



June 2017

**A review of national, bilateral
and regional dynamics**



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Executive Summary

Political leaders including from the government and opposition parties lauded the significance of CPEC at local and international forums. However some concerns were also expressed. For instance, Chairman Senate Functional Committee on Problems of Less Developed Areas Usman Khan Kakar said that CPEC is being executed in developed areas while indifferent attitude has been adopted to the inclusion of less developed areas in CPEC. Similarly, a Sindhi nationalist group the Sindhi Sangat Sindh called CPEC the anti-Sindh project and protested against it. The Baloch Republican Party (BRP) also protested during the 35th session of Human Rights Council outside the United Nations office in Geneva against the CPEC.

The patron of Islamabad Chamber of Small Traders (ICST) has urged the government to revise the federal budget and allocate an increased amount for the implementation of the CPEC projects. Meanwhile, the chairman FPCCI stressed upon the government to strategize attracting Chinese investment in CPEC industrial areas to boost Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs). He also suggested establishing agricultural zones along the CPEC routes. Analysts are anticipating that the transportation network provided by the CPEC would boost Pakistan's agricultural trade at the global level. The World Bank's June 2017 Global Economic Report said the CPEC linked projects and agriculture sector would project private investment in Pakistan

up to 5 percent in next financial year. The CPEC has already caused a surge of 56 percent in Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in Pakistan, according to a United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) report. Reports suggest that Pakistan has acquired the status from frontier to emerging market due to growing FDI under the CPEC.

Minister of Planning, Development and Reform Ahsan Iqbal said at the World Economic Forum that despite some challenges – mainly including coordination among different government ministries and among “internal and external stakeholders” – the CPEC was being executed smoothly. Pakistan is ranked 9th in the Belt and Road Infrastructure Development Index.

Reportedly to secure the two kidnapped Chinese nationals, the security forces launched an extensive operation and allegedly killed about a dozen ISIS-linked militant commanders in Mastung. However the terrorist group claimed it had killed the Chinese; Pakistani and Chinese authorities later confirmed the killing. After the incident of Chinese nationals killed by ISIS, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government has set up a special security force of 4,200 personnel to protect Chinese in the province. A protection division of 2,600 police officers has also been established in Sindh to protect Chinese workers.

China has offered a soft loan of Rs5 billion for the Lahore Orange Line Metro Train and seems keen in the construction of Diamer Bhasha Dam in Gilgit Baltistan (GB) region.

A

NATIONAL PERSPECTIVE ON CPEC

| 1. Politico-economic | The Source |
|---|---|
| Statements | |
| <p>The patron of Islamabad Chamber of Small Traders (ICST) Shahid Rasheed stated that federal budget should be reviewed to increase the amount allotted for the CPEC projects, including for Gwadar that will see the completion of 31 projects this year.</p> | <p>Saeed Ahmed, <i>The News</i>, June 2, 2017</p> |
| <p>Pakistan's Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Ambassador Maleeha Lodhi while talking to Chinese media highlighted the prospects of socio-economic development under the OBOR and said CPEC had not only economic significance but also benefitted peace and stability of Pakistan and the region.</p> | <p>Pervez Jabri, <i>Business Recorder</i>, June 2, 2017</p> |
| <p>Chief Minister Punjab Shahbaz Sharif said while talking to local political leaders and dignitaries in Lahore that worth \$36 billion investment has been made in energy projects under the CPEC. He said some of the energy projects signed during President</p> | <p><i>Daily Jang</i> (Urdu), June 6, 2017</p> |

| 1. Politico-economic | The Source |
|--|---|
| <p>Xi Jinping's 2015 visit to Pakistan have been completed and other are about to complete.</p> | |
| <p>Taking notice of increased taxes on steel and cement industry, the Islamabad Chamber of Small Traders (ICST) has proclaimed that it would affect the pace of development projects like CPEC and urged the federal government to review the budget.</p> | <p><i>Daily Times</i>, June 4, 2017</p> |
| <p>The Governor of Sindh, Muhammad Zubair in conversation with the Chairman of the Port Qasim Authority (PQA), Agha Jan Akhtar at the Governor House said that CPEC will raise the status of Pakistan's seaports.</p> | <p>Fawad Maqsood, <i>Business Recorder</i>, June 9, 2017</p> |
| <p>The President of Muhammad Ali Jinnah University (MAJU) Karachi Prof. Dr. Zubair said that numbers of skilled engineers will be in demand for the execution of CPEC linked projects.</p> | <p><i>Balochistan Express</i>, June 14, 2017</p> |
| <p>Chairman of the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI) Regional Committee on Industries Atif Ikram Sheikh stated that the government should plan strategic policies to attract the Chinese investment in industrial areas along the CPEC that would enhance the status of Small and Medium Enterprises (SME's) and stimulate the economic growth of Pakistan.</p> | <p><i>Dawn</i>, June 16, 2017; <i>The News</i>, June 16, 2017</p> |
| <p>Chairman Board of Investment (BoI), Miftah Ismail stated while talking on PTV that industrial zones development under</p> | <p><i>Pakistan Observer</i>, June 15, 2017</p> |

| 1. Politico-economic | The Source |
|---|---|
| <p>the CPEC would boost the economic growth of Pakistan in upcoming fiscal year.</p> | |
| <p>Referring to the investments opportunities under the CPEC, Minister for Planning and Development Ahsan Iqbal stated that Chinese are interested to invest in the textile industries of Pakistan.</p> | <p><i>Nawa-i-Waqt</i>, June 15, 2017</p> |
| <p>The President of Pakistan Economy Watch Dr. Murtaza Mughal said that CPEC as a game changer would bring around 700,000 job opportunities for the people of Pakistan. Introducing new energy projects under the CPEC, he said the issue of energy distribution in Pakistan needs to be addressed.</p> | <p>Geo TV, June 17, 2017; <i>The News</i>, June 18, 2017</p> |
| <p>The FPCCI Chairman Atif Ikram Sheikh said that establishment of the agricultural zone along the CPEC route will endorse the annual economic growth to \$12 billion by exporting agricultural products to China and the adjacent states.</p> | <p><i>Dawn</i>, June 19, 2017; <i>The Nation</i>, June 19, 2017</p> |
| <p>The Vice President of Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FCCI), Ahmed Hassan said during a joint meeting of the FCCI standing committee on R&D and the CPEC that industrial revamp is imperative to deal with the international changes that surfaced and launch of the CPEC.</p> | <p><i>The Express Tribune</i>, June 17, 2017</p> |
| <p>Minister of Planning and Development, Ahsan Iqbal at the World Economic Forum in China said that there are numerous challenges to the CPEC though it is being executed smoothly. The challenges to be addressed included coordination among</p> | <p><i>Dawn</i>, June 29, 2017</p> |

| 1. Politico-economic | The Source |
|---|--|
| <p>different government ministries and among “internal and external stakeholders”, he said.</p> <p>President Mamnoon Hussain said at the 16th convocation ceremony of the National Security and War Course at the National Defense University, Islamabad that as a think tank, NDU should plan a strategy to deal with the upcoming challenges to the CPEC including in terms of extremism and terrorism.</p> | <p>Syed Irfan Raza, <i>Dawn</i>, June 22, 2017</p> |
| <p><i>Action/Visits</i></p> | |
| <p>Senior Vice President of the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) Khalid Malik visited China to join the CPEC linked consultations. During his visit, a trade agreement was signed between ICCI and Tianjin Sub-Council i.e. China Council.</p> | <p><i>Pakistan Observer</i>, June 4, 2017; <i>The Nation</i>, June 4, 2017</p> |
| <p>A newspaper report claimed that the government of Pakistan has set aside Rs 2,995 million to provide the facility of 3G and 4G service along the CPEC routes.</p> | <p>Parvez Jabri, <i>Business Recorder</i>, June 20, 2017</p> |
| <p>Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi visited Pakistan and met Punjab Chief Minister Shahbaz Sharif at Prime Minister House and the CM valuing the Chinese Foreign Minister said that this visit will enhance the regional peace and cooperation.</p> | <p><i>The Nation</i>, June 25, 2017</p> |

| 1. Politico-economic | The Source |
|---|---|
| <i>Report/Analysis</i> | |
| <p>An international news agency Bloomberg has reported that due to the increased domestic consumption of cement under the CPEC, the cement industry of Pakistan tends to enhance its capacity by 56 percent to reach 70 million tons in next five years.</p> | <p><i>The News</i>, June 2, 2017; Faseeh Mangi, Kmaran Haider & Khalid Qayum, Bloomberg, June 2, 2017</p> |
| <p>A defense and political analyst asserts that instead of adopting politicized and skewed approaches, analysts and people should try to look at and analyze CPEC objectively and on the basis of facts.</p> | <p>Dr. Zafar Nawaz Jaspal, <i>Pakistan Observer</i>, June 5, 2017</p> |
| <p>Morgan Stanley Capital International (MSCI), which measures the equity market performance at the global level, has marked Pakistan as an 'emerging' market mainly due to increased Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) under the CPEC.</p> | <p>Pervez Jabri, <i>Business Recorder</i>, June 2, 2017</p> |
| <p>At the 8th International Infrastructure Investment and Construction Forum in China's Macao, the China International Contractors Association and Dagong Global Credit Rating has placed Pakistan on 9th in the Belt and Road Infrastructure Development Index.</p> | <p>Pervez Jabri, <i>Business Recorder</i>, June 2, 2017; <i>Xinhua</i>, June 1, 2017; <i>The News</i>, June 3, 2017</p> |

| 1. Politico-economic | The Source |
|---|--|
| <p>An economist has anticipated that transportation network of CPEC would develop Pakistan's agricultural trade at the global level as CPEC offers regional connectivity.</p> | <p>Aadil Nakhoda, <i>The Express Tribune</i>, June 5, 2017</p> |
| <p>As per the World Bank's June 2017 Global Economic report, the CPEC linked projects and agriculture sector would project private investment in Pakistan up to 5 percent in next financial year. The Washington-based lender has also anticipated up to 6 percent growth of private investment in Pakistan.</p> | <p>Pervez Jabri, <i>Business Recorder</i>, June 5, 2017; <i>The News</i>, June 6, 2017</p> |
| <p>Keeping in mind that CPEC and other public sector development programs will accelerate cement demand at local markets, a report claimed that the Kohat Cement has established a new plant of 7,800 tons per day capacity.</p> | <p>Farhan Zaheer, <i>The Express Tribune</i>, June 7, 2017</p> |
| <p>United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) published a report entitled 'World Investment Report 2017: Investment and the Digital Economy'. It said that the Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in Pakistan has been surged by 56 percent under the CPEC, specifically the under construction transportation and power generation projects.</p> | <p>Amin Ahmed, <i>Dawn</i>, June 8, 2017</p> |
| <p>A report claimed that awarding the contracts of power projects to the Chinese companies under the banner of Belt and Road initiatives has been criticized in Pakistan for costing it more</p> | <p><i>The Nation</i>, June 15, 2017;</p> |

| 1. Politico-economic | The Source |
|--|--|
| <p>money while Chinese Foreign Ministry representative Hua affirmed that OBOR linked projects in Pakistan are transparent and aim to promote bilateral and regional development.</p> | <p><i>The News</i>, June 15, 2017</p> |
| <p>A half-page advertisement on daily <i>Dawn</i> said President and CEO of the United Bank Ltd. Ms. Sima Kamil deliberated in Belt and Road Forum (BRF) held in Beijing on May 14-15, 2017 that CPEC is a significant part of OBOR and it extends beyond the concept of only energy and infrastructure development.</p> | <p><i>Dawn</i>, June 16, 2017</p> |
| <p>A Pakistani scholar S Akbar Zaidi in his address at the think tank Calcutta Research Group has criticized the transparency of CPEC and warned Pakistan of Chinese hegemonic influence and negative repercussions of the CPEC. He stated that China has been colonizing Pakistan for its regional connectivity.</p> | <p>Snigdhendu Bhattacharya, <i>Hindustan Times</i>, June 9, 2017; Dipanjan Roy Chaudhary, <i>The Economic Times</i>, June 12, 2017</p> |
| <p>A report said that to enhance the transparency of visa policies among Pakistan and China, the Interior Ministry of Pakistan tend to appraise the process of allotting visa to the Chinese nationals.</p> | <p>Geo TV, June 21, 2017; <i>The Express Tribune</i>, June 22, 2017</p> |
| <p>According to a media report Pakistan China Joint Chamber of Commerce & Industry (PCJCCI) plan to organize a CPEC Route</p> | <p><i>Pakistan Observer</i>, June</p> |

| 1. Politico-economic | The Source |
|---|------------------------------------|
| Study Tour by road to Kashgar to explore the trade prospects and opportunities. | 23, 2017; CPEC News, June 23, 2017 |

| 2. Provincial/regional developments and concerns | The Source |
|--|---|
| Statements | |
| Federal Minister for Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit Baltistan, Chaudhry Muhammad Barjees has said while talking to the group of journalists in Islamabad that government has set aside funds for Mirpur-Mangla-Muzaffarabad-Mansehra road construction under the CPEC. | <i>Daily K2</i> , June 2, 2017 |
| The Former President of Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Balochistan Mir Sadiq Ali Umrani said that government has ignored the eastern part of Balochistan to include in CPEC regardless of its significance in the area of agriculture. | <i>The Express Tribune</i> , June 5, 2017; <i>Dawn</i> , June 5, 2017 |
| Chief Minister of Jammu & Kashmir said that CPEC has contributed to the socio-economic development of the region. | Pervez Jabri, <i>Business Recorder</i> , June 5, 2017 |
| Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah has expressed his grievances against the federal government that he said has ignored the provincial government over the Sukkur-Multan highway and other CPEC linked projects. | <i>Dawn</i> , June 9, 2017 |

| 2. Provincial/regional developments and concerns | The Source |
|--|---|
| <p>A renowned trader Fazal Rabbani stated that due to the increased trade activities at Sust dry port under the CPEC, the traders of GB region have started to enjoy the benefits.</p> | <p><i>K2</i>, June 14, 2017</p> |
| <p>Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Pervez Khattak during his address to the KP Assembly accredited the opposition's claim of developing the western route of CPEC.</p> | <p><i>Sohail Khattak, Express Tribune, June 16, 2017</i></p> |
| <p>Chairman Senate Functional Committee on Problems of Less Developed Areas Usman Khan Kakar said that CPEC is being executed in developed areas while indifferent attitude has been adopted to the inclusion of less developed areas in CPEC.</p> | <p><i>Dawn</i>, June 17, 2017</p> |
| <p>Adviser to Balochistan Chief Minister on Finance Sardar Aslam Bizenjo during a post-budget press conference at Civil Secretariat said that the execution of CPEC would help to overcome the budget deficit of Rs 52 billion.</p> | <p><i>The Nation</i>, June 17, 2017</p> |
| <p>Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah said that Sindh administration has appointed international consultants to prepare the framework for the execution of Keti Bandar power project under the CPEC.</p> | <p>Hasan Mansoor, <i>Dawn</i>, June 18, 2017; <i>The Express Tribune</i>, June 18, 2017</p> |
| <p>The Sindhi Sangat Sindh called CPEC the anti-Sindh project and protested against it. The head of the Sindhi Sangat Sindh and Sindhi Nari Sangat Sindh Ahmed Baloch stated that CPEC</p> | <p>Pakistan Christian Post, June 19, 2017</p> |

| 2. Provincial/regional developments and concerns | The Source |
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| <p>is being executed without taking into consideration the grave concerns of Sindhi people and it will cause economic exploitation in Sindh.</p> | |
| <p><i>Actions/Visits</i></p> | |
| <p>The Punjab government has allocated Rs635 billion for Annual Development Programme (ADP) 2017-18. For the smooth execution of the CPEC projects, human resource development will be focused under the ADP.</p> | <p>Fawad Maqsood, <i>Business Recorder</i>, June 2, 2017</p> |
| <p>The Finance Minister KP Muzaffar said while introducing the budget for the year 2017-18 that government tends to set up 17 economic zones across the region for industrial development under the CPEC. Also, total 318 acres of land in Hattar for Hattar Economic Zone Phase 7 and 10 has been allocated by the provincial government.</p> | <p><i>Khyber News</i>, June 7, 2017</p> |
| <p>Although Balochistan government has set aside a substantial amount of budget 2017-18 for the socio-economic projects particularly the execution of CPEC linked projects but has not revealed the exact amount specified for the CPEC.</p> | <p>Saleem Shahid; Nasir Jamal, <i>Dawn</i>, June 16, 2017</p> |
| <p><i>Report/Analysis</i></p> | |
| <p>According to the budget revealed by the PTI-led Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa (KP) government in media, only Rs1 million has been set aside for CPEC related 84 development projects which are likely to cost Rs2, 452.58 billion under the Annual Development Program (ADP).</p> | <p>Sohail Khattak, <i>The Express Tribune</i>, June 7, 2017; Manzoor</p> |

| 2. Provincial/regional developments and concerns | The Source |
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| <p>A <i>Dawn</i> report said that the domestic residents at Battagram's Gajborai protested against the government at the site of a CPEC project and tried to halt the execution because the government has occupied their land for the CPEC without making any financial compensation but false commitments.</p> | <p>Ali, <i>Dawn</i>, June 8, 2017; <i>Daily Mashriq</i>, June 8, 2017 <i>Dawn</i>, June 15, 2017</p> |
| <p>When the KP government approved the provincial budget for the fiscal year 2017-18, Syed Jafar Shah from Awami National Party (ANP) urged the House to seriously solve the issue of occupying the land of domestic people without any compensation for the CPEC projects.</p> | <p>Sohail Khattak, <i>The Express Tribune</i>, June 15, 2017</p> |
| <p>A Reuters report said Balochistan's Secretary for Mines, Saleh Muhammad Baloch has been seeking Chinese support in the mining industry by bringing it under the banner of Belt & Road Initiative.</p> | <p>Gul Yousufzai & Drazen Jorgic, <i>Reuters</i>, June 2, 2017</p> |
| <p>The Baloch Republican Party (BRP) protested during the 35th session of Human Rights Council outside the United Nations office in Geneva against the CPEC. One of the Baloch activists said that CPEC aims to exploit the resources in Balochistan without providing any benefit to its people.</p> | <p><i>Business Standard</i>, June 16, 2017</p> |

| 2. Provincial/regional developments and concerns | The Source |
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| <p>An article in an Urdu magazine <i>Tajziat</i> (Analyses) said that various government officials earlier claimed Gilgit-Baltistan (GB) the gateway of CPEC while the Chief Minister of GB Hafiz Hafeezur Rehman affirmed that GB doesn't fit into the CPEC which is actually a business project. This has been annoying for the people of GB.</p> | <p>Qasim Naseem, <i>Tajziat</i>, June 29, 2017</p> |
| <p>The Chief Minister of GB Hafeezur Rehman said that the local people of GB will not be able to reap the benefits of CPEC, although the federal government has earmarked Rs98 billion for the development of the region under the Public Sector Development Program (PSDP).</p> | <p><i>Dawn</i>, June 24, 2017</p> |

| 3. Socio-cultural | The Source |
|---|---|
| <p>Statements</p> | |
| <p>Chief Executive Officer of Jovago Asia, Nadine Malik said that growing number of new hotels to accommodate the Chinese nationals working on the CPEC has boosted the hospitality industry of Pakistan.</p> | <p>Farhan Zaheer, <i>The Express Tribune</i>, June 29, 2017</p> |
| <p>Action/Visits</p> | |
| <p>A delegation of China Special Economic Zone Think Tank from Shenzhen visited Pakistan. The delegates, led by Mr Wu Sikang, called on the Federal Minister for Education, Muhammad Baligh ur Rehman in Islamabad to explore</p> | <p>M.A. Zubairi, <i>Business Recorder</i>, June 9, 2017</p> |

| 3. Socio-cultural | The Source |
|--|---|
| <p>avenues of collaboration in the field of technical and vocational education.</p> <p>The Minister of State for Information, Broadcasting and National Heritage Marriyum Aurangzeb presided a meeting to discuss the idea of running a cultural convoy from Urmchi in China to Gwadar including artists from both sides and said that the proposed plan will help to enhance socio-cultural bilateral relations. Director General PNCA Syed Jamal Shah updated Information Minister about the documentation of cultural proceeding along the CPEC route.</p> <p>Pakistan’s Minister for Information along with the Chinese Minister for Culture agreed to launch a Cultural group passing along the CPEC route in August 2017. The troupe of total sixty artists from both sides will enhance the bilateral socio-cultural and economic relations.</p> <p>The Chairman of Technical Education and Vocational Training Authority (TEVTA) Irfan Qaiser Sheikh announced to introduce Chinese language programs in 12 other districts of Punjab under the CPEC. The program will be started by July, 2017.</p> | <p><i>The Nation</i>, June 9, 2017; <i>The News</i>, June 9, 2017</p> <p><i>The Nation</i>, June 11, 2017 <i>The Express Tribune</i>, June 12, 2017</p> <p><i>Dawn</i>, June 19, 2017</p> |
| <p>Report/Analysis</p> | |
| <p>According to a report, VC of Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) plans to establish a Chinese Language & Culture Centre in Gwadar in partnership with Beijing Institute of Graphic Communication (BIGC).</p> | <p>Obaid Abrar Khan, <i>The News</i>, June 5, 2017</p> |

| 3. Socio-cultural | The Source |
|---|---|
| <p>A Chinese author has analyzed the Chinese investments in setting up coal power plants globally, specifically under the CPEC, and pointed out that China cannot be in line with the Paris Agreement if it continues to invest in coal power plants.</p> | <p>Tom Mcgregor, <i>Asia Times</i>, June 5, 2017</p> |
| <p>An educationist writes that CPEC poses serious challenges to the higher education sector of Pakistan. There is a dire need for education institutions to focus on developing CPEC related research centers, skilled human resource and enhancing links with the Chinese higher education institutions for the effective implementation of this mega project.</p> | <p>Muhammad Murtaza Noor, <i>Pakistan Observer</i>, June 7, 2017</p> |
| <p>Keeping in view the potential job opportunities under the CPEC projects, many Chinese students have decided to learn the Urdu language. The head of the Urdu Department at Beijing Foreign Studies University BFSU Zhou Yuan informed about the student exchange program in collaboration with NUML and GC University, funded by the government of Pakistan.</p> | <p><i>Balochistan Express</i>, June 11, 2017; <i>The Express Tribune</i>, June 11, 2017; <i>Dawn</i>, June 12, 2017</p> |
| <p>According to the information broadcast by the planning commission, the early harvest projects of CPEC has provided employment opportunities to 30,000 Pakistani workers compared to the small number of Chinese hired. Maximum hiring has been done under the energy projects of CPEC.</p> | <p><i>The Express Tribune</i>, June 7, 2017</p> |
| <p>A report claimed that residents and land owners have threatened to halt the execution of projects in respective areas</p> | <p><i>Dawn</i>, June 13, 2017</p> |

| 3. Socio-cultural | The Source |
|---|--|
| <p>if the government doesn't pay the commercial rates for their property to be hired for the CPEC linked projects.</p> <p>A report said that China has decided to include the CPEC in its 2nd scientific expedition to the 4,000-metre-high Qinghai-Tibet plateau in order to understand the regional climate changes since past ten years.</p> | <p><i>The Hindu</i>, June 19, 2017; <i>The Economic Times</i>, June 18, 2017</p> |

| 4. Security | The Source |
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| <p>Statements</p> | |
| <p>Federal Minister for Planning, Development, and Reform Ahsan Iqbal stated that it is a national responsibility to ensure the security of Chinese employee under the CPEC.</p> | <p><i>The Nation</i>, June 13, 2017</p> |
| <p>The Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Lu Kang has echoed Chinese support to Pakistan's fight against the menace of terrorism. Referring to the case of Chinese nationals killed in Pakistan, he ensured Chinese cooperation in the investigation process.</p> | <p><i>Daily Times</i>, June 15, 2017</p> |
| <p>Planning Division Secretary Shoaib Siddiqi attended a conference during the inauguration of China Studies Centre at the Strategic Vision Institute (SVI) and emphasized on the significance of timely execution of CPEC projects in a safe environment.</p> | <p><i>Dawn</i>, June 21, 2017</p> |
| <p>Security Incidents</p> | |

| 4. Security | The Source |
|--|---|
| <p>A report said that a CPEC employee working on Khadpa project in Attock has been abducted and the case has been filed with the police.</p> | <p><i>Dunya</i>, June 20, 2017</p> |
| <p>Action/Visits</p> | |
| <p>In the wake of two Chinese abducted from Quetta, the National Security Committee (NSC) held a meeting led by the Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif to analyze the security situation of CPEC projects and the Chinese nationals living in Pakistan.</p> | <p>Sajjad Syed, <i>Dawn</i>, June 1, 2017</p> |
| <p>After the incident of two Chinese nationals reportedly killed by ISIS in Quetta, the government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) has set the special security force of 4,200 personnel to ensure the security of foreign residents, mainly Chinese working under the CPEC.</p> | <p>Mushtaq Yousafzai, <i>The News</i>, June 10, 2017</p> |
| <p>The government of Pakistan has strengthened the security measures for Chinese working under the CPEC. A protection division of 2,600 police officers has been established in Sindh to protect 4,000 Chinese CPEC workers, and 1,000 Chinese involved in other projects. Likewise, KP government has also set a security unit of 4,200 officers.</p> | <p>Drazen Jorgic, Jibran Ahmad, <i>Reuters</i>, June 11, 2017; <i>Express Tribune</i>, June 12, 2017; <i>Business Standard</i>, June 12, 2017</p> |
| <p>Interior Minister Chaudhry Nisar Ali Khan ordered to establish a Data Bank of Chinese nationals in Pakistan and instructed to</p> | <p><i>Nawa-i-Waqt</i>, June 13, 2017;</p> |

| 4. Security | The Source |
|---|---|
| <p>revise the visa issuance policy for foreign nationals, particularly Chinese. He stated that two Chinese, who were abducted and killed in Balochistan, erroneously used the business visa and were involved in preaching under the cover of learning the Urdu language.</p> | <p><i>Daily Express</i>, June 13, 2017; Yang Sheng, <i>Global Times</i>, June 13, 2017; <i>Shanghai Daily</i>, June 13, 2017; <i>Mashriq</i>, June 13, 2017</p> |
| <p>To ensure the security of Chinese employees working on the CPEC railway track, the regional police officer Rawalpindi visited the sites between Gujjar Khan and Jhelum and ordered to set up a Quick Response Force (QRF) and deployment of elite forces around the Chinese residents.</p> | <p>Muhammad Asghar, <i>Dawn</i>, June 13, 2017; <i>Jang</i>, June 13, 2017</p> |
| <p>Since Interior Ministry of Pakistan has declared that killed Chinese nationals in Balochistan were preachers and misused their business visa, the Foreign Minister of China informed that China would cooperate with Pakistan to conduct a joint investigation to confirm if killed Chinese were actually Christian missionaries or not.</p> | <p><i>Jang</i>, June 14, 2017; <i>Xinhua</i>, June 14, 2017; <i>Khyber News</i>, June 14, 2017</p> |
| <p>In the wake of Chinese nationals abducted and killed in Quetta, President Mamnoon Hussain declared to employ 15,000 military personnel to enhance the security of Chinese nationals working in Pakistan under the CPEC.</p> | <p><i>Dawn</i> June 25, 2017</p> |

| 4. Security | The Source |
|---|--|
| <p>Bearing in mind the abduction and killing of two Chinese in Quetta, the Punjab provincial government has ordered the district coordination officers (DCO's) and the divisional police chiefs to develop a new policy to ensure the security of Chinese nationals working on the CPEC and non CPEC development projects.</p> | <p><i>Dawn</i>, June 26, 2017</p> |
| <p>Report/Analysis</p> | |
| <p>It has been reported that security forces of Pakistan have killed a number of Islamic State (ISIS) activists in Mastung (Balochistan) based on an intelligence report that suspected these militants have abducted two Chinese from Quetta last month. Although the security forces failed to recover Chinese nationals.</p> | <p>Baqir Sajjad Syed, <i>Dawn</i>, June 4, 2017</p> |
| <p>The Islamic State news agency Amaq claimed to kill two Chinese nationals who were abducted in previous month. Though killing of Chinese is doubted as a response to the targeted military operation in Mastung region, Foreign Ministry of China has expressed serious concerns and trying to validate the information claimed by the ISIS agency.</p> | <p><i>The Guardian</i>, June 9, 2017; Reuters, <i>The Times of India</i>, June 9, 2017; <i>Khyber News</i>, June 9, 2017</p> |
| <p>A Chinese media report claimed that South Korean Christian missionaries are responsible for the abduction and killing of Chinese nationals in Balochistan. According to the report, Indian and western media has been trying to sabotage growing Pak-China economic relations while people of</p> | <p><i>Nawa-i-Waqt</i>, June 14, 2017; Shailaja Neelakantan,</p> |

| 4. Security | The Source |
|--|--|
| Pakistan and even the sectarian outfits are not against the CPEC. | <i>Times of India</i> , June 13, 2017 |
| In the wake of two Chinese killed in Balochistan, the Punjab home department urged the federal government to introduce a software to record the updates of Chinese nationals and to the law enforcement agencies that security measures should be ensured for the foreigner's employees in Pakistan. | <i>Dawn</i> June 15, 2017 |
| The National Highways and Motorway Police (NH&MP) has informed in a meeting of National Assembly Standing Committee on Communication, held at the NH&MP office that they have been unable to provide security to all the CPEC linked new and under-construction infrastructure projects due to the limited human resource. Their request to the federal government to recruit more 10,000 officers has not been responded yet. | Syed Irfan Raza, <i>Dawn</i> , June 20, 2017 |

| 5. Progress on CPEC-linked projects | The Source |
|--|---|
| Statements | |
| At the inaugural ceremony of Sahiwal Coal Power Plant under the CPEC, the representative of Chinese Foreign Ministry has reiterated that early harvest energy projects related to CPEC would be completed in the upcoming year 2018 and would help Pakistan to overcome its energy crisis. | <i>Dawn</i> , June 1, 2017; <i>The Express Tribune</i> , June 1, 2017; <i>Deccan</i> |

| 5. Progress on CPEC-linked projects | The Source |
|--|---|
| <p>Director General of Linyi Trade City Wang Dong has said they were already working in Gwadar on a project where they have built an Exhibition Centre of 6,000 square meters and a warehouse of 140,000 square meters. He said the project was heading towards completion and the workforce includes both Pakistani and Chinese nationals.</p> <p>The spokesperson of Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Hua Chunying has said during the inaugural ceremony of Sahiwal power plant that completion of this project will produce 9 billion KWH of electricity which will address the energy demands of around 10 million domestic people.</p> <p>Federal Minister for Planning, Development & Reform chaired a meeting to evaluate the progress of CPEC projects and stated that timely completion of the early harvest projects of CPEC this year will enhance the socio economic development of Pakistan; and affirmed that execution of Railway Main Line-1 project would transform the transportation system of Pakistan.</p> | <p><i>Chronicle</i>, June 01, 2017</p> <p><i>The Express Tribune</i>, June 1, 2017;</p> <p><i>The News</i>, June 1, 2017</p> <p><i>The Nation</i>, June 5, 2017;</p> <p><i>Dawn</i>, June 5, 2017;</p> <p><i>Daily Balochistan Express</i>, June 6, 2017</p> <p>Muhammad Arshad, <i>Pakistan Observer</i>, June 13, 2017; <i>The Nation</i>, June 13, 2017; <i>The Hindu</i>, June 13, 2017</p> |

| 5. Progress on CPEC-linked projects | The Source |
|--|--|
| <p>Federal Minister for Planning, Development, and Reforms Ahsan Iqbal declared during an interview that China is inclined to finance the construction of Diamer-Bhasha dam along the Indus river in Gilgit Baltistan (GB) under the CPEC. The work on Dam is expected to start by next financial year and to be completed over ten years.</p> <p>The CPEC Project Director Hassan Daud said while briefing about this mega project to Radio Pakistan that eastern and western routes of CPEC will be completed in the beginning of the year 2019.</p> | <p><i>Dawn</i>, June 14, 2017;</p> <p><i>The News</i>, June 14, 2017;</p> <p>Drazen Jorgic, <i>Reuters</i>, June 13, 2017;</p> <p><i>Dunya</i>, June 14, 2017</p> <p><i>Pakistan Observer</i>, June 29, 2017</p> |
| <p>Action/Visits</p> | |
| <p>The government of Pakistan has dropped 3 CPEC linked energy projects of 1250 megawatts that were supposed to be executed under Independent Power Producers (IPPs) mode with estimated cost of worth \$2227. The reason to abandon these projects has not been publicized yet.</p> <p>The China's Exim Bank has rendered Pakistan a soft loan of worth Rs5 billion for the Lahore Orange Line Metro Train (OLMT). The government of Pakistan itself has set aside Rs93 billion for OLMT that is considered to be the biggest allocation for any development project in the province till date.</p> | <p>Ahmad Ahmadani, <i>Pakistan Today</i>, June 3, 2017</p> <p><i>The Express Tribune</i>, June 7, 2017</p> |

| 5. Progress on CPEC-linked projects | The Source |
|---|---|
| <p>According to the National Assembly Standing Committee on Planning, Development, and Reform, China suggested Pakistan to include Diamer-Bhasha dam project in the CPEC.</p> <p>The first Pakistani early harvest wind power project under the CPEC has become operative. The operationalization of this energy project is exemplary for the execution of OBOR and the CPEC.</p> | <p><i>The Express Tribune</i>, June 20, 2017;</p> <p><i>The Nation</i>, June 19, 2017</p> <p><i>The Nation</i>, June 25, 2017;</p> <p><i>Pakistan Observer</i>, June 24, 2017</p> |
| Report/Analysis | |
| <p>A report claimed that early harvest project of CPEC has opened maximum job opportunities for Pakistani workforce while around twenty five percent of Chinese are employed in CPEC projects. The CPEC linked power projects are the main contributor in creating employment opportunities for Pakistani workers.</p> | <p>Fawad Yousafzai, <i>The Nation</i>, June 6, 2017</p> |
| <p>A report says that construction of Gwadar International Airport under the CPEC is expected to start by the end of September 2017 and likely to be completed in early 2020.</p> | <p>Fawad Yousafzai, <i>The Nation</i>, June 15, 2017</p> |
| <p>According to a media report the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) has censured the request of tax exemptions to the \$2.1</p> | <p>Shahbaz Rana, <i>The Express</i></p> |

| 5. Progress on CPEC-linked projects | The Source |
|---|-----------------------------------|
| billion Matiari-Lahore transmission line project under the CPEC, because of its bad impact on the budget. | <i>Tribune</i> , June 18, 2017 |
| An article describes that in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP), a total of 17 industrial economic zones are in progress under the CPEC. | <i>The Nation</i> , June 18, 2017 |

B

BILATERAL (PAK-CHINA) PERSPECTIVE

| 1. CPEC | The Source |
|---|---|
| Statements | |
| <p>In a press conference at Beijing, the spokesperson of Chinese Foreign Ministry Hua Chunying has accredited Pakistan's effort toward the implementation of CPEC and reaffirmed the Chinese assistance in this regard.</p> | <p><i>The News</i>, June 6, 2017</p> |
| <p>A delegation of the China's Peoples Liberation Army's task group met Sindh Governor Mohammad Zubair at the Governor House where they discussed the strength of bilateral relations and stressed the regional significance of CPEC.</p> | <p><i>The News</i>, June 13, 2017</p> |
| <p>Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying has informed media about the death of Chinese nationals working under the CPEC in the region of Balochistan and stressed that China will continue to support Pakistan in its fight against terrorism.</p> | <p>Mo Jingxi, <i>China Daily</i>, June 10, 2017</p> |
| Action/Visits | |
| <p>Among the 80 contributing members, Pakistan was awarded the 'Guest of Honor' status at the Chinese international expo</p> | <p>Navid Miraj, <i>The Express Tribune</i>,</p> |

| 1. CPEC | The Source |
|---|--|
| <p>titled South and Southeast Asia Investment Forum (SSAIF). Growing bilateral relations under the CPEC made this possible.</p> <p>At the inaugural ceremony of the Pak-China Study Centre at the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI), Adviser to Prime Minister on Foreign Affairs Sartaj Aziz and Chinese Ambassador Sun Weidong referred to strong bilateral relations under the CPEC and said that this kind of bilateral linkages would be useful to promote the people to people interaction and exchange of information.</p> <p>The Foreign Minister of China met President Mamnoon Hussain and Chief of the Army Staff Gen Qamar Bajwa during his visit to Pakistan and stressed upon the significance of regional security and mutual interests with reference to CPEC and contemporary situation in Afghanistan. He further appreciated the President's effort toward protecting Chinese nationals.</p> <p>Chinese Embassy Deputy Chief of Mission Zhao Lijian said during a conference at SVI that CPEC is the "fastest and most effective" flagship project among the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).</p> | <p>June 13, 2017</p> <p>Shafqat Ali, <i>The Nation</i>, June 17, 2017;</p> <p><i>Pakistan Today</i>, June 16, 2017</p> <p>Baqir Sajjad Syed, Syed Irfan Raza, <i>Dawn</i>, June 26, 2017</p> <p><i>The Express Tribune</i>, June 21, 2017</p> <p><i>Daily Times</i>, June 22, 2017</p> |
| Report/Analysis | |
| <p>In response to a Pakistani economist's speculation about China to colonize Pakistan via CPEC, a report said that it doesn't</p> | <p><i>Hindustan Times</i>, June 14,</p> |

| 1. CPEC | The Source |
|--|------------|
| make sense to accuse China of colonization based on perusing development projects. | 2017 |

| 2. Bilateral Cooperation | The Source |
|---|--|
| Statements | |
| The representative of Chinese Foreign Ministry Lu Kang rejected the rumors about cold relations between the President Xi Jinping and the Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif. Rather he ensured that both talked in friendly manners on the sidelines of the SCO meeting. | <i>Khyber News</i> , June 13, 2017 |
| Action | |
| China's Assistant Foreign Minister Li Hui has appreciated Pakistan's consistent effort in the war against terrorism at international level. The assistant asserted while condemning Kabul attack that nations are equally responsible for fighting against terrorism though. | <i>Daily K2</i> , June 6, 2017 <i>Nawai-e-Waqt</i> , June 6, 2017 |
| Official Visits/Exchange | |
| The Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan Mr. Sun Weidong held a meeting with Punjab Chief Minister Shahbaz Sharif at the Chinese embassy in Islamabad. In conversation, CM has underlined the consistency and strength of Pak-China bilateral relations and asserted that CPEC has endorsed bilateral economic cooperation. | <i>Pakistan Observer</i> , June 7, 2017 |

| 2. Bilateral Cooperation | The Source |
|--|--|
| <p>A group of Chinese People's Liberation Army-Navy (PLAN) visited Pakistan for training activities where they held professional discussions with the Pakistan Navy associates underlining the mutual interests. Officers from both sides also participated in the informal social events to strengthen the bilateral friendship.</p> | <p><i>The Nation</i>, June 15, 2017; <i>Daily Times</i>, June 15, 2017; <i>Nawa-i-Waqt</i>, June 15, 2017; <i>Dunya</i>, June 15, 2017</p> |
| <p>Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee General Zubair Mahmood Hayat went China to attend the 17th session of defense and security dialogue. In meeting with the Foreign Minister of China and Chairperson of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference Mr. Yu, he ensured the secure execution of CPEC under the enhanced military cooperation. Mr. Yu valued Pak military support to China against terrorism.</p> | <p><i>Dunya</i>, June 16, 2017; <i>Nawa-i-Waqt</i>, June 16, 2017; <i>Yamei, Xinhua</i>, June 15, 2017</p> |

C

REGIONAL / INTERNATIONAL DYNAMICS

| 1. On CPEC and Geo-economic Connectivity | The Source |
|---|---|
| Statements | |
| <p>Regional Chairman of the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI) Standing Committee Ahmad Jawad has called CPEC an economic entity and suggested Indian entrepreneurs join CPEC than being worried about its execution.</p> | <p><i>Dawn</i>, June 2, 2017</p> |
| <p>Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee General Zubair Mahmood Hayat has said during his address at the IISS Shangri-La Dialogue in Singapore that CPEC would be valuable for the resolution of regional conflicts.</p> | <p><i>Geo News</i>, June 3, 2017; <i>The News</i>, June 3, 2017</p> |
| <p>Defense analyst Lt Gen (R) Amjad Shoaib said during an interview that stable Afghanistan is a key to counter the Indian grievances against the execution of the CPEC.</p> | <p>Shah Nawaz Mohal, <i>Pakistan Today</i>, June 4, 2017</p> |
| <p>Ameer Jamaat-e-Islami Punjab Mian Maqsood Ahmed stated that Pakistan's adversaries specifically India has been trying</p> | <p><i>Nawa-i-Waqt</i>, June 9, 2017</p> |

| 1. On CPEC and Geo-economic Connectivity | The Source |
|---|--|
| <p>to sabotage CPEC and he commended the Chinese continued support for the execution of this mega project.</p> <p>Head of Economic Department of the French Embassy in Islamabad, Philippe Fouet while addressing to the members of the Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FCCI) has accredited the role of CPEC in the economic development of Pakistan.</p> <p>The Governor of Balochistan Muhammad Khan Achakzai said while talking to the Nepalese Ambassador that the CPEC would promote the economic stability in the region.</p> | <p>Imran Rana, <i>The Express Tribune</i>, June 9, 2017</p> <p><i>The Express Tribune</i>, June 22, 2017</p> |
| Action/Visits | |
| <p>United Nations (UN) Assistant Secretary-General said during an official visit to Pakistan that the CPEC will enhance the connectivity and promote the bilateral economic integration.</p> | <p>Amin Ahmed, <i>Dawn</i>, June 18, 2017</p> |
| Report/Analysis | |
| <p>A researcher at the National University of Singapore has indicated that there are chances that India might Join the OBOR by participating in the next BRF Summit in the year 2019.</p> <p>A report claimed that spokesperson of China's foreign ministry Hua Chunying has condemned the killing of two Chinese nationals in Pakistan and said that this incident would not halt the secure execution of CPEC.</p> | <p><i>The Economic Times</i>, June 2, 2017</p> <p>Sutirtho Patranobis, <i>Hindustan Times</i>, June 11, 2017</p> |

| 1. On CPEC and Geo-economic Connectivity | The Source |
|---|---|
| <p>A diplomat from Danish Foreign Services said in an interview that increased Pak-China trade under the CPEC would have positive implications for Danish shipping and cement industries.</p> | <p><i>Business Recorder</i>, June 9, 2017</p> |
| <p>According to Chinese media, Pakistan's membership of Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) will complement the execution of CPEC as SCO members are part of the OBOR Initiative.</p> | <p>Muhammad Tahir, <i>Xinhua</i>, June 12, 2017</p> |
| <p>A report said that Indian opposition toward CPEC shall not have the capacity to sabotage the project in the long term if Pak-China continues to cooperate.</p> | <p><i>The News</i>, June 27, 2017; <i>Times of India</i>, June 27, 2017</p> |
| <p>According to a report, China has decided to link CPEC with the Bangladesh-China-India-Myanmar Economic Corridor (BCIM-EC) to enhance the regional connectivity under the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).</p> | <p><i>The Nation</i>, June 21, 2017; <i>The Indian Express</i>, June 26, 2017</p> |
| <p>A report said that India tends to create its own regional connectivity setup to counterbalance the CPEC by developing trade linkages in the region.</p> | <p><i>Dawn</i>, June 26, 2017</p> |

| 2. On Pak-China Bilateral Relations | The Source |
|--|------------------------------|
| <p>Statements</p> | |
| <p>Translator of Xi Jinping's book, 'The Governance of China',</p> | <p><i>Daily K2</i>, June</p> |

| 2. On Pak-China Bilateral Relations | The Source |
|---|-----------------|
| <p>Huma Anwar has highlighted while talking to China Radio International that Pak-China enjoys cordial bilateral relations at both national and public level. She further asserted that CPCEC will accelerate the economic development and transform the political outlook of the region.</p> | <p>16, 2017</p> |

| 3. Regional Dynamics of CPEC Security | The Source |
|--|--|
| <p><i>Statements</i></p> <p>Senator of Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N), Mushahidullah Khan stated that anti-Pakistan forces [in the region] have been trying to sabotage the execution CPEC-linked projects.</p> | <p><i>Balochistan Express</i>, June 16, 2017; Fawad Maqsood, <i>Business Recorder</i>, June 13, 2017</p> |

D

ANALYSIS

Political Development

Despite the CPEC-related concerns of provincial governments of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Sindh and Balochistan appear to be waning gradually, yet the anti-CPEC nationalist sentiments persist there as well as in Gilgit-Baltistan. It is the responsibility of the federal and provincial governments to create awareness among people about the shared benefits of the CPEC for the people of Pakistan. Any perception of discrimination, inequality or exploitation among any group or region should be responded to effectively. The government should also ensure that the less developed and underdeveloped regions of the country are included in CPEC on a priority basis.

Apart from that, some domestic challenges still continue to at least slow down the execution of CPEC projects including the coordination challenge among different government ministries and department; this is what Minister of Planning, Development and Reform Ahsan Iqbal said at the World Economic Forum. The government has been trying to address this issue of [lack of] coordination among federal and provincial ministries and departments which is also partly linked to larger political dissonance and winning-electoral-support rhetoric. At the same time, this is also true that

a workable mechanism is direly needed to provide an enhanced cooperation and coordination among ministries and departments.

Project Implementation and New Initiatives

Despite the fact that the government has claimed to allocate a sufficient amount for the CPEC linked projects in the federal budget, there are suggestions from experts that the government should consider reviewing the budget to increase allocations for CPEC projects. Apart from the aforementioned interdepartmental and center-provinces coordination challenges, financial constraints could also hamper or slow down the CPEC projects' execution. Similarly, while there are projections of a growth in the FDI, things will fall in line if the government plans accordingly providing a conducive environment for that to happen. It should consider the suggestions of seeking and using foreign investment in agricultural sector as well in SMEs besides developing local human resource. The sectors of local industry getting a boost from CPEC such as the cement industry should be provided incentives rather than putting more taxes on them.

While the progress on CPEC projects has been accredited by the federal government, the Chinese government has also shown satisfaction over the pace of CPEC execution and expressed its willingness to invest in textile industry. Chinese inclination to finance the construction of Diامر Bhasha dam, rendering soft loan of worth Rs5 billion for the Lahore Orange Line Metro Train, and the construction of Gwadar airport are positive indications for the execution of CPEC.

Regional Context

The matter of India's absence from the Belt and Road Summit has got major attention in the analysis of regional affairs. A stable Afghanistan is a prerequisite to deal with the Indian factor. Due to its geostrategic significance, peaceful Afghanistan would help to promote stability of the region that will endorse secure and smooth execution of the CPEC. Pakistan's – as well as India's – formal joining of Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) now has accelerated debate on regional geo-economic and security affairs. However, the repercussions of linking CPEC with Bangladesh-China-India-Myanmar Economic Corridor (BCIM-EC) are unpredictable. Indian opposition of CPEC is still a key challenge to the execution of CPEC and stability of the region, yet China has shown strong confidence in the firm Pak-China bilateral relations.

CPEC security

Since the launch of CPEC, Chinese nationals working in Pakistan have been facing the issue of security. On the eve of the abduction of Chinese nationals, the National Security Committee held a meeting, chaired by the Prime Minister, to look into the issue of security for Chinese workers. At present, it appears that the security mechanism for CPEC and workers is still in a phase of evolution and will take time to develop into a concrete security infrastructure. There are attempts by provincial governments, too, to raise dedicated security forces for CPEC. However it is not clear yet if the Special Security Division has started to operate as a full force.

The incident of killing of Chinese nationals in Balochistan, however, has once again highlighted the threat facing security of the Chinese nationals in the country.

(Note: This report is compiled by the Senior Research Analyst Safdar Sial and Research Associate Anam Fatima, at Pak Institute for Peace Studies (PIPS), Islamabad.)