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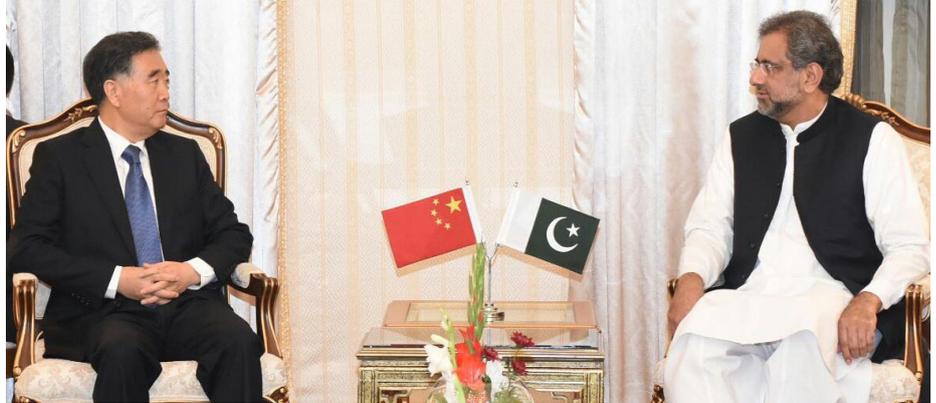
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Chinese Vice-Premier Wang Yang visits Pakistan to mark 70th Independence Celebrations



Chinese Vice-Premier Wang Yang undertook a two-day visit to Islamabad on 13-14 August to participate at the 70 anniversary of the Independence Day. He was accompanied by a high-powered delegation. He called on the Prime Minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi on 13 August at the prime Minister's House. Prime Minister Abbasi while warmly welcoming Vice-Premier Wang said that Pakistan and China are all weather friends and strategic partners. "Pak-China bilateral ties are time-tested and our relationship has attained

new heights after the CPEC, which is a game-changer for the region and beyond," Prime Minister Abbasi said. Both the leaders held comprehensive discussions on all issues of bilateral, regional, and international interest. They expressed satisfaction over the progress on the implementation of the CPEC projects.

With regard to the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), Vice-Premier Wang expressed the hope that the two countries

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Vice-Premier Wang Yang meets President Mamnoon Hussain



Talking to Vice-Premier Wang at the President House on 14 August, President Mamnoon Hussain appreciated China for its adept handling of the Indian incursions into the Chinese territory and reiterated that Pakistan stood by it on the issues of Tibet, Sinkiang and South China Sea, a statement from the President House said. President said that Pakistan would also continue to work along with China for eliminating terrorism. He was also appreciative of the Chinese role in bringing peace and stability to Afghanistan and hoped it would bring positive results and

the issue would be resolved at the earliest.

Both the leaders discussed the whole range of their bilateral affairs, with a particular focus on the CPEC and expressed the resolve to ensure its early completion as the project was vital for the regional peace, security and stability and prosperity. The President said that Pakistan desired to resolve all issues, including Jammu and Kashmir, with India through dialogue.

The News International (Rawalpindi),
August 14, 2017 (Condensed)

Chinese Vice Premier's speech at the commemoration of the 70th anniversary of the Independence of Pakistan



"Your Excellency President Mamnoon Hussain,
Your Excellency Prime Minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi,

Ladies and Gentlemen,
Today is a day of jubilation and celebration for Pakistan. It is my great pleasure and honour to be invited by the Government of Pakistan and entrusted by President Xi Jinping to lead the Chinese delegation to the Commemoration of the 70th Anniversary of the Independence of Pakistan and share the joy with the 200 million brotherly Pakistani people. First of all, on behalf of the Chinese government and people, I wish to extend my best regards and warmest congratulations to the people of Pakistan on this special day.

Seventy years ago, under the leadership of Muhammad Jinnah, Baba-e-Qaum of Pakistan, the Pakistani people realized national independence through an arduous struggle, putting an end to their suffering under imperialist and colonial aggression and oppression. This victory completely changed the destiny of the country, giving birth to a brand new Pakistan that stands firm in the East.

Over the past seven decades, the courageous and unyielding Pakistani people have resolutely defended their national sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity against hegemony, power politics and external interference, achieving one heroic success after another in safeguarding the country's core interests and national dignity. Over the past seven decades, the hard-working and talented Pakistani people have made self-reliant and painstaking efforts to develop their country despite enormous difficulties. The country has taken on a new look, with much improved infrastructure, leapfrog advances in science and technology and notably enhanced comprehensive national strength. With its GDP soaring from some two billion US dollars to more than 300 billion US dollars, Pakistan has joined the ranks of the top 50 economies in the world, and its people have made great leaps from poverty to subsistence and to initial prosperity.

Over the past seven decades, Pakistan has been committed to the path of peaceful development and to pursuing external relations on the basis of the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence. Actively participating in international and regional affairs, it has played an important role in multilateral organizations such as the United Nations, the Organization of Islamic Cooperation and the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation, serving as an important force in the international arena.

In recent years in particular, Pakistan has been actively involved in the international fight against terrorism and UN peacekeeping operations, and made enormous sacrifice for and great contribution to world peace and regional stability.

The peace-loving people of Pakistan, having endured many hardships, are now making big strides on the path towards a bright future of development and prosperity. Though there will be twists and turns down the road, the resilient and perseverant people of Pakistan will prevail over any difficulty, and create new miracles and glories in the great cause of national prosperity, unity and people's well-being.

Ladies and Gentlemen,
As close neighbours linked by mountains and rivers, China and Pakistan have a lips-and-teeth relationship. The Chinese and Pakistani peoples have maintained friendly exchanges since the dawn of human history. In the modern times, similar historical experiences and common struggles have brought our peoples closer together.

Since the establishment of diplomatic ties, thanks to the concerted efforts of people from all sectors in both countries, the China-Pakistan relationship has withstood the test of changes both in the international landscape and our respective countries. We have forged an all-weather friendship that is higher than mountains, deeper than oceans, stronger than steel and sweeter than honey, and engaged in all-round cooperation, setting a shining example of friendly state-to-state relations.

We will not forget that it was Pakistan who spoke up for China and offered unconditional support at the crucial moment when New China was striving to break the external blockade and restore its lawful seat in the United Nations. We will not forget that back in the 1960s and 1970s, Chinese and Pakistani engineers and technicians, defying the harsh conditions on the snow-capped cliffs of the

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strengthen coordination and make good plan and design from a long-term and top-level perspective. He suggested that in the near future, the two countries put emphasis on ensuring early harvests in the CPEC project. Based on the principle of jointly building through consultation to meet the interests of both sides, China and Pakistan should work together to further accelerate the construction of Gwadar Port, Vice-Premier Wang said. Furthermore, the two sides should push forward energy cooperation in the fields of thermal power, hydropower, solar energy and clean energy, implement infrastructure cooperation projects such as highways, railways, urban rail facilities, deepen cooperation in industrial parks and strengthen personnel training, he said. The two sides should also boost cooperation in the fields such as education, science and technology, culture, health, youth and media in a bid to consolidate the social basis of the China-Pakistan friendship, he said.

Vice-Premier Yang congratulated the Prime Minister Abbasion Pakistan's 70th-anniversary celebrations and stressed that his visit demonstrated the close strategic relations between the "iron brothers", Pakistan and China, and China's strong support for Pakistan. He thanked Pakistan for its consistent support for issues of core importance to China. Both the leaders agreed to further promote cooperation on all issues of mutual interest. Prime Minister Abbasi also hosted a dinner in honour of the Vice-Premier Yang and members of the visiting delegation. The Vice-Premier Yang is the first foreign dignitary visited Pakistan after Prime Minister Abbasi took the oath on 1 August, another aide-mémoire in Pakistan-China relations. The Vice-Premier Wang was the chief guest at the flag hosting ceremony at Convention Centre in Islamabad. He said his visit demonstrated the close strategic ties between the two countries and China's support for Pakistan.

Report by Dr Ahmad Rashid Malik

Pakistan starts assembling Chinese passenger car

Al-Haj Faw Motors (Ptd) Limited, a collaboration between Faw China and a commercial importer of heavy vehicles Al-Haj Motors, has started assembling Faw V2, a 1,300cc hatchback, at its assembly plant in Karachi. The company was importing Completely Built Units (CBU) of V2 for the last two years to see market response. Now that it is satisfied with the response, it has decided to produce the car locally to compete with well-established Japanese brands.

The Express Tribune (Islamabad),
August 13, 2017

CPEC to further strengthen Pakistan-China friendship: Khawaja Muhammad Asif



Foreign Minister Khawaja Muhammad Asif said the Pakistan-China friendship will further strengthen in days to come. Talking to media after seeing off the Chinese Vice-Premier Wang Yang at Airport in Rawalpindi on 14 August afternoon, he said the visit of Chinese high level delegation to Pakistan will help boost the bilateral relations between the two countries. To a question, he said that the change of leadership in Pakistan will not affect China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and the mega project on fast track.

Radio Pakistan (Islamabad), August 14, 2017

Pakistan ideal destination for Chinese investment

Pakistan can achieve objective of economic development and become a major industrial zone by attracting Chinese investment and surplus production because of its low labour cost and big consumer market. "China is a huge economic power and looking forward to new markets for its surplus production and Pakistan could become an ideal destination for Chinese investment and goods because of vibrant middle class and hardworking workforce," Pakistan Counsel General at Shanghai Dr Naeem Khan said.

He opined that with huge consumers market and skilled, hardworking and low cost labour, Pakistan can attract the Chinese investors and traders and make Pakistan a major industrial

zone. He said that China is committed to invest more than \$60 billion under China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), a flagship project of Belt and Road Initiative in energy and infrastructure sectors in Pakistan.

"China is helping us in construction of roads, telecommunication network, Gawadar port and airports and all this will play a key role in handling future production capacity," he said. Naeem said the China considering Pakistan a strategic partner and has been encouraging its investors and traders to go Pakistan to take part in investment and trade activities.

The Nation (Islamabad), August 19, 2017 (Condensed)

Conspiracies against CPEC to be foiled: Ahsan Iqbal



Federal Interior Minister Ahsan Iqbal on 11 August said that peace and security are essential for economic development of the country. The minister highlighted the importance of peace and security while chairing a meeting of civil armed forces in Islamabad. Ahsan emphasised the need to equip civil armed forces with latest technology and training. Calling China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) project important not only for Pakistan but also for the entire region, Ahsan said that all the conspiracies against CPEC and other development projects would be foiled.

Pakistan Today (Islamabad), August 12, 2017

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Karakoram mountain range, built the China-Pakistan Friendship Highway with their sweat and blood. We will not forget that it was Pakistan that offered immediate assistance to China in the wake of the massive earthquake in Wenchuan and sent all its tents in reserve to the affected areas with all its military transport aircraft.

Today, both China and Pakistan shoulder the historical mission of national rejuvenation. We are both pursuing the great dream of national prosperity and people's well-being. We need close cooperation now more than ever. During President Xi Jinping's visit to Pakistan in 2015, our bilateral relationship was upgraded to an all-weather strategic cooperative partnership, opening a new page in the history of China-Pakistan friendship and cooperation. China is ready to strengthen all-round strategic cooperation with Pakistan.

We need to keep the tradition of close high-level exchanges, extend firm mutual support on

issues concerning each other's major interests, and strengthen cooperation in international and regional affairs.

China firmly supports the efforts of the Pakistani government and people to uphold independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity, and firmly supports Pakistan in developing and implementing counter-terrorism policies in light of its own national conditions, improving its external environment and expanding external exchanges and cooperation. China is ready to strengthen all-round economic cooperation with Pakistan. China sees Pakistan as an important partner in the Belt and Road Initiative.

Following the "1+4" cooperation plan agreed by President Xi Jinping and the Pakistani leaders, we will take forward the building of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor in line with the principles of extensive consultation, joint contribution and shared benefits and launch more early harvest projects to enhance Pakistan's capacity for

independent development and deliver tangible benefits to the people along the route and all the people in Pakistan. China is ready to strengthen all-round people-to-people exchanges with Pakistan.

We will expand cooperation in areas including education, science and technology, culture, health and sports, and encourage exchanges between youth, think-tanks, media, universities, non-governmental organizations and at the local level to enhance public support for China-Pakistan friendship and cooperation and promote closer heart-to-heart communication between our people.

As an old Chinese saying goes, "Friendship between chess playmates lasts less than a day; Friendship between diners lasts less than a month; Friendship based on power and influence lasts less than a year; Only friendship based on shared principles lasts a lifetime." What we have between China and Pakistan is a friendship based on shared aspirations and tested in

adversity. It will not only last a lifetime, but also be passed on from generation to generation. No matter how the international environment may evolve and how China may grow, we will always be a good neighbour, a close friend, a trusted partner and a true brother for Pakistan.

Ladies and Gentlemen, Islamabad today is a city of fluttering national flags. On this sacred flag, the white and green colors symbolize peace and prosperity, and the star and the crescent represent light and progress. On behalf of the Chinese government and the Chinese people, I sincerely hope this great vision will guide Pakistan towards enduring peace and a bright future of prosperity and progress.

May the people of Pakistan enjoy happiness and well-being!

May the China-Pakistan friendship be everlasting!

Thank you.

Xinhua (Beijing), August 14, 2017

Pakistan and China signed agreements to enhance cooperation

Pakistan and China on 13 August signed agreements to enhance bilateral cooperation

in the fields of education and infrastructure development. The signing ceremony held at

the Prime Minister House was witnessed by Prime Minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi and China's Vice Prime Minister Wang Yang after both the leaders held a one-on-one meeting.



Both countries signed the Letters of Exchange for FATA Schools projects. The documents were signed by Economic Affairs Secretary Shahid Mehmood and China's Vice Minister and Deputy International Trade Representative Yu Jianhua. Both countries also signed a strategic cooperation agreement. Gwadar Port Authority Chairman Dostain Jamalini, COPHC Chairman Zhang Baozhong and Sino Truck Group Chairman Ma Chunji signed the documents. Prime Minister Abbasi and Vice-Premier Wang also unveiled the plaque for the inauguration of CPEC energy and infrastructure projects at the Prime Minister House.

Report by Dr Ahmad Rashid Malik

Pakistan invites Azerbaijan to join CPEC

Pakistan has invited Azerbaijan to join China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) due to its strategic location as a transit hub for East-West China Europe Corridor, a part of Chinese bigger regional connectivity Silk Road plan.

Pakistan gives immense importance to its trade and economic relations with the central Asian states, said a statement on 21 August. Former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif laid emphasis on converting the fraternal relations between the country and Central Asian Republics (CARs) into strong economic partnership. He directed the Ministry of Commerce to establish joint working groups on trade, investment and communications with Tajikistan and Azerbaijan for effective engagement on trade and economic issues.

The inaugural meeting of Pakistan-Tajikistan joint working group on trade, investment and transport was held on 24-25 July 2017 in Dushanbe. First Deputy Minister of Economic Development and Trade Saidrahmon Nazrizoda headed the Tajik delegation of the joint working group, while Secretary Younus

Dagha of Ministry of Commerce led the Pakistani delegation. The two sides agreed to initiate the process of customs cooperation between the two countries and to intensify engagement towards increasing bilateral trade. They agreed to make efforts to deepen and further expand trade and economic relations by harmonisation of standards, visa facilitation to businessmen and promotion of joint ventures in textile, food processing and pharmaceutical sectors.

The inaugural meeting of Pakistan-Azerbaijan joint working group on trade was held on 27-28 July 2017 in Baku. Deputy Minister of Economy Sahil Babayev led the Azeri delegation, while Dagha led the Pakistani side. The meeting participants discussed the issues related to preferential tariffs and customs and trade cooperation between the two countries and agreed to explore avenues to boost bilateral trade.

The News International (Rawalpindi), August 1, 2017 (Condensed)

CPEC provides avenues to target \$100 billion Chinese agri-market

The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is a golden opportunity for overall development of this region and Pakistan should reorganise its agriculture sector to get a major slice of the \$100 billion worth of agriculture produce imports by China, suggested Muhammad Mehmood, Punjab Agriculture Secretary.

Speaking at the launch of a study on "CPEC – Prospects & Challenges for Agriculture", Mehmood pointed out that nearly one-fourth

of the world's population was living in China and most of its exports would be routed through Pakistan after the completion of CPEC. "Containers full of exportable surplus will be sent to various international markets, but on their return, these containers will be empty and we must capitalise on the opportunity to export our surplus agriculture produce to China," he said.

The Express Tribune (Islamabad), August 18, 2017

Deals inked for export of \$325m worth of goods to China

Pakistan and China on 17 August signed over three-dozen trade pacts for exporting \$325 million worth of goods to Beijing, aimed at addressing private sector's concerns about adverse implications for their businesses of government-to-government trade deals. The signing ceremony for the Pakistan-China Trade Cooperation Projects was held in Islamabad in which 18 Chinese companies signed about 38 trade agreements valued at \$325 million. These agreements would facilitate exports of electrolytic copper, fish meal, seafood, pine nuts, guar products, leather, frozen fresh food, castor, chrome ore, zircon ores, coarse copper, hazelnut, sauces, crustaceans and marble blocks from Pakistan, China's Department of Foreign Trade Deputy Director Wang Dongtang stated. Chinese Ambassador said China was hoping to become Pakistan's biggest trading partner for the third consecutive year. The CPEC was progressing smoothly and its completion would address energy supply and infrastructure issues. Trade between Pakistan and China currently amounts to \$19.2 billion, of which Pakistan's share was a paltry \$1.9 billion in 2016.

The Express Tribune (Islamabad), August 11, 2017 (Condensed)

CPEC a game changer for economic development: Shehbaz Sharif



Punjab Chief Minister Shehbaz Sharif has said that the multifaceted China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is a game changer for the economic development of the country, as China has made investments to the tune of billions of dollars in energy and other development projects in Pakistan under the CPEC. Timely completion of development schemes, as well as savings in predetermined expenditures, is a wonderful achievement of Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz's (PML-N) government. He expressed these views while talking to a delegation of MNAs and MPAs belonging to different districts of the province, on 21 August.

The chief minister said that many of the CPEC related initiatives have been completed with total transparency, speed and quality, while many others are nearing completion. The historic projects under the CPEC are symbols of Pak-China friendship. As a result of sincere efforts made by the government, many of the electricity producing projects have started generating electricity, he added. The chief minister said that a total of Rs 165 billion have been saved in three major gas-based electricity producing projects. The

speedy completion of development projects during the tenure of PML-N in Pakistan is an example for the entire world, he said. He said that not only Pakistan, but the whole region will benefit from the gigantic project of the CPEC; as a result of the completion of this important initiative, a new era of development and prosperity will usher in the whole of the region.

The CM further said that the CPEC will also result in eradication of the menace of terrorism and fanaticism from the region. Similarly, CPEC will also play an effective role in overcoming issues like poverty and unemployment. He said that this project will change the country's destiny and added that we all should work collectively to make this essential project of national importance, a success.

The CPEC related projects are related to the whole of the country and the people of all the federating units including Gilgit-Baltistan and Azad Kashmir will equally benefit from them. He said that the Punjab government has promoted a corruption free culture and transparency in the province, and maintained that all the development schemes are an example of their own with regard to transparency, quality and speedy completion.

The fruits of speedy development are reaching to the people in the province and due to the completion of mega projects, the masses are getting relief and various other facilities.

Pakistan Today (Islamabad), August 22, 2017

Chinese companies to assemble trucks, buses in Pakistan

Two Chinese auto companies — truck maker Sinotruck Limited and bus manufacturer Shanghai Sunlong — expressed interest in establishing assembling units in Pakistan.

In a meeting with the office-bearers of Pakistan Association of Auto Parts and Accessories Manufacturers Association (Paapam), Sinotruck's Mr Wang Haotao, who was leading a 10-member Chinese delegation, said his company aims to utilise Pakistani expertise and labour in the production of auto parts for their trucks.

He informed the auto-part makers that his company had already exported 2,400 completely built-up trucks to Pakistan. Sinotruck produces 200,000 units per annum in China. Sinotruck officials are conducting a survey of the Pakistani truck market and will submit a report to their higher-ups. The company will also bring auto-part makers in future meetings so that joint ventures and

technical agreements could be signed. The Chinese delegates were also told about the growing auto industry of Pakistan and China's growing involvement in the production of motorcycles, cars, buses, and trucks, and also in the production of their auto parts.

It was disclosed that a possibility has emerged that latest Chinese buses fitted with Euro II-compliant engines would be used for plying on the Green Line and Orange Line routes — the first two sections of the Rapid Bus Transit Service (RBTS) being constructed in Karachi. In the first phase, some 100 Sunlong buses would be imported in next six months to get them operational on mostly inter-city routes all over the country.

Agreements have already been signed for purchase and operations of 32 such buses. Malik Group of Companies has decided to import modern passenger buses from China after successfully negotiating with banks

PAF Symposium on CPEC



A one-day Symposium on CPEC with a theme "CPEC vis-à-vis Opportunities for Aviation Industry and Way Forward" was held under the auspices of Pakistan Air Force (PAF) and Royal Aeronautical Society, Islamabad Branch at Nur Khan Auditorium Air Headquarters, Islamabad. Air Chief Marshal Sohail Aman, the Chief of the Air Staff was the Chief Guest at the symposium. Senators, serving and retired bureaucrats, members of chambers of commerce and select academia notables from various institutions also attended the symposium. CPEC Parliamentary Committee Chairman Senator Mushahid Hussain Syed and Interior Minister Ahsan Iqbal were the keynote speakers at the event. While delivering the closing address, the air chief said, "the CPEC is a project of great magnitude which will play a pivotal role in transforming the economic landscape of Pakistan, as indeed the region and beyond.

Pakistan Today (Islamabad), August 22, 2017



and leasing companies. In the next stage, the assembling plant for such modern buses would also be established near Thatta.

Dawn (Islamabad), August 19, 2017
(Condensed)

Bank of China likely to start operations within months



Government-run Bank of China (BOC) is set to begin operations in next few months as the bank seeks to expand its presence in the Pakistani market and help meet financing requirements of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) related projects, the central bank's official said on 18 August. Pakistan's central bank issued a banking licence to BOC on May 11, 2017 to carry out banking business in branch mode. "After fulfilling all regulatory requirements and achieving operational readiness, the BOC will approach SBP for permission to commence business within a timeframe of six months from the date of issuance of its banking license," the State Bank of Pakistan chief spokesman Abid Qamar said. "It is hoped that BOC will start its operations in Pakistan in September/October 2017," he added. The Chinese lender is currently in the process of setting up office and hiring a team of bankers for Karachi operation, sources with direct knowledge of the matter informed. Bank of China is the second Chinese bank to enter Pakistan. The central bank issued licence to Industrial and Commercial Bank of China to start business operations in 2010.

There are four foreign banks operating in Pakistan: Bank of Tokyo, Citibank, Deutsche Bank, Industrial and Commercial Bank of China. Industry officials said the foray of Chinese banks into the local market could overcome the financial needs of \$57 billion worth of various energy and infrastructure projects under CPEC. "In China, six Pakistani banks have their presence as representative offices. These banks include NBP, HBL, UBL, Bank AL-Habib, Askari Bank and Allied Bank Limited," he said. In March 2017, HBL opened one branch at Urumqi, China. NBP is also interested in opening a branch in Beijing, China and SBP has issued in-principle approval for this purpose in November 2016. "The presence of Pakistani banks in China will be beneficial for bilateral investment/trade, especially in the context of CPEC," he added. The BOC is a subsidiary of China Central Huijin, investment arm of the government of China. The bank is not only operating in the Chinese mainland, but its footprints have reached to 50 countries. Nineteen of those countries are located across the Chinese "One Belt One Road" initiative.

The News International (Rawalpindi), August 19, 2017 (Condensed)

Chinese agricultural group keen to enhance business in Pakistan

The Tianjin Tianlong Agricultural Science and Technology – China's well-known company in the field of hybrid rice production - has shown keen interest to enhance their bilateral cooperation with Pakistan. The company was engaged in new crop breed research and its industrialisation, deep process technology for agricultural products and forage biotechnology research and industrialisation, crop seeds production and distribution. It was told that production of rice was on rise in Pakistan and taste was also well-known all over the world.

The company was having a good export of its hybrid rice to Pakistan as China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) has provided enormous opportunities to cooperate more. The company was established in early 2003 and through years rapidly growing Tianlong Agriculture started from one researching basis lab, developed at now, several fully invested subsidiary companies over China and also had trading partners or customers from South Asia, East Asia, Europe, Africa. Tianlong not only focused on seeds research, it has already expanded the business in many fields, such as hybrid rice seeds trading, processing technological researches for agricultural products, the feed's biotechnology research, agricultural products import & export. Tianlong is the second largest exporter of



hybrid rice seeds in China while already had few customers in 10 countries including Pakistan, Hongkong, Indonesia, North and South Korea, Vianan.

The representative said that the company was also supplying the agricultural machinery, rice fertiliser and mixed feed to different countries. It was briefed that the hybrid rice production technology of the company was 25 years ahead than its competitors in all over the world. It was also informed that the company was wholly responsible for hybrid rice production in North and South China. "China has to feed millions of its people so we were focusing the production of hybrid rice and this kind of technology was considered as the achievement of the world," the company's representative said. Currently, Tianlong had success experiences as wholesales for the Peru and Chile fishmeal companies, the representative said.

The Nation (Islamabad), August 19, 2017 (Condensed)

Culture

Bamboo raft making revived in SW China's Guizhou

Tourists enjoy a moment on a bamboo raft made by Yang Mingqing and Yang Mingquan in Fanzhao Village of Nanshao Town in Jianhe County, southwest China's Guizhou Province. The brothers, makers of the bamboo raft for several decades, saw its vanish years ago as the new transportation took the lead in the daily life, but they are demanded now to revive the old crafts. In recent years, local tourism industry booms with more tourists curious about the traditional local life including the rafting as the old fashioned transport.

The People's Daily Online (Beijing), August 20, 2017



China opens first AI-assisted Treatment Centre



China's first artificial intelligence assisted treatment centre opened in Hefei, the capital of eastern China's Anhui Province on 20 August. It will carry out research to guide machine-learning, such as recognizing messages and using visual neural networks to solve problems. The centre features a voice-based information system, a computer-aided medical image diagnosis system and some other cutting-edge equipment. Studying multitudes of hospital imaging data, and two million real electronic patient cases, the system is expected to improve detection rates. AI serves not only as a helping hand but also as a competitor for doctors. It takes a doctor about half an hour to scrutinize over 300 medical images, but through the artificial intelligence system, it only takes a few seconds. The AI-assisted treatment simplifies the process of uploading imaging data, making a prescription, and developing new applications with technological achievements. It can ultimately be a vital solution for insufficient medical resources and could prove to be a giant step for China's medical treatment.

The People's Daily Online (Beijing), August 21, 2017

China's first cross-sea rail-road bridge takes shape

A crane ship lifts the first steel truss girder to the bridge piers of the Pingtan Haixia Rail-Road Bridge, China's first cross-sea rail-road bridge, on August 22. The 16.3-km-long bridge connects Fuzhou, capital of Fujian province, with the island city of Pingtan off the coast of the Taiwan Straits. The first steel truss girder is put on piers of the Pingtan Haixia Rail-Road Bridge. It is the first time that Chinese constructors have lifted a whole girder between two piers in building bridges. The steel truss girder is 80 meters long and 35.5 meters wide and weighs 1,350 tons. The Pingtan Haixia Rail-Road Bridge has two layers, with the upper level carrying a six-lane highway and the lower level bearing a double-track railway. China's first cross-sea rail-road bridge takes shape. The first steel truss girder is put on piers of the Pingtan Haixia Rail-Road Bridge. With an estimated investment of 10.9 billion yuan (\$1.78 billion), the bridge is expected to open to traffic in 2019. The cross-sea rail link is part of the 88-km Fuzhou-Pingtan railway.

China Daily (Beijing), August 23, 2017

Bullet Trains remain safe, reliable after speed increase

China's latest generation bullet train, the Fuxing, will run on the Beijing-Shanghai high-speed railway starting from 21 September at 350 km/h, China Railway Corporation (CRC) announced on 20 August. The high-speed railway connecting Beijing and Shanghai is built to the world's highest standards, while the Fuxing is designed to run at a top speed of 350 km/h safely, reliably, and comfortably, said Lu Dongfu, general manager of CRC. In 6 years of operation, the Beijing-Shanghai high-speed railway has carried over 630 million passengers. Currently, an average of 400-plus trains run on the rail each day.

The speed increase will better meet transportation demand by cutting travel time between the two cities by half an hour from five to four and a half hours, said an official with CRC. The speed increase is also expected to boost efficiency for enterprises. The Fuxing was designed and manufactured in China. The new bullet train model of China's Electric Multiple Units (EMU) has completed 600,000 km of tests before it was approved to run on the Beijing-Guangzhou and Beijing-Shanghai railways in February 2017. China has the largest high-speed rail network in the world, with a total track length of 22,000 km and



one third of that distance was designed and constructed for bullet trains with a top speed of 350 km/h, said He Huawu of the China Academy of Engineering.

He said there is a process for China to consider whether to speed up its whole high-speed network, though such a move could pose a challenge to railway management, noting that financial and social aspects must be considered. The Fuxing, for example, would see energy consumption increase 20 to 30 percent if the train increased its speed from 300 km/h to 350 km/h. But whether other railways are suitable for the speed increase depends on infrastructure, demand, and economic factors, He said.

The People's Daily Online (Beijing), August 21, 2017

India violates the Indus Waters Treaty, Foreign Minister says



Speaking at a seminar organized by the ISSI on 29 August, Foreign Minister Khawaja Muhammad Asif, alleged India of not fulfilling its commitment regarding the Indus Waters Treaty signed in 1960 and urged upon the World Bank to play its role in ensuring the implementation of the treaty. He said that Pakistan has reservations over the designs of dams being built by India and it is not cooperating with Pakistan in the implementation of the treaty. He said that Pakistan's hydel projects and agriculture are harmed by India and the treaty has been violated twice already when India built two hydel plants namely 'Kishenganga' and 'Ratle' on the Neelum and Chenab rivers respectively. He said that it is important to recognise that bilateral cooperation on equitable access to strategic asset of Indus waters is crucial for maintaining the peace and stability in the region.

Report by Dr Ahmad Raahid Malik

Top ten cities with longest subway system in China

To release the traffic pressure in cities, about 3,000 km of urban railway will be built during the 13th Five-Year Plan period (2016-20), according to a white paper issued by the State Council, China's Cabinet, in 2016. Ten Chinese cities have their urban rail transit reaching more than 100 km by the end of 2016, with Shanghai and Beijing leading other cities across the country. Pakistan can learn a great deal of experiences from China's mass transit train passengers system. Compared to China's 3,000 km mass subway system, we are only building 27 km with much unease in Lahore. The following information is an eye-opener for us to reshape our major cities on these lines and China is willing to transform our mass transit train system. We just need to grab the opportunity, which is now flowing.

1. Shanghai: The eastern Chinese city has the world's longest built-up subway system, 617 kms, by March this year, having 367 built-up stations, transporting half of commuters in the city every day. In 2016, the subway system transported 3.39 billion passengers. The system has transported a maximum 11.79 million passengers a day in March. From 2012 to 2016, Shanghai completed 163.4 km of urban railway. In 2013, the city constructed the country's first subway line crossing provincial-level border to Kunshan, a city in Jiangsu province. Currently, Shanghai has 216 km subway under construction, and by 2020, the city's rail transit system is expected to reach 800 km.
2. Beijing: The capital city of China is the first city to have subway in 1965 in the country, and it has an urban rail transit system of 574 km. Beijing's subway system transported 3.66 billion passengers in 2016, the most in the worldwide. The city's first mid-to-low-speed magnetic levitation track is going on trial in the beginning of August this year. The 10-km line has 8 stations on a 20-minute journey. It is scheduled



- to open by the end of the year. According to the city's plan approved by the State Council in 2015, Beijing will have 30 subway lines of 1,177 km by 2020, and after that, it is expected to have 35 lines of 1,524 km.
3. Guangzhou: Guangzhou has 308.7 km subway, the third longest in China. Only on Dec 28 last year, the city put three subway lines into operation. Guangzhou subway transported 2.57 billion passengers in 2016, accounting for 44 percent of the city's public transportation of the year. The city's Line 9's first phase has been completed on July 26. It expects to put into operation four new lines including the Line 9 by the end of this year, which makes its subway to reach 400 km. In recent years, Guangzhou has built and put into operation 15 km subway every year, a speed ranked the third across the country after Beijing and Shanghai.
 4. Shenzhen: Shenzhen has 285 km subway in operation after its Line 7 and 9 were put into operation in October last year. The city expects to have 419 km subway by 2020. Currently, the daily transportation of Shenzhen subway reaches 4.5 million passengers. In a trial operation, Shenzhen Metro Group has designated the first and last compartments of every train on Lines 1, 3, 4 and 5 as priority carriages for women since June 26 this year. The operator launched "ladies first" subway cars, with the aim of providing a better travelling experience for female passengers and advocating care for women, which makes the city the first of the country to offer the service.
 5. Nanjing: Nanjing, capital of Jiangsu province, has six lines, 225 km subway. The city's subway system transports up to 2.6 million passengers every day. According to a plan, the city is expected to operate 500 km subway by 2020.
 6. Chongqing: The mountain city has four subway lines in 213 km by the end of last year. The subway system transports 2 million passengers on average every day, 2.62 million passengers in maximum.
 7. Wuhan: The Central China's city has four lines of 181 km. The city has five new lines under construction this year. Wuhan is expected to have its subway in operation to exceed Paris that has 215 km this year, and achieve 400 km by 2020.
 8. Tianjin: The northern port city has five subway lines in 168 km by the end of last year. According to the city's plan, Tianjin will build 10 subway lines during the 13th Five-Year Plan period (2016-20). By 2020, the city expects to have a subway system of 375 kms.
 9. Dalian: The north-eastern city has put into operation four subway lines of 140 km. The daily transportation reached more than 1 million passengers in maximum last year. The city started to construct its subway system in 2009, and its first subway Line 2 started operation in 2015. The city offered some free tickets to passengers when it started operating the subway system. Dalian has several subway lines under construction, and it expects to make its subway system to transport 2 million passengers a day in the near future.
 10. Chengdu: The south-western city has four subway lines in operation, 129 km, carrying about 2.2 million passengers every day. Chengdu has got approvals on building 508 km of subway system. Some subway lines are under construction. It expects to put into operation 600 km subway by 2022.
- Report by Dr Ahmad Rashid Malik & *China Daily* (Beijing), August 17, 2017

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