

Group Chairman/Chief Editor: **Almas Ayoub Sabir**
Vice Chairman: **Asim Nazir Ahmad**
Managing Editor: **Naveed Ahmad Khan**
Head Editorial Advisory Board: **Amjad Mehmood**
Bureau Chief Karachi: **Saleem Zaman Khan.**
(mszk786@gmail.com)
Bureau Chief Lahore: **Syed Afraz Ali Nazish**
(afrazalishah@gmail.com)
Islamabad Office: Rose Plaza, I-8 Markaz.
Karachi office: Flat No.C.3.A.One Comfort, Block No 11.
Gulshan-e-Iqbal, Main Rashid Minhas Road.
Lahore Office: 7-E.Samanberg, Johar Town.
Email: spokesmanislamabad@gmail.com
Whatsapp: 0346-5008408

BRI opens new page in development of China

The Belt and Road Initiated (BRI) launched by Chinese President Xi Jinping in 2013, has opened a new page in the development of China and the world. “In 2013, Chinese President Xi Jinping proposed to jointly build the Silk Road Economic Belt and the 21st Century Maritime Silk Road. Since then, the Belt and Road Initiative has opened a new page in the development of China and the world,” highlighted Sun Chao in her book titled “Ambassadors’ views on Chinese Modernization.”

“Rooted in history, the Belt and Road Initiative points to the future; Proposed by China, the Belt and Road Initiative belongs to the whole world. Our ancestors used to traverse desert miles by miles and transcend hills by hills, leaving their footprints on the new regions,” she added. Sun Chao interviewed hundreds of global leaders and ambassadors to learn the vigor and vitality of the new Silk Road. Sitting face to face, she listened closely to their diversified stories and different voices. She opined that by listening the interviews, the global leaders could make the rest of the world understand China better and “we can share China’s narratives well, and make positive contributions to building a community with a shared future for mankind.” In a world full of uncertainty, we promote sustainable development while facing global challenges. China is a country that provides opportunities and hopes to all the people across the world. To address global issues, Chinese Modernization offers Chinese wisdom, Chinese approaches, and China’s power. Moin ul Haque, former Ambassador of Pakistan to China, talking to Sun Chao for her book “Ambassadors’ views on Chinese Modernization,” lauded that the Belt and Road Initiative is a remarkable miracle and a huge success that China lifted over 800 million people out of poverty, which is an extraordinary achievement that Pakistan should pursue.

José Augusto Duarte, the Ambassador of Portuguese to China, once put it that China’s development and prosperity are beneficial not only to the Chinese people but also to the world. Tarja Halonen, the first female president of Finland praised China has played a constructive role in globalization and a leading role in addressing global challenges. Siddharth Chatterjee, Resident Coordinator of the United Nations in China said that China has made a remarkable contribution to global governance and demonstrated exemplary leadership in the past decades. Jin Liqun, President of Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) mentioned that the goal of China’s initiating the establishment of AIIB is to explore the most inclusive and sustainable development path in a world full of uncertainty.

Steady Environment: Peace Education as the Bedrock of Pakistan’s Economic Future - I

Dr. Muhammad Shahzad Ashfaq

In a world plagued by conflict and instability, ensuring a steady environment for development is essential to a country’s economic growth. Pakistan, a nation with a rich cultural heritage and immense potential, has caught in the clutches of violence. The environment of aggression has hindered progress and impeded the country’s path towards economic prosperity. To secure a brighter future, it is imperative to prioritize peace education as the bedrock of Pakistan’s economic growth.

Peace education aims to cultivate a culture of non-violence, empathy, and respect among individuals, ultimately creating a society that is tolerant. Peace education focuses on teaching individuals the skills, values, and attitudes necessary to resolve conflicts peacefully, promote social justice, and maintain peace. Central to peace education is the idea that violence is not the answer to conflicts and disagreements. Instead, it emphasizes the need to find peaceful solutions that promote understanding and cooperation. By incorporating peace education into the national curriculum, Pakistan can lay the foundation for a steady environment that is conducive to economic progress.

Pakistan is a multi-ethnic, multi-religious, and multi-linguistic society, where different groups often find themselves at

odds with one another. This lack of understanding breeds mistrust, fuelling conflict and hindering economic growth. The value of respecting diversity and appreciating in different perspectives, peace education can bridge these divides and promote inclusivity. People will be more accepting of one another, leading to stronger social cohesion and a stable environment that encourages economic engagement. These skills are not only crucial for the prevention of conflicts at the societal level but also find practical application in business and international relations. A society that is skilled in resolving conflicts peacefully is more likely to attract investment, engage in productive dialogue, and build strong partnerships with other countries. Consequently, this creates a favourable economic climate allowing businesses to flourish and promoting Pakistan’s economic growth.

In today’s globalized world, where economies are interconnected peace and stability play a crucial role in attracting investment and fostering economic development of Pakistan. To begin with, a society that prioritizes peaceful conflict resolution establishes a stable environment, which is essential for businesses to thrive. Investors seek stability as it reduces risks and uncertainties associated with conflicts. When a society demonstrates its ability to resolve conflicts it signals a favourable investment to attract both foreign and domestic investors, leading to increased capital flows into the country.

A society that resolves conflicts peace-

fully is more likely to engage in productive dialogue with both internal and external stakeholders. Productive dialogue fosters cooperation, trust, and understanding among different groups within the society. Societies that ensure equality and justice foster an environment of trust. By promoting gender equality, eliminating discrimination, and safeguarding human rights, a nation encourages the full participation of all its citizens in economic activities. This inclusiveness fosters innovation enhances productivity, and taps into the potential of previously marginalized groups that leads to better economic outcomes for all. When conflicts are resolved through dialogue, it allows for the sharing of perspectives and the finding of common ground. This open exchange of ideas enhances innovation, encourages creativity, and leads to the development of practical solutions to societal challenges. As a result, businesses can operate in an atmosphere conducive to growth and progress further bolstering Pakistan’s economic prospects.

It nurtures a sense of responsibility towards others and encourages individuals to contribute to the welfare of society. By fostering a caring and compassionate populace, peace education struggles social inequality and promotes equal opportunities for all. This is vital for economic development as a society that ensures the well-being of its citizens invests in their education, and protects their rights is more likely to have a prosperous economy.

To be continued

Pak-China meet on Future of CPEC - I

Vice Foreign Minister Sun Weidong of China is in Islamabad to attend the 4th meeting of the CPEC-Joint Working Group on International Cooperation and Coordination marks a significant milestone in the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) initiative. Co-chaired by Pakistan’s Foreign Secretary Muhammad Syrus Sajjad Qazi, this meeting is set to evaluate significant strides in key development areas: rural revitalization, industrialization, green development, and science and technology. As both phases of the project – CPEC 1 and the ongoing CPEC 2 – enter critical stages of development, the meeting’s agenda is crucial in evaluating progress, strategizing future actions, and reinforcing the corridor’s role in regional connectivity and economic growth.

It will take stock of the existing status of CPEC-1 & 2 given the dynamic global economic and geopolitical landscape, reviewing progress, adapt strategies to ensure sustainable and mutually beneficial development for both China and Pakistan and adjust and fine-tune the future course of action.

In the realm of rural revitalization and seeking international cooperation and investment to modernize agriculture, enhancing water management, and uplifting rural infrastructure. These initiatives, targeted over several years, aim to uplift rural economies, bridge rural-urban divides, and ensure sustainable agricultural growth, ultimately leading to enhanced food security and improved livelihoods in rural areas.

The meeting will set a future course of action for industrialization by fast-tracking establishing Special Economic Zones (SEZs), designed to spur manufacturing

growth and attract foreign investments. With infrastructure development at its core, these SEZs are expected to drive job creation, boost exports, and diversify Pakistan’s economic base in the coming decade.

Parallelly, green development will be fast-tracked with investments in renewable energy projects, eco-friendly urban planning, and sustainable transportation. These projects, spanning multiple years, are crucial for reducing environmental impacts and achieving long-term energy sustainability.

The meeting will also channelize the collaborative efforts in cutting-edge fields such as IT, biotechnology, and advanced manufacturing. Establishing research centers and technology parks, these initiatives are poised to catapult both nations into a future of technological innovation and a skilled workforce.

Central to the discussions will be the integration of the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) in CPEC-2 aimed at fast-tracking international cooperation and attracting global investment to broaden the scope and impact of CPEC by offering potential financial solutions and attracting further investment into these projects.

The meeting is likely to focus on garnering significant interest from a range of regional and international players for CPEC-1 & 2. Nations such as Iran, Afghanistan, and Middle Eastern powerhouses including the UAE, Saudi Arabia, and Qatar, along with European countries, are eyeing the corridor for its vast potential in reshaping regional trade and

connectivity.

Iran and Afghanistan are poised to benefit from enhanced trade links and access, with Iran’s potential integration into CPEC serving as a gateway to Central Asia. Whereas, Middle Eastern countries view CPEC as a lucrative investment opportunity, aiming to link their own economic ventures with Pakistan’s strategic location, thus deepening economic ties and expanding their influence in Asia.

Joining CPEC offers them a platform for significant economic growth through investment in infrastructure and industrial projects. The corridor promises enhanced connectivity, opening up new market accesses, particularly for land-locked regions.

European countries, while cautious due to geopolitical sensitivities, recognize the corridor’s potential as a new trade route, providing a more direct access to Asian markets. This could usher in a new era of economic cooperation, transcending traditional geopolitical boundaries and if managed effectively, CPEC could become a cornerstone of a new economic order in Eurasia, fostering unprecedented levels of cooperation, development, and regional integration.

The meeting is likely to value the promising opportunity Pakistan offers to transform its vast tracts of virgin, cultivable land into a hub of agricultural productivity, appealing especially to water-scarce but energy-rich Middle Eastern countries seeking to lessen their dependence on food imports.

Encompassing approximately 40%

of its total land area, or about 79 million acres, Pakistan’s regions like Balochistan, Sindh, NWFP, and Southern Punjab, with their fertile alluvial soils and ample water resources, are ideal for conversion into large-scale, mechanized farming.

By establishing Special Economic Zones (SEZs) and encouraging public-private partnerships, Pakistan can offer attractive incentives for investment, such as tax breaks and infrastructure support. This not only paves the way for a more secure food supply for investing countries but also promises significant benefits for Pakistan, including technology transfer, job creation, and enhanced agricultural output.

The initiative, encompassing agricultural research and development with a focus on arid agriculture and water-efficient technologies, has the potential to foster innovations that could benefit both regions and beyond. This strategic development in agriculture under CPEC-2 could serve as a paradigm of South-South cooperation, bolstering Pakistan’s ties with the Middle East and setting the stage for mutual economic growth and regional stability.

The prospective meeting is set to delve into the untapped \$50 trillion worth of Pakistan’s mineral wealth, particularly in regions like Balochistan, NWFP, Gilgit Baltistan, and Southern Punjab. These areas are rich in a wide array of resources, including copper, iron ore, chromite, rock salt, gypsum, limestone, marble, coal, gold, and rare earth metals, alongside an abundance of precious and semi-precious stones. The focus is not just on bolstering the economy but also on diversifying Pakistan’s resource base, leveraging these vast reserves of both metallic and non-metallic minerals.

To be continued



Operation Marg Bar Sarmachar: What made Pakistan react quickly?

The Baloch-populated provinces of Pakistan and Iran, have long suffered from unrest and insurgency.

In the past, Iran has been accusing Pakistan that the hideouts of groups involved in extremist activities in Iran are located in the border areas of Pakistan. On the other hand, during the past few years, the activities of militants in three districts of Balochistan’s Makran Division have been accused by the Pakistani authorities that the hideouts of the armed banned Baloch separatist organizations involved in these operations are located in Iran.

In the past, the two countries have relied on actions such as accusing each other and summoning each other’s diplomatic staff after acts of sabotage in their respective countries, but this is the first time that the security forces of the two countries have attacked each other. Attacks have been carried out in regional limits.

On Tuesday night, Iran attacked the alleged hideouts of Jaish-ul-Adl in Panjgur, while within 36 hours, Pakistan carried out operations in Iran’s Sistan and Balochistan province. And on this occasion, the friendly relation between the two countries suddenly deteriorated. Not only did Pakistan recall its ambassador from Tehran yesterday, but after that, the Pakistan Air Force carried out an air strike on the Iranian bordering area and also carried out a drone attack. Pakistan used it and other forces also took part in it, killing seven people, while the Iranian government says that they are terrorists and we have nothing to do with them.

While Pakistan’s province of Baluchistan is affected by the activities of militants, on the other hand, in Sistan and Baluchistan in Iran, there have also been activities of extremism.

About 20 years ago, an organization called Jandalah claimed responsibility for acts of extremism in Iran.

The organizations operating in the Baloch populat-

ed areas of Iran are of religious extremism, while the organizations operating in Pakistan’s Balochistan are the pioneers of secularism and Baloch nationalism.

Now, if we go into the background, the US which was present in Afghanistan from around 2001 to 2021, NATO forces of 47 countries were also present, but their goal was to control Pakistan from Afghanistan as well as Iran. Keeping a close eye on the activities of Russia and China and the reason for Pakistan’s air strike was also that as soon as Pakistan carried out its air strike, the official statement of the US came out in which the US condemned the attack of Iran. And said that we are with Pakistan, America actually wants to play a game by placing a gun on Pakistan’s shoulder so that the reputation of America is not damaged.

And the US is making every possible effort to somehow make the situation in the region worse so that the US can once again get a chance to come to Pakistan, and in Pakistan it means what the US could not do while sitting in Afghanistan because There was resistance from Mujahideen al-Qa-

eda and Taliban and other militant forces too, but Pakistan is a hot cake for America and there will be no resistance from here.

The US would like Pakistan to hand over its airspace to them because Imran Khan had clearly said that Pakistan will not allow its land to be used by the US in any way, nor will it be used in the interests of the US, after which the US brought down Imran Khan’s government under a conspiracy. The aim of America is to sit in Pakistan and control Iran on one side and Russia on the other side Afghanistan and China so that India which is a super ally of America and America in this region.

And whatever the US will do in this region, the biggest loss will be to Pakistan, while the benefit will only be to India, it will be to Pakistan’s border area and forces, and to the people of Pakistan. It will be not only for Pakistan, but also Iran, Russia and Afghanistan as well.