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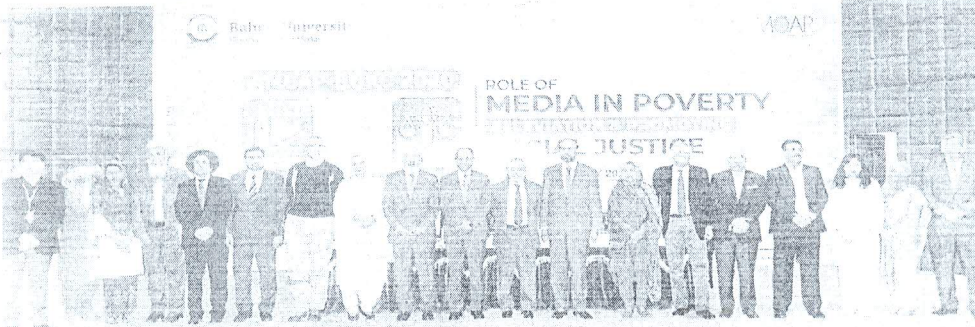
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## CITY NEWS



### Forces against Pakistan, China behind anti-CPEC propaganda, says Li Bijian

Chinese consul general blames Western media for propagating misconceptions



Chinese Consul General Li Bijian (center) was the chief guest at the inauguration ceremony on Monday of the two-day conference on media being held at the Bahria University. The lives photo by Saba Khan.

Chinese Consul General Li Bijian on Monday said that there is a misconception in the West about the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) that through the project China is trying to get a foothold in Pakistan and will eventually take over the country.

He said while an anti-nationalist sentiment is not shared by all in Pakistan and promoting social justice is the priority of the Bahria University, the Chinese government is also doing some good work in Pakistan.

He also said power plants built under CPEC had a role to play in the development of Pakistan, but the problem came with the allocation of funds, which he said was not transparent and that out of the total amount of \$10 billion, only \$1 billion has been spent.

He also said China is keen on providing economic aid to Pakistan and the goal is to help the country's economy.

He said the goal of CPEC was to help Pakistan's economy and that the investment there by China had uplifted the status of the natives, as they

will help improve conditions with the people of Pakistan, which is one of the key aspects of the trade corridor project.

Li Bijian said the Western media and the forces that want to bring down Pakistan and China and through the trade corridor project to hand anti-CPEC propaganda to the people of Pakistan.

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### Experts say free media essential for country's development

Mazhar Abbas says both dictators and democratic governments tried to suppress media in the past

By our correspondent

The role of the media in poverty alleviation and promotion of social justice was discussed on Monday on the inaugural day of a two-day conference organized by the Bahria University Karachi Campus in collaboration with the Association of Media & Communication Academic Professionals (AMCAP).

Addressing the inaugural session, Sindh Education Minister Saeed Chaudhary said such conferences were essential in providing a useful platform to key stakeholders to share knowledge, research and experience to promote healthy and productive discussions to achieve the common goal of a better Pakistan.

Abbas and former federal minister Jaffer Jaffer said the media was a very powerful medium and should be used in a right manner. He said the view that the role of media could not be ignored in the national development but the media's role should be based on freedom, access to information and freedom of speech.

He said if the media had any access to information, the government policies would be in the right direction.

There would be transparency in all the development projects, he added.

Journalist Mazhar Abbas said the media had always played a positive role against dictatorship. It should not be criticised just because it exposed the corruption of political leaders and unconstitutional acts of dictators. He remarked, adding that industry, not only dictators but the democratic governments also made several laws to control the media and journalist communities.

Due to such laws, the media suffered in the past several years, Abbas said, adding that it was the basic job of journalists to report whatever was happening, be it lawlessness or development.

Other key speakers at the inaugural session included Bahria University Rector Vice Admiral Kaleem Shaukat, media and communications scholar Dr. Naeem Karim and AMCAP President Prof. Dr. Bushra Hamcedar.

The first day also included working sessions where issues of national importance were discussed, such as the role of the media in bringing social development initiatives to grassroots

level and the emergence of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor as a game-changing initiative.

These sessions were attended by prominent scholars, including foreign academic Dr. Faleh-Franziska Vangerhoff.

Anonymous research papers by academic leaders from universities across Pakistan were also presented on the first day of the conference.

The conference will conclude today (Tuesday). The programme on the concluding day includes working sessions on portrayal of gender equality and social justice in media, importance of functional technology as a driving force for developing countries, significance of media ethics in the reporting of economic crisis and the role of media education in providing quality human resource.

The closing ceremony of the conference which will be attended by Sindh Governor Saadul Karim Jaffer will be the chief guest. Other key speakers in the ceremony will include journalists Chaudhry Saadul Karim and Faleh-Franziska Vangerhoff.

Lifetime achievement awards will also be conferred on prominent media scholars for their contribution to academia and the media industry.

### American surgeons of performance live surgery at JPMC

By Dr. Muzaffar

Two American surgeons performed a complex heart surgery at JPMC on Monday. The surgeons, who were from the United States, performed the surgery on a patient who was suffering from a rare heart condition. The surgery was successful and the patient is recovering well.

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