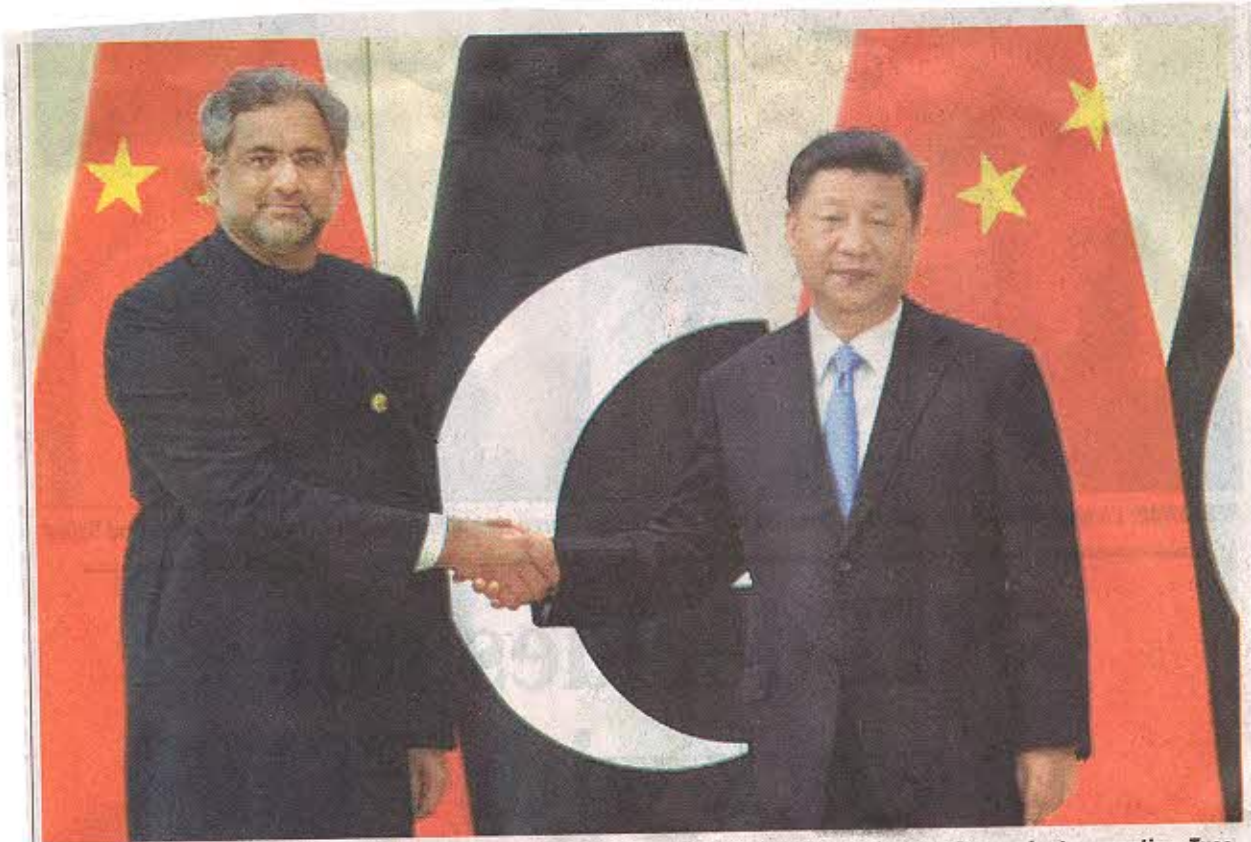


11 APR 2018



CHINA: Prime Minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi shakes hand with Chinese President Xi Jinping at Boao prior to a meeting, Tuesday. — INP



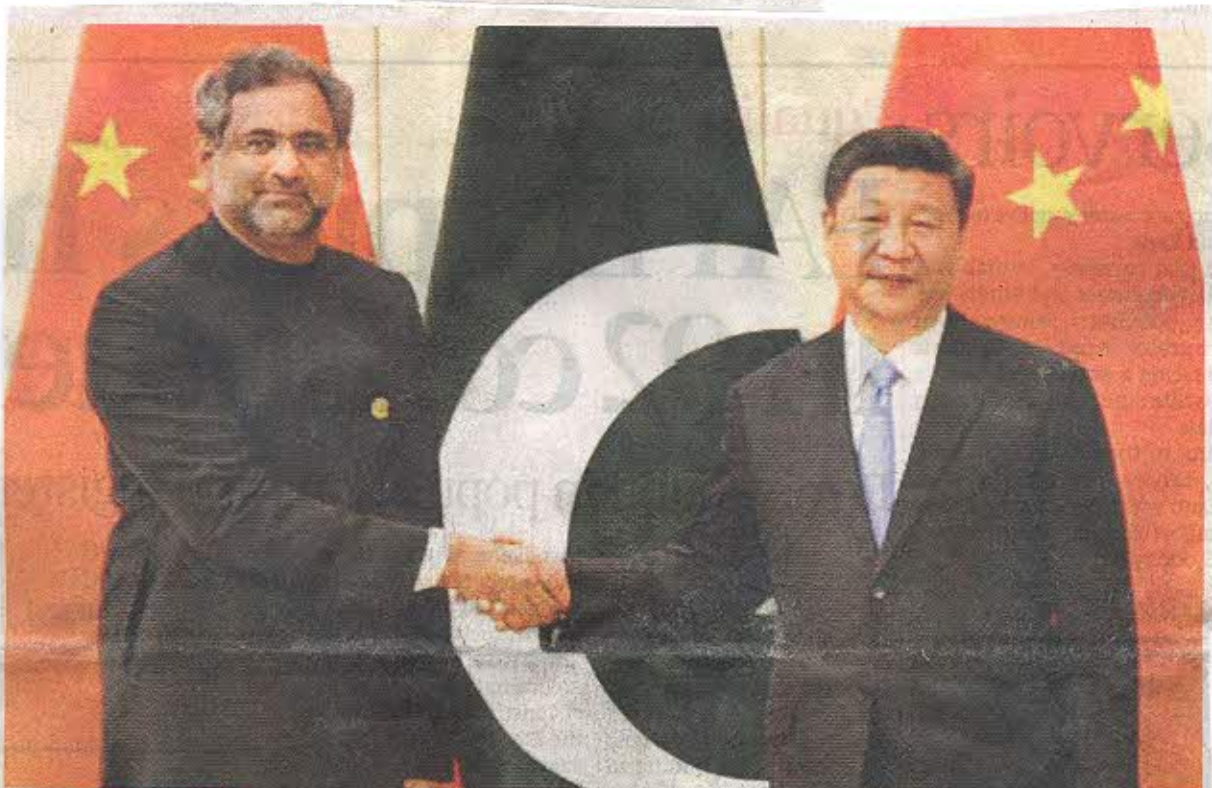
BOAO: Prime Minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi in a group photo with leaders and spouses at the Boao Forum for Asia, Tuesday. —APP

11 APR 2018



BOAO: Prime Minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi and President Xi Jinping with their spouses at Boao Forum for Asia.—APP

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FRIENDLY HANDSHAKE: Prime Minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi meets Chinese President Xi Jinping. PHOTO: EXPRESS

Regional linking, open trade to promote tolerance

PM Abbasi addresses Boao economic forum; predicts CPEC will become economic hub once completes

SANYA, China: Prime Minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi Tuesday said regional connectivity, open trade and increased economic growth were the key to promote tolerance and deny space to extremism.

Addressing the opening ceremony of the Boao economic forum in China's Hainan province, the prime minister said Sino-Pakistan relations found no parallel in the annals of history.

"In every sense, we are iron brothers. In our region, our friendship is the bedrock of strategic stability," he said. Abbasi said Pakistan was partnering with China to usher in a new era of peace and prosperity through enhanced connectivity. "In Pakistan today, step by step, brick by brick, a brave new Asia is taking shape."

He said the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), the flagship project of Belt and Road Initiative was fast reaching fruition and termed it an excellent example of an open, coordinated, and inclusive development paradigm that benefits all stakeholders.

He said the development of the deep seaport of Gwadar was proceeding at a fast track, at the southern tip of this Corridor. On completion, it would not only serve as a transit and transshipment hub, but become an economic nucleus. He said the CPEC would provide shortest maritime and overland access to Western China, Central and South Asia and the Middle East.

Speaking on the theme of "An Open and Innovative Asia for a World of greater Prosperity", he said as home to the majority of the world population, custodian of a large

portion of its natural resources and a conduit for trade by land and sea, Asia continued to demonstrate its growing centrality to the economic order.

The prime minister said Boao Forum had emerged as a leading platform shaping international discourse on Asia and its place in the world.

Abbasi said in 2017, nearly one-third of worldwide economic growth came from the Asia-Pacific region, the bulk of it from China. "As the Asian Century dawns, it is incumbent upon us to realise our real potential and rediscover the wisdom that resides within." He called for coordinated and tailored approaches to incorporate the enterprising spirit of peoples and their common aspi-

rations for a better life.

"They must include embracing structural reform, strengthening regional institutions, increasing connectivity, leveraging technology and investing in human capital," Prime Minister Shahid Abbasi said.

Describing development and security as intrinsically indivisible, the premier said, "Only by spreading the dividends of open trade and shared innovation we will be able to promote tolerance and amity and deny space to extremism."

The China-Pakistan-Afghanistan trilateral framework was aimed at achieving these very objectives, he added.

The prime minister said President Xi's historic Belt and Road Initiative had become a global public good, beneficial to

all and was bringing equality to an unequal world. "This visionary and futuristic initiative is a win-win proposition aimed at bringing shared prosperity for all."

He said Pakistan saw it as an initiative of generational impact which would shape the course of the 21st century. Abbasi said; supplemented by the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank and the Silk Road Fund, the Belt and Road Initiative had spawned innovative mechanisms for development funding, which were bridging the resource gap between the needs of the developing countries and capabilities of existing International Financial Institutions.

He said Pakistan viewed China's meteoric rise and growing stature with immense satisfaction and great pride. Over

four decades of reform, China has achieved enviable growth, lifted hundreds of millions out of poverty and transformed the face of the global economy. "We have already begun reaping dividends of CPEC rail, road and infrastructure projects. CPEC investment and its spin off effects have generated thousands of jobs. 10,000MW have been added to our national grid, ameliorating our chronic energy shortages."

The prime minister said establishment of several Special Economic Zones (SEZs) along highways and motorways was integral to CPEC plans, adding Pakistan aimed to offer tailored incentive packages for the SEZs.

"We are confident that these zones will catalyze the development of innovation-based industries in Pakistan." — APP

11 APR 2018

Indian LoC violations may lead to grave consequences

PM Abbasi asks UN to help resolve Kashmir issue; meets UN Secretary General

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi Tuesday said the "deliberate and unprovoked" ceasefire violations by India along the Line of Control (LoC) and the Working Boundary could escalate dangerously if not put to an end. A separate bilateral meeting between Prime Minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi and Chinese President Xi Jinping was held and dis-

cussed mutual issues.

Prime Minister Abbasi expressed his views on Kashmir while talking to United Nations Secretary General Antonio Guterres who called on the sidelines of Boao Forum for Asia. The prime minister said the violations by India were moving towards a dangerous escalation resulting in martyrdom of innocent civilians, a

press release issued here from the PM Office said.

He also expressed deep concern at deteriorating situation in Indian Held Kashmir (IHK) and the mindless killing spree of innocent Kashmiris by Indian occupation forces.

Abbasi conveyed grave concern over the use of pellet

guns by Indian forces in IHK and said, "Pakistan seeks a just and peaceful resolution of the dispute, reflecting the wishes of the people of Jammu and Kashmir, in accordance with UN Security Council resolutions." The prime minister said that the UN must play its part in highlighting Indian atrocities being inflicted upon Kashmiris in the IHK.

The prime minister said Pakistan followed zero tolerance policy towards terrorism and extremism and has achieved significant success in this regard.

The prime minister also expressed grave concern at the plight of Rohingya Muslims.

The UN Secretary General acknowledged Pakistan's efforts towards counter-terrorism, humanitarian assistance to the Afghan refugees and the UN peacekeeping operations. He maintained that he had been advocating the need for a serious dialogue on the Kashmir issue.

Foreign Minister Khawaja Asif, Minister for Interior, Planning, Development & Reform Ahsan Iqbal, Ambassador Masood Khalid and senior officials were also present during the meeting.

Meanwhile, Pakistan and China on Tuesday agreed to continue to deepen cooperation in all areas of bilateral relations while exploring new avenues for practical collaboration in line with the vision of the leadership of two countries.

This was agreed during a bilateral meeting between Prime Minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi and Chinese President Xi Jinping. Senior members of China's Politburo as well as State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi participated in the meeting held in China's Hainan province.

Prime Minister Abbasi was assisted by the foreign minister, interior minister and senior officials, a press release issued by the PM's Media Wing here said.

The prime minister congratulated President Xi on his re-election as President of the People's Republic of China. Both sides exchanged comprehensive in-depth views on enhancing the bilateral cooperation. The prime minister stated that China and Pakistan were iron brothers. This unique relationship had withstood the test of time and had strengthened with each passing year, he added.

Prime Minister Abbasi lauded the commitment and determination of President Xi in making Asia more open for growth and development. He appreciated President Xi's transformative vision of "Belt and Road Initiative". The two leaders discussed a variety of issues pertaining to bilateral interest as well as developments in the region. The prime minister briefed President Xi on Pakistan's efforts for the successful implementation of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). He also discussed the smooth progress of CPEC projects along with the establishment of Special Economic Zones.

President Xi said that industrial parks will be a new growth path for Pakistan's industrialisation and help upgrade Pakistan's industrial mix. He reaffirmed China's continued support to CPEC.

President Xi appreciated Pakistan's contribution in addressing the challenge of terrorism and also commended Pakistan's relentless efforts for working towards a peaceful neighbourhood.

Prime Minister Abbasi also apprised President Xi of the situation in Indian occupied Kashmir. — APP

4th industrial revolution is knocking: Abbasi

| Says regional connectivity, open trade key to promoting tolerance

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Prime Minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi has said that fourth industrial revolution is knocking and time has come for removing the stones and shaking the mountains.

"CPEC Road and Belt Flagship project is exquisite example of mutual cooperation and unprecedented development. Deep seaport of Gwadar is going to become global hub of trade which will usher in new era of development. The time for removing the stones and shaking mountains has come," he said this while addressing the opening ceremony of the Boao economic forum in China's Hainan province on Tuesday.

On completion, the Gwadar Port would not only serve as a transit and transshipment hub, but become an economic nucleus. He said the China Pakistan Economic Corridor would provide shortest maritime and overland access to Western China, Central and South Asia and the Middle East.

Abbasi held that highways and motorways are vital part of CPEC and the fourth industrial revolution is knocking this way. He went on to say China is playing crucial role in global trade. Particularly road and belt project has assumed global significance. The world is acknowledging that belt and road proj-

ect is generations' development.

The Fourth Industrial Revolution is the fourth major industrial era since the initial Industrial Revolution of the 18th century.

Abbasi said regional connectivity, open trade and increased economic growth were the key to promote tolerance and deny space to extremism.

Abbasi said Sino-Pakistan relations found no parallel in the annals of history. "In every sense, we are iron brothers. In our region, our friendship is the

bedrock of strategic stability," he said.

Abbasi said Pakistan was partnering with China to usher in a new era of peace and prosperity through enhanced connectivity. "In Pakistan today, step by step, brick by brick, a brave new Asia is taking shape."

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THE NATION ISLAMABAD

11 APR 2018

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Abbasi said in 2017, nearly one-third of worldwide economic growth came from the Asia-Pacific region, the bulk of it from China. "As the Asian Century dawns, it is incumbent upon us to realise our real potential and rediscover the wisdom that resides within."

Abbasi called for coordinated and tailored approaches to incorporate the enterprising spirit of peoples and their common aspirations for a better life. "They must include embracing structural reform, strengthening regional institutions, increasing connectivity, leveraging technology and investing in human capital," Abbasi said.

Describing development and security as intrinsically indivisible, he said "only by spreading the dividends of open trade and shared innovation we will be able to promote tolerance and amity and deny space to extremism."

The China-Pakistan-Afghanistan trilateral framework was aimed at achieving these very objectives, he added.

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Abbasi said establishment of several Special Economic Zones (SEZs) along highways and motorways was integral to CPEC plans, adding Pakistan aimed to offer tailored incentive packages for the SEZs. "We are confident that these zones will catalyse the development of innovation-based industries in Pakistan."

Abbasi said Pakistan's economy was growing at around 6 percent per annum, the highest in a decade. "Our capital markets have lately been upgraded from Frontier to Emerging market status. Over the medium-term, our growth rates are expected to surpass global averages. And by 2050, we will be the world's 15th largest economy."

He said Pakistan's population of 207 million reflected immense human resource potential besides a large consumer base. Gelled together, these two intrinsic strengths portend immense business opportunities.

Abbasi said Pakistan was home to 140 million cellular subscribers and added internet and broadband services had penetrated every nook and corner of the country and e-commerce was projected to grow into a

multibillion dollar industry.

Lately, giants such as Ali Baba and telecom sector companies from around the globe have shown strong interest in setting up facilities in Pakistan. "It is our earnest desire to see the arc of investment expand further, and to welcome entrepreneurs and investors from around the world to our SEZs."

As a new member of SCO, Pakistan aimed to play a most productive role in utilising this platform to integrate further with the region, the Prime Minister added.

He extended heartiest felicitations to President Xi Jinping on the successful conclusion of the Two Sessions and his re-election as the president, adding "under his sagacious leadership, China, I am convinced, will continue to march forward along the path of national rejuvenation."

Abbasi concluded with a Chinese saying that, "The man who moves mountains begins by carrying away small stones." It is time to lift stones; it is time to move mountains, he added.

Earlier Prime Minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi was received by President of China Xi Jinping upon arrival. Foreign Minister Khawaja Muhammad Asif, Interior Minister Ahsan Iqbal, Ambassador Masood Khalid and senior officials attended the event.

Boao Forum is a non-governmental and non-profit international organisation which was formally inaugurated in 2001. It aims to promote and deepen economic exchanges, coordination, cooperation within Asia, between Asia and other parts of the world.

The platform offers high-end dialogue forum for government leaders, enterprises, experts and scholars to discuss economy, investment, technology, and energy related sectors in a collaborative

manner. Pakistan is one of the 26 "Initial Countries" of the Forum.

XI, KHAQAN PLEDGE BOOST TO BILATERAL TIES

President Xi Jinping and Prime Minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi on Tuesday pledged to re-inforce their decades old friendship, bringing it to higher level.

During their bilateral talks held at the sidelines of the Boao Forum for Asia, the two leaders discussed wide-ranging issues of bilateral interest, particularly in the context of CPEC, reports Chinese official news agency Xinhua.

China-Pakistan relations should be a pillar for regional peace and stability, Xi Jinping said during the meeting, which lasted for quite some time.

The ties between the two countries should become a model for good-neighbourly relationship and international cooperation under the Belt and Road Initiative, Xi said.

China is willing to make joint efforts with Pakistan to push bilateral ties to a higher level and build a more closely-knitted community with a shared future between the two countries, the President said.

Xi called for efforts from both sides to advance the construction of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, and ensure the sound planning and implementation of cooperation projects involving infrastructure construction, such as the Gwadar Port, as well as energy and industrial parks.

Abbasi said that China and Pakistan are "iron friends" who always support each other on issues involving each other's core interests and major concerns.

Hailing CPEC's important role in the development of both countries and the region, he expressed Pakistan's willingness to promote bilateral cooperation in finance, energy, agriculture, infrastructure and human resources.

11 APR 2018

India's truce violations can lead to dangerous escalation: PM

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ISLAMABAD

Prime Minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi on Tuesday said that the "deliberate and unprovoked" ceasefire violations by India along the Line of Control and the Working Boundary could escalate dangerously if not put to an end.

He was talking to the United Nations Secretary General Antonio Guterres who called on the sidelines of BOAO Forum for Asia.

The prime minister said that the violations by India were moving towards a dangerous escalation resulting in martyrdom of innocent civilians, a press release issued here from the PM Office said. He also expressed deep concern at deteriorating situation in Indian-occupied Kashmir and the mindless killing spree of innocent Kashmiris by Indian occupation forces.

Abbasi conveyed grave concern over the use of pellet guns by Indian forces in Held Kashmir and said that "Pakistan seeks a just and peaceful resolution of the dispute, reflecting the wishes of the people of Jammu and Kashmir, in accordance with UN Security Council Resolutions."

The Prime Minister said that the UN must play its part in highlighting Indian atrocities being inflicted upon Kashmiris in the Indian Occupied Kashmir.

The prime minister said that Pakistan followed Zero tolerance policy towards terrorism and extremism and has achieved significant success in this regard.

The prime minister also expressed grave concern at the plight of Rohingya Muslims.

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