Editor Note:

Launched in August 2018, China Study Centre is a broader initiative of Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI) to bridge the research-policy gap on the issues of global relevance such as trade, technologies, climate change, tourism, business, finance and Pakistan-China relations. The Centre strives to foster research, knowledge and expertise on China, profoundly relevant to our engagement with China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

With a large network of universities, government bodies, business and civil society organizations, the Centre aims to promote collaborations, capacity building and technology transfer based on lessons learnt and experiences of China, attributed to their scientific knowledge and policy instruments. This requires a deep insight into Chinese history, culture, and socio-economic contexts. Such an approach is essential to catalyze the active engagement with China to address the economic and development challenges towards achieving sustainable development.

Dr. Hina Aslam

…..About Newsletter

In order to keep abreast of emerging issues at the National/International and local level, the SDPI China Study Centre brings out a Monthly E-Newsletter. It carries reference information to the News items/Comments/Op-Eds appearing in leading National/International dailies.

Team:

Chief Editor: Dr. Abid Qaiyum Suleri  Editor: Dr. Hina Aslam

Data Manage by: Shahid Rasul  Compile & Layout Design by: Ali Aamer Javed
Subjects Covered

- Pak-China Foreign relations
- CPEC
- Regional integration under China’s Belt & Road (B&R)
- Business, innovation & entrepreneurship
- Trade and Tourism
- Energy and Environment
- Social development
- Capacity building, learning and development
- Economic growth & governance
- Research and development
- History, language and culture
- Open Knowledge repository
- SDPI’s events, visits, publications

Economic Growth & Governance

**Sino-Pak Agriculture cooperation (Part-II)**
Source: Muhammad Asif Noor, *Daily Times*, 2020-01-09

It is high time that Pakistan may rise again as agriculture products leaders with its strength to narrow and strengthen the trade imbalance between China and Pakistan hence aim to improve the agri-based exports from Pakistan to China. For this wish to come true, Pakistan needs to connect to the food value chain with that of China. It is pertinent to note here that China shares 20 per cent of the w.....

more >>

**A truce in US-China trade war**
Source: Sun Xi, *Daily Times*, 2020-01-22

“Nobody wants a trade war”, and so the trade conflict between the world’s two largest economies, the United States of America and the People’s Republic of China, just reached a truce almost after two years. On 22 March 2018, US President Donald Trump directed the United States trade representative (USTR) to start investigating China’s ‘unfair’ trade practice.....

more >>

**Lessons from China**

On 10th January 2020, a glittering function was held in The Great Hall of the People in Beijing with several thousand dignitaries. It was presided over by Chinese President Xi Jinping. Present were also the prime minister, the deputy prime minister, other cabinet ministers and all top scientists of China. The function was held to honour top scientists of China and the world. The highest scientifi.....
Dialogue with Icon
Source: Naveed Aman Khan, Daily Times, 2020-02-16

Renowned CPEC analyst and one of the leading business icons of Pakistan, Malik Muhammad Ishaq, is running a wide range of his diverse businesses in Pakistan, the UK, the UAE, the US, China, Europe and Africa. He is a big story of success. At breakfast on Edgeware Road, London, we, as usual, discussed the economic development of Great Britain, America, China, France, Germany and Pakistan. About the.....

Economic Growth & Governance (Both China & Pakistan)

Special Economic Zones in Pakistan: Learning from China
Source: Dr Samina Sabir, Daily Times, 2020-02-25

Industrial development is an instrumental for a long run sustainable economic growth of a country subject to feasible industrial policies. For instance establishing business parks, export promotion zones, industrial clusters, and special economic zones (SEZs)would increase economic growth and development. SEZs are also known as investment promotion zones, industrial estates, free trade zones and e.....

History, language & culture

Chinese cultural heritage celebrated with exhibition, performances
Source: Staff Reporter, Dawn, 2020-01-17

ISLAMABAD: The upcoming Chinese New Year was celebrated with a number of exhibitions and performances highlighting China’s cultural heritage on Thursday. Organised by the China Cultural Centre, two different activities were held to mark the upcoming Chinese Spring Festival. The exhibition, titled Chinese Intangible Cultural Heritage, went up in the main lobby of the Pakistan National Counc.....

Lessons from China

On 10th January 2020, a glittering function was held in The Great Hall of the People in Beijing with several thousand dignitaries. It was presided over by Chinese President Xi Jinping. Present were also the prime minister, the deputy prime minister, other cabinet ministers and all top scientists of China. The function was held to honour top scientists of China and the world. The highest scientifi.....
Pak-China Relations / Foreign Affairs

The trade war
Source: Rana Junaid Naseer, Daily Times, 2020-01-29

The two economic behemoths, the USA and China, were found with their horns locked in 2018 that kicked off an unwanted trade war that was to impact the global economy in more ways more anticipated. Though the relationship between the two countries was never sweet, since the introduction of Donald J Trump to the world as the president of the United States, the degeneration became more visible when Chi....

more >>

Pak-China friendship & Coronavirus
Source: Adeela Naureen and Waqar K Kauravi, The Nation, Islamabad, 2020-02-07

What do you do with a friend in distress? READ MORE: Sheikh Rashid vows to eradicate corruption form Railways

The Coronavirus in China could have happened to any country or nation. While China has displayed historic fight against the spread of the virus, some factions in international media are trying to launch a hybrid war against China. Apparently a benign campaign, the trend analysis of th.....

more >>

Pak-China trade

FBR issues SRO to launch Phase-II of Pak-China FTA

ISLAMABAD: The Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) on Wednesday issued the Statutory Regulatory Orders (SRO) to implement the protocol agreed between China and Pakistan for the second phase of the Free Trade Agreement (FTA). A statement released by the board said that in order to implement the agreed protocol it has “transposed the offer list and developed a SRO”. It also said that the SRO .....
**Sell more to China**  
Source: Hasaan Khawar, *The Express Tribune, Islamabad*, 2020-01-07

The beginning of the year 2020 marks a new turn in China-Pakistan economic relations, with the operationalisation of the second phase of the China Pakistan Free Trade Agreement (CPFTA-II). The agreement has immediately abolished tariffs for Pakistan on 313 products, while a total of 75% of the tariff lines will be liberalised over the next decade. This will significantly improve access to the Chin.....

**Sino-Pak Agriculture cooperation (Part-II)**  
Source: Muhammad Asif Noor, *Daily Times*, 2020-01-09

It is high time that Pakistan may rise again as agriculture products leaders with its strength to narrow and strengthen the trade imbalance between China and Pakistan hence aim to improve the agri-based exports from Pakistan to China. For this wish to come true, Pakistan needs to connect to the food value chain with that of China. It is pertinent to note here that China shares 20 per cent of the w.....

**Pakistan to export 500,000 MT additional rice to China**  
Source: APP, *Daily Times*, 2020-01-08

ISLAMABAD: After successfully completing the export quota of 250,000 MT of rice to China, Pakistan will now export additional 500,000 MT of rice to the country, Advisor to Prime Minister on Commerce, Investment and Industries Abdul Razak Dawood said on Wednesday. In his tweet, the Advisor said that after completing the export quota, the government of Pakistan approached government of China for an a.....

**Sino-Pak FTA-II: will Pakistan benefit?**  

ISLAMABAD: China and Pakistan have signed phase-II of the free trade agreement (FTA), which has become effective on January 1, 2020, 15 years after the phase-I was operationalised. In this article, we weigh the possible benefits Pakistan can draw from this agreement. China is already ranked as the second largest export destination for Pakistan with a share of 8% in Pakistan's total ex.....

**Allama Iqbal Industrial Zone Faisalabad to create 300,000 jobs, attract Rs400b investment**  
Source: APP, *Dawn*, 2020-01-14
BEIJING - Allama Iqbal Industrial Zone Faisalabad being established under China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is expected to create around 300,000 jobs and attract Rs 400 billion of investment in automobiles, value-added textiles, engineering, pharmaceuticals, food processing, chemicals, construction materials and packaging sectors. READ MORE: UK urges new nuclear deal with Iran

China eager to import meat, potatoes, onions from Pakistan
Source: Our Correspondent, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2020-01-16

ISLAMABAD: China is eager to import meat, potatoes, onions, mangoes and cherries from Pakistan and in this regard, Chinese experts will visit quarantine facilities of the country in February this year, said Chinese Ambassador Yao Jing. In a meeting with Federal Minister for National Food Security and Research Makhdoom Khursro Bakhtiar, he said that China wanted to build stronger socio-economy.

China and green finance: lessons for Pakistan
Source: Muhammad Zubair Mumtaz, Daily Times, 2020-01-16

In today’s world, China is experiencing severe environmental issues on account of significant industrial development. With a view of achieving the transition to environmentally sustainable economic growth, China spent enormous efforts in promoting “green finance” initiatives and pursued a comprehensive but coordinated approach to accelerate its integration of these initiatives into.

China leads as FDI in Pakistan soars to 30-month high at $487m
Source: Salman Siddiqui, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2020-01-17

KARACHI: Long-term foreign investors have finally staged a much-awaited comeback in different sectors of the economy, like power and telecommunication, following clarity in the government’s economic policies. Foreign direct investment (FDI) hit a two-and-a-half-year high at $487 million in December 2019. This comes to over one-third of the total FDI inflow of $1.34 billion in the first.

Examining Pakistan-China FTA’s vital signs
Source: BR Research, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2020-01-17

No doubt, the perennial current account deficit crisis Pakistan faces makes increasing exports a top priority. We are an exports-starved nation. This is also why the new-and-improved part II of the Pakistan-China FTA has received so much attention. Advisor to the Prime Minister for Commerce and Investment, Abdul Razak Dawood has been found to say exports would grow 20 times. As a result, all effort.
Pakistan's free trade deal with China unlikely to yield much
Source: Usman Hanif, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2020-01-21

KARACHI: Although Pakistan has got a mammoth opportunity to increase its exports by billions of dollars under phase-II of the China-Pakistan Free Trade Agreement (CPFTA-II), experts fear that the dream may not materialise due to shrinking economy and de-industrialisation in the country. “Pakistan may not be able to take advantage of opportunities under CPFTA-II,” said Federation ..... more >>

Demystifying China-Pakistan FTA
Source: Hasaan Khawar, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2020-01-21

Under the second phase of the China-Pakistan Free Trade Agreement (CPFTA-II), China has immediately eliminated tariffs for Pakistan on 313 high-priority tariff lines. The government is celebrating its success, whereas the critics are questioning the relevance of these concessions for Pakistan. It is therefore important to take an objective look at these concessions and answer some pertinent questi..... more >>

A truce in US-China trade war
Source: Sun Xi, Daily Times, 2020-01-22

“Nobody wants a trade war”, and so the trade conflict between the world’s two largest economies, the United States of America and the People’s Republic of China, just reached a truce almost after two years. On 22 March 2018, US President Donald Trump directed the United States trade representative (USTR) to start investigating China’s ‘unfair’ trade practice..... more >>

Under CPEC project; Pak-China experts agree to develop textile cooperation framework
Source: Recorder Report, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2020-01-23

ISLAMABAD: Pakistani and Chinese experts have agreed to develop a textile cooperation framework under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) project by focusing on readymade garments, man-made fiber and textile skill training. It was expressed in a one-day workshop organised by the Board of Investment (BOI) to deliberate on a diagnostic study on Pakistan’s textile sector, conducted b..... more >>

Coronavirus threat in Pakistan, high time for preparedness

Islamabad: There is no case of illness caused by 2019 novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV) so far in Pakistan but it is a serious threat for Pakistan as air travel remains a major risk factor in its transmission to all parts of the world including
Pakistan that is bordering China and having much transportation through road as well. The threat is greater because of working on CPEC and thousands of our s.....

more >>

Trade and commerce reliance: IMF asks Pakistan to cut reliance on China

ISLAMABAD: The visiting IMF mission has extended its stay in Pakistan for making more efforts to strike a consensus on the staff-level agreement as both sides so far persisted with their respective differences on ‘immediate measures’ for reducing the revenue-expenditure gap and fixing cash bleeding energy sector. The IMF has also asked Islamabad "to reduce its trade and commerce r.....

more >>

CPEC, the US, and ‘Narrative Economics’
Source: Irfan Shahzad Takalvi, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2020-02-14

Alice Wells did it again; demonize BRI and CPEC. Her unwelcome, pointed and repetitive remarks were responded to, both by Chinese and Pakistani sides. The point – the core of it – however, remains unexplained, largely. The question is why did the senior American diplomat have to repeat in her January 2020 visit to Islamabad, at an Islamabad think-tank, what she had already uttered two m.....

more >>

KCR revival hinges on $2bn Chinese financing: Rashid
Source: Recorder Report, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2020-02-20

KARACHI: Federal Minister for Railways Sheikh Rashid Ahmed Wednesday linked the revival of much-delayed Karachi Circular Railway (KCR) with the receipt of $ 2 billion Chinese financing. However, he vowed to remove all encroachments and vacate the Railways land to be used for KCR project within next 30 days in line with the Supreme Court orders, and with the help of Sindh government. Addr.....

more >>

Master plan shows Gwadar to become trade, tourism hub of South Asia

LONDON/QUETTA: Gwadar's population is set to exceed two million people in the long run with high paid expatriate professionals accounting for up to 80% of the population, according to the new Gwadar Smart City Master plan. High paid jobs, tax-free environment, high-tech industries, mega shopping malls, luxury resorts, man-made islands and Pakistan's largest international airport, which wa.....

more >>
Pakistan: Time for real change! (Part ii)
Source: Dr Shahzad Latif, Daily Times, 2020-02-24

It is not that government is not collecting enough revenues, it is that there are too many government expenses and leakages. There is about Rs.1900Billion budget deficit. Government expends about Rs.700Billion running the government itself, which is at about 10% of GDP. Circular debt is about Rs.10000Billion (+). There is so much stealing of electricity and gas. There is no planning to make cheaper p.....

more >>

Special Economic Zones in Pakistan: Learning from China
Source: Dr Samina Sabir, Daily Times, 2020-02-25

Industrial development is an instrumental for a long run sustainable economic growth of a country subject to feasible industrial policies. For instance establishing business parks, export promotion zones, industrial clusters, and special economic zones (SEZs) would increase economic growth and development. SEZs are also known as investment promotion zones, industrial estates, free trade zones and e.....

more >>

China keen to upgrade Pakistan agriculture infrastructure, tech
Source: APP, The Nation, Islamabad, 2020-02-26

ISLAMABAD - Ambassador of China Yao Jing Tuesday stressed for further materialising the understanding between Chinese Academy of Agriculture Sciences and Pakistan Agriculture Research Council to work on the improvement of rice, sugarcane, cotton, vegetable and livestock using modern technologies. The Chinese ambassador met with PARC Chairman Dr Muhammad Azeem Khan and detailed discussion was carried.....

more >>

Chinese experts to help Pakistan tackle locusts
Source: Omer Qureshi, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2020-02-28

KARACHI: Pakistan has once again been plagued with the problem of locusts, which inflicted substantial damage to farmlands thus threatening food security of the country and prompting the government to seek help from Chinese experts to tackle the issue. Delegation members of the Chinese agricultural expert team, which is currently on a visit to Pakistan, stated that Beijing has the potential.....
Regional Integration under B&R + CPEC

Govt defends establishment of CPEC Authority
Source: Jamal Shahid, Dawn, 2020-01-01

ISLAMABAD: The government has defended the necessity of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) Authority which enhanced scope after inclusion of socio-economic, agriculture and industrial development, and third party participation. The National Assembly Standing Committee on Planning and Development met here on Tuesday to discuss the need for the government’s bill regarding the CPEC Au.....

CPEC: phases and challenges

The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is widely considered a turning point for both Pakistan and the region. It is an important stimulus for Pakistan, and promises rapid economic growth, massive infrastructure development, 700,000 new jobs in the next ten or fifteen years and the creation of special economic zones along the way. After four years of Phase I of CPEC, Pakistan is now ready to .....

Looking forward to a New Chapter of China-Pakistan Friendship
Source: Mr. Yaojing, The Nation, Islamabad, 2020-01-02

As time flies, we are in the year of 2020. At this wonderful moment of welcoming the third decade of the 21st century, I, on behalf of the Embassy of the People’s Republic of China in Pakistan, would like to extend my sincere New Year greetings to all Pakistani friends. READ MORE:Fawad Ch says politics can’t be done over national institutions The year 2019 is of great historic sign.....

CPEC Puzzle
Source: Shakeel Ahmad Ramay, Daily Times, 2020-01-06

From the very first day PTI declared CPEC a top priority. Prime Minister himself, at different occasions pinned the importance of CPEC. He assured all stakeholders including Chinese counterparts that his government will do everything to smoothen the process of implementation. Prime Minister established CPEC Authority and speed up the process for joint coordination meeting. Joint Coordination meeting.....
CPEC has nothing to do with security cooperation: Yao

ISLAMABAD: China’s Ambassador to Pakistan Yao Jing said on Wednesday that China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is purely a commercial project that had nothing to do with security cooperation. Both the countries, he said, now started establishing joint ventures (JVs) under CPEC framework of industrial cooperation for boosting Pakistan’s exports. “We are now focusing on.....

more >>

Minister informs NA about CPEC projects
Source: Naveed Butt, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2020-01-10

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Asad Umar has said that total cost of CPEC projects including ML-1 Railway project is approximately $ 50 billion out of which 13 projects at estimated cost of $11 billion are complete, 13 projects at cost of $18 billion are under implementation, whereas $21 billion projects are in pipeline. In a written reply to question.....

more >>

Allama Iqbal Industrial Zone Faisalabad to create 300,000 jobs, attract Rs400b investment
Source: APP, Dawn, 2020-01-14

BEIJING - Allama Iqbal Industrial Zone Faisalabad being established under China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is expected to create around 300,000 jobs and attract Rs 400 billion of investment in automobiles, value-added textiles, engineering, pharmaceuticals, food processing, chemicals, construction materials and packaging sectors. READ MORE: UK urges new nuclear deal with Iran The project.....

more >>

CPEC and economic revival
Source: Ahsan Munir, The Nation, Islamabad, 2020-01-19

Pakistan is a populous country –with a youth bulge, is in need of jobs. At present, our economy needs stimulus: some big economic projects which could provide jobs to the youth, consume local industries capacities and help improve local industries’ quality, productivity, and technology. READ MORE: Kremlin pledges ‘large-scale public discussion’ on proposed constitutional am.....

more >>

Taiwan’s balancing act with China
Source: Usman A Khan Tahir, Daily Times, 2020-01-22

The 2020 Taiwanese generalelectionwas held on Jan 11, 2020. Tsai Ing-wen won a second term with a comfortable victory over Han Kuo-yu in an election that had been dubbed as a sort of a referendum on the island’s approach to Beijing. Tsai, from the Democratic Progressive Party (DPP), captured more than 8 million votes, defeating her major challenger, Han Kuo-yu, from the Kuomintang (KMT) by c.....
**Pakistan-China relationship, CPEC; China expresses opposition to US 'interference'**  
ISLAMABAD: The Chinese Embassy in Islamabad on Wednesday dismissed the 'negative propaganda' of the Untied States about China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and posed questions to the top US diplomat Alice Wells if she has brought any 'aid, investment or trade for Pakistan' during her visit. The embassy also clarified about the Chinese loans for CPEC project, saying that th.....

**Under CPEC project; Pak-China experts agree to develop textile cooperation framework**  
ISLAMABAD: Pakistani and Chinese experts have agreed to develop a textile cooperation framework under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) project by focusing on readymade garments, man-made fiber and textile skill training. It was expressed in a one-day workshop organised by the Board of Investment (BOI) to deliberate on a diagnostic study on Pakistan's textile sector, conducted b.....

**Industrial upgrading and SEZs along CPEC**  
Source: Ahsan Munir, *The Nation, Islamabad*, 2020-01-22  
CPEC has been termed as ‘Game Changer’ by incumbent and previous governments. It has been claimed that numerous special economic zones (SEZs) proposed along the CPEC route will have a positive effect on the economy of the country. READ MORE:Trump says plans to release ME peace plan sometime prior to Netanyahu visit A vital role of SEZs (read export-oriented zones, where foreign f.....

**America’s Burden**  
The United States’ (US) ambassador Alice Wells is on her visit to Pakistan. Her speech at a think tank event is suggestive of the white man’s burden still very much in place. She wants Pakistan to rethink its involvement with the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) – the flagship project of its One Belt One Road Initiative. However, Alice Wells’ comments on CPEC, intrud.....

**China asks Pakistan to convene 10th JCC meeting**  
ISLAMABAD: China has asked Pakistan to convene the 10th Joint Cooperation Committee (JCC) meeting under the CPEC framework ahead of its schedule in order to finalise different mega projects, including railways Mainline (ML-1) of $9.2 billion before the arrival of President Xi Jinping to Islamabad. China’s National Development Reform Commission (NDRC) has sent out official communicati.....

more >>

**Getting CPEC wrong**  

On January 21, one of the main US diplomats for South Asia, Ms Alice Wells, repeated her criticism of CPEC, which came across as schooling Pakistan on why CPEC was a bad deal for Pakistan, and how Pakistan and Pakistanis are mistaken about the transformational impact that CPEC is believed to have had over the past five and a half years. Since this is the second time the US diplomat has talked thi.....

more >>

**Pakistan joins China in dismissing US claim about CPEC**  
Source: Our Correspondent, *The Express Tribune, Islamabad*, 2020-01-24

ISLAMABAD: A day after China issued a strong rebuttal to the recent statement by a senior US diplomat questioning the efficacy of CPEC, Pakistan on Thursday endorsed Beijing’s stance, saying it attaches high priority to the multibillion-dollar project. The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor has once again been in the spotlight after US chief diplomat for South Asia Ambassador Alice Wells.....

more >>

**Pakistan joins China in dismissing US claim about CPEC**  
Source: Our Correspondent, *The Express Tribune, Islamabad*, 2020-01-24

ISLAMABAD: A day after China issued a strong rebuttal to the recent statement by a senior US diplomat questioning the efficacy of CPEC, Pakistan on Thursday endorsed Beijing’s stance, saying it attaches high priority to the multibillion-dollar project. The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor has once again been in the spotlight after US chief diplomat for South Asia Ambassador Alice Wells.....

more >>

**US on CPEC**  
Source: Editorial, *Dawn*, 2020-01-23

HIGH-level engagements between the US and Pakistan on Tuesday resulted in some interesting outcomes. Meeting Prime Minister Imran Khan in Davos, President Donald Trump, who called Mr Khan his “friend”, said that Pakistan and the US had never been as close as they were now. But though this camaraderie is welcome, speaking in Islamabad, Alice Wells, the State Department’s senior o.....

more >>
Pakistan, too, defends CPEC  

ISLAMABAD: A day after China took strong exception to the top US diplomat's remarks about China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), Pakistan also categorically rejected the US claims that the multibillion dollars project is being financed either through loans or non-concessional financing with sovereign guarantees. Foreign Office Spokesperson Aisha Farooqui told her weekly media briefing t.....

Conflict over CPEC  

Washington and Beijing are continuing the increasingly bitter war of words over the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). While Pakistan has defended the corridor as a possible game-changer for both economics and politics in the region, Alice Wells, head of central and South Asian affairs in the US State Department has once again lashed out against the corridor on her recent visit to Pakistan. ..... 

Criticising CPEC  

The recent statement of senior US official Alice Wells regarding CPEC was uncalled for. She had asserted that under CPEC blacklisted Chinese companies had been awarded contracts. Miss Wells also claimed that Pakistan would face a pile of debts because of the project. In return, Beijing issued a lengthy rebuttal arguing that the historic investment initiative greatly benefited Pakistan, creating t.....

PM Khan orders speedy completion of CPEC projects  
Source: APP, Dawn, 2020-01-29

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan on Tuesday said the ongoing development projects under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) should be completed on a fast-track basis and directed to give final shape to the consultation process of the future plans on priority. Lauding the time-tested friendship with the northern neighbour, he said China had always supported Pakistan during the difficul.....

CPEC: A diplomatic tightrope  

The mistrust in the relations between Pakistan and the United States has markedly been overcome over the last one year and a half. Prime Minister Imran Khan has had a meeting with the US President Donald Trump on the sidelines
of year. In a sign of significant improvement in the bilateral ties, Mr Trump is expected to visit Pakistan "soon" but this visit would not be part of the regio.....

more >>

CPEC: the bigger picture

Why is Washington making a song and dance about the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC)? Are their reservations with regard to the multi-billion programme rooted in deep concerns for Pakistan’s long-term wellbeing? Do – like caring parents who believe their naive child should give a wide berth to bad company – they want Islamabad to keep the Chinese at an arm’s length?.....

more >>

Coronavirus threat in Pakistan, high time for preparedness

Islamabad : There is no case of illness caused by 2019 novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV) so far in Pakistan but it is a serious threat for Pakistan as air travel remains a major risk factor in its transmission to all parts of the world including Pakistan that is bordering China and having much transportation through road as well. The threat is greater because of working on CPEC and thousands of our s.....

more >>

Wells’ CPEC onslaught
Source: Wells’ CPEC onslaught, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2020-01-30

With American guest in town, the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) hits the headlines again. CPEC, since its inception draws conflicting interpretations of its various facets. Critical appraisal is sometimes home-grown and on occasion comes handy from across the world. Friends term the project a beacon of hope that has promise of prosperous Pakistan with enormous development prospects impact.....

more >>

CPEC-related shipments not affected; Chinese workforce faces reasonable movement curb
Source: Tahir Amin, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2020-01-31

ISLAMABAD: Chinese engineers and labour working on China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) projects have been advised to extend their vacations till precautionary measures to limit the spread of coronavirus are in place. This was revealed by senior officials of Ministry of Planning, Development and Special Initiatives while talking to Business Recorder here on Thursday. They said the matter w.....

more >>
Alice’s (mis) adventures
Source: Sohaib R. Malik, Dawn, 2020-02-03

IF stirring controversies is part of the present-day diplomat’s job, then it sits somewhere on top of Alice Wells’ job description at the US Department of State. Since Pakistan shrugged off the concerns she voiced about CPEC from Washington, the diplomat left the comforts of her home to travel to the Pakistani capital with more revelations. Unsurprisingly, the ensuing debate earned he.....

more >>

Second phase of CPEC
Source: Editorial, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2020-02-01

Prime Minister Imran Khan has directed all relevant ministries to set targets and timelines for the implementation of the second phase of China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) projects. The second phase involves requests/negotiations with China during the Khan administration for assistance in agriculture and social sector projects while the first phase projects focused on infrastructure projects.....

more >>

Alice in Cuckoo Land
Source: Shabir Ahmed, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2020-02-06

Alice Wells is a professional diplomat, trained in the art of nuances. One would imagine the power she represents allows her to speak softly, without having to show the stick. Blustering Trump is no Theodore Roosevelt. His weapon of choice is brashness, not quiet diplomacy. If you have the right worldview you would rather stay out of the orbit of his stick. You have the same approach to his e.....

more >>

CPEC is backbone of Pakistan’s economy, says Asad Qaiser
Source: Staff Report, Daily Times, 2020-02-07

National Assembly Speaker Asad Qaiser on Thursday said that China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is a backbone of our economy amid critical economic challenges of the country. Terming CPEC a fortune change of the country, Asad Qaiser said through knowledge sharing and technology transfer, we are hopeful that Pakistan would soon get out of the current economic quagmire. He said this during a spe.....

more >>

Coronavirus will not stop economic cooperation with Pakistan: Chinese Envoy
Source: APP, Associated Press of Pakistan, 2020-02-06

ISLAMABAD, Feb 06 (APP): Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan, Yao Jing Thursday said that the Coronavirus catastrophe would not stop the economic cooperation between China and Pakistan. “We are thankful to the Pakistani government and people for showing solidarity in our difficult time which provide us strength and more confidence”, he said while addressing a special Seminar titled “S.....
**CPEC phase II envisions generating mass employment: Chairman CPEC Authority**  
Source: APP, Associated Press of Pakistan, 2020-02-06

ISLAMABAD, Feb 6 (APP): Chairman CPEC Authority General (Retd) Asim Saleem Bajwa has said that the second phase of China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) encompassed multi-sector projects that would generate mass level employment opportunities in the country. “Time to gear up for Phase-2 which is envisioned to generate mass employment through more projects of mass industrialisation, agricl.....

**Pakistan’s support on coronavirus outbreak in China is applauding: Yao Jing**  
Source: News Desk, Pakistan Observer, 2020-02-07

While appreciating Pakistan for its support to cope with coronavirus outbreak, Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan Yao Jing on Thursday said that China is working day and night to prevent the life-threatening virus from entering into Pakistan. He, however, said that that flight operations between both countries are normal. He went on to say that the Chinese government is suffering from serious diffic.....

**Coronavirus not to stop economic cooperation with Pakistan: China**  
Source: Staff Report, Pakistan Today, 2020-02-07

ISLAMABAD: Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan Yao Jing has said that that the coronavirus catastrophe would not stop the economic cooperation between China and Pakistan. “We are thankful to the Pakistani government and people for showing solidarity in our difficult time which provide us strength and more confidence”, he said while addressing a special seminar titled “Six Years of Bel.....

**Will coronavirus affect CPEC and Pak economy?**  

ISLAMABAD: Can coronavirus outbreak create havoc in Pakistan and hamper the ongoing progress on the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) projects? The question has put Pakistani authorities in a catch-22 situation. Thousands of Chinese nationals working on CPEC projects left for China last month to celebrate the New Year and might not be returning anytime soon without proper screening. .....
Islamabad: Speaker of the National Assembly Asad Qaiser on Thursday said the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor was the backbone of Pakistani economy amid critical economic challenges of the country. Terming CPEC a fortune change of the country, Asad Qaiser said through knowledge sharing and technology transfer, we are hopeful that Pakistan would soon get out of the current economic quagmire.....

more >>

CPEC authority chief, KP CM discuss development projects
Source: Recorder Report, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2020-02-12

PESHAWAR: Chairman CPEC Authority Lt General Asim Saleem Bajwa (retd) met with Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Mahmood Khan who called on him at Chief Minister Secretariat Peshawar and held detailed deliberations on the provincial government developmental projects included in China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). The Chief Minister stated that provincial government is undertaking efforts.....

more >>

CPEC: The ball is in Pakistan’s court
Source: Afshan Subohi, Dawn, 2020-02-10

China asserts that it is not wavering from its commitment to assist Pakistan in the second, people-centric phase of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). Despite being embroiled in multiple problems — the virus epidemic, growth moderation and trade spat with the United States — the Asian dragon is all set to commit $1 billion in the current calendar year to kick-start the next.....

more >>

Appointment of CPEC Authority CEO ‘blocked’
Source: Shahbaz Rana, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2020-02-12

ISLAMABAD: A powerful group in the federal bureaucracy has blocked the appointment of chief executive officer of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) Authority, which is undermining work at the authority ahead of an all-important visit of the Chinese president to Pakistan. The issue of appointment of the CEO, who will also act as the Principal Accounting Officer (PAO) of the authority.....

more >>

The CPEC narrative

With the advent of fast forward information technology and intelligence, hegemonic states are busy innovating ways to extend their power by increasing their influence over weaker states. More or less all states seek to win over others in pursuit of their strategic, political and economic objectives. The exercise of soft power, the imposition of sanctions, control over cyberspace and the de.....

more >>
Gwadar's new master plan highlights factors behind economic prosperity
Source: Recorder Report, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2020-02-13

ISLAMABAD: Gwadar's population is set to exceed 2 million people in the long-term with high paid expatriate professionals accounting for up to 80 percent of the population, according to the new Gwadar Smart City Master Plan. High paid jobs, tax free environment, high-tech industries, mega shopping malls, luxury resorts, manmade islands and a Pakistan's largest international airport wh.....

CPEC, the US, and ‘Narrative Economics’
Source: Irfan Shahzad Taka1vi, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2020-02-14

Alice Wells did it again; demonize BRI and CPEC. Her unwelcome, pointed and repetitive remarks were responded to, both by Chinese and Pakistani sides. The point – the core of it – however, remains unexplained, largely. The question is why did the senior American diplomat have to repeat in her January 2020 visit to Islamabad, at an Islamabad think-tank, what she had already uttered two m.....

CPEC: the way forward

Several studies are now available that analyse the impacts of Belt and Road Initiative and China-Pakistan Economic Corridor projects, but little efforts are made to dissect those studies. Recently, the World Bank has produced a series of reports to analyse the potential impacts of Belt & Route Initiative (BRI), including the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). Reports, Common Transport Inf.....

CPEC and recycling zones

Waste or scrap is both an asset and a liability. If one can retrieve good materials economically and responsibly (environmentally speaking), it can create economic opportunity, promote industrialization and generate employment. However, if a country cannot process waste properly and encourages waste imports based upon low-paid workers, that waste may be a liability. China has developed out.....

The right person

The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is a landmark project in the development history of Pakistan. On July 5, 2013 during PM Nawaz Sharif’s visit to China immediately after assuming office, an MOU was signed between Pakistan and China to start work on the project. Till this point, CPEC was a vision shared between the Chinese and Pakistani leadership to start a new chapter in t.....
PTI govt excludes PSM from CPEC framework
Source: Shahbaz Rana, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2020-02-18

ISLAMABAD: The government has decided not to include Pakistan Steel Mills (PSM) in the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) framework, reversing its earlier decision to offer the country’s largest industrial unit, which has remained closed for almost five years, exclusively to Chinese investors. The decision to sell PSM through international competitive bidding was taken at the prim.....

Yao terms anti-CPEC voices ‘Western propaganda’
Source: Ali Hussain, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2020-02-21

ISLAMABAD: Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan Yao Jing on Thursday sought to address the doubts that exist both locally and internationally over the massive Chinese investment through the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) in the country, saying before deciding any major investment abroad, his country sees “who is good to us and who is not”. Speaking at the Institute of Strategic.....

Special Economic Zones in Pakistan: Learning from China
Source: Dr Samina Sabir, Daily Times, 2020-02-25

Industrial development is an instrumental for a long run sustainable economic growth of a country subject to feasible industrial policies. For instance establishing business parks, export promotion zones, industrial clusters, and special economic zones (SEZs)would increase economic growth and development. SEZs are also known as investment promotion zones, industrial estates, free trade zones and e.....

CPEC and the state of the economy

There are loud noises over the perceived mismanagement of the economy by the present government. In this environment, it is worthwhile to review the relevant literature. Economist Shahid Javed Burki’s Institute (the Burki Institute of Public Policy) has recently launched its 12th annual report on ‘The State of Economy’. It has some chapters written by Burki himself and ot.....
Pakistan military’s constructive role in Balochistan
Source: S M Hali, Daily Times, 2020-02-29

Balochistanis Pakistan’s largest province as well as its most backward. Subsequent governments have ignored Balochistan at their own peril. The province is rich in minerals, has a 771 kilometers long coastline and lies at the mouth of the Strait of Hormuz. Its strategic location and being the shortest route from seaports to Central Asia, has placed the otherwise desolate region in the scope .....