



Newsletter

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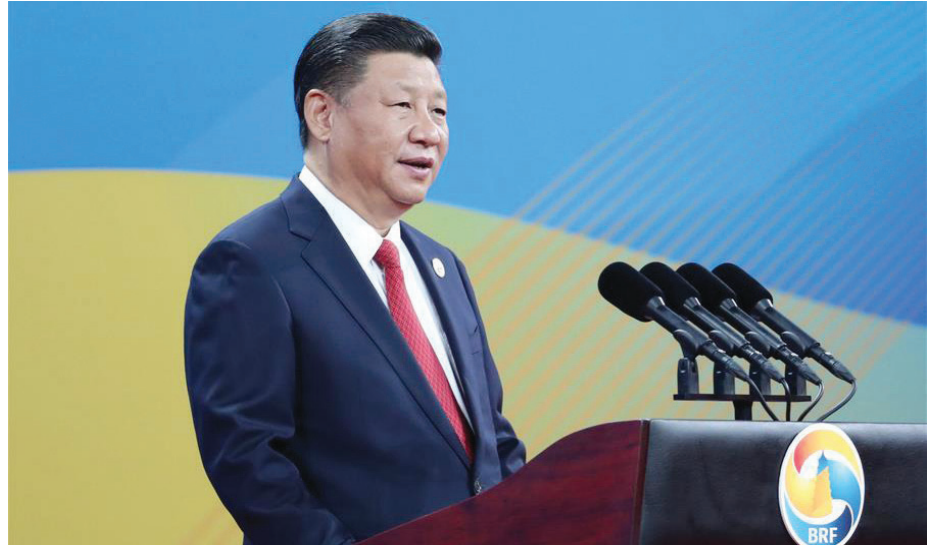
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BRF at Beijing: President Xi Jinping Moments

A two-day Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation ended 15 May at the Yanqi Lake China National Convention Centre in Beijing with promises and high hopes. The forum has produced concrete results in the shape of a 76-item checklist, from memorandums of intent to collaborate to agreements on specific connectivity projects in the five key areas of policymaking, infrastructure, trade, and finance and people-to-people connectivity.

From May 11-17, President Xi Jinping met with 30 foreign leaders and representatives and attended four events where he delivered

important speeches to stimulate global growth and promote prosperity for all. In his keynote address he said that "we should build on the sound momentum generated to steer the initiative toward greater success." At the banquet he remarked that "we are at a fresh starting point, ready to embark on a new journey together." At the leaders roundtable he emphasized that "the Belt and Road development does not shut out, nor it is directed against any party." At the closing ceremony he concluded that "people's pursuit of a better life has helped move history forward."

Prime Minister

Muhammad Nawaz Sharif at the BRF



On the invitation of President Xi, Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif undertook an official seven-day visit to China on 12-18 May to

participate in the Belt and Road Forum (BRF) for International Cooperation held in Beijing on 14-15 May. Prime Minister Sharif met with President Xi and his counterpart Premier Li Keqiang as well as meeting a number of world's leaders who participated at the BRF. He addressed the Plenary Session of the BRF on 14 May. He lauded the CPEC and the progress made therein. He said that "The CPEC is a project owned and nurtured by all citizens of Pakistan. It is also fully compatible with our own Vision 2025, which invests our resources in multiple corridors of regional cooperation, including energy, industry, trade and transportation in pursuance of this vision". Prime Minister Sharif also said that this is a historic event. It will build critical pathways in the years to come for economic and financial cooperation, business-to-business collaboration, and people-to-people contacts.

Belt and Road is a harbinger of shared-hopes, Sartaj Aziz



Adviser to the Prime Minister on Foreign Affairs, Sartaj Aziz, said the One Belt One Road (OBOR) concept was the most significant transformative initiative in recent human history, which was a harbinger of shared hopes, common prosperity and win-win cooperation among the people of the world. Addressing the thematic session on 'Connectivity of Think Tanks' in Beijing, on 15 May 2017 he said, "Through focus on connectivity of infrastructure including roads, rail links, sea routes, ports, and connectivity of policy, trade and finance, we are observing

a phenomenon which has few historical parallels.

In a civilizational sense the true impact of the initiative would be in the realm of thoughts, ideas and cultures, and the think tanks were the breeding grounds for those elements, he said, adding the dialogue of think tanks was an extremely important, cross-cutting segment of the OBOR summit. He said Pakistan lauded the spirit of the OBOR initiative. The concept of shared partnerships, and voluntary cooperation were the basic principles of the Belt and Road vision.



The BRF Joint Communiqué

Leaders from 30 countries and key international organizations reached broad consensus on the Belt and Road cooperation as they adopted a joint communiqué and released an outcome list on 16 May 2017.

The world leaders agreed to promote international cooperation on the Belt and Road development and jointly tackle challenges facing the global economy. Noting that the Belt and Road Initiative can create opportunities amidst challenges and change, they welcomed and supported the Initiative to enhance connectivity between Asia and Europe, which is also open to other regions such as Africa and South America. They emphasize the opportunities which can be created by communication and coordination among other global, regional and national frameworks and initiatives for promoting cooperation in connectivity and sustainable development.

The world leaders reaffirmed their shared commitment to build open economy, ensure free and inclusive trade and oppose all forms of protectionism including in the framework of the Belt and Road Initiative. They reiterated the importance of expanding economic growth, trade and investment, strengthening physical, institutional and people to people connectivity among all countries. They would endeavor to promote peace, justice, social cohesion, inclusiveness, democracy, good governance, the rule of law, human rights,

gender equality and women empowerment.

They expressed determination to protect the planet from degradation including through taking urgent action on climate change. The leaders uphold the spirit of peace, cooperation, openness, transparency, inclusiveness, equality, mutual learning, benefit and respect by strengthening cooperation on the basis of extensive consultation and the rule of law, joint efforts, shared benefits and equal opportunities for all.

They also affirmed the need to prioritize policy consultation, trade promotion, infrastructure connectivity, financial cooperation and people to people exchanges and highlighted concrete actions in accordance with their national laws and regulations and international obligations. "Over joint endeavor on the Belt and Road Initiative and seeking complementarities with other connectivity initiatives provide new opportunities and impetus for international cooperation," they said. They reiterated that promoting peace, mutually beneficial cooperation, and honoring purposes and principles of the UN charter and international law were their shared responsibilities; achieving inclusive and sustainable growth and development and improving people's quality of the life were common goals; creating a prosperous and peaceful community with shared future for mankind was common aspiration.

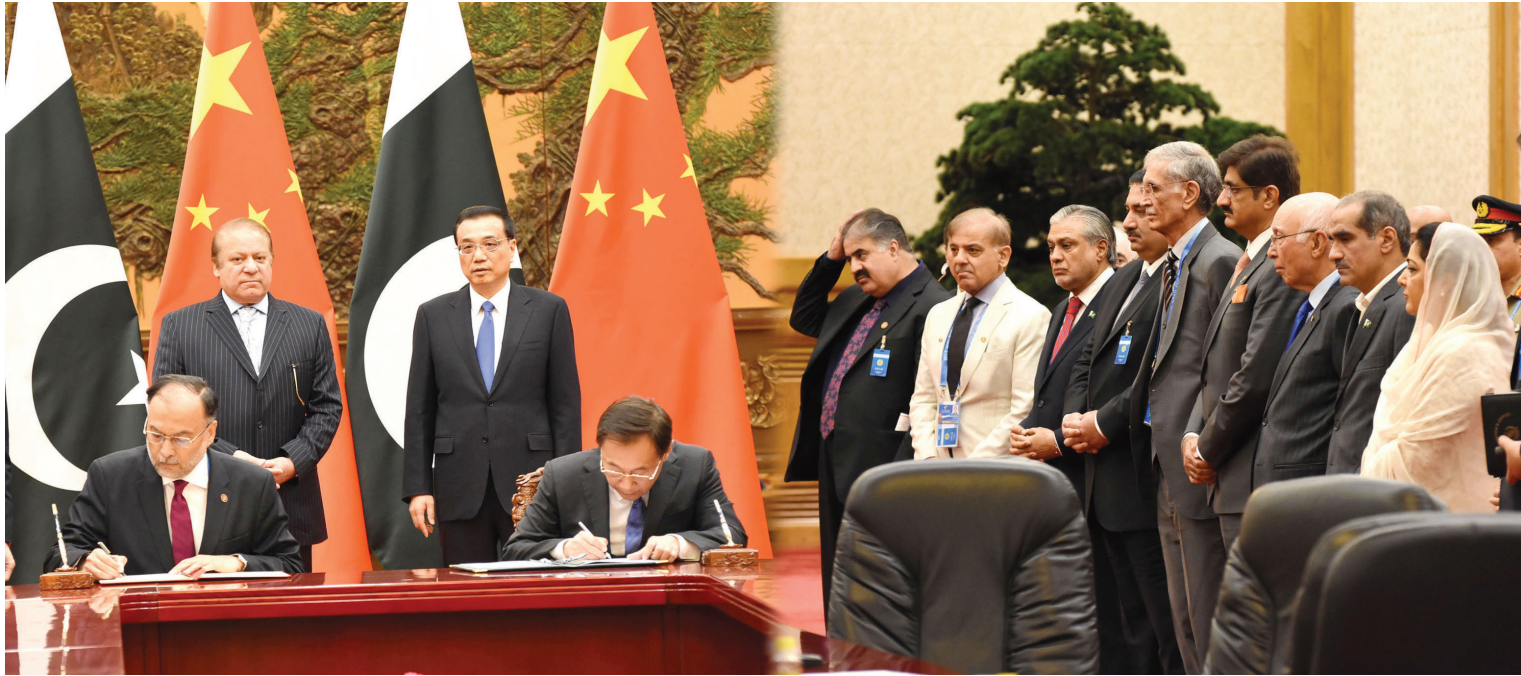


Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif Addresses the BRF Roundtable in Beijing

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif on 15 May stressed dialogue and communication with nations outside the 'One Belt-One Road' routes as necessary to dispel apprehensions. Addressing the Leaders' Roundtable on Policy Synergy in Beijing, he called for expanding consensus for OBOR, enhancing cooperation in development and implementation as well as preparing a blueprint and roadmap for long-term cooperation. The Prime Minister said, "Leaders' Roundtable on Policy Synergy was an opportunity to explore ways to enhance collaboration under the banner of the OBOR initiative, deepen cooperation, and review the progress we have made so far." He described it as an important factor as the "very nature of OBOR requires synergetic endeavor, constant appraisal, and closely coordinated policies."

The Prime Minister said, "It is imperative that we appreciate the 'Belt and Road' initiative in its proper perspective of interconnected development. It is now turning into the centre of gravity for half of the world's economies – in Asia, in Africa and in Europe." He pointed out that, "The initiative is firmly supported by the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank and the Silk Road Fund. UN Bodies and regional organisations have embraced it, as multiple projects under the 'One Belt-One Road' have complementarity." He emphasized on policy synergy at the level of international bodies and mentioned that several national planning bodies, the UN, international conferences and regional organisations had developed plans and initiatives on global issues and established partnerships with OBOR.

The Times of Islamabad (Islamabad),
May 16, 2017



Pakistan Signs Six MoUs with China

The Government of Pakistan and China signed multiple Memorandum of Understandings on 13 May 2017 to enhance the bilateral relationship between the two countries. The prestigious MoUs signing ceremony was witnessed by Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif and his Chinese counterpart Li Keqiang. The first MoU relates to cooperation within the framework of the Silk Road Economic Belt

and the 21st century Maritime Silk Road initiative. Three agreements were pertaining to economic and technical cooperation worth 3.4 billion Yuan for Gwadar port and East Bay expressway (1.5+0.8 billion RMB for Gwadar Airport, 1.1 billion RMB for East bay Expressway). Two other MoUs, one for the implementation of ML-1 and establishment of Havelian Dry Port and another framework

agreement on implementation of up gradation of ML-1 and establishment of Havelian Dry Port, were also inked. Finance Minister Ishaq Dar and Minister for Planning, Development and Reforms Ahsan Iqbal signed the MoUs on behalf of the Government of Pakistan.

Daily Times (Lahore), May 13, 2017

Prime Minister Visits E-commerce Giant Alibaba Headquarters at Hangzhou

Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif Tuesday visited the headquarters of e-commerce giant Alibaba Group in scenic Hangzhou city of China's Zhejiang province. Accompanied by Federal Commerce Minister Engineer Khurram Dastgir, the Prime Minister was received by Executive Chairman of the company Jack Ma, who founded the entity in 1999 which has now flourished as one of the world's largest global online market. The Prime Minister visited the Alibaba Museum wherein he was giving an overview of the company's history and profile, what Executive Chairman said had also set a record of earning a revenue of \$18 billion dollar in a day. Besides online trade, the prime minister was apprised that, Alibaba has also spread its network to rural economy, micro-financing, marketing, public welfare, life sciences and traffic control with 33,000 stations operating across the globe. Jack Ma told that the company had a consumer base of around two billion besides providing jobs to 100 million people. Alibaba chief told the prime minister that in its micro-financing business, the company had a recovery ratio of around 99 percent in what the prime minister remarked that smaller entities had a very low default ratio. He exemplified his government's



Yellow Cab scheme that had a recovery rate of around 94 percent. The Prime Minister was told that Alibaba company delivered 60 million packages across China every day and the company had a record of delivering products to the toughest locations in the world including Mount Everest. The buyers

on Alibaba are located in over 200 countries. Later, the Prime Minister was also given a detailed presentation on the company's performance, achievements and future targets.

Associated Press of Pakistan (APP), May 16, 2017



Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif Addresses Pakistan Investment Forum in Hong Kong

Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif visited Hong Kong 16 May on a three-day official visit. He addressed One Belt One Road Pakistan Investment Forum, which was participated by leading business companies of Hong Kong and Mainland China. According to Consulate General of Pakistan, the focus of the Forum was on business opportunities emerging from the China Pakistan Economic Corridor. Chief Executive of the Hong Kong SAR C.Y. Leung will also address the forum. The Investment Forum is being organized by the Consulate General of Pakistan in Hong

Kong in collaboration with the Government of Hong Kong SAR. During his visit, the Prime Minister will also meet Chief Executive of the Hong Kong SAR.

They will discuss enhancing bilateral ties between Pakistan and Hong Kong particularly in the Belt and Road projects. The Prime Minister will also hold meetings with executives of the leading business companies of Hong Kong and Mainland China. The Prime Minister will also meet Mrs Carrie Lam, the Chief Executive-elect Hong Kong, during his stay in Hong Kong.

AIIB Expects to Sign 85 Members by Year's End

The China-backed Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank expects to grow its membership to 85 by the end of this year, bank president Jin Liqun said on Saturday. China won broad support for the establishment of AIIB, with 57 founding members, Jin said at the Jiangsu Development Summit in Nanjing, East China's Jiangsu province. "By the end of this year, a total of 85 countries and regions will become AIIB's members," Jin said. Jin said that the Belt and Road Initiative and the AIIB are both great initiatives. Reflecting on the process of setting up the new bank and securing support from founding members, he

said China had shown its willingness to serve the world using the experience of reform and opening up. "Though the Belt and Road Initiative doesn't cover all AIIB members, we will put more efforts in the future and believe more and more countries will join the AIIB," Jin added. With 57 signatories at its launch in January 2016 and the approval of 13 prospective members in March 2017, AIIB aims to provide financing to address the daunting infrastructure needs across Asia.

China Daily (Beijing), May 22, 2017

China, Pakistan plan to modernize vital railway link

China and Pakistan have agreed to jointly upgrade the 1,600-kilometer railway linking southern and northern Pakistan as part of a move to push forward construction of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor. "China and Pakistan have signed memorandums of understanding to increase the speed of the railway connecting Karachi and Peshawar, as well as upgrade its signal system and railway stations," Zafaruddin Mahmood, Pakistan's special envoy on the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, told *China Daily* on the sidelines of the ongoing Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation. The deals, signed also included one on the construction of the Havelian land port, which is on the Karakoram Highway that connects Pakistan and Kashgar in China's Xinjiang Uygur autonomous region. The Havelian land port will serve as a transfer station where goods shipped from China can be loaded from trucks to trains after the planned China-Pakistan railway connecting Gwadar Port and Kashgar is completed, he said.

Gwadar Port in southwestern Pakistan is at the Strait of Hormuz, which has been seen as pivotal to securing an energy route for China. It is currently under the management of Chinese Overseas Port Holdings Ltd. China will also help Pakistan build an international airport in Gwadar and a highway connecting the deep-sea port to the airport. The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor is an important part of the Belt and Road Initiative, he said. Besides bringing business potential and boosting economic development, the initiative has also improved people's lives. China will help Pakistan increase its electricity supply by 80 percent in the next five years and some power plants have already started generating power, the special envoy said.

Cui Jia, China Daily (Beijing), May 15, 2017 (Condensed)



China's Baoji-Lanzhou High-Speed Railway Starts Test Runs

China built another bullet train to run in a trial operation on the Baoji-Lanzhou high-speed railway at the Tianshui South Railway Station in northwest China's Gansu Province, May 19, 2017. The 401-km railway line linking Baoji of northwest China's Shaanxi Province and Lanzhou in neighbouring Gansu Province has started test runs.

People's Daily (Beijing), May 20, 2017



The Sahiwal coal-fired energy plant inaugurated

The first major power plant under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) was inaugurated on 25 May 2017. The plant generates 660-megawatts of electricity to meet energy shortage. The second unit is expected to be started at the end of June 2017. The plant was co-invested and co-built by Huaneng Shandong Power Generation Co. Ltd. and Shandong Ruyi Group. The two units will generate nine billion kwh of electricity annually. The power plant is regarded as one of the early harvest projects of CPEC. Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif attended the inauguration ceremony, saying the project will

help overcome the country's load shedding. He also said that completion of the first unit in 22 months is unprecedented and half of time if such plant was built in China. Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan Sun Weidong also attended the ceremony and that more and more tangible outcomes of the CPEC and the Belt and Road Initiative are on the way. The project provided more than 2,000 jobs for locals and helped cultivate nearly 100 engineers for Pakistan with hundred percent Foreign Direct Investment. The plant has cheapest Rs 8 per unit cost.

The Nation (Lahore), May 26, 2017

China launches advanced satellite navigation positioning system



China on 27 May 2017 launched a national satellite navigation and positioning system. It is the largest in the country and boasts the widest coverage. Li Weisen, deputy director of the National Administration of Surveying, Mapping and Geoinformation, said that the system consists of 2,700 base stations, a national database centre and 30 provincial level database centres. The system, featuring faster speed, higher accuracy and wider coverage, will be compatible with other satellite navigation systems, such as the BeiDou Navigation Satellite System and Global Position System (GPS), Li said. According to the administration, the system is able to provide positioning service to transportation, emergency medical rescue and city planning and management.

Xinhua (Beijing), May 28, 2017

Chinese Submersible Jiaolong Heads to Mariana Trench for Scientific Expedition

Chinese manned submersible Jiaolong set off on 16 May 2017 for the Mariana Trench in the third stage of China's 38th ocean scientific expedition in the West Pacific, reported Xinhua News Agency. Xiangyanghong 09, the mother ship, set off from Shenzhen, south China's Guangdong Province on Tuesday together with 96 expedition members. In the third and final stage of this expedition, Jiaolong is expected to complete four deep dives in the Mariana Trench and five deep dives in the Yap Trench. Over the course of 34 days, scientists aim to explore the adaptive mechanism of creatures in the deep ocean. Jiaolong is scheduled to return on June 18 to Qingdao in east China's Shandong Province. In the previous two stages of the expedition, Jiaolong successfully completed deep-sea operations in the northwestern Indian Ocean and South China Sea.

People's Daily (Beijing), May 16, 2017





First Orange Line Metro train to reach Pakistan in July

Pakistan will say goodbye to the days without subways and light rail as the first of 27 trains designed for Orange Line Metro in Lahore, would be delivered by a Chinese company to the Punjab government authorities in July this year. The remaining 26 will be handed over to the authorities by the end of the year, according to official sources here. China and Pakistan had signed a framework agreement in April 2015 to build the Orange Line of the rapid mass transit system in Punjab's provincial capital Lahore. The system, the first large rail transit project within the framework of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), was contracted by a consortium, composed of China Railway Corporation and China North Industries Corporation. The first of 27 trains designed for Orange Line Metro in Lahore had already rolled off the production line in central China's Hunan province. The train with five coaches designed for the 25.58 km Orange Line Metro, is being produced by CRRC Zhuzhou Locomotive Co Ltd. An energy-

saving air-conditioning system, suitable for the constant high summer temperature in Pakistan, has been designed and installed in the train which would have maximum operation speed of around 80 km per hour. The design combines the national flower of Pakistan and the shape of the dome of the Badshahi mosque while heat-resistant bogies increase durability, said an engineer of the company. The metro project is being built in accordance with the same quality requirements for high-speed railway linking Beijing and Shanghai, said project manager Wang Feng, adding that the train would be extremely smooth. The 26-kilometer line will have 26 stations, two of which will be underground. A lot of engineering and technical workers from both countries are now working in the forefront of the orange line project that carries the expectation of the Pakistani public.

The News International (Rawalpindi), May 22, 2017



Third maritime patrol ship inducted for security of CPEC route

Minister for Ports and Shipping Mir Hasil Khan Bizenjo has said that Pakistan has witnessed major challenges in the shape of regional conflicts and invasion due to its geographic location and with the inception of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) it has become a centre of global attention. He

was speaking at the induction ceremony of the third Chinese-built maritime patrol ship PMSS Dasht at the naval dockyard on 22 May 2017. The ship built for the Pakistan Maritime Security Agency (PMSA) arrived in Karachi earlier this month.

Dawn (Karachi), May 23, 2017 (Condensed)



Landlocked Xinjiang feasts on fresh deep-sea fish from Gwadar

Two tonnes of seafood originating from the coast of Pakistan arrived in the city of Karamay, in China's northwestern region of Xinjiang Uyghur, from routes that are part of the Belt and Road Initiative, according to a report by Global Times. Global Times said the seafood — which travelled more than 34 hours from the port of Gwadar — was presented at a tasting event in Karamay, where locals tested samples and even made on-the-spot purchases. "It's fresh and has a delicate taste," one participant at the event stated. The shipment of 16 types of deep-sea edibles included lobsters and black sea bass, all originating from the Indian Ocean. More than 2 tons of seafood straight from the Indian Ocean hit dining tables around Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, China's furthest inland region, on May 20, 2017.

Dawn (Karachi), May 22, 2017

HEC, PU to establish CPEC Integrated Centre

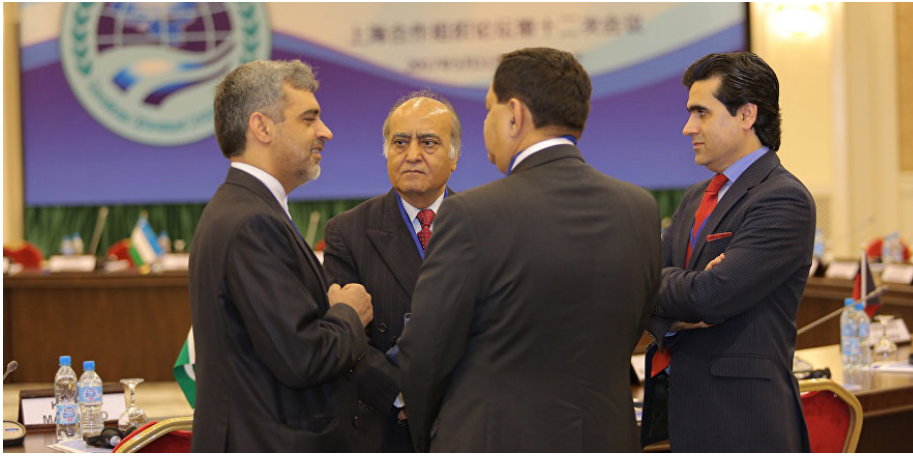
Higher Education Commission of Pakistan and Punjab University will establish China Pakistan Economic Corridor Integrated Study Centre at Punjab University to highlight the golden opportunity for development of Pakistan through media and counter negative propaganda against the project.

Pakistan Observer (Islamabad), May 24, 2017

China, Pakistan to upgrade two-way railways

China and Pakistan have agreed to jointly upgrade the 1,600-kilometre railway line linking southern and northern Pakistan as part of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), an envoy said on 14 May 2017. "China and Pakistan have signed memorandums of understanding to increase the speed of the railway connecting Karachi and Peshawar, as well as upgrade its signal system and railway stations," Zafaruddin Mahmood, Pakistan's special envoy on CPEC told China Daily on the sidelines of the two-day 'Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation' in Beijing.

The News International (Rawalpindi), May 16, 2017



Chairman ISSI Amb Khalid Mahmood Participates at the SCO Moot in Tashkent

Chairman of the ISSI Ambassador Khalid Mahmood participated at the Forum of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) held at Tashkent, Uzbekistan, on 11-12 May 2017. The participants of the Forum included representatives of the SCO states, observers countries, the Secretariat and Executive Committee of the Regional Anti-terrorist Structure (RATS), diplomatic corps of dialogue

partners as well as representatives of other research centres of Russia, China, Kazakhstan, Belarus, Pakistan, and India. Chairman Mahmood made a statement on cooperation in the field of trade and economy, transport, and communication, investment, tourism, science, and techniques within the framework of SCO. He said that Pakistan looks forward to formally joining SCO as full member.



CPSC Establishes Links with Sichuan University

Dr Zhihui Song, Director, Pakistan Study Centre, Sichuan University, China, visited the China-Pakistan Study Centre on 19 May 2017 (CPSC) at ISSI and called on Ambassador Khalid Mahmood, Chairman ISSI. Dr Song expressed his desire establishing links between the CPSC and Pakistan Study Centre at the Sichuan University in China.

Dr Song also visited the Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI) on 20 May and many other chambers to explore business

opportunities regarding joint ventures and trade partnerships in construction, building materials, agriculture, transportation, furniture, and real estate.

The delegation included China Building Materials Circulation Association CEO Hi Hongwu, Chengdu Farmers Market Association Chairman Wang Shufeng, Chengdu Jiaye Real Estate Development Chairman Dai Desheng, and Rongli State Group General Manager Yang Shengli.

China and Pakistan sign US\$50 billion MoU earmarked for Indus River Cascade

China and Pakistan signed a US\$50 billion memorandum of understanding (MoU) on May 13 to develop and complete the Indus River Cascade, according to information from the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). The MoU was one of several signed related to improving and developing Pakistan's infrastructure.

HdroWorld.com, May 15, 2017

PM tells Chinese President about CPEC efforts

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif told Chinese President Xi Jinping on Saturday that extensive efforts were being made for the implementation of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) project. "The CPEC is a core component of your visionary initiative of the One-Belt-One-Road project. We sincerely appreciate your commitment and leadership for the realisation of CPEC projects," he said during a meeting with President Xi on the sidelines of the Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation.

Dawn (Karachi), May 14, 2017

Bank of China given license to operate in Pakistan by central bank

Pakistan's central bank has granted government-run Bank of China a license to operate in the country to ease the financial requirements of Chinese-led "Belt and Road" projects, the central bank said, "The Bank of China aims to provide differential and specialized banking services to effectively serve the financing needs of China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) related projects by leveraging on its experience and global technology platform," the central bank said in a statement. The statement outlined the Bank of China's ambitions to become one of Pakistan's leading financial institutions by opening branches in major cities across the country.

Reuters (London), May 13, 2017



Director CPSC Attends BRF in Beijing

On the invitation of the Communist Party of China (CPC) and Foreign Press of China, Dr Ahmad Rashid Malik, Director, China-Pakistan Study Centre (CPSC) participated at the Belt and Road Forum (BRF) for International Cooperation held in Beijing on 14-15 May 2017. Over 1,500 participants and 30 world's leaders attended the Forum to foster cooperation on connectivity under the Belt and Road initiative.

Comments By CPSC

'Pakistan: The Next Asian Tiger?',
Dr Ahmad Rashid Malik
The Diplomat (Tokyo),
May 31, 2017

'Responding to BRI Challenges',
Dr Ahmad Rashid Malik
The Nation, May 27, 2017

'Recapping Prime Minister's Visit to China',
Dr Ahmad Rashid Malik
Pakistan Today (Islamabad),
May 24, 2017

Interview: 'CPEC Is Transforming Pakistan's Economy',
Dr Ahmad Rashid Malik
China Pictorial (Beijing),
May 22, 2017

'Historic Belt and Road Forum',
Dr Ahmad Rashid Malik
The Nation (Islamabad),
May 9, 2017

'OBOR's Flagship',
Dr Ahmad Rashid Malik
The Nation (Islamabad),
May 12, 2017

'The South Korean Ballot',
Dr Ahmad Rashid Malik
Pakistan Today (Islamabad),
April 12, 2017

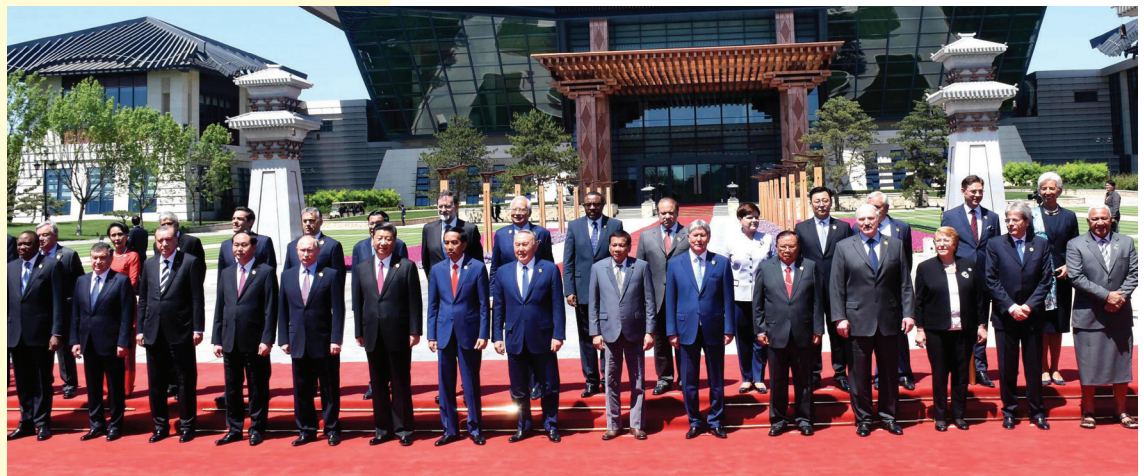
'The Xinjiang-Pakistan Connection',
Dr Ahmad Rashid Malik
Pakistan Today (Islamabad),
April 29, 2017



At least 29 heads of state and government attended the BRF on 14-15 May. Russian President Vladimir Putin, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres addressed the opening ceremony of the Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation in Beijing on 14 May. President Putin said that Russia salutes China's large scale initiative, which could help the country seize opportunities in the region. Given the country's geopolitical status, Russia is willing to cooperate with China in various sectors. Erdogan welcomed the B&R initiative and said the initiative connects Europe, Asia, Africa and even America to one another. Located at the crossroad of Asia and Europe, Turkey is an important country along the Belt and Road trade routes, he said. To Guterres, B&R Initiative expected to benefit all.



Workers install wires on a 'Golden Bridge of Silk Road' structure on a platform outside the National Convention Centre in Beijing



The Belt and Road Form for International Cooperation was organized in Beijing on 14-15 May 2017