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Editor

Dr Ahmad Rashid Malik

Contact:

The China-Pakistan Study Centre (CPSC)
Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad
Sector F-5/2 - Islamabad 44000

Email : cpssc@issi.org.pk

Tel : +92-51-9204423-4, 9214729

Web : www.issi.org.pk

CPEC to help enter Pakistan into Global Supply Chain: Ahsan



Federal Minister for Planning Ahsan Iqbal says that China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is an entry for Pakistan into the global supply chain. He was addressing inaugural session of the first Pakistan-China Forum on Higher

Education at Air University in Islamabad on 17 July. The event was jointly organised by the Higher Education Commission of Pakistan and Chinese Association of Higher Education.

The Minister said that the government is fully supportive of Higher Education Commission aimed at capacity building of existing higher education institutions to prepare suitable human resource for CPEC and to promote cultural harmony between the two countries. Ahsan Iqbal said these efforts will help build collaborative linkages and intellectual connectivity, which symbolise the spirit of CPEC. He also welcomed Chinese scholars to Pakistan, which he hoped will explore new avenues of mutual cooperation between the two countries.

Radio Pakistan (Islamabad), July 17, 2017
(Condensed)

Senior Chinese officials call on Ahsan Iqbal to discuss progress

A high-level Chinese delegation has arrived on a four-day visit to Pakistan to discuss industrial cooperation, implementation of Gwadar projects, and the up-gradation of railways' Main Line-1 under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

The delegation comprising senior officials from the National Development and Reform Commission, and the National Railway Administration, Chinese investors, and representatives of China's EXIM Bank

projects. On the occasion, the delegation head, Li Xuedong, Deputy Director General, Department of International Affairs, National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC) of China, said that all-out efforts would be made to ensure speedy completion of all projects under CPEC. He said that the Chinese government acknowledged the Pakistani government's measures and commitment to complete the CPEC project on time. He attributed the speedy work on CPEC projects to the active role of the Pakistani leadership,



and China Development Bank met with Federal Minister for Planning Ahsan Iqbal and discussed the latest progress of the

especially that of Ahsan Iqbal.

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Nepal, Kyrgyzstan, Tunisia, Czech, and Poland eager to Join the BRI



Nepal. Speakers at a seminar in Kathmandu on 21 July urged that more opportunities in multiple fields including trade, connectivity, physical infrastructure development, tourism and investment exist under the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) for Nepal. "I believe that our involvement in the China-proposed Belt and Road Initiative will greatly contribute to enhance socio-economic development of the country," former Home Minister of Nepal Shakti Basnet, said. Former Finance Minister of Nepal Surendra Pandey said that Nepal should chalk out strategies to reap benefits from the Belt and Road Initiative.

Kyrgyzstan. A delegation of China's Silk Road Fund arrived on 20 July at Kishkek for a meeting to discuss establishing a cooperation fund between Kyrgyzstan and China within the framework of the Belt and Road Initiative. Kyrgyzstan's first Vice Prime Minister Muhametkaly Abulgaziev stressed at the meeting the need to create a financial instrument of cooperation for both sides. Kyrgyzstan's location in Central Asia is key to implementing the Belt and Road Initiative, he said.

Tunisia. China will strengthen cooperation with Tunisia under the Belt and Road Initiative, Chinese Vice President Li Yuanchao said on 20 July. Li made the remarks while meeting with visiting Tunisian Foreign Minister Khemaies Jhinaoui. Hailing the two countries' traditional friendship, Li said China and Tunisia supported each other on issues of core interest and major concerns, coordinated in international and regional affairs, and witnessed remarkable achievements in cooperation. Li said Tunisia was welcome to the Belt and Road Initiative, and called on both sides to beef up pragmatic cooperation within other frameworks such as the China-Arab States Cooperation Forum and the Forum on the China-Africa Cooperation to elevate bilateral ties to a new high. Jhinaoui expressed the Tunisian side's willingness to participate in the Belt and Road development and boost cooperation in various areas.

Czech Republic. China and the Czech Republic would push forward cooperation under the

Belt and Road Initiative, senior Communist Party of China (CPC) official Liu Yunshan said on 18 July. Liu, a member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee, made the remarks while meeting with Czech Prime Minister Bohuslav Sobotka. Liu is paying an official goodwill visit to the Czech Republic. Noting that the Czech Republic was one of the earliest countries recognising and establishing diplomatic relations with the People's Republic of China, Liu hailed the two countries' increasingly closer high-level communication and strengthened political mutual trust. Under the guidance of Chinese President Xi Jinping and his Czech counterpart Milos Zeman, China's relations with the Czech Republic are better than they have ever been, Liu said, adding that people from both sides have been deeply inspired.

Poland. China and Poland should seize the new opportunities arising from the Belt and Road Initiative and "China-CEE 16+1 mechanism" to deepen mutually-beneficial cooperation, China's top legislator Zhang Dejiang has said. Zhang, Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress (NPC), paid an official friendly visit to Poland between July 12 and July 16, during which he met with Polish President Andrzej Duda, Prime Minister Beata Szydlo and parliamentary leaders.

During his meeting with Duda, Zhang said that traditional friendship between the two peoples is consolidated. In the past two years, Chinese President Xi Jinping and Duda exchanged visits and the two nations work to build a comprehensive strategic partnership, which opens a new chapter in the Sino-Polish relations, Zhang said. China, Zhang said, attaches great importance to developing relations with Poland and regards Poland as an important cooperation partner in the Central and Eastern Europe (CEE) and the European Union (EU).

Report by Dr Ahmad Rashid Malik / Xinhua (Beijing)

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On the occasion, the planning minister said that the mega project of CPEC has entered into important phase after the start of industrial cooperation between the two countries. Due to CPEC, various hurdles, such as weak infrastructure and energy crisis in the way of industrial cooperation were being removed, he maintained.

He said that the industrial cooperation would prove as a milestone in the promotion of local industries and transfer of Chinese industry to Pakistan. He said that the industrial cooperation would help to boost employment opportunities and to enhance skill and experience among educated youth of the country. He said the speedy completion of Sahiwal Coal-fired power project under CPEC was a great example of the active role of the government. He said special measures were being taken to enhance work speed on various Gwadar projects including Gwadar Hospital, Technical Institute, Gwadar Eastbay Expressway and New Gwadar Airport. He said that Gwadar Master Plan would be finalised soon to make the city according to the international standard port city.

Ahsan informed the delegation that under CPEC, 50 universities of the two countries would be inter-connected and work was in progress in this regard. He said that the CPEC project, which was launched with just MoU in 2013 has become one of the most important projects of the world now. He hoped that the visit would prove as a step to ensure commencement of a number of mega projects under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, transforming this multi-billion dollars initiative into a true economic corridor.

Pakistan Today (Islamabad), July 12, 2017 & <http://cpec.gov.pk/news/61>.

CPEC should be smuggling-free

The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor must be made a 'smuggling-free corridor' and must not fall to illegal imports and under-invoicing as observed under the Afghan Transit Trade route, Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI) President Raja Amer Iqbal. He was speaking at a conference on the CPEC project organised by the RCCI. The event had representation from chambers of commerce from all over the country as well as traders community. "We demand a strong security system to monitor exchange of goods via the CPEC route. We want CPEC to be smuggling free," he emphasized. "We urge the government to focus on the fourth part of the CPEC plan which is the Industrial Zones Development," he said. However, the agreements must follow the law of the land and benefit Pakistani traders, investors, and industrialists, he stressed.

Dawn (Islamabad), July 21, 2017

CPEC investments to help close Pakistan's power deficit, boost GDP: IMF

International Monetary Fund (IMF) has said that the investments under China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) can help close Pakistan's power deficit, significantly improve its fuel mix, and boost Gross Domestic Product (GDP) by adding \$13 billion in 7 years. "The planned expansion of energy sector capacity could eliminate Pakistan's 6GW generation capacity gap in 2016 as early as end-2018", IMF said in its latest report on "Pakistan: Staff report for the 2017 article IV consultation." It said that in the process, Pakistan's excessive reliance on furnace oil would be significantly reduced and impact on GDP will likely come in three stages: construction, power generation, and-over time-second-round effects on broader economic activity due to increased productivity, lower costs, and improved trade connectivity. The first two stages (direct contribution) could add about \$13 billion to Pakistan's GDP in the next seven years (4.7 per cent of FY 2015/16 GDP). Second-round effects will likely accrue gradually and could lead to a significant contribution in the long

run, depending on various other supportive factors.

The report however, proposed that realising the transformational potential of Pakistan's investment program while maintaining external stability will require supportive policy action. Building up foreign exchange reserves will be important to cushion the period of increased BoP outflows. Strong and sustained reform efforts aimed at raising exports by improving competitiveness and the business climate will be critical to maintain long-term external sustainability. Bringing the power distribution sector to full cost recovery will help secure the long-term sustainability of the energy projects. Furthermore, containing fiscal costs by limiting tax exemptions, maintaining a supportive environment for all investments, and a gradual phasing in of new external commitments will help maintain macroeconomic stability and strengthen growth sustainability, added the report.

The Nation (Islamabad), July 15, 2017

CPEC is driving force for economic growth, prosperity

The Board of Investment (BOI) has said the development in trade and industry is main gain from China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) as a driving force for economic growth and prosperity in the country. Industrial cooperation is the main component of CPEC, on which the sustainability of whole CPEC project is dependent, said in statement issued by BOI on 28 July.

Additional Secretary of BOI, Shah Jahan Shah said in addressing to consultative Session on CPEC Challenges and Opportunities was held at Karachi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KCCI) jointly organised by BOI and Ministry of Planning Development and Reform with KCCI. He said the role of private sector is more crucial and important in this phase of CPEC. Shah Jahan expressed the view that transparency is very much there and government is committed to facilitate the private sector in their endeavours. Whatever information is available is being shared with the private sector rather private sector is a part and parcel of each such initiative, he added. In his welcome remarks, President, Karachi Chamber of Commerce and Industry

(KCCI) Shamim Ahmed Firpo stated that China Pakistan Economic Corridor is gaining the attention of entire world. He said it is not a game changer rather it has changed the game and this is reflected from the fact that now almost all prominent hotels in Karachi are occupied 100%. CPEC would also bring a revolution in physical infrastructure, energy and human resources, he added. He said that CPEC would also help Pakistan in technological advancement and with a great infrastructure it would improve connectivity. Mr. Firpo said that CPEC has the capacity to accelerate the local economy by increasing the demand for locally-manufactured goods.

President KCCI said that CPEC will generate much needed employment opportunities, and will also contribute a sizeable amount of revenue to the national exchequer as well as transfer of technology, he added. He was of the view that there is a need to bring more transparency in all affairs of CPEC to reduce the apprehensions in the private sector of Pakistan.

Business Recorder (Karachi), July 28, 2017

CPEC to Change Destiny of Country: Zehri

Balochistan Chief Minister Nawab Sanaullah Khan Zehri has said China-Pakistan Economic Corridor would change the destiny of the country. Talking to a delegation of Karakh area of District Khuzdar in Quetta, he said the CPEC would bring countless benefits for the province in terms of development. He said the provincial government is laying

a road network across Balochistan, which would bring prosperity in the area. The Chief Minister said all available resources are being utilised for resolving the problems being faced by the people of the far flung areas of the province.

Radio Pakistan (Islamabad), July 29, 2017

Pakistan starts reaping CPEC benefits

Pakistan is beginning to reap the benefits of Chinese investment in renewable energy infrastructure, with the opening of the first wind power project constructed as part of the huge China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), aimed at overhauling the country's transport and energy systems. The nearly 50 megawatt wind farm is located on over 680 acres of land in Jhimpir, near the shores of the picturesque Keenjhar Lake, around two hours' drive from the city of Karachi. Jhimpir is part of the so-called "Gharo-Jhimpir wind corridor" in Sindh province, a 180 km (110 mile) stretch of coastal land that the Pakistan Meteorological Department says has the potential to produce 11,000 MW of electricity through wind power.

The corridor is home to Pakistan's earliest wind project, which began in 2009 with just a few turbines and was upgraded to an installed capacity of 56 MW by 2012. The new wind farm, which opened last month, has been developed by Sachal Energy Development, with financing from the Industrial and Commercial Bank of China.

Pakistan and China have signed around \$57 billion of energy and infrastructure projects under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). Most of this investment is going towards coal-fired power plants, fuelled both by imported coal and by coal mines in Pakistan's Thar Desert. The CPEC projects aim to boost energy production in Pakistan to reduce shortages that lead to regular power outages.

The Peninsula (Qatar), Jul 18, 2017

(Condensed)

Pakistan resurfacing as an emerging market: SBC

Pakistan once again is surfacing as an emerging market for the foreign investors. The GDP growth of over 5 percent, growing consumer market driven by the growing middle class, functional democratic institutions in the country and substantial improvements in the security situation of the country are all positive economic indicators.

The economic horizon of the country is further brightened with the successful launch of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) whose positive effects are now surfacing on ground. In a positive development, the CPEC is beginning to be recognized by global investors as an initiative of good value to all investors who opt to derive business benefits out of it. It is a major shift from the earlier perception that CPEC is China-Pakistan centric and tends to isolate Pakistan from the radar of other global investors.

The Swiss Business Council (SBC) Pakistan in collaboration with the Swiss Embassy and Consulate General in Pakistan and its business associates in Switzerland took up the initiative to project these positive developments to global investors and in particular to market CPEC as a project of global value.

The News International (Islamabad), July 22, 2017 (Condensed)

Iran seeks Quetta-Taftan train section in CPEC



Iran has said that being an important section in Islamabad-Tehran-Istanbul (ITI) Container Train Corridor, Quetta-Taftan railway line must be given extra attention by Pakistan, a statement said on July 14. "It should also be given priority in China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) project.

Moreover, all the technical and mechanical issues of this section must be resolved as soon as possible," Majid Arjooni, D.G South East Railway Company of Iran, demanded during a meeting with Parveen Agha, Federal Secretary, Ministry of Railways, at her office. "Iran has also reduced the trans-shipment cost for ITI freight train at its Zahedan station. The newly proposed rates for loaded and empty containers have been set at 30 euros and 10 euros respectively."

Arjooni, who is leading a high-level Iranian delegation to Pakistan, also urged the government of Pakistan to ensure the doors of container train were sealed instead of welded. The total length of track from Quetta to Zahedan is 732 km with the last 100 km section being inside Iran.

Earlier, the 9th High Level Working Group Meeting of the ECO ITI Container Train expressed satisfaction on a resolution by Afghanistan to cooperate in ITI freight Train project. The meeting was attended by delegates from Iran, Turkey, Afghanistan, IDB and ECO secretariat. The Islamabad-Tehran-Istanbul journey is 6,566 km with 1,900 km in Pakistan, 2,570 km in Iran, and 2,036 km in Turkey.

The freight train would carry textile products, cotton, medical hand tools, furniture, sporting goods, fruits and edible products westbound, with machinery and parts, chemical products, paper and paper products, cars spares and agricultural tools going eastbound.

At the moment of the launch, trade between the three countries amounted to \$1 billion and the officials of the railways estimate a significant growth in trade with the solution of all problems related to regulations and facility of integrated traffic.

The News International (Rawalpindi),
July 15, 2017

CPEC has emerged as a successful development model: Mushahid

Senator and Chairman Pak-China Institute Mushahid Hussain Syed said on 17 July that China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) has emerged as a successful development model for the world and the projects completed under it have started bearing fruits. Talking to APP, he said that the CPEC projects would play a crucial role in development of the country.

To a question, he said that Chinese engineers and workers performing their duties in Pakistan are being protected and taken care of in the best way, and CPEC would play a prominent role in further strengthening of Pakistan-China friendship. He said that Pakistan and China were strategic partners in the journey of progress and prosperity and increasing cooperation between the two countries was an example for the world nations. He said that CPEC was a flagship project of One Belt One Road and Chinese government attached great importance to the project.

Mushahid said that implementation of CPEC-associated projects would also materialise the dream of governments and the peoples of



both countries would benefit from these projects. He said that leadership of Pakistan and China had written a new chapter in the world history. He said that leadership of Pakistan and China and officials of all departments concerned were working as a team. He said that the project was being completed in a record period of time through round-the-clock work on the sites. He said that Pakistan-China friendship was touching new heights and the fruits of the friendship were reaching the people through CPEC. The relations of two countries would further strengthen in future, he added.

Business Recorder (Islamabad), July 17, 2017

The Glorious Metro Orange Line



Pakistan is entering into the new phase of daily public commuters' service as its first intra-city 27 trains will arrive from China by the end of this month to Lahore. This will hail the era of sub-way in Pakistan. The Punjab government is building the first mass transit system in its busiest city of Lahore.

Chinese company will provide a total of 53 trains to operate on a track of 26 km with 26 substations. The project costs US\$ 1.6 billion. The Punjab government signed the agreement with the China Railway Corporation and China North Industries Corporation for this purpose in May 2015 and the project was brought under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). The air-conditioned energy saving train coaches are produced by China's CRRC Zhuzhou Locomotive

Co Ltd. The Orange Metro Line Lahore is built in accordance with the same quality requirements for high-speed railway linking Beijing and Shanghai. The train will take a load of 250,000 commuters per day at least.

The legal mitigation delayed the project accusing of damaging cultural heritage challenged in the Lahore High Court. The ruling is reserved by the court. The project is nearly 77 percent complete. The Orange Metro Line will reduce the level of pollution in the city as millions of vehicles will lay off. The new experience will bring Pakistan and China closer in sharing the sub-way technology and transform daily commuter sub-ways service in Pakistan.

Report by Dr Ahmad Rashid Malik

The Belt and Road Initiative in the Current Trade and Integration Context

The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) has resonated at the World Trade Organization (WTO) in Geneva. A roundtable focusing on the "One belt One Road" (OBOR) initiative of China was jointly organized by the International Centre for Trade and Sustainable Development (ICTSD) and Chinese Centre for International Economic Exchange (CCIEE) for ambassadors, delegates and trade experts at WTO on 21 July.

It is considered a part of Chinese global economic diplomacy. "The CPEC epitomizes South-South trade and investment at its best. It is providing stimulus to a deep regional economic integration and creating a trading block of three billion people - nearly half of the planet, which include half of world's extreme poor.

The deepening of economic integration will lower trade costs, essential for ending poverty" Pakistan's Ambassador to WTO Dr Syed Tauqir Shah said while speaking at a Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).

CCIEE Chief Economist Ms Wenling Chen, who was keynote speaker, showcased the CPEC as key example of what BRI stood for and frequently referred to the game-changer while explaining BRI to participants of the roundtable.

She cited CPEC as an excellent example of intergovernmental coordination. She also highlighted the role of OBOR in global economic integration, explained the driving forces and objectives of BRI, underlined the interaction and mutual support between BRI and other components of global trade governance and how BRI can strengthen and guard multilateral trading system. Ms

Wenling Chen said BRI is for cooperation, peace, and mutual benefit of all the 60 plus countries involved in this initiative. She said OBOR is about connectivity, quality intra-governmental coordination, infrastructure development, trade, investment, global supply chains, financial integration and ultimately for elimination of poverty and development of whole region.

While commenting on BRI, Dr Shah gave Pakistan's perspective on the CPEC as an early harvest component of BRI. He said OBOR is immensely important for the global economy and critically significant for Pakistan.

"The CPEC, a US \$54 billion initiative, has all the vital elements of economic development like - transport, highways, railways, ports, urban metro, industrial parks, information technology, last but not the least energy - considerable part of this is renewable energy." The ambassador said the CPEC is proving to be a game-changer for Pakistan and the region, and will be a bridge between three engines of growth, - China, South Asia and Central Asia. While highlighting economic significance of CPEC for Pakistan, he said the country had a four to five thousand MW energy deficit in 2013, which is 25% of its total generation capacity; and it was costing us 2% of GDP growth.

"This development deficit needed an initiative of "Big Bang Scale", like - CPEC. It is a set of 55 projects - 75% of funding is for providing 17000 MW of energy, over next ten years. This includes solar, hydro and Wind energy projects, many of these being foreign direct investment of Chinese private sector." He said the CPEC has created opportunities for everyone. The solar and wind energy



projects have wind turbines and other components from Europe. "Our solar projects have consultants for quality assurance from Germany. During 2016, exports from Europe to Pakistan increased by more than 20%, from US \$4.2 billion to \$5.2 billion, primarily due to increased economic activity resulting from infrastructure development through CPEC."

Citing another example to show the impact of CPEC on economy, he said that spurred by the CPEC infrastructure projects, Pakistan's cement industry is expected to increase its capacity by 56 % to 70 million tons in next five years; Pakistan's cement sector profitability grew 17pc in December last one year on account of higher domestic demand - credit to the construction sector as of December 2016, increased by 26 percent. The ambassador said the speedy implementation of the CPEC and the economic stimulus brought about by it has led to increase in demand of cement across Pakistan. Majority of existing cement plants in Pakistan are expanding, and licenses to set up 10 new plants has been given to foreign investors—mostly foreign direct investment.

He said that the hallmark of the CPEC is the north south highway and rail link, designed to link Arabian Gulf coast of Pakistan at Gwadar in south, to north western Chinese region of Xinjiang and Kasghar, thus reducing the distance of China's northwest from Arabian Gulf from 14000 km to 2500 km, transforming the trade cost for whole region. "We firmly believe the CPEC will result in increase in trade, investment and financial flows, bringing peace and prosperity to the region and even beyond."

The News International (Islamabad), July 25, 2017

The ISSI-IPIS Dialogue



Amb Khalid Mahmood, Chairman, ISSI, accompanied by three researchers, held a bilateral dialogue with the Tehran-based Institute of Political and International Studies (IPI) on 24 July.

Both sides discussed Pakistan-Iran relations, impact of regional and international developments on their relations and to remove barriers to improve their relations.

Bullet Railway Linking Changchun-Baicheng-Ulanhot in Test Operation



An inter-city bullet train is seen on the railway linking Changchun, Baicheng, both in northeast China's Jilin province, and Ulanhot in north China's Inner Mongolia autonomous region, on July 13, 2017. The 412-km-long railway is now in a test.

China Daily (Beijing), July 28, 2017

China builds world's largest database of deep-sea bacteria



China has built the world's largest database of deep-sea bacteria amid the country's increasing efforts to promote oceanic study and conservation. China has successfully split nearly 10,000 microbes and built the country's first collection of deep-sea bacteria, which carries 22,000 microbes and covers more than 3,400 species, Sun Shuxian, deputy director of the State Oceanic Administration (SOA), said.

It is also the world's largest collection of deep-sea bacteria, Bai Shan, an official from the China Ocean Mineral Resource R&D Association. The

government attaches great importance to deep-sea exploration, which is also receiving more and more attention from the general public, Bai added. The collection provides a database for scientific research, primarily in marine biodiversity and evolution, and can also assist with the search for new compounds, which can be used in medical research, said Shao Zongze, Director of SOA's Laboratory of Marine Genetic Resources.

The People's Daily Online (Beijing), July 24, 2017 (Condensed)

IMF upgrades China's growth forecast for 2017 to 6.7 percent

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) further upgraded China's economic growth outlook in 2017 to 6.7 percent, leaving the country on track to meet its growth target of "around 6.5 percent.

The People's Daily Online (Beijing), July 24, 2017

China is developing facial recognition tech to allow police to predict crimes before they happen

The future is officially here. We've known it's been coming for a while, but Chinese companies which develop facial recognition technology are the heralds of its arrival.

These companies are developing new systems which analyse various personal traits such as hair colour, skin tone, and the dimensions of facial features to identify individuals. So far, we've seen this sort of tech be used for identification in a variety of settings, including, but not limited to: unmanned convenience stores, fast food restaurants, ATMs and airport security.

Despite the fact that facial recognition technology appears to be invading all aspects of the urban lifestyle, the largest consumer, and the customer with the deepest pockets, is the Chinese government.

China is often competing neck-and-neck with western companies to produce the most advanced products possible. But in this case, the Chinese tech industry has a leg up.

Shanghaiist.com, July 25, 2017 (condensed)



3 New NHA Projects Included in CPEC

The National Assembly Standing Committee on Communications was informed that three new projects of National Highways Authority (NHA) have been included in the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, out of which two will be constructed in Balochistan and the third will be constructed in the area of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. The committee was told that M-9 from Karachi to Hyderabad will be formally opened for public on 14th of August, 2017. Whereas construction of Motorway from Hyderabad to Sukkar is also going to start, as the contract has been awarded and the process of land acquisition is in the progress. On the other hand, work on Multan-Sukkar Section of Motorway is already in progress. The committee was informed that NHA has also started to concentrate on dualisation of Indus Highway.

The meeting was informed that Indus Highway is shorter road link between Peshawar and Karachi. In this connection from Northern Bypass, Peshawar to Dara Adam Khail, 35km road is going to be dual and constructed with the help of Asian Development Bank. Similarly, the road from Kohat to Saraye Gambila will also be made dual as the Prime Minister has given its approval. The committee was informed that Motorway and Grand Trunk Road are on the left side of Indus River, so, strategically there was a need to have a road on the right bank of Indus river. Holding that National Highways are essential for national connectivity, the NHA officials told the meeting that Rs1200 billion are being spent on the road infrastructure in the country.

The Nation (Islamabad), July 27, 2017.
(Condensed)

Wang Yi Meets with Chief of Army Staff Qamar Javed Bajwa

Foreign Minister Wang Yi met with Chief of Army Staff Qamar Javed Bajwa in Islamabad on 25 June 2017. Wang Yi said that Pakistan's army plays a critically important role in the country's national process and is a firm supporter to China-Pakistan friendship. It is hoped that Pakistan's military can make new efforts to defend national interests, safeguard regional stability and enhance bilateral strategic cooperation. The Chinese side appreciates Pakistan for its great contributions and national sacrifice to the cause of international anti-terrorism, thanks Pakistan for its firm support to fight against the East Turkistan Islamic Movement (ETIM), and will continue to firmly stand together with Pakistan on issues concerning the country's core interests.

Wang Yi expressed that my visits to Pakistan and Afghanistan at invitation this time are mainly to, at the request of both sides, mediate to improve Pakistan-Afghanistan relations and push forward Afghanistan's political reconciliation. Through friendly consultation, the three parties have reached a common stance and issued press communiqué, sending out positive and affirmative signals. One of the core contents of the press communiqué is that Pakistan and Afghanistan should set up a crisis management mechanism to exchange information in time, re-establish mutual trust and enhance crisis management, which is an important step for Pakistan and Afghanistan to improve relations. China appreciates the two countries' open and inclusive manner. It is hoped that Pakistan and Afghanistan could reach an agreement on specific operational details of the mechanism at an early date, and earnestly implement various contents of the

communiqué.



Qamar Javed Bajwa said that Pakistan and China are all-weather strategic cooperative partners. The Pakistani military commits to the endeavour of international anti-terrorism, does not allow any terrorist organisations to conduct terrorist attacks in Pakistan's territory, and will continue to firmly fight against the violent terrorist forces of the ETIM. The Pakistani military thanks China's efforts in mediating and improving Pakistan-Afghanistan relations, supports the press communiqué reached by the three parties, and believes it not only conforms to the interests of various parties, but also is conducive to maintaining local peace and stability. Pakistan supports Afghanistan's domestic reconciliation process, and thinks that stakeholders in the region should reach consensus on this and persistently advance it.

Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs, (Beijing), 25 June 2017 (News repeated with correct photo)

Forty Pakistani teachers leave for Chinese language training to Beijing

A group of 40 Pakistani teachers left for Beijing on 23 July to get training on how to impart the Chinese language efficiently under the 2017 International Chinese Language Teacher Training Program sponsored by the Chinese government.

A special see-off ceremony for the teachers was

held at the Chinese embassy in the Pakistani capital of Islamabad, which was attended by Zhao Lijian, Chargé D'affaires of the Chinese Embassy, Arshad Ali, Executive Director of Pakistan's Higher Education Commission of Pakistan and teachers. On the occasion, Chargé d'Affaires Zhao said "language is a

bridge among different cultures, a bridge to bring our hearts closer to each other. If you could master the Chinese language, you will get a better understanding of the essence of the Chinese culture and the way of thinking, thus you can better communicate and work with Chinese friends."



Zhao appreciated Pakistani teachers for bearing greater responsibilities to teach young students about China and China-Pakistan friendship. Since the start of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, Pakistani people especially youngsters have been more eager to learn the Chinese language than ever before.

Currently, four Confucius Institutes have been working in different areas of Pakistan to impart the Chinese language to students from all walks of life.

Xinhua (Beijing), July 24, 2017 (Condensed)

Xi: BRICS Ready for Closer Ties

The BRICS cooperation will usher in its second “golden decade” as long as the five members make joint efforts for closer ties with the spirit of openness, inclusiveness, cooperation and win-win, President Xi Jinping said on 28 July. Xi made the remarks while meeting at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing with heads of the delegations for the 7th Meeting of BRICS High Representatives for Security Issues. During the two-day meeting, which ended on Friday, the five countries - Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa reached consensus on many things, according to the Chinese Foreign Ministry. South Africa’s Minister of State Security David Mahlobo, Minister Sergio Etchegoyen of the Office of Institutional Security of the Presidency of Brazil, Security Council Secretary Nikolai Patrushev of the Russian Federation and National Security Advisor Ajit Doval of India attended the meeting. State Councilor Yang Jiechi hosted it.

The president offered his congratulations on the success of the meeting, saying it has made important political preparation for the BRICS summit to be held in Xiamen, Fujian province, from September 3 to 5. Given the common wishes of BRICS peoples to boost exchanges and communication, the five countries should push forward economic and financial cooperation, people-to-people exchanges and security coordination at the same time, Xi said, adding that only through such efforts will BRICS cooperation last long and remain stable. China calls for joint efforts of the international community to push the global economy onto the path of sustainable development, promote economic globalization to develop in a fair, inclusive and sustainable direction, and resolve global issues including terrorism through development, Xi said. The BRICS countries work together for common interests and goals, he added.

Noting that BRICS cooperation has existed for 10 years, Xi said the cooperation has crossed the longest geographic distance of the world,



crossed different development paths and social systems, and gathered the five countries’ resolution and moves to seek stability, development and improvement of people’s livelihood. The enhanced cooperation among BRICS members has not only maintained and expanded the five countries’ interests, but has also provided meaningful exploration of the establishment of a new type of international relations, Xi said. The senior officials of the

BRICS countries extended their state leaders’ sincere wishes to the Chinese president. They expressed the willingness of enhancing BRICS cooperation to deal with such challenges as anti-globalization and terrorism in economic and security areas, and to expand the influence of BRICS countries in international affairs.

An Baijie, China Daily (Beijing), July 29, 2017

China holds grand gala for PLA 90th birthday celebration



A grand gala was held in Beijing on July 28 evening in celebration of the 90th birthday of the Chinese People’s Liberation Army (PLA). Xi Jinping, general secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee, state president and chairman of the Central

Military Commission, and other senior leaders Li Keqiang, Zhang Dejiang, Yu Zhengsheng, Liu Yunshan, Wang Qishan and Zhang Gaoli joined about 3,000 people to watch the gala at the Great Hall of the People. August 1 this year marks the 90th anniversary of the founding of the Chinese armed forces.

Through singing, dancing and chorus, the gala depicted the history of the PLA, from a small and vulnerable army to a large and strong military force. The performance showed solid achievements of the PLA on its path to a strong army under the leadership of the CPC Central Committee with Comrade Xi Jinping at its core since the 18th CPC National Congress. The gala also demonstrated the determination of the PLA to become a world-class army, for the realisation of the country’s “two centenary goals” and the Chinese dream of national rejuvenation. Shortly before the show began, Xi and other senior leaders met with representatives of veterans, retired comrades and military officers honored with the Order of Bayi, the country’s highest military award.

China Daily (Beijing), July 29, 2017

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