

Ahsan Iqbal hails "Iron Brother" relationship with China, outlines vision for CPEC Phase-II

INT. DESK

BEIJING—Minister for Planning, Development, and Special Initiatives, Ahsan Iqbal, lauded the "iron brother" relationship between Pakistan and China, likening the partnership to a garden that only experiences spring.

He emphasized the enduring mutual affection between the two nations and highlighted the significant role of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) in driving economic development.

In an interview with China Economic Net, Ahsan Iqbal noted the relationship between China and Pakistan



has flourished over decades and culminated in the development of CPEC as part of China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). "In 2022, we faced a significant disaster in the form of floods and rains, costing Pakistan's economy \$30 billion. We are looking to learn from China in environmental issues," he added. Reflecting on CPEC's first decade, Ahsan

Iqbal underscored its crucial contributions to Pakistan's economic growth. The addition of 8,000 megawatts of energy helped Pakistan overcome the power crisis of 2013. Modern highways and motorways have connected regions, stimulating greater economic activity. The installation of a fiber optic cable has strengthened Pakistan's digital

infrastructure, linking the country with China.

The minister also highlighted the progress at Gwadar Port, envisioning it as a "smart port" with vast potential to become a regional trade hub by connecting the Arabian Sea and the Indian Ocean to western China, Central Asia, and beyond.

For the upcoming second phase of CPEC, Iqbal outlined an ambitious vision for the high-quality modernization of Pakistan's economy with Chinese technological assistance.

This phase will focus on five key corridors: the Growth Corridor to drive economic expansion, the

Livelihood Corridor to enhance living standards and create jobs, the Innovation Corridor to foster technological advancements, the Green Economy Corridor to promote sustainable development and renewable energy, and the Open and Inclusive Development Corridor to encourage regional cooperation and integration.

"Pakistan has introduced a '5Es' framework to align with these goals: Export-Led Growth, E-Pakistan, Environment and Climate Change, Energy and Infrastructure, and Equity and Empowerment," he added.

Pakistan's vision for a Greener Future Rise of Eco-Conscious Plantations

DR. MUHAMMAD SHAHZAD ASHFAQ

Pakistan a land of mountains and natural beauty of glaciers facing pressing environmental challenges ranging from deforestation to air pollution. The motherland has begun to envision a greener future through the promotion of eco-conscious plantations. Plantations are vital role in maintaining ecological balance mitigating the effects of climate change and fostering sustainable development. Pakistan's vision for a greener future specially focusing on the of eco-conscious plantations as a key strategy to combat environmental degradation. The nation recognized the urgency of addressing environmental issues and has taken significant steps to promote eco-conscious plantations.

One of the primary motive behind this vision is the need to take up deforestation which has been a major concern in the country. Deforestation not only leads to loss of biodiversity but also contributes to soil erosion, reduce water quality and increase in greenhouse gas emission. The vision of Pakistan aims the rise of eco-conscious plantations to reverse the trend of deforestation and restore degraded ecosystems. Furthermore, eco-conscious plantations play a crucial role in mitigating the impact of climate change. Trees absorb carbon dioxide from the atmosphere helping to reduce greenhouse gas concentrations and combat global warming. The expansion of forest cover through sustainable plantations, Pakistan can contribute to international efforts to curb climate change or meet its commitments under

the Paris Agreement. Forest act as natural carbon sinks, storing carbon and offsetting emission from various sources. Pakistan has recognized the economic potential of eco-conscious plantations. Sustainable forestry practices not only contribute to environmental conservation but also offers economic benefits to local communities. Pakistan is facing environmental challenges including air pollution, deforestation and climate change impacts. The country need to increase its forest cover through sustainable plantations. The Paris Agreement and the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals, an international treaty aimed at limiting global warming to well below 2 degrees Celsius and emphasizes the importance of afforestation and reforestation in reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Through proper implementation of sustainable forestry practices Pakistan can contribute to these global efforts and align itself with the goals of Paris Agreement. Sustainable plantation offers a range of environmental, social and economic benefits.

In Pakistan the expansion of forest sequester carbon dioxide from the environment and increase fresh air to mitigate climate change. Moreover, forests are home to a diverse range of plant and animal species many of which are threatened by deforestation and habitat destruction. Although creating new forest habitats through plantations Pakistan protect endangered species, preserves ecological balance and strengthen the resilience ecosystems against climate change impact. The country is taking significant steps to address these challenges

and protect its natural heritage. Pakistan has made considerable efforts in protecting endangered species. The country is home to a diverse range of wildlife including the iconic snow leopard, the Indus river dolphin and the Markhor; the national animal of Pakistan. The species face threats from habitat destruction, illegal wildlife trade and climate change. Pakistan has established protected areas and wildlife sanctuaries where endangered species are given refuge and monitored for conservation purposes. Different areas are designed under various conservation law and regulations to ensure the sustainable management of their habitats and the protection of these species residing within them.

One such example is the Deosai National Park, located in the northern area of Pakistan which serves as a sanctuary for the endangered Himalayan brown bear. The park's unique ecosystem provides a safe habitat for these bears, allowing them to breed and multiply without the threat of human interference. In terms of preserving ecological balance, the motherland recognizes the importance of maintaining a harmonious relationship between human activities and the environment. However, while it emphasizes the need for coexistence between humanity and nature, it lacks specificity regarding how this harmony can be achieved. A mere acknowledgment of the relationship does not address the complexities involved in balancing economic development with ecological preservation. The country has implemented various policies and regulations to promote sustainable land use for reduce pollution.

CDA chairman pushes for swift action on Islamabad's solid waste management project



BT NEWS

ISLAMABAD—Chairman Capital Development Authority (CDA), Muhammad Ali Randhawa, has urged authorities to establish a comprehensive solid waste management system for Islamabad.

Presiding over a high-level review meeting on Thursday, Randhawa was briefed on the progress of the bidding process for outsourcing waste management services.

Senior officials, including the Member Environment and representatives from relevant departments, were in attendance.

During the meeting, it was disclosed that the review of bidding documents

had been completed, and various proposals for the outsourcing process were thoroughly discussed.

Randhawa directed the immediate publication of advertisements inviting bids for solid waste management services. Highlighting the need for efficiency, Randhawa instructed officials to study successful waste management models from other major cities in the country and adopt best practices to ensure a sustainable system for Islamabad. "The outsourcing process should be completed promptly to introduce a waste management system that covers both urban and rural areas of the city with primary and secondary collection options," Randhawa stressed.

USAID, HEC to support research offices in Pakistani varsities

BT NEWS

ISLAMABAD—The United States Agency for International Development (USAID), through its Higher Education System Strengthening Activity, on Thursday organized a four-day training workshop on proposal writing and grant management for public sector universities in Pakistan. It was hosted by Fatima Jinnah Women University (FJWU), this event aimed to enhance the effectiveness of Offices of Research, Innovation, and Commercialization (ORICs) at select universities across the country, said a press release. The workshop was attended by 60 faculty

members and officials from 16 universities.

The closing session was chaired by Noor Anna Malik, Managing Director, National Academy of Higher Education (NAHE), Higher Education Commission, alongside Kate Somvongsiri, Mission Director for USAID/Pakistan, and Dr Bushra Mirza, Vice Chancellor of FJWU.

Noor Malik highlighted the importance of strengthening the relationship between academia and research. "Pakistan must close the gap between academia and industry by enhancing research and development facilities to support both local and international industries," she stated.

CRIME CORNER BY: ACHA SAAD BIN TAHIR



CTO Islamabad distributes christmas gifts to minority communities



Chief Traffic Officer (CTO) Muhammad Sarfraz Virk on Thursday distributed gifts among Christian employees of the Islamabad Traffic Police (ITP) during a special Christmas event held at the Traffic Police Headquarters.

"Pakistan has introduced a '5Es' framework to align with these goals: Export-Led Growth, E-Pakistan, Environment and Climate Change, Energy and Infrastructure, and Equity and Empowerment," he added.

The Christian staff are our pride and have shown exceptional performance in serving the country and the nation in every sector. All citizens of Pakistan, regardless of their ethnicity, religion, or community, have equal rights, he added. At the conclusion of the event, CTO Islamabad extended his best wishes to the staff and announced special holidays for them.

DIG Islamabad holds open court to address public grievances



Deputy Inspector General (DIG) Syed Ali Raza on Thursday reaffirmed the commitment of the Islamabad Police to resolving public grievances on a priority basis, emphasizing a zero-tolerance policy against corruption and bribery.

He further said that strict action will be taken against officers involved in bribery or corruption and a zero-tolerance policy will be adopted in this regard. DIG emphasized that Islamabad Police would not leave any stone unturned

to secure the lives and property of the citizens. "Such interaction would be continued in future to provide maximum relief to the citizens," he added. DIG Syed Ali Raza further said that interaction during "Khuli Kachehries" would help to promote friendly policing and will also ensure self-accountability, immediate resolution of citizens' problems. The protection of life, property and self-respect of citizens comes first, he maintained.

ICT police arrest 14 outlaws

Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) Police apprehended 14 outlaws involved in different criminal activities recovered weapons and narcotics from their possession on Thursday.



According to the spokesman, Shams Colony, Khanna, Lohi Bher, Shalimar, Golra, Sangiani, Koral and Nilore police teams took legal action against accused involved in possessing illegal weapons and drug peddling activities.

He said that the police team also arrested 13 accused namely Noor Ullah, Galib Ullah, Sajad, Arif, Sohaib, Bahadur Khan, Bilal Hussain, Arshad, Ramiz, Hassan, Hamza Anwar and Majid and recovered 1146-grams heroin, 30-liters liquor, 06 pistol, one rifle and dagger from their possession. Moreover 02 absconders were also arrested from

various areas of the city during the last 24 hours. SSP Operation Muhammad Arslan Shahzaib said that the Islamabad Police is actively working to ensure the safety of citizens' lives and property in the federal capital, emphasizing that no elements will be allowed to disrupt citizens' peace.

Chief of the Naval staff visits Oman and meets top civil and military leadership

BT NEWS

ISLAMABAD—Chief of the Naval Staff, Admiral Naveed Ashraf, called on the top military and naval leadership of Oman during an official visit. He held separate meetings with the Minister of Royal Office, General Sultan Muhammad Al Nuamani, the Commander of Royal Navy of Oman, Rear Admiral Saif Nasser Al Rahbi, and



the Commander of National Defence College, Rear Admiral Ali Abdullah Al Shidi. During the meetings, discussions centered on

strengthening defence cooperation and reinforcing the historic ties between Oman and Pakistan. The Naval Chief emphasized that Pakistan Navy is a strong proponent of collaborative maritime security in coordination with regional countries and has always been at the forefront of such initiatives. Oman's civil and military leadership appreciated Pakistan Navy's efforts in

promoting collaborative maritime security in the region and acknowledged the importance of strong bilateral naval cooperation. The Naval Chief also visited key facilities, including the RNO Said bin Sultan Naval Base, Oman Naval Ship, Maritime Security Centre, National Defence College, Military Technical College, and Sultan Qaboos Naval Academy.

Announcement

I, Jawad Ahmed Khan son of Aziz Ahmed Khan resident of Islamabad do hereby solemnly affirm under oath that I used to work in the office of my real brother Fahad Ahmed Khan son of Aziz Ahmed Khan at the office namely Car Avenue situated at I-8, Markaz, Islamabad. I was working there as an employee and I have nothing to do with his acts or deeds or of business transactions. I am not responsible at all for his business deals. It was entirely his own responsibility for handling the business. The above given statement is correct to the best of my knowledge and belief and nothing has been concealed nor I have given a wrong statement. Deponent Jawad Ahmed Khan son of Aziz Ahmed Khan CNIC: 37406-3717356-5 Address, Car Avenue Executive Center Office No I-8/16 Markaz Islamabad.