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ORANGES AND TANGERINES: SYMBOLS OF GOOD FORTUNE

Two of the most common food symbols of the Chinese New Year are tangerines and oranges. Tangerines represent wealth whereas oranges are a popular symbol of good luck.

During Chinese New Year, tangerines and oranges are displayed as decorations and are also exchanged among friends and acquaintances.



TO CHINA, WITH LOVE HAPPY CHINESE NEW YEAR

The Chinese New Year in 2018 began on February 16 and marked the starting of the Year of the Dog. Tied to the Chinese Lunar Calendar, the holiday was traditionally a time to honour household and heavenly deities as well as ancestors. Each year, families unite for feasting and celebrations and lucky money in red envelopes is distributed to children. Streets and houses are adorned and decorated. TDF Ghar celebrated Chinese New Year in 2018 with the Chinese community and held an exhibition to celebrate the Chinese culture.

KUNG HEI FAT CHOI





CHINESE CHANDELIER

China gifted a splendid chandelier to be displayed at the Mausoleum of Quaid-e-Azam. The 46 year old chandelier at the Mausoleum of Quaid-e-Azam has been replaced by a pure gold 28-metre-tall chandelier. The old chandelier was gifted by the Prime Minister of China during his visit to Pakistan in November 1970.

The new chandelier has 48 blue lights, weighs around 1.2 metric tonnes, which also includes around 8.32 kilograms of solid 24 carat gold, and its total cost is around Rs. 220 million and it has a warranty period of 50 years.



New chandelier at Mazar e Quaid gifted by China



This magnificent chandelier is one of the major attractions at Mazar-e-Quaid



PAK CHEEN DOSTI

Whether it is the beautiful silk fabrics or the cuisine, Chinese culture has become an integral part of our lives. The China-Pakistan connection runs deep; and this is not a reference to the political aspect. Ever since the Chinese first set

foot on the sub-continent soil during the late 19th and early 20th century as silk traders, or with exotic cuisines, they have made their presence felt. Peaceful and unobtrusive, the Chinese settled quietly beside the locals, intermarrying and

adopting their culture and language. Their footprints are embedded from the Karakoram Highway to coastal Karachi, as these introverted, yet friendly people left their mark on the various industries that have helped Pakistan grow.



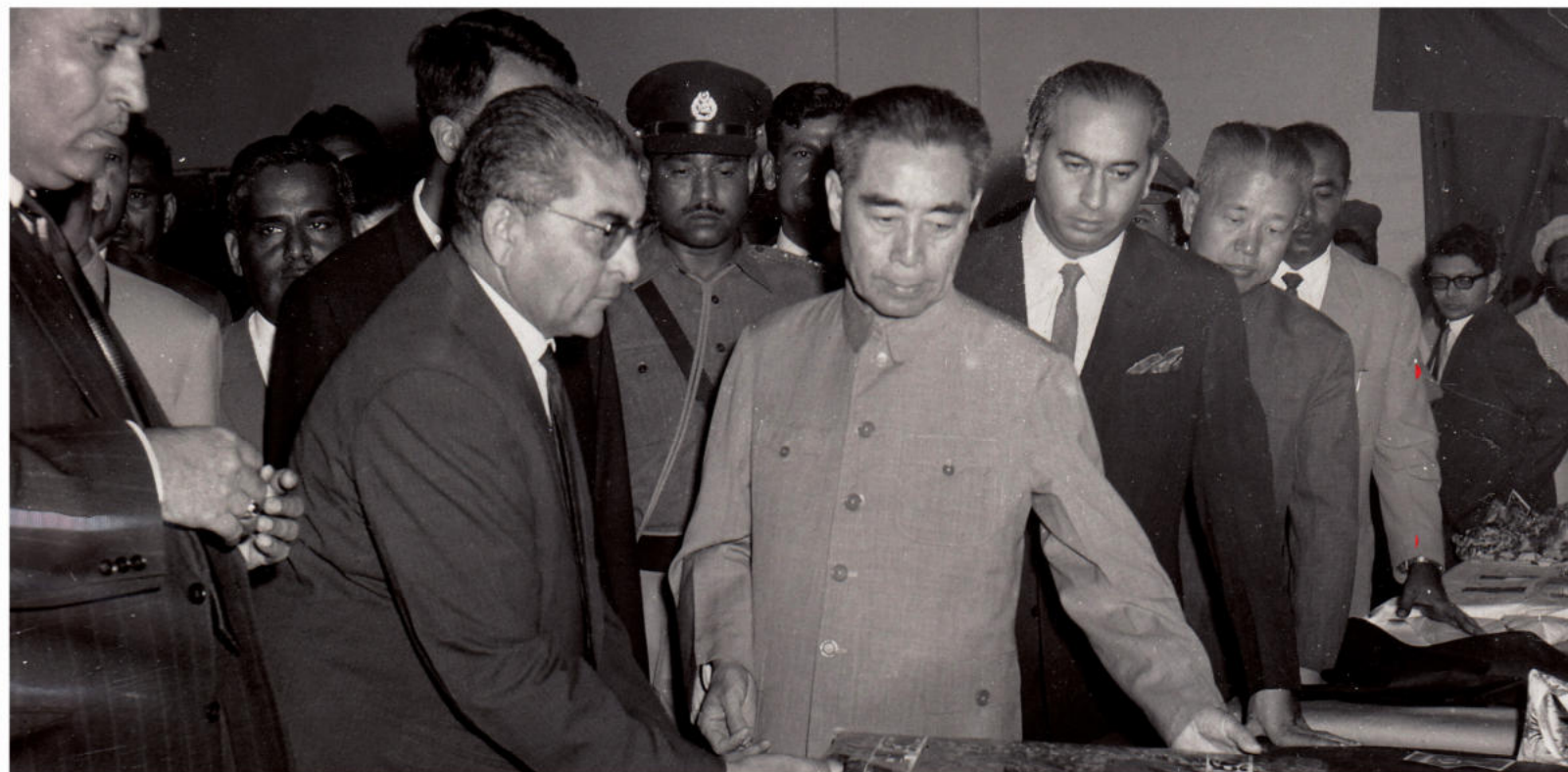
The first wind-power generation project established by Chinese companies in Karachi, Pakistan.



The JF-17 Thunder is a joint Pakistan-China project.



Karakoram Highway connects the two states.



Zhou En-Lai (First Prime Minister of China) with Ahmed Dawood & Z.A. Bhutto at Dawood Cotton Mills in 1964.

CHINESE DENTISTS

Chinese dentists have a reputation of providing quality service to the low-income residents of the city. Yet, many of them are unlicensed and lack any formal training in dentistry. Instead, many of their parents had previously lived among the Chinese community in Malaysia and worked as dental assistants; when they came to Pakistan in the 1940s, they began practicing as full dentists themselves. There was a shortage of dentists in Karachi at that time, as there was only one dental school in the entire province of Sindh, in Hyderabad.

Chinese dentists primarily provided simple procedures such as manufacturing and fitting of dentures as well as extraction of teeth. However, in later years, some prospered enough to hire formally trained dentists to provide more complex procedures.

But today, though the dentists' shops are still around, most of the Chinese dentists themselves, having sold off their practices to local practitioners, have left for greener pastures.



Dentists continue the tradition of Chinese street dentistry, in Saddar.



Chinese dentists charged a nominal fee for simple procedures, mainly the making of dentures and the extraction of troublesome teeth.



Chinese dentists and health practitioners operating in Saddar.



The road along the Karakoram Highway that links China (Xinjiang province) with Pakistan via the Khunjerab Pass.

MADE IN CHINA

China is the biggest industrial producer in the world. From high-end electronics to low-end toys, from replicas of art pieces to handbags, from sanitary ware to shoes and sunglasses, from cell phone accessories to kitchenware, from tyres to cameras, Chinese consumer goods are ubiquitous in Pakistani markets. Large malls and markets 'specialising' in Chinese products have come up in almost every big city in the country. Chinese manufacturers have captured almost 70 per cent of the ceramic tile markets in Pakistan. Some of the leading Chinese firms in Pakistan includes, China Mobile Pakistan (Zong Pakistan), Haier Pakistan, Huawei etc.

Few Chinese are opening new restaurants and Cantonese language schools in Pakistan, while others are exploring production opportunities in Pakistan to sell around the globe.

Firstop (a combination of 'First Stop') is one of the largest Chinese stores in Islamabad. The Supermarket's shelves are lined with products manufactured in China, everything from noodles to hard hat construction helmets, sea kelp to stationery, spice mixes to industrial meat grinders.



View of the facade of a Chinese restaurant catering to the growing Chinese population in Islamabad.

The Huashang Weekly, launched in early 2017, is Pakistan's first Chinese language weekly that caters to Chinese expatriates working on CPEC projects (China-Pakistan Economic Corridor).

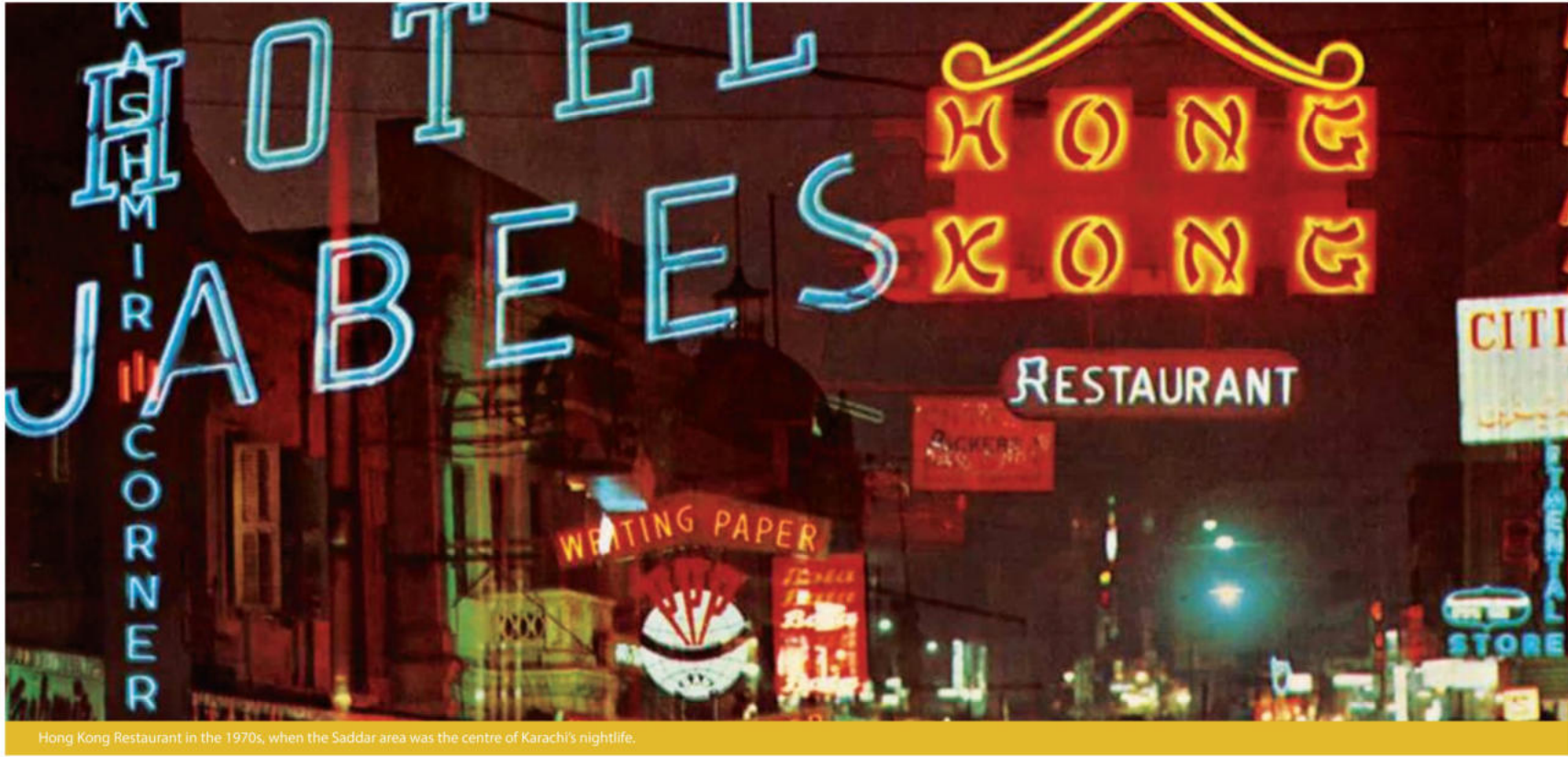
About 71,000 Chinese nationals visited Pakistan in 2016 whereas over 27,000 visa extensions, an increase of 41% in 2015, were also granted during the year.

Pakistan has received billions of investments under CPEC over the course of three to eight years, in the form of power projects, roads and railway upgrades, transmission lines, infrastructure, hospitals, technology and much more. Last year, CPEC Cultural Caravan was organized from Xinjiang to Gwadar. A group of visual artists and performers also participated and exhibited their vibrant culture and traditions.

The new commercial culture introduced by China has not just facilitated the middle and low income consumers in Pakistan, but has also helped small traders to explore options through Chinese merchandise.



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Hong Kong Restaurant in the 1970s, when the Saddar area was the centre of Karachi's nightlife.



CHINESE RESTAURANT

When it comes to the food industry of Pakistan, none can deny the conspicuous presence of Chinese restaurants peppered across the country. The restaurant trade is a common profession of Chinese in Karachi as well. Most members of the second generation tend to follow the same trade as their parents did. They are concentrated in a few neighbourhoods, including near the PECHS and Tariq Road, as well as Saddar and more recently Clifton and Defence neighbourhoods. The Clifton and Defence Society areas has about 15 Chinese restaurants; the area is sometimes unofficially referred as "China town". One of the more well-known of these, the ABC Chinese Restaurant, founded by Li Dianxian in the 1930s, was once patronised by Zhou Enlai, and continued operating until 1988.

Restaurant goers of the bygone days would also fondly remember Hong Kong restaurant on Victoria Road. Pricier than other Chinese outlets, it continued to give competition to its contemporaries until it too, died out. There were others too, like Hakka at Gunumandir and Four Seasons at Hotel Metropole. Each one of them, however, left behind a legacy and laid the foundation for numerous Chinese outlets that have sprung up in the country and the cuisine continues to delight the foodies. Other Chinese restaurants include Yaun Tung, Kowloon, Little China, Dynasty etc.



The ABC Chinese Restaurant in 1930s.