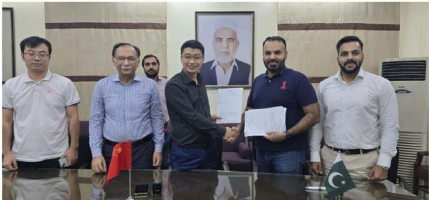


Pakistan-China to launch new electric motorcycle with swappable batteries

INP

ISLAMABAD—In a significant development towards sustainable transportation, Pakistani and Chinese enterprises have collaborated to introduce an electric motorcycle with swappable batteries.

This agreement is expected to pave the way for further advancements in the electric vehicle (EV) industry between the two countries, according to a report published by Gwadar Pro on Sunday.



business consultant announced the exciting collaboration between Super Asia Motors Pvt Ltd of Pakistan and China's EGO New Green Energy Technology Limited.

introducing an innovative Electric Motorcycle with swappable batteries. This motorcycle is designed to cater to both commercial and domestic customers.

Hamad said the swappable battery allows you to swap your empty battery for a fully charged one within 10 seconds.

You can continue your trip without interruption, extending your range, and making it possible to bring your battery inside to charge. During long rides you can bring an extra battery with you which can be swapped at home or at the office. The newly introduced bike will boast several other key features including a top speed of 90 km/h, a range of 200 km with two batteries, swappable solar-powered batteries conveniently available at petrol stations, and the ability to save up to 70% per kilometer.

Experts suggest export boost through diversification, value addition: WealthPK



INP

ISLAMABAD—Pakistan's exports rose to \$31.1 billion, while imports totalled \$53.2 billion during the last fiscal (2023-24), resulting in a trade deficit of \$22.1 billion, according to the latest balance of payments statement.

Talking to WealthPK, Director to Secretary of Commerce Fawad Hassan highlighted the importance of enhancing exports due to limited forex reserves. He noted that achieving this goal required diversifying products, adding value, expanding markets, and exploring new opportunities.

Despite the deficit being lower than the previous year's \$24.8 billion, Pakistan's fragile external finance situation demands further reductions this year to minimize the external financing gap projected to hover around \$20 billion.

The forex crisis was so

acute that the State Bank of Pakistan's (SBP) forex reserves first fell from \$98bn in FY22 to \$4.4bn in FY23 and rose gradually to about \$94bn at the end of FY24 only after China, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), and Saudi Arabia rolled over billions of dollars of funds they had placed with the SBP.

Considering the low level of forex reserves, the need to boost exports has become obvious. However, that is not possible without product diversification, more value-addition, further penetration into the existing export markets, and active exploration of new markets.

Moreover, goods imports remained relatively low (\$53.1 billion in FY24 and \$52.7 billion in FY23, significantly lower than \$71.5 billion in FY22) due to the stringent tariff and non-tariff measures. During this period, the IMF advised easing import restrictions but allowed leniency

considering the forex crisis. Talking to WealthPK, Shaked Ahmed Mangheji, Special Secretary at the Ministry of Commerce, highlighted that Pakistan's export market was hindered by strained relations with Afghanistan and political instability in Bangladesh. Additionally, fluctuating dynamics between the US and Europe have added complexity.

"In addition, Pakistani exporters are struggling to meet the high standards of the US and European buyers while staying competitive amid the rising energy costs, wages, and production expenses. Simply reducing interest rates will not resolve these challenges," he pointed out.

The second phase of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) presents a promising opportunity for Pakistan. Enhanced exports to China, coupled with lower trading costs, could bolster Pakistan's trade balance.

Additionally, the potential growth in exports to the GCC region, buoyed by favourable relations with Saudi Arabia and the UAE and a significant Pakistani expatriate community, offers a strategic avenue for economic improvement.

Chinese netizens celebrate Arshad Nadeem's historic gold medal in Paris Olympics

INP

BEIJING—Chinese netizens joined their Pakistani brothers and sisters celebrating Arshad Nadeem's historic gold medal win in Paris Olympics. China Economic Net (CEN) reported on Sunday.

The Stade de France witnessed Pakistani javelin star Arshad Nadeem's remarkable throw of 92.97 meters in the Olympic Games Paris 2024 men's javelin throw final. In a thrilling performance, Nadeem secured the first-ever individual gold medal for his country, setting a new Olympic record to beat defending champion Neeraj Chopra from India.

Nadeem's achievement resonated far beyond the stadium, capturing the hearts of sports enthusiasts worldwide, including Chinese netizens.

Chinese viewers expressed their joy and admiration for the "Ba Tie" - meaning "Pakistani Iron Brother" - on social media platforms. A China Central Television commentator enthusiastically shouted out Nadeem's monster throw, and comments flooded in, saying, "He has given wings to the javelin," "Incredible! He's a hero!" "92.97 meters! Bravo! Congrats Iron Brother! First gold! NEW OLYMPIC RECORD!"

Chinese netizens on Weibo, China's version of X, even created a trending tag: "Nadeem surprises his coach's sunglasses off". The tag garnered tens of millions of views, with one user humorously remarking, "OMG the coach's reaction is adorable; he couldn't believe his eyes!"

Effective logistics crucial for Pakistan's trade success amid CPEC developments: WealthPK

INP

ISLAMABAD—Amid the CPEC developments, logistics can be an effective and well-coordinated logistics and transportation infrastructure for transporting goods from borders, ports, and airports to the global destinations for export.

Talking to WealthPK, Dr Muzammil Zia, Regional Connectivity and Infrastructure Specialist, CPEC Secretariat, said effective logistics were essential for moving products from the factory floor or field to the point of consumption.

"No matter how cost-

effective the production is, without a well-connected logistics industry, capitalizing on these opportunities will be very challenging," he cautioned.

He said China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) emphasized the need for a massive logistics development. One of the most significant initiatives is CPEC, which offers the fastest way to speed up trade activity at the lowest cost and in the shortest period of time. Though China has already invested \$62 million in Pakistan's logistics and transportation network, it still needs advancement, he said.

Recently Commissioned PNS Hunain Commences Maiden Voyage from Romania to Pakistan



BT NEWS

ISLAMABAD—The recently commissioned Pakistan Navy Ship HUNAIN departed from Constanta, Romania for maiden voyage to Pakistan. Earlier, Fleet Commander of Romanian Navy, Rear Admiral Cornel COJOCARU also visited

the ship and called on the Commanding Officer.

Upon departure, PNS HUNAIN conducted Passage Exercise with Romanian Navy ship LASTUNUL. PNS HUNAIN is the 3rd of the 4 Offshore Patrol Vessels (OPVs) being constructed at DAMEN Naval Shipyard Romania.

PNS HUNAIN is equipped with state of the art weapons and sensors. The addition of PNS HUNAIN will bolster Pakistan Navy's combat potential in safeguarding maritime frontiers and ensuring maritime security in the Arabian Sea and beyond.

Empowering Future Generations: Leading the Way in Education for Sustainable Development in Pakistan

DR. MUHAMMAD SHAHZAD ASHFAQ



Education is the cornerstone of any nation's development, and in Pakistan, it holds even greater significance.

The country is home to a burgeoning youth population, with over 60% of its citizens below the age of 25. This demographic dividend presents both an opportunity and a challenge.

To harness the potential of its young people, Pakistan must invest in education that not only imparts knowledge but also equips them with the skills, values, and attitudes necessary to navigate the complexities of the 21st century. Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) is a critical component of this effort, as it empowers future generations to lead the way in addressing the country's socio-economic and environmental challenges.

Pakistan faces numerous development challenges, including poverty, inequality, and environmental degradation. The country's education system has traditionally focused on rote learning, neglecting critical thinking, creativity, and problem-solving skills. However, ESD offers a transformative approach that integrates social, economic, and environmental dimensions to foster a more sustainable future.

Incorporating ESD into its education policy, Pakistan can equip its students with the

knowledge, skills, and values necessary to address the country's development challenges.

ESD is not merely about imparting knowledge about sustainability; it is about empowering students to become active participants in the development process. It encourages critical thinking, creativity, and innovation, enabling students to develop solutions to complex problems. Moreover, ESD promotes values such as social justice, equity, and environmental stewardship, which are essential for building a more sustainable and equitable society. By integrating ESD into the curriculum, Pakistan can produce a generation of leaders who are equipped to tackle the country's development challenges and create a better future for all.

The benefits of ESD extend beyond the classroom. By empowering students to become active participants in the development process, ESD can contribute to the achievement of the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The SDGs, adopted by Pakistan in 2015, provide a roadmap for achieving sustainable development by 2030. ESD can play a critical role in achieving these goals by fostering a culture of sustainability, promoting social justice, and encouraging community engagement. Pakistan has made significant progress in integrating ESD into its education policy.

The National Education Policy 2017 recognizes the importance of ESD and encourages the integration of sustainability themes into the curriculum. Moreover, the government has launched several initiatives to promote ESD, including the Green Schools Program, which aims to create environmentally friendly schools and promote sustainable practices among students. However, more needs to be done to ensure that ESD is mainstreamed into the education system.

Investing in ESD can have a profound impact on Pakistan's economic development. A well-educated and skilled workforce is essential for driving economic growth, reducing poverty, and improving living standards. By providing high-quality education that focuses on sustainable development, Pakistan can produce a workforce that is equipped to compete in the global economy.

Farmers urged to grow papaya for sustainable profits: WealthPK



INP

FAISALABAD—Agricultural scientists have asked farmers to cultivate papaya owing to its potential for generating sustainable profits.

Papaya holds great financial rewards for the farmers, carrying a potential to earn between Rs1.5 million and Rs2 million per acre annually.

Dr Sajid-ur-Rehman, Director General of Ayub Agriculture Research Institute, Faisalabad, said that papaya is beneficial in treating hepatitis and cancer. "Besides, it also contains calcium, proteins and vitamin C," he added.

Talking to WealthPK, he said sensing the importance of papaya, the institute's scientists were trying their

best to encourage farmers to go for its cultivation.

"Punjab and Sindh are ideal for papaya cultivation as the demand of this fruit is surging world over," he added.

He said memoranda of understanding had been signed to develop hybrid seeds for papaya varieties like Ruby, Yellow and Red King. He said following development of such seeds, papaya plants will be widely available on the market at affordable rates.

Malik Mohsin Abbas, another scientist at the institute, said that for a couple of years papaya farming has registered a sharp rise in different coastal areas of Sindh like Thatta, Badin, Makran, and Lashela.

Similarly, he said farmers of central Punjab districts,

including Faisalabad, Lahore, Sheikhupura, Toba Tek Singh, Sahiwal, and Okara, have also opted for papaya cultivation sensing its significant potential. He said papaya has been cultivated over 10,000 acres in Punjab. He said papaya is enriched with nutrients, like carbohydrates, water and protein. "People call papaya a nutritional powerhouse,"

Mohsin said farmers can easily enhance their earnings significantly through papaya cultivation.

Ahmed Sher, a farmer, told WealthPK that growers are inexperienced to tackle issues related to papaya cultivation as most of them are new to the game. Due to this, he said the growers are hesitant to go for papaya cultivation, though it could be a cash cow.

He said diseases of papaya, including fungi, bacteria and viruses, are taking a toll on farmers' finances. "Without arming farmers with the latest training and solutions to tackle these diseases, agricultural scientists would not be able to promote papaya cultivation significantly," he said.

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