



Chashma Power Plant IV Inaugurated



Prime Minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi inaugurated the Chashma-VI, 340 mw nuclear power plant, at the Chashma Nuclear Complex in the Mianwali District on 8 September. This is the second nuclear power plant inaugurated under the series Early Harvest Program (EHP) of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). The project was completed with assistance from the Chinese Government. Chashma I, II, and III are already assisted by the Government of China. Chashma I started

complex generation reaching 1,315 mw. The Karachi-Coastal -I and II will generate 2,200 mw of electricity that will be completed by 2020 and 2021 respectively. The Chashma-V will produce 1000 mw of electricity that will link to the national grid by 2020. The Muzaffargarh nuclear power plant will 1000 mw of electricity and will be completed by 2020. The total nuclear generation will reach 4,947 mw by 2021. The Government of Pakistan plans to end the decade-long load-shedding by November this year. The Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission (PAEC) is pursuing its vision of nuclear technology for peaceful purposes and China is closely collaborating and the CPEC energy projects are rapidly increasing energy generation. Prime Minister Abbasi thanked the Chinese Government, China EXIM Bank, and people for their continued support to increase the power capacity of electricity and generous grant of technical and financial support. All nuclear power plants are under the guidelines of the International Atomic Energy Commission (IAEA). These nuclear power plants are environment-friendly and economical.

Report by Dr Ahmad Rashid Malik

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Pakistan's Nuclear Generation Capacity

No	Plant	Capacity
1	Chashma-I	325 MW
2	Chashma-II	325 MW
3	Chashma-III	325 MW
4	Chashma-VI	340 MW
5	KANUPP	132 MW
Sub-Total Nuclear Generation		1,447
Future Nuclear Plants		
6	Chashma-V	340 MW
7	Karachi Coastal-I	1,100 MW
8	Karachi Coastal-II	1,100 MW
9	Muzaffargarh Nuclear Plant	1000 MW
Sub-Total Nuclear Generation		3,540
Grand Total Nuclear Generation		4,947

its operation in 2000, while Chashma-II commenced in 2011 and Chashma-III began its operation in January 2016. Now all four Chashma nuclear power plants generate 975 mw of electricity. The KANUPP produces 132 mw of electricity. The present total nuclear generation reaches 1,107 mw with Chashma

Higher than Himalayas: Foreign Minister Khawaja Muhammad Asif Visits Beijing

Foreign Minister Khawaja Muhammad Asif accompanied by Nasir Janjua, National Security Adviser and Tehmina Janjua, Foreign Secretary, made a visit to the People's Republic of China on 8 September and met with Chinese counterpart Wang Yi. Islamabad and Beijing reiterated their firm resolved to work together to safeguard stability in the region. A trilateral meeting between the foreign ministers of Pakistan, China, and Afghanistan will be held sometime this year focusing on strategic communication,

practical cooperation, and security dialogue. Wang said that China attaches great importance to relations with Pakistan and Afghanistan, and actively helps the two countries to narrow down differences and enhance mutual trust. China is also exploring opportunities to develop cooperation among the three countries, he added. Addressing a press conference along with his Pakistani counterpart at Beijing, Wang said that Pakistani people, government and the armed

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forces rendered unprecedented sacrifices against terrorism. He said that Pakistan and China stand together amid changing regional and international situation. He also welcomed Pakistan's efforts for peace in Afghanistan and expressed Beijing's desire for better relations between Pakistan and Afghanistan. The relationship between China and Pakistan remain rock firm and unbreakable, Wang said, adding that China will continue to play its role in Pakistan's progress and development. Reciprocating, Khawaja Asif said the relations between China and Pakistan are exemplary and are based on history, mutual

trust, equality, harmony, non-interference and common agenda of socioeconomic development. Earlier, China pledged its support for Pakistan's efforts against terrorism as foreign ministers of both the countries discussed regional and international situation. During the meeting, Wang said China and Pakistan are all-weather strategic cooperative partners, and China supports Pakistan's efforts to uphold sovereignty, fight terrorism and safeguard national security.

The Asif-Wang parleys were considered crucial after the US President Donald Trump's policy on Afghanistan and South Asia in which he criticised Islamabad for war against terrorism. Foreign Minister Khawaja also visited Turkey on 10 September and Iran on 11 September to seek their support for Pakistan against war on terror. These countries acknowledged Pakistan's sacrifices and its counter-terrorism measures. Unlike the United States, these countries believed that there is no military solution to crisis in Afghanistan and the issue should be resolved politically and through an Afghan-led resolution, while Foreign Minister Khawaja Asif was speaking to Radio Pakistan.

Report by Dr Ahmad Rashid Malik

China supports Pakistan on vital issues: Mushahid Hussain



Chairman of Senate Committee on Foreign Affairs Mushahid Hussain Syed said that China had always supported Pakistan at international forums on issues of economy and security. Talking to APP, he said it was a wrong impression that India has started to dominate the relationship of Pakistan and China. Mushahid, who is also chairman of CPEC committee, said the same things stated in BRICS conference were expressed a year before in Heart of Asia Conference in December 2016. Pakistan and China participated in that conference in Amritsar, he said adding the names of organisations taken in the BRIC conference were not owned by Pakistan.

He said Pakistan also had the same viewpoint which was expressed by China during the

conference. Foreign Offices of Pakistan and China were in touch about their stance, he added. Pakistan and China had complete coordination on the issue of terrorism and both sides had a forceful opinion, he added. He said friendship of Pakistan and China was higher than Himalayas, sweeter than honey and with the passage of time, it would become more strong. China had always supported Pakistan on the issues of Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG) and on the forum of United Nations, he added. Mushahid said India wanted to isolate Pakistan but it failed in its efforts due to deep relation and cooperation between Pakistan and China.

He said Donald Trump made the statement relating to Pakistan on August 21 while China held a high level conference on May 14 and India refused to take part in it. India even said that it would oppose the One Belt One Road initiative, he mentioned. He said after the statement of US President Donald Trump there was greater harmony among Pakistani parliament, government and the armed forces. Mushahid said now Pakistan was saying that United States should do more, adding Pakistan got the project of CPEC at a time when some people were saying that Pakistan stood isolated in the world. He said President of China came to Pakistan in April 2015 and expressed confidence in Pakistan and signed 51 projects worth \$ 46 billion, which was a great step for the future of Pakistan.

Business Recorder (Islamabad),
September 12, 2017

CPEC Projects Entered Early Harvest Stage



Chinese Ambassador in Pakistan Sun Weidong has said the flagship project of the Belt and Road Initiative, China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), has entered the 'early harvest' stage." At present, 19 projects are under construction or have been completed with a total investment of \$18.5 billion. The corridor projects have directly created nearly 20,000 local jobs, most of those for the youth. Chinese enterprises working on CPEC always lay emphasis on training of the youth and have sponsored many young graduates for study in China," he told the participants of the Annual Sangam Club Gala, 2017 held at the Chinese Embassy Islamabad.

"At least 14 pairs of friendly provinces or cities have been established. There were around 18,000 Pakistani students studying in China last year. The number of Pakistani students enjoying Chinese government scholarships is 5,081, ranking first in the world," he added. Sun Weidong said that the Sangam Club since its launch last year has arranged trip to China for more than 200 people, including teachers, students, medical staffs and journalists. "Along with the progress of bilateral cooperation in various fields between the two countries, more and more Pakistani friends are visiting China. We always welcome Pakistani friends to China. The Chinese embassy will implement a series of facilitation measures to provide quality and efficient visa services," he said. "Sangam is not a club. We are one family. The Chinese Embassy is your second home. Come again and enjoy yourself," he said, adding Sangam Club is a new leaf added to Pakistan-China friendship that would go a long way in further cementing the people-to-people contacts between the two iron brothers.

Daily Times (Lahore), (September 11, 2017
(Abridged)

Tajikistan can benefit from CPEC

President Mamnoon Hussain said Pakistan offered excellent opportunities to Tajikistan for its imports and exports through the Gwadar port and invited the country to benefit from the trade route of the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). The president, in a meeting with Tajikistan's President Emomali Rahmon, hoped that the legal process for Tajikistan's entry into Quadrilateral Traffic-in-Transit Agreement (QTTA) would provide the Central Asian country a legal framework to access Pakistani seaports through CPEC. The QTTA is a transit trade deal between China, Pakistan, Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan with a road project under the umbrella of CPEC. The two leaders, who met here in the Turkmenistan's capital on the sidelines of the 5th Asian Indoor and Martial Arts Games (AIMAG), discussed cooperation in energy sector, regional connectivity and trade.

The president said: "Pakistan attaches great priority to the timely completion of CASA-1000 (Central Asia South Asia) by 2018 and looks forward to importing electricity from Tajikistan." He called for expediting the implementation phase of CASA-1000 and initiating physical

work on the flagship project for its timely completion. "Pakistan attaches great importance to its relations with the Central Asian countries, particularly Tajikistan, as the two countries enjoy fraternal ties, share common goals of peace and prosperity for their people and the region as a whole." He stressed the need to finalise the Bilateral Transit Trade Agreement which, he said, would create a 'win-win situation' by creating road links between Pakistan and Tajikistan.

"Bilateral trade between Pakistan and Tajikistan is the highest among the Central Asian countries," emphasising the need to tap its true potential. The president mentioned that three Pakistani trade exhibitions had been organised in Dushanbe since October 2015, in addition to holding of two business forums, the latest one in May 2017. The president apprised his Tajik counterpart that Pakistan was holding the 10th edition of the Expo Pakistan this November and suggested that Tajikistan could send a trade delegation to Expo Pakistan, to which President Emomali Rahmon agreed. He said that Tajikistan was a gateway to Central Asian countries and emphasised that establishment



of air and road links would promote bilateral trade and tourism. He said resumption of direct air link between the two countries in May 2016 was a big step forward and stressed the need for resumption of flights by Tajikistan's Somon Air which had been suspended within three months of its launch.

President Emomali said Tajikistan and Pakistan were celebrating 25 years of their diplomatic relations and mentioned that the bilateral accords signed during the last four years had enriched the legal framework of relations. He agreed to give directive to his government for resumption of Somon Air flights to Pakistan. He

thanked Pakistan for providing counter-terrorism training to Tajikistan's defence, security and police officials that helped improve their professional capacity. He said though the trade volume between Pakistan and Tajikistan was the highest among all Central Asian states, he emphasised to further boost it. President Emomali extended an invitation to President Mamnoon to visit Tajikistan in future, which was accepted by him. Minister of State for Petroleum Jam Kamal and Pakistan's ambassador to Turkmenistan Murad Ashraf Jamal were present in the meeting.

The Express Tribune (Islamabad), September 17, 2017

Four new highways to be built under CPEC in Balochistan

Under the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), four new highways would be constructed in Balochistan that would link far-flung areas of province with the rest of the country. The CPEC Joint Working Group on Transport Infrastructure has approved financial assistance for the construction of these roads. On completion of the feasibility study, the Joint Working Group on Transport Infrastructure gave approval to financial assistance. These roads included: Dera Ismail Khan-Zhob, Khuzdar-Baseema, Zhob-Kuchlugh, and Nowkandi-Mashekel Panjgore

APP (Islamabad) September 24, 2017 (Condoned)

Countering terror: China's policy unchanged

Interior Minister Ahsan Iqbal has said on 11 September that China has not changed its policy towards Pakistan but had endorsed its viewpoint at a summit of five major emerging market nations where concern was expressed about militant groups allegedly based in the country. "We are also against militants and want to first put our house in order," he said while talking to reporters after visiting the Quaid-i-Azam's mausoleum. He said the declaration of the recent summit of Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa was similar to that of the last Heart of Asia Conference about Afghanistan and it should not be taken out of context. He held the Western countries equally responsible for the wave of terrorism in the world and said that apparently they had ignored the genuine problems of Muslim states. Replying to a question, Iqbal said: "We have implemented the National Action Plan and that is why we have contained terrorism." "Now the socio-economic indicators are going up and our art, culture and tourism are setting new



precedents of success. We have to make Pakistan an Asian Tiger, bringing it among the 25 top economic powers in the world," he said. He cautioned that some elements always sought to derail the country from its economic agenda.

The Express Tribune (Islamabad), September 11, 2017 (Condensed)

Pakistani artists to participate in cultural events in China



A group of eight artists left for China on 12 September to participate in various events in Chinese provinces of Xinjiang and Liaoning. The culture exposure visit is being supported by the Chinese Government as part of the project “Cultural Caravan” that is being executed by the Pakistan National Council of the Arts (PNCA) and the Chinese Cultural Centre in Islamabad. The cultural delegation comprised travel and documentary photographer Danial Shah, Musician Mehdi Raza, Rabab player Gulab Khel, visual artist Aleem Dad Khan, flute player Salman Adil, filmmaker Amir Rao, Bharatnatyam performing artist Amna Mawaz Khan and anthropologist Ashraf Kakar. The group of visiting artists from Pakistan will be touring two provinces of China Xinjiang and Liaoning to discover, explore and learn more about the rich culture and folk traditions of the people of China. Speaking at the send-off ceremony, the PNCA Director General Syed Jamal Shah said that “Cultural Caravan” was a multi-disciplinary art and traversing the transition phase from ancient Silk Route to modern economic corridor. “The artists engaged in it will document the history, art and culture along the route presented in the

light of current developmental initiative,” he said. Pakistani cultural delegation would start its journey from China covering the diversity of landscape, beauty of its cultural verity, traditions and customs of its people and new development for progress and prosperity. The group of artists after returning to Pakistan will be joined by another group of artists from China to tour Pakistan.

The joint artistic tour will produce a treasure of art, films, photographs and writings produced spontaneously while travelling. Different creative forms will produce a collage of artistic disciplines worthy of showcasing in grand expositions and ceremonies arranged in important cities and towns of China and Pakistan after the conclusion of the caravan. Musical concerts and screening of films will form part of such ceremonies. The exhibition and films will also be taken to other countries to create awareness about the productive potentials of this collaborative endeavour between two friendly and neighbouring countries.

Daily Times (Lahore), September 13, 2017

CPEC is an exemplary project for economic development



Characterising the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) an exemplary pilot project for economic development in Pakistan, Dr Xu Hongcai, Chinese Deputy Chief Economist, said achievements on diverse economic fronts had started taking place, lending credence to the overarching Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). Presenting threadbare and comprehensive exposition on the BRI – a unique economic vision to address the contemporary festering economic throes facing the world at a seminar organized by the People’s Daily at Tsinghua University, Beijing, he said the initiative would ensure level playing grounds to all the BRI stakeholder countries, enabling to share the due dividends.

The Nation (Islamabad), September 14, 2017

Chinese visas for Pakistanis grew by 19.6 percent in 2016

Amidst widely circulating complaints from the business community that the government of China has been tightening visa rules for Pakistanis, the embassy has emphasised that it views growing people-to-people contact as central to the growing relationship between both countries. “As the ancient Chinese saying goes, “amity between the people holds key to sound relationship between states,” the embassy told Dawn. “Promoting mutual understanding, exchanges and cooperation between the two people is the key point for developing the all-weather strategic partnership of cooperation between China and Pakistan.” The spokesman of the Chinese Embassy in Pakistan, said from the Chinese side they attach great importance to the exchanges and cooperation between the two countries in the fields of trade, culture, education, science and technology, amidst much else, and have been committed to creating conditions for facilitating personnel exchanges. According to the statistics shared with Dawn by the embassy, the visa issuance volume in 2016 rose 19.6 percent over the previous year, and had a 7.8 percent growth in the first eight months of 2017 over the same period of last year, “which shows that with the promotion of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) construction, more and more Pakistanis have been to China for trade negotiation and cultural exchanges.” The requirement to have an invitation from a Chinese partner does not apply to Pakistanis carrying out CPEC projects, he added. Such travellers can apply for visas without an invitation letter from a duly authorised entity. When members from Pakistan’s chambers of commerce visit China for the Canton Fair, they can apply for visas with invitation letters of Economic and Commercial Counselor’s Office of Chinese Embassy and letters of guarantee of their own chambers of commerce. “We also extended our opening hours and sometimes work in holidays to ensure applicants, especially Pakistani students (approximately 22,000 students are in China now), to get visas timely,” he said. According to bilateral arrangement, visa application is totally free for all Pakistanis, who are also welcome to the Chinese Embassy in Islamabad and Consulate General in Karachi to apply for visas by themselves with complete materials. “Pakistani friends are warmly welcomed to express their difficulties and questions during the visa application process to Chinese Embassy and Consulate General in Karachi,” the spokesman added. “We promise that we will further improve our visa facilitating measures and offer service of good quality and high efficiency to promote the exchanges and cooperation in various fields between China and Pakistan.”

Dawn (Islamabad), September 19, 2017

Pakistan Railways to manufacture 1600 goods coaches for CPEC

Pakistan Railway (PR) will manufacture some 1600 goods coaches for China Pak Economic Corridor (CPEC). New goods coaches would be manufactured in carriage factory. 300 goods coaches would be manufactured with the code name of ZKH, in the first phase. Work on this project will start this year. These coaches would also be used in Sahiwal coal project.

The Nation (Islamabad) September 9, 2017

Railways to connect Havelian with Khunjrab



Pakistan Railways will conduct a feasibility study for connecting Havelian with Khunjrab under the Pak-China rail link project of China-Pak Economic Corridor (CPEC). The proposed rail link is a part of railway Public Sector Development Programme (PSDP) year 2017-18, an official said on 19 September. He said the length of the rail link from Havelian to Khunjrab is 682 km and the project includes the construction of railway stations, sub-stations, parking facilities and related infrastructure and the installation of signals and safety systems.

He added the actual cost of the project would be worked out after a detailed feasibility study and design of the project. In order to maximize the international trade potential between China, Pakistan and beyond, it is considered imperative to provide access to the Arabian Sea, he added. The long-term vision predicts connectivity of proposed Havelian-Khunjrab rail link with Gwadar through ML-and onwards from Jacobabad to Khuzdar, Besima, Panjgur, Hoshab and Turbat under the CPEC.

The News International (Rawalpindi), September 19, 2017

Bank of China permitted to start operations in Pakistan

The State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) has allowed Bank of China Limited to commence its banking business in the country on 18 September. The SBP had issued a banking license to Bank of China in May 2017. The bank has complied with the important regulatory and operational requirements of the SBP necessary to commence banking business in Pakistan.

The Bank of China is a subsidiary of China Central Huijin, investment arm of the government of China. It is the 4th and 5th largest global bank in terms of Tier-1 Capital and total Assets respectively. It is listed on the Shanghai Stock Exchange and the Hong Kong Stock Exchange.

Globally, the footprint of Bank of China is spread across 50 countries out of which, nineteen are located across the Chinese One Belt One Road initiative. Bank of China is the second Chinese bank to enter Pakistan. Its entry will not only further strengthen the



bilateral relationship of Pakistan and China, but will also represent growing confidence of international investors on the country's banking sector and the stable economic outlook. In Pakistan, the Bank of China aims to provide specialised banking services to serve the financing needs of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) related projects by leveraging on its experience and global technology platform.

The News International (Rawalpindi), September 19, 2017

Chinese investment in Pakistan continues to increase

The Foreign Direct investment (FDI) continues to show encouraging growth trend as in the first two months of current fiscal year (July-August), 2MFY18, the FDI has posted substantial growth of 155 percent to US\$ 457.2 million as compared to US\$ 179.4 million invested during the same period of the previous fiscal year.

China topped as the single largest foreign investor in Pakistan with total investment of \$262.4 million made during the period of July-August 2017, up from US\$ 186.7 million invested in August 2017, according to the data released by the State Bank of Pakistan. The contribution of Malaysia to Foreign Direct Investment was second biggest to the tune of \$110.8 million, which is far higher than the investment of \$1.3 million made during the same period of last fiscal year 2MFY17.

Other major contributors to the FDI were France US\$ 19 million, UAE US\$ 18.6 million, Japan US\$ 16.6 million, Hungary \$13.3 million, United States of America US\$ 13.6 million, and United Kingdom invested US\$ 9 million during the first two months of current fiscal year.

Pakistan is currently suffering due to constant energy shortage, which has multiplied the cost of industrial input and pushed the country far behind other export competitors, resulting in decline in exports. However, during the current fiscal year the power sector has attracted a major chunk of investment, which is evident

from the inflows of foreign investment of US\$ 215.2 million. The major chunk of investment was made in the coal sector, which stood at US\$ 171.1 million, thermal US\$ 20.7 million and hydroelectric US\$ 23.4 million.

In August 2017, the power sector attracted \$158.6 million while in July 2016 the sector had received only US\$ 26.1 million, SBP data shows. The other prominent sector to attract foreign investment was construction, which received US\$ 61.2 million. The communication sector received US\$ 115.1 million during 2MFY18 while financial businesses attracted US\$ 14.9 million during the same period. Trade received US\$5.6 million, construction US\$ 2.3 million, and transport equipment received \$8 million of which cars manufacturing sector attracted US\$ 7.6 million.

During the last fiscal year FY17, overall volume of investment was US \$2,410.9 million as China stood out single biggest investor with total investment of US\$ 1,240.3 million. The foreign investment in Pakistan remained subdued due to many reasons including the law and order situation. However, the investment, in the backdrop of ongoing mega projects under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), mainly from China is gradually increasing, which is likely to attract other countries to reap the financial benefits of the mega projects.

Khurshid Ahmed, *Daily Times* (Lahore), September 19, 2017

Shaheen-VI Air Exercises



Fighter jets of the Pakistan Air Force were flying through the Chinese air space while conducting the joint training exercises Shaheen-VI with the Chinese People's Liberation Army-Air Force (PLAAF). The exercises have been launched on 7 September and will be carried on till 27 September. The Shaheen series of exercises between Pakistan and China – the two closest strategic and defence partners, were launched in March 2011. Shaheen-VI, is the sixth in the series of Joint Air Exercises with PLAAF, which is conducted each year in both countries on alternate basis.

The series of exercises has since then evolved through five major sessions. It has been reported by the China's state news agency,

Xinhua, that a wide range of aerial assets and troops, including Shenyang J-11 twin-engine multirole fighters, Xian JH-7 fighter-bombers, KJ-200 airborne warning and control system (AWACS) aircraft, and surface-to-air missile crews and radar operators were taking part in the exercises from the Chinese front. It has also been reported that the Chinese navy's aviation troops were participating in the training as well.

Shen Jinke, spokesperson for the People's Liberation Army Air Force, informed the state news agency that Pakistan has sent JF-17 Thunder fighter jets and early warning aircraft to join the exercises. It is relevant to mention here that the FC-1 Xiaolong aircraft, commonly known as the JF-17 Thunder is

a single-engine, lightweight, and multi-role fighter jet. It has been co-developed by the Pakistan Aeronautical Complex Kamra and China's Chengdu Aircraft Industry group. The only current operator of the aircraft is the Pakistan Air Force.

PakWired, September 11, 2017

KP planning to link Central Asia with CPEC

Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Pervez Khattak, has said that KP government was planning actively to include Central Asian Republics (CARs) in China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) as the project will connect the central Asia through Wakhan strip. He was addressing the joint send off ceremony of Chinese language and giving performance grants to different colleges of the province at local hotel here on 18 September. Khattak said that CPEC was a game changer project not only for Pakistan and China but for the economic uplift of the entire region hoping that the project would guarantee the bright future of the peoples of the region. "Launching of different programs for learning Chinese and Pakistani languages are also essential for both the people for their progress and prosperity," he added.

Online, September 18, 2017

Three Pakistani Universities join CPEC Consortium of Business Schools

It turns out that CPEC project is now bearing fruits. Pakistan and China under CPEC project have collaborated and launched CPEC Consortium of Business Schools. The main aim of this partnership is to enhance and initiate academic collaboration between the two countries. Furthermore, the business schools participating in this CPEC Consortium will also contribute to resolving issues such as economics and management in Pakistan and China. It was also reported by media

outlets that business schools will be given projects and tasks to assist the governments of respective countries in the development, operation and running of CPEC.

Chinese universities which are part of this CPEC Consortium include Fudan University, Hong Kong Polytechnic University, Nanjing University, Peking University, Shanghai Jiao Tong University, Tsinghua University, University of Science and Technology of China

and Zhejiang University. Pakistan institutions which are participating in this CPEC Consortium include, Balochistan University of Information Technology, Engineering and Management Sciences (BUIEMS), COMSATS Institute of Information Technology, Institute of Business Administration (IBA), Institute of Management Sciences (IMS), Lahore University of Management Sciences (LUMS), National University of Sciences and Technology (NUST), Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE), and University of the Punjab.

The meeting was attended by Interior minister Ahsan Iqbal as well as by China Association of Higher Education (CAHE) President Du Yubo. While talking at the conference Ahsan Iqbal said, "The CPEC Consortium of Business Schools would prove to be another step forward towards successful execution of CPEC." He also asserted that "China Pakistan Economic Corridor is a start of a new era in the region".

Techjuice, September 7, 2017



Changing security in South Asia and development of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor



The Islamabad Policy Research Institute in collaboration with the German Hanns Seidel Foundation organised a two-day conference at Islamabad on 'Changing Security in South Asia and Development of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CEPC) on 19-20 September. In his address Interior Minister Ahsan Iqbal said that the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is making tremendous progress with the completion of infrastructure and energy projects and the time was ripe to get benefits from this major initiative that comes in centuries.

He pointed out that within two years,

CPEC energy projects added 10,000 mw of electricity while in 68 years only 16,000 mw of electricity was added in country's national grid. He lamented on all the so-called "Aristotles and Socrates" who were uselessly criticising the CPEC on flimsy grounds with no interest to the national cause of Pakistan. He also added that South Asia would cease to be a corridor of conflict and become a corridor of cooperation. Speaking on the occasion, Chinese Ambassador Sun Weidong said that the CPEC as part of the One Belt One Road Initiative provides an important network and platform to achieve win-win cooperation in Asia and beyond. It is the best reflection

of the Silk Road spirit, featuring peace, cooperation, openness, inclusiveness, mutual learning, and prosperity. The ambassador shared that CPEC has cross-border consensus from people of both sides because it follows principles of mutual partnership and peaceful development. Earlier, Ambassador Abdul Basit, President of IPRI, in his welcome remarks said that peace is a sine qua non for sustainable development, and Pakistan has always strived for and continues to strive for normal relations with all its neighbours. "Our First Neighbour Policy is driven by the national desire to move from conflict management to conflict resolution. History tells us that we cannot build a sustainable and balanced regional co-operative framework on unpredictable and tenuous bilateral relations," he said. He hoped that the deliberations would lead to improved understanding of the changing security situation in South Asia and help create synergies for a peaceful region.

Report by Dr Ahmad Rashid Malik

CPEC 50th Progress Review Meeting

Minister for Interior, and Planning, Development & Reform, Ahsan Iqbal chaired the CPEC 50th Progress Review Meeting at Ministry of Planning, Islamabad, on 21 September Chinese Ambassador at Islamabad, Sun Weidong, officials from Chinese Companies, federal ministries and provincial governments attended the meeting. Ahsan Iqbal said that CPEC has transformed Pakistan completely, making it an attractive destination for foreign investment. "The country known as terrorist hub, turned into a safe haven for billion dollar investment" he said. He stated that China's FDI was 13 percent of the total foreign investment in 2013, far behind other countries. "But now after the CPEC, China has emerged as the top country in respect of FDI in Pakistan," he added. Minister further said that support and unity from the provinces on CPEC has contributed to speedy implementation and completion of projects. "Provinces role is important to provide adequate security to workers engaged in construction of CPEC projects" Minister highlighted. During the meeting, line ministries have briefed about progress on projects in different sectors. Ahsan Iqbal instructed the provinces to complete feasibilities of special economic zones, being developed under CPEC in 60 days. He instructed for speedy implementation and completion of Gwadar water supply and power plant projects. Railway authorities have briefed the participants about ML-1 up gradation project.

Ministry of Planning, Development, and Reform, September 21, 2017 (Condensed)

CPEC: Political, Economic, and Social Perspectives

Pakistan and China will develop each other through the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and we must appreciate China's development plan for Pakistan, said Punjab University's Vice Chancellor, Dr Zafar Moeen Nasir.

According to a press release, the VC said this while addressing the concluding ceremony of a two-day international conference on "CPEC: Political, Economic and Social Perspectives" organised by the Punjab University Department of History and Pakistan Studies on 12 September.

Dean Faculty of Arts and Humanities Prof Dr Iqbal Chawla, Prof Saifullah Janjua, Dr Zhu Qinbao, Prof Dr Agnieszka Kuszewska, Dr Mahboob Hussain, researchers, faculty

members and a large number of students were present. Dr Nasir said no country was willing to invest in Pakistan but China was investing an unprecedented US\$ 46 billion for the country's development in major sectors. He said China would get the shortest trade route to export its goods while Pakistan would also take the maximum benefits from the opportunity. He said the Pakistani people were living in poverty and CPEC would bring prosperity. He said: "Through CPEC Integrated Study Centre at the Punjab University, we would portray the right image of CPEC before the international community because some negative lobbies were propagating against the CPEC."

The News International (Rawalpindi), September 13, 2017



Dialogue with the China Institute for International Strategic Studies (CIISS)



A five-member Chinese Delegation from the China Institute for International Strategic Studies (CIISS), Beijing, visited the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) on 11 September for a bilateral dialogue on recent developments affecting the China-Pakistan relationship. The delegation was headed by Major-General (Retd) Zhao Ning, Vice Chairman of CIISS and former Defence Attaché to the United States and Australia. Ambassador Khalid Mahmood, Chairman ISSI, welcomed the delegation and stated that both China and Pakistan have strong strategic and political ties that have recently been boosted by the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). He said that Pakistan values its relationship with China, and jointly, both countries can meet all challenges of which terrorism and negative

influence of some external powers are at the forefront. The delegation was briefed by the ISSI on the situation in Afghanistan, political developments in India, Pakistan's counter-insurgency operations and President Donald Trump's new South Asia policy.

Major-General Ning stated that in the past, the war in Afghanistan was a military-political war, but now, it is a purely military war. Pakistan is an important player and has been on the receiving end of much turmoil and tragedy. With regard to Trump's new policy,

Major General Ning was of the opinion that Afghanistan will be the first test for India in terms of military operations on ground as well as economic support to the country. He said that there is no doubt that the US wants India and Australia to be the two main anchors in their larger Indo-Pacific strategy. Major General Mengyan spoke about how India is adopting an extreme approach to resolving issues in South Asia. He stated that the new US policy shows the US's imbalanced mentality and it means India will interfere further in the Afghan situation. This, he said, is unfair to Pakistan because without Pakistan's assistance the issues in Afghanistan cannot be resolved. With regard to the situation in North Korea and the South China Sea, Mr Chunlu said that the possibility of a war is remote, but in case of any military option being exercised there is a high risk of casualties. He said that the US has used the Korean issue to contain China and has enhanced its military presence in the region. The key to solving this issue lies with the US, and the Six Party Talks is the only effective way to solve the DPRK's nuclear issue. Concluding the dialogue, Ambassador Mahmood, Chairman ISSI, reiterated that there was much commonality in the approach of both Pakistan and China towards regional and international issues that would provide grounds for further cooperation and mutual assistance to tackle common challenges.

Report by Dr Ahmad Rashid Malik

Iranian Media Delegation Visits ISSI

A five-member Iranian media delegation visited the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) for an informal discussion on recent developments affecting the Iran-Pakistan relationship. Ambassador Khalid Mahmood, Chairman ISSI, welcomed the delegation and said that Iran and Pakistan share many commonalities in terms of language, culture, shared history and a common border.

Both countries have always entertained brotherly sentiments for each other: Iran was the first to recognise Pakistan, while Pakistan was one of the first countries to recognise the Iranian Government after the Islamic Revolution in 1979. Both countries also share

a mutual stance on regional cooperation- Iran, Pakistan and Turkey were the founding members of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO). He said that as in every relationship, there are always irritants- one in this case being the situation in Afghanistan.

He said that there is a need to develop a regional approach, which should lead to a peaceful solution in Afghanistan. The US policy towards Afghanistan is based on achieving a military solution, and, which by itself, is inviting a situation that is a recipe for continued conflict. The US is also trying to give India a space in Afghanistan that further complicating the situation.

Report by Dr Ahmad Rashid Malik



'Disengaging from Afghanistan',
Dr Ahmad Rashid Malik
Daily Times (Lahore)
September 1, 2017

'Transparency of CPEC projects',
Dr Ahmad Rashid Malik
The Nation (Islamabad)
September 5, 2017

'BRICS Declaration and Indian Media',
Dr Ahmad Rashid Malik
Daily Times (Lahore)
September 10, 2017

'Rohingya Genocide',
Dr Ahmad Rashid Malik
Daily Times (Lahore)
September 18, 2017

'Pax Sinica',
Dr Ahmad Rashid Malik
The Nation (Islamabad)
September 19, 2017