

**\*PRESIDENT'S SECRETARIAT (PUBLIC)\***

**\*PRESS WING\***

\*-----\*

\*Islamabad: October 05, 2017:\*

President Mamnoon Hussain has said that Pakistan and China have witnessed historic expansion and depth in their bilateral relations during the last four years and hoped that this warmth will continue to further grow in the coming generations. The President stated that this period will always be remembered as a golden era of Pak-China relations.

The President said this while talking to outgoing Ambassador of China Sun Weidong and his wife Madame Bao Jiqing who called on him at the Aiwan-e-Sadr, Islamabad on Thursday. Federal Minister for Interior Ahsan Iqbal, Foreign Secretary Tehmina Janjua and other senior officials were also present on the occasion.

Earlier, President Mamnoon Hussain conferred the award of Hilal-i-Pakistan on the outgoing Chinese Ambassador during a special investiture ceremony. He was given this award for rendering meritorious services with regard to further strengthening the bilateral relation between the two countries.

The President stated that Ambassador Sun Weidong worked tirelessly to further enhance the Pak-China relations and his services in this regard will always be remembered. The President underscored that Pakistan and China are iron brothers and will always stand by each other. The President highlighted that the magnificent project of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) was initiated during the tenure of Ambassador Sun Weidong and the development work was also carried out on fast track basis. The President emphasized that Ambassador Sun Weidong is a true friend of Pakistan who along-with his wife rendered invaluable services to further bring the people of two countries closer.

The outgoing Chinese Ambassador said that the Hilal-i-Pakistan award is a great honor for him. He stated that he was glad that the CPEC project was transformed into reality during his tenure. He further said that his stay in Pakistan was like a stay in his own country and these pleasant memories will always live in his heart. He also stated that the contributions of the Federal Minister Ahsan Iqbal in the rapid development of CPEC are unsurpassed.