



# For Better Understanding on China–Pakistan and CPEC

## Gleanings from the National & Chinese Press

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**February 16-29, 2024**

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**February 16, 2024**

**The Nation**

**SCCI marks Pak-China bond with art and culture**

PESHAWAR - Sarhad Chamber of Commerce and Industry President, Fuad Ishaq, emphasized the unparalleled strength of the Pak-China friendship during an event at China Window Peshawar. Inaugurating a culture exhibition organized by students from Shaheed Benazir Bhutto Women University Peshawar in connection with the Chinese New Year, Ishaq commended the vibrant artwork and paintings on display. He expressed optimism that such events would enhance awareness of Chinese culture among the citizens of Peshawar.

Highlighting the robust trade, cultural, and tourism ties between Pakistan and China, Ishaq underscored the consistent support China has provided to Pakistan during challenging times. He credited the unyielding leadership of both countries and the initiatives, particularly the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), for elevating bilateral trade and economic cooperation. Regarding CPEC as a game-changer, Ishaq stressed the need for the swift completion of projects, emphasizing the crucial role of technology transformation in CPEC's success. He expressed hope that both nations would take measures to further enhance bilateral trade and economic relations.

Appreciating the efforts of China Window for organizing events in celebration of the Chinese New Year, Ishaq anticipated that the Chinese Culture Centre in Peshawar would be a significant milestone in strengthening the bilateral relations between the two countries. The SCCI president later visited the culture exhibition, lauding the artistic endeavors of the students from SBBWU Peshawar and distributed certificates among them. Meanwhile, China Window, a prominent Chinese cultural center in Peshawar, orchestrated a lively celebration. Caretaker Provincial Minister for Transport Zafarullah Khan, along with notable figures like Dr. Syed Sarfraz Ali Shah and Fawad Ishaq, joined the event. Students from Shaheed Benazir Bhutto Women University showcased Chinese-themed paintings, and local singers added musical charm. Provincial ministers emphasized the enduring friendship between China and Pakistan, expressing the sentiment that both nations share joys and sorrows. The celebration signifies Pakistan's deep affection for China. Minister Zafarullah Khan highlighted the significance of the Chinese New Year, wishing it to be a year of peace and stronger Pakistan-China relations. Dr. Syed Sarfraz Ali Shah extended New Year wishes, foreseeing China's continued role in Pakistan's economic development. Fawad Ishaq underlined the strengthening China-Pakistan friendship, evident in widespread Chinese New Year celebrations across Pakistan. Prof. Dr. Najiba Arif of the Pakistan Academy of Letters commended China's cooperation, particularly in vital projects like CPEC. The event's organizers, China Window, received praise, with hopes that the cultural center in Peshawar will further fortify bilateral ties. SCCI President Fawad Ishaq inaugurated a painting exhibition by university students, enhancing the cultural exchange.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/16-Feb-2024/scci-marks-pak-china-bond-with-art-and-culture>

## **APTMA urges enhanced coop with China to achieve \$50b exports target**

ISLAMABAD - The All-Pakistan Textile Mills Association (APTMA) has called for greater collaboration with China to help Pakistan achieve its ambitious exports target of \$50 billion per annum by 2029.

Representing more than 223 textile companies, the association believes that strengthened ties with China, a leading player in the global textile industry, can significantly boost Pakistan's export earnings.

“Pak-China cooperation in the textile industry is a must to showcase complementary advantages across various categories, presenting a robust framework for mutual growth and development,” said APTMA Secretary General Shahid Sattar while talking to Gwadar Pro on Thursday.

This strategic partnership, bolstered by initiatives like the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), has a profound impact on Pakistani firms gaining access to the Chinese market.

Pakistan's export of goods and services to China witnessed a 40.01 percent increase during the first six months of the current fiscal year (2023-24) compared to the exports of the corresponding period last year, announced the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP).

This signifies a major achievement and highlights the growing economic ties between the two nations. To seize export opportunities for Pakistan's textile and apparel industry, APTMA recently published a comprehensive report covering the entire value chain. The report presents a 41-point policy roadmap designed to meet ambitious targets, such as increasing sector exports to more than \$50 billion annually by 2029. Additionally, Sattar noted that China's textile industry remains at the forefront of technological and sustainable advancements. China is making strides in high-end manufacturing and is pushing forward with innovations in synthetic fibers and green manufacturing processes. This commitment to innovation has positioned China as a leader in the global textile market, with a focus on producing higher quality, environmentally friendly products. Pakistan is experiencing a transformative shift towards ethical and sustainable fashion, including the adoption of eco-friendly materials such as organic cotton and recycled fabrics, and the integration of traditional craftsmanship with contemporary designs. These efforts have been complemented by the significant growth in exports during FY20-FY22. Nevertheless, substantial opportunities for further cooperation exist, especially in sustainable and eco-friendly textile production, research and development in textile technology, and joint initiatives to explore new markets. Potential joint ventures across multiple sectors were explored, indicating a broader spectrum of collaboration between Pakistan and China. Talks about the possibility of transferring advanced Chinese technology to Pakistan's Special Economic Zones (SEZs) could drive innovation and economic development in Pakistan.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/16-Feb-2024/aptma-urges-enhanced-coop-with-china-to-achieve-dollar-50b-exports-target>

## The News

### **MoU signed to enhance digital skills of KP students**

PESHAWAR: A memorandum of understanding (MoU) was inked between the Department of Higher Education Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and the CPEC Cultural Communication Center of the People's Republic of China with the aim of bolstering the pool of trained and skilled manpower in the province. A handout issued here stated that under the MoU, digital skills training would be provided to 200,000 students of government colleges in the province, in various fields such as web development, App development, cybersecurity, artificial intelligence, graphic designing, and more.

The signing ceremony took place at Pakhtunkhwa House in Islamabad on Thursday, attended by distinguished personalities including KP's Caretaker Chief Minister Justice (r) Syed Arshad Hussain Shah, who participated via a video link.

The caretaker provincial cabinet members Dr Najeebullah, Dr Aamir Abdullah, Dr Qasim Jan, and other relevant officials were also present at the ceremony.

<https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/1158152-mou-signed-to-enhance-digital-skills-of-kp-students>

**February 17, 2024**

## Daily Times

### **Air chief awards HI (M) to DG BOMETEC China**

On behalf of Government of Pakistan, Air Chief Marshal Zaheer Ahmed Baber Sidhu, Chief of the Air Staff, Pakistan Air Force conferred Hilal-i-Imtiaz (Military) upon General Fan Jianjun, Director General Bureau of Military Equipment Technical Cooperation (BOMETEC), People's Republic of China, during his visit to Air Headquarters, Islamabad on Thursday.

The award was conferred in recognition of his wholehearted efforts in enhancing bilateral military relations and the pivotal role played by General Fan in PAF's capability enhancement thus ensuring regional balance of power, says a press release.

The visiting dignitary called on the Air Chief in his office. During the meeting several key areas of mutual interest along with regional developments were discussed. Chief of the Air Staff shared broad contours of his vision and PAF's modernization drive to further augment current operational capability necessitated in contemporary warfare especially in Artificial Intelligence, Cyber and Space domains. He also briefed the visiting dignitary about various ongoing projects for PAF's Operational Construct in line with the emerging trends.

The air chief also highlighted that both the countries enjoy historic and unprecedented strategic partnership and reiterated his resolve to further enhance the existing bilateral ties in military to military cooperation and training domains between PAF and PLAAF. CAS further said, "Pakistan values its strong diplomatic, economic, defence relationship and time-tested friendship with China which are based on convergence on all important issues relating to



regional peace, security and stability”. The Air Chief also lauded the cooperation offered by China as Pakistan’s strategic partner in the realization of an independent technology-driven PAF and its innovative plans.

General Fan Jianjun thanked the Air Chief and the Government of Pakistan on being awarded with Hilal-i-Imtiaz (Military) and hoped that cooperation between the Air Forces of the two countries will continue to expand in future. The visiting dignitary praised the professionalism of PAF personnel and the exceptional progress made by PAF over the years, especially through indigenization. General Fan appreciated the CAS efforts in steering PAF towards modernization and said that the vision of establishing National Aerospace Science and Technology Park was emulating. He also appreciated Pakistan’s efforts in promoting regional peace. Both leaders vowed to further consolidate cooperation in various fields including emerging technologies and mutual cooperation in the military industry.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1063644/air-chief-awards-him-to-dg-bometec-china/>

### **The Nation**

#### **Pakistan’s sesame export to China surpasses \$290m mark in 2023**

BEIJING - Pakistan’s export of sesame seeds to China registered a growth of 126.29 percent on a year-on-year basis surpassing \$290 million from January to December last year, Commercial Counsellor, Pakistan Embassy in Beijing, Ghulam Qadir said. According to the General Administration of Customs of the People’s Republic of China (GACC), China imported 166,682.987 tons of sesame seeds from Pakistan in 2023.

This represents an increase of 96.13% by volume, amounting to \$290.66 million, compared to 84,985.321 tons worth \$128.44 million in 2022. Ghulam Qadir informed that during year 2023, Pakistan’s exports to China exceeded \$3.459 billion, an increase of 1.4% on a year-on-year basis.

He also mentioned that GACC data revealed that in 2023, China imported 912,814.577 tons of sesame seeds worth approximately \$1.52 billion from around the world. African country, Niger, with 192,529.528 tons worth \$309.51 million, remained the top Sesame seed exporter to China for the third consecutive year, followed by Pakistan with \$290.66 million and Tanzania with \$239.83 million. In 2023, Pakistan contributed to around 19 percent of the total sesame seed exports to China from January to December.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/17-Feb-2024/pakistan-s-sesame-export-to-china-surpasses-dollar-290m-mark-in-2023>

## K2 Daily



[https://www.epaper.dailyk2.com/Home?Issue=NP\\_ICT&p=23499](https://www.epaper.dailyk2.com/Home?Issue=NP_ICT&p=23499)

**February 18, 2024**

**Business Recorder**

### **Reception held to celebrate ties with China, Turkiye**

The Chinese Consul General in Karachi Yang Yundong has said that China wants to see Pakistan developing and prospering, its people living a better life, the society maintaining stable and safe, and the country uniting as one to achieve national development goals. While the Consul General of Turkiye in Karachi Cemal (Jamal) Sangu has said Turkiye and Pakistan have a special relationship and no words can describe it. They said while speaking as chief guest at a reception to celebrate brotherly relationship of Pakistan with China and Turkiye arranged by president KHA Business International Kafeel Hussain at his residence here on Friday evening. The Chinese Consul General said since establishing diplomatic relations over 70 years ago, regardless of international and domestic changes, China and Pakistan have always been standing side by side, facing challenges hand in hand, forming a brotherly "ironclad" friendship. He said the highly stable and continuous China-Pakistan friendship enjoys the heartfelt support of the peoples of both countries, and we are immensely proud and honored of that. He said the year of 2023 was also the 10th anniversary of the launch of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). Over the past decade, the construction of the CPEC has made significant progress. Energy projects have effectively guaranteed the energy security of Pakistan and 14 energy projects have been put into commercial operation, with peak electricity generation accounting for nearly one-third of Pakistan's total national electricity generation. The level of infrastructure inter-connectivity in Pakistan has been further enhanced. The Sukkur-Multan Motorway, also known as the "CPEC Motorway," greatly enhancing the speed of commuting between the two cities. He said at present, China and Pakistan are actively promoting the related work on the upgrading of the ML-1 railway and the second phase of the Karakoram Highway (Thakot-Raikot section) rerouting project. Both sides have also agreed to keep the Khunjerab Pass open throughout the year, further facilitating economic and trade exchanges and people-to-people

communication between the two sides. He said China-Pakistan industrial cooperation is steadily advancing. The first phase of the Rashakai Special Economic Zone (RSEZ) has been completed, and the groundbreaking ceremony for the Dhabeji Special Economic Zone has been held. China is willing to work with Pakistan to solidly advance the construction of special economic zones and assist Pakistan in optimizing its industrial layout according to local conditions. The Chinese Consul General said China and Pakistan have created new highlights of cooperation in agriculture, science and technology, and people's livelihood. "Last year, under the framework of the CPEC, we achieved the first batch of chili exports from Pakistan to China, and exports of Pakistani seafood to China overland from Karachi to Kashi, Xinjiang," he said. In the past year, sesame seeds imported from Pakistan to China exceeded 250 million US dollars, with a growth rate exceeding 112 percent, he added. Gwadar Port maintains active development momentum. As the flagship project of the CPEC, last year witnessed a significant increase in cargo throughput, and the construction of the Free Zone progressed orderly. "We will work together to create an upgraded version of the corridor focusing on growth, livelihood, innovation, green development, and openness", he added. The Consul General of Turkiye Cemal (Jamal) Sangu, in his speech said Pak-Turkiye relations are something from hearth to hearth and from soul to soul. "We consider ourselves two countries but one nation. Our two countries have always enjoyed close and brotherly ties, based on mutual respect and a shared commitment to peace and prosperity," he said.

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2024/02/18/3-page/985489-news.html>

### **Dawn News**

#### **DEVELOPMENT: ASSESSING A DECADE OF CPEC**

It was in 2013 that Chinese President Xi Jinping unveiled two highly ambitious international development programmes, the 'Silk Road Economic Belt', which he announced during his visit to Kazakhstan in September, and the '21st Century Maritime Silk Road Development Strategy', announced a month later in Indonesia. Jointly, they were termed as 'One Belt-One Road' (OBOR), and later as the 'Belt and Road Initiative' (BRI). The initiative envisaged the development of a vast network of infrastructural connections across the continents, both overland and maritime, connecting China more closely with Asian, European and African markets. In BRI, the 'Belt' comprised six overland economic corridors, while the maritime 'Road' connected Chinese ports with ports in Southeast Asia, South Asia, Middle East and Africa. It is also sometimes called the "String of Pearls." Among the six economic corridors, one is the CPEC, which connects the city of Kashgar, at the foot of the Pamir Mountains in western China, to the Gwadar port on the Indian Ocean in southern Pakistan, traversing a distance of about 2,700 kilometres. Gwadar, being a part of both the maritime and overland components of BRI, prompted President Xi to term Pakistan as a country where both "the Silk Road Economic Belt and the 21st Century Maritime Silk Road meet." In view of its importance, the CPEC was designated as the 'flagship' programme of the BRI and is the largest strategic and economic initiative undertaken by China outside its borders.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1815062>



**February 19, 2024**

**Dunya News**

**China congratulates Pakistan on smooth conduct of elections**

A Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson on Monday congratulated Pakistan for holding general elections of the national and provincial assemblies in a steady and smooth manner and hoped that the political parties in Pakistan could work together to form a new government after the polls. “We noted that general elections in Pakistan were held in a generally steady and smooth manner, and we offer our congratulations,” Mao Ning said during her regular briefing in Beijing which resumed after a 10-day pause in the wake of the Chinese New Year and Spring Festival holidays. “As a close and friendly neighbour, China fully respects the choices of Pakistani people and sincerely hopes that relevant parties of Pakistan will work together to uphold the political solidarity and social stability after the elections,” she added. The spokesperson said that China and Pakistan were all-weather strategic cooperative partners and China hoped to work with Pakistan to build on the traditional friendship, deepen practical cooperation in the various areas and accelerate the building of an even closer China-Pakistan community with a shared future in the new era for the benefit of the peoples of the two countries. In response to a question about the delay in forming a government, the spox said that the Pakistan election was generally steady and smooth and China respected the choice of Pakistani people. “As to the situation you mentioned, we believe the relevant parties in Pakistan can stick to solidarity and work together to solve relevant issues,” she added. It may be mentioned here that general elections of the national assembly and the provincial assemblies were held in Pakistan on Feb 8. After the announcement of the results, the political parties are now working on forming a government.

<https://dunyanews.tv/en/Pakistan/792642-China-congratulates-Pakistan-on-smooth-conduct-of-elections>

**The Express Tribune**

**China hopes parties to uphold social stability in Pakistan**

China on Monday congratulated Pakistan for holding general elections for the national and provincial assemblies in a steady and smooth manner, hoping that the political parties in the country would work together to form a new government after the vote.

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Mao Ning said that the Chinese side noted that the Pakistani election was generally steady and smooth and that China respected the choice of the Pakistani people.

“We noted that general elections in Pakistan were held in a generally steady and smooth manner, and we offer our congratulations,” Mao told her regular briefing. “As a close and friendly neighbour, China fully respects the choices of the Pakistani people and sincerely hopes that relevant parties of Pakistan will work together to uphold political solidarity and social stability after the elections.”

Mao resumed the press briefings after a 10-day pause in the wake of the Chinese New Year and Spring Festival holidays. She expressed the hope that both sides would build on their traditional friendship and deepen practical cooperation in various areas. In response to a question about the delay in forming a government in Pakistan, the spokesperson stated: “As to the situation you mentioned, we believe the relevant parties in Pakistan can stick to solidarity and work together to solve relevant issues.”

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2456948/china-calls-for-political-unity-social-stability-in-pakistan>

### **The Nation**

#### **Gala dinner hosted to celebrate Pak-China friendship, bilateral relations with Turkey**

KARACHI - K H A Business and International Relations hosted a dinner in honor of the Consulate General of China, Yang Yundong, and the Consul General of Turkey, Cemal Sangu, to celebrate Pak-China friendship marking the completion of 73 years of diplomatic relations and also to celebrate the New Year of China. A cake-cutting ceremony was held during the event. Among the attendees were the President of K H A Business and International Relations, CEO Kafeel Hussain Group, renowned architect Kafeel Hussain, Consul General of Oman Engineer Sami Al Khanjari, Consul General of Indonesia Dr June Kuncoro Hadiningrat, Consul General of Malaysia Herman Hardynata Ahmad, Consul General of Japan Hattori Masaru, Diplomats from Qatar, UAE and Indonesia, President Pakistan Tax Bar Association Anwar Kashif Mumtaz, President Karachi Business Forum and Think Tank Rashid Ahmed Siddiqui, along with other prominent business personalities and dignitaries of the city. Addressing the gathering, the President of K H A Business and International Relations, CEO Kafeel Hussain Group, Kafeel Hussain stated that Pakistan is keen on enhancing relations with countries worldwide. He emphasized the strong fraternal ties between Pakistan, China, and Turkey, and highlighted ongoing efforts to strengthen them

<https://www.nation.com.pk/19-Feb-2024/gala-dinner-hosted-to-celebrate-pak-china-friendship-bilateral-relations-with-turkey>

#### **China provides over 300b yuan for employment assistance in 2023**

BEIJING - China intensified efforts to shore up employment in 2023, with more than 300 billion yuan (about 42.23 billion US dollars) directly channeled by governments at all levels to support employment and entrepreneurship, according to the country’s Ministry of Human Resources and Social Security. A total of 12.44 million jobs were created in urban areas in 2023, said Yun Donglai, an official with the ministry, adding that about 33.97 million people who were lifted out of poverty secured new employment opportunities over the past year.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/19-Feb-2024/china-provides-over-300b-yuan-for-employment-assistance-in-2023>

## The Express News

چینی کی گرتی قیمت کا فائدہ صارفین کو پہنچایا جائے: عالمی بینک

چینی درآمد بھی کی جائے، شعبے کو بین الاقوامی قیمتوں کا مقابلہ کرنے کے قابل بنایا جائے

اسلام آباد (صبح نیوز) عالمی بینک نے عالمی سطح پر چینی کی گرتی قیمت کا فائدہ پاکستانی صارفین کو پہنچانے کا مشورہ دیا ہے۔ عالمی بینک پالیسی نوٹ میں کہا گیا ہے کہ پاکستان میں چینی کی درآمدات کھولنے، عالمی سطح پر چینی کی گرتی قیمت کا فائدہ پاکستانی صارفین کو پہنچانے کیلئے درآمدی ڈیوٹیوں اور ٹیکسوں میں کمی کرنے، پاکستانی ملوں کو درآمدی چینی کی لاگت اور قیمت سے مقابلہ کرنے کے قابل بنا کر انہیں عالمی مسابقت کیلئے تیار کیا جائے۔ حکومتی سطح پر چینی کے سیکٹر کے بارے میں فیصلہ سازی میں صارفین اور سیکٹر کی بہتری اور برآمدات بڑھانے کیلئے توازن پیدا کیا جائے۔ عالمی بینک کی جانب سے پاکستان کے زرعی شعبے کی ترقی کی راہ میں حائل رکاوٹوں اور غلط طرز عمل کی اصلاح کیلئے کہا گیا۔ جاری کئے گئے پالیسی نوٹ میں نشاندہی کی گئی ہے کہ پاکستان میں چینی کی پیداوار کے سیکٹر میں شوگر ملوں کے مالکان بااثر ہیں۔ یہ اپنی حیثیت کا استعمال کر کے حکومت سے من پسند فیصلے کراتے ہیں۔ عالمی بینک نے تجویز کیا ہے کہ حکومتی اقدام کو چینی کی مارکیٹ میں طاقت اور مسابقت کے توازن کو بحال کرنے کی ضرورت ہے۔

[https://www.express.com.pk/epaper/PoPupwindow.aspx?newsID=1110815210&Issue=NP\\_LHE&Date=20240219](https://www.express.com.pk/epaper/PoPupwindow.aspx?newsID=1110815210&Issue=NP_LHE&Date=20240219)

**February 20, 2024**

**Business Recorder**

### **Refinery, petrochemical complex**

Pakistan State Oil (PSO) has approached Chinese energy firm M/s Sinopec to partner with Saudi Arabia's Aramco in a state-of-the-art refinery and petrochemical complex in Pakistan, well-informed sources told Business Recorder. The government is also likely to include \$10 billion Saudi Aramco refinery project in framework of China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

In a letter to President Sinopec Corp, Yu Baocai, Managing Director/Chief Executive Officer, PSO, Syed Muhammad Taha, conveyed PSO's interest in inviting Sinopec, a global leader in the energy sector, to participate in a major greenfield refinery and petrochemical project in Pakistan. According to PSO Chief, the project presents a unique opportunity for Sinopec to leverage its extensive expertise and resources in a high-growth market with significant potential. "It is a joint project between PSO and Saudi Aramco that aims to establish a state-

of-the-art refinery and petrochemical complex in Pakistan. As per pre-feasibility study, the project will have a processing capacity of more than 300,000 barrels per day (bpd) and will produce a range of high-value petroleum products, including gasoline, diesel, jet fuel with provision of petrochemicals, “said Syed Muhammad Taha. According to Managing Director PSO, the project has been incentivized by the Government of Pakistan to improve its economics, which includes 20-year tax holiday, 7.5% deemed duties for 25-years on its gasoline and diesel production, and exemption from all taxes on the import of any equipment/material for the project. He maintained that Pakistan presents a compelling investment case for Sinopec, adding that with a growing population of over 220 million and a rapidly expanding economy, the country’s demand for energy is expected to double by 2035. This presents a significant opportunity for Sinopec to secure a strong foothold in a strategically important market. “We, PSO and Aramco, believe that Sinopec is the ideal partner for this project due to its proven track record,” he continued. As a leading global energy company with extensive experience in refinery and petrochemical projects, Sinopec possesses the technical expertise and operational excellence necessary to ensure the success of this initiative. In addition, Sinopec’s strong financial position and access to capital will be crucial for financing this large-scale project. “We invite Sinopec to express interest in participating in this project as an equity and technical partner. We are open to exploring various partnership models, including joint ventures, build-operate-transfer agreements, and technology licensing,” said Syed Muhammad Taha in his letter. The government is also likely to draft new policy framework to facilitate investment from Saudi Arabia’s energy giant M/s Aramco, which has now shown interest in establishment of crude to chemical/plastic complex. The decision was taken at a recent meeting of Apex Committee of Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC), presided over by the caretaker Prime Minister, Anwar ul Haq Kakar. According to sources, Petroleum Division and Ministry of Industries and Production (MoI&P) will jointly develop policy framework to attract investment of M/s Aramco in collaboration with Chinese firm Sinopec Engineering Group (SEG). Pakistan’s Deputy Ambassador to China has recently held meeting with the representatives of Chinese company and discussed the pros and cons of \$ 10 billion project.

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2024/02/20/1-page/985632-news.html>

## The News

### **FDI falls to five-year low in Jan amid Chinese outflow from power sector**

KARACHI: Pakistan's foreign direct investment (FDI) fell to the lowest level in more than five years in January, as Chinese investors withdrew funds from the country's troubled power sector, official data showed on Monday. The country recorded a net FDI outflow of \$173 million in January, the highest since October 2018, compared with a net inflow of \$237 million a year earlier, according to data from the State Bank of Pakistan.

China, which has been the largest source of FDI for Pakistan in recent years, accounted for \$255 million of the outflow, mainly from the power sector. Brokerage Arif Habib Limited said the outflow was the highest since October 2018, while brokerage Topline Securities said the nation saw FDI outflows after a gap of about two years.

“Country-wise, the major outflow was witnessed in China (\$255 million) and sector-wise, the major outflow was witnessed in the power sector (\$243 million) in January 2024,” it added. The country’s FDI dropped by 21 percent to \$689 million in the seven months of the current fiscal year.

The FDI in the power sector fell by 65 percent to \$191 million between July and January of FY2024. Furthermore, foreign investments in Pakistan's financial businesses fell by 35 percent to \$108 million.

However, FDI inflows into the oil and gas exploration industry increased by 79 percent to \$135 million in the seven months of this fiscal year. Analysts predicted that political and economic instability would have a significant impact on the future direction of the coming FDI inflows. The unexpected election results have negatively affected the sentiment of both domestic and foreign investors, with growing doubts about the formation of the new government casting a shadow over reforms and the IMF programme.

“News reports suggest that a coalition government may be formed similar to the PDM, potentially assuaging some uncertainty. However, investors eagerly await pivotal developments such as the appointment of a Finance Minister and negotiations for a new long-term IMF programme,” Chase Securities said in a note.

“The reform agenda has found itself at a standstill; neither has the PIA privatisation materialised under the interim setup nor has the Circular Debt Resolution plan been set in motion,” it said. “Additionally, decisions regarding the reduction of industrial tariffs and the handover of DISCOS to the private sector have remained pending.”

<https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/1159344-fdi-falls-to-five-year-low-in-jan-amid-chinese-outflow-from-power-sector>

### **Beijing hopeful parties would work to form new government**

ISLAMABAD: While congratulating Pakistan for holding general elections of the national and provincial assemblies in a steady and smooth manner, China has expressed hope that “the political parties in Pakistan could work together to form a new government after the polls.” The spokesperson of the Chinese Ministry for Foreign Affairs in a statement on Monday said “We noted that general elections in Pakistan were held in a generally steady and smooth manner, and we offer our congratulations,” Mao Ning said during her regular briefing which resumed in Beijing after a 10-day pause in the wake of the Chinese New Year and Spring Festival holidays. “As a close and friendly neighbour, China fully respects the choices of Pakistani people and sincerely hopes that relevant parties of Pakistan will work together to uphold the political solidarity and social stability after the elections,” she added.

The spokesperson said that China and Pakistan were all-weather strategic cooperative partners and China hoped to work with Pakistan to build on the traditional friendship, deepen practical cooperation in various areas and accelerate the building of an even closer China-Pakistan community with a shared future in the new era for the benefit of the peoples of the two countries.



In response to a query about the delay in forming a government in Pakistan, she said that the Chinese side noted that the Pakistan election was generally steady and smooth and China respected the choice of Pakistani people. “As to the situation you mentioned, we believe the relevant parties in Pakistan can stick to solidarity and work together to solve relevant issues,” she reminded.

The greeting messages are pouring from the world capitals about the holding of elections in Pakistan as the United States had announced to work with a new government in Pakistan. Iran was the first country that felicitated people and the government of Pakistan on the successful holding of the nationwide election.

<https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/1159548-beijing-hopeful-parties-would-work-to-form-new-government>

### **‘Trade in yuan surges to 14pc’**

KARACHI: The Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI) said on Monday trade with China in yuan reached 14 percent in 2023, up from 2 percent in 2018, as the rupee faced depreciation and external financing challenges. FPCCI president Atif Ikram Sheikh said China was not only a friendly neighbour but also a huge market for Pakistani products, especially in sectors such as textiles, leather, sports goods and surgical instruments.

Sheikh also congratulated China on the occasion of its New Year and Spring Festival, saying the people-to-people and business-to-business ties between the two countries were as strong as their strategic relations.

Two FPCCI vice presidents visited the Chinese consulate in Karachi and expressed their sentiments to Chinese Consul General Yang Yundong, who welcomed the increase in trade in yuan and praised the potential of Pakistan's economy.

FPCCI vice president Aman Paracha said the use of yuan was a global trend and beneficial for Pakistan, which faced a current account deficit and dwindling foreign exchange reserves in recent years.

FPCCI vice president Asif Sakhi said trade, investments, joint ventures and industrial collaborations with China could help Pakistan achieve high growth and poverty reduction, as China had done in the past three decades.

He said China was an excellent case study for Pakistan to learn from its economic transformation

<https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/1159353-trade-in-yuan-surges-to-14pc>

## Nawaiwaqt News

### **پاکستان میں انتخابات شفاف طریقے سے ہوئے ، مبارکباد پیش کرتے ہیں: چین**

چین نے کہا ہے کہ پاکستان میں عام انتخابات مستحکم اور ہموار طریقے سے منعقد کئے گئے جس پر مبارکباد پیش کرتے ہیں۔ عالمی خبررساں ادارے کے مطابق چین کی وزارت خارجہ کی ترجمان نے کہا ہے کہ پاکستان میں قومی اور صوبائی اسمبلیوں کے انتخابات کے نتیجے میں بننے والی حکومت کے ساتھ مل کر کام کرنے کے خواہش مند ہیں۔ چین کی ترجمان ماؤننگ نے پریس بریفنگ میں حکومت سازی میں تاخیر سے متعلق ایک سوال کے جواب میں کہا کہ ہم نے نوٹ کیا کہ پاکستان میں انتخابات عام طور پر مستحکم اور ہموار طریقے سے ہوئے۔ انہوں نے مزید کہا کہ جس صورتحال کا آپ نے ذکر کیا ہے ہمیں یقین ہے کہ پاکستان میں متعلقہ فریق یکجہتی پر قائم رہ سکتے ہیں اور متعلقہ مسائل کو حل کرنے کے لئے مل کر کام کر سکتے ہیں۔ چین کی ترجمان نے مزید کہا کہ ایک قریبی اور دوست ہمسایہ ملک کے طور پر چین پاکستانی عوام کے انتخاب کا مکمل احترام کرتا ہے اور پوری امید کرتا ہے کہ پاکستان کی متعلقہ جماعتیں انتخابات کے بعد سیاسی یکجہتی اور سماجی استحکام کو برقرار رکھنے کے لئے مل کر کام کریں گی۔ چینی ترجمان نے کہا کہ دونوں ممالک کے عوام کے فائدے کے لئے نیا دور شروع کیا جائے گا۔ ہمیں یقین ہے کہ پاکستان میں متعلقہ فریق یکجہتی پر قائم رہ سکتے ہیں متعلقہ مسائل کو حل کرنے کے لئے مل کر کام کر سکتے ہیں۔

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2024-02-20/page-1/detail-29>

**February 21, 2024**

**Daily Times**

### **Chinese water-saving facilities shipped to Pakistan for smart farm project**

The first batch of equipment for the Million Acres of Green Pakistan Smart Farm Project participated by Chinese water-saving industry leader, Tianjin Dayu Irrigation Group, has been packed and delivered.

The batch of intelligent water and fertilizer integrated irrigation equipment covering a farmland area of 2,000 hectares will be used for the planting and irrigation of wheat, cotton, tomatoes, corn and other crops, providing vital technical support for the construction of smart farms in Pakistan.

On July 7, 2023, the then Prime Minister of Pakistan launched the LIMS (Land Information and Management System) initiative, which aims to promote modern agricultural development, improve agricultural productivity and meet the food needs of Pakistan's growing population through the application of advanced technology and modern irrigation system, among which the Million Acres of Green Pakistan Smart Farm Project as a response to and support for this initiative.

“Agriculture is Pakistan's pillar industry. The world's most advanced technology will help us increase production.

It can not only be as self-use, but will also be of great help to our food exports in the future. At the same time, Dayu Group has also made considerable achievements in flood prevention, disaster early warning, rural sewage treatment, and so on.

We hope to cooperate closely with Dayu in multiple dimensions,” said Ghulam Qadir, Pakistan's Commercial Counselor in Pakistan Embassy, Beijing.

Cui Jing, senior vice president of Dayu Group, echoed that Pakistani partners are very interested in Dayu's rural sewage treatment project in Tianjin and farmer drinking water safety project in Ningxia. "If this cooperation is successful, these two types of projects will also be introduced to Pakistan. Beyond doubt, our prospects for future cooperation are very broad."

Pakistan suffers from chronic water shortages. In addition to residential water, the country devotes almost three-quarters of its water supply to cultivating its water-intensive crops: approximately 23 percent for wheat, 21 percent for rice, 19 percent for sugar cane, and 14 percent for cotton especially, which supports Pakistan's pillar textile industry, requires a large amount of water to maintain its long growth cycle as a water-loving crop, China Economic Net (CEN) reported on Tuesday.

In the meantime, northern metropolis Tianjin is a resource-based water-scarce city, where has focused on promoting green manufacturing and forming a water-saving model for the entire industry chain from water sources to processes to products in past few years.

This bilateral cooperation focuses on long-term development to gradually transfer the mature management experience of "tridimensional water management" of agricultural water conservation, safe drinking water for farmers, and rural sewage treatment to Belt and Road partners including Pakistan.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1172251/chinese-water-saving-facilities-shipped-to-pakistan-for-smart-farm-project/>

### **Dawn News**

#### **Pakistan Meeting point for US, China: Envoy**

WASHINGTON: Pakistan's US Ambassador Masood Khan on Tuesday highlighted the pivotal role his country could play in fostering cooperation between the United States and China.

In a significant address at the Centre for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS), Mr Khan said "Pakistan should be a meeting point, not a battleground" for the two global powers, and encouraged both nations to invest in Pakistan's areas of strength.

"We await American decisions on the restoration for Pakistan of military sales and military financing and supply of critical equipment to keep the strategic balance and fight the raging threat of terrorism," Ambassador Khan remarked, underlining the crucial role of the US in maintaining regional stability.

Expressing optimism about the future, he stated, "Pakistan, I assure you, will have a bright future, despite our present challenges." The ambassador highlighted Pakistan's economic standing, ranking as the 24th largest economy by purchasing power parity and boasting a young and tech-savvy population.

Ambassador Khan shed light on Pakistan's commitment to economic reforms, stating, "We have decided to turn a series of recent crises into an opportunity to implement a broad range of economic and human development reforms."

He also mentioned the World Bank's proposed 'Reforms for a Brighter Future' initiative, aligning with Pakistan's ongoing efforts.

The tech sector emerged as a focal point, said Mr Khan, revealing impressive growth. "A small \$10 million venture capital funding has soared to \$4 billion. E-commerce earned \$6bn last year," he said, illustrating the transformative impact of tech startups in areas like fintech, healthtech, and retail.

The ambassador said despite a demanding macroeconomic environment, Pakistan remains a hospitable destination for foreign direct investment.

He said Pakistan's strong diaspora in the US, estimated at 1m, plays a vital role in building bridges and channelling US investments to Pakistan

In the last fiscal year, the US-based diaspora's investments were \$3bn.

He said the newly constituted Special Investment Facilitation Council prioritises sectors like energy, agriculture, and critical minerals for fast-track foreign investment, offering incentives to investors.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1815895>

**February 22, 2024**

**Dawn News**

### **Arrival of first batch of 30 electric buses from China delayed**

ISLAMABAD: The first batch of 30 electric buses from China, out of a total of 160, is yet to arrive in the capital.

According to sources, it was expected that in the next few days, the first batch of buses would set off from China in a special vessel, but due to unavailability of the vessel, they would not be arriving any time soon. "We are in touch with the authorities in China and efforts are underway to load buses on a vessel on Thursday (today)," an official said, adding that the first batch of 30 buses could reach Karachi port in three weeks time and then they would be brought to Islamabad, followed by two other batches in the next two months. The buses would be operated on 13 routes by the National Radio and Telecommunication Corporation (NRTC) - the contractor of the CDA which has placed orders for the 160 buses with an international firm that has been manufacturing buses in China. As per the agreement, the CDA will pay the NRTC about Rs306 to Rs331 per kilometre to operate the buses. The 13 routes include Police Foundation/Orange Line Station to Red Line Faiz Ahmed Faiz Station in I-8; Allama Iqbal Station to Red Line Potohar Station; Pims to Secretariat; D-12 to G-10; F-11 to Red Line F-8 Station; G-11 to Pims; Aabpara to Tramri Chowk; Nilor to Khanna Pul; Pirwadhai Chowk to Faizabad; B-17 to Chungi Number 26 and I-16 to Chungi Number 26. Earlier, the CDA had intended to procure the buses from its own funding, but in February last year, the civic agency decided to hire the services of a contractor and NRTC won the contract.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1816122>

**February 23, 2024**

**Daily Times**

### **Pakistan exports to South China increases by 16% in 2023**

Pakistan's exports to South China have witnessed a significant surge of 16% during the year 2023. This remarkable achievement comes as a result of the strengthened trade ties between the two countries and Pakistan's ongoing efforts to diversify its export market, said Muhammad Irfan, Trade and Investment Counsellor Pakistan's Consulate in Guangzhou, China.

According to the latest data released by the General Administration of Customs of China (GACC), the total value of exports from Pakistan to South China reached a record high of \$973.21 million from January-December of 2023, compared to \$836.645 million in the previous year. This upward trajectory is a testament to the resilience and competitiveness of Pakistan's export sector.

“Guangdong Province imported \$379.011 million worth of goods from Pakistan in 2023, while Fujian Province imported \$367.30 million.” On the other hand, imports in the previous year were 248.532 million, up by 48%, followed by the Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region's 86.790 million and \$80.164 million, up by 8%, in 2022. In 2023, Hainan Province imported goods worth \$85.883 million, with a 56% increase, and in 2022, its imports were \$24.371 million, increased by 123% to \$54.227 million, he told China Economic Net (CEN).

He further said that the surge in exports to South China can be attributed to various factors, including the preferential trade agreement between Pakistan and China, known as the China-Pakistan Free Trade Agreement (CPFTA). This agreement has eliminated or significantly reduced tariffs on a wide range of goods, making Pakistani products more affordable and competitive in the Chinese market.

“Due to the significant participation of Chinese participants in two major events held in Pakistan, the Food & Agriculture Exhibition and TEXPO 2023, Pakistan's exports to South China surged by 69% in the second half of 2023. The key sectors contributing to Pakistan's export growth in South China include textiles, leather products, seafood, and agricultural commodities. Sesame seed, rice textiles, and garments, in particular, have witnessed a significant surge in demand, as Pakistani textile manufacturers have managed to produce high-quality products at competitive prices Irfan mentioned.

He further said that the Pakistani government has also played a vital role in promoting exports to South China by providing various incentives and support to exporters. These include subsidized loans, export financing schemes, and trade exhibitions to showcase Pakistani products in the Chinese market. Furthermore, the geographical proximity of South China to Pakistan has facilitated the smooth flow of goods, reducing transportation costs and time.

This advantage has allowed Pakistani exporters to deliver their products more efficiently and gain a competitive edge over other countries.



It is to be noted that the total exports of Pakistan to China from 2021-2023 increased by 1.4% on year-on-year basics.

Irfan added that the increase in exports to South China is beneficial for Pakistan's economy and helps in bridging the trade imbalance between the two countries. Historically, Pakistan has been heavily reliant on imports from China, and the export surge has helped to reduce this dependency and create a more balanced trade relationship.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1172900/pakistan-exports-to-south-china-increases-by-16-in-2023/>

### **Pak-China electric vehicle Launched**

Sazgar Engineering, one of Pakistan's leading car manufacturers, has partnered with Chinese car manufacturer Great Wall Motors (GWM) to introduce their latest innovation in the automotive industry, the electric vehicle ORA 3.

This collaboration aims to revolutionize the Pakistani market by offering sustainable and eco-friendly transportation solutions.

With cars being the primary mode of transportation in Pakistan and gasoline prices continuously rising due to global oil price hikes, there's a clear and urgent need for alternative energy solutions, CEN reported.

New energy vehicles (NEVs) seem to be the perfect fit. Sazgar Engineering has set the price of the ORA 3 at Rs 8.99 million, making it an attractive option for consumers looking to embrace NEVs.

The company has announced that bookings for this groundbreaking vehicle will open in the coming days, with an initial booking price of Rs 5 million.

Pakistan is catching a ride on the global NEVs boom.

Last year, global sales of NEVs reached approximately 14.61 million units, representing a 38% year-on-year growth. Among them, China accounted for 9.495 million units of NEV sales, capturing a 65% market share in the global market.

A number of Chinese companies such as BAIC, Changan, JAC Motors, Great Wall Motors, MG, FAW, and Chery Automobile have established their presence and even formed joint ventures in Pakistan, driving the new energy vehicles industry in the country towards intelligence and electrification.

"As Sazgar takes the lead in embracing electric mobility in Pakistan, we are proud to set new standards and contribute to the collective effort in combating climate change," said the representative from Sazgar.

This partnership opens doors for technological advancements and knowledge sharing, enabling the local auto industry to embrace sustainability and cater to the growing demand for eco-friendly transportation.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1172926/pak-china-electric-vehicle-launched/>

**February 24, 2024**

**The Express Tribune**

### **Dues to Chinese IPPs hit record \$1.8b**

ISLAMABAD: The outstanding dues of power projects of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) have alarmingly increased to a record Rs493 billion or \$1.8 billion as of last month, showing an increase of over three-fourths in a span of just seven months.

The massive surge in the dues of the Chinese energy projects during the time of the caretaker government may become a serious issue for Pakistan in managing its economic relations with Beijing.

Sources told The Express Tribune that as of end January, Pakistan owed around Rs493 billion to Chinese power generation and transmission projects. The amount is Rs214 billion or 77% higher than June last year, according to the sources.

The major reason behind the surge in the dues was the failure of the Power Division to settle at least 90% of the monthly claims filed by these power generation and transmission projects. The sources said that for the month of June, the power plants had submitted Rs110 billion worth of claims. But the Power Division settled less than Rs60 billion or about 53% of the monthly claims.

Last month, China linked the approval of a \$600 million new foreign commercial loan with the prior settlement of the debt that Pakistan owes to the Chinese power plants. It was rare on the part of any country to link a foreign commercial loan with any prior action, indicating resentment in the Chinese camps.

Pakistan had requested the Industrial and Commercial Bank of China (ICBC) and the Bank of China for a total loan of \$600 million. Each bank had been approached for \$300 million in financing. Pakistan's authorities had hoped that they would get the loans in December.

Under the Energy Framework Agreement of the CPEC, Pakistan had committed to setting up a revolving fund and depositing an amount equal to 21% of the invoices generated for power payments. The 21% is the sum that the Pakistani authorities fail to collect, adding to the vicious power sector circular debt. The arrangement had been sought to protect Chinese firms from circular debt.

But instead of setting up a fund, Pakistan in October 2022 opened a Pakistan Energy Revolving Account (PERA) at the State Bank of Pakistan with Rs48 billion in annual allocations with a condition to withdraw a maximum of Rs4 billion per month. As a result, the Chinese IPPs' debt is now hovering around Rs400 billion.

The sources said that the government has again allowed settling only Rs4 billion of the Chinese energy debt in February, indicating that it does not see any urgency to solve the dispute. The Rs4 billion monthly allocations are not sufficient to settle the monthly inflow, leaving the stock unsettled.

The report showed that out of Rs493 billion, Pakistan owed Rs97 billion to the imported-coal fired Sahiwal power plant – the highest obligation to any Chinese energy project that also represents one-fifth of the Chinese outstanding energy dues.

Islamabad also owed over Rs82 billion to the coal-fired Hub power project, Rs80 billion to the coal-fired Port Qasim power plant, and Rs79 billion to the Thar Coal project.

The Chinese government, through Pakistan’s embassy in Beijing and its own embassy in Islamabad, has multiple times raised this issue at all forums.

Due to huge outstanding liabilities, Chinese insurance company M/s Sinosure is also not providing any fresh lending to power sector projects in Pakistan. The Chinese government had also raised this issue with the last Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) government.

Overdue payments to the Chinese Independent Power Producers (IPPs) are causing huge concern among Chinese businesses. Former Special Assistant to PM on Foreign Affairs, Tariq Fatemi, had written to the planning ministry a few months ago.

China, in the past, had also raised the issue of Pakistan’s overall public debt unsustainability and its implications for obtaining \$6 billion to \$7 billion new loans for the Mainline-I railways project of the CPEC.

The details showed that the receivables of Engro PowerGen plant increased to Rs57 billion by the end of January. The country also owed Rs32 billion to the sponsors of the Matiari-Lahore Transmission Line project. Likewise, Karot power project receivables have surged to Rs23 billion by the end of last month.

The payables to Thar coal energy limited and ThalNova have increased over Rs7 billion. The UEP power plant receivables have crossed Rs5 billion. The receivables of the rest of the energy projects of the CPEC ranged from Rs2 billion to Rs4.5 billion.

This month the International Monetary Fund did not approve the Rs1.27 trillion circular debt reduction plan. The IMF objected to the government’s proposal on the grounds that it carried serious fiscal risks, as it also rejected the proposal of issuing Rs745 billion additional supplementary grant.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2457399/dues-to-chinese-ipps-hit-record-18b>

### **The Nation**

#### **CPEC projects underway in Pakistan to help local economy**

BEIJING - A number of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) projects are making renewed progress as the CPEC, a flagship project under the China-proposed Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), enters its next phase, helping the country to alleviate energy shortages and empowering its economic growth.

“Entering 2024, CPEC projects have achieved new progress,” the Global Times reported. “The Karot hydropower project, a 720 megawatt (MW) hydropower plant developed on the Jhelum River in Pakistan and the first ever large-scale hydropower project under the BRI, has generated a total of 3.1 billion kilowatt hours of electricity in 2023,” China Three Gorges

Corporation, which invested in and is leading construction of the project, announced on its website. In December, two China-donated projects, including a seawater desalination plant and the upgrade of the Pak-China Friendship Hospital, were inaugurated in the Gwadar district of southwestern Balochistan province. The desalination plant will provide 5,000 tons per day of potable water to help address a severe drinking water shortage, while the Pak-China Friendship Hospital has boosted its capacity to 150 beds from the original 50.

“At the Karachi Nuclear Power Plant, the K2 and K3 units that both use Hualong One, China’s third-generation nuclear power reactor with full intellectual property rights, are churning out a combined 20 billion kilowatt hours each year, satisfying the production and residential electricity use of two million people while saving energy equivalent to 6.24 million tons of standard coal,” the Global Times learned from China National Nuclear Corporation. In July last year, Unit 5 (C-5) of the Chashma Nuclear Power Plant broke ground, marking the 7th nuclear reactor exported from China to Pakistan. “Pakistan is on the right side of history by standing with China as the game changer. CPEC’s second phase will unveil record development and economic uplift in the country,” said Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed, Chairman of the Senate Standing Committee on Defense.

Launched in 2013, the CPEC is a corridor linking Gwadar Port with Kashi in Northwest China’s Xinjiang region, highlighting energy, transportation, and industrial cooperation. In its first phase, the CPEC added more than 8,000 MW of power-generating capacity to the Pakistani national grid. More than 800 kilometers of highways were built, while more than 800 kilometers of fiber-optic cable were laid. More than 200,000 jobs were created, according to data from the Pakistani Embassy in China. To jointly promote the development of the CPEC, China and Pakistan held the Fourth Meeting of the CPEC Joint Working Group on International Cooperation and Coordination in Islamabad in late January.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/24-Feb-2024/cpec-projects-underway-in-pakistan-to-help-local-economy>

**February 25, 2024**

**The Nation**

**BRI’s CPEC Bright Future**

China is moving on BRI & its related projects around the globe fast but in organized manner to achieve the Shared Prosperity goal. Recently held 10th Anniversary of BRI’s CPEC shows that the importance not only attached with this project from China but also from Pakistan as a game changer for socio economic development activities in the country much needed. Recent past China’s initiative to bring closer Saudi Arabia & Iran after a decades is also the part of China’s desires to success BRI & CPEC. Pakistan is fortunate in this regard that it already has China’s flagship project the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), which was launched in 2013 in which a lot of work has been completed, including coal, windmills and hydropower, about more than 15 projects have been completed. While work is ongoing on six projects, including the Suki Kinari hydro project of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, its seventy percent work has been also completed. With the completion of all these projects, thousands of

megawatts of electricity will be added to the national grid. There is a need to fix the local system to take full advantage of the electricity generated until the feeders are not updated and the damaged wires and transformers are not replaced the problems will continue to exist which is the biggest obstacle in taking benefits from CPEC. Therefore it is necessary to make better use of the help of the Chinese brothers to remove the current hurdles in the way of electricity transmission at the local level. On the other hand, from an economic point of view, under CPEC, project like Rashakai Special Economic Zone in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa is in the stages of completion, in which 247 acre of area have been prepared and underway for investment. Several enterprises have been registered while a few have started construction of their industrial units. Similarly, if the entire CPEC project is reviewed then the investors and the government of Pakistan will have to do their part to benefit from the above project. The fact that the phase one has been completed, raises many questions that we are not fully prepared for that dynamic scheme. Apart from this, the tourism sector is also expected to expand. These initiatives are very promising for expanding employment opportunities for residents. Agriculture and tourism industries are considered the backbone of future growth. But the key question remains unanswered: Is Pakistan ready to reap the potential benefits of CPEC? Does Pakistan have enough soft infrastructure to attract investment in the industrial sector, especially Special Economic Zones (SEZs)? Pakistan may not have developed the fundamentals needed to reap all the benefits of CPEC Phase II. Three conditions are needed to reap the potential benefits of industrialization and tourism: human capital (HC), rural connectivity (RC) and business environment (BE) that will attract foreign direct investment (FDI) and tourists. Considering human capital, Pakistan has made little progress in education and health compared to other South Asian countries. Second, Well-developed rural roads are needed to connect growth-generating sectors in different regions and achieve wider distribution of economic benefits. They are also a prerequisite for the development of remote or environmentally difficult areas. Infrastructure investment in rural areas leads to higher agricultural and non-agricultural production, employment and income. Rural linkages with SEZs are key to creating opportunities for the poor to uplift their economic status, which is a precursor to inclusive growth. In South Asia, Pakistan is also ranked fifth among eight countries. Indicative data shows that getting electricity (ranked 123), paying taxes (ranked 161), trading across borders (ranked 111) and enforcing contracts (ranked 156) are highly Low performance indicators. We know that a good institutional framework, political stability and an independent legal system etc. play an integral role in improving these indicators. So not surprisingly, the quality of the institutional framework in Pakistan is very poor. To maximize the potential benefits of CPEC, Pakistan needs to improve these conditions, in which it is currently underperforming. Pakistan needs to invest in development institutions that need restructuring to improve the legal framework, enforce the rule of law and ensure political stability. Political stability will be critical to the success of any development project and accountability process. This undermines the growth process, creates investment uncertainty, discourages international investors and discourages tourists. Where there is some good news is the government on reforms and ease of doing business. Focusing efforts are being made to implement positive impacts.



<https://www.nation.com.pk/25-Feb-2024/bri-s-cpec-bright-future>

## **China plans to import 5,000 tonnes of sesame from Pakistan this year: Xi Jianlong**

BEIJING - China will increase investment in the Pak-China contract farming sesame project and has the plan to import at least 5,000 tons of sesame from Pakistan this year, Project Manager, Xi Jianlong said.

“In 2023, we imported 400 tons of sesame from Pakistan to China, and this year, we plan to import at least 5,000 tons of sesame,” he said in an interview.

At the end of 2023, the first batch of sesame from the project was shipped to China, signaling a promising year for sesame exports. Sesame, a traditional crop in Pakistan, has faced challenges such as low market demand and limited cultivation scale.

Recognizing China’s increasing demand for sesame, the Sino-Pak Agricultural Cooperation and Exchange Centre, led by China Machinery Engineering Corporation (CMEC), collaborated with Pakistani farmers to establish contract farming initiatives.

China’s sesame import volume has remained stable at approximately 1 million tonnes over the past three years. Pakistan’s sesame holds the advantage of being among the first to enter the market in the northern hemisphere every year, and its proximity to China ensures a short shipping time of only ten to fifteen days by sea, said Xi Jianlong.

The project was started in 2022.

After two years of trials, the centre has made significant progress in seed selection and industrial models. In 2023, the cultivation area surpassed 600 acres, indicating promising potential for sesame production.

When I surveyed Pakistan in 2018, the sesame cultivation area was only 200,000 acres. By 2023, it had increased to 1 million acres, highlighted Xi Jianlong, emphasizing the impressive growth in sesame cultivation in Pakistan.

We also provide support in terms of cultivation resources and technical training for local farmers, and their yield per acre has almost doubled compared to 2018.

To further enhance efficiency in sesame production, the center plans to introduce advanced sesame harvesting machinery and sorting equipment from China.

Xi Jianlong stated, “We are currently exploring collaborations with agricultural machinery companies and plan to introduce combined harvesting and sowing machines, along with drone-assisted pesticide spraying, to facilitate farm management in Pakistan.”

<https://www.nation.com.pk/26-Feb-2024/china-plans-to-import-5-000-tonnes-of-sesame-from-pakistan-this-year-xi-jianlog>

## **Pak exports have great potential in Kyrgyzstan: KTH chief**

LAHORE - Kyrgyzstan Trade House (KTH) Chairman Meher Kashif Younis said on Sunday that exporting pharmaceuticals, agricultural products, dry fruit and leather goods to Kyrgyzstan offers a promising opportunity for economic growth and international trade relations.

Talking to a delegation of exporters and Importers led by Faran Shahid here, he said Pakistan exported pharmaceutical, agricultural, dry fruit and leather products of \$15.95 million during the first ten months of 2023 which is not up to existing potential.

Meher added that in 2023, Kyrgyzstan's foreign trade turnover increased by 29.9 percent (\$15.7 billion) compared to the previous year. Kyrgyz exports reached up to \$3.3 billion, a 46.8 percent increase, compared to 2022, while the imports grew by 26 percent to \$12.4 billion.

The KTH chairman said that China was Kyrgyzstan's top trading partner in 2023, accounting for 34.7 percent of Kyrgyzstan's foreign trade but Pakistan's share is negligible.

He mentioned that trade with the member states of Eurasian Economic Union accounted for 27.8 percent of the country's total trade volume.

He said Kyrgyzstan, located in Central Asia, is a country with a developing economy and a growing demand for various goods and commodities.

Pharmaceuticals constitute a vital component of any nation's healthcare system, and Kyrgyzstan is no exception. Exporting pharmaceutical products to Kyrgyzstan can contribute to improving access to essential medications, enhancing healthcare infrastructure, and ultimately, fostering better public health outcomes.

He said pharmaceutical companies can tap into Kyrgyzstan's healthcare market and establish long-term partnerships with local distributors and healthcare institutions.

He said Ulanbek Totuiaev, Ambassador of Kyrgyzstan to Pakistan, is playing key role in promoting and strengthening the bilateral trade, besides patronising the Kyrgyzstan Trade Houses in Pakistan.

Meher Kashif Younis said that exporting agricultural products, dry fruits, and leather goods to Kyrgyzstan holds immense potential for economic and local industrial growth, and strengthen bilateral trade relations between exporting countries and Kyrgyzstan.

By identifying market opportunities, navigating regulatory requirements, and establishing strategic partnerships, exporters can capitalize on Kyrgyzstan's evolving consumer preferences and contribute to the country's socio-economic development, he concluded.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/26-Feb-2024/pak-exports-have-great-potential-in-kyrgyzstan-kth-chief>

## The News

### **Pak-China medical congress on June 28**

LAHORE: The 4th Pak-China Medical Congress is set to take place from 28 to 30 June, 2024 in the vibrant city of Shanghai, said Pakistan Medical Association (PMA), Lahore, here Sunday.

This event will bring together eminent medical scholars from all over Pakistan, fostering international collaboration and knowledge exchange in the field of medicine. Under the leadership of the Pakistan Medical Association (PMA), a distinguished delegation of experts will participate in this conference. The delegation comprises specialists from nine medical disciplines, including orthopedics, public health, medical education, ophthalmology, gynecology, radiology, surgery, medicine, and diabetes. Congress Convener for Pakistan, Prof Ashraf Nizami, encouraged doctors interested in representing their departments to submit the abstracts of their research papers to either PMA House Lahore or PMA House Karachi.

<https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/1161555-pak-china-medical-congress-on-june-28>

### **‘Pakistan should achieve green hydrogen development capacity’**

Islamabad: Dr Abid Qaiyum Suleri, Executive Director, SDPI, has called upon the experts, researchers, and students to work out investment and joint venture opportunities between Pakistani and Chinese firms under CPEC to achieve green hydrogen development capacity.

Dr Suleri was addressing a public private dialogue on “Exploring the potential of Green Hydrogen in hard to abate sectors of Pakistan” organised here by Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI).

Dr Suleri said that almost 90 million tons of carbon is produced annually in the world that causes 800 million tons of CO2 emissions. However, there is a worldwide debate on making its production eco-friendly but the amount of energy required for this is a cost intensive enterprise.

He explained that hydrogen was of a different nature, ie, blue, green and pink.

The blue hydrogen is produced by splitting methane gas molecules, the green hydrogen is by water hydrolysis and the pink hydrogen is produced through nuclear energy source.

<https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/1161575-pakistan-should-achieve-green-hydrogen-development-capacity>

**February 27, 2024**

**The Express Tribune**

**China to import 5,000 tons of sesame in FY24**

BEIJING: China will increase investment in the Pak-China sesame contract farming project and has plans to import at least 5,000 tons of sesame from Pakistan this year, Project Manager Xi Jianlong said.

“In 2023, we imported 400 tons of sesame from Pakistan, and this year, we plan to import at least 5,000 tons,” he said in an interview. At the end of 2023, the first batch of sesame from the project was shipped to China, signalling a promising year for sesame exports.

Sesame, a traditional crop in Pakistan, has faced challenges such as low market demand and limited cultivation. Recognising China’s increasing demand for sesame, the Sino-Pak Agricultural Cooperation and Exchange Centre, led by China Machinery Engineering Corporation (CMEC), collaborated with Pakistani farmers to take contract farming initiatives. China’s sesame import volume has remained stable at approximately 1 million tons over the past three years. Pakistan’s sesame holds the advantage of being among the first to enter the market in the northern hemisphere every year, and its proximity to China ensures a short shipping time of only 10 to 15 days by sea, said Xi.

“When I surveyed Pakistan in 2018, the sesame cultivation area was only 200,000 acres. By 2023, it had increased to 1 million acres,” highlighted Xi.

“We also provide support in terms of cultivation resources and technical training for local farmers, and their yield per acre has almost doubled compared to 2018.”

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2457694/china-to-import-5000-tons-of-sesame-in-fy24>

**February 28, 2024**

**Pakistan Observer**

**BRI’s Future & Expectations from 2 Sessions 2024**

*Dr Mehmood Ul Hassan Khan*

The Chinese BRI has become the biggest mega development project of the 21st century which is successfully negating the spillover repercussions of geopolitics, protectionism, unilateralism, war-theatre mentality, isolation, marginalization and gearing the developing countries and Global South towards greater socio-economic integration, connectivity and industrial productivity and cooperation.

Pakistan-China Economic Corridor (CPEC) has become the biggest recipient of the BRI. Since democratic activities of the post-general election 2024 have commenced in Pakistan, there is hope that political stability will be restored, leading toward much-needed economic stability and sustainability in the country. The CPEC will play an important role in the days to come. Hopefully, CPEC Phase-II will empower the commencement of ML-I and other mega projects in the country. Additionally, the upcoming Chinese two sessions have also

become beacon of hope for regional as well as world economy, brightening new prospects for greater socio-economic cooperation, connectivity and integration between the two iron brotherly countries i.e. China and Pakistan.

Hopefully, China would promote its national plan to achieve new productive forces for The Two Sessions as the annual meetings of the National People's Congress (NPC) and the National People's Political Consultative Conference (NPPCC) will be held on March 4 and 5, respectively.

According to some prominent Chinese economists, the policy makers of China may set its GDP target at around 5 percent again for 2024 during the Two Sessions. Last September, Chinese Communist Party (CPC) General Secretary and President Xi Jinping presented the idea of building "new productive forces" for the first time. It may be branding of "new quality productivity" or "high quality development.

It refers to China's plan to leverage science and technological innovation to generate new industries and speed up the country's economic development.

The Chinese President Xi pinpoints these as deviations from traditional economic growth modes and productivity development paths, features high technology, high efficiency and high quality and comes in line with the new development philosophy which may also be beneficial for the further development and expansion of the CPEC Phase-II in the country.

Xi emphasized that sci-tech innovations should be applied to specific industries and industrial chains in a timely manner.

He rightly suggested that integrated efforts should be made to transform and upgrade traditional industries, foster emerging industries, make arrangements for future industries and improve the modern industrial system.

Ironically, the Western nations are using decoupling and delinking policies to suppress the remarkable economic growth of China and halting scientific cooperation with China.

This is why China needs to achieve new productive forces to enjoy "first-mover advantage."

Unfortunately, the US fatally refused to extend a 45-year-old science and technology agreement (STA) with China by another five years. It only extended the STA by six months.

The US and China will probably delay the renewal of the STA, which expired on February 27.

The US and its allies in recent years have also encouraged their companies to diversify their new investment to countries other than China.

However, China is still the most attractive destination for seeking more and more inflows of FDIs in the world. It is hoped that the Chinese economy will be able to achieve 5 percent growth this year, given that the central government will continue to boost domestic consumption, upgrade its supply chain and nurture new businesses.

<https://pakobserver.net/bris-future-expectations-from-2-sessions-2024/>



## The Express Tribune

### **China agrees to rollover \$2b debt on existing terms**

China has agreed to rollover a \$2 billion debt on existing terms after initially seeking a hike in price, as Pakistan's policy to maintain foreign exchange reserves through deposits by three countries is becoming costly due to a 118% surge in interest cost. The Ministry of Finance officials said that an understanding has been reached with Beijing to further extend the repayment period of the \$2 billion loan maturing on March 23 –the Pakistan Day. The Chinese embassy's response was awaited. Sources said that China had initially asked to further increase the interest rates on the \$2 billion debt. Pakistan is currently paying 7.1% interest rate on the basis of the six-month Secured Overnight Finance Rate (SOFR) plus 1.715%.

The officials said that China has informally communicated its decision to further extend the repayment period and the finance ministry was waiting for a formal response. Interim Prime Minister Anwaarul Haq Kakar last month formally requested the Chinese government to rollover the maturing loans, according to the officials. Pakistan paid Rs26.6 billion in interest in the last fiscal year to China, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) on the \$9 billion deposits that these three nations placed with the State Bank of Pakistan, the SBP balance sheet showed. In the preceding year, the country had paid Rs12.2 billion that within a year jumped by 118%.

The authorities said that a major factor behind the 118% increase in the interest cost was the currency devaluation in the previous fiscal year. The central bank's gross official foreign exchange reserves stand at \$8 billion. Over the past one decade, Pakistan has adopted a policy to borrow from the regional countries during difficult economic times. It has not been able to strengthen the repayment capacity and as a result these loans are extended at the time of their maturity. As of June last year, the regional countries had placed \$9 billion in deposits. Subsequent to a staff-level agreement with the International Monetary Fund, Saudi Arabia and the UAE had further increased their exposure to Pakistan, taking the total tally to \$12 billion for the three nations. The cost of interest on these deposits is now expected to increase substantially for this fiscal year after the increase in the size of the deposits. The SBP's balance sheet showed that during the last fiscal year Pakistan paid another amount of Rs42.1 billion to China on account of interest for using a \$4.5 billion Chinese trade finance facility for debt purposes. The SBP report showed that the central bank fully tapped the \$4.5 billion, or 30 billion Yuan, trade finance facility available under the China-Pakistan currency swap arrangement. It added that Rs42.1 billion interest was charged on the outstanding balance at agreed rates, which was Rs5.8 billion or 16% higher than the preceding year. In rupee terms, the bilateral currency swap value increased from Rs927 billion in the preceding year to Rs1.2 trillion by end of last fiscal year. Pakistan largely utilised the Chinese trade finance facility to repay foreign debt and keep its gross foreign currency reserves at their levels. The \$4.5 billion facility is part of the SBP's \$8 billion in gross official foreign exchange reserves. China has also extended \$4 billion worth of SAFE deposits, which are also part of the \$8 billion reserves. Pakistan's gross reserves are now not enough to service these two Chinese facilities. The successive governments have failed to tap non-debt creating inflows, which has

exposed the country to various risks. The exports are growing at a pace that is not enough to finance the imports. The foreign direct investment remains dry and stagnant. The political instability and the ad-hoc measures such as disrupting the social media services and the internet are sending negative signals to the foreign investors. The existing \$8 billion worth of official foreign currency reserves are the result of foreign lending despite having the umbrella of the IMF. The SBP balance sheet also revealed that Pakistan obtained the IMF loans at interest rates ranging from 1.89% to 4.98%. The country paid Rs29.5 billion in interest rate to the IMF during the last fiscal year, according to the report. Pakistan's existing IMF programme is expiring in six weeks. The last tranche of \$1.2 billion remains undisbursed and it will be the first task of the new finance minister to receive the IMF mission and secure a staff-level agreement in March. There is still no clarity who will be the next finance minister – a portfolio that the PML-N should have announced days ago aimed at giving clarity to the international financial institutions and local markets.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2457855/china-agrees-to-rollover-2b-debt-on-existing-terms>

### **The News**

#### **Pak-China collaboration can bring trade to new heights: Chinese envoy**

LAHORE: Consul General of China Zhao Shiren has said that the collaboration between the private sectors of Pakistan and China in various sectors of the economy can bring trade to new heights. We prioritise making significant investments in Punjab under the public and private partnership for the long term. China's influential stakeholders will also conduct joint ventures in Punjab. The Chinese Consulate General is playing a role of a bridge between Pakistan and the Chinese nation. He expressed these views while talking to office-bearers and members of Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI) at the regional office on Tuesday. He further said that we are trying to establish strong links to promote bilateral trade with China's counterparts, trade bodies and chambers. Chinese companies will invest more in Punjab tourism. He added that Pakistan should improve security and bring tax reforms for better investment. Electricity, gas, and infrastructure need to be improved and the continuation of economic policies is essential. We will start the training programme with the Technical Education & Vocational Training Authority.

<https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/1162321-pak-china-collaboration-can-bring-trade-to-new-heights-chinese-envoy>

#### **Pakistan 'secures' \$2 billion loan rollover from China**

ISLAMABAD: In a major boost to the country's foreign exchange reserves, China has rolled over \$2 billion to Pakistan, Ministry of Finance sources told Geo News on Wednesday.

Pakistan has borrowed \$2 billion from China on a 7.1% interest rate, the sources said, adding that the loan was maturing in the week of March.

The sources said Pakistan paid Rs26.6 billion in the last fiscal year to China, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) on the \$9 billion deposits that these three nations placed with the State Bank of Pakistan.

The rollover will support the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) depleting foreign reserves which stand at \$8 billion.

Last month, caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar wrote a letter to his Chinese counterpart Li Qiang, seeking the rollover of a \$2 billion loan.

In his letter to China's premier, the interim prime minister has requested that Beijing roll over Pakistan's \$2 billion loan for a year, sources had told Geo News.

<https://www.thenews.com.pk/latest/1162450-pakistan-secures-2-billion-loan-rollover-from-china>

### **Pakistan, China boost ties with KCCDZ**

The project, being built with an expected investment of \$3.5 billion

LAHORE: Pakistan and China will strengthen their economic and industrial ties with the inclusion of the Karachi Coastal Comprehensive Development Zone (KCCDZ) project in the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), experts said on Tuesday. The Karachi Coastal Comprehensive Development Zone (KCCDZ) project, covering a total area of about 930 hectares, of which 640 hectares are reclaimed, will create four new berths for the Karachi Port Trust and a state-of-the-art fishing port with a world-class fisheries export processing zone.

The project, being built with an expected investment of \$3.5 billion, will also help clean up marine habitats for fishermen and develop 20,000 low-income housing units.

Moazzam Ghurki, president of the Pakistan China Joint Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCJCCI), said the project will boost the country's trade potential and attract global investors.

<https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/1162211-pakistan-china-boost-ties-with-kccdz>

**February 29, 2024**

### **Business Recorder**

### **China rolls over \$2bn loan to Pakistan?**

China has rolled over a \$2 billion loan to Pakistan, a private news channel reported on Wednesday, citing unnamed sources.

Pakistan's cash-strapped economy is struggling to stabilize from a financial crisis and secured a \$3 billion standby arrangement from the International Monetary Fund last summer. The \$2 billion loan was due in March and has been extended for one year, the news channel reported citing sources in the Pakistan finance ministry. Beijing had communicated the decision to Islamabad, it added. Officials at the finance ministry did not immediately respond to a Reuters request for comment.

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2024/02/29/2-page/986470-news.html>

## Dunya News

### **China solar module exports shift towards Asia, which are up over 100pc for Pakistan**

China maintained its dominant grip on the export of solar panels and modules in 2023, boosting global shipments by over a third from 2022's totals, according to data compiled by energy think tank Ember.

Total solar module exports by China, which accounts for roughly 80 per cent of global solar exports, totalled roughly 220,000 megawatts (MW) of generation capacity in 2023, up by over 55,000 MW from 2022 as global markets seeking to boost clean energy generation snapped up components.

But trade tensions with Europe over accusations that China has undercut rival producers of solar equipment led to a slight shift in the flows of module exports during 2023 as a whole.

Asian countries saw the largest increase of all regions in solar module imports from China in 2023, growing by more than European nations for the first time since 2020.

Europe remained the largest overall destination for Chinese solar modules overall, but the region's share of total Chinese solar exports dropped to 46.35pc in 2023 from 55pc in 2022.

Asia had the second largest share, with 23pc, while Latin America and the Caribbean had the third largest share with 14pc.

<https://dunyanews.tv/en/Business/794736-China-solar-module-exports-shift-towards-Asia,-which-are-up-over-100pc-f>

## *Chinese Newspapers*

### February 20, 2024

#### People Daily News

### **China congratulates Pakistan on successful general election**

China congratulates Pakistan on the smooth and successful holding of the general election, a Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson said Monday. Spokesperson Mao Ning made the remarks at a regular news briefing when asked to comment on Pakistan's general election held on Feb. 8. Mao said that as a close and friendly neighbor, China fully respects the choice made by the Pakistani people and sincerely hopes that all parties concerned in Pakistan will work together to maintain political unity and social stability after the election and make concerted efforts to create the future of national development. China and Pakistan are all-weather strategic cooperative partners. China looks forward to working with the Pakistani side to continue the traditional friendship, deepen practical cooperation in various fields, accelerate building an even closer China-Pakistan community with a shared future in the new era, and better benefit the people of both countries. <http://en.people.cn/n3/2024/0220/c90000-20134939.html>

**February 22, 2024**

**Global Times**

### **CPEC running on fast lane**

Multiple projects underway in Pakistan to help local economy

A number of China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) projects are making renewed progress as the CPEC, a flagship project under the China-proposed Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), enters its next phase, helping the country to alleviate energy shortage and empowering its economic growth. Entering 2024, CPEC projects have achieved new progress. The Karot hydropower project, a 720 megawatt (MW) hydropower plant developed on the Jhelum River in Pakistan and the first ever large-scale hydro power project under the BRI, has generated a total of 3.1 billion kilowatt hours of electricity in 2023, China Three Gorges Corporation, which invested and is leading construction of the project, announced on its website on January 22. In December, two China-donated projects, including a seawater desalination plant and the upgrade of the Pak-China Friendship Hospital, were inaugurated in Gwadar district of Pakistan's southwestern Baluchistan province. The desalination plant will provide 5,000 tons per day of potable water to help address a severe drinking water shortage, while the Pak-China Friendship Hospital boosted its capacity to 150 beds from the original 50. At the Karachi Nuclear Power Plant, the K2 and K3 units that both use Hualong One, China's third-generation nuclear power reactor with full intellectual property rights, are churning out a combined 20 billion kilowatt hours each year, satisfying the production and residential electricity use of 2 million people while saving energy equivalent to 6.24 million tons of standard coal, the Global Times learned from China National Nuclear Corporation. In July last year, Unit 5 (C-5) of the Chashma Nuclear Power Plant broke ground, marking the 7th nuclear reactor exported from China to Pakistan. Pakistan is on the right side of history by standing with China as the game changer CPEC's second phase will unveil record development and economic uplift in the country, the Associated Press of Pakistan reported in December, quoting Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed, Chairman of Senate Standing Committee on Defense. Launched in 2013, the CPEC is a corridor linking Gwadar port with Kashi in Northwest China's Xinjiang region, highlighting energy, transportation and industrial cooperation. In its first phase, the CPEC had more than 8,000 MW of power generating capacity added to the Pakistani national grid. More than 800 kilometers of highways were built while more than 800 kilometers of fiber-optic cable were laid. More than 200,000 jobs were created, according to data from the Pakistani Embassy in China. To jointly promote the development of the CPEC, China and Pakistan held the Fourth Meeting of the CPEC Joint Working Group on International Cooperation and Coordination in Islamabad in late January. The next phase of CPEC will be advanced in a multi-prong fashion, with progress in connectivity, industrialization and agriculture, Pakistani Ambassador to China Khalil-ur-Rahman Hashmi told the Global Times in a recent interview. Projects including the optimization of the ML-1 (Mainline-1) railway project and the realignment of the Karakoram Highway (KKH) are expected to see concrete progress, the envoy said. Present at the joint working group meeting, Hashmi revealed that both sides expressed satisfaction at the pace of

progress that is being achieved on CPEC as a whole and Pakistan and China welcome the third-party participation in line with CPEC's spirit of economic collaboration, shared prosperity and shared gains. Both sides have agreed to extend the CPEC into third parties, the ambassador said, noting that other workable areas could include mining, agriculture and information technology. The special economic zone can be a platform through which the third-party investment could come in, said the envoy, noting that more efforts will be made to ensure the security and safety of Chinese personnel and projects. Chinese observers said as a witness to the strong relationship enjoyed by the two countries, the CPEC has developed in the past decade to be a key link and lifeline of the BRI, benefiting bilateral economic and trade cooperation as well as economic cooperation in the South Asia region. The economic corridor's role in poverty alleviation, improving people's livelihood and empowering the local populace is significant, Song Wei, a professor at the School of International Relations and Diplomacy at the Beijing Foreign Studies University, told the Global Times on Thursday. "Moving forward, the CPEC as a flagship of BRI, will see more connectivity and infrastructure projects to be built to further the economic corridor's function as a key vehicle for economic cooperation and energy security, as the BRI enters a high-quality development phase in the new era.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202402/1307494.shtml>

**February 23, 2024**

**People Daily News**

### **Chinese experts help Pakistani farmers cultivate, export high-quality sesame**

The year 2023 was busy but rewarding," said Rana Asgar, a technician at the Pakistan-China Agricultural Cooperation Exchange Center, as he watched a ship loaded with the first batch of sesame seeds exported from Pakistan to China. Departing from Karachi, Pakistan's southern port city, the shipment marked a significant milestone in contract farming as the year drew to a close.

Thanks to a contract farming project between the center and Pakistani farmers, the challenges of low market demand, limited planting areas, and lack of competitiveness that Pakistan's traditional sesame crops faced are being gradually overcome.

To meet strong external demand for sesame, the center introduced high-quality sesame varieties and new cultivation technologies, boosting sesame cultivation in Pakistan. A team led by Xi Jianlong, head of the sesame contract farming project, spent years surveying farms and selecting suitable seeds before encouraging farmers to experiment with growing sesame on a trial basis in 2022.

<http://en.people.cn/n3/2024/0223/c98649-20136374.html>



**February 24, 2024**

**Xinhua Net**

**CPEC aligns naturally with SCO's goals of regional connectivity, trade**

The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) aligns naturally with the goals of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) for regional connectivity and trade promotion, a former Pakistani diplomat Babar Amin said here on Friday. Addressing a seminar titled "SCO: Pakistan's Policy Priorities and Opportunities," Amin, former ambassador of Pakistan to Norway, noted that Pakistan can act as a natural partner with SCO for promoting connectivity, trade, and economic cooperation in the region. Pakistan also seeks to enhance non-traditional security cooperation through the Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure mechanism within the SCO, fostering collaboration on defense and security matters, he added. Speaking on the occasion, Director General of the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad Sohail Mahmood underscored the significance of SCO as a trans-regional platform. The organization continues to carry the 'Shanghai Spirit' of mutual trust, equality, respect for diversity, and pursuit of common development, as opposed to any zero-sum perspectives or notions of geopolitical confrontation or civilizational clash, according to Mahmood. Launched in 2013, CPEC, a flagship project under the China-proposed Belt and Road Initiative, is a corridor linking Pakistan's southwest Gwadar port with Kashgar in northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, highlighting energy, transport, and industrial cooperation

<https://english.news.cn/20240224/ac1ab96707dc4707814ae4e935a59759/c.html>

**February 27, 2024**

**China Daily**

**Pakistani ambassador hails China's global vision**

The global visions proposed by China, including the Belt and Road Initiative and the concept of building a community with a shared future for mankind, underscore Beijing's goal of universal prosperity and sharing high-quality development with the rest of the world, Pakistan's new ambassador to China said.

They "demonstrate the notion of win-win that President Xi Jinping has emphasized for a long time", Khalil Hashmi told China Daily.

Hashmi noted that at the third Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation in October, Xi announced an eight-point agenda in relation to the Belt and Road Initiative, and that the global community lauds the program as it advances "innovation in development, livelihoods, open economy, (and) compliance with internationally accepted standards when building new projects".

<https://epaper.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202402/27/WS65dd2a41a310df4030f4fab0.html>

## Global Times

### **Strengthening cooperation with China the national consensus in Pakistan**

China and Pakistan share a strong and enduring friendship that dates back to the 1950s, and the China-Pakistan relationship is a shining example of strong bilateral ties based on mutual respect and shared interests. The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is also a flagship project under the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) that aims to enhance connectivity and trade between the two countries. How will the CPEC develop in the next decade? How does Pakistan envision the development of ties with China? Global Times reporters Xie Wenting and Chu Daye (GT) spoke with Pakistani Ambassador to China Khalil-ur-Rahman Hashmi (Hashmi) on these and other crucial matters.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202402/1307796.shtml>

**February 29, 2024**

## Xinhua Net

### **CPEC hydropower station starts impoundment in NW Pakistan**

The China-built Suki Kinari Hydropower station in northwest Pakistan started impoundment on Wednesday. The successful start will lay a solid foundation for the project's operation on schedule under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). Located in the Mansehra district of the South Asian country's Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, the 884-megawatt hydropower project was invested and constructed by the Overseas Investment Company of China Gezhouba Group. Noting the impoundment as a milestone, He Xiongfei, the chairman and general manager of the Hydropower plant said that the overall construction progress of the project has exceeded 98 percent. The dam body filling, diversion tunnel lining, pressure steel lining installation, unit installation and other key engineering milestones have been completed on schedule, he added. The hydropower project started construction in January 2017. Once getting functional, the CPEC project will annually generate some 3.21 billion kilowatt-hours of clean electricity, replacing 1.28 million tons of coal and reducing 2.52 million tons of carbon dioxide emissions per year, according to the Chinese manager. It will significantly optimize Pakistan's energy structure, boosting the country's economic and social development, he added

<https://english.news.cn/20240229/b774de39a0dd4a83bbd7010d49f3d2d1/c.html>

### **Experts expect Pakistan's Gwadar to become energy hub via tech-oriented, social development**

Pakistan's experts expect the port city of Gwadar being developed under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) to become an energy hub with a technology-based development vision and a community-centric social development approach. In a recent policy dialogue on Gwadar organized by the Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI), an Islamabad-based think-tank, the experts emphasized the need to further focus on expanding the horizon of a green CPEC for energy generation and sustainable technology-based development.

Launched in 2013, CPEC, a flagship project of the China-proposed Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), is a corridor linking Pakistan's southwestern Gwadar port with Kashgar in northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, highlighting energy, transport, and industrial cooperation

<https://english.news.cn/20240229/afb4ba86a0d94ee1acde97eaa0c4df70/c.html>