

**PRESIDENT'S SECRETARIAT (PUBLIC)**

**PRESS WING**

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**PR. No. 104/2020**

**Islamabad, 22 September 2020:** In recognition of the services made by the outgoing Chinese Ambassador for improving Pakistan-China relations, President Dr. Arif Alvi conferred the Award of Hilal-e-Pakistan on Mr. Yao Jing at a special investiture ceremony, held at Aiwan-e-Sadr, today. The ceremony was attended by Chairman Senate, Mr. Sadiq Sanjrani, Speaker National Assembly, Mr. Asad Qaiser, Federal Ministers and senior officials of the Government of Pakistan.

Later, the Ambassador called on the President and discussed matters pertaining to bilateral relations between the two countries. While talking to the Ambassador, the President said that China was a close friend, which has always supported Pakistan on all issues of national interest. Highlighting the economic and strategic significance of China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), the President stated that the Corridor would increase regional connectivity and countries of the region, particularly Afghanistan and Central Asian countries, would enormously benefit from it. He emphasized the need for further strengthening defense cooperation between the two all-weather friends. He added that Pakistan was looking forward to the visit of President Xi Jinping which would further boost bilateral cooperation in the areas of trade, economy and defense. The President appreciated the efforts made by the outgoing Ambassador for further promoting and solidifying bilateral relations. He said that many infrastructure and development projects were completed during the tenure of Mr. Yao Jing.

The Ambassador assured that China would continue its efforts to promote peace and connectivity in the region. He specially thanked the President for being the only Head of State to visit China during Covid-19 pandemic in March 2020.

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