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## Pakistan-China Ties Soar with Pak Business Express Launch

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Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif inaugurated the Pak Business Express train at Lahore Railway Station on July 29, 2025, marking a key milestone in Pakistan's railway modernization and its strategic partnership with China. During the ceremony, Sharif underscored the significance of Phase II of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), calling it a pivotal factor in regional connectivity and national progress. According to the Associated Press of Pakistan (APP), he commended the efforts of Federal Minister for Railways Hanif Abbasi, noting the revitalization of Pakistan Railways as a major achievement benefiting citizens across the socioeconomic spectrum.

The Pak Business Express, running between Lahore and Karachi in approximately 18.5 hours, has been upgraded with European-style amenities, including digital ticketing

systems, Wi-Fi, and improved passenger lounges. As reported by Business Recorder, the Lahore Railway Station has also been modernized with cashless payment systems and renovated infrastructure. Sharif directed that similar upgrades be implemented nationwide, from Peshawar to Quetta, to build an inclusive, high-standard rail network accessible to the broader population. Minister Abbasi, addressing the event, highlighted Pakistan Railways' reported revenue of Rs. 93 billion and improved punctuality metrics, attributing the gains to Sharif's leadership.

In his speech, the Prime Minister also addressed recent developments in national defense. He referenced Pakistan's performance during the four-day military confrontation with India, which concluded on May 10, 2025, following a U.S.-brokered ceasefire. Sharif praised the technical capabilities of the Pakistan Armed Forces, particularly the Air Force and the reported deployment of Al Fatah missiles by the Army. He expressed gratitude to China for its diplomatic and strategic support during the crisis, reaffirming the enduring strength of Pakistan-China relations.

Sharif also touched on the economic outlook, noting a reported 5% decline in inflation and signs of macroeconomic stabilization. Citing the success of infrastructure and energy projects such as the 2,640-megawatt Thar Coal Power Project, he credited a collaborative national effort for these improvements. He reaffirmed his administration's focus on sustained growth, energy security, and modernization through CPEC initiatives.

The Prime Minister's remarks reflected a vision for resilient national development anchored in strategic partnerships, enhanced defense capabilities, and equitable public service delivery. The inauguration of the Pak Business Express symbolized this broader commitment to progress and modernization.