



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

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**September 01-15, 2023**

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**September 01, 2023**

**The Express Tribune**

### **Pak-China ties discussed**

Speakers emphasise further improving relations between the two countries

ISLAMABAD: A debate titled “The Idea of Community With Shared Future for Mankind” was held in the federal capital that focused on further improving the relations between Pakistan and China.

The event was organised by Dosti Park Club (DPC) and attended by a Chinese delegation along with eminent Pakistani professors and representatives of think tanks.

The Chinese delegation comprised Prof Li Huailiang, Prof Zhang Yangi and Prof Dr Ge Yanling whereas the Pakistani side consisted of Pakistan Centre for Research’s Khalid Taimur Akram, CPNE Vice President Tahir Farooq, Prof Shakeel Ahmad Ramay, Prof Hassan Daud Butt, Dr Tahir Mumtaz Awan, Dr Shumaila Farooq and others.

Speaking on the occasion, Chinese Professor Yangi maintained that ties between the two countries were “excellent” and were being led to further improvement, noting that new dimensions were being explored in many fields.

A detailed discussion was also held on the community's philosophy, culture, civilization and other issues along with a common future.

Prof Yangi said Pakistan and China were “best friends” and were supporting each other in trade and other matters. He said China was concerned when the law and order situation deteriorated in Pakistan.

The Chinese speakers said that China got concerned when the law and order situation in Pakistan deteriorated.

DPC Director Maarij Farooq informed the audience about the aims and objectives of the forum.

The CPNE vice president stressed that the vision of a common future for all humanity called for cooperation and understanding, adding that it emphasised that their destinies were intertwined, and transcended geographical, cultural and ideological boundaries.

We must recognise that the challenges we face, whether climate change, global health crisis, or economic inequality, know no borders, he said.

Prof Ramay stressed on going through history to understand this idea and suggested working on culture, civilization and Chinese philosophy.

Daud also shed light on all the aspects of the discussion, underscoring that Pakistan and China were “best friends”.

Later, DPC Director Moiz Farooq thanked the participants.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2433509/pak-china-ties-discussed>

## **The Nation**

### **Gwadar Safe City Project on upward trajectory**

ISLAMABAD - In a significant development, the Gwadar Safe City Project (Phase I) has seen substantial progress with the establishment of the Project Management Unit (PMU) and the submission of technical and financial feasibility reports, all under the framework of the Gwadar Smart Port City Master Plan 2025.

With an estimated cost of Rs 3,325.6 million, the Gwadar Safe City Project (Phase I) is being spearheaded by the Ministry of Homes and Tribal Affairs in collaboration with the Ministry of Science and Technology under the Government of Balochistan. Key aspects of the project include the installation of optical fiber cables spanning up to 190 kilometers and the placement of multipurpose cameras at 411 locations.

Abdul Razzaq, Gwadar Development Authority's Deputy Director of Town Planning, informed Gwadar Pro that the project, which has been long overdue for completion, is now expected to be expedited.

It aims to cover the entirety of Gwadar City, encompassing vital buildings, roads, neighborhoods, the airport, bus stands, parking areas, educational institutions, health centers, and other government infrastructure.

An official from the Ministry of Homes and Tribal Affairs also shared with Gwadar Pro that a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed in January 2022 between the Chief Operating Officer of the Punjab Safe Cities Authority (PSCA) and the Project Director of Gwadar Safe City.

As per the agreement, a technical team from PSCA will visit the Gwadar Safe City project to assist the installation of Safe Cities Cameras, Networking and Communication, and the establishment of a Command Center.

Additionally, the PSCA will offer guidance on technical requirements for all pivotal roles within the Gwadar Safe City project. The official further mentioned that apart from the Gwadar Safe City Project, GPA is advancing another security initiative aimed at high-tech protection and surveillance of Gwadar Port, Gwadar Free Zone South, and Gwadar Free Zone North.

To date, around Rs 252 million have been allocated by the Ministry of Maritime Affairs for this endeavor. Technical assessments and feasibility studies are currently in progress, with GPA enlisting the services of RESCO Pvt to develop a comprehensive model for the project's implementation.

Jahangir Sabir, a local travel agent in Gwadar, emphasized the importance of both security projects, considering Gwadar's anticipated economic output, which is projected to surpass \$30 billion. "These projects serve as an insurance policy for the forthcoming developments in the tourism sector, hotel industry, recreational sites, and expansive shopping plazas," he added.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2023-09-01/page-3/detail-7>

**September 02, 2023**

**Pakistan Observer**

### **Pakistani cricket teams set to compete in Hangzhou (China) Asian Games**

The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) and the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) have recently revealed the player rosters for their men's and women's cricket teams, set to compete in the Hangzhou Asian Games.

Given India and Pakistan's cricketing prowess, experts are speculating that the cricket gold medal at the Asian Games could likely be decided between these two cricket giants.

Moreover, according to Gwadar Pro, shortly after the Asian Games concludes, the International Olympic Committee will convene a meeting in Mumbai to determine whether cricket, after a 128-year absence, will make a comeback to the "Olympic family." Gwadar Pro reported.

The cricket matches of this edition of the Asian Games are also being seen by insiders as the ultimate litmus test for cricket's potential re-entry into the Olympics.

In ensuring the smooth execution of these events, the host city Hangzhou in China is in its final stages of preparation.

Officials from Zhejiang University of Technology's Pingfeng campus cricket venue, where the Asian Games cricket matches are set to unfold, emphasized the critical role of pitch quality.

"The key to successful cricket matches lies in the quality of the playing surface. Thus, professional upkeep such as grass trimming and compaction needs to be carried out a month prior to the event.

Currently, the Asian Games Organizing Committee has collaborated with the Asian Cricket Council and brought in experts from Bangladesh to oversee the final maintenance," they shared during a media interview.

The group stage and final matches of the cricket event at the Hangzhou Asian Games are scheduled at Zhejiang University of Technology's Pingfeng campus.

This cricket field stands as China's largest, with a construction area of approximately 49,400 square meters and a total built-up area of around 12,689 square meters.

It boasts an elliptical playing field measuring 150 meters along its longer axis and 120 meters along its shorter axis, accompanied by seating for 1,347 spectators and an all-encompassing pavilion.

<https://pakobserver.net/pakistani-cricket-teams-set-to-compete-in-hangzhou-china-asian-games/>

## The Nation

### **Pakistan delegation visits Xinjiang to strengthen Sino-Pak ties**

ISLAMABADA - Six-member high-level Pakistani delegation recently visited China's Xinjiang region.

It was led by the former Federal Minister for Planning, Development & Special Initiatives, Ahsan Iqbal. The delegation's objective was to explore collaboration opportunities and deepen mutual understanding between Pakistan and China through Xinjiang.

During their visit, the delegation engaged in constructive discussions with Xinjiang representatives on trade, investment, and infrastructure development.

Both parties reaffirmed their dedication to enhancing bilateral trade and identifying new avenues for economic collaboration.

Xinjiang's strategic position as a gateway to Eurasian markets was underscored as a significant opportunity for Pakistan to broaden its exports.

The delegation members observed the rapid advancements made in various sectors in Xinjiang.

They attended the China-Eurasia Expo 2023 in Urumqi, toured the Cloud Computing Centre, visited a state-of-the-art hospital in Kalamay, and had a productive meeting with Ma Xingrui, a member of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee & Secretary of the Party Committee of the Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, Gwadar Pro reported on Friday.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2023-09-02/page-4/detail-2>

## **September 03, 2023**

### **Business Recorder**

#### **First Chinese cargo shipment via Torkham border reaches Afghanistan**

PESHAWAR: The first ever Afghanistan bound China cargo shipment that entered Pakistan through Sost border from Khunjerab on August 28, 2023 has crossed Torkham border for its final destination of Kabul.

The shipment was allowed to use the old Silk Route under the UN's Transports Internationaux Routiers (TIR) Convention, which provides an easy & economical route for trade between countries across the world.

On the occasion of crossing the border by China shipment a ceremony was also held at Torkham Zero point, said in a press release here on Saturday.

Directorate of Transit Trade, Peshawar, Collectorates of Customs, Appraisalment and Enforcement, Peshawar, Incharge Pak Army, Incharge NLC, representative of Afghan Gumrak, office holders of Pak Afghan Chamber of Commerce and local traders attended the ceremony. Director Pak-Afghan Joint Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PAJCCI), Ziaul-Haq Sarhadi was also present at the historic event.

“This remarkable initiative marked a major development in the realm of transit trade and will go a long way in enhancing the transit trade activities on Pak Afghan border as well as strengthening economic ties with China, Afghanistan and Central Asian republics,” observed Shamsur Rehman Wazir, Director Transit Trade Torkham while speaking on the occasion. He said the convoy of China cargo reached its destination safely and within its stipulated period of time without any hurdles. Utilization of this route by Chinese businessmen for transportation of goods to Afghanistan will open up new vistas of commerce and livelihood in Pakistan, Shams added. “This trade activity has been started on trial basis and soon its volume will be increased to a desired level,” commented Arbab Qaiser, Director Transit Trade Customs Department. In a press statement issued here, Arbab Qaiser said the scope of China goods will be expanded to Central Asian Republics after supplying goods to Afghanistan.

Sarhadi hailed crossing of first ever China cargo for Afghanistan via Khunjerab border and termed it a good omen. This development, would not only increase volume of trade at regional level, but would also create a large number of livelihood opportunities for people associated with custom clearance, goods transportation, fuel business, daily wagers, etc.

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2023/09/03/2-page/971212-news.html>

### **Pakistan Observer**

#### **Top Pakistani service-oriented enterprises participating in CIFTIS**

Ambassador of Pakistan to China Moin ul Haque officially inaugurated the Pakistan Pavilion at the China International Fair for Trade in Services (CIFTIS) here Saturday.

The pavilion showcases the diverse range of service-oriented enterprises from Pakistan, highlighting the country’s commitment to fostering international trade partnerships.

Representatives from top Pakistani service-oriented enterprises participated in the event, including companies specializing in IT, telecommunications, logistics and traveling and financial services.

Pakistan Ambassador to China, Moin ul Haque said that the Pakistan Pavilion at CIFTIS provided a platform for Pakistani businesses to showcase their capabilities and explore new avenues for trade and investment.

He said this initiative reflects Pakistan’s dedication to strengthening economic ties with China and other countries by further positioning the country as a hub for service-oriented enterprises in the region, China Economic Net (CEN) reported.

“This exhibition will support Pakistan in increasing services exports, especially in IT, e-commerce, finance and logistics.

It will also help promote regional connectivity with the presence of NLC and PIA in the exhibition.

This year, 75 countries and international organizations are participating in the CIFTIS with almost 1,868 exhibiting companies”, he added.

The top Pakistani Firms participating in CIFTIS, Special Technology Zone Authority (STZA), Pakistan International Airlines (PIA), NETSOL, ISBEI, National Bank of Pakistan, National Logistic Corporation (NLC), Fb Enterprises and others opened their booths to attract Chinese investors at CIFTIS, which takes place in Beijing from September 2 to 6.

Exhibitions, forums, business promotion conferences, supportive activities and a global services trade summit will also be held.—APP

<https://pakobserver.net/top-pakistani-service-oriented-enterprises-participating-in-ciftis/>

### **Chinese investors briefed about Qeshm free zone business opportunities**

Deputy Head of Qeshm Free Zone Organization Mansour Azimzadeh Ardebili held a meeting with Chinese investors and entrepreneurs active in Iran's southern Qeshm Island on Saturday to introduce the zone's business opportunities and potentials.

According to the news portal of Iranian free and special economic zones (FREENA), during the mentioned meeting some issues and problems faced by Chinese manufacturers active in the Qeshm Free Zone were also raised and plans were made to resolve them.

“Reviewing and preparing investment packages in Qeshm Free Zone and effective presence in China's international exhibitions were also among other subjects discussed in this meeting, Azimzadeh Ardebili said.

The secretary of Iran's Free Zones High Council has announced that 850 packages for investment in the country's free zones are ready to be presented to the investors.

“We have launched a movement to jumpstart investment in the free zones, with 850 investment packages worth about 15 billion euros ready to be presented to investors”, Hojatollah Abdolmaleki reiterated on August 27.

“We have already presented these investment packages in exhibitions in Tehran, Mashhad, Sulaymaniyah of Iraq, and Armenia, and hundreds of new investors have been identified from different regions who have expressed interest in this regard”, the official added.—  
Tehran Times

<https://pakobserver.net/chinese-investors-briefed-about-qeshm-free-zone-business-opportunities/>

## **The Nation**

### **PIA offers connected flights to 16 destinations in China via Beijing**

BEIJING - Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) has introduced connected flights between Pakistan and 16 captivating cities of China via Beijing in partnership with Air China, PIA Country Manager, Bilal Afzal said on Sunday.

These Chinese cities include Guangzhou, Wuhan, Urumqi, Shenzhen, Xian, Shenyang, Shanghai, Ningbo, Nanjing, Harbin, Hangzhou, Hohhot, Dunhuang, Chengdu, Changchun, and Chongqing, he told APP on the sidelines of China International Fair for Trade in Service (CIFTIS) in Beijing. PIA has set up a booth in Pakistan Pavilion at CIFTIS to showcase its accomplishments, particularly the role played by the national flag carrier to promote people-



to-people contacts between the people of Pakistan and China. He said that the passengers could also travel from 16 cities in China to Islamabad by availing of this offer. “PIA is currently operating one weekly flight on the Islamabad-Beijing-Islamabad route every Sunday but working on a plan to add a new direct flight between the two countries.” About discounts, he said, “PIA offers a 20 percent discount for students with free baggage of 80 kgs for economy class and 100 kgs for executive economy respectively on flights between Pakistan and China.” “The passengers can avail further discounts if tickets are purchased online,” he said.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2023-09-04/page-2/detail-1>

## **China-Pakistan sociocultural influences**

*Dr Abdus Sattar Abbasi*

CPEC and China-Pakistan relationships perfectly represent the idea of “unity in diversity and diversity in unity”. China is a multiethnic society representing “unity in diversity”, taking into account the social structures, the interaction between ethnicities, unifying the diverse cultural and communal networks, inculcating the unity across the country would not have been an easy task. China is well-versed in accommodating and negotiating to develop harmony and consensus on different issues including economic and development projects.

Pakistan is also a nation of diverse ethnicities although living together happily but still have some serious strategic conflicting priorities. It is the religion and patriotism which binds them together bringing “unity in the diversity”. But this unity falls apart when people’s political affiliations come to the fore. Sometimes they put everything at stake for a fear of losing their political space, therefore, exploit their popular support to secure instant partisan gains. The same happened to CPEC, relatively slow progress during last ten years, since inception, is probably due to the inability to inculcate consensus among all stakeholders on the project.

There are extensive sociocultural similarities between two nations with the history of cooperation and confidence at governmental level. But still, we observe clear hiccups in the implementation of CPEC. If we look at the progress of CPEC disinterestedly, we can’t excuse any of the sides. However, much of the onus lies on Pakistani counterparts; because they exposed CPEC to their internal differences and political rivalries.

China and Pakistan can create an exceptional synergy to make CPEC a historic success by utilising the Chinese pattern of “Ge” and “Ju” proposed by Fei Hsiao-tung. “Ge” helps to understand the unity in diversity and “Ju” helps to understand the dimensions of diversity. With so much in common in sociocultural aspects both nations can capitalise on the understanding of “Ge” and “Ju”.

The case of diversity in China with 56 ethnicities is much challenging than that of Pakistan. We can broadly divide ethnic diversity in Pakistan into two distinct groups of conservatives and relatively less conservatives; rest of the customs and traditions are more or less same across the country. It is probably lack of understanding of the dimensions of diversity i.e., “Ju” which needs attention to inculcate unity in the diversity.

Numerous commonalities between Pakistan and China represent “unity in diversity”; approaches towards benevolence, righteousness, modesty, loyalty and harmony truly manifest this concept. Religion constitutes beliefs, ideas, preferences and considerations about what is holy, sacred, absolute and worthy of special reverence in human lives. Social and ethical considerations are usually at the heart of any religion which determine the way of life of adherents of any religious belief. Islam is an established religion; however, Confucianism has been characterised as a system of social and ethical philosophies. In terms of social cohesion, moral values, spiritual evolution, and respect for humanity there are stark similarities between the two e.g., the concept of ‘filialpiety’ can be considered corresponding to the familism in Pakistan. Filialpiety is the core concept in Confucianism that requires one to give parents and elders utmost respect and devotion. Filialpiety is akin to the reverence of one’s ancestors and may entail unconditional obedience of seniors. Surprisingly, roles defined in filialpiety are similar to those determined in the notion of familism in Pakistan. Husband or father being head of the family unit is responsible for all provisions while wife or mother is accountable for daily routine in the households.

I feel excited putting forward the concept of “Easternism” as a foundation to determine the sociocultural impact of CPEC. The concepts of Eastern connectedness and solidarity developed considerable popularity in some of the Asian nations in the period between the two World Wars primarily focusing on Arab or Muslim cooperation and unity. However, that squeezed to an almost paralysed body of Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC). Intense illiteracy, intentional distance from modern and evolving sciences and latest technologies coupled with lack of visionary leadership throughout Islamic world for the last few centuries, Muslim world failed to capitalise on the concept.

I am intentionally distancing from terms such as “orientalism” and “Easternisation”. Because, Easternisation is generally considered as an influence with ideas or customs characteristic of eastern Asia. It is also used to explain the influence, ideas, customs, and characteristics of the eastern U.S. Whereas, orientalism probably carries somewhat negative implications these days as a label for literary analyses deprived of social or historical context.

However, emergence of CPEC as an epitome of OBOR (One Belt One Road) initiative carries different circumstances. Eastern nations have started making their mark on global front with their economic, scientific and technological excellence. Therefore, it is probably the right time to promote Easternism to inculcate unity and foster swift development of Asian nations. Recent developments in Asia, settlement of decades old frictions between Saudi Arabia and Iran suggests that nothing is impossible in bringing Asian nations closer for the benefit of entire planet.

It is just a natural phenomenon that nations when dominating other societies remain subject to several internal depletions which occupy prominence once there is decline to the civilisation. Those who were struggling keep eye on leading cultures to adopt their strengths and by the time of decline they emerge as strong contenders to fill the gap. There is no surprise that the trend will continue and people from era of deprivation may emerge as leaders for tomorrow. During this course there remain a discussion on several fronts including scientific development, societal values, and socio-cultural preferences. Western developments are awe-

inspiring, extending comfort and ease to the daily lives of people, explored all new dimensions of human life, extending human approach beyond this planet. But still there are certain fronts where West has remarkably failed in promoting transcending empathy and benevolence which is indeed a strength of Easternism.

Theoretically Sino-Pakistan sociocultural similarities suggest a strong bond between two neighbors, practically there is proven depth in the relationships of both countries but perceptually there seems a gap between two societies which needs attention. There is a need to educate civil societies on both sides that philosophically we are akin to each other, therefore, we need to work hand in hand to transform the fate of this region, to uplift the quality of life of relevant communities, and to expand Sino-Pakistan economies.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2023-09-04/page-7/detail-0>

**September 04, 2023**

**Daily Times**

### **Chinese, Pakistani universities discuss cooperation in TCM**

Vice chancellor of Academic Affairs of the Islamic University of Bahawalpur (IUB), Moazzam Jamil, visited Anhui University of Chinese Medicine (AHUCM) with four of his colleagues, accompanied by Ang Wenping, vice dean of the School of Humanities and Educational Exchange in AHUCM.

“I hope that in the future, the two universities can have more cooperation and exchanges in TCM. Both sides should give full play to their advantages and resources, and jointly promote Pak-China cooperation in TCM education,” said Moazzam Jamil.

Apart from visiting 7 TCM related academic institutes, Moazzam Jamil and his party also took a tour to the second affiliated hospital of AHUCM. In the outpatient clinic, they observed some TCM therapies such as fire needles and small needle-knife, and tasted medicine tea. They also learned acupuncture history in the cultural corridor and experienced massage, acupuncture and other therapies in the rehabilitation treatment center, CEN reported.

“The TCM therapies are special and fascinating. The visit deepened my understanding of TCM,” stated Moazzam Jamil.

Bozhou, the birthplace of the renowned Chinese physician Hua Tuo and traditional Chinese medicine culture, is another important destination for Moazzam Jamil’s TCM journey. There are around 1,000 TCM enterprises, 100,000 TCM dealers, and 1 million Chinese medicinal herbs growers in the city.

After visiting Bozhou Vocational and Technical College, the crew went to the Chinese Medicinal Herbs Market in Bozhou, which is the largest TCM professional market in the world with functions of herbal medicine distributing and pricing. “In the herbaria, we learned the names and principles of many precious Chinese herbs and the stories behind them. We are deeply impressed by the long and tortuous history of TCM development.” Moazzam Jamil noted.

Earlier this year, IUB, AHUCM and TANG International Education Group signed a tripartite cooperation memorandum in an online meeting. The two universities will cooperate in providing courses of Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM) acupuncture and massage therapies to undergraduate students, while TANG International Education Group will provide Chinese language training for Pakistani students. In the meeting, the two universities gave invitations to each other for academic exchange. Moazzam's visit to Anhui, China was in response to AHUCM's invitation.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1128930/chinese-pakistani-universities-discuss-cooperation-in-tcm/>

### **Pakistan Pavilion inaugurated at CIFTIS, top Pakistani Service enterprises participate**

The Pakistan Pavilion was officially inaugurated on Saturday by the Ambassador of Pakistan to China Moin ul Haque at the China International Fair for Trade in Services (CIFTIS). According to China Economic Net (CEN), the pavilion showcases the diverse range of service-oriented enterprises from Pakistan, highlighting the country's commitment to fostering international trade partnerships. Representatives from top Pakistani service-oriented enterprises participated in the event, including companies specializing in IT, telecommunications, logistics & traveling, and financial services.

Pakistan's Ambassador to China, Moin ul Haque said that the Pakistan Pavilion at CIFTIS provides a platform for Pakistani businesses to showcase their capabilities and explore new avenues for trade and investment.

This initiative reflects Pakistan's dedication to strengthening economic ties with China and other countries, and further positioning the country as a hub for service-oriented enterprises in the region.

"This exhibition will support Pakistan in increasing services exports, especially in IT, e-commerce, finance and logistics. It will also help promote regional connectivity with the presence of NLC and PIA in the exhibition. "This year, 75 countries and international organisations are participating in the CIFTIS with almost 1,868 exhibiting companies", he added. The top Pakistani Firms participating in CIFTIS, Special Technology Zone Authority (STZA), Pakistan International Airlines (PIA), NETSOL, ISBEI, National Bank of Pakistan, National Logistic Corporation (NLC), Fb Enterprises and others opened their booths to attract Chinese investors at CIFTIS, which takes place in Beijing from September 2 to 6. Exhibitions, forums, business promotion conferences, supportive activities and a global services trade summit will also be held.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1128952/pakistan-pavilion-inaugurated-at-ciftis-top-pakistani-service-enterprises-participate/>

### **The Express Tribune**

#### **PIA expands China connectivity with 16 cities**

Guangzhou, Wuhan, Urumqi, Shenzhen, Xian, Shenyang, Shanghai among others added to the list

BEIJING: The Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) has introduced connected flights between Pakistan and 16 cities of China via Beijing in partnership with Air China, a senior airlines official said on Sunday.

The 16 cities added to the PIA destinations include Guangzhou, Wuhan, Urumqi, Shenzhen, Xian, Shenyang, Shanghai, Ningbo, Nanjing, Harbin, Hangzhou, Hohhot, Dunhuang, Chengdu, Changchun, and Chongqing, according to an airlines official in Beijing.

Speaking on the sidelines of the China International Fair for Trade in Service (CIFTIS), PIA Country Manager Bilal Afzal said that the national-flag carrier had set up a booth at the Pakistan Pavilion at CIFTIS to showcase its role in promoting people-to-people contacts between the two countries.

“PIA is currently operating one weekly flight on the Islamabad-Beijing-Islamabad route every Sunday but working on a plan to add a new direct flight between the two countries,” he said. “PIA offers a 20% discount for students with free baggage of 80 kgs for economy and 100 kgs for executive,” he added.

Ali Imran, a Pakistani educationist in Hangzhou told APP that the connected flights to different destinations in China were a big relief and it provided great convenience to the passengers traveling between the two brotherly countries.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2434028/pia-expands-china-connectivity-with-16-cities>

**September 05, 2023**

**Business Recorder**

### **Power projects under CPEC**

Contract renegotiation proposals may again be floated

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan is likely to again float proposals 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 power deficient Afghanistan.

This idea is under active consideration at the highest level due to rising exceptional capacity payments, which has choked the entire power sector and is the main reason behind the inflated bills to consumers.

According to sources, overdues/receivables of CPEC IPPs are now Rs 300 billion despite the fact that the government established Pakistan Energy Revolving Account (PERA) from where payments are made to the Chinese IPPs.

“If the pacts with the CPEC IPPs are similarly re-negotiated as with those established under previous power policies, 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 an average project life of 30 years,” the sources added.

However, there are apprehensions that China will not entertain any such proposal of Islamabad as when initial inquiries were made with the Chinese officials to explore the

possibility of seeking similar support from CPEC-IPPs, it was indicated that doing so would not be in line with the spirit of CPEC as it would seriously affect the sanctity of contracts signed under CPEC framework agreement.

The sources maintained that the Chinese government was not viewing this request favourably given the underlying fact that such a demand may be coming at the behest of the IFIs and other western lenders.

International Monetary Fund (IMF), World Bank United States of America and western countries have time and again urged Islamabad to give similar treatment to Chinese IPPs on the pattern of other IPPs.

The GoP and three dozen IPPs had signed revised pacts in 2020 which paved the way for discounted tariff of over Rs800 billion over the 20 to30-yearlife of the project or approximately Rs 0.47 per unit. However, agreements with some wind projects of IFIs have not been revised due to serious differences between US and GoP on the proposed incentives.

The sources said, an alternate option to offset the cost i.e. \$ 0.47 billion per year can be to sell power to China for further provision of electricity to Afghanistan, adding that Pakistan can offer China to consider provision of electricity to Afghanistan through Pakistan for 30 years as part of their development assistance to Afghanistan.

China through a contract may buy power from Pakistan and provide it to Afghanistan either at cost or at reduced rates as per its political terms.

Pakistan can allocate power from its power pool to China, the sources said, adding that China can also offer to lay transmission line connecting Pakistan grid to the nearest point in Afghanistan and invest in their grid.

The power balance of Pakistan till 2030 shows that Pakistan has a surplus power of at least 3,970 MW, which will increase over time.

Pakistan will supply power on its power purchase basket price on the basis of energy transfer rate and capacity transfer rate already in place for transfer pricing of power generation cost to the Discos and KE which is currently at Rs 12/unit approximately.

The sources said through sale of 1200MW to China, Pakistan will earn approximately Rs 100 billion (\$0.57 billion) per year from the year of supply of power and for 30 years the savings will be to the tune of Rs 3,000 billion at current prices.—MUSHTAQ GHUMMAN

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2023/09/05/1-page/971401-news.html>

### **Daily Times**

#### **NLC to open land routes of Pakistan to China to materialize CPEC prospects**

*\* NLC has set up booth in Pakistan Pavilion at CIFTIS to showcase their accomplishment particularly their role in promoting trade between the regional countries*

The National Logistic Cell (NLC) is trying to open the land routes of Pakistan to the Central Asian states through China to materialize the prospects of the China-Pakistan Economic

Corridor (CPEC) flagship project, said Director General, NLC, Major Gen. Farrukh Shahzad Rao.

“We’re trying to open the land routes of Pakistan to Central Asia especially through China to materialize the prospects of China Pakistan Economic Corridor,” he told APP on the sidelines of the China International Fair for Trade in Service (CIFTIS) in Beijing.

The NLC has set up a booth in the Pakistan Pavilion at CIFTIS to showcase their accomplishment particularly their role in promoting trade between the regional countries.

He informed that the NLC has been able to open trade route from Kashgar, Xinjiang to Karachi and has joint ventures with Chinese logistic companies.

“So not only loads from Western China, we are getting loads from Shanghai, which are being brought either to Tashkurgan or Urumqi or Kashgar and then we are taking those loads to Karachi,” he added.

Farrukh Shahzad said that the NLC is also helping in boosting trade between the regional countries and added, “We are moving now cargo from Afghanistan to Kashgar and Kashgar to Kabul.” He said that in the bigger context, the company is now having trade convoys going to Uzbekistan and Tajikistan through Afghanistan for the first time.

“We are also providing facilities to our traders to go to Türkiye and we are doing round trips and we are planning to go via road to Moscow very soon,” he added. The director general expressed confidence that the NLC will integrate the whole region as far as the regional trade is concerned.

“The NLC is taking the lead in that and once, we are able to establish these trade lines, we will also be looking for multimodal transport,” he added.

Farrukh Shahzad said that the government of Pakistan is working to bring out the real potential of Pakistan as a transit trade hub. That is why we are visiting Beijing and participating in the event to present our products to different countries and clients.

He informed that he and his delegation will also be meeting the Chinese officials during the visit.

“We have fixed meeting with some of the logistics companies. We also have a marine service and an air service available. So, we are giving the complete solution to any trader who wants to have the business with us,” he added.

He said that the NLC delegation will also visit different cities of China including Jinan, Shandong province, adding, “We are going to present our products to companies which have contacted us. So, I think it will be good for both China and Pakistan.”

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1129289/nlc-to-open-land-routes-of-pakistan-to-china-to-materialize-cpec-prospects/>

## Pakistan Observer

### **China's vision for the Global South: unity and development**

When the BRICS recently decided to invite six countries to join as new members, Chinese President Xi Jinping hailed the expansion as a historic move that highlights the resolve of the BRICS to pursue unity and cooperation in the developing world. Beyond the BRICS, Xi's comment is precisely a reflection of what China envisions for the Global South.

Since war broke out in Ukraine, the US-led West has found itself in a somewhat awkward position where, despite its lobby and charm offensive, the Global South can't be persuaded into siding with the West on this war. In a recent example, a July summit between the European Union and Latin America failed to reach even a bland statement on the war due to their huge rift on this issue. The root cause of this "West against the rest" phenomenon is that the West has in many ways failed to grasp the real concerns and priorities of the Global South.

To most developing countries across Asia, Africa and Latin America, there are much more pressing issues to worry about – recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic, indebtedness, food security, climate change, etc. Plus, ties with Russia also matter to many of them, so they have pragmatically taken a neutral position that enables them to better navigate the geopolitics related to the war.

In addition, Washington's narrative in framing the war – in fact, many other international issues as well – as "democracy versus autocracy" is certainly not helpful in winning the hearts of the Global South countries. A little critical thinking would tell us that to define whether or not a country is a democracy using Western criteria alone is in and of itself undemocratic, and it only runs a risk of entrenching the existing ideological divisions in the world today.

China's ideas such as "community of shared future" and "balanced, sustainable security architecture" appear to better dovetail with the realistic need of the Global South countries. In essence, China's worldview calls for shelving frictions and prioritizing cooperation for the sake of mutual prosperity, rather than pushing countries to choose sides. More importantly, China's proposals on global governance are not empty slogans. Instead, they are based on concrete actions in China's foreign policy.

When it comes to helping mitigate conflicts, for instance, China supplies more UN peacekeeping troops than the other four permanent members of the UN Security Council combined. Since 1990, Chinese soldiers involved in UN peacekeeping missions have left their footprints in more than 20 countries and regions across Southeast Asia, the Middle East and Africa. During a June visit to China by Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas, Xi Jinping raised a three-point proposal aimed at working towards peace between Palestine and Israel. In fact, China has been involved in mediating between the two sides since 2002, when China set up its special envoy for the Middle East. Some observers might view the Iran-Saudi Arabia rapprochement as China enjoying the fruits of earlier diplomatic work done by others, but the deal was actually a result of many years of balanced diplomacy and trust building that China has carried out in the Middle East.



In China's mentality, peace and development come hand in hand. While the former certainly paves the way to the latter, the latter can also enhance the former in return. Let's not forget that China's growing economic ties with both Iran and Saudi Arabia are an indispensable factor behind Beijing's successful brokering of the Iran-Saudi rapprochement. And at a time when ASEAN has become China's largest trading partner, there are more incentives on both sides to maintain stability in the South China Sea.

In terms of development, it is no secret that China has made enormous efforts to promote trade, cross-border investment, and infrastructure connectivity across the Global South. According to data compiled by the Chinese government, the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) has over the past decade driven investments worth close to \$1 trillion by incubating over 3,000 projects around the world. As a result, some 420,000 jobs have been created and nearly 40 million people have been lifted out of poverty in countries involved in the BRI. To a large extent, it is the success of the BRI that has prompted Western countries to roll out their own initiatives in a bid to compete with China, such as the G7's Build Back Better World and the EU's Global Gateway.

From China's perspective, anyone's promise to invest in the Global South is not a bad thing. In fact, the BRI itself represents a platform that is open to the West as well, and some Western corporations have already benefited from it. In 2016, the General Electric gained orders worth \$2.3 billion for construction and engineering projects under the BRI. Similarly, Siemens has worked with over 100 Chinese partners on BRI-related energy and mining projects. Citibank and Deutsche Bank have participated in the financing of BRI projects. By comparison, given the fact that a starting point of the Western initiatives is to compete with the BRI, whether they'll provide opportunities to Chinese companies remains an open question.

Trade and investment are one aspect of China's contribution to development in the Global South. Furthermore, its economic rise over the past few decades represents a victory for the mentality that each country deserves a development path in accordance with its own conditions. China has pursued its economic achievements through a path featuring not only learning from the advanced economies but also keeping its own DNA. In this sense, there could be tremendous inspirations for underdeveloped countries regarding how to manage their future destiny.

It looks like multi-polarity is becoming a reality in the world today. In one example, the G7 industrialized countries' share of global GDP declined to less than 45% in 2021, compared to nearly 70% in the late 1980s. As a major power in the developing world, China has a responsibility to help bolster unity and prosperity in the Global South. The goal is to establish a more equitable world order with increased representation of the Global South in international affairs.

<https://pakobserver.net/chinas-vision-for-the-global-south-unity-and-development/>

## Jang News

### پاک چین مشترکہ فضائی مشقیں، جے ایف-17 لڑاکا طیارے حصہ لیں گے

چین میں پاک چین شاہین 10 مشترکہ فضائی مشقوں کا آغاز ہو گیا، پاک فضائیہ کے جے-10 سی اور جے ایف-17 تھنڈر لڑاکا طیارے حصہ لیں گے۔

ترجمان پاک فضائیہ کے مطابق شاہین 10 مشترکہ فضائی مشقیں چین کے شمال مغربی شہروں جیوکوان اور بنچوان میں منعقد کی جارہی ہیں۔

ترجمان کا کہنا تھا کہ شاہین 10 مشقوں میں معاون ایئر اور گراؤنڈ عملہ بھی صلاحیتوں کے جوہر دکھائے گا۔

پاکستان اور چین متبادل بنیادوں پر سالانہ شاہین فضائی مشقوں کی میزبانی کرتے ہیں۔

شاہین مشقیں فضائی عسکری طریقہ کار، پاک چین آپریشنل تیاریوں کو فروغ دیں گی، فضائی مشق میں ہائبرڈ وار فیئر، سائبر اسپیس اور کمپیوٹنگ جیسی خصوصیات شامل ہیں۔

ترجمان پاک فضائیہ نے کہا کہ مشقوں سے مشترکہ چیلنجز کا سامنا کرتے ہوئے فضائی سرحدوں کا تحفظ مستحکم ہو گا۔

ترجمان نے مزید کہا کہ فضائی مشقوں سے پاکستان اور چین کے ماہر ہوا بازوں کی عسکری تربیت میں بہتری ممکن ہو گی۔

<https://jang.com.pk/news/1265596>

## September 06, 2023

### Daily Times

#### **Chinese delegation, NDMA chairman discuss joint ventures in DRR**

A delegation from Southeast University Nanjing, China called on Chairman National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) Lieutenant General Inam Haider Malik on Tuesday and discussed different joint ventures in the domain disaster risk reduction and early warning. During the meeting, both sides discussed the Establishment of Joint Research Lab for Smart Disaster Prevention of Infrastructure and capacity building of existing Labs of Civil Departments of designated Universities in Pakistan, the NDMA shared on its official handle on X.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1129517/chinese-delegation-ndma-chairman-discuss-joint-ventures-in-drr/>

#### **China-Pakistan Science and Technology Cooperation moot held in Beijing**

China-Pakistan Technology and Innovation Conference, aimed at developing science & technology bilateral cooperation between China and Pakistan, was held in Beijing on Tuesday, China Economic Net (CEN) reported.

Addressing a sideline forum titled “China-Pakistan Science, Technology and Innovation Cooperation- Shared Journey to a Digital Era” at the China International Fair for Trade in Services (CIFTIS), Pakistan Ambassador to China, Moin ul Haque said that China has become a global leader in science and technology and IT fields through strategic investments

in AI, 5G, EVs, biotechnology, renewal energy, robotics, big data and e-commerce, adding that Pakistan would enhance technology cooperation.

“Pakistan itself is committed to its “Digital Pakistan” vision, tapping into its young and enterprising population. We are fostering startup culture and have established the Special Technology Zone Authority to attract tech companies to set up R&D centers and manufacturing units in Pakistan.

By offering lucrative tax incentives, we have seen a surge in our IT sector in recent years”, he added.

The ambassador further said that China and Pakistan had identified IT and science and technology cooperation blueprint under the CPEC framework. It was a conscious choice to organize this event on the sidelines of CIFTIS which has now become a world-renowned forum for services trade. As part of our broader economic partnership, we are focusing on fintech, IT, ecommerce and logistics. Pakistan’s largest logistics company NLC is participating in this conference today.

“We have also launched China-Pakistan Digital, Green, and Health Corridors to harness the potential of our two countries in these fields.

We are establishing linkages between our academic institutions, research organizations and IT companies for practical implementation of our vision and for going forward on a shared journey of digital era. In major milestone, we have recently set up China-Pakistan Joint Research Center on Earth Sciences”, he added.

Ghulam Qadir, Commercial Councilor of Pakistan embassy Beijing briefed audience about current business opportunities between two countries.

” I invited all Chinese businessmen in IT sector to join us and enhance bilateral cooperation, and facilitate technology transfer to enable the development of Special Technology Zones across Pakistan”, he added.

Xiaodong Zhang, President, ZBRA China said we should jointly Write a New Chapter in China-Pakistan Science and Technology Cooperation.

He further said that Pakistan and China are committed to developing a community with shared knowledge and Chinese expertises would enhance cooperation in future.

Khan Muhammad, Science Counselor at Pakistan Embassy in Beijing said that today event we signed different MOUs to support science and technology development.

“Signing of Strategic Cooperation Agreement on establishing China Pakistan STI Center in China between ZBRA and China Construction Huaxia (Beijing) Industrial Operation Company and Strategic Cooperation Agreement between ZBRA Beijing Time-Honored Brands Association are signed to promote cooperation between China and Pakistan “, he added.

It is to be noted that the top Pakistani firms participating in CIFTIS, Special Technology Zone Authority (STZA), Pakistan International Airlines (PIA), NETSOL, ISBEI, National Bank of Pakistan, National Logistic Corporation (NLC), Fb Enterprises and other opened

their booths to attract Chinese investors at CIFTIS, takes place in Beijing from September 2 to 6.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1129491/china-pakistan-science-and-technology-cooperation-moot-held-in-beijing/>

### **Pakistan Observer**

#### **Pakistan-China joint air exercise ‘Shaheen-X’ commences**

The annual Sino-Pak joint air exercise, Shaheen-X, has commenced in the Jiuquan and Yinchuan cities of Northwest China. The Pakistan Air Force’s lead fighter aircraft J-10 C and JF-17 are participating in the exercise along with air and ground crew.

The People’s Liberation Army Air Force and PAF have been conducting Shaheen joint exercises since 2011 which are being hosted by both countries on an alternate basis, the PAF said in a statement.

“The Shaheen exercise aims to enhance the aerial combat practices, operational readiness, promoting interoperability and creating synergy amongst the participating strategic and time-tested allies in the region,” it added.

The statement said

that the incorporation of features like hybrid warfare, cyberspace and computing in this air exercise would augment Pakistan Air Force’s effectiveness in the dynamic and evolving landscape of modern warfare. The exercise would leverage the iron-brother countries to develop a comprehensive defence strategy to further consolidate their capacity of safeguarding their aerial boundaries in the face of shared challenges. The tenth joint aerial exercise between the venerable PLAAF and PAF heralds a remarkable endeavour to strengthen the bonds of camaraderie and unity between the air forces of both countries. The exercise is all set to elevate the calibre of practical combat training for participating adroit pilots and valiant personnel. Through such joint ventures, PAF reaffirms its unwavering commitment to foster regional harmony, international security and perpetual advancement in its own prowess, the statement further said.

<https://pakobserver.net/pakistan-china-joint-air-exercise-shaheen-x-commences/>

### **The Nation**

#### **Digital Silk Road promotes e-commerce between China, Pakistan**

BEIJING-Before sleeping, Kashan Khan, a Pakistani doctoral student of Tianjin University in north China’s Tianjin Municipality, ordered vegetables and meat for cooking on a shopping app on his mobile phone, and he would pick up the goods on the way to the dormitory the next day.

“The online shopping in China is convenient. I don’t have time to go to shopping malls or markets. I can buy everything I need online, even the flowers for my girlfriend,” said Khan, who was busy with scientific research, and online shopping helped save a lot of time for him. China’s digital trade has developed vigorously in recent years. According to the data released

by the China Academy of Information and Communications Technology, the scale of China's digital economy increased by 4.1 trillion U.S. dollars, with an average annual compound growth rate of 14.2 percent from 2016 to 2022.

"I have lived in China for seven years. I saw the rapid development of e-commerce, mobile payment, and artificial intelligence in China by myself. I hope that Pakistan can promote a digital economy like China and people in my hometown can benefit from this economy mode," Khan told Xinhua. Khan's wish has come true, as the dividend of China's booming digital trade has provided a pool of business opportunities and injected fresh hope into countries along the Belt and Road. To keep up with the digital transformation trends, the Digital Silk Road was launched. The Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) technology dimension extends from the ocean floor to outer space, enabling artificial intelligence, big data applications, and other strategic internet solutions.

As of November 2022, China had established the Digital Silk Road cooperation mechanism with 16 countries and advanced the Silk Road E-commerce bilateral cooperation mechanism with 26 countries, including Pakistan. Samoyed Cloud Technology, a Chinese scientific and technological enterprise focused on artificial intelligence, big data, mobile Internet, and cloud computing, tapped into the vast potential of the market of Pakistan's digital economy and launched the e-commerce platform EZTRADER to provide digital trade services for the local retailers importing Chinese products.

"Chinese products are popular in Pakistan. Since the platform EZTRADER was launched in May of this year, it has attracted more than 3,000 local retailers, completely exceeding our expectations," said Lin Jianming, chairman and CEO of the company. Muhammad Rizwan, a 35-year-old retailer of mobile phone accessories in Rawalpindi, Pakistan, settled in EZTRADER swiftly after it was launched. "E-commerce platforms provide a centralized space where businesses can connect, negotiate, and conduct transactions. We don't need to search for potential partners or clients individually. We can trade directly with manufacturers or suppliers in China without intermediaries. This can significantly reduce the cost," said Muhammad Rizwan. Alibaba.com, an online business-to-business marketplace for global wholesalers under the Alibaba Group, has launched foreign trade business in many countries along the Belt and Road. Pakistan topped the number of overseas wholesalers on the platform, and the annual growth rate of the number of Pakistani wholesalers was over 64 percent during the COVID-19 pandemic.

For lack of capital and sales channels, a Pakistani couple, Aziz-ur-Rehman and Sadia Aziz, struggled in the first two years after they had established their baby clothing brand with their savings of 1.5 million rupees (about 18,000 U.S. dollars) in 2018. In 2020, Alibaba.com provided them with complete online business solutions and online training sessions. Their company was connected with global customers through the platform and turned losses into profits. "Up to now, our company's business revenue was over 3 million rupees and grew at a rate of 1 million rupees per year. China provided us with a lot of opportunities in the digital economy. We believe Pakistan's digital economy is promising in the future," said Aziz-ur-Rehman.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2023-09-06/page-8/detail-5>

## The News

### **Justice eludes Chinese investor ‘defrauded’ of \$13m**

*Fakhar Durrani*

ISLAMABAD: A Chinese investor who lost \$13 million dollars is running from pillar to post to get justice against an alleged fraud committed by his Pakistani partners.

In 2020, a Chinese national ZhiCheng Li registered a \$13 million fraud’s complaint with the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) against his two Pakistani partners. The FIA initiated the inquiry but it was mysteriously stalled without any progress. The investigation agency took up the matter again only to transfer the case from one department to the other.

The FIA Islamabad Zone director transferred the inquiry No 53/2020 to the Anti-Corruption Circle (ACC) from the FIA’s Commercial Banking Circle (CBC) without giving a hearing opportunity to the complainant ZhiCheng Li alias Donald, a foreign investor from Shanghai.

Li travelled several times to Pakistan only to get the case registered with the FIA. According to him, as soon as he furnished all the evidence to establish his case, the relevant director transferred the case to a non-relevant department on the application of the accused.

The FIA director quickly responded to the accused’s application and shifted the inquiry within three days, ignoring the complainant’s request for representation, who had travelled from Shanghai to follow his case, he said.

As per the documents, it traces back to 2015, when China HBP won a contract worth \$178 million from the Oil & Gas Development Authority (OGDCL) for supply of processing gas units, LPG Recovery Plant and allied facilities at Nashpa oil field located at district Karak of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. The China HBP had a Sole Agency Agreement with a company founded by ZhiCheng Li for Pakistani Market,

In order to execute the project, Li, in partnership with two Pakistanis established the local company with the shareholding — ZhiCheng 45 percent, and the two Pakistanis partners having 45 percent and 10 percent respectively — incorporated with the SECP. Li knew both the Pakistanis since 2004, as he had been exporting solar panels, accessories for motor boots, and fabrics to them.

The company won several other projects in the field of energy and earned sufficient profits that roughly amounted to over \$13 million. However, according to Li, all his efforts in winning contracts ended up in losing all his earnings to the hands of different people from public and private sector.

According to him, at the same time, when he was making efforts to win new contracts for the company his Pakistani partners were hatching a conspiracy to capture his entire business by establishing a duplicate entity with the same name and style of the company. The duplicate entity was a partnership firm, registered with the registrar of firms having the shareholdings of the two Pakistanis.

In addition, both Pakistanis also opened a parallel bank account with the title of the company in two private banks using fake affidavits and fake signatures. During this period, most of the

payments were encashed through the bank accounts of the duplicate firm, defrauding Li from his share of around \$13 million in various projects.

The China HBP made various transactions to the bank accounts forwarded by one the Pakistani partners as CEO of the company — (i) \$1,113,211 was remitted to the company, (ii) \$525,000 was remitted to the duplicate firm and (iii) \$800,000 to pay for the services against contract.

In addition, the accused submitted fake form-29 dated 2-11-2016, to tamper the records of SECP, to reduce ZhiCheng Li's shareholding from 45 percent to merely one percent. After knowing about this forgery Li filed a complaint with the FIA in October 2017 against the record tampering. However, the FIA after holding the inquiry for three years closed it in 2020 without citing any reason.

Li filed another complaint to reopen the inquiry and furnished all the facts to the new investigation officer. Interestingly, the FIA transferred the inquiry from one department to the other on just one application of the accused, whereas the complainant had been trying for the last six years to get justice but he was denied by the Pakistani investigation agency. According to Li, he has approached all the possible legal forums and investigating authorities, including court, SECP, FIA and NAB but he is still waiting for justice. The News called on the given phone numbers of Li's Pakistani partners but they did not respond.

When contacted, FIA's Investigation Officer Mukhtar said the case has been transferred because the accused raised objections to him. It is up to the authority to hand over the case to anyone. To a question about the delay of the inquiry, he said because of the workload the case might have been delayed. When asked why the inquiry was not completed despite passage of more than three years, the IO said initially the case was investigated by another officer and later transferred to him. He, however, said he cannot go into details as the inquiry was still pending.

The News also contacted FIA Islamabad Director Rana Abdul Jabbar who said he could not talk as he was on leave.

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=235367>

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=235477>

## K2 Daily News



[https://www.epaper.dailyk2.com/Home?Issue=NP\\_ICT&Page=Gilgit%20Baltistan%20News&Date=2023-09-06](https://www.epaper.dailyk2.com/Home?Issue=NP_ICT&Page=Gilgit%20Baltistan%20News&Date=2023-09-06)

**September 07, 2023**

**Daily Times**

### **China-Pakistan Double Hundred Enterprises Project showcases plaque distribution**

In a remarkable display of partnership and economic cooperation, the China-Pakistan Double Hundred Enterprises Cooperation project took center stage at the China-Pakistan Technology and Innovation Conference held at the China International Fair for Trade in Services (CIFTIS).

Plaques were distributed to commemorate the milestone achievements of this initiative. The event, held in Beijing, highlighted the commitment of both nations to enhance economic connectivity and foster development.

Khan Muhammad, Science Counselor at Pakistan's Embassy in Beijing told China Economic Net that the Double Hundred Enterprises Cooperation project is a significant bilateral undertaking between China and Pakistan, aimed at promoting economic growth, trade, and investment. The project focuses on fostering collaboration between two hundred startup enterprises from each country across various IT sectors, including IoT, clouding technology, and others.

He further said that the China-Pakistan cooperation project was prominently featured, with a special ceremony dedicated to the distribution of plaques that recognized the outstanding contributions made by these enterprises. This gesture not only celebrated the achievements of the project but also underscored the strong and enduring friendship between the two nations.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1129811/china-pakistan-double-hundred-enterprises-project-showcases-plaque-distribution/>

### **Chinese entrepreneurs invited to benefit from skilled human resource in Pakistan**

Commercial Counselor of the Embassy of Pakistan in China, Ghulam Qadir has invited Chinese entrepreneurs to invest in and benefit from young and skilled human resources in Pakistan.

Addressing the China International Economics and Technology Administration Forum (CIETAF) at the China International Fair for Trade in Services (CIFTIS), Ghulam Qadir said the theme of this forum empowered entrepreneurs, especially small businesses, and marginalized communities, providing them with a level playing field to compete and succeed in the local and global markets, the CEN reported.

He said that 91% of Pakistani products come to China at zero customs duty, and he hoped to increase exports to China by providing special incentives to investors from China.



“Pakistan is the 5th most populous country in the world and enjoys a huge demographic advantage as over 65% of the population is between the age of 18 and 35. Our youth is tech savvy and playing an active part in the digital initiatives in the country”, he added.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1129810/chinese-entrepreneurs-invited-to-benefit-from-skilled-human-resource-in-pakistan/>

### **Afghanistan: China and Pakistan are on the Right Track**

Recently, in response to the Taliban reneging on their promises of upholding human rights, the UN convened in Doha, Qatar, to discuss with the “international community how to engage with the Taliban” on issues including human rights, in particular women’s rights, inclusive governance, counter-terrorism and drug trafficking.

This summit on Afghanistan and Afghan women comprised 21 countries and two organisations (the EU and the Organisation of Islamic Organisation) but ironically did not include a single representative from either the Taliban or Afghan women. Suhail Shaheen, the Taliban’s Head of the Political Office in Doha retorted, “How will they implement decisions while we are not part of it? Issues can only be solved through a pragmatic approach, not one-sided decisions.”

It is not often that I agree with the Taliban, but in this instance, I strongly believe that excluding the Taliban from talks on Afghanistan is unproductive. In stark contrast, the dialogue held between the foreign ministers of China, Pakistan and Afghanistan only a few days after the UN summit is far more productive. Understandably, the international community is furious at the Taliban for reneging on their promises. However, ceasing communication, humanitarian and economic assistance, and imposing sanctions on Afghanistan does nothing to resolve the problem. “The economic base determines the superstructure.” In China, there is a popular saying, “Development is the key to resolving all problems.” Indeed, those who sincerely wish to address the human rights problem in Afghanistan need to realise that the root cause of the problem is that Afghanistan is poverty-stricken.

Before the Taliban had taken over Afghanistan in 2021, financial assistance from the US and other international donors comprised 2/3 of Afghanistan’s annual budget. Even discounting the rampant corruption plaguing Afghanistan, for the Afghan economy to stay afloat required a considerable amount of foreign assistance. Thus, it is not surprising that once the financial assistance has stopped, the Afghan economy is on the verge of collapse, and the Taliban regime is unable to provide necessities such as food and health services to the people of Afghanistan.

According to the UN, 97% of Afghans live below the poverty line.

Consequently, this resulted in a surge of terrorist activities in Afghanistan, which spilt over into nearby countries. In 2022, al-Qaeda leader Ayman al-Zawahiri was killed in a US drone attack in Kabul. Confirming that the Taliban have violated the Doha Accord by harbouring terrorists, Afghanistan had once again become a haven for terrorist organisations. Currently, between 8,000 and 10,000 foreign terrorist fighters reside in Afghanistan. Tehrik-e Taliban (TTP), East Turkestan Islamic Movement (ETIM), Daesh-Khorasan Province (Daesh-K), and

the Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan (IMU) are once again gaining momentum. According to the UN, Daesh-K had witnessed a 200% increase in recruits over merely half a year, and TTP had become “more cohesive, presenting a greater threat in the region.” Encouraged by the Taliban’s success, they have increased their attacks by 50% since the Taliban takeover.

Addressing terrorism and other issues, such as the illicit drugs trade or the Taliban’s violation of human rights, requires talking with them, no matter how frustrating it might be. Talking with the Taliban is the only way to ensure peace and stability in the region. It is the only way to identify overlapping interests with the Taliban, such as economic development, and ways to actualise them.

The saying “sticks and carrots” implies that punishments should be used in conjunction with rewards. Punishing the Taliban by not recognising it as a full member of the international community should suffice. Turning Afghanistan into a “hermit kingdom” is excessive. The Taliban’s human rights violation is not just because of the Taliban leadership’s extreme interpretation of Islam, the vast majority of Afghans live in the countryside, being impoverished and uneducated, they are conservatives just like the Taliban.

Even without the Taliban in power or the Ministry of Vice and Virtue to enforce rules, they would not have had their daughters attend school. For the situation to improve once and for all requires temporarily placing aside our differences and instead, prioritise rebuilding post-war Afghanistan, because those differences will dissipate once Afghanistan’s economy gets back on track.

According to the Afghanistan Analysts Network, senior Taliban officials located in Qatar are sending their daughters to school despite them banning girls from receiving education in Afghanistan. Some Taliban ministers have even displayed a preference for marrying well-educated women, arguing that these women “know the rights of their husband better and can train their children better.”

This is a positive development, proving that given enough exposure to modernity, given enough wealth and education, even the Taliban will abandon their fanaticism in favour of secularism.

The international community should continue to engage in dialogues with the Taliban, and convince the Taliban to look at countries that follow a more moderate interpretation of Islam, such as Pakistan or the Gulf States for example. These countries are perfect examples that secularisation does not mean the complete abandonment of Islamic values and local customs. There is a middle path, a Goldilocks zone. A zone that is neither “too hot” nor “too cold,” but “just right.”

However, encouraging the Taliban to adopt a more moderate interpretation of Islam cannot be achieved if countries such as the US continue to shirk their duties. Since the US is primarily responsible for the destruction of Afghanistan, it should be responsible for the reconstruction of post-war Afghanistan. Instead, not only did the US freeze 7 billion US Dollars of Afghan assets, it also ceased all contact with the Taliban, and imposed economic sanctions on Afghanistan. It has been proven that economic sanctions are ineffective and

counterintuitive, hurting only the local populace, and strengthening the popularity of the sanctioned government.

How can women's rights improve in Afghanistan if its people live on less than 2 dollars per day?

How can it improve if the Afghan people continue to be deprived of all the comforts associated with modernity? How can it improve if the majority of Afghans are illiterate and uneducated, and can only turn to religious fundamentalism to keep them afloat in a sea of despair? How can the illicit drug trade be eradicated if there are no jobs that can bring in the same level of income as growing poppy? If the US seriously cares about the people of Afghanistan, if it believes what it preaches, then the US should stop shedding "crocodile tears," or try to prove to itself that it has the moral high ground. Instead, the US should talk with the Taliban on how to rebuild Afghanistan.

Recently, in an ironic turn of events, the Taliban killed the Daesh-K leader responsible for the killing of 13 American soldiers at the Kabul International Airport back in 2021.

This suggests that Taliban and American interests do converge at times. This a perfect opportunity and the US should capitalise on this and offer to the Taliban to fight this common enemy together, once having gained the Taliban's trust, then the US could discuss with the Taliban the reconstruction of Afghanistan.

Yes, the Taliban is not exactly a paradigm of human rights. Yes, there is an immense canyon of ideological difference between the Taliban and the rest of the world, but as unappealing as the idea of cooperating with them might be, the US need to realise that after a protracted war and a failed regime change, the Taliban are here to stay. Besides, compared with the previous Ghani regime, which is corrupt, unpopular and ineffectual, the Taliban has better control over Afghanistan, and could more effectively enforce its rules beyond Kabul, they just need to be guided in the right direction.

However, the international community needs to be aware that talks should not be limited to the government in Kabul. The Taliban is not a unified group, it suffers from internal rivalry and factionalism. Currently, the Taliban is divided between the Kandahari group based in Kandahar led by Deputy Prime Minister Abdul Ghani Baradar, and the Haqqani group based in Kabul led by Interior Minister Sirajuddin Haqqani.

It has become evident that Kandahar – the birthplace of the Taliban movement, has become the de facto capital of Afghanistan, not only because the Taliban Supreme Leader Mullah Haibatullah Akhundzada resides in the city, but because the Taliban's Chief Spokesperson has also been relocated there recently.

This is further complicated by the fact that Afghanistan does not so much resemble a Westphalian nation-state, but rather, it is a loose confederation of 60 tribes, with over 400 subdivisions. To the members of these tribes, loyalty to one's tribe is more important than to one's country.

Therefore, efforts should be made to talk with all parties in Afghanistan, since the central government in Kabul has only nominal control over Afghanistan, and it is difficult for outside observers to predict which group will be in power in a few years.

In the joint statement between China, Pakistan, and Afghanistan after the three countries' foreign ministers had convened in Islamabad. China and Pakistan reiterated their belief that reconstruction and economic development should be prioritised in Afghanistan and that countries should lift their sanctions on Afghanistan and return frozen Afghan assets. In contrast, talking about women's rights in Afghanistan without any Afghan women present or any plans beyond imposing more sanctions. China, Pakistan and Afghanistan talked about the Central Asia-South Asia Power Project, the Trans-Afghanistan Pipeline, the Trans-Afghanistan Railway, the Belt and Road Initiative, and extending the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor to Afghanistan. In my opinion, even at its current stage, it is far more productive. These infrastructure projects are concrete ways to realise Afghanistan's potential as "a hub of regional connectivity," and to bring sustainable economic development, prosperity and human rights to Afghanistan.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1129738/afghanistan-china-and-pakistan-are-on-the-right-track/>

### **Solarization in full swing in Gwadar**

Motivated by the solar donation drive launched by China in Gwadar in phases over the last few years that facilitates more than 4,000 locals and helps mitigate their power outage woes, the solarization of Gwadar is gaining momentum.

In the "Dashti market" and "Airport Road market", two main electronic markets in Gwadar, there used to be a considerable rush of customers battered by long-hour power breakdowns since the onset of the sweltering season of summer. Three years back, these markets did not have solar panels, batteries, or operating systems, according to Gwadar Pro.

After China unveiled the initiative of distributing solar systems among the most deserving groups in Gwadar that turned their electricity nightmares into pleasant life, awareness started gripping the people of Gwadar with insights that solar system is a key solution to power outages.

According to an official of the Gwadar Chamber of Commerce and Industry, sales of solar panels and systems are booming in Gwadar as residential and commercial buildings are being solarized.

Wasim Baloch, a trader of Dashti Electronic market, told Gwadar Pro that among his customers, 40 percent are interested in buying solar systems for homes or outlets.

When Noor Muhammad, a customer at Airport Road Market, was asked about his reason for purchasing solar sets, he said that perpetual power failure has become a pain in the neck. Going solar is the sole solution for him to get rid of the load-shedding menace, he added.

Locals who are the beneficiaries of solar systems donated by China said, "Power breakdown is no problem now, we are rescued as China's solar systems continue to serve the unserved people of Gwadar," said Abdul Rashid, fisherman and resident of the Gazarwaan area near Masjid-e-Aqsa in Gwadar old City.

The Chinese Embassy in Pakistan and China's Ministry of Ecology and Environment donated 4,000 sets of solar photovoltaic systems and LED lights last year.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1129841/solarization-in-full-swing-in-gwadar/>

### Dawn News

#### **Security of Chinese workers beefed up in KP**

MANSEHRA: Deputy Inspector General of Police Hazara Range Mohammad Ijaz Khan on Wednesday said the security of Chinese nationals working on mega energy projects in Upper Kohistan district had been enhanced.

“Though we have beefed up security of Chinese engineers and labourers at the sites of Dasu hydropower and other projects, you should be extra vigilant,” the DIG told police officials in a darbar meeting at police lines in Upper Kohistan district.

He said Chinese nationals came to Pakistan to execute development projects for the country's progress, so the police should provide them with foolproof security.

The DIG said police officials misusing authority would be dealt with strictly.

Mr Khan, who visited the district for the first time after assuming his responsibilities as the DIG, laid a wreath at the memorial of martyred police officials.

He was presented a guard of honour by a police contingent. Also in the day, the DIG addressed a group of elders and clerics from different parts of the district.

He said the people held clerics in high esteem and therefore, the latter should advocate brotherhood in different schools of thoughts.

Meanwhile, Pakistan Peoples Party provincial general secretary Shujah Salim Khan on Wednesday said his party would form the next government in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa after winning elections.

“We have decided to field candidates in all provincial assembly constituencies hoping that their victory will lead us to power,” Mr Khan told a public meeting in Oghi tehsil here.

Mr Khan said the PPP was the most popular party in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa with the people wanting to see it in power again.

He said his party would come to power in the centre and other provinces as well after sweeping general elections.

“The [Pakistan] Peoples Party is the people's only hope for resolution of the national economic and political challenges,” he said.

The PPP leader called for general elections to be held on time and said only an elected government could address the current economic and political challenges.

He said he had yet to decide about where to contest elections in Mansehra.

Mr Khan said the party would field election candidates in Hazara division as people from Haripur to Upper Kohistan to Torghar to Kolai-Palas wanted it to come to power.

On the occasion, PPP Hazara president Malik Farooq said people elected his party's nominees as tehsil, village and neighbourhood council chairmen and would vote for its candidates in the next polls.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1774445>

### **The Express Tribune**

#### **Chinese investment in Pak workforce sought**

Envoy highlights favourable trade conditions

BEIJING: Commercial Counsellor of the Embassy of Pakistan in China, Ghulam Qadir, extended a warm invitation to Chinese entrepreneurs to consider investing in Pakistan. Speaking at the China International Economics and Technology Administration Forum (CIETAF) during the China International Fair for Trade in Services (CIFTIS), Qadir emphasised the potential benefits of tapping into Pakistan's young and skilled workforce.

The theme of the forum, which centres on empowering entrepreneurs, especially small businesses and marginalised communities, offers a unique opportunity for Chinese businesses to compete and thrive in both local and global markets, Qadir noted.

Highlighting the favourable trade conditions between the two nations, Qadir mentioned that 91% of Pakistani products are imported into China with zero customs duty. He expressed the intention to further boost exports to China by providing special incentives to Chinese investors.

"Pakistan is the 5th most populous country in the world and enjoys a significant demographic advantage, with over 65% of the population aged between 18 and 35. Our youth is tech-savvy and actively engaged in digital initiatives," he added.

Qadir also pointed out that Pakistan offers a substantial e-commerce market with a strong focus on export-oriented industries. In a recent development, over 200 Chinese businessmen visited Karachi for the 1st Food and Agri Expo, demonstrating interest in e-commerce ventures.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2434553/chinese-investment-in-pak-workforce-sought>

### **The Nation**

#### **New Chinese envoy arrives in Islamabad**

ISLAMABAD - New Chinese ambassador to Pakistan Jiang Zaidong arrived in Islamabad yesterday to assume the charge. The Chinese embassy shared the development on social medial platform X. It said the new envoy was warmly welcomed by Pakistani officials and representatives of the Embassy. "Ambassador Jiang is committed to strengthening China-Pakistan ironclad friendship and all-weather strategic cooperation," it said. In late July, China had nominated Jiang Zaidong as the new ambassador to Pakistan. He is a senior official at China's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and an experienced diplomat. The post of a permanent Chinese ambassador to Pakistan was vacant for over six months since the return of former

ambassador Nong Rong to China. Pang Chunxue, Charge d' Affaires of the Chinese Embassy in Pakistan, had been performing her duties as an acting ambassador.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2023-09-07/page-12/detail-1>

### Jang News

#### پاک چین سیاحت کے سال کی تقریبات سے ملکی سیاحت کو فروغ ملے گا، وصی شاہ

وزیر مملکت برائے سیاحت وصی شاہ کا کہنا ہے کہ پاکستان چین سیاحت کے سال کی تقریبات سے ملک میں سیاحت کو فروغ ملے گا۔

پاکستان ٹورازم ڈیولپمنٹ کارپوریشن اور پاکستان چین دوستی الیوسٹیٹیشن خیر کے زیر اہتمام تقریب میں گفتگو کرتے ہوئے وصی شاہ نے کہا کہ ہم پاکستان اور چین کے درمیان گہرے ہوتے ثقافتی اقتصادی تعلقات کا سال منا رہے ہیں۔ چین، قدیم روایات اور جدید عجائبات کی سر زمین طویل عرصے سے دنیا بھر کے سیاحوں کی توجہ کا مرکز رہا ہے۔

وصی شاہ نے کہا کہ چینی شہریوں کے لیے بدھ ازم سے متعلق بھی پاکستان میں دیکھنے کو بہت کچھ ہے، چینی سیاح اب ای پورٹل کے ذریعے سیاحتی ویزا کے لیے آن لائن درخواست دے سکتے ہیں۔

اس موقع پر چین کے ثقافتی تونسلرز یگ بینگ نے کہا کہ پاکستان ثقافتی اور مذہبی ورثے سے مالا مال ہے کیونکہ دونوں ممالک کی تہذیبوں کی ایک لمبی تاریخ ہے۔

<https://jang.com.pk/news/1266287>

### September 08, 2023

### Pakistan Observer

#### **China's corridor for sustainable development**

AMIDST the global chaos caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and ongoing uncertainties in the international arena, China is taking bold steps to reduce its international isolation and stimulate economic growth. One key focus of China's developmental strategy is encapsulated in the theme of the 2023 China International Fair for Trade in Services (CIFTIS): "Openness leads to development, cooperation creates a win-win future." This theme reflects China's commitment to fostering sustainable development through international engagement and collaboration. The theme of the 2023 CIFTIS underscores the importance of openness and cooperation in driving economic development. It represents a significant departure from isolationist policies and highlights China's determination to play a more active and constructive role on the global stage. In essence, this theme is a call to action for Chinese society to unite and contribute to the nation's development.

On the global stage, China is rapidly expanding its political space in the realm of economic development. The transition from a unipolar world to a more multilateral framework, coupled with the rise of protectionist measures in the West, has sparked a profound debate over global developmental politics. China's response, characterized by its commitment to openness and cooperation, stands as an alternative model of development. It positions China as a global leader willing to create a win-win situation for all nations through mutual collaboration.

The 2023 China International Fair for Trade in Services (CIFTIS) represents a multifaceted dimension of China's global engagement. On one side, it embodies economic development and innovation, while on the other, it serves as a political and diplomatic response to the prevailing unipolar world order and counters the Eurocentric developmental model. China's socialist ideology in the 21st century has gained widespread appeal among the world's eight billion inhabitants, offering a vision of sustainable development through harmonious coexistence, multilateralism and the preservation of cultural heritage. China, at the forefront of providing an alternative sustainable multilateral world order, has attracted the attention and support of many nations. The recent BRICS meeting and the participation of countries like Cambodia, Malaysia and global organizations and companies in CIFTIS highlight the growing global interest in China's approach to development.

In his video speech at the 2023 CIFTIS, President Xi Jinping articulated a vision that aligns with the theme. He emphasized China's commitment to making its development environment more open and inclusive. President Xi's vision emphasizes the importance of innovation, digitalization and modernization in driving sustainable development. It also underscores China's willingness to collaborate with other nations and parties in pursuit of inclusive development. CIFTIS has been a platform for promoting sustainable development not only within China but also on the global stage. Over the years, it has attracted a diverse array of participants from around the world, including over 500 Global Fortune 500 companies and industry-leading enterprises. This internationalization reflects China's commitment to fostering global economic integration and cooperation. China's corridor for sustainable development, with its theme of openness and cooperation, has not only resonated within the nation but also garnered attention worldwide. Inspiring from China's initiative for global sustainable development, a group of young professionals from Pakistan established Belt and Road Initiative for Sustainable Development (BRISD) – a think tank to carry-out research and advocacy on sustainable development along Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).

China's bilateral relationships and active participation in the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), highlight the country's commitment to fostering economic connectivity and mutual development with its global neighbours. Chinese developmental initiatives based on harmonious coexistence are a counter hegemonic response to euro-centrism. The Eurocentric developmental model, historically rooted in colonialism and imperialism, has long been the dominant paradigm for global development. It prioritizes the interests of the West and perpetuates a hierarchical power structure that leaves many nations marginalized. This one-size-fits-all approach has often led to unequal development, fostering global disparities and social unrest. From a Marxist perspective, this unilateral development approach creates unevenness at a global scale, perpetuating economic and social inequalities that serve as breeding grounds for unrest and conflict.

China's counter to Eurocentric hegemony lies in its "Corridor for Sustainable Development" initiative, guided by the principles of openness leading to development and cooperation creating a win-win future. This initiative seeks to provide an inclusive and equitable path to development that embraces diversity, respects sovereignty and promotes mutual benefits. It is grounded in the belief that global peace and prosperity can only be achieved through



harmonious coexistence and a multilateral approach and it serves as an antidote to the divisive and exploitative nature of the Eurocentric model. The BRICS Summit 2023 exemplifies the growing global interest in multilateralism and China's vision of development. These nations, representing diverse cultures, economies and political systems, have come together to challenge the traditional power structures that have dominated the global stage. The BRICS countries recognize that a multilateral approach to development is not only more equitable but also essential for global stability.

The 2023 China International Fair for Trade in Services (CIFTIS) serves as a testament to China's commitment to multilateral engagement. This event brings together countries like Cambodia, Malaysia and numerous global organizations and companies, offering a platform for collaborative economic growth and cultural exchange. By participating in CIFTIS, these nations and entities signal their endorsement of China's alternative developmental model. China's counter developmental hegemony represents a paradigm shift away from the Eurocentric developmental model that has dominated the world for centuries. Grounded in principles of multilateralism, cooperation and cultural preservation, China's approach offers a path to sustainable development that resonates with a diverse and globalized world. The recent BRICS meeting and the participation in CIFTIS underscore the growing international support for China's vision. In the pursuit of global peace and prosperity, harmonious coexistence and a multilateral approach, as championed by socialist China, may prove to be the key to a more equitable and just world order for all.

—The writer is a Pakistani Climate Youth Leader, UN SDGs Advocate and an expert on Youth Development in the Global South.

<https://pakobserver.net/chinas-corridor-for-sustainable-development/>

### **CIFTIS proved best forum for service-oriented enterprises to attract investment: Achakzai**

China playing imperative role in overall development of world

The 5-day China International Fair for Trade in Services (CIFTIS) held on Sept 2-6, 2023 in Beijing proved an important forum for service-oriented enterprises of Pakistan to explore new markets in the world.

These views were expressed by Adviser to the Speaker of the Balochistan Assembly, Muhammad Naseem Khan Achakzai talking to China Media Group (CMG).

The CIFTIS turned out to be one of the biggest as 60 countries participated and over 1,100 companies presented their technologies and services during the five-day event.

It subsequently had a lot of other parallel events and forums involved.

President Xi Jinping also addressed one of the sessions of the event.

While highlighting efforts on part of China to provide a viable environment, Naseem Khan Achakzai said China was playing an important role for the overall development agenda around the world.

About the CIFTIS, he said it showed the world another angle from China about the country leadership's vision for global development and we called it "Chinese Model of Development." The successful event reflected Chinese commitment for world development in view of expansion of a viable trade environment in the world.

With regard to the participation of Pakistan, I think that the event has been a tremendous success, which of course calls for a congratulatory note to the Chinese government and its people for putting up this event together.

Talking about telecommunications or information technology (IT) or the banking sector or the overall development agenda, he said the CIFTIS had proven to be a very successful event altogether and specially it showed the Chinese government's commitment for openness and opening up part of China for the world market.

Such events prove that China is the global market offering expansion of trade for the stability of the world economy.

Achakzai pointed out that automobile production or the technology was being done in China so CIFTIS attracted a lot of companies. About the Pakistan pavilion, which was inaugurated by the Pakistani Ambassador to China, he said it had given Pakistan an opportunity to present the country's services industry displaying and attracting more investment opportunities in Pakistan.

"We are celebrating 10 successful years of CPEC and Belt and Road initiative, and talking about the overall vision of development working behind" he said.

<https://pakobserver.net/ciftis-proved-best-forum-for-service-oriented-enterprises-to-attract-investment-achakzai/>

## The Nation

### **Digital Silk Road to stimulate Pak-China e-commerce collaboration**

BEIJING-"Next, we're going to make full use of AI tools to promote technological innovation and learn from successful experience, integrating into Pakistan's national digital strategy to effectively facilitate the shared prosperity of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC)," said Lin Jianming, Chairman and CEO of Chinese sci-tech enterprise Samoyed Cloud Technology.

China's digital trade has developed vigorously for the past few years. According to the data released by the China Academy of Information and Communications Technology, the scale of China's digital economy increased by \$4.1 trillion, with an average annual compound growth rate of 14.2 percent from 2016 to 2022.

The dividend of China's booming digital trade has provided a pool of business opportunities and injected fresh hope into countries along the Belt and Road. Upto November 2022, China had established the Digital Silk Road cooperation mechanism with 16 countries and advanced Silk Road e-commerce bilateral cooperation mechanism with 26 countries, including Pakistan.

Samoyed Cloud Technology, focused on artificial intelligence (AI), big data, mobile Internet, and cloud computing, exploited the vast potential of Pakistan's digital economy and launched its e-commerce platform EZTRADER to provide digital trade services for the local retailers importing Chinese products, CEN reported on Thursday.

Recently, Lin called on Pakistan's Ambassador to China Moin ul Haque to reach an important consensus on continuing to deepen the digital transformation of Pakistan. "The common goal of both parties is to allow Pakistani people to buy better and cheaper Chinese goods," the ambassador indicated, "as well as to enable our businessmen to reduce financial pressure and better expand their business scale."

"Chinese products are popular in Pakistan. Since the platform EZTRADER was launched in May of this year, it has attracted more than 3,000 local retailers, including 3C digital, home appliances, stationery, accessories, beauty makeup and the like, which completely exceeding our expectations," said Lin. To date, EZTRADER is committed to becoming a localised comprehensive e-commerce service platform connecting the local small and medium-sized retail B-side and trade B-side in Pakistan. With an efficient supplier system, it provides one-stop B2B digitalisation for the whole link of e-commerce trade from purchase and sale to payment.

Lin considers that with Pakistan, the fifth most populous country in the world, with the popularity of mobile Internet, the information flow, capital flow and logistics has a certain development foundation, thus the digital transformation has huge growth potential. In the future, the company will focus on promoting higher-level and deeper cooperation in the digital field with countries along the Belt and Road, including Pakistan.

#### CHINA ESTABLISHES E-COMMERCE COOP MECHANISMS WITH 29 COUNTRIES

As China actively expands and deepens the "Silk Road E-commerce" cooperation, the country has established bilateral e-commerce cooperation mechanisms with 29 countries, a spokesperson of the Ministry of Commerce (MoC) said Thursday.

China has also signed memorandum of understandings on strengthening investment cooperation in the digital economy with 18 countries, said He Yadong, the MoC spokesperson, at a press conference.

In 2022, the country's digitally deliverable trade in services stood at 372.7 billion US dollars, up 3.4 percent year on year, making it the fifth largest in the world, he added. China will hold the second Global Digital Trade Expo in Hangzhou, east China's Zhejiang province, from November 23 to 27 this year, according to the spokesperson.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2023-09-08/page-9/detail-0>

#### **Chinese invited to benefit from Pakistan's human resource**

ISLAMABAD - Commercial Counsellor of the Embassy of Pakistan in China, Ghulam Qadir, has invited Chinese entrepreneurs to invest in Pakistan and benefit from young & skilled human resources in Pakistan.

Addressing the China International Economics and Technology Administration Forum (CIETAF) at the China International Fair for Trade in Services (CIF-TIS), Ghulam Qadir said the theme of this forum empowers entrepreneurs, especially small businesses, and marginalized communities, providing them with a level playing field to compete and succeed in the local and global markets.

According to China Economic Net (CEN), he said that 91% of Pakistani products come to China at zero customs duty, and he hopes to increase exports to China by providing special incentives to investors from China.

“Pakistan is the 5th most populous country in the world and enjoys a huge demographic advantage as over 65% of the population is between the age of 18 and 35. Our youth is tech savvy and playing an active part in the digital initiatives in the country”, he added.

Qadir said that Pakistan offers a huge e-commerce market with a special focus on export-oriented industry. In August this year, more than 200 Chinese businessmen visited the 1st Food and Agri Expo in Karachi, showing a lot of interest in buying Pakistani agro and food products and doing business on E-commerce platforms.

“China and Pakistan had incorporated IT and science and technology under the CPEC framework. We have established two Joint Working Groups for this purpose. We have also launched China-Pakistan Digital, Green, and Health Corridors to harness the potential of our two countries in these fields.

We are establishing linkages between our academic institutions, research organizations, and IT companies for practical implementation of our vision and for going forward on a shared journey of the digital era”, he added.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2023-09-08/page-10/detail-2>

**September 09, 2023**

**Daily Times**

### **CPEC Phase II: What the future holds?**

*Maham Shahbaz Bandesha*

China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is the flagship pilot project of an extended Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) proposed by China.

CPEC is not an ordinary investment in Pakistan by China, rather it holds many significant political, economic, social, security and foreign policy related dimensions. It is divided into three phases, with the completion of the first phase, the second phase has begun and the third (final) phase is planned to end by 2030.

During the initial investment of US\$ 46 billion in CPEC phase I, foundations were laid to commence projects belonging to areas such as energy and infrastructure. In this light, multiple power generating plants in different areas across Pakistan and a network of roads to boost interconnectivity as well as infrastructure development around Gwadar seaport was carried out. This created a boom of employment opportunities, treated the energy shortfall in

the country, improved socio-economic indicators and created a conducive environment for further Foreign

CPEC was and has seen opposition from regional quarters, in particular India. The reason: CPEC has provided China with access to Indian Ocean. The corridor is also reflective of the new emerging realities, wherein, Pakistan is likely to emerge as a lead player in regional connectivity. These developments will tilt the regional balance of power more towards economic connectivity and trans-regionalism which ultimately will weaken India's regional position. Moreover, globally, CPEC is often construed with the prism of China-US competition. This argument holds correct as the corridor is an alternate route for China, amidst the blockade of Malacca strait. Thereby, in order to obstruct China's global outreach, efforts are being directed at negatively projecting China's overseas investments.

The concept behind China's debt trap is also a part of this propaganda campaign. Some Indian and Western circles have propagated CPEC negatively. The corridor is being equated as a debt trap for Pakistan. However, the negative propositions have failed miserably, amidst the China-Pakistan cooperation towards the early completion of CPEC. During the recent visit of Chinese Premier to Pakistan, a number of MoUs have been signed.

One MoU pertains to ML-1 railway project. Second one is to facilitate knowledge sharing between Pakistan and China. While, third and fourth ones' are on export of dried chilies to China from Pakistan and workers exchange programme between the two countries.

CPEC Phase-II is 36 times larger in magnitude as compared to the previous phase. The focal areas to be developed in Phase-II include industry, trade and agriculture. In addition, tourism will be promoted.

Around 27 projects are designed to be executed as a part of Phase-II. Also, actions are dedicated to nurture rural revitalization, green energy, technological advancements and health-capacity building. A total of nine Special Economic Zones (SEZs) are to be established, seven provincial and two federal. SEZs are highly conducive for expedited industrial and trade activities. SEZs are also highly effective in enticing FDIs and creating a boom of employment opportunities.

Given the developments that transpired in Phase I and those that are designed as part of Phase-II, it is estimated that CPEC in its entirety can contribute in boosting Pakistan's GDP by 6.4 percent. And as the World Bank's report projects, CPEC Phase-II would improve social welfare development by 10.5 percent. Also, it is estimated that CPEC can lift around 1.1 million people out of extreme poverty and create around four million new jobs.

Focusing exclusively on CPEC Phase-II, given the plans designed and inked, Pakistan's stature in transit trade would be increased dramatically. Also, under China Pakistan Free Trade Agreement (CPFTA II), agreed under CPEC Phase-II, trade liberalization would materialize and Pakistan would be at par with other ASEAN countries that export to China. All in all, CPEC Phase-II would provide impetus to extensive industrialization in the country and with the development of Gwadar Port and Free Trade Zone, Pakistan would emerge as a major player contributing to regional connectivity and economic integration in the region and beyond.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1130455/cpec-phase-ii-what-the-future-holds/>

## **The Nation**

### **Pakistan, China sign MoU for addressing climate change**

ISLAMABAD - In a major step to jointly work towards environment protection, Pakistan and China signed MoU titled ‘Provision of Goods Under South-South Cooperation for Addressing Climate Change.’

Ambassador of Pakistan to China, Moin-ul-Haque, and Zhao Yingmin, Vice-Minister of the Ministry of Ecology and Environment of the People’s Republic of China signed the MoU at the China International Fair for Trade in Services (CIFTIS) recently.

Under the MoU, according to Gwadar Pro on Friday, China would support Pakistan through the provision of 5,000 sets of Solar Home Systems; a set of Integrated Meteorological Observation Station; and a set of Integrated Cloud-based Early Warning Systems.

In addition, China would offer capacity- building programmes for the officials of the government of Pakistan.

The MoU would complement Pakistan’s efforts to promote renewable energy and enhance its disaster management capabilities, especially in the areas of early warning, forecasting, monitoring, and disaster preparedness response systems.

While signing the MoU, Ambassador Moin-ul-Haque thanked the Chinese side and commended the ongoing collaboration between China and Pakistan to tackle the common challenge of climate change.

In this regard, he highly appreciated the Global Development Initiative (GDI), which aimed to strengthen partnerships between developing countries for the attainment of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including the efforts to promote climate action.

He also recalled the ‘timely’ Chinese support to Pakistan following the climate- induced floods of 2021.

The government of Pakistan commends China’s continued efforts to deepen South-South Cooperation on climate change through practical cooperation.

In November last year, Pakistan and China signed MoU through which Pakistan became the first partner country of GDI, which lists climate change as a key area of cooperation.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2023-09-09/page-4/detail-5>

## **CPEC on the road**

*Qurat Ul Ain*

Balochistan is experiencing vast changes with time. The province is part of the most anticipated mass level programme, China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) under China’s Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). Day by day, new economic opportunities emerge under various ventures executed in CPEC. At the same time, anti-state agents are trying their best to create havoc in the province.

CPEC is a mega development project centred on connecting Pakistan's Gwadar Port to Xinjiang, China's north-western region through a web of railways, highways, and pipelines. It holds a high value in relations between Pakistan and China and is vital to interests of both states. Various transportation networks, energy ventures and Special Economic Zones (SEZ's) under CPEC are helping Pakistan's economy in getting strong and modernised. CPEC and its link with Central Asia, Middle East and Africa is a fruitful venture for the entire region.

After successful completion of its first phase, the second phase of CPEC has begun. It offers a shining future promising investment, prosperity, and development for Pakistan as well as the entire region. The second phase centres on high quality development encompassing a growth corridor. SEZ's, Industrial and Green corridors promoting openness and connectivity are significant component of it.

However, improving economic opportunities and a promising future for Pakistan is highly demoralising for the enemy. Hostile powers particularly Pakistan's historical enemy, India, have time and again been involved in spreading venom inside Balochistan. Through exploiting raw minds by inculcating anti state sentiments, such external enemies are trying their best to hamper CPEC progress.

Balochistan, being a politically and economically secluded area, has always been an approachable target for foreign agents. Kulbhushan Yadav, a name highlighting Pakistani newspaper not much time ago, is a strong reminder of the venomous intentions of Pakistan's enemies. He was a serving Indian Naval Officer as well as member of Indian Intelligence Agency involved in supporting Baloch separatists.

In June 2015, it was openly stated by Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi during a visit to Bangladesh that India has been engaged in activities meant to destabilise Pakistan. He explicitly claimed that there were no regrets on part of India in assisting Mukti-Bahini Movement for creation of Bangladesh. It is without any doubt that Indian motives remain the same until now with Balochistan as most viable target to create division in Pakistan.

Insurgency in Balochistan goes back to early 2000's. According to a 2020 analysis by Armed Conflict Location and Event Database, there was a reduction in levels of conflict between 2015 and 2017. However, at start of 2018, there was a clear rise in levels of violent attacks. New dimensions are emerging such as direct involvement of females in carrying out attacks. This was witnessed in the attack on University of Karachi's Confucius Institute in April 2022. Recently, a Chinese convoy was attacked in Gwadar.

The economic opportunities offered by CPEC is resulting in some gains rather than a total loss in case of its disruption. Depriving an entire region from the prospective of high development and promising future due to the ill wishes of a certain faction sourced by external enemies offer the gloomiest future depiction. Any faction's support to insurgent activities in Balochistan should be mindful of the fact that long term consequences of creating havoc there would be of no benefit to anyone.

A deeper look into this persisting antipathy in Balochistan towards bringing progressive initiatives reveal that it is mere exploitation of grievances by anti-state agents. CPEC ventures

are doing more good than ever to the secluded province of Balochistan. Throwing a look back on Balochistan before launch of CPEC, the barrenness and backwardness of the area was quite evident. CPEC ventures brought life to the sleeping, underdeveloped province of Balochistan providing opportunities never envisioned before.

To counter the ill intentions of Pakistan's enemies in hampering CPEC progress, Pakistani authorities are constantly on their toes. High security measures are being taken to ensure safety of Chinese nationals working under CPEC Projects. The Chinese and Pakistani authorities are well committed to overcome the obstacles poised to CPEC. Both states have resiliently been overcoming challenges since start of CPEC and continue to do so. Success of CPEC will be a mark stone altering history of entire region.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2023-09-09/page-6/detail-3>

**September 10, 2023**

**The Nation**

### **Standardisation key to enhance Pakistan's agriculture exports to China**

BEIJING-Pakistan's agriculture sector is poised for a boost in exports to China, through a renewed focus on standardization and quality control.

After fulfilling China's required standardization on meat, chili, and other commodities, Pakistan signed MoUs with China to export these products from Pakistan to China, said Ghulam Qadir, Commercial Counselor, the Embassy of Pakistan, according to a report published by Gwadar Pro on Saturday.

Speaking with a forum titled "International Forum on Standardization Development of Agricultural Products", at the China International Fair for Trade in Services (CIFTIS), Ghulam Qadir said that China is helping Pakistan develop standards for various crops, such as wheat, rice, cotton, and maize. This will involve defining parameters for crop quality, including size, weight, moisture content, and pesticide residue levels, among others. "Both countries are working together to promote sustainable agricultural practices, emphasizing soil health, water management, and reduced carbon emissions.

These standards aim to protect the environment while ensuring long-term food security. China is also helping Pakistan with the use of fertilizers, pesticides, and herbicides, with a focus on minimizing the presence of harmful residues in food items," he added. Ghulam Qadir further said that over the past few years, Pakistan has made substantial strides in improving its agricultural production, with a particular emphasis on quality control and meeting international standards. These efforts are now paying off as the country aims to capture a more substantial share of China's burgeoning agricultural market. He added, "We would get more support from China to ensure the standardization of the products if we want to improve our exports to China".

"Pakistan's agricultural exports to China have historically been limited to a few commodities, such as rice, sesame seed, and cotton. However, the landscape is evolving rapidly, as Pakistan diversifies its exports to include fruits, vegetables, and processed products. This



transformation has been driven by a combination of factors, including increased investment in agriculture, improved infrastructure, and most crucially, adherence to international standards”, he added. Qadir told the audience that Pakistani agricultural products now meet the stringent requirements of the Chinese market, ensuring food safety, quality, and traceability.

This newfound reliability has increased Pakistan’s credibility as a supplier and built trust with Chinese importers. “Meeting Chinese standards for meat and chili products is essential for gaining access to this enormous market. With proper standardization, Pakistani producers can confidently explore export opportunities and access a growing middle-class consumer base in China. Standardization assures Chinese consumers of the quality and safety of Pakistani agricultural products.

This trust-building process will pave the way for long-term and sustainable trade relationships,” he stated. “China’s growing middle class is showing an increasing appetite for high-quality agricultural products, including fresh produce, grains, and processed foods. This trend presents a golden opportunity for countries like Pakistan, which have the potential to meet China’s demands. By ensuring that its exports meet Chinese standards, Pakistan has positioned itself as an attractive source of agricultural products for its neighbor”, Qadir stated.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2023-09-10/page-9/detail-0>

**September 11, 2023**

**Business Recorder**

### **Chinese investors meet Chairman FIEDMC**

FAISALABAD: Chair-man FIEDMC Mian Muhammad Anas Jaan, CEO Muhammad Tanveer Jabbar had a special meeting with Chinese investors at the office of Faisalabad Industrial Estate Development and Management Company (FIEDMC).

Chairman FIEDMC told the Chinese delegation that the caretaker Chief Minister of Punjab and the caretaker provincial Minister of Industry and Commerce have specially directed that the problems of Chinese investors should be heard and they should be solved on a priority basis.

On this occasion, the Chinese delegation thanked the Punjab government and welcomed the mutual relations and holding of the meeting between FIEDMC and Chinese investors.

He said that one-window operation of FIEDMC has solved many years old problems, but there are still many problems to be solved, such as there is no proper disposal of waste material and garbage from the factories.

Chairman FIEDMC while issuing instructions to the concerned officers said that to keep the environment clean it is very important not only to set up a sustainable system, but also to make the material usable, and present it to the board for immediate approval should be done. In the meeting, Chinese investors expressed their concerns on many issues from the banking sector, excise department, property tax, FBR, and environment departments. The said

departments shut down the factories without any notice causing business loss. Chinese investors also said that their production is being affected especially by imports and LCs. Chairman FIEDMC Mian Muhammad Anas Jaan assured the Chinese delegation that they will talk to these departments and they will contact the CEO first to collect their dues and the dues will be collected under his supervision. Chairman FIEDMC Mian Muhammad Anas Jaan added that Chinese investors have an important role in the country's development, prosperity and economic stability. The government is taking concrete steps to solve the problems of industrialists and promote the industry. There are vast opportunities for foreign investment in Pakistan. At FIEDMC, it is our primary responsibility to provide the best facilities to Chinese investors. He said that the government will provide all possible protection and security to the Chinese investors and in this regard, they will submit recommendations to the relevant federal minister for solving the problems.

Speaking on this occasion, CEO FIEDMC Muhammad Tanveer Jabbar said that construction of roads, effective security arrangements, electricity supply, installation of road lights and CCTV cameras for the convenience of local industrialists including Chinese in the said industrial area. Providing other facilities is our top priority. A network of roads is being laid throughout the zone, concrete and effective measures have been taken to protect the lives and property of Chinese industrialists in particular.

He said that the units of many domestic and foreign companies, including Allama Iqbal Industrial City and M3 Industrial City, China, United Kingdom, Turkey and Saudi Arabia, have been activated and the whole team of FIEDMC is working day and night to solve other problems.

In the end, Chairman FIEDMC thanked the Chinese delegation and told that such a meeting will be organized every month so that the problems can be solved better.—PR

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2023/09/11/4-page/971811-news.html>

## Daily Times

### **Pak-China war on environmental crisis**

A recent study has unveiled a dire truth about Pakistan's economy: it is hemorrhaging an astounding Rs500 billion each year due to rampant environmental degradation. Beyond the economic toll, this degradation brings with it a slew of diseases and multifaceted problems. A web of shifting economic dynamics, rapid urbanization, and mass migration to cities has cast a looming shadow over the country's once pristine environment. Overpopulation strains the seams of urban infrastructure and services, painting a grim picture of immediate national concerns.

However, amidst this environmental crisis, a glimmer of hope emerges as Pakistan and China, staunch allies, unite to combat this pressing issue. A monumental memorandum of understanding was signed by Pakistan Ambassador to Beijing and China's vice minister of environment. This pact signals a commitment to bolster environmental protection while further strengthening their already robust bilateral relations.

Under this agreement, China has pledged its unwavering support to Pakistan. It will actively promote the development of renewable energy sources and bolster Pakistan's disaster management capabilities. These measures are a formidable step towards mitigating the environmental devastation that plagues Pakistan.

For years, Pakistan's environmental woes have drawn international attention, with various cities consistently ranking among the world's most polluted. The scourge of pollution, spanning air, land, water, and noise, has cast a dark shadow over the nation. While organisations such as the United Nations Health Organization and the World and Asian Development Bank have provided financial aid to countries grappling with pollution, what Pakistan urgently needs is technical assistance.

At the national level, Pakistan has established a Ministry of Environment tasked with a multitude of responsibilities, including raising public awareness about environmental issues. However, the partnership with China holds the potential to yield far-reaching results. A coordinated strategy stemming from this collaboration could have a transformative impact on environmental pollution in Pakistan.

The dire environmental situation in Pakistan has reached a critical juncture. The staggering economic losses, coupled with the detrimental health effects, call for immediate action. Pakistan's alliance with China in the fight against environmental degradation brings newfound hope. With China's support in renewable energy and disaster management, Pakistan has a chance to turn the tide. As the world watches, this cooperation could emerge as a beacon of hope, guiding Pakistan towards a cleaner and more sustainable future. \*

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1131110/pak-china-war-on-environmental-crisis/>

### **China, Pakistan to collaborate in earth and engineering sciences**

The China-Pakistan Joint Research Centre on Earth Sciences (CPJRC), China and the Ghulam Ishaq Khan Institute (GIKI) of Engineering Sciences and Technology signed an MoU to enhance collaborative efforts in earth and engineering sciences.

The agreement was executed by Dr. CUI Peng, Director CPJRC, and Dr. Fazal Ahmad Khalid, Rector GIKI, during an event held at the GIK Institute, Gwadar Pro reported. CPJRC, which operates under the China Academy of Science (CAS)'s Institute of Mountain Hazards and Environment, is dedicated to fostering cooperation in earth sciences.

GIKI is a prestigious engineering institution in Swabi district of KP province. The Rector GIKI said that the MoU provides a framework for both institutions to engage in joint research endeavours; secure research funding, and co-organize technical training programs, academic symposia, and international conferences.

Dr. CUI Peng underscored that this cooperative endeavour will centre its efforts on critical areas such as disaster prevention and mitigation, ecological economy with an emphasis on low carbon development, assessing resource and environment carrying capacity for regional sustainable development, as well as endeavours related to climate change mitigation and adaptation.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1131021/china-pakistan-to-collaborate-in-earth-and-engineering-sciences/>

### **Dawn News**

#### **Chinese investors' concern over delay in LCs**

TOBA TEK SINGH: A delegation of Chinese investors held a meeting with Faisalabad Industrial Estate Development and Management Company (Fiedmic) Chairman Mian Muhammad Anas Jan and CEO Muhammad Tanveer Jabbar in Faisalabad on Sunday to express their concerns over hurdles in business matters.

A Fiedmic official said the Chinese complained that some government departments had shut down factories of foreign investors over different issues without issuing them any notice, causing them business losses.

The Chinese investors also said that their production had been hit by delay in import of raw material as banks were not opening LCs.

The Fedemic chairman assured the delegation that he would speak to the departments concerned to get the matter resolved.

The investors also complained about non-disposal of waste material from factories. The chairman issued instructions to officials concerned to do the needful.

The chairman said it was very important to keep the environment clean by setting up an integrated system and to recycle this material. He said that gas was available in Allama Iqbal Industrial City and NOCs would be issued to them immediately after payment of dues. He said the Chinese investors were playing an important role in the country's economic stability.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1775153/chinese-investors-concern-over-delay-in-lcs#:~:text=The%20Chinese%20investors%20also%20said,to%20get%20the%20matter%20resolved.>

#### **GIKI, China-Pakistan research centre to work for disaster prevention**

SWABI: The China-Pakistan Joint Research Centre on Earth Sciences (CPJRC) and the Ghulam Ishaq Khan Institute of Engineering Sciences and Technology (GIKI) signed a Memorandum of Understanding aimed at enhancing their collaborative efforts within the domains of earth and engineering sciences.

The agreement was signed by Prof Su Li-jun Peng, Deputy Director of CPJRC, and Prof Fazal Ahmad Khalid, Rector GIKI, during an event held at the Institute, according to a press release issued here on Sunday.

CPJRC, which operates under the auspices of China Academy of Science's Institute of Mountain Hazards and Environment, is dedicated to fostering cooperation in the field of earth sciences, while GIKI shares the vision of advancing collaboration in engineering sciences and technology.

Dr Su Li-jun underscored that the endeavour would centre its efforts on critical areas such as disaster prevention and mitigation, ecological economy with an emphasis on low carbon

development, assessing resource and environment carrying capacity for regional sustainable development, as well as endeavours related to climate change mitigation and adaptation.

Prof Khalid emphasised that the MoU served as a groundbreaking initiative, providing a framework for both institutions to engage in joint research endeavours, secure research funding, and co-organise technical training programmes, academic symposia and international conferences.

Additionally, he reiterated the potential for faculty and student exchanges to facilitate collaborative research and academic interaction.

**WORKSHOP:** Speakers at a workshop held at the Women University Swabi on Sunday stressed the need for strengthening inter-cultural harmony through critical and logical thinking.

Shaoor Foundation, a non-profit entity, and the department of Islamic Studies of the varsity organised the workshop on inter-cultural harmony. Academia, students and members of welfare bodies participated in the event and presented their viewpoint on how to steer the country out of multiple challenges. The workshop also featured project management activities for the participating students, who delivered impressive presentations.

The speakers shed light on the significance of maintaining a flexible attitude on issues to avoid complications and disturbance in the society, thus creating an environment of collaboration and coordination among the people. They stressed the need for promoting tolerance because emotions always created more serious issues instead of resolving them.

Certificates were awarded to both students and faculty members, recognising their active participation in the event. Shields were also presented to the speakers from Shaoor Foundation, symbolising the significance of this collaborative effort in promoting inter-cultural harmony.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1775159/giki-china-pakistan-research-centre-to-work-for-disaster-prevention>

## **Pakistan Observer**

### **Standardizations key to enhance Pakistan's agriculture exports to China**

Pakistan's agriculture sector is poised for a boost in exports to China, through a renewed focus on standardization and quality control.

After fulfilling China's required standardization on meat, chili, and other commodities, Pakistan signed MoUs with China to export these products from Pakistan to China, said Ghulam Qadir, Commercial Counselor, the Embassy of Pakistan, according to a report published by Gwadar Pro on Saturday.

Speaking with a forum titled "International Forum on Standardization Development of Agricultural Products", at the China International Fair for Trade in Services (CIFTIS) , Ghulam Qadir said that China is helping Pakistan develop their standards for various crops, such as wheat, rice, cotton, and maize.

This will involve defining parameters for crop quality, including size, weight, moisture content, and pesticide residue levels, among others.

“Both countries are working together to promote sustainable agricultural practices, emphasizing soil health, water management, and reduced carbon emissions.

These standards aim to protect the environment while ensuring long-term food security. China is also helping Pakistan with the use of fertilizers, pesticides, and herbicides, with a focus on minimizing the presence of harmful residues in food items,” he added.

He further said that over the past few years, Pakistan has made substantial strides in improving its agricultural production, with a particular emphasis on quality control and meeting international standards.

These efforts are now paying off as the country aims to capture a more substantial share of China’s burgeoning agricultural market.

He added that “we would get more support from China to ensure the standardization of the products if we want to improve our exports to China”.

“Pakistan’s agricultural exports to China have historically been limited to a few commodities, such as rice, sesame seed, and cotton. However, the landscape is evolving rapidly, as Pakistan diversifies its exports to include fruits, vegetables, and processed products.

This transformation has been driven by a combination of factors, including increased investment in agriculture, improved infrastructure, and most crucially, adherence to international standards”, he added.

<https://pakobserver.net/standardizations-key-to-enhance-pakistans-agriculture-exports-to-china/>

## The News

### **G-20 summit: divide and rule policy back in business**

*Shakeel Ahmad Ramay*

The world is facing multipronged problems. The situation compels all the countries to cooperate to sustain the shocks of 21st Century. The slogans like my country first or hegemonic aspiration will not help. It was expected the G-20, one of the leading and powerful economic forums with global relevance, would help find ways for cooperation. It did not happen.

India and the US had other plans. They used the forum to further their hegemonic agenda. They tried to divide the world further to create space for their interests.

The US and India cannot overcome their anti-China and anti-Pakistan obsession. The G-20 summit was another event for them to bring out new tools to undermine China. Both the countries continued to play the corridor game and created a new corridor named “India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor” with great pump and show. Indian media declared it a great victory for India, while the Western media and intellectuals are dubbing the initiative

as an attempt to counter China's Belt and Road Initiative. It shows that fear of China is a more dominating factor for the US and India than the economic cooperation.

It is not the first time the US joined hands with allies to start such initiatives. The US has been busy in launching such initiatives since 2018. It also used G-7 to launch such initiatives.

First, the US launched the Better Utilisation of Investments Leading to Development (BUILD) programme in 2018 to counter the Belt and Road Initiative. It was designed to achieve strategic and diplomatic interests by using the economy as a shield. The US asked its development agencies to cooperate in implementing the BUILD. However, till today, the programme has not achieved any substantial results.

Second, in collaboration with G-7 members, the US developed the Build Back Better World (B3W) idea in 2021. It was pitched as an initiative to counter the Belt and Road Initiative and undermine China's emerging role. The B3W aimed to meet the infrastructure needs of developing and low-economic countries. The G-7 purposed to invest around \$40 trillion by 2035. It was touted as a big initiative that would help overcome global challenges. However, again, B3W could not deliver on the promises. It could not attract funding as the member countries did not contribute according to their commitments. According to sources, till today, it could only attract a few million, which is nothing compared to commitments made by the members.

After the poor performance of B3W, the US and G-7 members presented Partnership for Global Infrastructure Investment in 2022. It was announced that member countries will strive to invest \$600 billion and the US will contribute one-third of that.

Third, India joined hands with Japan to come up with its counter initiative to the Belt and Road Initiative. India-Japan in 2017 introduced Asia-Africa Growth Corridor. The document of AAGC stated it would consist of four main components: development and cooperation projects, quality infrastructure and institutional connectivity, capacity and skill enhancement and people-to-people partnerships.

These four components are complementary to promote growth and all-around development in both the continents. Again, it could not deliver on its promises. Even India and Japan could not draw up any meaningful plan for implementing AAGC.

After the failure of successive initiatives, the US and Western allies resorted to the old and time-tested policy of divide and rule. They picked and chose a few wealthy countries of the Global South, convincing them they would be part of the new initiative, India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEEEEC). They chose India to host the launch so that Indian markets could be captured. The corridor will aim to connect the Indian market to Europe through the Middle East. And Middle Eastern countries, including Israel, will be connected among themselves through railway network. It is envisioned that through this corridor, the US will be able to counter Chinese influence in the Middle East and beyond. Watching how Saudi Arabia will react to including Israel would be interesting.

Before further delving into IMEEEC, it is necessary to understand why BRI, despite all opposition, succeeded and why initiatives by the US and West could not. The analysis of BRI

indicates it is an all-inclusive initiative. It is open to every country without any discrimination. China is not putting any restrictions on any country.

On the contrary, the analysis of Western initiatives suggests four specific reasons hindering previous initiatives' progress. First, these initiatives were exclusive. The US and Western countries engaged selective countries. They also made sure there should be no place for China. It is a perfect example of block mentality.

Second, these initiatives were not supported by concrete actions and financial resources. There was no effort to pool the resources. The US or the West could not contribute according to their commitments. Third, these initiatives were designed to achieve strategic interests using economic shields. Fourth, all initiatives were China-focused and had a single goal: undermine China at any cost. It weakened initiatives' ability to forge economic partnerships and make meaningful progress.

Regrettably, the US, West and India did not learn from the past. They presented the IMEEEC. It is another attempt to create an exclusive club of a few selective countries. The member countries of the initiative did not even bother to invite Pakistan to join the corridor.

The location of Pakistan makes it an ideal country to create an efficient link between the Middle East and India, but they ignored it. However, this time strategy is a little different from the past. The US and its allies picked new members from the Global South, especially in the neighbourhood of China. They are trying to create an exclusive club to check China's peaceful rise.

However, like in the past, chances of success of IMEEEC are meager because the real problem is availability of financial resources. We know the US and its allies have failed to mobilise the required resources for the B3W, BUILD and Partnership for Global Infrastructure Investment. India and Japan too could not bring the needed financial resources to the table to implement the Asian-Africa Growth Corridor. Hence, we should wait to see how IMEEEC will raise the financial resources and who will contribute the resources. One can expect Saudi Arabia and UAE will bring in money. But, the real question is how much can they contribute? B3W needs \$40 trillion and PGII \$600 billion. Chances of success are meager.

China is also acting as a pull factor for global growth, as the IMF estimated China alone will contribute 34.6 percent to global growth. The same country is excluded from all the plans for the future.

China is the biggest importer of Saudi and UAE oil. The country has also emerged as a major investor in the UAE and Saudi Arabia. In this context, we must wait and see how both the countries play their role in IMEEEC and maintain their relationship with China.

It is feared it will be the beginning of a new Cold War because the ultimate objective of the US is to contain China.

If so, it is not good news for the Middle East and India. The Middle East, already home to multiple conflicts and problems, cannot afford to be the turf of new Cold War. It will also be a serious blow to the recently signed agreement between Saudi Arabia and Iran.



For India, it will be a lose-lose proposition. On the one hand, India will not be able to benefit from the biggest consumer market in the neighbourhood. On the other hand, it will become a frontline ally against China, and Washington will always push Delhi to do more. It can also lead to a hot conflict in the region, extremely bad for India.

From the above discussion, we can infer the US and its allies have successfully divided the countries and will accelerate efforts to divide them further. They deem it necessary to contain China. Against this backdrop, Pakistan must follow the situation closely, expecting Saudi Arabia and the UAE will invest in the country.

New developments indicate both the countries may have other preferences. Besides, there may be pressure on Pakistan to come out of CPEC and limit engagement with China. Thus, Pakistan needs to keep a close eye on the situation.

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=236892>

**September 12, 2023**

**Daily Times**

### **Training courses completed for New Gwadar International Airport**

As skilled manpower is a key prerequisite to operate New Gwadar International Airport (NGIA), which is highly likely to be operational in September, China has completed “Training Courses” for government officials. It is the first of its kind human resource training courses aiming to train public office holders in a bid to help them hone their technical, administrative and managerial expertise. A Civil Aviation Authority official told Gwadar Pro, the Government of Pakistan did not bear any cost as all expense incurred in the process of conduction of training course has been executed under China’s aid. He said that most of the officials from Civil Aviation Authority in the section of operation, management, security, engineering & mechanical work have completed the course. He further said that on July 27, former Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif officially inaugurated major component of NGIA, a high-priority project of CPEC, in a watershed moment of the tenth anniversary of Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). He unveiled completion of the airbase infrastructure of the airport, including runway, taxiway and apron. NGIA marked a milestone cooperation between China and Pakistan under the framework of CPEC, fostering a saga of air transport infrastructure and economic growth that will change the fate of Gwadar, an emerging logistic hub and center piece of regional and international connectivity.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1131267/training-courses-completed-for-new-gwadar-international-airport/>

**September 13, 2023**

**Pakistan Observer**

### **President for enhanced cooperation with China, Venezuela and Colombia**

President Dr. Arif Alvi has called for more robust cooperation with the People’s Republic of China in the areas of trade, economy, culture and defense. He said that China was a reliable

and tested friend and Pakistan wanted to further strengthen the strategic relations with China for the mutual benefit of the two countries.

The President made these remarks during his meetings with the Ambassadors-designates of the People's Republic of China and the Venezuela (Non-Resident), as well as the Republic of Colombia (Non-resident), who presented their diplomatic credentials to the President and separately called on him at Aiwan-e-Sadr on Tuesday.

Welcoming the Ambassador-designate of China to Pakistan, Jiang Zaidong, the President said that Pakistan highly valued its ties with China as it had always stood by Pakistan at difficult times. The President said that Pakistan would continue to support China on all core issues. Highlighting the importance of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), the President said that CPEC would greatly contribute to the socio-economic development of Pakistan.

He informed that the project had helped in modernizing our infrastructure, building our capacity and ensuring a sustainable energy supply. He added that Pakistan was fully committed to timely completion of all projects under CPEC. The President expressed his gratitude for China's unflinching support to Pakistan's socio-economic development as well as its principled stance on the Jammu & Kashmir dispute.

<https://pakobserver.net/president-for-enhanced-cooperation-with-china-venezuela-and-colombia/>

### **Copying BRI/CPEC model**

ON the sidelines of the G20 leaders' meeting in New Delhi, some countries announced to launch the "India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor" (IMEC) or "Spice Route" on the pattern of Chinese President Xi Jinping's epoch-making 'Belt and Road Initiative' that aims at linking almost all continents of the globe under the visionary approach of shared prosperity. Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, whose Government is on record having allocated billions of rupees to carry out multi-pronged sabotage activities against the purely developmental project of 'China-Pakistan Economic Corridor' (CPEC), a flagship component of the BRI, is touting it as a major diplomatic achievement and a distinctive economic initiative as it is backed by the world's only superpower and wealthy Arab countries. However, the fact remains that the CPEC is a golden reality on ground whereas the Spice Route is nothing but a castle in the air.

It is a matter of record that some countries forming part of the new connectivity project opposed tooth and nail the Chinese initiative and tried to create hurdles in the way of its smooth implementation despite the fact that it was envisaged to share the fruits of progress and development. However, the Chinese, known for their speed, worked closely with the participating nations and as a result on the tenth anniversary of the BRI, the world is already benefitting immensely from the initiative. Benefiting from the BRI, the GDP share of emerging and developing economies in the world increased by 3.6% from 2012 to 2021. The World Bank estimates that by 2030, the BRI will generate US\$1.6 trillion in global revenue each year, accounting for 1.3% of global GDP. From 2015 to 2030, almost 40 million people will be lifted out of poverty under the auspices of BRI. The success of the BRI can be gauged

by the fact that as of end June 2023, China has signed more than 200 documents on jointly building the BRI with 152 countries and 32 international organizations. Propaganda and conspiracies notwithstanding, CPEC is the living proof of the resounding success of the initiative as it is helping Pakistan overcome its chronic problems in the realms of connectivity and energy while new projects are planned to exploit the full potential of the country in sectors like agriculture and IT. The attempt of India and the US to copy the CPEC/BRI after full ten years is a glowing tribute to the success of the Chinese initiative and speaks volumes about their mindset, which is overwhelmed by anti-China sentiments and encirclement of the rising global economic and military giant. It may also be pointed out that a significant part of the railway network and pipelines, envisioned under the Spice Route, would be under the sea, an idea that could not be visualized by the United States and Russia despite years of discussions. In fact, the Chinese rattled the world when President Xi Jinping announced his plan to launch the BRI and CPEC trade and energy corridors linking the entire world. First, efforts were made by some influential countries to pressurize smaller countries not to become part of the initiative but given the track record of China to pursue developmental projects with utmost sincerity, more and more states joined it and are now benefiting in different walks of life. India tried to present the Spice Route project as a crown in its diplomacy but had the delegates ventured outside the boundaries of Kejriwal's territory, they would have come across 250 million Muslims of India running all over the country like scared rabbits in search of a secure place to live where they could freely practice their religion and earn a decent livelihood. In addition they would have witnessed the horrible scenes of over 400 million people forced to defecate in open fields, sea beaches and every possible available space due to lack of proper latrine facilities. As against this, China has not only taken the world's largest population to new heights of progress and prosperity but is also keen to share its developmental experience with the rest of the world, especially with developing and least developed countries of the globe and that too without attaching any humiliating conditions.

<https://pakobserver.net/copying-bri-cpec-model/>

## **BRI and Theory of Illusions**

*Dr Mehmood Ul Hassan Khan*

The international power brokers are now disseminating theory of illusions to compete with the Chinese One Belt & One Road. Since its inception in 2013 the western policy-makers have been conspiratorially creating confusions, contradictions, conflicts and illusions about its scope, utility and strategic importance through 5th generation hybrid war.

However, according to the Economist London (August 2023), in the last decade the BRI created 420,000 jobs and 40 million people lifted out of poverty in its member countries, vividly showing its push-forward stimulating power in the world.

Moreover, according to the World Bank, once completed, the BRI could lessen travel times along economic corridors by 12 percent, augment trade between 2.7 percent and 9.7 percent, raise incomes by up to 3.4 percent and alleviate 7.6 million people out of extreme poverty.

It is a good omen that China further prioritized promoting low carbon and green development under the BRI framework. To achieve this goal, China signed an MOU on building a green

Belt and Road with the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) and more than 50 agreements on eco-environmental conservation with nations and international organizations reconfirming its political commitment and economic priority for green transformation in the BRI's member countries.

China, through a cross-section of financial sources, ranging from government policy banks, commercial banks and Public Private Partnerships (PPPs), set out to pour an estimated US\$8tr into African, Asian and European nations under the BRI. In addition to physical infrastructure, China has created economic corridors between itself and Pakistan, Laos, Thailand, Brunei, Myanmar, Mongolia and Russia.

Throughout the past decade, China has also signed Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) with 152 countries and 32 international organizations with nations around the world.

The growth of its contribution to world trade are evident in rising foreign direct investment (FDI) figures: US\$82bn in 2012, rising to US\$154bn by 2020, making China the world's number one overseas investor.

The genie of geopolitics and theory of illusions have once again come out of the bottle. In the just concluded G20 Annual Summit held in New Delhi the global leaders in its sideline announced the US-India-Middle East-Europe Corridor linking the Middle East and South Asia vividly reflects many short, medium and long term strategic measures of the G20 just countering China's increasing economic ties in the Middle East and connectivity pace in Africa and the Chinese mega development project BRI around the globe.

Nevertheless, it starts a new end game in the region and beyond further consolidating anti-China rhetoric or empowering anti-BRI club to seek socio-economic, geopolitical and geostrategic support in the region and around the globe.

Moreover, inclusion of the African Union as a full member is a strategic act, apparently full of geo-political and geostrategic colorings because of the massive socio-economic development drive of China and the BRI in this continent.

Evidently, the timing of its announcement is significant because the US President Joe Biden has been trying hard to counter China's BRI global drive for infrastructure development, trans-regional connectivity, building of ports and rails integrated economic corridors through openness, inclusiveness, modernization and qualitative industrialization by pitching Washington as an alternative partner and investor for developing countries at the G20 grouping.

Thus another western pledged "form" of Global South is in the making just diluting the Chinese initiated and sponsored Global South and convincing the regional countries to stay away from China.

In this regard, President Biden's purposeful labeling of it as real big deal so-called bridging ports across two continents and leading to a more stable, more prosperous and integrated Middle East has great global significance. Moreover, announcing the deal/pact would unlock endless opportunities for clean energy, clean electricity and laying cable to connect communities.

Additionally, while interacting with reporters at the G20 annual summit in New Delhi Jon Finer, the US Deputy National Security Adviser projected the deal as beneficial for low and middle-income countries in the region, and enabling a critical role for the Middle East in global commerce, therefore, spelled out the US redefined and revised Middle East strategic policy after the China's initiated and successfully supervised peace deal between two regional rivals Saudi Arabia and Iran.

It is predicted that one of the end goals of this deal would be recognition of Israel by Saudi Arabia in the future that would entirely change the geopolitical and geostrategic landscape of the Middle East.

Interestingly, the Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi highlighting the deal as a big connectivity initiative, sowing the seeds for future generations to dream bigger clearly indicates his own longer than life hegemonic designs in the disguised form of the US-India-Middle East-Europe multinational rail and ports corridor.

The wishful thinking of this deal seems to be a replica of the Hollywood movie "Lawrence of Arabia" aiming to link Middle Eastern countries by railway and connect them to India by port, helping the flow of energy and trade from the Gulf to Europe, by cutting shipping times, costs and fuel use.

Transforming widespread sands of the Middle Eastern region into modern means of rails' transports and connecting with violent waters would be a "Mission Impossible" because of the pre-requisition of the lots of funds, political harmony and human capital in the days to come and on the other hand, BRI has already become an ideal platform connecting more than 152 countries around the globe. In terms of the technology and costs of building railways, no country in the world other than China has a more prominent advantage.

The global power brokers along with India have been showing their inflated concerns and false propaganda against the Chinese mega development project BRI. According to Indian experts India has been frustrated with BRI & CPEC strategic orientations and trans-regional connectivity potential with the Central Asian region and African continent and a futile quest for sustainable connectivity through Iran into the Eurasian landmass, forced India to find a formula to connect to both Arabia and Europe through this new deal.

It is a major geopolitical and geostrategic paradigm shift of the US-India policy in the Indo-Pacific region to the Middle East clearly demonstrating an increase of matching boxes between the two sides. So the setting up of the I2U2 forum by the US, India, UAE and Israel to develop a few joint economic projects was the starting point of this deal. It is feared that Pakistan, Tehran and CPEC would be further marginalized.

<https://pakobserver.net/bri-and-theory-of-illusions/>

### **3rd Belt and Road Forum: Promising prospects for Pakistan**

CPEC is a keystone for emerging economies. The 3rd Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation (BRF) will be held in Beijing in October, indicating a significant international interest and participation in this important forum, stating Mao Ning, spokesperson for the

Chinese Foreign Ministry, announced that “over 90 countries have officially confirmed their attendance”.

The Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation (BRF) is, in current times of heightened economic interdependence, global connectivity and common development aspirations, emerging as compelling evidence of the growing global interest and active participation in the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). The concept of the BRI was initially introduced in 2013 with the objective of fostering infrastructure development, enhancing trade connectivity and promoting economic cooperation spanning continents. Over the years, it has evolved from being a regional endeavour to becoming a truly global initiative, encompassing participation from Asia, Europe, Africa and various other regions.

According to a World Bank report, the implementation of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) has led to a 4.1 percent increase in trade among participating countries and a 3.4 percent boost in the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of low-income nations. Over the period from 2012 to 2021, emerging and developing economies have seen their GDP share rise by 3.6 percentage points, thanks to the advantages offered by the BRI.

Looking ahead, the World Bank’s projections indicate that by 2030, the BRI’s ongoing development will result in annual benefits totalling \$1.6 trillion for the global economy, equivalent to 1.3 percent of the world’s GDP. This substantial impact is expected to lift approximately 7.6 million people out of absolute poverty and elevate 32 million individuals out of moderate poverty between 2015 and 2030.

In a recent interview with media, Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar has conveyed his positive outlook regarding the implementation of foreign investment ventures worth \$25 billion, originating from Middle Eastern nations, including Saudi Arabia, within the forthcoming two to five years. He reiterated the government’s unwavering commitment to ensuring the safety and security of Chinese personnel engaged in CPEC projects, emphasizing the bipartisan nature of this support.

Nevertheless, he delineated his administration’s strategy for economic overhaul, indicating that the subsequent move would involve privatizing at least two power distribution companies. He asserted that the government intends to establish the groundwork for intermediate-level reforms, encompassing essential changes in the power and taxation domains. According to Kakar, the government is committed to executing pragmatic actions while providing a strategic direction to economic planning. He affirmed that there would be no bias in the upcoming general elections, and all officially, recognized political parties would be afforded an equitable chance to participate.

Beyond only economic benefits, the BRI and CPEC have given Pakistan cause for hope and confidence. It is evidence of the effectiveness of global collaboration and common development objectives. There is a fresh sense of purpose and energy as CPEC moves into its second phase. Pakistan sees a future where there are numerous economic opportunities, thriving businesses and a young, skilled workforce that leads the way.

However, difficulties persist. Priorities continue to include ensuring the benefits of CPEC are distributed fairly, addressing environmental issues and upholding security. However, if

everyone works together and is determined, these obstacles can be overcome. The road Pakistan has taken with the BRI and CPEC is one of optimism, tenacity and ambition. It is about a country embracing the possibilities of the twenty-first century and maximizing connectedness and hope for a bright future. The 3rd BRF is a prime example of the spirit of diplomacy in action, as nations come together not in conflict but in cooperation, setting sail for a more enlightened and interconnected world.

<https://pakobserver.net/3rd-belt-and-road-forum-promising-prospects-for-pakistan/>

### The Nation

#### **Pakistani handicrafts showcasing artistry at China Int'l Fair**

ISLAMABAD - Pakistani handicrafts set ablaze the 23rd China International Fair for Investment and Trade (CIFIT), one of the most prominent events hosted by China's Ministry of Commerce at Xiamen International Convention and Exhibition Centre.

For the purpose of cultural exchange and economic cooperation, Pakistani handicraft company Mega International showcased a dazzling array of traditional crafts and artisanal products that captivated visitors and investors alike at the exhibition area dedicated to international cooperation. From intricately carved onyx work to exquisitely embroidered textiles, they demonstrated the rich cultural heritage and artistic prowess of Pakistan.

Pakistani embroidery products attract a large number of visitors at the 23rd China International Fair for Investment and Trade (CIFIT), Gwadar Pro reported on Tuesday.

At the Pakistani Pavilion, one of the main attractions is the mesmerizing embroidery, a testament to the exceptional skills of Pakistani artisans.

The intricate thread-work adorns various textiles, including shawls, garments and home decor items.

The painstakingly embroidered motifs tell stories of tradition, history and cultural diversity. Visitors marvel at the meticulous craftsmanship and harmonious blending of colors that make each piece a work of art.

Exhibitor Faisal Rasheed introducing Pakistani handicrafts to a Chinese visitor at the 23rd China International Fair for Investment and Trade (CIFIT) Faisal Rasheed, owner of the company, was quite satisfied with his experience at CIFIT, where numerous visitors expressed interest in his handicrafts on display. Many attendees told him that they were impressed by the quality, craftsmanship and uniqueness of Pakistani products.

“CIFIT provides an ideal platform for us to present the unique craftsmanship and talent of our artisans and establish connections with potential buyers and investors from around the world.”

Faisal expressed his excitement about the fair, stating “this event not only allows us to promote our products but also fostered a deeper understanding and appreciation of Pakistan's cultural heritage, further facilitating cultural exchange and understanding between our two nations.”

This is the sixth time Faisal participated in CIFIT and his expectations are even greater this year. “We met some big clients here last year and it’s nice to take this opportunity to meet old friends. Pakistani handicrafts are widely welcomed by visitors for their exquisite design and high quality. The trust of Chinese friends in the products made by the Pakistani iron brothers is also an important factor.”

“With CIFIT acting as a catalyst, the future looks promising for Pakistani companies seeking to expand their presence in the global market. I hope our participation in CIFIT will open doors to new markets and collaborations, ensuring the continued preservation and promotion of Pakistan’s rich artistry,” Faisal concluded.

Themed “Open and Integrated: Key to High-Quality Development”, the 23rd CIFIT has attracted participation from 102 countries and regions as well as 14 international organisations.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2023-09-13/page-4/detail-2>

## **BRI: expectations and prospects**

*Yasir Habib Khan*

In a world where the future is determined through who shifts high-tech advancement into high gear through global cooperation and connectivity, the third BRI forum is going to take center stage in the month of October.

Propped up by the philosophy of balanced international order that promises respectful co-existence among diverse governance systems, protects sovereignty to all and offers the doctrine of live and let other live with harmony, the BRI forum appears to be harbinger of taking global theme to next stage. This forum, looking to be torchbearer of China’s visionary approach of Global Development Initiative (GDI), Global Security Initiative (GSI) and Global Civilisation Initiative (GCI), will open a window of brainstorming session among more than 150 countries and 90 international organisations.

With over 283 practical outcomes achieved in the preparatory process of the second Belt and Road Forum, and cooperation agreements worth more than \$64 billion signed during its CEO conference, the stakes are higher than ever. 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 152 countries and 32 international organisations, reaching 83% of its diplomatic relations. BRI projects have created around 420,000 jobs, lifting nearly 40 million people out of poverty.

Gwadar Port in Pakistan, a BRI initiative, has seen significant progress, handling more than 600,000 tonnes of cargo in the past 14 months and attracting various enterprises to its Free Zone. The China-Europe Railway Express now serves 211 cities in 25 European countries, while the New International Land-Sea Trade Corridor connects China’s regions to over 300 ports in 100 countries.

Participating BRI countries view the forum as an opportunity to deepen their cooperation with China, leveraging the infrastructure development and economic opportunities offered by the initiative. The BRI provides a platform for these nations to address their infrastructure



deficits, boost trade, and improve connectivity. By attending the BRF, these countries reaffirm their commitment to the principles of mutual benefit and shared prosperity underpinning the BRI. The third BRF carries broader global significance. It serves as a lens through which the world assesses China's role in shaping the global economic landscape. Critics have raised concerns about the BRI, seeing it as a tool for China to expand its geopolitical and economic influence. Amidst the mounting anticipation surrounding the 3rd BRI Forum, several key expectations have emerged. Foremost among them is the anticipation of the announcement of fresh, sustainable BRI projects.

China has frequently faced accusations of creating a "debt trap" within the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). However, in the upcoming third BRI Forum, there will be a dedicated focus on addressing concerns regarding debt sustainability. This underscores China's unwavering dedication to upholding responsible financial practices. Likewise, the environmental sustainability of BRI projects frequently draws scrutiny. Consequently, the forum is poised to witness the introduction of new green BRI partnerships and ecological initiatives. These endeavors will stand as a testament to China's steadfast commitment to sustainable development practices.

The event will offer a comprehensive update on the progress achieved across the six vital BRI economic corridors: the China-Pakistan corridor, Bangladesh-China-India-Myanmar corridor, China-Mongolia-Russia corridor, China-Central Asia-West Asia corridor, New Eurasian Land Bridge, and China-Indochina Peninsula corridor. These corridors serve as the lifelines of the BRI, facilitating seamless connectivity and fostering economic cooperation. Beyond project announcements and corridor updates, the 3rd BRI Forum will also undertake the crucial task of assessing how the BRI's cooperative efforts have tangibly improved the lives of countless individuals. It will delve into the substantial impact of the BRI in terms of job creation, poverty alleviation, trade and investment enhancement, and the critical development of infrastructure within partner countries.

In addition to these concrete achievements, the 3rd BRI Forum is assessed to serve as a powerful platform for China to reiterate its visionary commitment to shared benefits through multilateral cooperation. Against a backdrop of increasing global protectionism and unilateralism, this forum represents a unique opportunity to champion critical elements of cooperation, including policy alignment, unimpeded trade, financial integration, and the fostering of closer people-to-people exchanges across a multitude of nations.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2023-09-13/page-6/detail-2>

### **President for robust coop with China in trade, defence**

ISLAMABAD - President Dr. Arif Alvi has called for more robust cooperation with China in the areas of trade, economy, culture and defense.

He said that China was a reliable and tested friend and Pakistan wanted to further strengthen the strategic relations with China for the mutual benefit of the two countries.

The President made these remarks during his meetings with the Ambassadors-designate of China and Venezuela (Non-Resident), as well as Colombia (Non-resident), who presented

their diplomatic credentials to the President and separately called on him at Aiwan-e-Sadr on Tuesday.

Welcoming the Ambassador-designate of China to Pakistan, Mr. Jiang Zaidong, the President said that Pakistan highly valued its ties with China as it had always stood by Pakistan at difficult times. The President said that Pakistan would continue to support China on all core issues.

Highlighting the importance of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), the President said that CPEC would greatly contribute to the socioeconomic development of Pakistan. He informed that the project had helped in modernizing our infrastructure, building our capacity and ensuring a sustainable energy supply. He added that Pakistan was fully committed to timely completion of all projects under CPEC. The President expressed his gratitude for China's unflinching support to Pakistan's socioeconomic development as well as its principled stance on the Jammu & Kashmir dispute. In his meeting with the Ambassador-designate of the Venezuela, Mr. Jose Rafael Silva Aponte, the President said that Pakistan placed special emphasis on improving trade and economic relations with Venezuela. He highlighted that the Venezuelan investors could benefit investment-friendly policies of Pakistan. While talking to the Ambassador-designate of the Republic of Colombia, Mr. Julio Anibal Riano Velandia, President Arif Alvi underlined the need for further enhancing economic, culture and trade relations with Columbia.

The President congratulated the envoys on their appointments and expressed the hope that they would play their role to further enhance bilateral cooperation between their respective countries and Pakistan.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2023-09-13/page-12/detail-4>

## The News

### **Will a bigger BRICS be a bigger challenge?**

*Beelam Ramzan*

The expansion of BRICS has been hailed as “historic” by the bloc’s most stalwart proponent of enlargement, China. The five-member bloc consists of Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa, and comprises 40 per cent of the world population and more than 25 per cent of the world GDP.

BRICS has agreed to admit at a summit in Johannesburg, a major South African city, six new entrants into its orbit aiming to raise its influence and global reach. Will this Bigger BRICS be able to challenge the existing international order without falling victim to many contradictions inherent?

The acronym ‘BRICS’, was coined in 2001 by Goldman Sachs economist Jim O’Neill to describe fast-growing economies that he predicted would collectively dominate the global economy by 2050. The addition of Iran, Saudi Arabia, UAE, Egypt, Ethiopia, and Argentina is significant because it would establish a footprint of Global South vs Global North. For a long time the G7 consisting of the US, Canada, UK, Germany, France, Italy, Japan has been

dominant over global economic governance and decision-making. BRICS+6 nations is set to join hands in fostering economic development vis-a-vis G7 and their collective influence and ambition is predicted to pose a challenge for the West.

A major contributing factor to BRICS' rise is Chinese and Indian economic growth. China is the second largest economy in the world after the US, and has the largest GDP in BRICS, at \$19.37 trillion in 2023. With its rising consumer market, massive trade and investment, high-tech manufacturing and web of supply chains, it is definitely a jewel in the crown of BRICS.

India is fifth in the world, second to China in BRICS, with a GDP of \$3.73 trillion in 2023, an enviable partner in the bloc for its booming tech industry and growing market opportunities. Both are galloping economies expected to grow at six per cent in 2023, as projected by the IMF. Russia, Brazil and South Africa on the other hand have fallen short of expectations as their GDP has grown by less than one per cent during the last decade and will remain so. The combined GDP of the bloc is over \$26.03 trillion in 2022, which is slightly more than the United States.

Despite the dismal growth of three economies, the five BRICS nations, with heavyweights China and India in the lead, are predicted to surpass the G7 in terms of their combined GDP in 2023, and in terms of purchasing power parity. According to the IMF, the bloc will collectively account for 32.1 per cent of global GDP this year, more than the G7's share of 29.9 per cent. The addition of six members would obviously push the GDP further – an obvious sign of concern for the West.

Projections for BRICS+6 have been announced and they are impressive. According to the IMF, the new bloc is expected to have a combined GDP of \$30.8 trillion representing 29.3 per cent of global share and 46 per cent of the global population. With the admission of Saudi Arabia, which alone accounts for 12.9 per cent of global oil production, Iran (4.1 per cent) and UAE (4.3 per cent), the share of oil export of BRICS will grow from 20.4 per cent to 43.1 per cent as per the World Energy Review. This will be a major alternative for oil export, in the wake of the Russian sanctions, which will address the growing consumption needs of giant members like China, and India. Similarly, the group's share of global exports will grow from 20.2 per cent to 25.1 per cent, predicted by the WTO, with China in the lead.

The expansion of BRICS does not suggest a mere statistical number game. In the changing geopolitical landscape it is viewed as a counterweight to the West, a reaction to ages of mistrust of US foreign policy, and offering an alternative trade block to G7 with pride in its own financial institutions and ambition for its own currency. However, there are inherent tensions and contradictions as members differ politically, economically and militarily; these need to be managed for meaningful development.

Russia is vulnerable and it needs BRICS more than anything in the face of the mounting sanctions it faces from the West for its offensive on Ukraine. China wants to admit more countries from the Global South as a reaction to the emerging Nato-like alliance network, including Asia Pacific countries, aimed to circumvent it. Saudi Arabia and the UAE are seen by the West to be out of their orbit. Iran's increased isolation over its nuclear programme will be a challenge for the West.

China and India need to deescalate their military and territorial tensions to be in the lead. In BRICS+6, autocracies have to coalesce with democracies, non-aligned co-exist with military aggressors, economic giants conjoin with struggling economies. If this group has been expanded with an aim to challenge the Western-led international order, then they should possess a more challenging voice and regulate their tensions to articulate this alternative model.

Ironically, Pakistan is not anywhere among countries that have applied for membership or in the bigger list of over 40 countries that have expressed interest in joining BRICS. This despite the fact that Pakistan had a chance to play the Chinese fiddle of being an all-weather friend to push its case. Any move by India, as a hostile adversary, could be outwitted by good lobbying with five potential members in this bloc, particularly four Muslim countries, with whom Pakistan has good relations.

Pakistan's entry into BRICS will not be possible without a will to reform, stabilize its political order, enable investment opportunities, streamline regulatory processes, promote human capital development, and enhance investor confidence and protection.

The writer holds an LL.M degree in international economic law from the University of Warwick. She can be reached at: [beelam\\_ramzan@yahoo.com](mailto:beelam_ramzan@yahoo.com)

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=237277>

**September 14, 2023**

**Daily Times**

### **Forging Ahead to Boost China-Pakistan Ironclad Friendship**

This year marks the 10th anniversary of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), and China's neighborhood policy of amity, sincerity, mutual benefit and inclusiveness-both proposed by President Xi Jinping. It also marks the 10th anniversary of the launch of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). In this context, being appointed as the Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan, I'm fully aware of the glorious mission with heavy responsibility.

Not long ago, I flew over the majestic Karakoram and arrived in Pakistan, a friendly country what we call "iron brother" in China. Even within this short stay, I have already felt the China-Pakistan friendship that is said to be "higher than mountains, deeper than ocean, and sweeter than honey".

China and Pakistan are linked by mountains and rivers, and have enjoyed ever-lasting friendship. During the past 72 years since the establishment of diplomatic ties, no matter how the international situation may change, China-Pakistan have always stood side by side in weal and woe. The two countries have rendered each other mutual understanding and mutual support, and forged an ironclad friendship. In April 2015, Chinese President Xi Jinping paid a historic state visit to Pakistan, during which the two sides elevated China-Pakistan bilateral relations to all-weather strategic cooperative partnership, opening up a new chapter in the development of bilateral ties. Since then, President Xi Jinping has met with Pakistani leaders many times and both sides have reached important consensus, which provides the

fundamental principles and action guidelines for the development of bilateral relations. China-Pakistan relations have maintained a high level of operation and are full of vigor and vitality.

Both sides have maintained close high-level exchanges. Not long ago, President Xi Jinping sent a message of congratulations to the 10th anniversary of the CPEC, and dispatched his Special Representative, Vice Premier of the State Council of China Mr. He Lifeng to visit Pakistan for the celebration. It fully demonstrates the great importance attached to China-Pakistan relations by our leaders. The Global Development Initiative, Global Security Initiative and Global Civilization Initiative proposed by President Xi Jinping have received positive response in Pakistan. The strong guidance of the leaders has set the direction for the development of China-Pakistan relations and steer the way forging ahead.

China-Pakistan practical cooperation has achieved fruitful results. The economic and trade cooperation maintains high level. China has been Pakistan's largest trading partner for eight consecutive years. Pakistan's exports of agricultural products to China have grown rapidly. The CPEC has evolved from vision into reality, becoming a vivid testament of the all-weather friendship, and providing important support for building an even closer China-Pakistan community with a shared future in the new era. Two sides are committed to jointly building CPEC into a growth corridor, a livelihood-enhancing corridor, an innovation corridor, a green corridor and an open corridor, and carry forward the CPEC with high-quality development.

China-Pakistan military exchanges and cooperation have continued to deepen. The leaders of the two militaries have maintained good momentum of frequent exchanges and visits. This year, senior leaders of the Pakistani military including Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee and Chief of Army Staff visited China successively. The two militaries have witnessed fruitful cooperation in fields such as joint training and exercises, anti-pandemic cooperation, equipment and technology collaboration, constantly enriching the connotation of bilateral strategic cooperation, making important contribution to safeguarding regional peace and stability.

China-Pakistan cultural and people exchanges have continued to expand. Flights between the two countries have resumed in an orderly manner. Exchanges of visits by scholars, media professionals, religious representatives and other groups have taken place one after another. Students from the two countries are enthusiastic about studying abroad in each other's country. The people-to-people bond has been further strengthened. This year is the China-Pakistan Year of Tourism Exchanges. The Gandhara Art Exhibition was successfully held at the Palace Museum in Beijing, injecting new impetus into the people-to-people contacts, tourism cooperation and cultural exchanges between the two countries.

Now under the strong leadership of the CPC Central Committee with Comrade Xi Jinping at its core, under the guidance of Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era, the entire CPC and people of all ethnic groups in China are earnestly implementing the spirit of the 20th National Congress of the CPC, and to embrace the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation on all fronts through a Chinese path to modernization. Despite the complex and challenging external environment, Chinese economy still has strong

resilience with tremendous potential. The fundamentals sustaining China's long-term growth remain unchanged. China has the confidence, the conditions and the ability to promote the continuous optimization of its economic structure, continuous enhancement of its growth momentum, and continuous improvement of development trends. China will accelerate efforts to foster a new development paradigm, pursue high-quality development in a comprehensive way, and contribute more positive energy to global economic recovery. China's development will undoubtedly create new opportunities for China-Pakistan cooperation.

China views its relations with Pakistan from a strategic and long-term perspective, and Pakistan has always been a high priority in China's neighborhood diplomacy. I am ready to work with friends from all walks of life in China and Pakistan, by implementing the important consensus reached by President Xi Jinping and Pakistani leaders as the guiding principle, building a closer China-Pakistan community with a shared future in the new era as the main line, and promoting high-quality development of the CPEC as the major platform, to continuously consolidate, deepen and expand China-Pakistan all-weather strategic cooperation, safeguard our common interests against changes unseen in a century, and better benefit the two countries and the two peoples.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1131875/forging-ahead-to-boost-china-pakistan-ironclad-friendship/>

### **Pakistan Observer**

#### **China emerges as key investor in Pakistan's digital sector**

China has emerged as a key investor in Pakistan's digital sector, with numerous successful collaborations and partnerships contributing to the country's digital growth. We look forward to China taking the lead in digital investments in Pakistan," highlighted Zulfiqar Ali, Director General of Pakistan Regulatory Moderation Initiative, Board of Investment (BOI).

On a panel discussion session of the UN Asia-Pacific Innovation Forum during the 23rd China International Fair for Investment and Trade (CIFIT) held from 8 Sept to 11 Sept, Zulfiqar Ali outlined Pakistan's national strategies for digital development and highlighted the critical role of foreign direct investment (FDI) in the country's digital transformation.

As the world embraces the digital age, Pakistan is actively pursuing the path of digitalization and making substantial efforts to transform its economy and society. Recognizing the importance of digital development, Pakistan has formulated comprehensive strategies and policies to harness the potential of technology.

These efforts encompass various sectors, including infrastructure, education, governance and entrepreneurship, with the aim of leveraging technology to drive economic growth and improve the quality of life for its people. The director general noted that Pakistan has launched a Digital Economy Enhancement Project worth \$78 million, aiming at enhancing the government's capacity for digitally-enabled public service delivery for citizens and businesses. One of the key components of the initiative is the Pakistan Business Portal, which

is a one-stop shop for businesses to digitally execute all their functions in Pakistan without having to visit any office.—APP

<https://pakobserver.net/china-emerges-as-key-investor-in-pakistans-digital-sector/>

### The Nation

#### **Chinese varsity team calls on VC UET Peshawar**

Peshawar - A delegation of the Southeast University (SEU) Naniyang China called on Prof Dr Iftikhar Hussain, Vice Chancellor University of Engineering & Technology (UET) Peshawar here on Wednesday.

The delegation also met with Secretary Relief and Rehabilitation Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Abdul Basit, Deputy Scientific Advisor, Ministry of Science and Technology (MOST) Islamabad, Raja Shehryar, VC University of Science and Technology, Bannu, Prof Dr Khair-uz-Zaman, VC University of Peshawar, Prof Dr Jehan Bakht.

The visit was aimed to discuss the possibility of establishing the “China-Pak Belt and Road Joint Laboratory for Smart Disaster Prevention of major Infrastructure” which will be established in five designated universities of Pakistan including UET Peshawar, UET Lahore, NED Karachi, NUST and BUITEM Quetta. The senior officials from PDMA Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Centre for Disaster Preparedness and Management, UoP, China Study Centre UoP and Civil Engineering Department UET Peshawar gave their presentations.

Prof Zhou Dong from SEU said, the SEU Civil Engineering Department is ranked “A+” as a first-class discipline, declared by Ministry of Education, China. He said that cooperation between SEU and Pakistani universities are part of the “Belt and Road” initiative based on talent cultivation, technology promotion and joint research development, adding, it would establish long-term friendship to carry out multi-disciplinary exchanges and cooperation in the field of disaster risk management. Raja Shehryar of MOST said,

“The lab at UET Peshawar will serve as hub for public sector universities of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in collaboration with Southeast University Naniyang, China. The joint lab will work under the umbrella of MOST and NDMA as part of Public Private Partnership model suggested by the CPEC working group on S&T.”

Abdul Basit, Secretary Relief and Rehabilitation KP said that the government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has established the Relief, Rehabilitation and Settlement Department (RRS D) which is actively working on formulating policies, strategies to look after disasters in the province.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2023-09-14/page-4/detail-8>

### **China-Pakistan ironclad friendship**

*By Jiang Zaidong*

This year marks the 10 anniversary of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), and China’s neighborhood policy of amity, sincerity, mutual benefit and inclusiveness. It also marks the 10 anniversary of the launch of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). In this

context, being appointed as the Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan, I'm fully aware of the glorious mission with heavy responsibility.

Not long ago, I flew over the majestic Karakoram and arrived in Pakistan, a country we call "iron brother" in China. Even within this short stay, I have already felt the China-Pakistan friendship that is said to be "higher than mountains, deeper than ocean, and sweeter than honey".

China and Pakistan are linked by mountains and rivers, and have enjoyed an ever-lasting friendship. During the past 72 years since the establishment of diplomatic ties, no matter how the international situation may change, China-Pakistan have always stood side by side in weal and woe. The two countries have rendered each other mutual understanding and mutual support, and forged an ironclad friendship.

In April 2015, Chinese President Xi Jinping paid a historic state visit to Pakistan, during which the two sides elevated China-Pakistan bilateral relations to all-weather strategic cooperative partnership, opening up a new chapter in the development of bilateral ties. Since then, President Xi Jinping has met with Pakistani leaders many times and both sides have reached important consensus, which provides the fundamental principles and action guidelines for the development of bilateral relations. China-Pakistan relations have maintained a high level of operation and are full of vigor and vitality.

Both sides have maintained close high-level exchanges. Not long ago, President Xi Jinping sent a message of congratulations to the 10 anniversary of the CPEC, and dispatched his Special Representative, Vice Premier of the State Council of China Mr. He Lifeng to visit Pakistan for the celebration. It fully demonstrates the great importance attached to China-Pakistan relations by our leaders. The Global Development Initiative, Global Security Initiative and Global Civilisation Initiative proposed by President Xi Jinping have received positive response in Pakistan. The strong guidance of the leaders has set the direction for the development of China-Pakistan relations and steer the way forging ahead.

China-Pakistan practical cooperation has achieved fruitful results. The economic and trade cooperation maintains high level. China has been Pakistan's largest trading partner for eight consecutive years. Pakistan's exports of agricultural products to China have grown rapidly. CPEC has evolved from vision into reality, becoming a vivid testament of the all-weather friendship, and providing important support for building an even closer China-Pakistan community with a shared future in the new era. Two sides are committed to jointly building CPEC into a growth corridor, a livelihood-enhancing corridor, an innovation corridor, a green corridor and an open corridor, and carry forward the CPEC with high-quality development.

China-Pakistan military exchanges and cooperation have continued to deepen. The leaders of the two militaries have maintained good momentum of frequent exchanges and visits. This year, senior leaders of the Pakistani military including Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee and Chief of Army Staff visited China successively. The two militaries have witnessed fruitful cooperation in fields such as joint training and exercises, anti-pandemic cooperation, equipment and technology collaboration, constantly making important contributions to safeguarding regional peace and stability.



China-Pakistan cultural and people exchanges have continued to expand. Flights between the two countries have resumed in an orderly manner. Exchanges of visits by scholars, media professionals, religious representatives and other groups have taken place one after another. Students from the two countries are enthusiastic about studying abroad in each other's country.

The people-to-people bond has been further strengthened. This year is the China-Pakistan Year of Tourism Exchanges. The Gandhara Art Exhibition was successfully held at the Palace Museum in Beijing, injecting new impetus into the people-to-people contacts, tourism cooperation and cultural exchanges between the two countries.

Now under the strong leadership of the CPC Central Committee with Comrade Xi Jinping at its core, under the guidance of Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era, the entire CPC and people of all ethnic groups in China are earnestly implementing the spirit of the 20th National Congress of the CPC, and to embrace the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation on all fronts through a Chinese path to modernisation. Despite the complex and challenging external environment, Chinese economy still has strong resilience with tremendous potential.

The fundamentals sustaining China's long-term growth remain unchanged. China has the confidence, the conditions and the ability to promote the continuous optimisation of its economic structure, continuous enhancement of its growth momentum, and continuous improvement of development trends. China will accelerate efforts to foster a new development paradigm, pursue high-quality development in a comprehensive way, and contribute more positive energy to global economic recovery.

China views its relations with Pakistan from a strategic and long-term perspective, and Pakistan has always been a high priority in China's neighborhood diplomacy. I am ready to work with friends from all walks of life in China and Pakistan, by implementing the important consensus reached by President Xi Jinping and Pakistani leaders as the guiding principle, building a closer China-Pakistan community with a shared future in the new era as the main line, and promoting high-quality development of the CPEC as the major platform, to continuously consolidate, deepen and expand China-Pakistan all-weather strategic cooperation, safeguard our common interests against changes unseen in a century, and better benefit the two countries and the two peoples.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2023-09-14/page-6/detail-5>

### **Pakistan's exports to China surge by 81.6pc in August**

ISLAMABAD-In the second month of the fiscal year 2023-24, Pakistan's exports to China have demonstrated a promising trend, marking a remarkable surge. During the month of August, exports to China soared by an impressive 81.6% compared to the same period in the previous fiscal year.

According to the latest report of the Trade Development Authority of Pakistan (TDAP), in August of the current fiscal year 2023-24, Pakistan's exports to China reached the figure of \$ 211 million. This represents an 81.6% increase compared to the exports recorded in the same period of the previous fiscal year, which stood at \$ 116.2 million in FY 2022-23.

As per the report, in August 2023, Pakistan's exports to United Kingdom reached \$190 million, exports to the Netherlands stood at \$ 130.7 million, Afghanistan received exports worth \$76.4 million from Pakistan, KSA imported goods valued at \$51.8 million, Vietnam's imports from Pakistan totaled \$ 38.7 million, exports to Poland amounted to \$ 37.2 million, Malaysia received exports worth \$32.5 million and Turkey imported goods worth \$ 30.1 million from Pakistan. For the second consecutive month in FY 2023-24, Pakistan's exports to China maintained positive growth.

In July 2023, the country's exports to China increased by 35.1% compared to the same month of the previous financial year. During August 2023, Pakistan's exports to different destinations of the world stood at \$2363 million which is 14.27% less than the exports of the country in correspondent month last year. In the same month, Pakistan's imports were recorded at \$4,489 million, resulting in a trade deficit of -\$2,126 million. In August, Pakistan's top export products included linen products valued at \$364.6 million, followed by cotton yarn at \$103.7 million and copper products at \$57.5 million.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2023-09-14/page-8/detail-4>

### **China committed to solid friendship with Pakistan: envoy**

*SHAFQAT ALI*

ISLAMABAD- New Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan Jiang Zaidong yesterday reaffirmed a robust commitment to strengthening the enduring and unbreakable friendship between these two nations. In a message commemorating the 10th anniversary of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), Ambassador Zaidong highlighted the profound historical ties between China and Pakistan, dating back 72 years since the establishment of diplomatic relations.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2023-09-14/page-12/detail-5>

### **The News**

#### **Pakistan, China must explore herbal medicine market**

LAHORE: The global market for herbal medicines would likely reach \$107 billion by 2024 and \$178.4 billion by 2026, which provides vast room to the 30,000 Pakistani herbal drugs, cosmetic and healthcare companies to expand their horizons.

Pakistan China Joint Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCJCCI) President Moazzam Ghurki said that there was a need to empower the herbal medicine and other related companies by establishing a specialised herbal research institution. He was speaking at a PCJCCI think tank session on Wednesday.

He said that the establishment of a herbal research institute would help develop the industry and educate the health regulators in the country. He also added that China is the pioneer of herbal treatments based on research of more than 2,500 years, while Pakistan in its Himalayan range is enriched with naturally growing herbs that are of high value in pharmaceutical industries.

“Their proper utilisation could lead to socio-economic development of the individuals and the country,” Ghurki said.

Following cooperation in the economic and military sectors, both the brotherly nations should also collaborate in the area of traditional and conventional medicine to learn from each other’s experiences.

The PCJCCI hoped that this process would create a new dimension in business productivity and development of innovative herbal products and cures. PCJCCI Senior Vice President Fang Yulong said it is notable that China, India, European countries, and the United States of America represent the largest markets that have created consumer confidence in the efficacy and safety of herbal medicaments.

“The amalgamation of Pakistani and Chinese herbal medicines, techniques and procedures would revolutionise the arena of the herbal curative system and treatments besides capturing a handsome share in the international market for herbal medicines.”

He further added that herbal and plant medicine is a billion-dollar industry and the world is gradually moving towards organic and herbal medicines.

Therefore, the industry provides Pakistan with an opportunity to market its miraculous herbal medicines around the world. Yulong appreciated the idea presented by the PCJCCI president on collaborating in the herbal medicine field, and said that the Sichuan province of China has one of the largest manufacturing bases of traditional Chinese medicines.

He informed that there were 1,800 hospitals and 78,000 clinics in the province, whereas over 5,000 species of herbs were being used to develop traditional Chinese medicines in the province.

PCJCCI Vice President Hamza Khalid said, “We have to create a link between the herbal research centres, the teaching institutes, universities, researchers, academics and experts that will ultimately aid the exchange of information required for the capacity building of Pakistan in the herbal sector.”

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=237583>

**September 15, 2023**

**Daily Times**

### **Capitalizing CPEC potential crucial for expanding clean energy, access to green finance: experts**

The Chinese and Pakistani experts at a seminar titled High Level Symposium on “Renewable Energy Collaboration under CPEC: A Diplomatic Discourse” on Thursday said leveraging time-tested diplomatic ties with China can mobilize the much-needed investment for expanding affordable and clean energy access in Pakistan.

The seminar was organized by Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI) and the Pakistan-China Institute here, a news release said.

Executive Director, SDPI, Dr Abid Qaiyum Suleri remarked that the climate crisis amplified by the consistent use of dirty fuels impacts the global community without any distinction of geography and economic conditions. While countries are responding to climate crisis by embarking on renewable energy transition, the energy inflation emanating from the Russia-Ukraine conflict manifests itself at domestic level in the form of energy price hikes and disgruntled masses as witnessed currently in Pakistan. 6.1 million units of electricity theft has been detected recently and Pakistan must bank on China's expertise in promoting clean and green energy initiatives with doable and practical solutions.

Dr. Hassan Daud Butt Research Fellow SDPI highlighted that BRI has already generated US\$ one trillion worth of economic activity emerging as a beacon of hope for global collaboration and growth.

He said that under BRI, Pakistan was proposed as a test case for expanding the country's energy portfolio, with a goal to achieve 30% growth in the renewable energy sector by 2030.

The government should proactively present proposals to China, creating a conducive policy environment for renewable energy promotion, he urged.

He stressed the need for pragmatic approaches, policy resilience, and making CPEC a launching pad for large-scale clean and green energy initiatives.

N. A. Zuberi, Senior Advisor, China Three Georges South Asia Investment, Ltd informed that through the Community Investment Plan (CIP), 655 million in Punjab and AJK regions was invested by Chinese firms. The company has also developed three wind power projects with an installed capacity of 49.50 MW, with tariffs below 5 per cent.

He highlighted payment delays from CPPAG for CSAIL renewable projects, circular debt, major annual losses of 250 million due to non-operational projects, delayed shipments and substantial payments for damages as major challenges faced by Chinese investors in Pakistan.

Xiao Pang, Senior Specialist, BRI International Green Development Coalition, stressed on leveraging CPEC to accelerate adoption of renewable energy and substantially reducing carbon emissions.

He emphasized on pre-feasibility analysis to attract investors, capacity-building initiatives and forming a coalition of experts dedicated to advancing green initiatives.

Dr. Liaquat Ali Shah, Executive Director, CPEC Centre of Excellence, stressed the need for building institutional capacity, policy integration, by aligning industry and energy policies with green industrial policies. He emphasized that the focus in renewable energy should extend beyond generation to energy conservation and efficiency, pointing out that outdated facilities can lead to increased costs.

Taimur Adil, Founding Partner of Impetus Advisory, stressed on exploring financial mechanisms such as private equity for green energy projects and tapping the investment potential in the Gulf region.

He urged for enhancing the capacity of government departments, particularly through the use of metrics and dashboards to identify bottlenecks and streamline energy development efforts.

Dr. Khalid Waleed, Research Fellow SDPI, addressing affordability crises, advocated for energy transition solutions including establishing JETPS to mobilize finance.

He urged for investment in transmission systems over generation and strengthening regional and bilateral diplomatic ties.

He also highlighted the potential for China to shift manufacturing to Pakistan, China, with its abundant capital resources, could benefit from utilizing Pakistan's labor-intensive workforce, creating a mutually advantageous trade relationship.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1132339/capitalizing-cpec-potential-crucial-for-expanding-clean-energy-access-to-green-finance-experts/>

### **Dawn News**

#### **Chinese firm to establish electric vehicle plant in Pakistan**

*Kalbe Ali*

ISLAMABAD: A Chinese electric car manufacturing company has announced establishing an electric vehicle (EV) plant in Pakistan and chain of showrooms in major cities of the country.

This announcement was made by a delegation of XinjianJingyi Cheng Group, led by its assistant chairman GU Xongquan, during a meeting with FPCCI Vice President Amin Ullah Baig here on Thursday.

Mr Baig, who is also chairman of the FPCCI Capital Office, held an extensive discussion with the Chinese firm's team on the investment landscape of Pakistan.

Mr GU said entering the Pakistani market and setting up a manufacturing unit and showrooms was in the interest of the company and part of its long-term business plan.

XinjianJingyi Cheng Group is engaged in five industries — electromechanical and hydraulic, light power, vehicle, international trade and production and service.

Mr GU said cars were the main means of transport in Pakistan, while the rising global oil prices have led to a sharp increase in gasoline prices, making it imperative for consumers to switch to new energy markets.

“In the long run, electric cars save much more fuel cost than petrol-run vehicles,” he said, adding that XinjianJingyi Cheng Group emphasises the innovation and development of automobiles with modern technology and integration of resources.

Mr Baig asked the Chinese firm's delegation to expedite their investment plans which will be mutually beneficial. He noted that Chinese auto brands operating in Pakistan are popular among the masses, and China is leading the development of key technologies for electric vehicles.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1775984#:~:text=ISLAMABAD%3A%20A%20Chinese%20electric%20car,major%20cities%20of%20the%20country.>

## Pakistan Observer

### **CPEC transforms Pakistan’s social economic landscape: Moin**

Pakistan’s Ambassador to China, Moin ul Haque said that the construction of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), the flagship project of the Belt and Road (BRI), has transformed Pakistan’s socioeconomic landscape and brought tangible benefits to its people.

“The BRI paved with the principles of peaceful coexistence, good neighborliness, and win-win cooperation has also brought nations together in harmony, transcending differences and working towards shared prosperity,” he told local media during his visit to the National Committee of the Chinese People’s Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC), China’s top political advisory body.

The ambassadors and diplomats from 18 countries, including Laos, Kazakhstan, and Uzbekistan participated in a thematic forum with CPPCC National Committee members to exchange views on the role of consultation in deepening Belt and Road cooperation.

The ambassadors said, “The Belt and Road Initiative China proposed 10 years ago has achieved tangible results and boosted win-win cooperation between China and participating countries.”—APP

<https://pakobserver.net/cpec-transforms-pakistans-social-economic-landscape-moin/>

## The Nation

### **Dhabeji SEZ to boost industrialisation in Sindh**

KARACHI-The Dhabeji Special Economic Zone (DSEZ) will not only boost industrialisation but also create employment and economic opportunities in the province of Sindh.

DSEZ is a significant component of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and will be linked to Keti Bandar, which connects to the Gwadar Port in Balochistan. Keti Bandar was constructed following the closure of Shah Bandar, which was a significant trading hub at the time.

Over 1,500 acres of land has been allocated to establish DSEZ in Thatta. The development of DSEZ is planned in three phases. Dhabeji Industrial Zone has been proposed to be constructed in two phases with 750 acres allocated for the Phase-I and 780 acres for Phase-II, according to official documents of the Sindh Economic Zones Management Company (SEZMC).

The documents highlight that Dhabeji has certain locational advantages, including easy access to Port Qasim, which will enable raw material import and finished goods export without incurring major inland transportation costs. A direct access road (8km) connecting Port Qasim to Dhabeji Zone is also being developed.

A dedicated cargo deck connecting the zone with ML-1 from Dhabeji junction and a jetty to connect Port Qasim alongside Dhabeji zone from creek side is envisaged to facilitate export-oriented industries. It will connect to Karachi Airport (35km) via National Highway to enable safe travel of foreign workers and management personnel, besides enabling the transportation

of goods to the upcountry areas and Central Asian countries, using the National Trade Corridor.

The industrial clusters and sectors proposed or planned to be established in DSEZ include light engineering, automotive and auto parts, chemical and pharmaceuticals, consumer electronics engineering, textile and garments, steel foundries, warehousing and building material, the SEZMC documents show. Special packages have also been announced to incentivise investors. These include a one-time exemption from tax and customs duty on the import of capital goods, as well as income tax exemption for a period of 10 years. These measures are designed to promote investment, boost economic activity and attract businesses to DSEZ.

DSEZ is regarded as a flagship project of the government of Sindh and is planned to be executed through a public-private partnership (PPP) model.

The feasibility study and transaction advisory for the project were completed by the Institute of Business Education, Karachi, and EA Consulting Private Limited. The zone is expected to attract foreign direct investment of around \$5 billion and create more than 150,000 direct and indirect employment opportunities. DSEZ is part of industrial cooperation between China and Pakistan under the CPEC's second phase. It is pertinent to mention here that at a CPEC meeting in 2016, approval was granted for establishing six economic zones in Pakistan, including DSEZ.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2023-09-15/page-9/detail-0>

## The News

### **Pakistan, China to step up AI cooperation**

Islamabad: Artificial Intelligence (AI), a core driving force in the new wave of technological revolution and industrial transformation, has the potential to propel social productivity to new heights.

As a late starter, Chinese AI development has achieved significant milestones in recent years. After receiving several requirements from Pakistani companies to cooperate with Chinese companies in AI field, China-Pakistan Cooperation Centre on Technical Standardisation held a China-Pakistan Artificial Intelligence Industry Cooperation meeting, according to Gwadar Pro. On the meeting, five Chinese companies and five Pakistani companies introduced their business and requirements.

They showed their latest technologies including digital human, chatbot and AI transformation services. "Our institute and the Institute of Quality and Technology Management (IQTM) of University of the Punjab co-established the China-Pakistan Cooperation Centre on Technical Standardisation in 2020. Since then, we have closely cooperated in multiple fields including traditional Chinese medicine, food, and information technology, etc," said Huang hao, president of Chengdu institute of Standardisation.

He noted that this meeting is the first of five IT subsector meetings that the centre plans to arrange in the next few months. "I noticed that in Pakistan, there're more service companies

that provide AI services, while in China there are more AI products provider. The exchange could help us know the requirements of each other and what can be provided. This is one aspect of potential Pak-China cooperation in AI sector,” said representative from Txxel company, one of Pakistani participants. “Another potential is that we can find a way to develop something new together.

Research and development centre could be established jointly, so that Chinese companies and Pakistani companies could work and make progress in this field together. “Success of our initiative depends on how quickly these ten companies reach business to business agreements for mutual benefit. Technical cooperation and using available skills in most efficient way is the way forward. Companies can interact with each other independently after the meeting.

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=237991>

## *Chinese Newspapers*

**September 04, 2023**

### **Xinhuanet News**

#### **Interview: Belt and Road Initiative contributes to global humanitarian work, says ICRC president**

The BRI is a development initiative that is complementary to humanitarian work as it can serve the people affected by conflict in a sustainable manner, said Mirjana Spoljaric, president of the International Committee of the Red Cross.

GENEVA, Sept. 4 (Xinhua) -- The Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) helps improve local infrastructure, provides essential services in many countries and regions, and contributes to global humanitarian work, the president of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) has said.

The BRI is a development initiative that is complementary to humanitarian work as it can serve the people affected by conflict in a sustainable manner, ICRC President Mirjana Spoljaric told Xinhua in a recent interview.

As a humanitarian organization, the ICRC wants to make sure the humanitarian interventions are not short-term but will have a sustainable impact.

"We need to assure that the people who work and live in protracted situations of conflict can continue benefiting from essential services such as healthy water and other public goods," Spoljaric said.

"There is a thin line between development assistance and humanitarian assistance in such situations and this is where we have to work in complementarity with the development actors," she said.

Climate change has a huge compounding impact on the humanitarian crisis, said Spoljaric, who added that there is a "vicious circle" between poverty, violence and climate change, which are constantly reinforcing each other.



In many places, poverty is reinforced by the absence of rain, she explained, adding that conflict is produced on top of poverty and conflict often happens in communities that depend 80 percent on agriculture.

The ICRC president called on the international community to team up and make efforts to help regions that suffer from lack of water, declining resources and increasing food insecurity, to invest in adequate infrastructure and adaptation measures to mitigate the impact of climate change.

The Geneva-based organization will continue strengthening dialogue and cooperation with China in different aspects, Spoljaric said.

<https://english.news.cn/20230904/aeec284bf34014bb1c3648b74f6740/c.html>

**September 05, 2023**

**Xinhuanet News**

### **Digital Silk Road promotes e-commerce between China, Pakistan**

TIANJIN, Sept. 5 (Xinhua) -- Before sleeping, Kashan Khan, a Pakistani doctoral student of Tianjin University in north China's Tianjin Municipality, ordered vegetables and meat for cooking on a shopping app on his mobile phone, and he would pick up the goods on the way to the dormitory the next day.

"The online shopping in China is really convenient. I don't have time to go to shopping malls or markets. I can buy everything I need online, even the flowers for my girlfriend," said Khan, who was busy with scientific research, and online shopping helped save a lot of time for him.

China's digital trade has developed vigorously in recent years. According to the data released by the China Academy of Information and Communications Technology, the scale of China's digital economy increased by 4.1 trillion U.S. dollars, with an average annual compound growth rate of 14.2 percent from 2016 to 2022.

"I have lived in China for seven years. I saw the rapid development of e-commerce, mobile payment, and artificial intelligence in China by myself. I really hope that Pakistan can promote a digital economy like China and people in my hometown can benefit from this economy mode," said Khan.

In fact, Khan's wish has come true, as the dividend of China's booming digital trade has provided a pool of business opportunities and injected fresh hope into countries along the Belt and Road.

To keep up with the digital transformation trends, the Digital Silk Road was launched. The Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) technology dimension extends from the ocean floor to outer space, enabling artificial intelligence, big data applications, and other strategic internet solutions.

As of November 2022, China had established the Digital Silk Road cooperation mechanism with 16 countries and advanced Silk Road E-commerce bilateral cooperation mechanism with 26 countries, including Pakistan.

Samoyed Cloud Technology, a Chinese scientific and technological enterprise focused on artificial intelligence, big data, mobile Internet, and cloud computing, tapped into the vast potential of the market of Pakistan's digital economy and launched the e-commerce platform EZTRADER to provide digital trade services for the local retailers importing Chinese products.

"Chinese products are popular in Pakistan. Since the platform EZTRADER was launched in May of this year, it has attracted more than 3,000 local retailers, completely exceeding our expectations," said Lin Jianming, chairman and CEO of the company.

Muhammad Rizwan, a 35-year-old retailer of mobile phone accessories in Rawalpindi, Pakistan, settled in EZTRADER swiftly after it was launched.

"E-commerce platforms provide a centralized space where businesses can connect, negotiate, and conduct transactions. We don't need to search for potential partners or clients individually. We can trade directly with manufacturers or suppliers in China without intermediaries. This can significantly reduce the cost," said Muhammad Rizwan.

Alibaba.com, an online business-to-business marketplace for global wholesalers under the Alibaba Group, has launched foreign trade business in many countries along the Belt and Road. Pakistan topped the number of overseas wholesalers on the platform, and the annual growth rate of the number of Pakistani wholesalers was over 64 percent during the COVID-19 pandemic.

For lack of capital and sales channels, a Pakistani couple, Aziz-ur-Rehman and Sadia Aziz, struggled in the first two years after they had established their own baby clothing brand with their savings of 1.5 million rupees (about 18,000 U.S. dollars) in 2018.

In 2020, Alibaba.com provided them with complete online business solutions and online training sessions. Their company was connected with global customers through the platform and turned losses into profits.

"Up to now, our company's business revenue was over 3 million rupees and grew at a rate of 1 million rupees per year. China provided us with a lot of opportunities in the digital economy. We believe Pakistan's digital economy is promising in the future," said Aziz-ur-Rehman.

<https://english.news.cn/20230905/e7018baf0c34444a8a41f521ad0154de/c.html>

**September 06, 2023**

**People's Daily**

## **Countries along Belt and Road share service trade dividends**

*(Xinhua)*

BEIJING, Sept. 6 (Xinhua) -- Visitors to the ongoing 2023 China International Fair for Trade in Services (CIFTIS) held in Beijing are sure to be spoiled by a myriad of exotic exhibits varying from jewelry, carpets, and other art from the Middle East and South Asia to chocolate made in Switzerland and red wine in Georgia.

In the Iran Pavilion of the CIFTIS, Amir Ghorbanali, director of China Iran Trade Promotion Center, introduced that it is Iran's second time partaking in CIFTIS events. This year, they will focus on tapping into the e-commerce platforms to export more Iranian products into China.

Iran is one of the significant countries participating in the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), and both China and Iran have emphasized boosting their business cooperation. "And I believe that Iran can have a big role in the BRI in the future," said Ghorbanali in great confidence.

Aqeel Ahmed Chaudhry, head of WINZA, a Pakistani jewelry brand, is another old friend to many Chinese purchasers at the fair. He calls himself "Li Long" as his Chinese name and speaks fluent Mandarin and English while introducing his dazzling jewelry to curious customers.

Chaudhry began his business in China with a store set up in Shanghai in 2019. This March, he launched a new outlet in Shenyang, the capital city of northeast China's Liaoning Province.

He plans to open his third branch in the Chaoyang District of Beijing, and this year's edition of CIFTIS has become part of his "field trip" to the Chinese capital.

The Pakistani merchant hailed the remarkable achievements emanating from the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) under the BRI.

He said some industrial parks under the CPEC project in his home country are already operational, attracting multiple companies to settle down due to their preferential policies and creating many job opportunities.

Sakarn Saensopa, Commercial Consul of Thailand's Consulate-General in Shanghai, said that Thailand has centered on its healthcare services in its pavilion this year. Thailand will also exhibit its latest products in the culture and entertainment sector, including films, animations, books, music, and video games.

He is glad to see the CIFTIS become a convenient communication platform for enterprises in China and Thailand.

More and more Chinese film and TV drama crews come to Thailand to shoot, co-produce movies, TV dramas, and commercials, and hand over the post-production of their products to

Thai companies, all of which have played a role in promoting the development of Thailand's entertainment industry and even the prosperity of its tourism, according to Sakarn Saensopa.

The construction of the Belt and Road has promoted the continuous improvement of infrastructure and people-to-people exchanges in countries along the routes. China is becoming more open and promoting trade growth through win-win cooperation, said Sakarn Saensopa.

A subforum themed on Belt and Road cooperation of trade in services was held on Monday.

China's service trade with countries along the Belt and Road has rapidly grown over the years, bringing them closer in broader aspects and promoting more fruitful results of cooperation, according to Dorothy Tembo, Deputy Executive Director of the International Trade Centre, during the subforum.

"Most of the service trade involves small and medium-sized enterprises, so promoting the inclusive and mutually beneficial development of all countries will benefit more enterprises. Trade in services has continuously injected new vitality and impetus to the construction of the Belt and Road and promoted its construction to go deeper and get more solid," said Long Guoqiang, deputy head of the Development Research Center of the State Council, during the subforum.

"As the development of the digital economy has a profound impact on service trade, service trade cooperation among Belt and Road countries faces new opportunities and potential," Long added.

(Web editor: Zhang Kaiwei, Liang Jun)

<http://en.people.cn/n3/2023/0906/c90000-20068346.html>

### Xinhuanet News

#### **Roundup: CPEC brings tremendous socio-economic benefits to Pakistan, says Pakistani experts**

*by Raheela Nazir*

ISLAMABAD, Sept. 5 (Xinhua) -- The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), a flagship project of the China-proposed Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), has brought tremendous socio-economic benefits to Pakistan, transforming vital sectors and generating sustainable development in the South Asian country, Pakistani experts have said.

Over the past 10 years, CPEC has emerged as a corridor of opportunities for Pakistan and its people, and improved people's lives and overall economic prosperity, said officials and experts during a seminar organized here to celebrate 10 years of CPEC and the BRI on Monday.

Launched in 2013, 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.

Talking to Xinhua, Pakistani caretaker Minister for National Heritage and Culture Syed Jamal Shah said that the longstanding deep-rooted friendship between China and Pakistan has been strengthened since the inception of the multi-billion-dollar project, elevating from diplomatic to robust economic relations.

"Both countries worked hand-in-hand and turned a vision of prosperity into a reality through CPEC ... all-weather strategic cooperative partnership between Pakistan and China in producing fruitful win-win outcomes set a fine example for the rest of the world," the minister said.

Talat Shabbir, director of the China-Pakistan Study Center at the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad, a Pakistan-based think tank said that during the first phase of CPEC, the focus remained on infrastructure development, energy cooperation, Gwadar port development, and people-to-people connectivity.

The projects under CPEC have helped Pakistan overcome severe energy shortages by adding 8,000 megawatts of electricity and building hundreds of kilometers of road infrastructure, he said, adding that the project also brought over 25 billion U.S. dollars in direct investment and generated huge job opportunities.

Shabbir said that the construction of roads and railway networks, ports and airports in the country under CPEC has enhanced connectivity and boosted trade.

"The country's Gwadar Port established under CPEC would act as a regional trade and commerce hub, benefiting not only Pakistan but other landlocked Asian countries as well," he said.

On the occasion, Masood Khalid, former Pakistani ambassador to China, said China has not only achieved remarkable growth at home but also shared its development dividends with developing countries around the globe including Pakistan through the BRI.

He said Pakistan should learn from the best practices of China to strengthen its economic resilience, adding that Pakistan needed to further promote cooperation in various sectors including agriculture, industry and trade, and information technology for sustainable economic growth.

Speaking about challenges and geopolitical complexities, the officials and experts believed that it is imperative for Pakistan and China to devise robust strategies and remove bottlenecks coming the way to ensure the continuity of progress and peace in the region and beyond.

<https://english.news.cn/20230906/282acd0e08a0438eaf87b7501444a1f5/c.html>

### **GLOBALink | Friendship of power grid employees of China-Pakistan project under BRI**

JINAN, Sept. 6 (Xinhua) -- "Although the distance is far, we still keep in touch." A Chinese engineer has shared his unforgettable memories of working in a China-Pakistan project under the Belt and Road Initiative.

<https://english.news.cn/20230906/6b30fcc084f14969830b0d6cdd496103/c.html>

## **Pakistan eyes on attracting Chinese tourists by introducing new plans: official**

ISLAMABAD, Sept. 6 (Xinhua) -- Pakistan is keen to attract Chinese outbound tourists to the scenic and historic sites of the country by adopting new plans to welcome them, caretaker Minister of State for Tourism Wasi Shah said.

Speaking at an event held here to celebrate the ongoing year as the year of tourism exchange between the two countries on Tuesday, Shah said that the year is not just a celebration, but an opportunity for Pakistan to shine on the global tourism stage by attracting Chinese tourists who are fond of exploring the world.

"Chinese citizens have demonstrated an increasing appetite for travel, both domestically and abroad, and every year Chinese tourists spend hundreds of billions of dollars on traveling, showing their enthusiasm for exploring the world, Pakistan can also get a share out of it if it succeeds in attracting even a small number of Chinese tourists," he said.

He added that in order to facilitate Chinese tourists, Pakistan has formed an E-portal through which Chinese tourists can also now apply for tourist visas online.

"We are also closely working with our embassy in Beijing, and they are doing their best to encourage Chinese tourists to visit Pakistan. They have been provided a lot of material on tourist sites of Pakistan which they have added on their website in the Chinese language to provide information for visitors interested to visit Pakistan," he added.

Talking to Xinhua on the sidelines of the event, the Managing Director of the Pakistan Tourism Development Corporation (PTDC) Aftab ur Rehman Rana said that a delegation of tour operators from the PTDC will participate in the China Outbound Travel & Tourism Market in Beijing in November. It will be greatly helpful to build business-to-business (B2B) linkage between the tour operators of both countries and as a result, tourist traffic between the two countries will further increase, he added.

Rana said that they have introduced different tour plans and translated them into Chinese language to give Chinese tourists basic information about Pakistani tourism sites and offer them different packages to visit Pakistan on short and long trips.

<https://english.news.cn/20230906/bab9a9f10fd8479fa749b7148ff54100/c.html>

**September 07, 2023**

**People's Daily**

## **Project to promote China-Pakistan enterprise cooperation launched at CIFTIS (Xinhua)**

BEIJING, Sept. 6 (Xinhua) -- A project to enhance cooperation between Chinese and Pakistani enterprises was launched on Tuesday at the 2023 China International Fair for Trade in Services (CIFTIS), held in Beijing from Sept. 2 to 6.

The China-Pakistan Double Hundred Enterprises Cooperation Project will select 100 enterprises in each country, providing comprehensive services for their development in the other country, according to Zhang Xiaodong, director of the Zhongguancun Belt and Road Industrial Promotion Association.

The project includes corporate training, strategic consultation, policy interpretation, personnel services, legal services, international exchanges and cooperation services, and investment and financing services.

It aims to promote China-Pakistan science and technology innovation cooperation and the coordinated development of enterprises in the two countries within the framework of the Belt and Road Initiative.

The project was initiated by government departments, institutions and enterprises in the two countries, including the Zhongguancun association and the Embassy of Pakistan in China.

(Web editor: Zhang Kaiwei, Liang Jun)

<http://en.people.cn/n3/2023/0907/c90000-20068836.html>

**September 08, 2023**

**People's Daily**

## **BRI helps Pakistan improve energy supply and infrastructure construction**

*By Chang Sha*

With finely-patterned silk carpets and exquisite jade ware, the pavilion of Pakistan shows great magnetism to visitors during the 2023 China International Fair for Trade in Services (CIFTIS) in Beijing from Sept. 2 to 6.

Ghulam Qadir, Trade and Investment Counsellor of Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan in Beijing, said he felt great energy over the fair, since the venue is crowded with booths of different countries, organizations and businesses.

The highlight of the Pakistani pavilion for this year's CIFTIS is the participation of companies from various service-related sectors, such as logistics, information technology, finance and e-commerce, working to explore more business opportunities, improve connectivity, and attract investments, according to Qadir.

"We'd like to have more liberalization of services, more interconnectedness, and more globalization," he said, expecting Pakistani companies to integrate in this process.

This year marks the 10th anniversary of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).

"Pakistan is a flag bearer of the BRI," the trade and investment counsellor said, as the country has all along been a staunch supporter of the initiative since its inception.

Launched in 2013, the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), a flagship project under the framework of BRI, is a 3,000-kilometer corridor stretching from Kashgar in northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region to the Gwadar Port in Pakistan.

The project has helped the country improve energy supply and injected strong impetus into its infrastructure construction, Qadir noted.

He believes that the past decade has laid a solid foundation for the CPEC to make further progress and yield more fruits.

(Web editor: Hongyu, Wu Chengliang)

<http://en.people.cn/n3/2023/0908/c90000-20069185.html>

### **Xinhuanet News**

#### **China, Pakistan to collaborate on Earth sciences research**

BEIJING, Sept. 8 (Xinhua) -- China and Pakistan will establish a joint research center in October to promote the study of Earth sciences and sci-tech exchanges, an official in charge of the center's preparatory work said on Thursday during the 2023 China International Fair for Trade in Services.

Hong Tianhua said the China-Pakistan Joint Research Center on Earth Sciences will be established in Islamabad, the capital of Pakistan, in October as a high-level scientific and technological innovation platform between the two countries to promote sci-tech cooperation and talent cultivation.

The center is being initiated by the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS) and the Higher Education Commission of Pakistan, and supported by the Institute of Mountain Hazards and Environment under the CAS and Quaid-i-Azam University in Pakistan.

Its establishment also involves CAS-affiliated institutes and other Chinese research institutions, as well as universities in Pakistan, such as the University of Peshawar.

The center will carry out joint research in four areas: natural disaster and risk management; geological structures and tectonic activities; climate change and environmental effects; and resources, environment and green development.

The center will also serve as a matchmaker for the investment and technologies of Chinese and Pakistani enterprises and institutions.

"We hope to build a high-level platform for sci-tech cooperation between the two countries, and gradually extend it to neighboring countries to provide sci-tech and human resources support for the construction of the Belt and Road Initiative and the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor," he said.

<https://english.news.cn/20230908/8d29fa21d5b542debea9339b53a64348/c.html>



**September 10, 2023**

**Global Times**

## **Friendly drills among Chinese, foreign militaries outshine US, Canadian, Philippine provocations**

*By Liu Xuanzun*

China recently conducted multiple military exercises with countries including Thailand, Singapore and Pakistan that have enhanced joint operational capabilities and deepened friendship, and by comparison, concurrent US and Canadian provocations in the Taiwan Straits and Philippine's trespassing in the South China Sea were insignificant, experts said on Sunday.

Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) forces participating in the China-Thailand Blue Strike-2023 joint naval exercise, including the Type 071 comprehensive landing ship Simingshan, the Type 054A guided missile frigate Anyang and the Type 903A comprehensive replenishment ship Chaohu, embarked on the return voyage from Sattahip, Thailand on Sunday after completing all training missions from September 1 to Saturday, the PLA Daily reported on Sunday.

The joint drill practiced subjects including urban warfare, light arms live-fire shooting, sniping tactics, rappelling, cross-deck helicopter landing, well dock operations, humanitarian aid, establishment of field hospitals, formation maneuvering and joint anti-submarine and light communications, as the two sides learned from and improved each other, enhanced mutual trust and deepened friendship, the PLA Daily said.

The China-Singapore Cooperation-2023 joint ground exercise started on Wednesday in Singapore, four years after the last edition of the Cooperation joint exercise in 2019, the Xinhua News Agency reported on Sunday.

Focusing on joint urban counter-terrorism operations, the drill is expected to enhance professional training levels and further deepen mutual trust and friendship, Xinhua said.

Another ongoing foreign military interaction is the China-Pakistan Shaheen (Eagle)-X joint air exercise that started on August 28 in Northwest China, which is organizing joint training on typical combat scenarios including air defense and countermeasures as well as seizing and control in a move to boost the two sides' joint training level and interoperability.

The Chinese side deployed aircraft including the J-10C, J-11B, J-16 fighter jets and the KJ-500 early warning aircraft in addition to HQ-9 surface-to-air missiles, and the Pakistani side sent the J-10CE and JF-17 fighter jets, according to a video released by the PLA Air Force on Saturday.

Other recent Chinese military interactions with foreign countries include the Pure Homeland-2023 multinational joint mine-clearing operation in Cambodia and the ongoing far sea training visit tour by PLA Navy training ship Qi Jiguang to Indonesia, Papua New Guinea and Fiji.

Amid the friendly atmosphere of military exchanges and cooperation, some US-led and US-incited provocations have made some disharmonious noises.

The US Navy destroyer USS Ralph Johnson and the Canadian Navy frigate HMCS Ottawa on Saturday sailed through the Taiwan Straits, and their transits were tracked, monitored and handled in accordance with the law by naval and air forces of the PLA Eastern Theater Command, Senior Colonel Shi Yi, a spokesperson at the command, said in a statement on Saturday.

On Friday, two supply ships and two coast guard ships of the Philippines trespassed into waters near China's Ren'ai Jiao (commonly known as Ren'ai Reef) in the Nansha Qundao (Islands) in the South China Sea, forcing the China Coast Guard to send stern warnings, conduct monitoring and apply effective restrictions, the China Coast Guard said in a statement on Friday.

Together with or backed by the US, Canada and the Philippines are provoking China and showing off a political presence, but these moves have no military significance at all, as their vessels are very vulnerable in the region facing Chinese forces, Song Zhongping, a Chinese military expert and TV commentator, told the Global Times on Sunday.

Compared with Chinese military interactions with other countries, which are with peaceful intentions, the US-led and US-incited military exercises and operations are directed against China, Song said. "China is a maker of peace, and the US is a destroyer of peace," he noted. No matter how much the US and its allies provoke, there is no change to the fact that the Nansha Islands and the island of Taiwan belong to China. The provocations will only expose the US' selfish, hegemonic goals in contrast to China's initiatives on global security and cooperation, analysts said.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202309/1297946.shtml>

**September 13, 2023**

**People's Daily**

### **Pakistani president highlights strengthened cooperation with China under CPEC**

*(Xinhua)*

ISLAMABAD, Sept. 12 (Xinhua) -- Pakistani President Arif Alvi stressed the need to strengthen cooperation with China in multiple fields under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), the President House Media Wing said on Tuesday.

At a meeting with Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan Jiang Zaidong on Tuesday, the president appreciated China's long-term support for Pakistan's development, saying that the China-Pakistan friendship has been unique and deeply rooted in the hearts of the people for decades.

Alvi said Pakistan wants to maintain close exchanges with China and deepen mutually beneficial cooperation, in particular, to learn from China's development experience.

The president said Pakistan will actively promote the construction of CPEC, and expand cooperation in agriculture, mining, information technology to benefit the two peoples.

Jiang said that under the strategic guidance of the leaderships of the two countries, China-Pakistan relations have maintained high-level development, all-round, in-depth cooperation has been carried out, and the construction of CPEC has moved toward high-quality development.

The ambassador said he would fulfill his duties, implement high-level consensus between the two countries, and make active efforts to build a closer China-Pakistan community with a shared future.

Jiang, who arrived in Pakistan on Sept. 5 to take up his new post, presented his credentials to the president before the meeting.

Launched in 2013, CPEC, the flagship project of the China-proposed Belt and Road Initiative, is a corridor linking the Gwadar port in southwestern Pakistan with Kashgar in northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, which highlights energy, transport and industrial cooperation.

(Web editor: Zhang Kaiwei, Liang Jun)

<http://en.people.cn/n3/2023/0913/c90000-20071356.html>

### **Xinhuanet News**

#### **Wondrous Xinjiang: Pakistani trader brings top-notch Chinese products to hometown**

URUMQI, Sept. 13 (Xinhua) -- If you speak to the customs and foreign trade department in Taxkorgan Tajik Autonomous County of Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, northwest China, you will surely hear the name "Old Sai." This is the affectionate nickname given to Saifullah Baig, a Pakistani trader who has acquainted himself with nearly every staff member there.

"I have been engaged in business activities between Taxkorgan and my hometown since 1990," said Saifullah, 65, from Hunza, Pakistan, in fluent Chinese.

Old Sai earned his first gold nugget transporting silk from Kashgar to Islamabad. With the seed money, he has opened up a store in Taxkorgan, selling Kashgar products to Pakistani traders.

Situated on the Pamir Plateau, Taxkorgan is home to the renowned Khunjerab Pass, which lies on the China-Pakistan border. Border trade is one of the county's pillar industries.

Throughout his career, Saifullah has purchased numerous carpets, leather jackets, electric ovens, and other made-in-China commodities. He then sells these products to other Pakistani traders, and they are transported through the land port of Khunjerab before reaching families in Pakistan. Over the decades, Saifullah has become a proud businessman with strong connections and several purchasing channels.

<https://english.news.cn/20230913/82325d093222494b805f94d177b491c1/c.html>