Mohmand Dam projects. Highlighting the importance of all the projects being carried out by the Chinese Energy International Group, Sami Saeed assured the Chinese companies of the government's full support for the smooth execution of the projects.—APP

<https://pakobserver.net/planning-minister-chinese-official-discuss-energy-projects/>

The Express Tribune

Minister for speeding up work on CPEC

Says interim govt will implement CPEC schemes to make it a success

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Muhammad Sami Saeed on Tuesday gave directives to accelerate the pace of work on the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) projects in Gwadar.

Chairing a meeting to review the progress on CPEC projects in Gwadar, he asked ministries and divisions to speed up work on the projects, according to a press statement.

Representatives of ministries and divisions gave a detailed briefing on the implementation of projects in Gwadar.

The minister noted that all major projects including the Gwadar power plant, distribution of 2,000 boat engines to fishermen, Khuzdar-Panjgur transmission line (via Nag-Basima) which connects Markran with national grid, New Gwadar International Airport, China-Pak Friendship Hospital, China-Pak Technical and Vocational Institute, Gwadar Eastbay Expressway Project, Gwadar Free Zone and Gwadar Port would become a shining pearl in the region.

He asserted that the interim government was committed to implementing the CPEC projects to make it a success.

In the recent budget, the allocation for Balochistan had been doubled which indicated that the federal government was committed to uplifting the province.

Several projects had been completed in Balochistan that were related to education, healthcare and social sectors to facilitate the people, said the minister while reiterating that the government would continue its efforts to further support the province.

Officials of the interior ministry gave a detailed briefing on the security measures taken for Chinese officials working in Pakistan.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2440472/minister-for-speeding-up-work-on-cpec>

The Nation

Rashakai SEZ vital project for industrial development: KP minister

Peshawar - Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's caretaker Minister of Industries, Commerce, Technical Education, and Merged Districts Affairs, Dr. Aamir Abdullah, emphasized the crucial role of the Rashakai Special Economic Zone as a vital project for industrial development.

This project, established through cooperation between Pakistan and China under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), is poised to be a significant milestone in advancing industrialization and economic progress within the province. The government is committed to providing comprehensive support and facilities to entrepreneurs and companies establishing industries within the zone. Dr Aamir Abdullah shared these insights during a briefing while visiting the Rashakai Special Economic Zone.

He was joined by Javed Iqbal, the Chief Executive Officer of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Economic Zones Development and Management Company, as well as other officials involved in the CPEC project and representatives from the "China Roads and Building Company" (CRBC) who are collaborating with the provincial government on the zone's construction.

During the visit, the caretaker minister received an in-depth overview of the special economic zone's importance in driving industrial development under CPEC, its unique attributes, and the progress of its initial construction phase. He was also briefed on the future facilities to be made available in subsequent phases.

The caretaker minister was informed that this special economic zone is one of the major projects established under the CPEC initiative in collaboration between the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Economic Zones Development Company and the Chinese construction company CRBC. The first phase of construction is nearly complete, covering a total area of 1000 acres, with 702 acres designated for industrial plots and 76 acres for commercial purposes.

Foreign as well as domestic industrialists and entrepreneurs are being attracted to invest in this economic zone. In the initial phase, plots have been allocated for 18 domestic and one Chinese industries, with all facilities meeting the required standards. The caretaker minister was informed about certain issues related to electricity and gas supply, which he vowed to address promptly.

The minister, Dr Aamir, commended the attraction of foreign investors to the Rashakai Special Economic Zone and assured that all necessary facilities would be provided to both domestic and foreign investors. He also promised to address electricity and gas-related concerns promptly, ensuring smooth industrial growth in this strategically important location.

During his visit, the caretaker minister also inspected various construction projects within the zone and expressed satisfaction with their quality. The Chinese construction company CRBC presented him with a shield in recognition of his visit.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2023-10-12/page-10/detail-0>

China, Pakistan deepening all-round cooperation

ISLAMABAD - Over the past decade, BRI cooperation has delivered real gains to participating countries, said a white paper released by China's State Council Information Office, China Economic Net (CEN) reported on Wednesday.

"It has been welcomed by the international community both as a public good and a cooperation platform, and has achieved solid results," the paper noted.

The white paper, titled "The Belt and Road Initiative: A Key Pillar of the Global Community of Shared Future", presented the achievements of the BRI during the past 10 years to give the international community a better understanding of the value of the initiative, facilitate high-quality cooperation under it, and ultimately deliver benefits to more countries and peoples.

In it China-Pakistan cooperation in different sectors over the past decade are presented, including projects that facilitate policy coordination, infrastructure construction, trade, financial integration, the improving of people's lives, and so on.

As per the white paper, the construction of economic corridors and international routes is making substantial progress. Take Pakistan as an example.

"Major projects along the China- Pakistan Economic Corridor are underway. The Peshawar-Karachi Motorway (Sukkur-Multan section), the Karakoram Highway Phase II (Havelian-Thakot section), and the Lahore Orange Line Metro are all open to traffic.

Coal-fired power plants such as Sahiwal, Port Qasim, Thar, and Hub are operating safely and steadily; the Mehra DC transmission project is operational; and the Kalot Hydropower Station is connected to the power grid.

Rashakai Special Economic Zone has reached the stage of comprehensive development," reads the paper, adding that the Gwadar Port in Pakistan has seen major progress and is marching towards the goal of becoming a logistics centre and industrial base.

The BRI is a long-term, transnational and systematic global project of the 21st century. It has succeeded in taking its first step on a long journey.

"Continuing from this new starting point, the BRI will demonstrate greater creativity and vitality, become more open and inclusive, and generate new opportunities for both China and the rest of the world," concluded the paper.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2023-10-12/page-10/detail-3>

Breakthrough on ML-1 project expected during PM's China visit

by Fawad Yousafzai

ISLAMABAD - Pakistan is expecting a major breakthrough on the multibillion dollars railway mainline-1 (ML- 1) project during the upcoming visit of Caretaker Prime Minister to China starting from October 16.

A framework agreement on Pakistan Railway Main Line-1 projects along with financial closure of several energy projects and several Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) in various fields are expected to be finalized during the visit, official source told The Nation.

Prime Minister Anwaar ul Haq Kakar would visit China for participating in the 3rd summit on international cooperation under the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) being held on 17-18 October in Beijing. The source said that a MoU on urban sustainable development is likely to be finalized during the visit. The financial closure of energy projects of Azad Pattan, Kohala, Thar Block-1 and Gwadar Coal Power Plant may also be announced during the visit. Similarly, an MoU on research cooperation on BRI major issues may also be inked during the visit. A draft for MoU on industrial cooperation and routes research has been prepared and may likely to be signed in the upcoming visit.

China has proposed further cooperation on strengthening digital economic cooperation. In the upcoming visit it will be discussed and either a MoU will be inked for digital economic cooperation or it will be presented to concerned working group, said the source.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2023-10-12/page-12/detail-2>

K2 Daily



https://www.epaper.dailyk2.com/Home?Issue=NP_ICT&Page=Back_Page&Date=2023-10-12

https://www.epaper.dailyk2.com/Home?Issue=NP_ICT&Page=Classified&Date=2023-10-12

October 13, 2023

Business Recorder

Power projects

Chinese again refuse to renegotiate PPAs

ISLAMABAD: Chinese power projects have, once again, refused to renegotiate Power Purchase Agreements (PPAs) with the government of Pakistan, a longstanding wish of dollar-hungry Islamabad. The government has to clear about Rs 350 billion of Chinese power projects dues which is why Chinese state-owned insurance company, Sinosure, is reluctant to extend insurance coverage to any new power project.

M/s Sinosure has also sent a “displeasure” letter to Islamabad after the strong rumour doing the rounds in Islamabad that the government is urging Chinese IPPs to renegotiate “expensive PPAs.”

M/s Sinosure is a state-owned policy insurance company which resolutely implements the decisions and plans of the state, and plays a positive role in supporting joint efforts to advance “the Belt and Road Initiative” (BRI).

Last month, the Executive Committee of Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC), a facility established as a “single a facility to act as a single window” to facilitate investors, establish cooperation among all Government departments, and fast-track project development had directed Secretary Power Division to update and present recommendations on renegotiations of PPAs in the Executive Committee.

Power Division, sources said, has informally approached sponsors of Chinese power projects established under China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) framework, to renegotiate PPAs. However, GoP’s request has not been entrained.

“Chinese are not ready to renegotiate PPAs. As a matter of fact, now when we approach them for this purpose, they resent it,” the sources added.

Unconfirmed reports, however, suggest that a Committee is being constituted to deal with this issue.

According to sources, caretaker Prime Minister, Anwar-ul-Haq who is scheduled to visit China on 17-18 October, 2023 to attend the third BRI, has sought update status on payment to Chinese IPPs.

Prime Minister will draw attention of Chinese top brass to the exceptional rise in capacity payments because of near simultaneous arrival of new capacity from projects undertaken under CPEC, the sources added.

On October 10, 2023, Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives held a meeting on CPEC energy projects in which the issues discussed included revolving account for CPEC IPPs, overdue payment for CPEC IPPs, Sinosure clearance for power projects, MoU on AMI, MoU on identification of potential sites for pump storage hydropower projects and MoU on development of renewable energy projects in Pakistan.

An insider told this scribe that the government is expected to make payment of Rs 8-12 billion to Chinese IPPs prior to visit of caretaker Prime Minister to China. The exact amount will be decided on arrival of Finance Ministry’s team from Morocco.

The sources said, during Imran Khan led government, Pakistan floated a proposal to Chinese government for renegotiation on contracts of power projects established under CPEC on the pattern of other IPPs or to purchase 1200-MW electricity from Pakistan for onward supply to Afghanistan.

According to initial estimates if the pacts with the CPEC IPPs are similarly re-negotiated, an initial working suggests that Pakistan can save \$ 14.29 billion over the life of these projects which comes to an average of \$0.48billion per year for average project life of 30 years.—

MUSHTAQ GHUMMAN

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2023/10/13/1-page/974209-news.html>

ML-1 project with revised agreement likely to be signed with China

ABDUL RASHEED AZAD

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan is all set to sign a revised agreement on the ML-1 project with China under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) during the prime minister of Pakistan's upcoming visit to China starting from October 17, senior Pakistan Railways (PR) officials said.

The officials said that in this connection a high-level meeting of Pakistan Railways presided over by the Federal Secretary for Railways Syed Mazhar Ali Shah was held here on Thursday to review the preparations of the upcoming visit to China on the eve of the Belt and Road Forum (BRF).

The Ministry of Railways has planned to promote the ML-1 project for early commencement of work.

In addition, other key railway projects would also be shared with investors for implementation.

Pakistan Railways officials said that the government of Pakistan will discuss and offer more investment opportunities to Chinese counterparts.

Some of the key projects would be Gwadar connectivity, upgradation of Quetta-Taftan rail link, a new link between Quetta-Zhob and Dera Ismail Khan, Dedicated Freight Corridor (DFC) between Karachi Port and Pipri, new rail link between Kohat, Thal, and Kharlachi, solarization in Railways and development and commercialization of railway stations. The secretary showed satisfaction at the level of preparation.

This ambitious endeavour of ML-1 will not only increase the line capacity between the two cities to accommodate 100 trains up and down, but it will also contribute to reducing the cost of the project from \$10 billion to \$6.6 billion through government efforts.

The officials said that soon the work on the project would be initiated after the signing of the revised agreement.

According to PR officials, completion of the ML-1 project and the upgradation of the countrywide railways' infrastructure was a must to overcome financial losses which at present amount to Rs8 billion excluding Rs40 billion pension payments for the retired employees, senior officials said.

The PR officials have pinned the ML-1 project their focus of attention to take the railways out of decline and towards prosperity.

The ML-1 project aims to establish a double line spanning 1,733 km from Peshawar to Karachi, with train speeds ranging between 140 to 160 km.

Furthermore, it is expected to elevate the market freight share of the railways from four percent to 20 percent, providing employment opportunities for 20,000 technical experts and boosting Pakistan's labour ratio to 90 per cent.

According to senior PR officials, the PR management is working on short-term as well as on long-term projects to overcome financial losses and make the entity a profit-making public sector organisation.

Moreover, in the long run the management is seriously taking the completion of projects like the ML-1 and the Pakistan, Afghanistan, Uzbekistan Railway initiative, aiming to revitalise the railway system and steer it towards prosperity.

Officials said that no significant improvements have been made to Pakistan's railway track system since the country's formation. The nation continues to rely on railway infrastructure that was constructed by the British over 150 years ago, highlighting the urgent need for modernisation and maintenance.

Many railway bridges in Pakistan have expired, with the majority of them being over 100 years old. However, the successive governments have not shown serious attention towards overhauling these crumbling structures, adding that the ML-1 project from Karachi to Peshawar was a significant one but sabotaged by the previous government.

On July 18th, protocols and road maps were signed to connect Pakistan with Central Asia, Russia, and the Baltic states. The comprehensive plan includes the construction of a 191 km track from Kharlachi and a 674 km track from Kharlachi to Mazar Sharif, with an existing track already in place from Mazar-e-Sharif to Tirmaz. Highlighting the dire circumstances facing the railways, the railways minister noted that the organisation has encountered significant financial difficulties, exacerbated by the requirement to allocate funds for pensioners' salaries.

Moreover, in August 2022 devastated floods, approximately 400 km of railway tracks were submerged, resulting in severe bridge impairments and the isolation of many regions, including Rohri, Sukkur, and Quetta.

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2023/10/13/3-page/974225-news.html>

CPEC and media exchanges

Chinese CG invites suggestions from APNS

KARACHI: The Consul General of the People's Republic of China Yang Yundong visited the office of All Pakistan Newspapers Society (APNS).

The President of APNS Nazafreen Saigol Lakhani and Sarmad Ali, Secretary General APNS, welcomed the guest and stated that Yang Yundong was the first diplomat to visit APNS House.

Yang Yundong thanked APNS for inviting him to their office saying the 3rd Belt and Road Forum (BRF) will be held in Beijing on October 17 and 18, 2023 in which more than 130 countries and over 30 International Organizations are expected to participate.

The Chinese Consul General said the Belt and Road Forum under the theme of high quality Belt and Road Cooperation, together for common development and prosperity will provide an opportunity for progress and development of the region and the globe. The Consul General added that 2023 marks the 10th anniversary of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).

Over the past decade, the BRI has established more than 3,000 cooperation projects and galvanized nearly \$1.0 trillion of investment, creating an array of livelihood projects and milestones of cooperation.

Referring to China Pakistan Economic Corridor projects, Yang Yundong said this is a pilot project of the BRI and the landmark project for China-Pakistan cooperation in the new era.

He said the Chinese media sector has made several advancements according to the needs of the modern age. He welcomed Pakistani media and APNS taking benefit from it and the Chinese media will be happy to get suggestions from the APNS to boosting the China-Pakistan relations, better development of CPEC and media exchanges and collaborations.

“We are looking forward to working with all of you strengthen the “iron-clad” friendship between China and Pakistan and promote friendly cooperation,” he concluded.

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2023/10/13/3-page/974230-news.html>

Counter terrorism

Pakistan’s and China’s military intelligence wings to set up hotline

ISLAMABAD: The Military Intelligence of Armies of Pakistan and China are to establish hotline on counter terrorism through inking a formal pact, well informed sources told Business Recorder.

Sharing the details, sources said, Defence Division on October 2, 2023 informed the Federal Cabinet presided caretaker Prime Minister Anwar ul Haq Kakar that General Headquarters (GHQ) proposed signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to establish a counter terrorism Intelligence Hotline between Military Intelligence Directorate (MI Dte), Joint Staff Department Central Military Commission (CMC) of China and Military Intelligence Directorate (MI Det), General Headquarters (GHQ) of Pakistan to supplement counter terrorism efforts with intelligence support from China.

The Cabinet was further informed that the Defence Division supported the MoU. The Foreign Affairs Division and the Directorate General Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) also have no objection. Furthermore, Law and Justice Division have also vetted the MoU from legal point of view. The Defence Division solicited approval of the Federal Cabinet in terms of Rule 16(1) (h) for signing the MoU.

After a brief summary on the proposal and without going into details, the Federal Cabinet approved the proposal submitted by Defence Division.—MUSHTAQ GHUMMAN

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2023/10/13/12-page/974297-news.html>

PM to highlight future priorities of CPEC during China visit: FO

ALI HUSSAIN

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar ul Haq Kakar will highlight the future priorities of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and reaffirm Pakistan’s strong commitment to jointly promote its high-quality development during his upcoming visit to China, Foreign Office said.

Speaking at her weekly media briefing on Thursday, Foreign Office spokesperson Mumtaz Zahra Baloch said at the invitation of President Xi Jinping, the caretaker prime minister will undertake a visit to China to participate in the “Third Belt and Road Forum (BRF) for International Cooperation,” being held in Beijing from 17-18 October 2023.

She said the prime minister will attend the opening ceremony of the BRF and address the high-level forum entitled, “Connectivity in an Open Global Economy” to be held on 18 October 2023.

She further stated that caretaker Prime Minister Kakar will hold bilateral meetings with President Xi Jinping and senior Chinese leaders and with a number of leaders attending the Forum.

While in China, she added that the prime minister will also meet with leading Chinese entrepreneurs to expand bilateral trade and investment. She said that the caretaker prime minister will also visit Urumqi, Xinjiang Autonomous Region of China to meet with local leaders and businesspersons, aiming to enhance trade, investment and people-to-people relations.

The visit of the prime minister comes in the backdrop of the ongoing celebrations marking the 10 years of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), the flagship project of China’s Belt and Road Initiative. In his engagements, she added that the prime minister will highlight the key achievements and the future priorities of CPEC, and reaffirm Pakistan’s strong commitment to jointly promote its high-quality development. Speaking on condition of anonymity, a senior official of the Foreign Office said that the Chinese government has extended the invitation to a number of other ministers and senior officials to participate in the high-level event.

“China wants Pakistan to be seen as closest friend,” the official said, adding that the MOFA has recommended an effective participation of Pakistan in the forum.

Besides, the caretaker prime minister, he said that the Chinese government has extended invitations to caretaker ministers for finance, planning and development, power, railways, information and broadcasting, chairman National Accountability Bureau (NAB), and chief minister Sindh.

However, he added that the caretaker prime minister’s delegation has yet not been finalised and it is up to him to decide as to who will be accompanying him during the visit.

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2023/10/13/12-page/974299-news.html>

Dawn News

ML-1 project cost reduced to \$6.67bn

Khalid Hasnain

LAHORE: As the third Belt and Road Initiative forum is set to begin on Oct 17 in Beijing, Pakistani and Chinese authorities are scheduled to sign an addendum to the CPEC’s framework agreement, replacing the mega \$9.85 billion ML-1 project cost with a newly rationalised and agreed project cost of \$6.678bn.

Since Prime Minister Anwaarul Haq Kakar and his delegation are set to attend the forum, the rationalised estimate for the ML-1 project, Pakistan's first-ever state-of-the-art railway project, has been finalised under Article 10 of the framework agreement signed in 2017 and renewed after five years, Dawn has learnt.

The original/previous ML-1 project, with a budget of \$9.85bn, was approved by Ecnec on Oct 31, 2022. It featured a 1,726km long track designed for speeds of up to 160km per hour, complete grade separation and fencing, making travel durations of 10 hours between Lahore and Karachi, 2.45 hours between Lahore and Rawalpindi, and 14.30 hours between Karachi and Peshawar.

Under the \$6.678bn revised project called "Rationalised Upgradation of ML-1 at 140km per hour (upgradable to 160km per hour)", the project length remains the same at 1,726 km. Another revised cost of \$3.136bn, referred to as "Complete Track Rehabilitation (CTR) of ML-1 at 120km per hour," was considered but found unsuitable by the authorities.

Addendum to be signed at BRI forum beginning Oct 17

The rationalised upgradation option has brought down the cost of Karachi-Multan section to \$3.138bn from \$4.862bn; Multan-Lahore section to \$799.388 million from over \$1.535bn; Lahore-Rawalpindi section to \$1.386bn from \$1.876bn; Kalowal-Pindora section to \$291.842m from \$385.8m; and Rawalpindi-Peshawar section to \$1.009 billion from \$1.092bn.

Similarly, the project cost related to the Walton Academy and Havelian Dry Port has also been brought down from \$58.969m to \$32.1m.

The original salient features of the ML-1 project included a speed of 160km per hour, a 25-tonne axle load-bearing capacity, 454km of track doubling, 44km of new double lines, the construction of 2,212 bridges/culverts, 3,600km of fencing, 631/631-grade separation, and a travel time of 14.30 hours between Karachi and Peshawar.

However, the new design features a speed of 140km per hour, the construction of 2,096 bridges/culverts, 1,300km of fencing, and 165/631-grade separation, maintaining the natural ground level on the Up/Down track. The travel time between Karachi and Peshawar would be 17 hours and 15 minutes. The project, under this option, is expected to be completed within nine years, with a total project lifespan of 30 years. This is similar to option 1, the original design.

"We are set to sign the addendum on the eve of the BRI's meeting in China next week, as all has already been discussed and agreed upon during the meeting of CPEC's Joint Cooperation Committee (JCC) held in May this year," former Pakistan Railways (PR) chairman Zafar Zaman Ranjha, who is currently working as the ML-1 project team leader, confirmed while talking to Dawn on Thursday. "Everything is OK in this regard," he added.

Regarding the rationalised upgradation, he said that PR authorities, in collaboration with the respective ministries, work hard to reduce the project cost, taking into consideration the country's economic condition. According to him, the rationalised option focused on addressing critical aspects of the project. He also noted that the track would be capable of

supporting speeds of 160km per hour, but the designated speed limit would be 140km per hour.

“There are 630 level crossings, and our priority will be upgrading the most critical ones. Similarly, we will not construct bridges over rivers, as after an in-depth study, we have concluded that these existing bridges can be strengthened through some additional work, extending their lifespan by up to 30 years,” Ranjha said.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1780800/ml-1-project-cost-reduced-to-667bn>

Pakistan Observer

Winners of photography competition on BRI projects announced

The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting and Pakistan-China Institute (PCI) on Thursday announced the winners of the nationwide photography competition on projects related to Road and Belt Initiative.

The competition received over 1500 entries for showcasing the progress of the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), a prominent project within China’s Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).

The last date for submitting photographs for the ‘Nationwide Best Belt and Road Initiative Projects Photography Competition,’ organized by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting in collaboration with PCI was October 7.

The competition meant to capture the essence and impact of CPEC and other BRI projects in Pakistan, received submissions in three categories: ‘Infrastructure and Development,’ ‘People and Stories,’ and ‘Environmental Impact.’

A panel of renowned photographers, artists and relevant government authorities had judged the entries.

Speaking on the occasion, Director General Radio Pakistan Muhammad Tahir Hassan appreciated the role of media in promoting people to people contacts among the nations.

<https://pakobserver.net/winners-of-photography-competition-on-bri-projects-announced/>

CPEC not a debt trap or a roll booster for Pakistan: Report

“China’s CPEC has dragged Pakistan into a quagmire of debt,” recently, such a cliché has flooded with Western media discourse, one more time, making someone question this flagship project under the Belt and Road framework. Statistic from the newest KTrade Securities Limited (KASB) report showed that Pakistan’s external public debt was recorded at USD 84.1 billion at end June 2023, according to report published by Gwadar Pro on Thursday. The report stated that External Debt to GDP ratio grew from 16.65 percent in FY17 to 26.02 percent by FY23, resulting in higher USD denominated debt burden. One of the primary reasons for Pakistan’s external borrowing has been the necessity to bridge the trade deficit, import essential goods, and fund significant infrastructure projects. However, can CPEC be accused of being a “debt trap” for Pakistan? To assess debt sustainability of a country, the general benchmark for emerging countries is 70 percent for the debt to GDP

ratio. Pakistan's debt to GDP ratio stood at 72 percent in FY23, slightly above the recommended benchmark. Moreover, its interest to GDP ratio stood at 6.9 percent while interest to revenue stood at 61 percent in FY23.

<https://pakobserver.net/cpec-not-a-debt-trap-or-a-roll-booster-for-pakistan-report/>

Second phase of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor in full swing: Sami

Caretaker Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Muhammad Sami Saeed on Thursday said the second phase of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) was in full swing, reiterating the interim government's strong commitment to implementing the development projects in letter and spirit.

The minister made these remarks while speaking at a seminar on the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI): "Paving the Path to Shared Prosperity," organized here the by Centre of Excellence, CPEC, Quaid-e-Azam University (QUA).

Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan Jiang Zaidong was the chief guest at the conference, which was also attended by the Vice Chancellor, QAU, Project Director, CPEC and hundreds of policymakers and experts.

The third Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation will be held in Beijing from October 17 to 18. Prime Minister Anwar Ul Haq Kakar would represent Pakistan. The forum would focus on Research and Innovation, Communication, Science and technology, Industry, Agriculture, Energy, Tourism and other areas.

Planning Minister Sami Saeed said the BRI was not merely a network of roads and bridges rather it was a manifestation of collective belief in the power of collaboration to create a world where opportunities were boundless and prosperity knew no borders.

"The Second Phase of CPEC is in full swing as all projects are being supervised properly and the interim government is committed to implementing the projects," he said appreciating China for consistent support in the implementation of projects.

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

<https://pakobserver.net/second-phase-of-china-pakistan-economic-corridor-in-full-swing-sami/>

The Express Tribune

PM to attend BRI moot in China

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

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaarul Haq Kakar will visit China to participate in the 'Third Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation', being held in Beijing from October 17-18, the Foreign Office said on Thursday.

The prime minister is undertaking the visit at the invitation of Chinese President Xi Jinping, the Foreign Office spokesperson said at a weekly press briefing.

Spokesperson Mumtaz Zahra Baloch said PM Kakar would attend the opening ceremony of the BRF and address the high-level forum titled ‘Connectivity in an Open Global Economy’ on October

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2440718/1>

Pakistan fails to realise CPEC potential

Fawad says country could not increase exports by putting together SEZs

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

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

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

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

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

“Whatever is happening on Pakistan’s economic front is happening because of us, not because of CPEC,” said Fawad.

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

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

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

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

The Chinese were very active and eager to see SEZ operations but “so far we have not been able to come up with a single SEZ,” said Nasir Ali Shah Bokhari.

Fawad said that Pakistan did not have the capacity to implement \$62 billion of CPEC projects and “yet we kept talking about these numbers for political benefits”. “Putting a number to CPEC in public was a political move, which no country does in the world, except us,” said Fawad.

“We were advised by China that there was no need to talk about these billions of dollars investment figures but we kept talking about these numbers.”

Fawad further said that had we not scandalised CPEC for political point scoring, Chinese investors would have invested two to three times more in Pakistan.

“We are not able to segregate strategic development interests from our political interests,” he lamented. “We keep talking about visions but visions do not come without first learning.”

During his visit to Pakistan, Chinese President Xi Jinping asked Pakistan not to do four things “but we did every one of four that he advised us not to do for making progress and development”, said the minister.

Pakistan can benefit from Gwadar being the connecting port, as it is estimated that CPEC would generate \$70 billion in transit revenue per annum, said Nadia Ishtiaq, Managing Director of Corporate Finance at KTrade.

A comparative study carried out by KTrade, an investment advisory firm, showed that in 2014, Chinese investment in Indonesia was less than \$2 billion, which in 2020 increased to over \$7 billion per annum. Compared to this, the Chinese investment in Pakistan was over \$600 million in 2014 that in 2022 dropped to below \$500 million per annum despite CPEC, according to KTrade.

Chinese investment in Indonesia also went to diverse sectors while in Pakistan it largely remained concentrated in the energy sector.

Since 2013, there were four different prime ministers and the regime change every time led to the change in government’s policies, leading to the loss of investors’ confidence.

The labour quality also immensely dropped in Pakistan and over 800,000 skilled Pakistanis have already left the country in search for better opportunities.

The development of Gwadar was very crucial for China and even the Chinese president mentioned it during his address at the second BRI Forum, said Hassan Butt, former project director CPEC at the Planning Commission.

Before starting phase-II, Pakistan must realise that the conventional approach may not work this time, said Butt. He also suggested that if the government wants to set up new bodies for doing some work, it should abolish the old ones – in a veiled reference to the Special Investment Facilitation Council.

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

The Nation

CPEC boosts development of industries in Pakistan: Report

BEIJING-The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor has boosted the development of industries such as energy, infrastructure, agriculture, and textiles in Pakistan, making significant contributions to Pakistan's economy.

The report titled "10 Years of Belt and Road Initiative-China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC)" was released as China and Pakistan are celebrating the 10th anniversary of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and also the 10th anniversary of the launch of CPEC, a BRI flagship project.

Since the launch of CPEC in 2013, China has become the largest source of investment for Pakistan for 10 consecutive years with \$25.4 billion investment in direct projects in the country. Among them, investment in the energy sector accounts for 68%, making it one of the areas with the largest investment, the fastest progress, and the most significant achievements under CPEC, CEN reported on Thursday.

As of the end of 2022, completed power projects under CPEC account for 1/4 of Pakistan's power generation, and the compound growth rate of power generation has jumped from 2.7% in pre-CPEC period to 7% during post-CPEC period. CPEC power plants provided cheaper electricity by utilizing Thar coal reserves. This reduced Pakistan's oil and gas import bill burden.

In terms of transportation infrastructure, over 90% of Pakistan's passenger traffic and around 96% of freight movement are primarily dependent on road transport. The mileage of completed and ongoing motorways under CPEC is 1622 kilometers, accounting for approximately 40% of the total mileage of Pakistan's motorways. The Motorway network in Pakistan links different parts of the country to the three main ports which include Karachi Port, Port Bin Qasim, and Gwadar Port, improving Pakistan's cross-border trade efficiency.

The report points out that thanks to the infrastructure construction under CPEC, Pakistan's business environment has seen continuous improvement, and the industrialization of the country has been significantly enhanced. The Large Scale Manufacturing Index (LSM) has increased by 43% in the past 10 years.

In terms of China-Pakistan industrial cooperation, the textile, automotive, and mobile equipment industries in Pakistan have benefited the most. Chinese companies have invested in Pakistan's textile industry through acquisitions or setting up factories, driving its textile exports to grow by approximately 4.4% annually over the past 10 years. Since 2016, multiple Chinese mobile device brands such as Oppo and TECNO have built 29 manufacturing factories in Pakistan, bringing \$126 million in investments, promoting a 74-fold increase in local production of mobile devices. As CPEC enters the second phase, substantial achievements have been made in China-Pakistan agricultural cooperation, and multiple advanced Chinese agricultural technologies have been promoted in Pakistan. More and more Pakistani farmers are adopting China's maize soybean strip intercropping technology. This technology will help Pakistan reduce soybean oil imports thus saving its foreign reserves.

Hybrid Wheat seed yields 40% higher per acre than conventional varieties which will help Pakistan overcome shortages due to floods and resume wheat exports like in 2011-2013. In addition, the University of Punjab and Wuhan University are collaborating to develop high-yield hybrid rice varieties to boost Pakistan's rice exports. Over the past decade, CPEC has opened doors for the economic and social welfare of Pakistan through the creation of jobs, exchange of personnel, poverty alleviation and various relief projects. CPEC has created approximately 192,000 jobs for the Pakistani people.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2023-10-13/page-1/detail-12>

CPEC termed engine for socio-economic progress in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD - Chairman of KASB Group, Nasir Ali Shah Bukhari has said that generally, the Chinese side has always wanted that Pakistan must grow and develop using the advantage of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

He also said that it would become a new engine for the economic development of Pakistan.

Speaking at the event "10 Years of Belt and Road Initiative - CPEC" held here yesterday, Nasir said that CPEC was launched as a game-changer project in Pakistan, and it changed the livelihoods of millions of people in the country.

"Energy, transportation infrastructure and power projects such as Gwadar port, Gwadar East-Bay Expressway and Sahiwal Power Plant have laid a solid foundation for Pakistan's economic development," he added.

Since its inception, CPEC has opened doors for economic and social welfare in Pakistan. This has been achieved through the creation of jobs, exchange of personnel, poverty alleviation, and various relief projects.

These findings were revealed in a report by Pakistan's stock brokerage and corporate advisory firm, KASB KTrade Securities, during the event.

According to the report, CPEC has significantly contributed to Pakistan's economy by boosting the development of industries such as energy, infrastructure, agriculture, and textiles.

During the seminar, Fawad Hasan Fawad, Federal Minister for Privatisation of Pakistan, delivered a keynote speech. He said that learning takes place across various platforms under CPEC.

"Starting to develop a global vision, which is a hallmark of Chinese thinking in every sphere of life. They also look at it in terms of all possible futuristic potential that it can offer.

That is one singular reason for Chinese success, which is so remarkable and provides us an opportunity at that point in time to learn from them," added Fawad.

Former CPEC Head Hassan Daud Butt also addressed the event. He dismissed rumours related to CPEC and said that the decade-long CPEC has contributed to the sustainable development and growth of Pakistan.

CPEC is now entering a new stage of high-quality development, expanding cooperation in science and technology, agriculture and people's livelihood.

In the panel discussion session, guests including Tahir Aslam, MD of Fongrow, Ali Majid, General Manager of Pakistani Division, LONGi, and Sufian Ahmad Ch, Head of Marketing, Xiaomi Pak, shared ideas on topics such as agriculture, energy and Information Technology.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2023-10-13/page-4/detail-2>

3rd BRI forum

By Yasir Habib Khan

Underpinned by Chinese government's tenacious fiscal, financial and economic measures, Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) is the best development stimulus ever designed so far that has turbocharged global growth in ten years through infrastructural connectivity, high-tech technology, innovative advancements and top of them helped improved quality life of common man in the world by lifting up millions of people around the globe from poverty.

At the watershed moment when 3rd BRI forum is all set to be held from October 17-18, BRI stands tall among other global mega projects as it stays sustainable, open, inclusive and beneficial to all segments of international community heralding in a categorical manner that BRI aims to construct a global community with shared future.

One of the reasons behind BRI's resilience and high-octane performance is that China's economy has successfully regained much of the lost post-pandemic momentum and grew by around 4.9 percent in the July-September quarter this year. Even if no more stimulus actions are asserted in the fourth quarter, the world's second largest economy is flexing its muscle to achieve the preset yearly target of 5.0 percent by the end of 2023.

From merely 2.2 percent growth in 2022 when the country was entangled in anti-pandemic control measures which slowed down the economy, the fourth quarter GDP growth is expected to reach 5.0-5.2 percent, setting a strong basis for the economy's development in 2024.

In the past couple of months, the mainstream media in the US and the West have described BRI as debt trap and corrupt besides painting China's economic prospects dark, in their hope that China is going to be victim of the US-style financial-system meltdown and economic implosion in 2008 and 2009. But all such hopes are dashed down as China economy has been bouncing back. Recent evidence in which Chinese private economy boomed at Hangzhou Asian Games 2023 is enough to prove that Chinese economy is on upward trajectory. Asian Games set a new record in terms of both sponsorship income and the number of sponsors. It attracted sponsors from 176 companies across 118 categories, with a cumulative value of 4.42 billion yuan.

Along with immeasurable efforts invested by Chinese government to keep economy afloat, no doubt BRI has a significant role as well to keep economic targets in shape. Being a part of revitalising Chinese economy despite multiple headwinds, the BRI has facilitated the implementation of more than 3,000 projects and attracted nearly \$1 trillion in investments. Over the past decade, China has signed over 200 Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) cooperation

agreements with 150 countries and 90 international organisations, reaching 83% of its diplomatic relations. BRI projects have created around 420,000 jobs, lifting nearly 40 million people out of poverty. By the end of 2030, BRI transport infrastructure is expected to increase global income by up to 2.9%, benefiting 7.6 million people by lifting them from extreme poverty.

Critics have often labeled China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) as a "debt trap," asserting that loans related to the initiative pose significant risks for developing countries. However, these claims have been vehemently denied, with proponents arguing that such accusations are based on a politicization of economic issues.

In response to the criticism, proponents argue that China adheres to principles of openness and transparency. They emphasise that China operates in accordance with market and international rules, refrains from imposing political conditions on loan agreements, and respects the autonomy of borrowing countries. Proponents contend that China's primary goal with the BRI is to support the economic and social development of participating nations, helping them enhance their capacity for independent and sustainable growth.

Despite concerns raised by some quarters, proponents highlight tangible benefits brought about by the BRI, citing examples such as extensive infrastructure development in Africa, including railways, roads, bridges, and ports.

The argument asserts that the BRI has positively impacted economic development and improved living standards in partner countries. Ultimately, proponents argue that the BRI is not a debt trap but rather a sincere effort to contribute to global economic development and cooperation.

The Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) remains a steadfast pillar of growth for China amid the prevailing global economic challenges. In the face of a downturn, China stands resilient, actively cultivating new avenues for economic development within the BRI framework. Chinese analysts assert that the BRI's sustainable growth and its ability to instill confidence in various global partners position it as a driving force for economic expansion. Despite skepticism and ill-intentioned hype from some Western media, China's economic performance remains impressive, especially when compared to major Western economies.

Critics in the West continue to cast doubts on BRI infrastructure projects, yet recent statistics defy skepticism. The China-ASEAN goods trade volume surged by an impressive 15% in 2022, coinciding with the implementation of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership agreement.

The BRI's logistical connectivity, coupled with the complementary Global Development Initiative (GDI), has proven instrumental in delivering economic dividends. The success of projects like the China-Laos railway demonstrates the BRI's transformative impact, turning Laos from a landlocked nation to a land-linked country and enhancing its economic competitiveness.

China's energy-related engagement under the BRI in the first half of 2023 has been characterised as the "greenest" for any six-month period since the initiative's launch in 2013.

Despite the notable progress, some experts caution that not all new coal power projects have been abandoned, with a few still moving forward due to “loopholes.”

The shift towards renewables is seen as a response to the global push for green energy and reflects changing mindsets in both China and BRI member countries, emphasising the diminishing relevance of coal in the energy landscape.

As the Belt and Road Initiative embarks on its second decade, the collective commitment of China and its 150 partner nations stands as a testament to the enduring vision of economic collaboration. The upcoming 3rd BRI forum signifies not just a milestone but a reaffirmation of the initiative’s role as a catalyst for global connectivity, resilience, and technological advancement.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2023-10-13/page-7/detail-0>

October 14, 2023

Pakistan Observer

BRI’s white paper: A true testimony of vision & reality

THE most recently published white paper by the State Council Information Office titled “The Belt and Road Initiative: A Key Pillar of the Global Community of Shared Future” vividly reflects its global significance and splendid socio-economic achievements in all the member countries since its inception in 2013.

It is a good omen that it remained cooperative despite the Western false and fake propaganda. It is a symbol of real economic globalization and a stimulator of global connectivity, infrastructure developments, rails, ports, and last but not least, the eradication of poverty in its member countries and the world alike.

Undoubtedly, it stayed the world’s largest platform for international cooperation and covered all aspects of economic stability, sustainability, social development, human capital growth, and digitalization through effective policy, infrastructure connectivity, friendly trade mechanisms, financial integration, and closer people-to-people exchanges. Moreover, through the true spirits of globalization, it helped mitigate global development challenges and improve the global governance system. Its opening of a people and humanity-friendly path aimed to achieve the desired goals of modernization, qualitative industrialization, and digitalization has now become its biggest hallmark. Its ensuring of building a global community of shared future is commendable, which is now transforming the world and delivering real results.

Moreover, its addressing of the global problems pertaining to weak economic growth, faulty economic governance, and imbalanced economic development in the member countries and the world alike shows its strong commitment towards development and resolution. The white paper rightly noted that the ultimate goal of the BRI is to help build a global community of shared future through people’s well-being, peaceful co-existence, prosperity, openness, innovation, and social progress and development in all the member countries.

On the other hand, a comparative study of the last ten years' world history pinpoints that it was wrapped with wars, severe rivalries, competitions, and conflicts due to which geopolitics dominated the path of geo-economics; consequently, global economic recovery stayed low and dormant. Moreover, zero-sum theories and their brutal execution promoted the spirits of unilateralism, protectionism, and hegemonism. However, the BRI remained positive and productive, spreading rays of hope and better life in the world and mitigating spillover repercussions of Western geopolitics through economic cooperation and trans-regional connectivity. Ultimately, Global North and Global South became a bitter reality during the last decade. Resultantly, humanity suffered, societies tumbled, and states were trapped into poverty, unemployment, and discrimination.

However, the BRI effectively reduced ratios of poverty and generated new jobs, approximately 420,000 in the member countries. The World Bank has estimated that by 2030, BRI-related investments could lift 7.6 million out of extreme poverty and 32 million out of moderate poverty. Unfortunately, the world is now confronted with decoupling, de-risking, and unilateral imposition of socio-economic sanctions, technological war, and investment bans by Western countries to contain China and collapse its national economy, which is anti-development and anti-human. Nevertheless, the BRI's orientation has started the concept of international cooperation through just development, digitalization, infrastructure, financial integration, and connectivity among all the member countries.

Now it is open, modern, inclusive, qualitative, and carries the spirits of internationalism and multiculturalism. Even its support of the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development shows its humanistic orientations. According to the white paper, its signing of more than 200 BRI cooperation agreements with more than 150 countries and 30 international organizations by June 2023 confirms its global economic effectiveness. In addition, the 193 UN member states' consensus to incorporate the BRI in the UN resolution shows its global acceptability as an ideal platform for just global development.

The BRI has successfully institutionalized economic globalization and its coordination with Russia's Eurasian Economic Union framework, Kazakhstan's Bright Road economic policy, Indonesia's Global Marine Fulcrum initiative, and South Africa's Economic Reconstruction and Recovery Plan, and CPEC is commendable. It is an ideal combination of hard connectivity (land roads and sea routes) and soft connectivity (education, culture, sports, tourism, and archaeology). The BRI has built a vast network of cooperation with the member countries and across the globe. In summary, the BRI is a path to peace, prosperity, openness, innovation, and social progress. Based on a framework comprising "six corridors, six routes, and multiple countries and ports," a multi-tiered and multidimensional infrastructure network is taking shape.

The white paper about BRI is timely, comprehensive, and holistic, covering all aspects of development and human values. It is a vivid reflection of international cooperation, economic globalization, modernization, openness, and qualitative development. The BRI was founded on the principles of extensive consultation, joint contribution, and shared benefits. It advocates win-win cooperation in pursuit of the greater good and shared interests. The BRI is committed to open, green, and clean cooperation towards inclusive and sustainable

development, and it has zero tolerance for corruption and promotes steady and high-quality growth. The noting of the National Development and Reform Commission that China's total imports and exports with countries involved in the BRI reached \$19.1 trillion in the 2013-22 period, registering an average annual growth rate of 6.4 percent has once again confirmed its huge trade potential.

Moreover, two-way investment between China and BRI member countries totalled more than \$380 billion between 2013 and 2022, among which China's outward direct investment exceeded \$240 billion, also highlighting its investment potential. It is a good thing that member countries actively invested in China and shared China's development opportunities, with a cumulative total of more than \$140 billion invested in China over the past decade and close to 67,000 new enterprises set up in China. It consolidates drives of poverty eradication through the narrowing of wealth disparity and boosts effective global governance.

It has produced tangible benefits which have indeed been constantly on the rise and increasingly self-evident. Now it has entered into the next phase of high-quality development which will be further enhanced through more coordinated growth in all the member countries and the world. This initiative was launched by China, but it belongs to the world and benefits the whole of humanity. The BRI is in alignment with the concept of a global community of shared future, and it provides not only a conceptual framework but also a practical roadmap for all nations to achieve shared development and prosperity. It seems that the future of the BRI belongs to green energies, digitalization, modernization, qualitative development, and artificial intelligence technologies.

—The writer is Executive Director, Centre for South Asia & International Studies, Islamabad, regional expert China, BRI & CPEC & senior analyst, world affairs, Pakistan Observer.

<https://pakobserver.net/bris-white-paper-a-true-testimony-of-vision-reality/>

The Express Tribune

ML-I project cost likely to be cut

Pakistan, China may reduce cost by \$3.2b to make it commercially viable project

ISLAMABAD: Beijing and Islamabad are in discussions for a cut in the cost of the strategic Mainline-I project of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) by \$3.2 billion to \$6.7 billion through a reduction in scope and design aimed at making it a commercially viable scheme.

The discussions took place in Beijing last month during meetings of the Joint Working Group (JWG) on transport, highly placed sources told The Express Tribune. JWGs are the second tier of decision-making forums in the three-tier CPEC institutional arrangement.

Sources said that compared to the approved cost of \$9.9 billion for the largest and strategically important CPEC project, there was a proposal to slash the cost to \$6.7 billion.

However, the final cost would be subject to the revised design on which Chinese experts are currently working. “We hope to receive the revised project design by the end of this month,” said an official working in the Ministry of Railways.

The financing plan for the ML-I project will be discussed by both sides after an agreement on the revised design. The in-principle understanding is that China will provide 85% of the project cost in the shape of loan while Pakistan will arrange the remaining amount.

Two years ago, China termed financing for the ML-I project riskier due to Pakistan’s unsustainable external debt situation. The debt situation has further deteriorated.

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has also placed an upper ceiling on the sovereign guarantees that Pakistan can issue to its state-owned enterprises. The country has already exhausted the limit of Rs4 trillion and there is no space left for giving any major guarantees.

The railways secretary did not respond to a request for comments.

Sources said that the cost was proposed to be rationalised by reducing the scope and changing the design of the scheme. The under-consideration revised plan includes reducing the rail speed to 120 kilometre per hour from an earlier approved 160 km, according to the sources.

This would help save significant cost and as a result the first phase of Karachi-Lahore track could be constructed with \$2.7 billion, they added. However, it was not clear whether any agreement was reached during the JWG meeting. The cost of second phase is estimated at \$2.6 billion and that of third phase could be around \$1.4 billion.

The rail track portions that had been recently revamped would not get any new major investment. Many bridges, flyovers and underpasses could be dropped from the final project design to save cost, according to the sources.

The Chinese embassy did not comment on this article.

The project is facing a delay of at least five years due to disagreement over its scope, cost and financing plan. According to PC-I of the project approved in November 2022, a 1,733km-long route will be rehabilitated, 482 underpasses, 53 flyovers, 130 biker bridges and 130 stations will be constructed along the route. This will now undergo a major restructuring.

During the 11th Joint Cooperation Committee (JCC) meeting held in October last year, both countries agreed to build upon the leadership’s consensus and advance the implementation of ML-I. In the meeting, China did not accept Pakistan’s position to start bidding for construction of the nearly \$10 billion project for the rehabilitation of Pakistan Railways due to differences over cost, according to official documents.

The “Chinese side expressed the view that the bidding process should be after fixing cost estimation and basic principles of financing plan,” according to the documents.

Pakistani side proposed that the bidding process should commence immediately and be completed by the end of the year. This should follow the signing of a commercial contract and financial close of the project, according to Pakistani authorities.

In 2017, Pakistan and China signed a five-year framework agreement for construction of the ML-I project. The framework has now been further extended for another five years.

Pakistan had hoped to sign the Milestone Agreement in November 2022 and groundbreaking of the project in March 2023 but no progress could be made. Regarding the terms of financing, the two sides have held multiple meetings wherein Pakistani side has accepted the financing proposal from the Chinese side.

In October last year, Pakistan approved a 45% increase in the cost of ML-I to nearly \$10 billion. Initially, Ecnec approved the project in August 2020 at a cost of \$6.8 billion, including a \$6 billion Chinese loan. But the project could not reach the groundbreaking stage.

On expectations of being the only strategically important project under the framework agreement, Pakistan in April 2021 proposed to get the Chinese loan at 1% interest. But Beijing did not accept the request.

Due to negligence of the PTI government, the ML-I remained in cold storage and as a result its cost increased multiple times in rupee terms. During the JCC meeting, the Pakistani side expressed the view that the project would be undertaken on the government-to-government model.

Pakistan requested China to sign the framework agreement on the analogy of Lahore Orange Line Metro Train Project for the Karachi rail section.

The Chinese side expressed the willingness to actively and steadily promote relevant work with the Pakistani side under the CPEC framework in accordance with the principle of “implementing the project with the conditions being fully met”.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2441018/ml-i-project-cost-likely-to-be-cut>

The Nation

Gwadar deep seaport poised to play greater role in regional, global trade: Report

BEIJING-Being a core of China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), Gwadar deep seaport is poised to play a greater role in regional and global trade. From bulk cargo of agricultural products to containerized goods such as fertilizers and livelihood supplies, to staple products such as liquefied petroleum gas, business volume has increased significantly since the beginning of this year.

A recent report showed that in the first half of this year, Gwadar Port completed a container throughput of 1,162 TEUs and bulk cargo throughput of 506,800 tons.

“Through sea, land and air connectivity, Gwadar Port is increasingly becoming a regional logistics hub, effectively connecting with the Middle East, Central Asian countries and China, creating opportunities for the integrated development of Pakistan and regional countries,” emphasized Zamir Ahmed Awan, Founding Chair of an Islamabad-based think tank, Global Silk Route Research Alliance, CEN reported.

Apart from being a port itself, Gwadar connects China’s western economic zones to the sea, such as Kashgar which is 4500km away from the Shanghai seaport but only 2033km from Gwadar, the KASB report mentioned. “About 60 per cent of Chinese oil imports are from the

Middle East and the opening of Gwadar port reduces the marine distance from 16000 km to 5000 km and the duration from 45 days to 10 days,” the report added. Pakistan will benefit from this opportunity as it is estimated that CPEC would generate transit revenue of USD 70 billion per annum through Gwadar Port.

So far, the Gwadar Port Free Zone has been allocated 2,281 acres of land for infrastructural development. The first phase (60acres) of the project is completed. 46 enterprises have been registered in the Free Zone while 3 companies have started production.

The report also involved transportation, the 19km long Eastbay Expressway was inaugurated on June 22, 2022, which has connected the Free Zone with the network of National Highways for smooth logistic transportation of import, export, and transit goods.

Akbar Reis, Chairman of the Gwadar Fisheries Association, indicated that the opening of the expressway provides a vital logistics channel for Gwadar Port trade, benefiting the majority of fishermen. “This road is very important to us because the built breakwater protects fishing boats from ocean thunderstorms and storms. With this road, the transportation of goods between the port and big cities will be smooth.” Gwadar, meaning “the gate of wind” in Urdu, and now the CPEC has opened its gate of development. The port’s stride forward as a trade hub is not only reflected in the sea. At the same time, as the New Gwadar International Airport (NGIA) becomes fully operational, it is poised to emerge as a transformative force in global trade and connectivity. “After the new airport is put into use completely, the packaged lobsters can be flown to China the next morning!” Nagman Abdul, Chairman of the Gwadar Chamber of Commerce and Industry, urgently hopes to export lobsters to China from the new airport in the future. After the new airport is fully operational, it will form a modern three-dimensional transportation network by sea, land and air together with Gwadar Port and Eastbay Expressway.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2023-10-14/page-9/detail-0>

K2 Daily

بقیہ 14

سین ماہی جھنگ اور اسٹیٹ کوئل انڈسٹریز کے مابین ملحقہ ممالک کے درمیان سینی کے تقریباً 75 فیصد حصے میں شرکت کی اور تقریباً 75 فیصد حصے میں شرکت کی۔

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چین، پاکستان کی گلوبل ویڈیو

میڈیا فورم میں شرکت

بیجنگ (این این آئی)۔ چائنا میڈیا فورم (سی ایف سی) کی زیر اہتمام 11 دن گلوبل ویڈیو میڈیا فورم بیجنگ میں منعقد ہوا۔ پاکستان سمیت 63 ممالک اور تنظیموں سے 108 بین الاقوامی میڈیا تنظیموں اور بین الاقوامی میڈیا تنظیموں کے سربراہان سمیت 140 سے زائد مہمانوں نے آن لائن اور آف لائن فورم اور مختلف سرگرمیوں میں شرکت کی۔ جس کے روزگنی میڈیا کے مطابق سی ایف سی کے صدر (آئی میٹر) جی 6 جی 6 (14) نے

https://www.epaper.dailyk2.com/Home?Issue=NP_ICT&Page=International%20/%20Local%20News&Date=2023-10-14

https://www.epaper.dailyk2.com/Home?Issue=NP_ICT&Page=Classified&Date=2023-10-14

October 15, 2023

Business Recorder

Thakot-Raikot upgrading

China, Pakistan all set to ink MoU

TAHIR AMIN

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and China are all set to sign a memorandum of understanding (MoU) for the upgradation and new alignment of Thakot-Raikot section, a critical segment of the Karakoram Highway under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) framework. The MoU will be signed during the upcoming visit of caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar to China as the stage is set for a significant development in CPEC.

This was confirmed by senior officials of the National Highways Authority (NHA) while talking to Business Recorder. This 240-km long route is expected to be upgraded at a cost of billions of rupees, they added.

The visit promises to be a harbinger of a new era for CPEC projects, particularly in the acceleration of the Thakot-Raikot section.

The Thakot-Raikot section, a critical segment of the Karakoram Highway, is set for a substantial transformation. This route, bridging Thakot and Raikot, plays a pivotal role in the broader KKH and even CPEC infrastructure network, which acts as a vital link between Pakistan and the expanding realm of Chinese trade and commerce.

The Karakoram Highway, known as the Friendship Highway in China, is a testament to the enduring partnership between Pakistan and the People's Republic of China.

Constructed over a span of 16 years, from 1962 to 1978, it spans a breathtaking 1,300 kilometres, with 806 kilometers of it weaving through Pakistan's majestic landscapes.

In 2005, Pakistan and China embarked on an ambitious endeavour to upgrade this iconic highway. Phase-I of the Karakoram Highway up gradation, from Raikot to Khunjerab, encompassing a 335 kilometers, reached completion in November 2013, marking a significant milestone in its transformation.

The launch of the CPEC in 2013 ushered in a new vision for the Karakoram Highway. It was no longer just a road; it was poised for a comprehensive makeover.

The goal was to transform it into a world-class thoroughfare, characterised by heightened safety standards, improved road geometry, and an array of modern features.

This rejuvenated KKH brought with it a series of substantial improvements, including tunnels, high-level bridges, stable slopes, and bypasses around congested towns. These

changes aligned it with international road standards, offering travellers a safe and remarkable journey through the heart of the mountains, extending from Mansehra to Thakot.

CPEC's second phase saw the transformation of the E-35 section from Havelian to Thakot, stretching across approximately 120 kilometers. This redevelopment introduced a motorway section that links Havelian to Mansehra, streamlining travel and serving as an emblem of both nations' commitment to efficient transportation infrastructure.

The consistent development of the Karakoram Highway symbolises the enduring bond between Pakistan and China, epitomising their shared commitment to cooperation, development, and prosperity. This iconic road, a testament to the unwavering friendship between the two nations, opens up new horizons for travellers, cargo transporters, and economic development.

The Thakot-Raikot section is on the brink of a significant change. The existing road, known for its sharp bends and limitations, is poised for an overhaul. State-of-the-art tunnels, aimed at reducing travel time and enhancing safety, are on the horizon.

The road classification will advance from Class 4 to Class 2, signalling an upgrade in its quality and an increase in the permitted speed limit, promising swifter and more efficient travel.

This development extends beyond mere travel enhancements. It holds the potential to revolutionise cargo transport, making it more efficient and cost-effective. The improved road network will support heavier cargo loads, streamlining the transportation of goods with greater ease and efficiency.

As Prime Minister Kakar prepares for his significant visit to China, the Karakoram Highway looms as a prominent highlight of this historic partnership. It signifies more than just a road; it's a symbol of friendship, cooperation, and a shared vision for a brighter, more interconnected future.

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2023/10/15/1-page/974385-news.html>

PM to attend BRF in China

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar will visit China to participate in the 'Third Belt and Road Forum (BRF) for International Cooperation', being held in Beijing from October 17-18.

"The prime minister will attend the opening ceremony of the BRF and address the high-level forum entitled 'Connectivity in an Open Global Economy', the Prime Minister's office said in a post on X Saturday.

PM Kakar will hold a bilateral meeting with Chinese President Xi Jinping on the occasion. Senior Chinese officials, business leaders and investors, as well as, a number of leaders will also attend the Forum.—APP

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2023/10/15/1-page/974386-news.html>

Taliban to join China's Belt and Road forum

KABUL: The Taliban will attend China's Belt and Road Forum next week, a spokesman said on Saturday, underscoring Beijing's growing official ties with the administration, despite its lack of formal recognition by any government.

Taliban officials and ministers have at times travelled to regional meetings, mostly those focussed on Afghanistan, but the Belt and Road Forum is among the highest-profile multilateral summits it has been invited to attend.

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

The Taliban's acting minister for commerce and industry, Haji Nooruddin Azizi, will travel to Beijing in the coming days, ministry spokesman Akhundzada Abdul Salam Jawad said in a text message to Reuters.

"He will attend and will invite large investors" to Afghanistan, he said.

The impoverished country could offer a wealth of coveted mineral resources. A mines minister estimated in 2010 that Afghanistan had untapped deposits, ranging from copper to gold and lithium, worth between \$1 trillion and \$3 trillion. It is not clear how much they are worth today.

China has been in talks with the Taliban over plans, begun under the previous foreign-backed government, over a possible huge copper mine in eastern Afghanistan.

China's foreign ministry did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Azizi will continue discussions in Beijing on plans to build a road through the Wakhan corridor, a thin, mountainous strip in northern Afghanistan, to provide direct access to China, Akhundzada said.

Officials from China, the Taliban and neighbouring Pakistan said in May they would like Belt and Road to include Afghanistan and for the flagship China Pakistan Economic Corridor to be extended across the border to Afghanistan.

The Taliban has not been formally recognised by any government since taking control of Afghanistan two years ago as US and other foreign forces withdrew.

A series of restrictions on women's access to public life and the barring of many female NGO staff from work has increased roadblocks to recognition, especially by Western countries, officials and international relations analysts say.

China has boosted engagement with the Taliban, becoming the first country to appoint an ambassador to Kabul since the Taliban took power, and invested in mining projects.

Beijing's ambassador presented his credentials to the Taliban's acting prime minister last month. Other nations have kept on previous ambassadors or appointed heads of mission in a charge d'affaires capacity that does not involve formally presenting credentials to the government.—Reuters

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2023/10/15/1-page/974387-news.html>

Dawn News

Beijing to strengthen CPEC for another decade

Iftikhar A. Khan

ISLAMABAD: Chinese ambassador in Pakistan Jiang Zaidong has expressed his country's readiness to further promote the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) in partnership with Pakistan.

“We are ready to work with our Pakistani colleagues from all walks of life to further promote the projects in the next 10 years of CPEC,” the Chinese ambassador said at a seminar, “CPEC and My Life”.

“What was agreed between President Xi Jinping and the Pakistani leaders for high-quality, sustainable and enhanced cooperation and support in the fields of security and development, we can implement with mutual consensus,” he said.

The Chinese ambassador believed that Pakistan and China could jointly transform the CPEC corridor into a corridor of love and peace. He noted that mutual cooperation in new fields like industry, agriculture, mining, science and technology, and IT sectors could be expanded.

“Thus, a new chapter can be added to CPEC, bringing the people of China and Pakistan closer in the common future,” maintained Chinese ambassador Jiang Zaidong.

CPEC enters a new phase

Caretaker Information Minister Murtaza Solangi said that interaction between the top leadership of both countries in China would further enhance the bilateral relationship to new heights as caretaker Prime Minister Anwaarul Haq Kakar leaves for China on Monday (today) to participate in Belt and Road Forum being hosted by the Chinese President Xi Jinping in Beijing.

Mr Solangi expressed his happiness about people at the grassroots level being invited to speak about the positive impact of CPEC on their lives.

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

Changing economic landscape

Discussing the establishment of the Special Investment Facilitation Council by Pakistan to provide one-window facilities to investors, the minister said as CPEC enters a new phase, Pakistan eagerly anticipates increased bilateral cooperation in mining, agriculture, IT, and other sectors.

He emphasised that improving geographical linkages through enhanced road, rail and air transportation systems would foster more frequent people-to-people contacts and enhance mutual understanding through academic connections.

Foreign Secretary Syrus Qazi, in his address, noted that the CPEC as President Xi's flagship Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) project, symbolises Pakistan-China strategic cooperation.

"CPEC has broken new ground in regional connectivity and is multiplying opportunities for economic integration for the entire region, while taking our higher-than-the-Himalayas friendship with China to even greater heights," Mr Qazi said.

The foreign secretary said that from the Pakistan-China border in Xinjiang all the way to the deep-sea ports of Karachi and Gwadar, the economic landscape of Pakistan has been transformed in the last 10 years.

"Our infrastructure has been upgraded, unleashing the productivity of our large, youthful and skilled population," he added.

Mr Qazi noted that CPEC ensured rapid economic development in the less privileged and remote sections of the country.

He said that the shared goal of Pakistan and China was to develop Gwadar as the regional trade and connectivity hub, linking it with markets in Central Asia and the Middle East.

"The implementation of such a massive project requires strong political and public support," observed the foreign secretary.

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

Pakistan, China likely to ink more highway deals

Syed Irfan Raza

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

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

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

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

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

Taliban to join forum

The premier will hold a bilateral meeting with Chinese President Xi Jinping on the occasion. Besides, he is expected to meet several other leaders during the two-day moot. Senior Chinese officials, business leaders and investors as well as leaders from 130 countries,

ranging from Russian president to representatives of the Taliban administration, are expected to attend the Forum, according to Reuters and AFP reports.

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

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

Highway Research & Training Centre

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

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

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

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

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

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

The official said the institute would be built by a Chinese consultant under a Chinese grant of \$52 million (374 million yuans or Rs15 billion). It includes infrastructure, a test track and indoor and outdoor lab equipment. After completion and required training, it will be handed over to the NHA for operation.

The institute will also conduct studies of long-term pavement performance under controlled and uncontrolled conditions. Similarly, various research projects in reclaimed asphalt, bridges and tunneling, training and degree courses in China and development of engineering design manuals and standards for Pakistan are also included in it.

KKH upgrade

Prime Minister Kakar will also sign an MOU to upgrade Karakorum Highway (KKH) from Raikot to Thakot, Raikot to Khunjerab (335 km), KKH phase-2 on the E-35 section from Havelian to Thakot, covering 120km and introduction of a motorway section connecting Havelian to Mansehra.

In a second phase of KKH project, the official said, the road would be designed in a way that it will remain operational round the year, especially in winters when it is closed due to heavy snowfall. The KKH alignment is being designed in a way that it will not hit Bhasha Dam but it will go over it through tunnels.

Zhob motorway

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

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1781114#:~:text=ISLAMABAD%3A%20China%20and%20Pakistan%20will,Beijing%2C%20starting%20from%20Oct%202016.>

Pakistan Observer

Taliban to join China's Belt and Road forum

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Taliban officials and ministers have at times travelled to regional meetings, mostly those focussed on Afghanistan, but the Belt and Road Forum is among the highest-profile multilateral summits it has been invited to attend.

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The impoverished country could offer a wealth of coveted mineral resources. A mines minister estimated in 2010 that Afghanistan had untapped deposits, ranging from copper to gold and lithium, worth between \$1 trillion and \$3 trillion. It is not clear how much they are worth today.

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China's foreign ministry did not immediately respond to a request for comment. Azizi will continue discussions in Beijing on plans to build a road through the Wakhan corridor, a thin,

mountainous strip in northern Afghanistan, to provide direct access to China, Akhundzada said.—Reuters

<https://pakobserver.net/taliban-to-join-chinas-belt-and-road-forum/>

10 years of BRI: A historical journey of innovation, inclusiveness and prosperity

Representatives from 140 countries to attend Belt & Road Forum

China is all set to host the International Belt & Road Forum (Oct 17-18) marking the 10 years of President Xi Jinping's brainchild project and a game changer initiative for the developing countries including Pakistan, the Belt & Road Initiative (BRI).

Representatives from more than 140 countries will be participating in the mega event while 20 heads of states or governments will attend the two-day event. Prime Minister Anwarul Haq Kakar is also leaving for China (October 16-20) on Sunday on the invitation of President Xi Jinping to participate in the BRI's 10 Year celebrations.

“The prime minister will hold bilateral meetings with President Xi Jinping and senior Chinese leaders during the visit,” the state-run broadcaster said in a post on social media Saturday.

The PM's visit comes a month after the two sides celebrated the 10 signed for joint cooperation during the visit.

CPEC, a flagship project of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), has attracted direct investments worth over \$25 billion from China over the past decade.

In 2013, President Xi Jinping had put forward the idea of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) for the first time. Today, 10 years down the road, the BRI has effectively promoted economic integration and interconnected development, and delivered benefits to all.

It has laid down a pathway towards mutual benefit, win-win outcomes, prosperity and development in an age rife with turbulence and change. The success and effectiveness of the Initiative can be understood by the fact that the World Bank (WB) has estimated that by 2030, Belt and Road cooperation will bring an annual benefit of US\$ 1.6 trillion to the world, accounting for 1.3 percent of the global GDP and injecting strong impetus into global development.

In his message on the completion of the 10 years of the BRI, President Xi has stressed that the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) is innovative by nature and its success needs to be powered by innovation. For 10 years, guided by innovative ideas, Belt and Road cooperation has pooled resources of innovation from various parties, injecting strong impetus into the development of partner countries and bringing tangible benefits to the people.

The forum also opens new avenues of cooperation between China and the BRI countries, particularly China and Pakistan as both the countries are destined to realize the dream of regional progress, peace and prosperity by making joint efforts.

The BRI covers a wide range of global and regional cooperation from promoting people-to-people exchanges in science and technology to jointly building laboratories, from enhancing cooperation on science and technology parks to building technology transfer centers, the vision for a community of innovation featuring shared development philosophies, unimpeded flow of production factors, networked technology facilities, connected innovation chains and vibrant people-to-people exchanges is turning into reality.

Under the BRI, China has carried out extensive cooperation with partner countries in smart cities, mobile payment, cross-border e-commerce and other areas of digital economy, and supported them in establishing and improving technology markets. China has set up the Technology Transfer South-South Cooperation Center with the United Nations Development Program, promoted cooperation among higher education institutions and research institutes, and helped partner countries cultivate future innovators.

Pakistan Observer has also been invited to participate in the forum and give recommendations regarding how cooperation among the BRI countries could be further enhanced.

<https://pakobserver.net/10-years-of-bri-a-historical-journey-of-innovation-inclusiveness-and-prosperity/>

BRI deepens cooperation in various fields between ASEAN and China

China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) strengthens production capacity cooperation among the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) countries, including Thailand, and deepens cooperation between ASEAN countries and China in various fields such as trade and production, said a Thai expert.

Sompop Manarungsan, president of Bangkok-based Panyapiwat Institute of Management, told Xinhua in a recent interview that the ASEAN countries, most of which are developing countries, possess substantial economic growth potential, and have significant opportunities for cooperation with China in both infrastructure construction and capacity cooperation.

China is one of the most important trading partners for ASEAN countries.

The upgrading of China's industries and its high-quality development have far-reaching influences on ASEAN nations, Sompop said.

The Thai expert noted that the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) agreement and the China-ASEAN Free Trade Area agreement have further deepened trade and investment cooperation between ASEAN nations and China.—Xinhua

<https://pakobserver.net/bri-deepens-cooperation-in-various-fields-between-asean-and-china/>

The Express Tribune

CPEC-funded hospital in Kahuta fostering hope, rescuing lives

On BRI's tenth anniversary, docu-series shares human stories transformed by the project's healing hands

LAHORE: It all began with the shivers and chills that would haunt Noman Munir's nights, threatening to strip away the livelihood and earnings on which his family depended. The diagnosis was grim – malaria – an emergency requiring the resources and expertise of an emergency ward.

Noman and his wife operated "Peco and Laces," a small but beloved business that had been a source of stability and joy in their lives. However, fate had now dealt them a harsh blow.

Accessing healthcare had long been a struggle for the residents of Kahuta, with many having to undertake troublesome journeys to nearby cities for treatment. However, the establishment of the China-Pakistan Karot Project, the first hydropower investment initiative under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) has brought relief by revolutionising not only the energy sector but also public health facilities such as the THQ Hospital.

A docu-series, *Rising with Pride*, co-produced by directors in China and Pakistan is bringing stories such as Noman's and other people-centered tales that show how the Belt and Road Initiative has connected people and, more importantly, how it connected them to the pursuit of betterment in life. The documentary will also be broadcast by state television, Pakistan Television.

It narrates how previously seeking timely medical treatment was an arduous task for locals, as they had to endure long, risky journeys to nearby cities, often resulting in devastating consequences. Fighting disease, for many, not only impacted one's personal well-being but also meant financial woes and fortunes evaporating just to get decent medical facilities.

For Noman, this project proved to be a game-changer in his fight against malaria. Promptly diagnosed and treated at THQ Hospital, he embarked on a journey to recovery, rediscovering hope and purpose with the unwavering support of his wife.

The hospital, equipped with 18 to 20 beds in the emergency ward, has become a lifeline for not only the residents of Kahuta but also those from far-flung areas like Kashmir and Matore, the doctor at the hospital shared. "The hospital covers a radius of 50 kilometres."

As her husband fought a debilitating disease in the hospital, she took the reins of their business, effortlessly maintaining its success while shielding her spouse from worry. The documentary also captures the intimate journey of the couple as they strengthened their bond in the face of adversity.

The wife, otherwise unfamiliar with worldly affairs, found herself thrust into uncharted territory as the responsibility of managing the business fell solely on her capable shoulders.

"Now are businesses are growing. To become healthy one needs to work hard, earn money and cover our expenses. During illness, one feels very weak. If my wife is with me, I can face any illness," Noman shares at the end.

Through the China-Pakistan partnership, hopes and dreams have been reignited, paving the way for a better and healthier future for all.

The Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) – which has completed ten years this year – has brought new opportunities for growth, invigorating local economies and fostering a spirit of progress that resonates through every corner of Kahuta tehsil.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2441256/cpec-funded-hospital-in-kahuta-fostering-hope-rescuing-lives#lnshj4zyj9wa5r7fw0n>

The Nation

PM Kakar’s China visit to begin from Tuesday

ISLAMABAD - Prime Minister Anwaarul Haq Kakar will visit China to attend the two-day Third Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation starting in Beijing from Tuesday.

The Prime Minister is attending the event on the invitation of Chinese President Xi Jinping. He will participate in the opening ceremony of the Forum on Tuesday and will address a high level forum titled ‘Connectivity on an Open Global Economy’ on Wednesday. During the visit, the Prime Minister will also hold bilateral meetings with Chinese President and senior officials, investors and businessmen and heads of different countries attending the forum.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2023-10-15/page-1/detail-3>

BRI: Connecting Dreams

By Syed Ali Nawaz Gilani

Ten years have passed since the inception of the BRI. This decade is more than a mere marker; it is a milestone on the BRI’s journey and, simultaneously, a new beginning. It signifies the progress and achievements of the past and the promise of the future.

A decade has gracefully elapsed since the inception of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). This timeframe, though it might seem a mere notch on the calendar, holds a significance that extends far beyond a simple marker. It represents not just the progress and achievements of the past but, concurrently, a promise of an even more promising future. This is a journey that, by its very essence, refuses to bow to the constraints of time. It’s a story still unfolding, a testament to the unyielding spirit of progress and cooperation that characterises our era.

In the grand tapestry of global cooperation and economic development, the BRI stands as a beacon of progress and potential. As the BRI commemorates its 10-year milestone, it’s not just a moment for retrospection; it’s the inception of a new era. The odyssey of the BRI has been nothing short of remarkable, reshaping the landscape of international collaboration, propelling economies towards growth, and threading infrastructural connections across the globe.

One of the most striking aspects of the BRI is its transcendent ability to soar above political and geographical divisions. With the involvement of over 150 countries and 30 international organisations as signatories, it has a United Nations with diverse backgrounds and ambitions. This global consortium under the BRI stands as a testament to the vision of a shared destiny and mutual prosperity.

The BRI has shifted from being a mere aspiration to a tangible force for change, giving rise to over 3,000 cooperative projects that span diverse sectors, from transportation to energy, trade, and technology. These endeavours have given birth to bustling ports, high speed rail networks, and flourishing economic zones, among numerous other initiatives. The BRI has transformed into a catalyst for infrastructural development and economic progress.

Supporting the BRI is a massive investment, approaching the trillion dollar mark. This substantial financial commitment, underwritten by China and other participating nations, is the lifeblood of BRI's development, ensuring the successful implementation of its projects on a global scale.

Nevertheless, as we focus on the physical impact of the BRI, we should not overlook the social and economic underpinnings, often eclipsed by the limelight. For instance, within the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), a flagship BRI project, an essential emphasis has been placed on human development, even in the face of the clamour created by disinformation.

Realising the full potential of these developmental projects and investments can be furthered if Pakistan effectively confronts the challenges posed by disinformation and propaganda propagated by CPEC detractors. Achieving this objective is entirely feasible if all stakeholders rally under a common banner, underscoring the importance of mutual trust while safeguarding economic policies and decision making from the discord sown by political differences. Furthermore, the legacy of the BRI stretches beyond bricks and mortar and economic growth. The BRI transcends borders, not just connecting countries physically but also fostering mutual understanding and shared prosperity.

As we reach this momentous 10 year mark, let us not become ensnared by the past. Instead, let us keep our eyes fixed on the limitless horizon. The journey of the BRI is not a finished tale but a story still in the making, a testament to the unrelenting spirit of progress and cooperation that characterises our era.

This decade signifies far more than a mere commemoration of past accomplishments; it serves as an unwavering embrace of the future. It symbolises a promise of uncharted potential that beckons from the horizon, a vision that transcends the confines of history.

The Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) isn't a relic of bygone times, an inert monument to past endeavors. Instead, it stands as a living, breathing entity, pulsating with vitality. It doesn't dwell in the shadow of its own history; rather, it propels itself forward, tirelessly crafting new narratives, exploring new frontiers, and sowing the seeds of fresh possibilities.

Within this living entity, the seeds of innovation and cooperation germinate, fostering the promise of a future where nations collaborate, economies flourish, and prosperity is shared. The BRI is not bound by the constraints of history; it is unburdened by the weight of the past. Instead, it forges ahead, an ever expanding tapestry of hope and opportunity, charting a course toward a brighter and more interconnected world. Stepping into the BRI's second decade, we are reminded that this initiative is not static; it's a dynamic force, an enduring testament to what can be achieved when nations unite with a common purpose, creating a legacy that resonates for generations to come.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2023-10-15/page-6/detail-4>

Dr Gohar Ejaz to attend 3rd Belt and Road Forum in China

By Imran Ali Kundi

ISLAMABAD-Federal Minister for Commerce and Industries & Production Dr Gohar Ejaz is scheduled to visit China in connection with 3rd Belt and Road Forum, scheduled to be held on October 17-18, 2023, marking 10 years of the Chinese flagship global infrastructure development scheme known as the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). The forum is expected to be a pivotal platform for fostering international cooperation. The forum will be attended by the heads of the government/states as well as representatives of many international organizations.

During his visit, the minister will hold meetings with leading heads of Chinese enterprises, president of EXIM bank and other leaders to discuss avenues for enhancing mutual trade and business engagement. The minister will participate and address two business networking forums with many Chinese companies expected to be in attendance. The focus of the visit is enhance Pakistan's exports to China in food and agriculture, textiles, mining and value added mining products, new technology, new electric vehicles, solar panels and E-Commerce. The minister will also attend a meeting with the President of COFCO, the food processing giant. The minister will also have several individual meetings with representatives from different sectors. A number of Chinese companies have already shown keen interest in the scheduled meetings. The minister will communicate the potential for foreign direct investment (FDI) in Pakistan and will inform Chinese companies about the opportunities for investment especially in relocating labour intensive sectors and new technology industries.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2023-10-15/page-8/detail-4>

Chinese pest control models a pathway for Pakistan

ISLAMABAD-Pest attacks cause significant damage to crops, leading to reduced yields and lower income. However, this problem can be solved with biological control.

This was stated by Muhammad Bilal Ashraf Khan, Scientific Officer at the National Agricultural Research Centre (NARC). "In the face of escalating challenges posed by pests, Pakistan can adopt China's cutting-edge technology in biological pest control. As an agriculture-dependent economy, Pakistan is grappling with the dual threat of climate change-induced pest proliferation and the unintended consequences of excessive pesticide use. This predicament not only jeopardizes the nation's agricultural output but also escalates the costs associated with plant protection," Bilal said.

"Widespread cultivation of crops without systematic and scientific control methods has compounded this issue. Additionally, indiscriminate use of pesticides has given rise to pesticide-resistant pests, setting off a harmful cycle that further escalates the expenses associated with pest management.

“Pakistan lacks robust pest monitoring and forecasting systems. As a result, the country remains heavily reliant on the application of pesticides for prevention and control,” he continued.

Statistics reveal a staggering increase in Pakistan’s annual pesticide consumption, surging from 50,000 tons per year in 2001 to 200,000 tons per year in 2020 over the past two decades.

“In order to substantially reduce our dependence on chemical pesticides, China’s extensive experience and knowledge in biological pest control must be leveraged,” he suggested while talking to WealthPK.

“China has developed an innovative approach to pest control that involves using a remote sensing dynamic prediction model. This model integrates data from various monitoring sources of different scales, which allows for the mapping of prevalence of pests and diseases, as well as tracking their migratory patterns. By utilizing the remote sensing technology, China has been able to accurately predict and identify pest and disease outbreaks, enabling timely and targeted responses,” he added.

Bilal said Pakistan could greatly benefit from adopting a similar approach that combines technology, data, and scientific expertise to tackle its pest-related challenges. By investing in the establishment of advanced monitoring and predictive systems, Pakistan can potentially reduce its dependence on chemical pesticides, mitigate the risks posed by climate change-induced pest proliferation, and secure its agricultural future.

In this regard, a China-Pak crop pest management seminar was held in Chengdu. It was aimed at strengthening mutual learning and cooperation between China and Pakistan in the fields of crop pest management technology, prevention and control measures and management standards.

The seminar on “Methods and Standards of Crop Pest Management in China and Pakistan” was organized by the International Standardization Talent Training Base (Chengdu).

<https://www.nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2023-10-15/page-9/detail-6>

K2 Daily

چین نے ایم ایل ڈی منصوبے کی منظوری دے دی

کراچی سے پشاور تک 1726 کلومیٹر تک پر پاکستان کی طرف سے خود مختار گارنٹی ملنے کا کام شروع ہو جائے گا

منصوبے پر 90 فیصد پاکستان اور 10 فیصد چینی ماہرین و لیبر کام کرے گی، 2 لاکھ افراد کو روزگار دیا جائے گا

لاہور (این این آئی) پاکستان نے ایم ایل ڈی منصوبے پر 67 ارب 67 کروڑ ڈالر مالیت کی صورت میں منظوری کی ہے۔ پشاور سے کراچی تک 1726 کلومیٹر تک پر ایم ایل ڈی منصوبے کی منظوری دے دی گئی۔ یہ منصوبہ پاکستان کو 67 ارب 67 کروڑ ڈالر کی خود مختار روپیہ فراہم کرنے کے مطابق ہے۔ اس منصوبے سے پشاور تک جھانپا جائے گا۔ ایم ایل ڈی منصوبے پر آئے 2 لاکھ نئی فراہم کرنے والے (مقامی سطح پر 7 لاکھ 39 لاکھ) کی

ہوئی اور 2030 تک ملنے کی منصوبہ پر منظور آہ شروع ہو جائے گا۔ پاکستان منصوبے کا مالی سال اکتوبر 2020 میں منظور ہوا تھا۔ 2030 میں مکمل ہونے والے ایم ایل ڈی منصوبے پر 90 فیصد پاکستان اور 10 فیصد چینی ماہرین و لیبر کام کرے گی۔ منصوبے پر ایک سے 2 لاکھ مقامی افراد کو روزگار کے مواقع پیدا کیے گئے۔ منصوبے کے تحت 174 کلومیٹر تک ٹریک پشاور سے نوشہرہ اور راولپنڈی تک، راولپنڈی سے لاہور تک 105 کلومیٹر اور ٹنڈوالہڑی سے پشاور تک 52 کلومیٹر طویل ڈبل ٹریک بننے کا جھانپا ہونے والا منصوبہ کی 1 3 2 کلومیٹر، لاہور سے ملتان 339 کلومیٹر کا ڈبل ٹریک مکمل کیا جائے گا۔ ٹنڈوالہڑی سے 183 کلومیٹر تک روڈ کی صورت میں ملتان سے لاہور تک 182 کلومیٹر تک ٹریک بنایا جائے گا۔ منصوبے کے تحت امیدوار ہونے والے درمیان طویل ترین 749 کلومیٹر تک کی ڈبل ٹریک فراہم کرے گا۔

https://www.epaper.dailyk2.com/Home?Issue=NP_ICT&Page=Back_Page&Date=2023-10-15

https://www.epaper.dailyk2.com/Home?Issue=NP_ICT&Page=Baqia&Date=2023-10-15

Chinese Newspapers

October 02, 2023

Xinhuanet News

People in Pakistan celebrate 74th founding anniv. Of PRC

Chinese national flags and Pakistani national flags are raised to celebrate the 74th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China, by an avenue in Islamabad, capital of Pakistan, on Oct. 1, 2023.

People visit the National Monument illuminated in red color to celebrate the 74th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China, in Islamabad, capital of Pakistan on Oct. 1, 2023.

<https://english.news.cn/20231002/a5c6f9a77c2e42bfb95e71ac7013c068/c.html>

October 03, 2023

People's Daily

Feature: Pakistani journalists impressed by China's economic development on recent visit

By Misbah Saba Malik, Wang Kai (Xinhua)

ISLAMABAD/QINGDAO, Oct. 3 (Xinhua) -- Akbar Notezai, a journalist from the capital city Quetta of Pakistan's southwest Balochistan province was "pleasantly shocked" after witnessing the development of Qingdao City of east China's Shandong Province during a recent visit.

"Before embarking on my trip to China, I conducted some research on Qingdao Port, and I knew that it is one of the largest comprehensive ports in the world. But the development I saw there was beyond my imagination," Notezai told Xinhua. Notezai was part of a 10-member delegation of Pakistani journalists primarily hailing from Balochistan, who recently returned to Pakistan after a 10-day trip to China.

During their visit, Notezai found the Chinese people exceptionally hospitable and witnessed the warmth of friendship in their eyes towards the Pakistani people. He expressed the hope that the people of the two countries will have a closer interaction to further strengthen the Pakistan-China friendship.

Many members of the delegation visited China for the first time and witnessed the impressive infrastructure projects, experienced traveling in high-speed railway, and saw thriving technology sectors that have propelled China's economic growth.

Behram Baloch, a journalist from Balochistan's Gwadar district, said the visit boosted their confidence and filled them with hope as they witnessed China's exceptional capability to construct state-of-the-art infrastructure and successfully operate it.

"I hope that Gwadar port, being developed by the Chinese friends, will play a great role in Balochistan's development and contribute significantly to its economic growth in the same way as Qingdao Port did," he added. All the development projects that were built by the Chinese in Gwadar so far, including the Gwadar port, vocational training institute, New Gwadar International Airport, and Gwadar Port's Free Zone, are great opportunities for Pakistan to benefit from them, he added.

The Pakistan journalist said during his trip he felt that if university students from Balochistan get the opportunity to visit China or study there, it will prove to be very beneficial for them and for Pakistan.

"Sending university students to China can be an incredibly enriching experience, offering them a unique opportunity to learn and broaden their horizons in various ways," Baloch said.

China's rich history, diverse culture, and rapid economic development provide a multifaceted backdrop for educational trips, he added.

The delegation said the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is a great hope for Pakistan, and after visiting China and seeing the technological and infrastructural excellence of the country with their very eyes, they believe it will be a game changer for Pakistan.

Launched in 2013, the CPEC, a flagship project of the China-proposed Belt and Road Initiative, is a corridor linking Pakistan's Gwadar port with Kashgar in northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, highlighting energy, transport and industrial cooperation. Talking to Xinhua, Furqan Rao, an Islamabad-based journalist who led the delegation to China, said the CPEC is making substantial contributions to Pakistan's infrastructural development and helping Pakistan overcome its energy crisis.

"CPEC played a vital role in providing Pakistan with a modern transportation network, energy solutions, and industrial infrastructure, which are boosting trade, creating jobs, and improving the overall socio-economic life for the people of Pakistan," he said.

(Web editor: Cai Hairuo, Sheng Chuyi)

<http://en.people.cn/n3/2023/1003/c90000-20079414.html>

October 04, 2023

Xinhuanet News

Across China: Riding the e-commerce boom, Pakistani expat enjoys life in China

NANJING, Oct. 4 (Xinhua) -- "Hello, everyone. I am Sajid. Today I'd like to share with you a brand-new product." Kaleem Sajid, a Pakistani expat in China, usually begins with this opening line when live-streaming.

Due to detailed introductions and a humorous style when presenting in fluent Chinese, Sajid has gained millions of followers on Douyin, the Chinese version of TikTok.

Sajid was born into a farming family in Pakistan. Despite the isolation of his remote hometown, as well as lack of access to modern communication facilities when he grew up, Sajid heard a lot about China from others. His first impressions of China were "a peace-loving nation" and "a good friend of Pakistan."

In 2006, Sajid came to China from Pakistan to study at Nanjing University of Aeronautics and Astronautics in east China's Jiangsu Province.

When he first arrived in China, Sajid encountered many challenges such as the language barrier, an unfamiliar environment and different dietary habits. However, he did not give up in the face of these challenges. Rather, he was determined to communicate with people around him, and found that his Chinese quickly improved.

"I can still remember how warm and friendly the dormitory staff were to us at school. One of my motivations for practicing spoken Chinese was so that I could express my gratitude to them," Sajid said.

In 2010, when Sajid was about to graduate from university, he met his wife, who is from Suqian City in Jiangsu. They got married after overcoming some of the challenges that many international couples tend to be faced with. Sajid and his wife now have a son and daughter.

After graduation, Sajid spent some time working as an international trade manager in Shanghai. In 2019, he set up Batie Media Co., Ltd. in Suqian, after being fascinated by China's e-commerce boom.

"I found that delivery services in China are quite fast, and large e-commerce platforms abound. Therefore, I became interested in e-commerce business, and started to learn about live-streaming as well as cross-border e-commerce," Sajid revealed. He has since been engaged in exporting Chinese products to Pakistan and introducing products from across the world to China.

Having lived in China for nearly 20 years, Sajid often shares his first-hand experience of China's rapid development and changes with his family in Pakistan.

"China's high-speed railway is very clean and comfortable. The attendants are very polite. If I place a cup on the tray table, I find that no water spills out along the entire journey," Sajid said in a short video he posted online.

Sajid has also championed the friendship between China and Pakistan, and offered help when natural disasters struck certain areas in China.

This year, when floods hit some regions in China, Sajid and his wife donated instant noodles, mineral water and other supplies to the affected areas.

"China and Pakistan have strong economic and cultural ties, and they offer each other support when faced with difficulties," said Sajid.

This year marks the 10th anniversary of the Belt and Road Initiative, which has generated great opportunities for Pakistan in Sajid's view.

"Thanks to the Belt and Road Initiative, Pakistan's business environment and infrastructure have been improved," Sajid said, adding that tens of thousands of job opportunities were created for local people.

Meanwhile, with roads paved thanks to the initiative, local farmers have the confidence to expand their production, as they believe the roads will facilitate the sale of their products in Pakistan.

"I have been in China for many years. My biggest dream is to build a bridge between China and Pakistan, and promote cultural exchanges between the two countries," said Sajid.

<https://english.news.cn/20231004/8aa38b620d2844c99b3620b1c6bc8488/c.html>

October 06, 2023

Xinhuanet News

BRI allows Global South to connect with each other, says Pakistani economist

By Ali Jaswal

Most of the BRI's technical assistance projects, in the case of infrastructure, are backed by a financial model, which is easier for developing countries to participate in, as most of them are in investment mode, said a Pakistani economist.

ISLAMABAD, Oct. 6 (Xinhua) -- The China-proposed Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) allows countries of Global South to connect with each other, a Pakistani economist told Xinhua in a recent interview.

"We have seen that China itself has come out of years and decades of poverty, and it has transitioned into a country that is fast developing. So for them to tailor a program for the developing countries is much easier than for the Global North," said Vaqar Ahmed, joint executive director at the Sustainable Development Policy Institute, an Islamabad-based think tank.

This is what China has been trying to do under the BRI, he added.

The BRI is a very decent model for cooperation, particularly for the developing countries, because many programs are led or participated in by developing countries, and by some of the poorest countries of the world, Ahmed said.

"So it's not like traditional development programs, for example, a model having bilateral, multilateral donors involved that will come in and do a diagnostic of their own, and then they will offer you a platter or a choice set, that this is what we can do for you, would you sign up for it," he said. But it's not the way that the BRI, or its flagship project of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) has operated, he said.

Launched in 2013, the CPEC is a corridor linking the Gwadar port in southwestern Pakistan with Kashgar in northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, which highlights energy, transport and industrial cooperation.

"In BRI or like in the case of CPEC, you were asked to come up with a priority of choices. What do you want? Where do you want Chinese investment to go? You prioritize that," the economist added.

Most of the BRI's technical assistance projects, in the case of infrastructure, are backed by a financial model, which is easier for developing countries to participate in, as most of them are in investment mode, Ahmed said.

Even if they are loan projects, he noted that they are loans for longer time periods with repayments not around the corner, which is really helping the developing countries to come on board and has allowed more and more of these countries to become part of the BRI umbrella. Highlighting the upcoming third Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation in Beijing in October, the economist said that one of its objectives is that the countries of the Global South, who are beneficiaries of the BRI should actually come together to share those experiences and knowledge. It's not just the responsibility of China, but in fact, all those countries who are participating in the BRI should utilize this opportunity to share their experiences, he said.

"So without naming any multilateral institution from the Global North, if they were delivering you a project in let's say, five years or 10 years, BRI was able to cut short that time," said Ahmed, adding a BRI project would have been delivered in one or two years maybe and "there are countless examples within Pakistan." Elaborating on the importance of understanding the global trade architecture, the economist noted that the way the BRI stands at the moment would potentially create more opportunities and productive capacities for developing countries in the future.

"Once those productive capacities are created, for example, in my large-scale manufacturing sector, I would like to trade more. But this is the time when Global North should not change the rules of the trade," said the economist.

"If you don't like multilateralism now, that's going to send a very negative signal to the Global South, to the developing countries, who have added productive capacities due to BRI, due to CPEC," he pointed out.

<https://english.news.cn/20231006/bc0dcd36c64e48f4a4693aed2f6e57db/c.html>

October 08, 2023

People's Daily

Energy cooperation between China, B&R countries bears fruit

(Xinhua)

BEIJING, Oct. 8 (Xinhua) -- After dehydration, desulfurization and decarbonization, freshly extracted gas from Central Asian countries merges into the China-Central Asia natural gas pipeline, jointly operated by the China National Petroleum Corporation and local partners.

Traversing wild deserts and grasslands, the natural gas in the pipeline will travel nearly 2,000 km eastward over the next 84 hours to the Chinese border city of Horgos in the Xinjiang

Uygur Autonomous Region, from where it is distributed further to various Chinese regions, including Shanghai, Fuzhou, and Hong Kong.

Data showed that in 2022, the Horgos Station delivered about 43 billion cubic meters of Central Asian natural gas via the pipeline, accounting for 11.8 percent of China's consumption in that year.

The project is a vivid example of energy cooperation under the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), and a concrete manifestation of the principle of extensive consultation, joint contribution and shared benefits.

China has constantly enlarged its "circle of friends" among Belt and Road (B&R) countries in energy cooperation. At present, the country has established the Belt and Road Energy Partnership with 32 countries.

Several regional energy cooperation platforms such as the APEC Sustainable Energy Center and the China-ASEAN Clean Energy Cooperation Center have been built, promoting common development of China and relevant countries in the energy field.

Energy cooperation under the BRI has not only injected impetus into the world's economic prosperity and social development, but also contributes to the sense of happiness of people in B&R countries, said an official with the National Energy Administration (NEA).

The Karot hydropower station, the first hydropower project under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, became fully commercial in June 2022. It has generated 3.64 billion kilowatt-hours in just over a year, meeting the electricity demands of more than 5 million residents.

"The hydropower station has improved our livelihoods, and Chinese people have also paved the road and repaired the dilapidated school buildings for children," said a villager who lives nearby.

Promoting global low-carbon transition is also a bright spot of energy cooperation under the BRI.

In August this year, Xi'an, capital city of northwest China's Shaanxi Province and also the starting point of the ancient Silk Road, launched a China-Europe freight train loaded with photovoltaic (PV) modules bound for Tashkent, Uzbekistan. These modules will serve a 1-gigawatt PV project in Uzbekistan, which will produce 2.4 billion kWh of clean energy annually, helping cut carbon emissions by up to 2.4 million tonnes.

Li Wenxue, Party chief of the solar technology giant LONGi Green Energy Technology Co., Ltd., said that the company has provided one-third of the key equipment for the PV projects in the five Central Asian countries.

In the past 10 years, China has carried out green energy project cooperation with more than 100 countries and regions, and the country's investment in B&R countries in terms of green and low-carbon energy has exceeded that for traditional energy.

China will continue to promote high-quality energy cooperation under the BRI, and build closer, greener and more inclusive energy partnerships in the future, according to the NEA.

(Web editor: Zhang Kaiwei, Kou Jie)

<http://en.people.cn/n3/2023/1008/c90000-20080848.html>

October 09, 2023

People's Daily

China's action on and contribution to building global community of shared future

By He Yin (People's Daily)

China is not only advocating but also acting on the vision of building a global community of shared future.

Over the past decade, from promoting high-quality development of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), to proposing and implementing the Global Development Initiative (GDI), Global Security Initiative (GSI), and Global Civilization Initiative (GCI), China, with firm beliefs and solid actions, has worked with all relevant parties to consolidate greater efforts for lasting peace, create a favorable environment for common security, inject stronger confidence into common development, provide important impetus for cultural exchanges, and take more actions for ecological protection. China has continuously contributed to the building of a global community of shared future.

The BRI is a vivid example of building a global community of shared future, a public good and a cooperation platform provided by China and welcomed by the international community.

By July 2023, more than three-quarters of countries in the world and over 30 international organizations had signed agreements on Belt and Road cooperation with China.

Over the past decade, China has laid the groundwork and set up the frameworks of BRI cooperation, delivering tangible results and achieving sustainable progress. Together, participants in the initiative have jointly advanced "hard connectivity" of infrastructure, "soft connectivity" of rules and standards and "people-to-people connectivity" among partner countries. This has effectively promoted the development of participating countries, constantly giving local people of BRI countries a stronger sense of fulfillment and happiness.

Flagship projects of the BRI, such as the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, the China-Laos Railway, the Jakarta-Bandung High-speed Railway and the Mombasa-Nairobi Standard Gauge Railway, have lent strong impetus to local economic and social development. The China-Europe freight trains have made 77,000 trips in the past ten years, carrying 7.31 million twenty-foot equivalent unit (TEU) containers of goods and becoming an important bridge for international economic and trade cooperation. Luban workshops have helped young people in more than 20 Belt and Road countries acquire vocational skills. The BRI aims to help China and the rest of the world share opportunities and seek common development.

Development serves as the material foundation for security and civilization. Through the GDI, China has made its contribution to resolving challenges to development and advancing global development.

The fundamental aim of the initiative is to accelerate the implementation of the UN's 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Its core requirement is a people-centered approach, its foremost philosophy is united, equal, balanced, and inclusive global development partnerships, and its pivotal measure entails results-oriented actions to bolster stronger, greener, and healthier global development and jointly build a global community of development.

China has hosted the High-level Dialogue on Global Development and presented 32 important measures to implement the initiative. So far, half of these measures have been implemented or achieved early fruits. The library of the GDI projects is expanding, with over 200 projects achieving good results.

UN Deputy Secretary-General Amina J. Mohammed noted that strengthening cooperation within the framework of the GDI is key to achieving the common objectives for people and the planet.

Security acts as the fundamental prerequisite for development and civilization. Through the GSI, China has boosted confidence for maintaining and realizing common security and universal security.

The initiative calls for adapting to profound changes in the international landscape through solidarity, addressing traditional and non-traditional security risks and challenges with a win-win mindset, and creating a new path to security that features dialogue over confrontation, partnership over alliance and win-win over zero-sum.

Over the past three decades and more, China has sent more than 50,000 personnel to UN peacekeeping operations in over 20 countries and region. China has been calling for the resolution of conflicts and working tirelessly to promote peace. It has facilitated the restoration of diplomatic relations between Saudi Arabia and Iran and has been actively involved in resolving international and regional hotspot issues. China is actively committed to international cooperation in various fields, including counter-terrorism, public health, digital governance, bio-security, and climate change.

China's actions fully demonstrate its role as a responsible major country in safeguarding world peace and stability. International personages pointed out that the GSI fills the void of a viable global security architecture, and China's successful implementation of this initiative fully proves that China is a defender of global peace and security.

Civilization provides the cultural-ethical support for development and security. Through the GCI, China has injected impetus into promoting mutual learning and building an open and inclusive world.

The initiative calls for jointly advocating respect for the diversity of civilizations, jointly advocating the common values of humanity, jointly advocating the importance of inheritance and innovation of civilizations, and jointly advocating robust international people-to-people

exchanges and cooperation. It makes a sincere call for the world to enhance inter-civilization exchanges and dialogue, and promote human progress with inclusiveness and mutual learning.

China has hosted gatherings including the Communist Party of China (CPC) in Dialogue with World Political Parties High-level Meeting, the CPC and World Political Parties Summit, and the Conference on Dialogue of Asian Civilizations. It has promoted diverse forms of civil diplomacy, city diplomacy, and public diplomacy. It has also celebrated splendid cultural and tourism "years" and festivals.

China actively promotes the establishment of a global network for dialogue and cooperation on civilizations, strengthens international cultural exchanges and cooperation, and promotes mutual understanding and friendship among peoples of all countries, offering cultural-ethical support for the building of a global community of shared future.

The future of humanity is bright, but it will not come without effort. To build a global community of shared future, confidence and determination are of foremost importance; a broad mind and a global vision are central; a sense of responsibility and a will to act hold the key.

China will continue to work with all parties, hold high the banner of building a global community of shared future, and build an open, inclusive, clean and beautiful world that enjoys lasting peace, universal security, and common prosperity.

(Web editor: Chang Sha, Liang Jun

<http://en.people.cn/n3/2023/1009/c90000-20081060.html>

October 10, 2023

Global Times

Closer infrastructure connectivity among BRI participating countries is taking shape: Chinese official

Ten years on, China has yielded tangible and substantial achievements with the participating countries of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), Cong Liang, deputy head of the National Development and Reform Commission, told a press conference addressing the publication of a white paper on the BRI on Tuesday.

Cong cited a number of landmark infrastructure connectivity projects that have been completed and entered operation under the BRI in the past 10 years, including the China-Laos Railway, the Jakarta-Bandung High-Speed Railway, the Hungary-Serbia railway and the Piraeus Port.

The China-Europe freight trains have established a new logistics channel between Asia and Europe, an international shipping route network under "Silk Road Shipping" has spread all over the world. Based on a framework comprising "six corridors, six routes, and multiple countries and ports," a multi-tiered and multidimensional infrastructure network is taking shape, Cong noted.

In 2015, China puts forward the vision of building six major international economic cooperation corridors, including the New Eurasia Land Bridge Economic Corridor, the China-Mongolia-Russia Economic Corridor as well as the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor.

In recent years, the construction of these international economic cooperation corridors has achieved remarkable results, especially the efforts to promote the construction of international backbone corridors together with partner countries, and to build an infrastructure network connecting various regions in Asia and between Asia, Europe and Africa, Cong noted.

Cong cited the China-Laos Railway as an example. Since its opening in December 2021, a total of over 20.9 million trips have been made and 25.36 million tons of cargo has been transported via the railway by early September.

A total of 25 provinces in China have opened international freight trains on the China-Laos Railway, covering Laos, Thailand, Myanmar, Malaysia, Cambodia, Singapore and other countries, significantly increasing economic and trade exchanges between the two countries and strengthening economic and trade cooperation between China and ASEAN. In terms of connectivity, the China-Laos Railway has made Laos a truly "land-linked country", enabling more products to be transported easily and quickly between China, ASEAN and European countries.

In addition, the China-Laos Railway has employed more than 3,500 Lao employees since its commencement, creating more than 100,000 jobs to the Laotian logistics, transportation, trade and tourism industries. The railway also provides new opportunities for ASEAN to better utilize the new advantages of the entry into force of the RCEP and build a closer regional industrial chain and supply chain, Cong added.

In terms of the economic and trade cooperation under the BRI, Guo Tingting, vice commerce minister said that from 2013 to 2022, China's total trade with countries along the route reached \$19.1 trillion, with an average annual growth rate of 6.4 percent; two-way investment exceeded a cumulative total of \$380 billion, with China's direct investment to those countries exceeding \$240 billion.

"In addition, we have organized a series of regional exhibitions including China International Import Expo and China Import and Export Fair, which have promoted economic and trade cooperation among the countries participating in the construction of the BRI," Guo noted.

In the future, China will actively promote accession to the CPTPP and DEPA, and also support Hong Kong and Macao enterprises to participate in the joint construction of the BRI and create an important functional platform. China will deepen cooperation in areas such as the green economy and digitalization, so as to achieve sustainable development together with partner countries, Guo said.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202310/1299567.shtml>

October 11, 2023

China Daily

CPEC fully proves its real worth

In a speech at the Nazarbayev University in Astana, Kazakhstan, President Xi Jinping launched what has become the 21st century's most significant development initiative. By June 2023, China has signed agreements with 152 countries and 32 international organizations on Belt and Road cooperation. Comprising the Silk Road Economic Belt and the 21st Century Maritime Silk Road, the Belt and Road Initiative has helped improve infrastructure and connectivity between and within countries.

We in Pakistan, neighbor and strategic partner of China, are fortunate to have the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor as part of the Belt and Road Initiative. The CPEC has helped build an enabling economic environment in Pakistan with energy, education and the economy being among its key pillars. China has invested nearly \$26 billion in direct projects in Pakistan, creating 236,000 jobs, generating 8,000 megawatts of electricity, and building 510 kilometers of highways and 886 km of the national electricity grid. Also, about 28,000 Pakistani students are studying in China and more than 20,000 Pakistanis are learning Chinese.

The CPEC is not just about bricks and mortar. It is also about people-to-people exchanges, which are at the core of the strategic bond between the two "iron brothers", Pakistan and China. The CPEC was launched when Pakistan was facing immense challenge from terror groups. It was also facing instability and conflict due to the US' "war on terror" in neighboring Afghanistan. By launching the CPEC, China gave a vote of confidence to Pakistan and its people, and raised Pakistani people's hope for a better future.

The CPEC's successful completion of "early harvest projects" on schedule, with no job cuts even during the COVID-19 pandemic, speaks volumes about the dedication and commitment of both sides to complete these projects.

The Belt and Road Initiative demonstrates resilience and continuity of a world that is facing turbulence and transformation. The past 10 years has seen the investment of \$1 trillion in about 3,000 Belt and Road projects, which have created 420,000 jobs and helped lift 40 million people out of poverty.

As it celebrates its 10th anniversary, the Belt and Road Initiative faces a barrage of propaganda from its detractors in the West who largely view it through a geopolitical lens because they seek to contain China by igniting a new Cold War.

As an English saying goes, imitation is the highest form of flattery. To counter the Belt and Road Initiative, the West, especially the United States, has come up with similar development initiatives only to fail in delivering any of its promises. For example, in 2018, the US Congress passed the BUILD Act (Better Utilization of Investments Leading to Development Act), with an institutional back-up in the form of the International Development Finance Corporation, and having a financial outlay of \$60 billion for infrastructure projects. But nothing materialized.

In 2021, at the G7 Summit in Cornwall, the United Kingdom, US President Joe Biden announced the "Build Back Better World" (B3W) initiative with much fanfare. A year later, after Biden failed to launch any project, the G7 rebranded B3W as the "Partnership for Growth in Infrastructure and Investment". Concurrently, the European Union launched its copycat version, "Golden Gateway", to "compete" with the Belt and Road Initiative. None has shown any concrete outcomes in terms of projects launched.

And at the G20 Summit in New Delhi in September, the US, together with the EU and some other countries, launched yet another "historic" initiative to "counter" the Belt and Road Initiative: the "India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor".

What critics of the Belt and Road Initiative fail to realize is that the China-proposed initiative is not just about building projects; it is about a different mindset, a mindset that promotes values and delivers on promises at a time when the global center of gravity is shifting from the West to the East.

The Belt and Road Initiative, together with the Global Development Initiative, the Global Security Initiative and the Global Civilization Initiative, is helping establish a global order based on equality, diversity and inclusivity, build bridges (the China-brokered rapprochement between Saudi Arabia and Iran is a fine example), and promote modernization and connectivity. Conversely, born again Cold Warriors in the West are building barriers (sanctions, tariffs and protectionism), militarizing international relations (QUAD, AUKUS, eastern expansion of NATO) and sparking confrontations and conflicts in the Asia-Pacific region. This is their tried and tested but failed formula to contain China. For instance, the launch of Mate 60 Pro smartphones by Huawei is a slap on the face of the proponents of sanctions.

As for people in Pakistan and the majority of the Global South, they support the Belt and Road Initiative and participate in and benefit from it due to its people-centric development and "win-win cooperation" approach. The Global South, as the backbone of Belt and Road Initiative, is on the right side of history, working together to build a better tomorrow with no overlords and underdogs.

<https://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202310/10/WS6524b1aea31090682a5e7ae2.html>

People's Daily

CPEC to facilitate economic development in Pakistan through win-win cooperation: minister

(Xinhua)

ISLAMABAD, Oct. 11 (Xinhua) -- The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is a journey towards economic growth of Pakistan, based on the ideals of peace, development, and win-win cooperation, Pakistan's caretaker minister for information and broadcasting said on Tuesday.

Speaking at the event "CPEC and My Life" held here, Murtaza Solangi said that CPEC was launched as a game-changer project in Pakistan, and it changed the lives of millions of people in the country.

"The enhancement of geographical linkages through improved road, rail, and air transportation systems will enhance frequent people-to-people contact," he added.

The Pakistani people have immensely benefited from various CPEC projects including energy and infrastructure projects, the minister said.

"As the CPEC enters into the new phase, Pakistan is keenly looking forward to more and more bilateral cooperation in mining, agriculture, IT, and other sectors," he said, adding that CPEC will not only benefit Pakistan but will also have a positive impact on the entire region.

Speaking at the event, Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan Jiang Zaidong said that after 10 years of construction, CPEC has become a vivid interpretation of the all-weather friendship between China and Pakistan, and has contributed to building a closer China-Pakistan community with a shared future.

"What is even more gratifying is that the early harvest of CPEC construction has brought visible and tangible benefits to the local people," he added.

Talking about infrastructure cooperation under CPEC, he mentioned Gwadar Port and Karakoram Highway as its fruitful results, which have contributed to improving the interconnection network.

(Web editor: Zhang Kaiwei, Liang Jun)

<http://en.people.cn/n3/2023/1011/c90000-20082327.html>

October 12, 2023

People's Daily

Key takeaways from BRI white paper

(Xinhua)

BEIJING, Oct. 11 (Xinhua) -- China's State Council Information Office on Tuesday released a white paper titled "The Belt and Road Initiative: A Key Pillar of the Global Community of Shared Future."

The white paper, comprised of preamble, five chapters and a conclusion, presents the achievements of the BRI over the last 10 years, aiming to provide the international community with a better understanding of the value of the initiative, facilitate high-quality cooperation, and deliver benefits to more countries and peoples.

Since its launch in 2013, the Belt and Road Initiative has been welcomed by the international community as both a public good and a cooperation platform. The following are the key takeaways from the white paper, including some of the highlights and major achievements of BRI cooperation over the past decade.

ULTIMATE GOAL

According to the white paper, the ultimate goal of the BRI is to help build a global community with a shared future. The BRI involves countries in different world regions, at different development stages, and with different cultures. It transcends differences in ideologies and social systems.

It enables different countries to share opportunities, realize common development and prosperity, and build a community of shared interests, responsibility and destiny characterized by mutual political trust, economic integration and cultural inclusiveness.

As a practical means of building a global community with a shared future, the BRI has brought new understanding, inspired the world's imagination, and contributed new ideas and new approaches to international exchanges.

PRINCIPLES, CONCEPTS, OBJECTIVES, VISION

The BRI was founded on the principles of extensive consultation, joint contribution and shared benefits. It advocates win-win cooperation in pursuit of shared interests and the greater good. It emphasizes that all countries are equal participants, contributors and beneficiaries, and encourages economic integration, interconnected development and the sharing of achievements.

The BRI is committed to the concept of open, green and clean cooperation on inclusive and sustainable development. It has zero tolerance for corruption, and promotes steady and high-quality growth.

It aims for high standards and sustainability, and to improve lives by raising cooperation standards, investment effectiveness, supply quality and development resilience, delivering real and substantive results for all participants.

The BRI envisions a path to global well-being. As an initiative working for progress, cooperation and inclusiveness, it pursues development, promotes win-win outcomes and inspires hope. It aims to deepen understanding and trust, strengthen comprehensive exchanges, and ultimately achieve common development and shared prosperity.

MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS OVER LAST DECADE

BRI partners -- By June 2023, China had signed more than 200 BRI cooperation agreements with more than 150 countries and 30 international organizations across five continents, yielding a number of signature projects and small-scale yet impactful projects.

High-level forums -- China has hosted the Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation twice, providing an important platform for participating countries and international organizations to expand exchanges, increase mutual trust and strengthen ties. China will host the third Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation from Oct. 17 to 18 in Beijing.

Infrastructure connectivity -- substantial progress is being made in the construction of six economic corridors: the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, the New Eurasian Land Bridge Economic Corridor, the China-Indochina Peninsula Economic Corridor, the China-Mongolia-Russia Economic Corridor, the China-Central Asia-West Asia Economic Corridor and the

Bangladesh-China-India-Myanmar Economic Corridor. And in Africa, railways such as the Mombasa-Nairobi Railway and the Addis Ababa-Djibouti Railway are now operational and have become important drivers of in-depth development in East Africa and across the entire continent.

Maritime connectivity -- The Maritime Silk Road network has continued to expand. By the end of June 2023, it had reached 117 ports in 43 countries, and more than 300 well-known Chinese and international shipping companies, port enterprises and think tanks, among other organizations, have joined the "Silk Road Maritime" association.

Air connectivity -- China has signed bilateral air transport agreements with 104 BRI partner countries and opened direct flight routes with 57 partner countries to facilitate cross-border transport.

International inter-modality transport -- The China-Europe Railway Express now reaches more than 200 cities in 25 European countries. By the end of June 2023, the cumulative volume of the China-Europe Railway Express had exceeded 74,000 trips, transporting nearly 7 million twenty-foot equivalent units (TEUs) and over 50,000 types of goods in 53 categories, including automobiles, mechanical equipment and electronic products, with a total value of more than 300 billion U.S. dollars. Rail-sea freight train routes on the New International Land-Sea Trade Corridor cover 18 provinces and equivalent administrative units in central and western China, transporting goods to more than 300 ports in over 100 countries.

Trade and investment -- From 2013 to 2022, the cumulative value of imports and exports between China and BRI partner countries was 19.1 trillion U.S. dollars, with an average annual growth rate of 6.4 percent. Cumulative two-way investment between China and partner countries came in at 380 billion U.S. dollars during the period, including some 240 billion U.S. dollars from China. By the end of August 2023, more than 80 countries and international organizations had subscribed to the Initiative on Promoting Unimpeded Trade Cooperation Along the Belt and Road, which was proposed by China. And China had signed 21 free trade agreements with 28 countries and regions.

Industrial cooperation -- By the end of June 2023, China had signed agreements on industrial capacity cooperation with more than 40 countries. These countries have promoted cooperation on industrial capacity, expanded cooperation in traditional industries such as steel, non-ferrous metals, building materials, automobiles, engineering machinery, agriculture, and resources and energy, and explored cooperation in emerging industries such as the digital economy, new energy vehicles, 5G, and nuclear energy and technology.

Financial cooperation -- By the end of June 2023, a total of 13 Chinese-funded banks had established 145 first-tier offices and branches in 50 BRI partner countries, some 17.7 million businesses in 131 partner countries had opened UnionPay banking services, and 74 partner countries had opened UnionPay mobile payment services. China has signed bilateral currency-swap agreements with 20 partner countries and established renminbi (RMB) clearing arrangements in 17 partner countries. China has funded the establishment of the Silk Road Fund (SRF) and opened the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) with other

participating countries. By the end of June 2023, the SRF had signed agreements on 75 projects with committed investment of about 22 billion U.S. dollars, there were 106 AIIB members, and the bank had approved 227 projects with a total investment of 43.6 billion U.S. dollars.

Culture and tourism cooperation -- By the end of June 2023, China had signed cultural and tourism cooperation documents with 144 BRI partner countries.

Green development -- China has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the United Nations Environment Programme on building a green Belt and Road for 2017-2022, reached environmental cooperation agreements with more than 30 countries and international organizations, launched the Initiative for Belt and Road Partnership on Green Development together with 31 countries, and formed the Belt and Road Initiative International Green Development Coalition with more than 150 partners from 40-plus countries.

Scientific and technological innovation -- By the end of June 2023, China had signed intergovernmental agreements on scientific and technological cooperation with more than 80 BRI partner countries. Since 2013, China has hosted more than 10,000 young scientists from partner countries to carry out short-term research and exchanges in China, and trained more than 16,000 technicians and management professionals for partner countries. China has established nine cross-border technology transfer platforms targeting ASEAN, South Asia, the Arab states, Africa, Latin America and other regions since 2013, assisted 22 African countries in building 23 agricultural technology demonstration centers, and established over 50 joint BRI laboratories in areas such as agriculture, new energy and health.

The Digital Silk Road -- By the end of 2022, China had signed MoUs on the construction of the Digital Silk Road with 17 countries, on e-commerce cooperation with 30 countries, and on closer digital economy investment cooperation with 18 countries and regions.

Poverty reduction -- China has signed more than 100 agricultural and fishery cooperation documents with almost 90 BRI countries and international organizations. It has dispatched more than 2,000 agricultural experts and technicians to over 70 countries and regions, and introduced more than 1,500 agricultural technologies and crops such as Juncao grass and hybrid rice to many of these countries. It has aided rural poverty reduction in Asia, Africa, the South Pacific, Latin America and the Caribbean, developing modern agriculture and helping increase farming incomes.

Boosting employment -- In the process of BRI cooperation, China has helped participating countries construct industrial parks and provided guidance for Chinese enterprises to create jobs for locals through high-level industrial cooperation. A McKinsey survey has revealed that Chinese firms in Africa recruit 89 percent of their employees locally, effectively contributing to local employment. The World Bank has estimated that by 2030, BRI-related investment could lift 7.6 million people out of extreme poverty and 32 million out of moderate poverty.

(Web editor: Zhang Kaiwei, Liang Jun)

<http://en.people.cn/n3/2023/1012/c90000-20082429.html>

October 13, 2023

China Daily

China Focus: China's technologies help BRI partners turn waste into wealth

BEIJING -- There are abundant biomass resources in Southeast Asia, mainly including waste from agriculture and forestry. China has been employing its technologies to help its Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) partners in turning waste into wealth.

Thailand has rich biomass resources, such as crop straw and wood residue. The existing biomass gasification projects have faced problems like poor fuel flexibility, low gasification efficiency, high tar content in gas, and secondary pollution from tar wastewater. It is urgent to enhance equipment reliability and operation and maintenance capabilities to ensure system stability and reduce investment and operating costs.

The Guangzhou Institute of Energy Conversion (GIEC) of the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS), in collaboration with universities and companies from Thailand and Pakistan, built an advanced and efficient 1 MWe multi-generation demonstration project based on biomass gasification in Nakhon Phanom in Thailand.

Liu Huacai, a researcher from GIEC, said that the energy demand in ASEAN countries has been rising dramatically due to economic development, rapid urbanization, and population growth, and promoting modern biomass energy technology there will contribute to building a sustainable energy supply system, protecting environment, and boosting rural economic development.

Malaysia and Indonesia are two major palm oil suppliers whose production has accounted for more than 80 percent of the global total. However, since the palm residues cannot be effectively used, they have been discarded and burned, polluting the environment.

The Institute of Process Engineering (IPE) of CAS has been working with the Malaysia Innovation Hub (MIH) in the development of bio-based plastics with palm fiber and other biomass as primary raw materials.

The IPE developed new functionalized ionic liquid modifiers to treat palm residues and built a 10,000-tonne bio-based material demonstration project in Wuqiao County, north China's Hebei Province, where qualified bio-based material packaging products have been produced.

Xin Jiayu, a researcher from IPE, said that the technology will alleviate the environmental and hygiene challenges posed by the inappropriate disposal of palm residues.

According to Vincent Wong Wai Sang, president of MIH, the National Farmers Organization of Malaysia and the United Arab Emirates will jointly introduce technology and invest in a 30,000-tonne bio-plastics production line in Malaysia, eyeing the Middle East and European markets with environmentally friendly products as an alternative to traditional fossil-based plastics.

In addition, the Institute of Urban Environment (IUE) of CAS has been cooperating with Malaysia and Indonesia to build two demonstration projects in Malaysia in 2024 that are capable of processing 10 to 20 tonnes of biomass waste on a daily basis to produce carbon-based materials.

The project is supported by the ANSO, an international scientific organization founded in 2018 by the CAS and 36 other international science and education institutions around the world.

Wang Yin, a professor of IUE, said that biomass-derived products include biochar and activated carbon materials that could be used in the purification of local drinking water, domestic sewage, and air and carbon-based fertilizers for soil amendment.

The cooperation project is expected to generate economic benefits of more than 10 million yuan (about 1.39 million U.S. dollars), provide 300-plus jobs, and train more than 20 engineers and technicians.

The cooperation has laid a solid foundation for future exchanges between China and its BRI partners, and relevant technologies and experience will be extended to countries such as the Philippines, Brunei, and Thailand to improve local people's well-being and mitigate climate change, said Wang.

<https://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202310/13/WS65291deda31090682a5e8767.html>

People's Daily

3rd Belt and Road Forum will be a landmark event: Pakistani expert

By Zamir Ahmed Awan

China will host the third Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation from Oct. 17 to 18 in Beijing. It will not only be the grandest event to commemorate the 10th anniversary of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), but also a crucial platform for relevant parties to advance high-quality cooperation.

Initiated in 2013 by Chinese President Xi Jinping, the BRI is a visionary project that aims to promote economic cooperation among countries along the ancient Silk Road routes. The initiative seeks to create a network of railways, roads, ports, and pipelines, connecting Asia with Europe, Africa, and beyond. However, the BRI is more than a mere physical infrastructure project; it's a multifaceted initiative that includes policy coordination, trade facilitation, financial integration, and people-to-people bonds.

A decade of significant achievements

Since its announcement, the BRI has attracted immense international support. By June 2023, China had inked over 200 BRI cooperation agreements with more than 150 countries and 30 international organizations across five continents, yielding many signature projects and small-scale impactful projects.

The BRI has witnessed substantial trade and investment since its inception. Data shows that from 2013 to 2022, the cumulative value of imports and exports between China and BRI

partner countries reached \$19.1 trillion, boasting an average annual growth rate of 6.4 percent. Additionally, cumulative two-way investment between China and partner countries amounted to \$380 billion, including \$240 billion from China.

The BRI has already achieved several remarkable milestones, fostering economic growth, technological advancement, and cultural exchanges among participant nations. The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) has emerged as a flagship BRI project, significantly enhancing Pakistan's infrastructure, energy, and industrial sectors, and spurring job creation and economic growth.

The expected benefits of the BRI are vast and varied. By promoting connectivity, trade, and investment, the initiative facilitates economic integration and fosters mutual understanding among diverse cultures. It spurs innovation, promotes sustainable development, and alleviates poverty by creating employment opportunities and enhancing local economies.

Anticipated discussions at the third Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation

The upcoming forum promises engaging discussions, knowledge-sharing, and collaboration among participating countries and international organizations. The BRI stands as a testament to the power of international cooperation. As the forum approaches, the global community eagerly anticipates the opportunity to build upon the initiative's successes, fostering a future of shared prosperity, mutual respect, and enduring collaboration among nations.

It is vital to emphasize the paramount importance of the upcoming forum. The event is poised to be a significant milestone in fostering international cooperation, economic development, and global partnerships.

Representatives from over 130 countries and 30 international organizations are poised to convene in Beijing, including Pakistan's Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar, who will also undertake an official visit at China's invitation.

One of the key aspects contributing to the importance of this summit is the esteemed presence of world leaders. Leaders from diverse nations, representing various cultures, economies, and political ideologies, are expected to attend and actively participate in the discussions. This diverse representation underscores the inclusive nature of the BRI, promoting dialogue and collaboration among nations regardless of their differences.

The upcoming forum is expected to yield promising and far-reaching outcomes. First, it aims to strengthen existing partnerships and cultivate new collaborations among participating countries, contributing significantly to economic growth and stability. Second, it will offer a platform to address common challenges like climate change, poverty, and healthcare, promoting joint efforts and knowledge sharing. Third, it will facilitate cultural exchanges and people-to-people connections, fostering a sense of global community and cooperation, paving the way for a more harmonious world.

Moreover, the forum will likely witness the signing of numerous agreements and Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) between participating countries and organizations, reflecting a

shared commitment to enhancing cooperation, trade, and investments, and, in turn, promoting mutual prosperity and development.

The upcoming forum holds immense significance in the global arena. The event will create a conducive environment for dialogue, cooperation, and progress by bringing together nations, leaders, and experts. Anticipated outcomes, such as strengthened partnerships, innovative solutions to global challenges, and enhanced cultural exchanges, are bound to have a positive and lasting impact on participating countries and the world. It is anticipated that collective discussions among leaders from various countries will make the BRI even more productive, guiding it toward unprecedented success.

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<http://en.people.cn/n3/2023/1013/c90000-20083271.html>

October 14, 2023

China Daily

Media's role important in empowering youth, Pakistani expert says

How to tap the potential of youth and make their talent flourish? Yasir Masood, a Pakistani researcher, journalist and strategic analyst of the Belt and Road Initiative, has emphasized the constructive role media organizations play in fostering understanding, engagement and collaboration among the young generation.

In 2013, Masood went on an official trip to Beijing as a visiting scholar.

He immersed himself in Chinese culture and resolved to align his life with China.

Astonished at the ancient civilization and its values, he described the journey as an adventure that "redefined his life from scratch" and decided to work on Chinese affairs.

Seeing that many people were held back from traveling abroad due to lack of opportunities, Masood proposed that media organizations could take an active part in informing the youth, developing their interests and unleashing their creative potential.

As the old saying goes: Seeking common ground while reserving differences.

Masood proposed to develop cross-cultural understanding, tolerance and collaboration within the framework of the BRI upon its ultimate goal of inclusive globalization, which could bring about new perspectives to the table and nurture long-lasting friendships and partnerships.

He quoted China Daily, the largest English language newspaper in China, as an example by saying that the paper effectively disseminated information to young people on the opportunities and benefits of the BRI.

"Youth are the engine that propels any civilization forward," he added.

Seeing the strong interaction between cultivation of the youth and use of their innovation, Masood suggested empowering youth by implementing education reform, which included

ensuring their access to education, increasing vocational training and encouraging entrepreneurship.

"Young people need to be given the tools they need to become engaged participants in the development of the BRI as a result of our actions," he said.

In addition to necessary information, knowledge and skills, a qualified participant needs to be mentally well-equipped.

Every era has its own responsibilities. In an age featuring deepening digitalization and intensifying global concerns, Masood called on the young generation, frequently referred to as "digital natives", to make full use of their technological expertise and out-of-the-box thinking to find the way out of the environmental dilemma and lead the way to sustainable development.

This required not only personal endeavor, but also the investment of the government and stakeholders.

Besides material support and preferential policy on infrastructure construction and innovation programs, Masood considered it vital to provide places for free debate and youth involvement in decision-making.

He named a variety of channels catering to the interests of the youth, such as publications and social media platforms, which are the main fronts of media, as well as seminars and workshops, which can be held with the collaborative effort of media and educational institutions.

"Our youth are the future's torchbearers, and their empowerment is essential to the Belt and Road Initiative's success," he said.

Li Menghan contributed to this story.

<https://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202310/14/WS6529eda8a31090682a5e8839.html>

Xinhuanet News

China's porcelain capital attracts dream chasers from BRI countries

* In ancient China, Jingdezhen saw ceramics exported through the Silk Road.

* Now, the BRI has injected new vitality into the porcelain capital.

* About 1,000 foreigners currently live in Jingdezhen.

NANCHANG, Oct. 14 (Xinhua) -- At 13, Emrah Hakan Caliskan had his first encounter with porcelain at a museum in his hometown of Istanbul, Türkiye.

In the Topkapi Palace Museum, he was particularly enchanted by the Chinese blue-and-white porcelain there. In 2015, after studying Chinese for four years, he traveled to Jingdezhen, the world-famous "porcelain capital" in east China's Jiangxi Province.

"The city's complete system of handmade ceramics inspired me to settle down and engage in ceramics export trading," said the 40-year-old.

Jingdezhen's history in ceramic craftsmanship spans over 2,000 years.

In ancient China, Jingdezhen saw batches of ceramics exported to Central Asia, West Asia, Europe and Africa through the Silk Road. Now, the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) has injected new vitality into the porcelain capital, attracting large numbers of foreigners keen to chase their dreams, while its porcelain products are exported to 37 BRI countries and regions. There are currently about 1,000 foreigners living in the city.

This year marks the 10th anniversary of the BRI, which was proposed by China.

AN OPEN CITY

The porcelain produced in Jingdezhen bears testimony to the city's openness and inclusiveness, according to Caliskan.

Hundreds of years ago, smalt, an ingredient from West Asia, was imported into the city via the ancient Silk Road and then adopted to create the renowned Chinese blue-and-white porcelain.

"Today, as a merchant from West Asia, I export Chinese ceramic products to BRI countries, including my home country of Türkiye and Italy," said Caliskan.

He is married to Cheng Linyao, a native of the area and a municipal-level inheritor of porcelain making. The couple have set up their own ceramic brand and Cheng is trying to combine Turkish patterns with traditional Chinese blue-and-white porcelain in her creations.

"We would like to showcase Chinese ceramics containing diverse cultures to the world," said Cheng.

MELTING POT

Jingdezhen's allure as a global ceramics destination is evident at the International Ceramic Studio of Jingdezhen Ceramic University, where porcelain lovers from approximately 50 countries converge.

As the only multi-disciplinary university named after ceramics in China, the university has recruited over 70 students from nine BRI partners over the past 10 years, including Bangladesh, Pakistan, Mongolia and Malaysia.

After graduating from the university in 2017, Ebikia Mbwanga Stanis, from the Democratic Republic of the Congo, returned three months ago, joining the studio.

"Jingdezhen is the best place to gain insight into ceramics. There are perfect ceramic facilities here and many ceramic museums and galleries. I can focus on my creation here," said Stanis, 41.

After sharing Jingdezhen with other ceramic artists on social media, Stanis said that many foreign artists have expressed their interest in the city. With his help, one foreign artist has joined him here, with three others set to come soon.

Zhang Jingjing, dean of the university's international school, said many overseas students and artists have fallen for Jingdezhen and opted to stay, boosting the pool of international talent for the development of the city.

"We welcome friends from all over the world," said Zhang.

(Video reporters: Wang Yihan, Zhu Yunuo, Wang Zhongqing; Video editors: Zhang Yueyuan, Hong Yan, Wei Yin)

<https://english.news.cn/20231014/2f8db27cd7304d44b9b32541bfe8c6b2/c.html>

October 15, 2023

Global Times

China-Pakistan partnership: Bridging nations, building communities

Everlasting bond

By Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar

Editor's Note: China and Pakistan share a long-standing friendship that dates back to the early 1950s. Over the years, this relationship has evolved into a robust strategic partnership, with the two countries often being referred to as "iron brothers." In an exclusive piece penned ahead of the Third Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation, the Prime Minister of Pakistan, Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar, highlights the deep-rooted brotherhood and ironclad relations between China and Pakistan. He not only emphasizes the strength of bilateral ties between both countries, but also commends China's significant contributions to the global community.

By Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar

The tale of China-Pakistan relations is not an ordinary one. It is an account of brotherhood, friendship, and trust, the foundations of which were laid more than 70 years ago. The vision of the leadership of our two countries at the time laid a solid basis for a relationship, which has subsequently been carefully nurtured into a robust, vibrant, time-tested, all-weather strategic cooperative partnership. Pakistan and its people, with absolute confidence, value the relationship greatly, and proudly call China our "best friend." It is heart-warming that in China, the term "Ba Tie" (Iron Brother) is reserved only for Pakistan.

The timeless Pakistan-China partnership and deep-rooted friendship serves the interests of both countries, being the historic choice of our people. Pakistan-China relations remain the cornerstone of our foreign policy. The close time-tested friendship with China enjoys the abiding support of the people of Pakistan.

With a time-honored history of brotherhood, our two countries have stood together, rain or shine, building an exemplary iron-clad friendship. Despite the vicissitudes of times and changes in the international landscape, the all-weather strategic cooperative partnership has grown into a towering tree with its deep roots of love in the hearts of the two peoples. The bond of love and affection that the peoples of the two countries have for each other indeed remains higher than the mountains, deeper than the sea, and sweeter than honey.

Zhou Enlai, China's first premier, once said that "the friendly interactions between the peoples of China and Pakistan date back to the dawn of history." Certainly, Pakistan-China

relations are the continuation of ancient civilizational bonds that have existed between our two nations since ancient times. The flow of trade through the ancient Silk Road and geographical proximity brought the two great Asian civilizations together. Monks and thinkers from China made their historical journeys to Taxila and other Buddhist places in Pakistan, painting a beautiful picture of the Gandhara civilization and bringing Buddhist wisdom to China, thus binding the two nations together in an everlasting bond.

The historical evolution of the Pakistan-China relationship, and its growing importance in the wake of evolving regional and global developments, is an exemplary model of inter-state relationship. The unique relationship of more than seven decades, underpinned by the rationale of strong political support, mutual trust, and all-round practical cooperation, has matured into a strong strategic partnership.

I will soon be traveling to Beijing on my first visit after assuming office, to participate in the Third Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation - an event which will mark the completion of a decade of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), the iconic and visionary project proposed by President Xi Jinping.

We pay tribute to the vision and statesmanship of President Xi who, 10 years ago, propounded the vision of building a global community of shared future, introducing a novel concept for international development partnership, a new idea for global governance and cooperation, and a fresh approach toward international exchanges, thus drawing up a new blueprint for a better interconnected world.

The core of the visionary concept is built on socio-economic development; with a focus on the elements of inclusivity, common prosperity, and win-win cooperation. It embodies the ideals of an open, interconnected, clean, and beautiful world that enjoys lasting peace and sustainable security. As we delve more into this concept, it becomes clear that it draws upon ancient Chinese philosophy and wisdom.

The concept of "tianxia datong," translated as "harmony under heaven," refers to the whole world and promotes diversity, while emphasizing harmonious and mutual interdependence as the means to enduring peace.

As noted by the recent BRI white paper released by the China's State Council, the BRI is a key pillar of the global community of shared future. The subsequent unveiling of the concepts - including the Global Development Initiative (GDI), the Global Security Initiative (GSI), and the Global Civilization Initiative (GCI) - have further refined the concept of a global community of shared future.

Pakistan was among the first countries to join the BRI. As the flagship project of the BRI, the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) marks a milestone in Pakistan-China relations, by placing economic cooperation and connectivity at the very center of the bilateral agenda, making the two countries more interconnected than ever before. The CPEC remains a shining example of the BRI's promise of economic prosperity and connectivity. It has transformed the socio-economic landscape of Pakistan, upgrading modern infrastructure, enhancing regional connectivity, ensuring energy security, and creating jobs.

This year Pakistan hosted a series of events and activities marking the successful first decade of the CPEC. We were also pleased to welcome Chinese Vice Premier He Lifeng, the special representative of President Xi, in Pakistan to attend the Decade of CPEC celebration event.

Pakistan remains committed to jointly building the CPEC. We fully endorse China's proposal of developing the CPEC as a corridor of growth, livelihood, innovation, greenness and openness - representing our two countries' preference for a human-centric approach, inclusivity, and green development.

Pakistan is also a pioneering member of the Group of Friends of the Global Development Initiative (GDI) and has played an active role in giving it a more concrete shape. As the first priority partner under the GDI, and the first one to ink an MoU on the GDI, Pakistan stands ready to benefit from this cooperation in areas of education, healthcare, climate change, and poverty reduction, thus making meaningful contributions to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals in a timely manner.

Pakistan has also supported the Global Security Initiative and its adherence to the UN Charter and principles of multilateralism and non-interference in other countries' internal affairs. Having long suffered due to unresolved disputes, conflicts, and terrorism, we also advocate for dialogue and constructive engagement based on mutual respect, to ensure regional peace in South Asia.

The Global Civilization Initiative is yet another landmark and timely initiative proposed by President Xi, promoting respect for diversity, peaceful co-existence, mutual learning, and inclusiveness. In a world marred with discord and divisiveness, dialogue between civilizations can be a means to peace and reconciliation.

Pakistan's foreign policy objectives have always been those of "peace within and peace without," as outlined by our founding father Muhammad Ali Jinnah. It was, therefore, all but natural for Pakistan to endorse these key initiatives put forth by President Xi.

In a world marred by multiple challenges like conflicts, economic recessions, food insecurity, social inequalities, and climate change, the salience of the Pakistan-China all-weather strategic cooperative partnership assumes great importance.

It is a source of pride and comfort for our two peoples and a factor of peace and stability in the region and beyond. Ours is a relationship of the past, present, and future, and nothing can alter this reality.

As per our long-standing tradition, we support each other on our core issues. We are grateful to China for its support for Pakistan's sovereignty, territorial integrity, and economic security, and its principled support on the issue of Kashmir. We reaffirm our commitment to the one-China principle and our support to China on its core issues related to Taiwan, Hong Kong, Xizang (Tibet), Xinjiang, and the South China Sea.

As close friends, strategic partners, and iron brothers, Pakistan and China are moving forward toward a destiny of shared future. I remain confident and convinced that our friendship will further strengthen in the coming days and attain even greater heights in the years to come.

Long live the Pakistan-China friendship!

The author is Prime Minister of Pakistan

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