

'All-weather' and 'evergreen' friendship with China

Pak-F Relations
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From the word go, Pakistan-China relations have been very cordial and friendly. It represents a model for peaceful, cooperative and friendly relations between the two sovereign nations. Over the years, these relations have continued to acquire greater strength and substance. The depth of relations between the two countries is reflected in the frequent exchanges of high-level delegations.

The recent visit of Pakistan Senate delegation to China, led by Chairman Senate, Mohammed Mian Soomro, was aimed at to promote Parliamentary cooperation with a view to further strengthen the bonds of relationship between the two countries. The visit was undertaken at the invitation of Jia Qinglin, Chairman, Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC), who paid a successful visit to Pakistan in December last year.

The delegation arrived in Urumqi, Capital of Xinjiang province, on the first leg of its visit to China. On arrival the delegation was accorded warm welcome by the provincial heads of CPPCC and senior officials of Xinjiang Autonomous Province.

The Chairman Senate met. Ashat Kiremy, Chairman of the Political Consultative Committee of Xinjiang province. Welcoming the delegation, Mr. Kiremy expressed the hope that the visit of Pakistan Parliamentarians would further promote friendly relations between the two countries. Both sides exchanged views on the promotion of mutual cooperation in sundry fields. Speaking at a banquet hosted in honour of Pakistan delegation, Mr. Kiremy said that China and Pakistan are good neighbours with long-standing tradition of friendship. He said that CPPCC of China and the Senate of Pakistan with their ever-increasing exchanges and contacts have played an important role in the deepening of understanding and the strengthening of friendship between the two countries.

Reciprocating the sentiments, Chairman Senate said that "all-weather" and "evergreen" friendship has grown continuously despite changes in the domestic situation in the two countries and international environment. He said Pakistan greatly value this friendship and would make further efforts to expand cooperation in vari-

ous fields for mutual benefit of our two countries. Chairman Senate expressed happiness over China's economic development and paid rich tribute to the sagacity of the Chinese leadership.

Pakistan delegation also met the Governor Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, Mr. Ismail Tilwaldi, who cherished the memories of his visit to Pakistan. The Governor was appreciative of Pakistan's support to China on various issues and its role in the war against terrorism. The leaders of Xinjiang Province were of the view that exchange of visits would help establish closer links between the people of Pakistan and Xinjiang province. Chairman Senate traced the historical and cultural links between Pakistan and Xinjiang Province and emphasized the need of more interaction between parliamentarians and businessmen.

The delegation during its stay in Xian held detailed meetings with Chairman of Shaanxi Provincial Committee of CPPCC, Dr. Zhu Zhenyi and Dr. Chen Deming, Vice-Governor of Shaanxi province. The Chairman of Shaanxi provincial Committee of the CPPCC recalling his visit to Pakistan said that the Senate of Pakistan and CPPCC have interacted frequently. He reaffirmed Chinese Government's willingness to work in tandem closely with brotherly country Pakistan for the better future of the people of the two countries.

The Vice Governor of Shaanxi province, in his address of welcome mentioned that friendship between Pakistan and China is model for other countries. He said that the current visit of Chairman Senate, Mohammed Mian Soomro will further promote the relationship and enhance cooperation between the two countries.

Chairman Senate in his remarks lauded the economic development of China especially developmental activities currently undergoing in Shaanxi province. He underscored the need of greater cooperation in the fields of agriculture, textile, fruit processing, engineering and pharmaceutical and joint ventures in different fields. Chairman Senate said that exchange of the visits of the delegations like cultural, intellectual, scholars, students, youths, tourists and businessmen and joint ventures in textile and farming would further

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promote the existing bonds of friendly ties between the two countries.

During the meetings with the Chairman CPPCC of Shanghai Mr. Jiang Yiren and Mayor of Shanghai, Han

and CPPCC Shanghai. The members of Pakistan delegation were deeply impressed with the economic development of Shanghai and lauded the wise policies of Chinese leadership, which resulted in

Both sides reiterated their resolve to strengthen their existing strategic partnership. They agreed to give further boost to their bilateral cooperation and increase parliamentary exchanges and people-to-people contacts to expand the areas of mutually beneficial bilateral cooperation. The visit provided an opportunity to the members of the delegation to see socio-economic development of the Western region of China and the policies adopted by the Chinese government for the betterment of its people. The delegation also interacted with the local Chinese leadership; officials and the businessmen.

Zheng, the Chairman Senate underlined the need of greater interaction at all levels between the two countries. The Senate Chairman dwelt at length on the investment policy of Pakistan and enumerated the investment-friendly measures announced by the government to attract foreign investors especially Chinese entrepreneurs. He said that there were tremendous opportunities for Chinese investors to invest in various sectors in Pakistan such as textile, automobile, motorcycle, agriculture, earth-breaking equipment and bulldozers.

The local Chinese leadership briefed the delegation about the economic development of Shanghai after reforms and opening up policy initiated by Deng Xiaoping and subsequently continued by the Chinese Government. They were of the view that there exists vast scope for increasing bilateral cooperation in various fields. They expressed the hope that the visit of Senate delegation will establish cooperative relations between Pakistan Senate

and the economic miracle of China and development of Shanghai as an international centre for economic and financial activities.

In the last leg of the visit, the Senate delegation arrived in Beijing. During its stay in the capital city the delegation held meetings with Mr. Jia Qinglin, Chairman, CPPCC, Mr. WU Bangguo, Chairman National People's Congress (NPC) and Mr. Wen Jiabao, Premier State Council of China focusing on the promotion of mutual understanding and cooperation in all areas of bilateral interest.

The Chairman of the National People's Congress (NPC) welcoming the delegation said that Pakistan is reliable friend of China. Referring to cooperation between NPC and Parliament of Pakistan, he said that both are cooperating at international parliamentary forums. He reiterated that NPC is committed to further promote its relations with the Parliament of Pakistan.

The Chairman CPPCC, Jia Qinglin, during his meeting with Pakistani delegation,

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recalled his visit to Pakistan and said that Chairman Senate was an old friend of China. He was optimistic that the current visit of Chairman Senate would further promote friendship between CPPCC and Pakistan Senate. Such visits would bring the people of the two countries even more closer. He also expressed his country's desire to further expand its ties with friendly country Pakistan in economic, trade, science and technology, culture, education and other fields.

The Chairman Senate held very fruitful meetings with the both Chinese leaders. They agreed to enhance parliamentary exchanges, people-to-people contacts and promote bilateral cooperation in the fields of trade, economic and culture, reflecting the wishes and aspirations of the people of the two countries.

Soomro also called on Wen Jiabao, Premier State Council of China. The meeting was held in a very frank and cordial atmosphere. The Chinese Premier welcoming the delegation said that Pakistan-China friendship is all-weather and time-tested. He said that Senate of Pakistan has been committed to develop friendly relations with China and made positive efforts to this end. Premier Wen Jiabao said that the relations between China and Pakistan are solid and steadfast based on high degree of trust.

He referred to Joint Declaration signed by the two countries during President Pervez Musharraf's visit to China in November 2003 and stated that China was ready to work closely with Pakistan to implement the declaration to further strengthen our in-depth relations. Sharing the sentiments of Chinese Premier, Chairman Senate said that Pakistan and China are close friends and their friendship is based on sincerity and principles. The Chairman Senate lauded the economic development of China and added that Pakistan considers China's economic strength as his own strength. He also referred to the growing and positive role of China in the regional and international affairs.

Mr. Soomro appreciated Chinese government's economic support in the development of a number of mega projects in Pakistan, such as Karakorum Highway, Gwadar Port, Chashma Power Plant, Saindak project and Thar Coal Project. The Chinese Premier observed

that China's assistance to Pakistan is like help to a brother. He was hopeful that relations between the two countries would develop in a comprehensive manner increasing economic cooperation and cultural exchanges. Chairman Senate renewed an invitation to the Chinese Premier to visit Pakistan.

The discussion between the two Chairman Senate and the Chinese Premier mainly focused on matters relating to further strengthening the bilateral cooperation in political, economic and diplomatic fields. There existed complete unanimity of views on the need to promote cooperation in the fields of economic and culture. The Chinese Premier termed his meeting with Pakistani delegation as a "meeting of old friends".

It was replete with the sincere sentiments of good wishes, love and affection for the people of Pakistan, which was indicative of the fact that new Chinese leadership accords high priority to its relations with Pakistan.

The Chinese side attached great importance to the visit of Chairman Senate. The Senate delegation was accorded warm welcome and generous hospitality which reflected the closeness and in-depth of relationship between the two countries. The visit of the Senate delegation was successful in achieving the desired results.

Chairman Senate held very substantial and meaningful talks with the Chinese leadership. Both sides reiterated their resolve to strengthen their existing strategic partnership. They agreed to give further boost to their bilateral cooperation and increase parliamentary exchanges and people-to-people contacts to expand the areas of mutually beneficial bilateral cooperation.

The visit provided an opportunity to the members of the delegation to see socio-economic development of the Western region of China and the policies adopted by the Chinese government for the betterment of its people. The delegation also interacted with the local Chinese leadership; officials and the businessmen to further promote mutual cooperation in various fields. The visit of Pakistan Senate delegation would go a long way in creating better understanding and bringing the people of the two countries even more closer in the years ahead.