



For Better Understanding on China–Pakistan and CPEC

Gleanings from the National & Chinese Press

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June 03, 2026

Business Recorder

LUMS marks 75 years of Pak China relations

LAHORE: The Parvez Hassan Centre for Chinese Legal Studies at LUMS hosted a commemorative gathering on Tuesday to mark the 75th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Pakistan and China. The event brought together academics, legal professionals, policymakers, and business leaders at the Shaikh Ahmad Hassan School of Law in Lahore. Chinese Consul General in Lahore, Sun Yan, attended the ceremony and highlighted expanding bilateral cooperation as CPEC enters its upgraded 2.0 phase, encompassing economic growth, technological innovation, and academic exchanges.

<https://www.brecorder.com/news/40423678/lums-marks-75-years-of-pak-china-relations>

Dawn News

Bilawal pledges to address Diamer-Bhasha Dam resettlement issues if PPP wins GB polls

PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari on Wednesday vowed to address resettlement concerns of those affected by the construction of the Diamer-Bhasha Dam on an “immediate basis” if his party emerges victorious in the June 7 polls.

Bilawal made the declaration while addressing a rally in Diamer, as the PPP and other political parties have, over the past few days, ramped up efforts to garner support ahead of the polls.

Addressing the rally, the Bhutto scion asserted that the project saw “great progress” during the PPP’s tenure. He added that had President Asif Ali Zardari’s government not been removed in 2013, the Diamer-Bhasha Dam would have been built by now.

The PPP chairman lamented that it was “unfortunate” that affected citizens of the region had not had their resettlement issues addressed.

“I would like to promise you that after June 7, when PPP forms government in GB — we will ensure that the work is [completed] and as far as resettlement is concerned, we will address it on an immediate basis,” Bilawal said.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/2004941/bilawal-pledges-to-address-diamer-bhasha-dam-resettlement-issues-if-ppp-wins-gb-polls>

PM Shehbaz stresses need to follow up on recent MoUs during meeting with Chinese envoy

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, during a meeting with the Chinese ambassador on Wednesday, stressed the need to follow up on memoranda of understanding (MoUs) signed during a recent visit to China, the Prime Minister’s Office (PMO) said in a statement.

On May 24 in Hangzhou, the premier chaired the opening ceremony of the third Pakistan-China Business-to-Business (B2B) Investment Conference, which was focused on “charging

infrastructure, battery energy storage and solar technologies, and pharmaceuticals”. Agreements and MoUs worth more than \$7 billion were signed between the two sides at the conference to promote cooperation and investment in various sectors.

The PMO, in the statement, said Chinese Ambassador Jiang Zaidong called on the premier at PM House and congratulated him on Eidul Azha, with PM Shehbaz expressing gratitude for his “efforts to make the visit successful, in every aspect”.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/2004916/pm-shehbaz-stresses-need-to-follow-up-on-recent-mous-during-meeting-with-chinese-envoy>

Pakistan Observer

CPEC Phase 2.0: A Strategic Appraisal and Roadmap for the Future

Dr Mehmood Ul Hassan Khan

THE celebrations marking the 75th anniversary of Pakistan-China diplomatic relations have evolved into a “forward-looking” resolve. Both nations are now pivoting decisively toward innovation, green industrialization, large-scale digitalization, artificial intelligence, quantum technologies and, crucially, hybrid agriculture. Leaders on both sides have rightly emphasized transforming CPEC Phase 2.0 into a corridor of competitiveness, connectivity, productivity and socio-economic prosperity. Hence, the Pak-China All-Weather Strategic Cooperative Partnership would be further developed and diversified in the days to come.

A new broad consensus on further deepening the All-Weather Strategic Cooperative Partnership signals the dawn of a transformative era. With both sides agreeing to move faster toward building an even closer China-Pakistan Community with a Shared Future in the new era, the focus is shifting from infrastructure development to a magnetic improvement in livelihoods.

It is an auspicious sign that CPEC Phase 2.0 is being recognized as the world’s largest single development project, positioning Pakistan at the heart of global economic connectivity rather than merely as a regional partner.

Through expanded trade, energy, infrastructure and industrial growth, the project holds the promise of lifting millions out of extreme poverty. Accordingly, the new phase’s focus on industry, agriculture and development zones introduces fresh economic drivers that will underwrite stability, sustainability, qualitative industrialization, modernization and a green transformation under the CPEC banner. However, the Government of Pakistan badly needs a paradigm shift in its major policies to achieve this desired goal.

China’s evolving global investment strategy, moving from infrastructure-led expansion toward industrial relocation, digital integration and supply chain diversification, creates a natural opening that CPEC Phase 2.0 should seize, execute and complete.

Analytically, CPEC Phase 1.0 was defined by infrastructure development. Energy projects, transport corridors and connectivity networks addressed critical bottlenecks that had constrained growth for decades, building physical capacity and easing immediate supply-side constraints. That phase has laid the foundation for the industrial transformation that must become the central mantra of Phase 2.0.

The transition must now be made from transit geography to production geography. CPEC Phase 2.0 should be channelled into building Special Economic Zones (SEZs), green and

high-quality industrial centres, export-oriented production houses, agricultural modernization units and deeper integration into regional value chains. This represents genuine value addition and brightens prospects for trans-regional connectivity with Central Asia and beyond.

Furthermore, the formation of a China-Pakistan Knowledge Corridor would ensure better understanding and access to quality higher education for the younger generation. A trans-regional amalgamation of think tanks, research centres, media groups, NGOs and joint advocacy groups would serve as the first line of defence in countering false and fake propaganda from hostile quarters.

The meeting between Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif and Chinese Premier Li Qiang has expedited bilateral relations toward a new phase of practical, high-quality and results-oriented cooperation, a dynamic that must be further matured, nurtured and systematically pursued.

Both sides acknowledged the transformative role CPEC has played in Pakistan's socio-economic development and reiterated their resolve to accelerate Phase II implementation, with particular emphasis on industrialization, regional connectivity, agricultural modernization, digital transformation, science and technology, clean energy and socio-economic uplift. This marks a fresh beginning.

The Government of Pakistan and its policymakers deserve credit for accepting this writer's proposal to align China's 15th Five-Year Plan with Pakistan's national development framework, Uraan Pakistan. This alignment will help accelerate development priorities and expand mutually beneficial cooperation across multiple sectors. A sincere, serious joint mechanism is now needed to carry this forward.

The formation of a Corridor of Emerging Technologies encompassing artificial intelligence, advanced technologies and space exploration would be a strategic value addition to CPEC Phase 2.0. Extended bilateral cooperation in science, space and satellite development would create the missing buffer zone for economic security and anti-terrorism efforts, both crucial for the swift implementation and completion of Phase 2.0.

Both sides should maintain and further expand close coordination, expediting the implementation of agreed projects and advancing bilateral cooperation into a new phase defined by practical achievements and high-quality development. This would truly transform CPEC Phase 2.0 into a game-changer and fate-changer for both nations.

The recently signed Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs), protocols and cooperation agreements spanning trade, investment, agriculture, climate change, education, science and technology, media and people-to-people exchanges must be streamlined and systematized. Broadening institutional cooperation and reinforcing the longstanding strategic partnership in both traditional and emerging sectors are essential to achieving their desired objectives.

In summary, CPEC Phase 2.0 must focus on high-quality development, industrialization, agricultural modernization, technological innovation, green growth and livelihood improvement while highlighting Gwadar Port's potential as a key regional trade hub. The expansion and development of SMEs and local economies should be integral to this phase.

A holistic, comprehensive roadmap for accelerating the national industrial drive must convert the ironclad partnership into qualitative industrial cooperation. This can be achieved through the relocation of high-quality Chinese industries, gradual technology transfer, joint ventures

in semiconductors, ICT components, artificial intelligence industries, robotic sciences, biomedical centres and the active inclusion of the private sector — all significant value additions to CPEC Phase 2.0.

The formation of a “Corridor of Metals & Mining” and a “Corridor of Blue Economy” is recommended for the robust development of local economies, communities and enterprises in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan under Phase 2.0. Additionally, the creation of a “Corridor of Skilled Education” and a “Corridor of Disaster Management” to address the looming threat of climate change, and a “Corridor of Small Modular Nuclear Power” would represent a giant step toward green transformation in the country.

Finally, following the launch of Pakistan’s “Panda Bond” in the Chinese market, sincere efforts should begin to establish a “Corridor of Banking & Finance” to enable greater financial integration, financing and productive projects under CPEC Phase 2.0. Both countries must also jointly pursue the strategic expansion and development of Gwadar, a pivotal location linking the Arabian Sea with Central Asia. Policy priorities should therefore focus on improving financial connectivity, removing non-tariff barriers and promoting export-oriented sectors such as textiles, agriculture and pharmaceuticals.

<https://pakobserver.net/cpec-phase-2-0-a-strategic-appraisal-and-roadmap-for-the-future/>

CPEC’s Role in Reducing Brain Drain

Faiza Zafar

The concept of brain drain has undergone a profound transformation over the decades.

First introduced in the 1950s and 1960s, the term was used to describe the emigration of highly qualified and skilled professionals including scientists, physicians, engineers and academics from developing nations to more advanced economies in pursuit of superior career prospects, enhanced living standards and greater professional opportunities. This movement was largely perceived as a significant depletion of human capital and intellectual resources for the countries of origin.

Pakistan’s brain drain has emerged as one of the most formidable socioeconomic challenges of the modern era, particularly among its youth, who are increasingly compelled to seek opportunities abroad due to limited prospects at home. Each year, thousands of highly skilled, educated and ambitious Pakistanis migrate in pursuit of a higher standard of living, enhanced career opportunities and greater professional fulfillment. This persistent outflow of talent is driven by a convergence of structural and systemic challenges, including economic uncertainty, inadequate merit-based advancement, escalating inflation, unemployment and institutional fragility, all of which undermine the country’s ability to retain its human capital. In contrast, developed nations offer more attractive compensation packages, world-class research and innovation ecosystems, stronger professional safeguards and greater socioeconomic stability, thereby amplifying the pull factors that continue to attract Pakistan’s brightest minds.

Brain drain in Pakistan has wide-ranging and profound consequences as the continuous outflow of highly skilled professionals weakens key sectors such as healthcare, engineering, IT and business management, while also undermining the country’s capacity for innovation, research and long-term economic growth. This phenomenon reflects a deeper erosion of

national intellectual and human capital, posing serious challenges to sustainable development and global competitiveness. However, initiatives such as the China–Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) present a viable pathway to counter this trend by fostering job creation, industrial growth, technological advancement, foreign investment and enhanced professional opportunities, thereby promoting brain retention and strengthening Pakistan’s development trajectory.

CPEC, widely regarded as the flagship initiative of China’s Belt and Road Initiative, extends far beyond a mere network of roads and infrastructure projects. It constitutes a holistic framework for economic cooperation, industrial expansion, technological progress and enhanced regional connectivity. Encompassing billions of dollars in investment across the energy, transport, industrial and digital infrastructure sectors, CPEC holds the transformative potential to position Pakistan as a pivotal regional economic hub. Such structural and economic advancement can play a significant role in mitigating the outward migration of skilled professionals by generating sustainable opportunities within the country.

One of the principal drivers of brain drain in Pakistan is the scarcity of high-quality employment opportunities for talented graduates and skilled professionals. A significant number of young Pakistanis perceive their competencies as being underutilized and insufficiently rewarded within the domestic job market, compelling them to pursue career prospects abroad. The Special Economic Zones (SEZs) under CPEC, along with industrial parks, large-scale infrastructure initiatives and emerging green employment avenues, have the potential to generate thousands of high-value jobs across sectors such as engineering, information technology, finance, logistics, management and manufacturing. As industrial activity expands and international collaboration deepens, local professionals are likely to access more competitive and rewarding career pathways within Pakistan, thereby reducing the incentive to emigrate.

The technology and innovation sector stands to gain substantially from CPEC-related initiatives. China’s remarkable progress in artificial intelligence, e-commerce, telecommunications, renewable energy and digital infrastructure opens up extensive avenues for technological collaboration with Pakistan. Through joint ventures, research collaborations and structured technology transfer programmes under CPEC, Pakistan’s innovation ecosystem can be significantly reinforced and modernized. This, in turn, can incentivize highly skilled IT professionals, software engineers and researchers to remain within the country and actively contribute to national development, rather than seeking career opportunities abroad.

Education and skills development are also critical components in addressing brain drain. Increased academic collaboration between Pakistani and Chinese universities can enhance research capabilities, technical training and student exchange programs. Scholarships, vocational training centers and professional development initiatives linked with CPEC projects can equip Pakistani youth with globally competitive skills while providing them opportunities to apply those skills within Pakistan’s growing economy.

Furthermore, entrepreneurship and startup culture can flourish through CPEC-driven economic activity. Improved infrastructure, better internet connectivity, easier logistics and foreign investment can create a more supportive environment for startups and small businesses. Young entrepreneurs often leave Pakistan due to limited funding opportunities

and unstable business conditions. By strengthening economic confidence and attracting investors, CPEC can help create an ecosystem where innovative ideas are nurtured domestically.

The development of Gwadar Port is another major factor that can contribute to reversing brain drain. As Gwadar evolves into an international trade and commercial center, new opportunities are expected to emerge in shipping, tourism, trade, fisheries, logistics, hospitality and urban planning. Such expansion can encourage skilled professionals to participate in Pakistan's development rather than relocating abroad.

However, the success of CPEC in alleviating brain drain depends on effective governance, transparency and inclusive policies. Investments must translate into sustainable employment opportunities for Pakistani citizens. The government must prioritize merit-based recruitment, support for local talent, research funding and policies that encourage skilled professionals to remain and grow within the country. Without institutional reforms and long-term planning, the full benefits of CPEC may not be realized.

CPEC, by stimulating large-scale economic activity, has the potential to generate multidimensional employment opportunities across industry, infrastructure, energy and technology sectors. This broadened economic landscape is vital for retaining skilled professionals who might otherwise emigrate in pursuit of better prospects. Its focus on industrialization and infrastructural advancement lays a robust economic foundation, enabling more effective absorption of Pakistan's educated workforce. Beyond job creation, CPEC can act as a powerful catalyst for innovation, entrepreneurship and educational progress, while strengthening academic-industry linkages and skill development. With strategic and inclusive implementation, it can transform Pakistan's persistent brain drain into a sustainable "brain gain," empowering the youth as pivotal contributors to national development and long-term prosperity.

<https://pakobserver.net/cpecs-role-in-reducing-brain-drain/>

The Nation

China-Pakistan friendship stronger than ever: Chinese CG

KARACHI - The Consulate General of the People's Republic of China in Karachi has organized a seminar to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Pakistan and China, highlighting the longstanding partnership and expanding cooperation between the two countries. The event was attended by Chinese Consul General Yang Yundong, Director General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Liaison Office Karachi Irfan Soomro, Vice Chancellor of Ziauddin University Muhammad Ali Shaikh, diplomats, academics, members of the business community, media representatives and civil society members. Addressing the seminar, Consul General Yang Yundong described China-Pakistan relations as a model of peaceful coexistence, strategic trust and mutually beneficial cooperation. He said the friendship between the two countries had withstood the test of time and evolving international circumstances.

Reflecting on his more than three-year tenure in Karachi, which is drawing to a close, Yang expressed gratitude for the support and goodwill extended by the people of Pakistan. He said bilateral cooperation in trade, investment, culture and people-to-people exchanges had

continued to grow despite various challenges. The consul general noted that exchanges involving parliamentarians, journalists, students, academics and think tank representatives had helped strengthen mutual understanding between the two countries. He also highlighted public welfare initiatives undertaken by the Chinese Consulate General, including scholarship programmes, solar streetlight projects and donations of medical supplies.

Reviewing the history of bilateral relations, Yang recalled that diplomatic ties were formally established 75 years ago and had since developed into what both countries describe as an “all-weather strategic cooperative partnership.” He referred to key milestones, including high-level exchanges, the 1963 China-Pakistan Boundary Agreement and Pakistan’s support for the restoration of China’s seat at the United Nations. The Chinese diplomat said Pakistan’s adherence to the One-China principle and China’s support for Pakistan’s sovereignty and territorial integrity had contributed to a high degree of political trust between the two countries.

Highlighting economic cooperation, Yang said the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), a flagship project under China’s Belt and Road Initiative, had entered a new phase of high-quality development. According to him, the project has contributed to infrastructure development, industrial growth and regional connectivity in Pakistan. He also referred to recent visits by President Asif Ali Zardari and Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif to China, saying the exchanges had helped advance consensus on further strengthening bilateral cooperation. DG MOFA Liaison Office Irfan Soomro said Pakistan was the first country who recognized China and both countries always stood with each other since last 75 years. The friendship between Pakistan and China has taken the shape of strong bonds. He also referred President Asif Ali Zardari and the Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif’s recent visits to China and said such visits are manifestation of all weather friendship between two countries.

Muhammad Ali Shaikh, FPCCI representatives and others also spoke in the occasion. Participants at the seminar paid tribute to the enduring partnership between Pakistan and China and acknowledged the significance of the 75th anniversary of diplomatic relations between the two countries.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/03-Jun-2026/china-pakistan-friendship-stronger-ever-chinese-cg>

June 04, 2026

Business Recorder

CPEC 2.0: PM eyes broader cooperation with China

Zulfiqar Ahmad

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday called for expanded cooperation with China under the next phase of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC 2.0), with particular emphasis on agriculture, information technology, industrial development, special economic zones and the mining sector.

The remarks came during a meeting with China’s Ambassador to Pakistan, Jiang Zaidong, who called on the prime minister, according to a statement issued by the Prime Minister’s Office.

Prime Minister Sharif conveyed his “warm” regards and best wishes to President Xi Jinping and Premier Li Qiang, while recalling what he described as “productive and substantive” meetings with Chinese leadership during his recent visit to China.

Reaffirming what he termed Pakistan’s commitment to further strengthening the “all-weather strategic cooperative partnership” between the two countries, he stressed the need for swift follow-up on decisions reached during his recent trip, including agreements and memoranda of understanding (MoUs) signed with Chinese companies at a business-to-business investment conference held in Hangzhou last month.

He also underlined the importance of ensuring timely implementation of MoUs between Pakistani and Chinese firms, saying both sides now needed to focus on delivering results on commitments already made at leadership level.

<https://www.brecorder.com/news/40423896/cpec-20-pm-eyes-broader-cooperation-with-china>

June 05, 2026

Business Recorder

China-Pakistan security partnership sought

LAHORE: Chinese Consul General in Lahore Sun Yan has stressed the need for a “China-Pakistan Security Partnership,” highlighting expanded cooperation in military-to-military relations, counter-terrorism efforts, and broader security coordination between the two countries.

Speaking at a ceremony marking the 75th anniversary of diplomatic ties between Pakistan and China, hosted by PML-N leader and foreign affairs expert Muhammad Mehdi, Sun Yan said both sides had agreed to accelerate cooperation under the second phase of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), with a renewed focus on infrastructure development, industrial growth, and regional connectivity.

He reaffirmed China’s continued support for Pakistan’s agricultural modernisation efforts and also welcomed the inclusion of two Pakistani astronauts for training at the China Space Station, calling it a symbol of deepening scientific cooperation.

<https://www.brecorder.com/news/40424072/china-pakistan-security-partnership-sought>

Dawn News

Chinas Xi to visit North Korea as Beijing seeks deeper Pyongyang ties

Chinese President Xi Jinping will visit North Korea from June 8 to 9, state news agency Xinhua said on Friday, his first trip in nearly seven years as Beijing looks to reassert ties with Pyongyang.

The announcement follows separate summits Xi hosted in Beijing for US President Donald Trump and Russian President Vladimir Putin last month. Trump, who met North Korean leader Kim Jong Un three times in his first term, previously said he would be open to meeting the North Korean leader again.

Xi would be visiting on an invitation from Kim, North Korean state media KCNA said. Kim was a guest at a massive military parade in Beijing last September, travelling to the Chinese capital on his signature green armoured train.

Beijing has worked to draw Pyongyang — its only formal treaty ally — back into its fold, after the Covid-19 pandemic froze exchanges and the North Korean leader deepened relations with Moscow by sending troops and weapons to support Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

"The message implicit from the Chinese side is ... we are still the principal actor when it comes to North Korea," said John Delury, a senior fellow of the Asia Society.

"One of the audiences is Russia," he said.

Passenger train services between Beijing and Pyongyang resumed in March, after a six-year suspension that began with the pandemic, with Air China later restarting flights between the capitals. Bookings, however, have been limited to some business travellers and exchange students, with Chinese tourists still excluded.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/2005375/chinas-xi-to-visit-north-korea-as-beijing-seeks-deeper-pyongyang-ties>

June 07, 2026

Business Recorder

Sindh governor Chinese CG for stronger bilateral ties

KARACHI: Sindh Governor Syed Muhammad Nihal Hashmi and Chinese Consul General in Karachi Yang Yundong on Friday reaffirmed their commitment to further strengthening Pakistan-China relations, with a particular focus on economic cooperation, investment, trade and people-to-people exchanges.

The understanding was reached during a farewell meeting held at the Governor House in Karachi, where the Chinese diplomat called on the Governor ahead of the completion of his diplomatic assignment in the city.

During the meeting, both sides discussed the longstanding friendship between Pakistan and China and reviewed opportunities for enhancing bilateral cooperation across various sectors. They underscored the importance of the strategic partnership between the two countries, describing it as a key factor for regional peace, stability and economic development.

Hashmi paid tribute to Yang Yundong for his services as Consul General and acknowledged his role in promoting cooperation between Sindh and China during his tenure.

He praised the Chinese diplomat's efforts in strengthening economic, commercial and cultural links and fostering closer engagement between the people of the two countries.

The Governor said the Pakistan-China friendship had stood the test of time and continued to serve as a model of mutual trust, respect and cooperation. He emphasized that expanding educational and cultural exchange programmes would provide valuable opportunities for young people in Pakistan to benefit from China's advancements in technology, innovation and scientific research. <https://www.brecorder.com/news/40424286/sindh-governor-chinese-cg-for-stronger-bilateral-ties>

The Nation

PA speaker, Chinese CG discuss Pakistan-China ties

LAHORE - Punjab Assembly (PA) Speaker Malik Muhammad Ahmad Khan on Saturday met Chinese Consul General Sun Yan and discussed bilateral relations, parliamentary cooperation, economic collaboration, the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and other matters of mutual interest. During the meeting held at the Punjab Assembly, the speaker said Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's recent visit to China marked another significant milestone in Pakistan-China relations, adding that the meetings with the Chinese leadership were constructive and productive. He said timely implementation of the decisions taken during the visit would further strengthen bilateral cooperation.

Malik Muhammad Ahmad Khan said the Pakistan-China strategic partnership was a guarantee of shared prosperity and a brighter future for both nations. He observed that the CPEC would usher in a new era of economic development in Pakistan, while investments in Special Economic Zones (SEZs) would create employment opportunities, promote industrial growth and contribute to sustainable economic development.

He said parliamentary diplomacy could play a vital role in further strengthening the longstanding friendship, mutual trust and strategic cooperation between Pakistan and China. Reaffirming his commitment to enhancing bilateral ties, he said Pakistan-China economic cooperation was reaching new heights under the leadership of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif. Describing Pakistan-China friendship as time-tested and iron-clad, the speaker said China remained a trusted partner in Pakistan's development and prosperity.

On the occasion, Chinese Consul General Sun Yan reiterated China's commitment to further expanding bilateral relations with Pakistan. He emphasised the importance of educational and cultural exchanges in bringing the people of both countries closer and said cooperation in diverse sectors would continue to deepen for mutual benefit.

Secretary General Punjab Assembly Chaudhry Amer Habib, Adviser to the Speaker Osama Khawar, Principal Secretary Amad Hussain Bhalli, Malik Taimoor Ahmad Khan and Director Media Rao Majid Ali were also present during the meeting.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/07-Jun-2026/pa-speaker-chinese-cg-discuss-pakistan-china-ties>

June 08, 2026

The Express Tribune

Pakistan, China and the Middle East crisis

Shahid Javed Burki

Donald Trump and Xi Jinping met on May 13 and 14 for a two-day session. When the visit was planned, they were meant to focus on trade issues. But for the May 2026 summit, the focus was on war in Iran launched by Trump on February 28 with little planning and no indication of what he was hoping to achieve. There is little doubt that the war, which has now developed into skirmishes involving several states in the area, figured prominently in the Beijing talks. China, like Pakistan, is worried about how its own interests in the area would be adversely affected by this ongoing Middle East war. The two countries have close

relations and have been involved in persuading Iran to reach a deal with Washington to end the war.

Pakistan hosted one round of US-Iran peace talks in Islamabad. On the American side, the negotiation was led by Vice-President JD Vance who was accompanied by Jared Kushner, Trump's son-in-law, and Steve Witkoff, who has been involved in Middle East affairs. Vance held uninterrupted talks with the Iranian side in an Islamabad hotel for 21 hours, but the long talks did not bring the two sides closer. Another round of talks was planned, and the American team was on its way to Islamabad when negotiations between Washington and Tehran broke down. Pakistan, along with China, had been working hard to find a way to bring the two sides to agree on a plan of action that would resolve the issues that were being pursued by the two warring capitals.

On March 31, China and Pakistan issued a five-point statement calling for an immediate ceasefire, peace talks, the protection of civilian sites, an opening of the Strait of Hormuz and respect for the United Nations Charter. The reference to the UN document was to prevent the United States and Iran from targeting civilian populations. On April 8, Pakistan's Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif thanked five countries in a social media post for their help in sealing the ceasefire deal. China topped the list of countries thanked by the Pakistani prime minister. China joined Russia in casting its veto on a UN resolution that would have allowed for multinational military action to force Iran to open the Strait of Hormuz, a vital passageway for the flow of oil to countries in the Middle East and Asia. However, some informed analysts believe that China's appetite for expanding its diplomatic role in the Middle East is limited. "Beijing's priorities are more practical," said Ryan Hass, a former career diplomat and White House national security official now at the Brookings Institution in Washington. "They want reliable access to energy and inputs and secure markets for their exports. They do not want to accept another region's security challenges as their own problem."

Across the Persian Gulf, Saudi Arabia and the UAE are trying to get China involved in playing a bigger role in the Middle East. On April 20, Saudi Crown Prince Mohammad bin Salman called China's Xi Jinping to talk about the war. He is said to have asked China to press Iran to refrain from attacking sites in his country. China has a history of involvement in the affairs of the region. In 2023, Beijing helped finalise a diplomatic opening between Iran and Saudi Arabia after those countries had talked about further engagement for years. According to Saudi officials, China is seen in Riyadh as a vested party in relations between their country and Iran.

However, China - as is the case with other possible interlocutors - is uncertain about the leadership situation in Tehran. After air attacks by Israel and the United States killed the country's top leadership, political power appears to have gone to the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps, or IRGC, which is interested in developing close ties with Beijing once the war with the United States ends. The relationship with China would pattern on Beijing's ties with Pakistan. China has given military aid to Pakistan over many years. It has helped Pakistan manufacture battle tanks and fighter aircraft. In the words of Ali Vaez, the director of the Iran project at the International Crisis Group, "I see more and more voices affiliated with the IRGC, now the real power in Iran, openly saying that the failure of Iran has been that it was too shy about aligning itself with China and Russia and was instead trying to preserve its

independence. They say they need to mortgage out part of the country to end up where Pakistan is."

The reference to Pakistan relates to the major highway Beijing has built connecting its Xinjiang Autonomous Region with the Pakistani seaport at Gwadar. Called the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, or the CPEC, there are plans to extend it to Afghanistan and the countries in Central Asia. These countries were once part of what was then the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the USSR. According to a study done by Pentagon, using satellite imagery, these countries are rich in mineral resources. Accessing them through a road that runs across Pakistan would allow China to exploit these mineral riches and send the processed material by road to China. China already has a large mineral extracting project near Kabul.

There is now talk in both countries about CPEC-2 which would provide China access to the sea not only through the Pakistani port of Gwadar but also through the Iranian port of Chabahar. This way China would have the alternative option to bypass operations in the Arabian Sea that Americans are using their navy to blockade. It could use the road connection to bring energy and other items to China from Iran. With CPEC-2, Pakistan could get closely aligned not only with China but also with the Middle East and Central Asia.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2611932/pakistan-china-and-the-middle-east-crisis>

CPEC-II needs a mindset reset

Shakeel Ahmad Ramay

ISLAMABAD: Recently, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif concluded a highly successful visit to China. The visit came shortly after the leaders of two major powers, the United States and Russia, had engaged with Beijing. Since then, discussions on a new world order and multipolarity have intensified. At the same time, Pakistan-mediated talks between Iran and the United States are moving towards conclusion. China and Pakistan are also celebrating 75 years of diplomatic relations. Against this backdrop, the timing, context and symbolism of the visit reaffirmed the deep-rooted strategic partnership and ironclad brotherhood between the two countries.

During the visit, the prime minister held important meetings with President Xi Jinping and Premier Li Qiang. These engagements provided an opportunity to exchange views, coordinate positions and discuss future policies to navigate an emerging multipolar world.

President Xi described China and Pakistan as countries that have "understood, trusted and supported each other" over decades, forging an unbreakable friendship. During his meeting with PM Sharif, he reaffirmed that the relationship would remain rock-solid regardless of changing circumstances. He also called for steady implementation of the Action Plan to Foster an Even Closer China-Pakistan Community with a Shared Future in the New Era. He stressed the importance of "small and beautiful" projects, livelihood programmes and deeper cooperation in agriculture, industry, artificial intelligence and talent development.

The prime ministers of Pakistan and China also held extensive talks to strengthen bilateral cooperation, particularly in the economic sphere. They reviewed progress on CPEC-II and the Action Plan and signed 15 memorandums of understanding, protocols and agreements. The outcomes of these meetings clearly indicate that China remains willing to support Pakistan's

efforts to revive its economy, pursue sustainable development and withstand external challenges. However, realising the full potential of these opportunities requires fundamental changes at home.

First, Pakistan must abandon the mindset that others will solve its problems. For decades, the country has relied on the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank and other external institutions to design and implement reforms aimed at addressing fiscal, financial and production-related challenges. Yet, despite repeated reforms and policy prescriptions, the situation has often worsened.

With every IMF programme, fiscal and financial vulnerabilities have deepened while the productive sectors have struggled. Rather than resolving structural problems, these institutions have expanded their influence over policymaking and implementation. Since entering the IMF programme in 2019, Pakistan has steadily surrendered policy space. Today, even budgetary decisions and key economic interventions require IMF consultation. External institutions have also begun influencing bilateral initiatives, including matters related to CPEC, which lie outside the IMF's mandate.

Second, planning and execution remain persistent weaknesses. To maximise the benefits of CPEC-II and the Action Plan, Pakistan needs a comprehensive implementation framework aligned with ground realities, national priorities and emerging opportunities.

An important part of this process is identifying the Chinese provinces most relevant to Pakistan's development goals. Xinjiang stands out in this regard. Often described as the "Golden Bridge" of the Belt and Road Initiative, it serves as a gateway for regional connectivity. The province possesses significant natural resources, including gas, coal and oil, and has emerged as a major centre for green energy.

China has invested heavily in transforming Xinjiang into a modern industrial and technology-driven economy. Key initiatives include the Kashgar Economic Development Zone, the Khorgos Special Economic Zone and the Xinjiang Pilot Free Trade Zone. Agriculture has also received substantial investment, leading to significant productivity gains and modernisation.

Against this backdrop, Xinjiang is ideally positioned to deepen cooperation under CPEC-II. Its role as a connectivity hub complements both CPEC and Gwadar. Its agricultural expertise offers opportunities for collaboration, while its special economic and free trade zones provide valuable avenues for trade and investment. It is noteworthy that around 150 enterprises from Xinjiang are already working with Pakistan.

This does not mean Pakistan should ignore other provinces. Rather, it should develop tailored engagement plans based on each province's strengths. Guangdong, Shanghai and Beijing are known for technological innovation, while Jiangsu is renowned for manufacturing. Pakistan should formulate province-specific strategies to maximise cooperation and replicate this approach across China.

Third, Pakistan must reform institutions so they facilitate business instead of creating obstacles. The right people must be placed in the right positions, and the culture of patronage and bureaucratic favouritism must end. Unfortunately, many institutions have underperformed because of bureaucratic and political interference. The Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) is a recent example. It was created with a strong vision, but implementation has been disappointing. Excessive bureaucratic control has limited its

effectiveness. The SIFC is neither the first institution to face this problem nor likely to be the last.

Pakistan should therefore consider an innovative approach. The Ministry of Planning, Development and Special Initiatives (MPDSI), which serves as the focal ministry for CPEC, could be entrusted with full authority over CPEC-II and Action Plan programmes related to economic development, innovation and science. Specific projects could then be delegated to relevant ministries with clearly defined timelines and accountability mechanisms. Pakistan should also study and adapt lessons from China's National Development and Reform Commission. Fourth, Pakistan must reduce its dependence on consultants, expatriates, foreign-funded think tanks and external institutions for planning and execution. This approach is neither sustainable nor effective. Many external actors are primarily driven by commercial interests or foreign policy priorities. In recent years, CPEC has frequently been targeted by critics who question its value and rationale in line with external agendas.

Pakistan possesses abundant intellectual capital and institutional knowledge. Yet it often fails to utilise its own expertise. The country must therefore prioritise indigenous wisdom and empower local institutions to lead decision-making and strategy development.

Pakistan-China cooperation under CPEC-II and the Action Plan can deliver meaningful economic transformation and shared prosperity. However, success depends on Pakistan's ability to plan effectively, execute efficiently and empower the institutions responsible for implementation, particularly the MPDSI.

Most importantly, Pakistan must change its mindset. It should move beyond excessive dependence on external advice and place greater trust in indigenous knowledge and institutions. China's development experience demonstrates the importance of building strong local institutions and relying on domestic expertise. Pakistan can learn from that example. Only then can the country fully capitalise on the opportunities emerging from its partnership with China.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2611967/cpec-ii-needs-a-mindset-reset>

The Nation

New Pak-China investment agreements can transform economic future:

Qaiser

FAISALABAD/CHINIOT - Federal Minister for Board of Investment Qaiser Ahmed Sheikh said on Sunday that a new wave of trade, investment and technology partnerships between Pakistan and China had the potential to transform the country's economic landscape, accelerate industrial growth and position Pakistan as a major investment destination in the region. Talking to the media during his visit to a free medical camp, organised with the support of Anjuman-e-Islamia Chiniot, the minister said that recent high-level engagements between Pakistani and Chinese business communities had opened a new chapter in bilateral economic relations, resulting in multiple agreements, MoUs and joint ventures in diverse sectors. He said that the initiatives were being pursued in line with the special directives of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and the government's broader economic vision for attracting foreign investment, promoting industrial development and creating employment opportunities. He said that Board of Investment in collaboration with Special Investment

Facilitation Council (SIFC) had arranged extensive business-to-business meetings in China between Pakistani and Chinese investors and entrepreneurs. He termed the outcomes of these engagements highly encouraging and said that they would contribute significantly to strengthening economic cooperation between the two countries. Qaiser Sheikh said that Pakistani delegation comprised more than 200 businessmen, industrialists, agricultural experts, technology professionals and representatives of various sectors from across the country. During visit, the delegation toured major industrial, commercial and technology hubs in China and held detailed discussions with Chinese investors and business organizations, he added. He said that Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif had directed the delegation to closely study China's advanced agricultural technologies, smart farming systems, industrial automation, artificial intelligence-based production processes and modern machinery to explore opportunities for introducing these innovations in Pakistan. He said that agriculture and industry remained backbone of Pakistan's economy and adoption of modern Chinese technologies could substantially enhance productivity, industrial output, exports and employment generation. Highlighting the achievements of the visit, Qaiser Sheikh said that several MoUs had been signed while consensus had also been reached on moving forward with a number of joint ventures.

The promising opportunities had emerged in investment, industrial cooperation, technology transfer, agricultural development, renewable energy and manufacturing sectors, he added. He disclosed that an important agreement had also been reached in the fertilizer sector to introduce modern Chinese coal-related technology in Pakistan. The initiative would help improve fertilizer production, reduce manufacturing costs and enhance efficiency of the agricultural sector, ultimately benefiting the farmers, he added. He described Pakistan-China relations as an exemplary partnership based on mutual trust, respect and shared development goals. He said that diplomatic ties spanning more than 75 years had continued to grow stronger while China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) remained the most prominent symbol of bilateral cooperation. Referring to the second phase of CPEC, he said that special emphasis was being placed on special economic zones, industrial expansion, technology transfer, export promotion and job creation. These initiatives would inject fresh momentum into industrial activity and attract greater foreign investment, he added. Discussing the government's economic agenda, Qaiser Sheikh said that the administration was implementing comprehensive reforms to revive the economy, improve the business environment and promote investment. He expressed hope that the upcoming federal budget would include measures to facilitate businesses, encourage investment and reduce financial pressure on ordinary citizens. He also highlighted Pakistan's recent diplomatic achievements, saying the country had earned international recognition through its constructive foreign policy focused on peace, stability, regional cooperation and dialogue. Speaking on investment opportunities, he said that a large number of overseas Pakistanis were eager to invest in their homeland and the government was taking practical steps to strengthen investor confidence. He said that Board of Investment was actively pursuing regulatory reforms, removing unnecessary bureaucratic hurdles and promoting a business-friendly environment to facilitate both local and foreign investors. <https://www.nation.com.pk/08-Jun-2026/new-pak-china-investment-agreements-can-transform-economic-future-qaiser>

June 10, 2026

Business Recorder

Pak-China friendship reaches new heights Tarar

Nuzhat Nazar

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attaullah Tarar on Tuesday reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to strengthening bilateral cooperation with China and advancing the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), saying the longstanding friendship between the two countries had reached new heights following Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's recent visit to China.

Addressing a ceremony organized by Xinhua News Agency to mark the construction of CPEC, 75 years of Pakistan-China diplomatic relations and global governance initiatives, Tarar described the relationship as an "all-weather" and time-tested partnership built on mutual trust and shared interests.

He said Pakistan and China shared a unique bond that extended beyond conventional diplomatic relations, noting that the two countries proudly referred to each other as "iron brothers." The minister said the friendship had been passed down through generations and remained a source of pride for both nations.

<https://www.brecorder.com/news/40424795/pak-china-friendship-reaches-new-heights-tarar>

Dawn News

Pentagon accuses BYD, Baidu, Alibaba of aiding China's military

WASHINGTON: The United States on Monday added Chinese e-commerce giant Alibaba, internet search provider Baidu, and automakers BYD and NIO to a list of companies it believes are aiding Beijing's military, in a move that could inflame tensions between the countries.

The long-awaited update supersedes a list from early 2025, and comes less than a month after US President Donald Trump met China's Xi Jinping on a visit to Beijing, where the two leaders maintained a delicate trade war truce.

China's foreign ministry said on Tuesday that the list was discriminatory and "unreasonably suppressed" Chinese companies, urging the US to "correct its mistaken practices."

The list now includes a broad swathe of China's top technology firms key to advancing Beijing's military and industrial prowess, reflecting Washington's security concerns amid intense geopolitical competition between the countries.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/2006508/pentagon-accuses-byd-baidu-alibaba-of-aiding-chinas-military>

Pakistan Observer

Terrorism's Impact on CPEC Projects in Balochistan

MS Swati

The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), a flagship project of China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), has emerged as a cornerstone of Pakistan's economic development strategy. Envisioned as a transformative framework for regional connectivity, industrial growth and infrastructure modernization, CPEC promises to strengthen Pakistan's economy while enhancing trade links between China, South Asia, Central Asia and the Middle East. Among all provinces, Balochistan occupies a central position in this initiative due to the strategic significance of Gwadar Port, which serves as the gateway to the corridor. However, despite its immense potential, the progress of CPEC projects in Balochistan has been persistently challenged by terrorism and insurgent violence. Balochistan, Pakistan's largest province by area, has long faced security challenges stemming from separatist militancy, socio-economic grievances and external interference. Various terrorist groups have sought to undermine state authority and disrupt development efforts by targeting security forces, infrastructure projects and foreign nationals. As CPEC projects expanded across the province, they increasingly became symbolic targets for militants seeking to discourage investment and create uncertainty. The attacks on Chinese engineers, workers and project sites have not only threatened lives but have also affected the pace and perception of development initiatives in the region. One of the most significant impacts of terrorism on CPEC projects is the delay in project implementation. Infrastructure development requires a stable environment where workers, engineers and investors can operate without fear. Repeated security incidents have forced authorities to suspend construction activities temporarily, reassess security arrangements and allocate additional resources to protection measures. Such disruptions inevitably increase project costs and prolong completion timelines. Delays in key infrastructure projects can hinder the realization of economic benefits that were expected to improve livelihoods and create employment opportunities for local communities. Terrorist attacks also affect investor confidence, which is crucial for the success of large-scale development initiatives. Foreign investors closely monitor security conditions before committing capital to any project. Persistent incidents of violence in Balochistan can create concerns regarding the safety of personnel and investments. While Pakistan and China remain committed to advancing CPEC, negative perceptions generated by terrorist activities can discourage broader international participation in economic ventures linked to the corridor. A stable security environment is therefore essential not only for current projects but also for attracting future investment opportunities. The human cost of terrorism is another major concern. Several attacks have specifically targeted Chinese nationals involved in CPEC-related activities. Such incidents not only result in tragic loss of life but also strain efforts to foster people-to-people cooperation and trust between Pakistan and China. The safety of foreign workers has become a critical issue, prompting both countries to strengthen security cooperation. Pakistan has established dedicated security divisions to protect CPEC projects and personnel, demonstrating its commitment to ensuring the success of the corridor despite ongoing challenges. Beyond physical security concerns, terrorism also affects the socio-economic objectives of CPEC. One of the primary goals of the initiative is to uplift

underdeveloped regions through infrastructure development, industrialization and job creation. Militant groups often exploit local grievances and attempt to portray development projects as exclusionary. By creating an atmosphere of fear and instability, terrorism hampers the delivery of economic benefits that could otherwise contribute to reducing poverty and addressing some of the root causes of unrest. In this sense, terrorism creates a vicious cycle in which insecurity slows development while underdevelopment can provide fertile ground for further instability. Gwadar Port represents perhaps the most visible example of the intersection between development and security in Balochistan. As a strategic maritime hub, Gwadar has the potential to transform regional trade and economic activity. However, the city's development has repeatedly faced security threats from terrorist groups seeking to disrupt progress. Attacks targeting security installations and foreign interests have underscored the need for comprehensive security strategies. Nevertheless, despite these challenges, substantial progress has been made in the development of port facilities, road networks and supporting infrastructure, reflecting the resilience of both Pakistan and China in pursuing long-term objectives. The Pakistani state has undertaken extensive measures to counter the threat of terrorism affecting CPEC projects. Security operations conducted by law enforcement agencies and the armed forces have significantly reduced the operational capacity of many militant groups. Special Security Divisions have been established specifically to safeguard CPEC-related infrastructure and personnel. Intelligence-based operations, enhanced surveillance systems and closer coordination between federal and provincial authorities have further strengthened protective mechanisms. These efforts have played a vital role in maintaining the momentum of key projects despite persistent security threats. China has also expressed unwavering support for Pakistan's counterterrorism efforts. The strategic partnership between the two countries extends beyond economic cooperation and includes collaboration on security matters. Chinese officials have consistently emphasized the importance of protecting development projects while reaffirming their commitment to CPEC. While robust security arrangements remain indispensable, long-term stability can only be achieved by ensuring that local communities benefit directly from economic opportunities created by CPEC. Investments in education, healthcare, employment generation and community development can strengthen public support for the corridor and reduce the appeal of extremist narratives. Greater engagement with local stakeholders can also help foster a sense of ownership and participation in development initiatives. In conclusion, terrorism remains one of the most significant challenges facing CPEC projects in Balochistan. Security threats have contributed to project delays, increased costs, affected investor confidence and complicated efforts to achieve socio-economic development. Nevertheless, the commitment of Pakistan and China, combined with enhanced security measures and continued investment, has enabled substantial progress despite these obstacles. The future success of CPEC in Balochistan will depend not only on defeating terrorism but also on creating an environment where development, inclusion and stability reinforce one another. By addressing both security and socio-economic dimensions, Pakistan can ensure that CPEC fulfills its promise of transforming Balochistan into a hub of prosperity and regional connectivity. <https://pakobserver.net/terrorisms-impact-on-cpec-projects-in-balochistan/>

BRI: Better AI Governance and Better Future for Humanity

Dr Mehmood Ul Hassan Khan

The Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) has entered into a transformative new phase, shifting from physical connectivity to digital connectivity by the dawn of Artificial Intelligence.

In successfully reimagining the ancient Silk Road, the journey from camel caravans to AI data houses has become a powerful new engine of the BRI. It is increasingly clear that the future of the BRI's development, diversity, expansion and practical utility will be judged by its embrace of AI, creating a multitude of mutually beneficial propositions for member countries across the globe.

A comparative analysis of global AI strategies illuminates this shift. The United States' AI Action Plan (AAIAP, 2025) prioritizes innovation primacy and semiconductor dominance, thereby reinforcing a model of economic and technological protectionism that effectively excludes other nations. Similarly, the EU's AI Continent Action Plan (EU AICAP, 2025) envisions a sovereign, values-based ecosystem centered on data accessibility; however, pursuits of decoupling and delinking notions are badly damaging its AI domain.

In contrast, China's approach privileges scale, integration and socio-economic utility, a commendable strategy that consolidates both soft and technological connectivity among BRI member countries. In this context, AI governance under the BRI framework is poised to create a better future for humanity across the participating nations.

Leveraging AI deployment within the BRI demonstrably reinforces economic empowerment and social development. While the BRI first mastered physical connectivity, this new approach uses infrastructural integration to popularize application-ready AI achievements, consolidate technological capacity and directly address the digital divide.

This opens a new window of opportunity for all member countries to steer their economies, communities and enterprises onto the path of rapid socio-economic prosperity, qualitative industrialization, green transformation, hybrid agriculture and advances in science, space and robotics. Through AI, the BRI is becoming a new powerhouse of mass digitalization, quantum technologies and, above all, modernization.

Crucially, AI's strategic priority within this framework is usability and accessibility, making it especially attractive to Global South nations seeking rapid digital modernization. An interoperable AI built on compatibility, adaptation and seamless interconnectivity is instrumental in achieving the desired goals of modernization, digitalization and qualitative industrialization among BRI countries.

As the global AI landscape evolves at breakneck speed amid intense geopolitical races, China is emerging as a key driver of inclusive and affordable digital cooperation. Under the BRI, it is forging a new model of complementary and mutually beneficial collaboration that directly links technological strengths with real-world development needs, fostering robust socio-economic progress, stability and sustainability.

According to Chinese customs data, the country's exports of industrial robots surged 48.7 percent year-on-year in 2025, making China a net exporter for the first time. But a defining transformation occurred that same year, as China moved decisively from hardware exports to delivering full-stack, AI-powered services and bespoke solutions worldwide. Chinese cloud

and AI enterprises accelerated their global expansion, with overseas computing infrastructure and international business surging.

Major cloud providers have achieved high triple-digit growth in overseas AI-related revenue for consecutive quarters, expanding rapidly in Southeast Asia, the Middle East and Latin America. By the first quarter of 2026, numerous Chinese AI enterprises had established a commercial presence in more than 170 countries and regions, providing affordable computing services, intelligent applications and industry solutions to global users.

The tangible benefits are already materializing across BRI markets. According to the China State Railway Group, cost-efficient AI has delivered significant economic gains and markedly improved operational efficiency. At key China-Europe freight train hubs like Xi'an International Port Station and Manzhouli Port, AI-powered intelligent scheduling, automated container handling and cross-border digital clearance systems have cut transit times by more than 30 percent.

On Silk Road e-commerce platforms, AI tools have helped small and medium-sized enterprises in ASEAN, Central Asia and the Middle East increase sales by 30 to 80 percent, significantly improving profitability, according to the Ministry of Commerce. Beyond these immediate economic gains, China's AI partnerships are helping BRI countries build long-term technological capacity and independent digital industries. Chinese AI solutions can sharply reduce large model training costs for developing nations, enabling them to bypass massive upfront infrastructure investment and catch up rapidly in the digital era.

The commitment to open international cooperation is exemplified by developments like DeepSeek. At the third BRI Forum for International Cooperation in October 2023, China introduced the Global AI Governance Initiative, stressing that all countries, regardless of size, strength or social system, should have equal rights to develop and use AI and calling for tailored cooperation to bridge the AI divide. Building on this, China proposed a new AI+ International Cooperation Initiative at a high-level UN General Assembly side event, advocating for the deep integration of AI into the economic and social development of all nations.

This cooperation has long been underway through the Digital Silk Road initiative, which since 2015 has laid the groundwork for AI development by assisting partner countries in building digital infrastructure. China's three major telecommunications operators have jointly established dozens of submarine cables, over 100 cross-border terrestrial cable systems and a web of international network nodes spanning the Asia-Pacific, Europe and Africa. In Indonesia, a Fiber-to-the-Home project by China's Yangtze Optical Fibre and Cable Company has been deployed in 25 cities and in June 2025, the first phase of a data center project in Johor, Malaysia, built with Chinese participation, was successfully completed.

The world now faces a choice between two AI futures: one defined by exclusivity and zero-sum competition and another promoting openness and collaboration. China and its BRI partner countries have already made their choice, championing open collaboration over closed competition. This win-win model for global digital governance is affordable, adaptable and inclusive. By enabling developing nations to fully share in the dividends of AI progress, China also gains vital overseas market feedback that drives continuous technological iteration and industrial innovation.

In summary, China and its BRI partners are uniquely positioned to build an open, inclusive and equitable global digital ecosystem, advance the integrated development of the global digital economy and promote shared prosperity for all in the digital age. It is a promising omen that China has become a true champion of AI and AI Plus, actively reducing the digital divide and promoting inclusive development, modernization, digitalization and quantum technologies for all member countries of the BRI. The future of the initiative is directly and positively correlated with better AI governance and thus, a better future for humanity.

<https://pakobserver.net/bri-better-ai-governance-and-better-future-for-humanity/>

The Express Tribune

China signals fresh CPEC investments

Chinese Ambassador Jiang Zaidong on Monday reaffirmed Beijing's commitment to deepening strategic cooperation with Pakistan and upgrading the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) to its "2.0 version," focusing on agriculture, industry and mining.

Addressing a seminar on the Global Governance Initiative (GGI) and CPEC, the ambassador said the corridor had brought over \$25.9 billion in direct investment to Pakistan, created more than 260,000 jobs, added over 8,000 megawatts of power generation capacity and significantly improved the country's infrastructure.

He said China and Pakistan would continue work on major projects, including the Karakoram Highway Phase-II realignment, while expanding "small yet beautiful" welfare initiatives aimed at improving education and water facilities, particularly in Balochistan.

Highlighting the 75th anniversary of diplomatic ties between the two countries, Jiang said China was ready to work with Pakistan to further strengthen their all-weather strategic partnership and build an even closer community with a shared future.

The ambassador also stressed the importance of multilateralism and closer coordination between the two countries on regional and international issues, saying China and Pakistan would continue to support reforms in global governance.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2612334/china-signals-fresh-cpec-investments>

The Nation

ISSI hosts seminar on 75 years of Pak-China friendship

ISLAMABAD - The Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI), in collaboration with Xinhua News Agency, hosted a commemorative seminar titled "75 Years of Friendship: China-Pakistan Joint Contributions to the Global Governance Initiative and CPEC" at Marriott Hotel Islamabad. The seminar brought together federal ministers, senior diplomats, scholars, media representatives, and practitioners from Pakistan and China to mark the 75th anniversary of diplomatic relations and to reflect on the evolving trajectory of the all-weather strategic cooperative partnership.

In his video message, Mr. Fu Hua, President of Xinhua News Agency, extended felicitations to Pakistan and China on the 75th anniversary of diplomatic relations and reaffirmed the enduring strength of the all-weather strategic cooperative partnership. He noted that both countries have consistently supported each other through changing international

circumstances, setting a model of state-to-state relations based on mutual trust, solidarity, and shared interests. He emphasized that the Global Governance Initiative (GGI), as envisioned by President Xi Jinping, promotes a more equitable and inclusive international order, and highlighted CPEC as a practical embodiment of these principles through infrastructure development, connectivity, energy cooperation, and regional prosperity. He also underlined the important role of media and think tanks in enhancing mutual understanding and strengthening people-to-people ties. In his welcome remarks, Ambassador Khalid Mahmood, Chairman BoG ISSI, described Pakistan-China relations as an all-weather strategic cooperative partnership anchored in mutual trust, sovereign equality, and consistent support for each other's core interests. He emphasized that the partnership has become an important pillar of regional peace and stability. Highlighting CPEC as a flagship project of Belt and Road cooperation, he noted its major contributions to Pakistan's energy security, infrastructure development, and connectivity. He further stated that CPEC Phase-II will focus on industrial cooperation, agriculture modernization, SEZs, green development, innovation, and people-centric socio-economic uplift. The Chief Guest, Mr. Ahsan Iqbal, Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives, in his keynote address described Pakistan-China relations as a unique and exemplary strategic partnership built on trust and mutual support. He highlighted CPEC as the most visible manifestation of this friendship and a key driver of Pakistan's socio-economic transformation, contributing to energy security, infrastructure modernization, and enhanced regional connectivity.

He outlined CPEC Phase-II priorities under five strategic corridors: Growth, Livelihood, Innovation, Green Development, and Opening-Up and Regional Connectivity, emphasizing high-quality and inclusive development. Mr. Attaullah Tarar, Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting, in his keynote address described Pakistan-China relations as an "iron-clad" friendship rooted in mutual trust, shared aspirations, and unwavering support across generations. He noted that the relationship has evolved into a model partnership that continues to deepen in scope and significance. He highlighted CPEC as a transformative initiative contributing to connectivity, development, and prosperity, while stressing the importance of cultural exchanges, media cooperation, and people-to-people contacts in strengthening bilateral ties. H.E. Jiang Zaidong, Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan, in his keynote address, termed the 75th anniversary a major milestone in bilateral relations, underscoring sustained high-level exchanges and deepening strategic trust. He reiterated that CPEC remains the central pillar of Belt and Road cooperation, with significant achievements in energy, infrastructure, investment, and employment generation. He also highlighted its evolution toward high-quality development through expanded cooperation in agriculture, industry, mining, science and technology, and livelihood-oriented initiatives, while reaffirming commitment to global governance principles of multilateralism, sovereign equality, and international law. The seminar also featured the presentation of the book "China's Governance under Xi Jinping's Leadership (English Edition)", showcasing China's governance experience and development trajectory. The first thematic session, chaired by Ambassador Naghmana Hashmi, former Ambassador of Pakistan to China, focused on Pakistan-China cooperation in advancing the Global Governance Initiative and CPEC Phase-II. Speakers highlighted the increasing importance of inclusive global governance in a rapidly evolving international environment, and emphasized CPEC's role in translating these

principles into practical outcomes through connectivity, industrial cooperation, innovation, green development, and livelihood enhancement. The discussion underscored the need to ensure that the benefits of economic cooperation reach ordinary citizens through skills development, education, and SME growth, while also strengthening media narratives and policy coordination. The second session, chaired by Mr. Tang Binhui, Head of Xinhua News Agency's Islamabad Bureau, focused on "Pakistan-China Young Talents' CPEC Story Sharing." The session highlighted the human and people-to-people dimension of CPEC. Speakers shared personal experiences of collaboration, including long-term field engagement in infrastructure and energy projects, academic exchanges, and professional development through China-Pakistan cooperation. They emphasized that CPEC is not only a framework for economic connectivity but also a bridge between societies, fostering trust, cultural understanding, and lifelong bonds between the peoples of the two countries. The seminar concluded with a strong reaffirmation of the enduring Pakistan-China friendship and a shared commitment to advancing high-quality development, deepening regional connectivity, and promoting a more inclusive and equitable international order. Participants expressed confidence that the continued evolution of CPEC and cooperation under global governance initiatives will further strengthen the all-weather strategic cooperative partnership and contribute to regional peace, stability, and shared prosperity.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/10-Jun-2026/issi-hosts-seminar-75-years-pak-china-friendship>

June 11, 2026

Business Recorder

Buffalo genetic resources: Pakistan, China sign MTA

Fazal Sher

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and China on Wednesday signed a Material Transfer Agreement (MTA) on buffalo genetic resources, paving the way for the export of high-value buffalo genetic material from Pakistan to China and opening new opportunities for the country's livestock sector. The agreement was signed between the Ministry of National Food Security and Research (MNFS&R) and the Royal Group of China. Animal Husbandry Commissioner Dr Syed Murtaza Hassan Andrabi and Derek Qin of the Royal Group of China signed the agreement. Federal Minister for National Food Security and Research Rana Tanveer Hussain and members of the Chinese delegation witnessed the signing ceremony. Under the agreement, the Royal Group has established a state-of-the-art facility in Pakistan for the collection, processing, and export of buffalo genetic material, including embryos, semen, and sexed semen. According to official estimates, China is expected to immediately import buffalo embryos worth around USD5 million from Pakistan. Annual exports of buffalo embryos, semen, and sexed semen are projected to reach approximately USD25 million, generating significant foreign exchange earnings and creating access to new international markets for Pakistan's livestock industry.

<https://www.brecorder.com/news/40424899/buffalo-genetic-resources-pakistan-china-sign-mta>

June 13, 2026

Business Recorder

China focused agri investment drive now moving from headline MoU to execution discipline: envoy

Nuzhat Nazar

ISLAMABAD: China-focused agriculture investment drive in Pakistan is now moving from headline Memoranda of Understanding (MoU) to execution discipline.

In an exclusive talk with Business Recorder, Pakistan's Ambassador to China Khalil Hashmi, warned that Pakistan will keep losing serious investors unless it can put basic project economics "in writing"-from land pricing ranges and lease options to utility tariffs, tax treatment and customs-duty exemptions.

Hashmi described the agriculture investment conference organised by the Pakistan Embassy in Beijing as a deliberate, China-focused, private-sector-led pathway meant to convert Chinese capital, technology and standards into joint ventures on Pakistani soil, with profits and risks shared by both sides.

He distinguished this model from the larger CPEC agriculture track, which he said is largely government-to-government and working-group driven, while the Embassy's initiative is "99 percent B2B" and broken down into ten sub-sectors spanning the value chain.

Hashmi said a three-tier follow-up mechanism is already in place to track progress on MoUs and joint ventures, starting at senior bureaucratic level and escalating to higher leadership reviews.

<https://www.brecorder.com/news/40403635/china-focused-agri-investment-drive-now-moving-from-headline-mou-to-execution-discipline-envoy>

Dawn News

Budget 2026-27 CPEC 2.0 only new project in Rs3.6tr development kitty

Syed Irfan Raza

Govt announces Rs1tr for PSDP, Rs2.2tr for provincial programmes, and Rs450bn for SOEs.

Three key motorways, Main-Line 1 track, K-IV water scheme among mega-projects being financed. Major allocations for AJK, GB & tribal districts

ISLAMABAD: The government on Friday announced a Rs3.675 trillion development budget for the next fiscal year, with hardly any new uplift projects.

However, the Public Sector Development Programme (PSDP) contains a list of long-overdue mega-projects, which provinces had been insisting should be financed by the Centre.

The second phase of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC-II) is perhaps the only new initiative listed, for which Rs1 billion was allocated.

The outlay comprises the PSDP at Rs1 trillion, the Provincial Annual Development Programmes (ADPs) at Rs2.224 trillion, and reported development spending by state-owned enterprises (SOEs) at Rs451 billion.

In his budget speech, Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb said that more than 60pc of the Centre's priorities were focused on key sections including transport, energy, IT, science, agriculture, health, and education.

More than Rs365 billion has been allocated for transport infrastructure improvement, which includes key projects such as the N-25 highway connecting Karachi and Balochistan (Rs100bn), M-6 Sukkur-Hyderabad Motorway (Rs30bn), as well as fresh financing from Asian Development Bank for the Main Line-1 project from Karachi to Rohri.

In addition, Rs2bn has been allocated for the Thar Coal Connectivity Project, and Rs93bn for transport projects in all provinces.

For the electricity sector, Rs116.2bn has been allocated, of which the flagship projects include the Dasu, Tarbela and Diamer-Bhasha dams.

Around Rs50bn has been earmarked for nine solar and wind projects, Rs8bn for renewable projects and Rs13.1bn for national grid expansion.

The finance minister said that 8m new jobs were being created in the federal priority budget, with Rs54.6bn for sustainable urban development and housing sectors, under which 150,000 climate-resistant housing units will be built.

Around Rs103.1bn has been allocated to 43 water projects, which includes Rs22bn for the K-IV water supply project in Karachi and another Rs10bn for water infrastructure.

Approximately Rs46bn has been allocated for higher education — including Rs34.9bn for the Pakistan Education and Research Network facilities, promoting digital learning and AI among Pakistani youth; and Rs3.6bn for science and technology, including universities, promoting SMEs in manufacturing, agriculture, electronics, and other sectors.

For AJK, GB and the newly-merged districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, around Rs144.9bn has been allocated, which includes Rs45bn for AJK, Rs44bn for GB and Rs56bn for the former tribal districts.

In addition, Rs5bn has been specially allocated by the prime minister for AJK and Rs4bn for Gilgit-Baltistan.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/2007461/budget-2026-27-cpec-20-only-new-project-in-rs36tr-development-kitty>

June 14, 2026

The Nation

Pakistan showcases economic potential at China-South Asia Expo

BEIJING - Pakistan participated in the 10th China-South Asia Exposition (CSA Expo) and the 30th China Kunming Import and Export Fair being held in Kunming, Yunnan Province, underscoring Pakistan's commitment to expanding economic cooperation, trade, and investment ties with China and the broader South Asian region.

Ambassador Hashmi, together with Ms Yang Yang, Vice Governor of Yunnan Province, inaugurated the Pakistan Pavilion, one of the key attractions of this year's exposition, China Economic Net (CEN) reported.

The event forms part of a series of activities commemorating the 75th anniversary of diplomatic relations between China and Pakistan. Pakistan maintained a strong presence at the expo, with 130 companies and 327 exhibitors participating across a wide range of sectors. The robust turnout reflects the growing momentum of Pakistan-China economic cooperation and the increasing interest among Pakistani businesses in accessing the Chinese market and exploring new commercial opportunities. On the sidelines of the expo, Ambassador Hashmi addressed the 7th China-South Asia Cooperation Forum, held under the theme, "Strengthening Partnership for a Community with a Shared Future for Neighboring Countries." The forum brought together senior Chinese officials, provincial leaders, ministers and representatives from South Asian countries, members of the diplomatic corps, and business stakeholders.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/14-Jun-2026/pakistan-showcases-economic-potential-china-south-asia-expo>

June 15, 2026

Business Recorder

Chinese investors to increase investment in Pakistan's capital markets

Chinese strategic shareholders of the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) have decided to expand their long-term investment in Pakistan's capital markets.

As part of this, the consortium will make additional investments to increase its shareholding in the Central Depository Company (CDC) and the National Clearing Company of Pakistan Limited (NCCPL), read an official statement on Monday.

This was stated by a high-level delegation of the Chinese consortium — comprising the China Financial Futures Exchange (CFFEX), Shanghai Stock Exchange, and Shenzhen Stock Exchange — during a meeting with Securities and Exchange Commission (SECP) Chairman Dr Kabir Ahmed Sidhu.

The SECP has issued the necessary key regulatory approvals, removing obstacles and paving the way for a new phase of financial cooperation between Pakistan and China.

The meeting discussed the development of Pakistan's capital markets, investment promotion, and prospects for introducing new financial products on the stock exchange.

<https://www.brecorder.com/news/40425629/chinese-investors-to-increase-investment-in-pakistans-capital-markets>

Dawn News

First aircraft dismantling project launched in Southern China

HAIKOU: The first aircraft dismantling project in the Hainan Free Trade Port was launched on Friday at the Hainan FTP One-Stop Aircraft Maintenance Base.

The project, undertaken by Grand China Aviation Maintenance Co Ltd under HNA Technic, marks the completion of Hainan's aviation maintenance value chain loop.

Aircraft dismantling is a key part of the aviation circular economy. By dismantling retired aircraft and testing and refurbishing their components, the process enables the reuse of parts and materials, delivering both economic and environmental benefits, while boosting the competitiveness of Hainan's aviation maintenance industry.

Hainan FTP offers several advantages for the business. Hainan's strategic location as a southern island makes it an important gateway connecting China with the Pacific and Indian Oceans, and the maintenance firm brings proven expertise in aircraft repair and modification.

Policies in the Hainan FTP also offer significant support for aircraft dismantling and the subsequent recycling and re-manufacturing of aviation components. The Hainan FTP — the world's largest free trade port by area — fully launched island-wide special customs operations in December 2025, allowing freer entry of overseas goods, expanding zero-tariff coverage, and introducing more business-friendly measures.

The global market for repaired and re-manufactured used serviceable components is vast, according to industry estimates. Meanwhile, the Hainan FTP's zero-tariff and other import facilitation policies help companies reduce both capital and time costs when re-manufacturing components from dismantled aircraft.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/2007924/first-aircraft-dismantling-project-launched-in-southern-china>

Chinese Newspapers

June 01, 2026

People's daily

China's ironclad friendships with Serbia, Pakistan reflect defining character of Chinese diplomacy

HE Yin

On May 25, the Great Hall of the People in Beijing welcomed two of China's "ironclad friends."

That day, Chinese President Xi Jinping held talks and meetings respectively with Serbian President Aleksandar Vucic and Pakistani Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, both of whom were visiting China. Xi awarded Vucic China's Friendship Medal.

These two diplomatic engagements not only demonstrated the strategic mutual trust and deep friendship underpinning China-Serbia and China-Pakistan relations, but also reflected the defining character of China's major-country diplomacy with Chinese characteristics:

remaining committed to independence and self-reliance, upholding fairness and justice, and continuing to uphold what is right. They also underscored the broad international recognition of China's positions, ideas and sense of responsibility.

At a time when international relations are increasingly marked by uncertainty, steadfastness has become especially valuable.

Serbia was the first European country to agree with China on building a community with a shared future in the new era and remains an important partner of China in Southeast Europe. Xi stressed that the two sides should continue to firmly support each other. China supports Serbia in pursuing a development path suited to its national conditions and stands ready to strengthen exchanges on governance experience.

China and Pakistan, meanwhile, are good friends and all-weather strategic cooperative partners. Xi stressed that China has always prioritized the development of China-Pakistan relations in its neighborhood diplomacy no matter how the international situation changes.

The responses from Serbian and Pakistani leaders were equally sincere and resolute. Vucic said Serbia attaches great importance to its relations with China, and remains steadfast in its firm support for China's core interests. Sharif said that Pakistan firmly adheres to the one-China principle, steadfastly supports China's position on all issues concerning its core interests, and will always be a good friend and partner of China.

The mutual understanding and close ties between China and both Serbia and Pakistan vividly demonstrate how countries can engage one another through mutual respect and equality.

As international uncertainties continue to grow, the value of cooperation has become increasingly apparent.

Serbia was among the earliest European countries to sign cooperation agreements with China under the Belt and Road Initiative.

China-Serbia cooperation has delivered impressive achievements over recent years. China's HBIS Group helped revitalize the Smederevo steel plant, breathing new life into the Serbian facility. The Serbian section of the Hungary-Serbia Railway -- a flagship infrastructure project built with Chinese participation -- has been fully put into operation. Serbian side hails it as "a gift that benefits future generations".

Transport connectivity between the two countries keeps improving, with direct flights now linking Serbia to Beijing, Shanghai and Guangzhou. At the same time, bilateral trade and people-to-people exchanges continue to gain steady momentum.

Sharif had a full schedule during his visit to China this time. He witnessed the signing of friendly ties between Chinese and Pakistani provinces, attended the Pakistan-China B2B Investment Conference, and visited Chinese tech firms. All these activities demonstrated Pakistan's firm resolve to further deepen cooperation with China.

The trajectories of practical cooperation between China and both Serbia and Pakistan demonstrate that openness and cooperation remain the trend of history, while mutual benefit and win-win outcomes continue to reflect shared aspirations.

In the face of global challenges, multilateralism has become an increasingly shared consensus.

At a time when unilateralism, power politics and coercive economic measures are increasingly reshaping global affairs, concerns are growing over the erosion of international rules and institutions.

During his meetings with both Vucic and Sharif, Xi emphasized the importance to unswervingly advance an equal and orderly multipolar world and a universally beneficial and inclusive economic globalization.

The leaders of Serbia and Pakistan expressed strong support for these ideas.

Vucic noted that China, as a major country, has always treated smaller countries with equality and respect, and abided by international law, setting a good example for the world. Serbia supports the major global initiatives put forward by President Xi, and stands ready to continue strengthening multilateral coordination with China to safeguard international peace, fairness and justice.

Sharif said that President Xi is a great friend of the Pakistani people, and also a great friend of all peace-loving people in the world. Pakistan is willing to closely coordinate with China and jointly contribute to promoting world peace and stability.

The positive responses from the two leaders once again demonstrate that China, which remains committed to peaceful development and practices true multilateralism, has become a stabilizing force in an increasingly turbulent world.

The ironclad friendships between China and Serbia and between China and Pakistan continue to inject new momentum into building a community with a shared future for humanity.

No matter how the international landscape evolves, China will continue to pursue friendly cooperation with all countries on the basis of the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence, while sharing development opportunities, safeguarding international fairness and justice, and contributing more to world peace and development.

<https://en.people.cn/n3/2026/0601/c90000-20462518.html>

June 03, 2026

Global Times

Shehbaz Sharif pushes faster progress on Pakistan-China cooperation

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to deepening its strategic partnership with China during a meeting with Chinese Ambassador Jiang Zaidong in Islamabad. He conveyed warm wishes to the Chinese leadership and highlighted the importance of maintaining close cooperation between the two countries across multiple sectors. The meeting reflected the continued strength of ties between Islamabad and Beijing.

During the discussion, the prime minister reviewed the outcomes of his recent visit to China and described the engagements as productive and result-oriented. He emphasized the need for swift implementation of decisions reached during the visit and directed relevant institutions to ensure timely follow-up on agreed initiatives. The focus remained on converting commitments into practical outcomes.

Furthermore, Shehbaz Sharif stressed the importance of expanding collaboration under the second phase of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor. He identified agriculture, information technology, special economic zones and the minerals sector as key areas with strong potential for future growth. Enhanced cooperation in these fields is expected to support economic development and attract new investment opportunities.

The prime minister also instructed authorities to accelerate implementation of the memorandums of understanding signed during the Hangzhou Investment Conference. He underscored the importance of translating investment commitments into concrete projects that can generate jobs, strengthen industries and contribute to Pakistan's long-term economic stability. Officials were urged to remove hurdles that could delay progress.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1502098/shehbaz-sharif-pushes-faster-progress-on-pakistan-china-cooperation>

June 10, 2026

People's daily

Seminar on China-Pakistan joint contribution to GGI, CPEC held in Islamabad

ISLAMABAD, June 10 (Xinhua) -- "75 Years of Friendship: Seminar on China-Pakistan Joint Contribution to the Global Governance Initiative and the CPEC" was held on Tuesday in Islamabad, the capital of Pakistan. In a video address, Fu Hua, president of Xinhua News Agency, said that in recent years, the all-weather strategic cooperative partnership between China and Pakistan has continued to deepen, injecting strong momentum into regional development and prosperity through concrete actions. He added that this is a vivid reflection of the enduring friendship between the two countries and a living example of transforming China's Global Governance Initiative (GGI) from concepts into action.

Speaking at the event, Pakistani Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attaullah Tarar said that the 75-year history of Pakistan-China relations demonstrated that the friendship between the two countries is all-weather and time-tested, growing stronger with each passing year. Tarar added that the essence of Pakistan-China relations lies in strong people-to-people exchanges, which have further strengthened the bonds between the two countries.

Pakistani Minister for Planning, Development, and Special Initiatives Ahsan Iqbal said cooperation between Pakistan and China under the framework of the Global Development Initiative is contributing to sustainable development and strengthening efforts to achieve the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. Iqbal said that the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) represents not only the deepening of Pakistan-China economic cooperation, but also a broader transformation in global development thinking. In his address, Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan Jiang Zaidong reviewed recent achievements in high-level exchanges between the two countries and said that China is ready to work with Pakistan to implement the important consensus reached by the leaders of both countries, write a new chapter in the iron-clad friendship, advance both major landmark projects and "small but beautiful" livelihood initiatives, open a new chapter in CPEC development, maintain close coordination on international and regional issues, and enrich the practice of global governance. Jointly organized by Xinhua News Agency's Asia-Pacific Regional Bureau, the Chinese Embassy in Pakistan, and the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI), the event drew more than 80 participants, including senior government officials, heads of think tanks, diplomats, scholars, and experts from Pakistan and China.

<https://en.people.cn/n3/2026/0610/c90000-20465968.html>

Xinhua News

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<https://english.news.cn/asiapacific/20260610/b579582828d54ddc8342ad48e8e12d0b/c.html>

June 13, 2026

Xinhua News

Asia-Pacific Community: Pakistani official eyes China-South Asia Expo to boost regional cooperation

ISLAMABAD, June 13 (Xinhua) -- The China-South Asia Expo, running from June 11 to 16 in Kunming, capital of southwest China's Yunnan Province, will inject fresh momentum into regional economic cooperation and global prosperity by creating new opportunities for trade, investment and industrial cooperation between China and South Asian countries, said a Pakistani official.

In an interview with Xinhua, Trade Development Authority of Pakistan (TDAP) Chief Executive Faiz Ahmed said that the expo has become much more than a trade exhibition, serving as a platform that brings together governments, businesses, industry associations and researchers to explore fresh avenues for economic cooperation.

Highlighting the expo's role in facilitating trade diversification and investment cooperation, the official said participating countries have opportunities to showcase innovative products, explore emerging markets and strengthen supply chain cooperation in areas ranging from manufacturing and agriculture to digital economy and green development.

For Pakistan, Ahmed believed that the expo would create fresh opportunities for economic cooperation, while providing an important platform for businesses from both countries to deepen engagement in emerging sectors.

He said China has, over the years, developed strong capabilities in advanced manufacturing, automation, industrial parks, and supply chain management.

"South Asian countries, including Pakistan, can benefit from China by technology transfer, adopting modern production techniques as well as improving productivity and product quality, which would help local industries become more competitive in international markets," he added.

<https://english.news.cn/asiapacific/20260613/a5a044ebd002492d86708b6f852a3136/c.html>

June 14, 2026

Xinhua News

Dragon Boat Festival held in Pakistan to mark 75th anniversary of Pakistan-China ties

ISLAMABAD, June 14 (Xinhua) -- To celebrate the Pakistan-China iron-clad friendship, a colorful Dragon Boat Festival was held on the banks of the Kabul River in Pakistan's northwest Peshawar city as the two countries marked the 75th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations.

Organized by the China Window, a Chinese cultural center based in Peshawar, the event was attended by a large number of officials, athletes, cultural performers, as well as local and Chinese communities.

On the occasion, Special Assistant to the Chief Minister of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on Culture, Tourism and Archeology Malik Adil Iqbal highlighted the beautiful bond between the people of the two countries, saying the friendship between China and Pakistan remained rock-solid and unbreakable over the decades.

Iqbal said that the event not only projected a positive image of the province to the world, but would also help attract tourists to the country in the future.

Masood Khan, a local businessman, said that the festival transformed the Kabul River into a lively arena of excitement and cultural expression, captivating spectators with the spirit of one of China's most cherished traditions.

"The rhythmic movement of the dragon boats, combined with the festive atmosphere, created a unique spectacle that highlighted the beauty of cultural exchange," he said.

More than 100 boat racers participated in the competitions and were divided into different teams, according to the event organizers.

Khan believed that the celebration reflected the growing ties between the two nations and showcased how cultural diplomacy can strengthen mutual understanding and cooperation.

Sohail Ahmed, another participant, said that the movement of boats to the powerful beat of drums created a thrilling and inspiring scene, while spectators watched in awe.

"The festival is more than just an event -- with vibrant cultural performance and an energetic audience, it became a celebration of unity, mutual respect and lasting friendship," he added.

China Window Administrator Amjad Aziz Malik said that the Dragon Boat Festival has not only introduced an ancient Chinese cultural tradition to Pakistan, but has also played an important role in bringing the people of the two countries closer together.

"We are planning to hold more such festivals in the coming years to further deepen the enduring friendship between Pakistan and China," he said.

<https://english.news.cn/asiapacific/20260615/02ef7156ee744828a624f14b7a0557a5/c.html>

June 15, 2026

People's daily

Green, innovative, inclusive cooperation underpins China-Pakistan relations as ties enter new stage

BEIJING, June 15 (Xinhua) -- As China and Pakistan commemorate the 75th anniversary of diplomatic ties, the two nations are advancing bilateral cooperation toward a high-quality model focused on green growth, innovation, and inclusivity, according to scholars and diplomats attending the China-Pakistan Think Tank Forum in Beijing on Saturday.

At the event hosted by the National Institute of International Strategy under the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (CASS), Khalid Mahmood, former Pakistani Ambassador to China, noted that the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and other global initiatives proposed by China offer much-needed certainty in an era of turbulence. He emphasized that the

partnership has been guided by consultation, cooperation, and mutual respect, principles valued by both nations.

The shared philosophies are actively translated into practice through the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), which is accelerating its transition from version 1.0 to 2.0 -- from solving infrastructure and energy bottlenecks to harnessing soft connectivity and industrial cooperation. Scholars noted that upgrading the corridor serves as a key driver to build a China-Pakistan community with a shared future.

Traditional agricultural cooperation is gaining momentum. Citing a chili pepper project, CASS researcher Yang Chao noted that it has doubled or tripled farmers' incomes compared to wheat farming. Officially recognized by both governments as a flagship agricultural initiative under the CPEC, the initiative exemplifies that bilateral cooperation is expanding into rural development and people-to-people exchanges.

Data shows that agricultural products account for 26 percent of Pakistan's top ten exports to China, generating a trade surplus of roughly 500 million U.S. dollars for Pakistan.

Green development is another key sector accelerating the upgrading process. Aizaz Khan, deputy head of mission at the Pakistan Embassy in Beijing, identified green energy and climate resilience as critical areas for future cooperation. He highlighted that China's leadership in renewable energy offers a viable pathway to sustainable growth, suggesting that expanding CPEC's green portfolio with solar and wind farms has the potential to reduce reliance on fossil fuels.

This is echoed by Neelum Nigar, a researcher at the Islamabad Institute of Strategic Studies, who proposed more cooperation on upgrading Pakistan's thermal-dependent power grid to build nationwide solar networks to reduce costs and improve stability. Meanwhile, it is necessary to transform special economic zones into eco-industrial parks in Pakistan, to ensure sustainable industrialization, Nigar said.

In the digital economy sphere, the two countries are leveraging China's expertise in 5G and artificial intelligence to advance Pakistan's tech sector. Khan noted that digital literacy programs are essential to bridging the digital divide. For instance, Chinese company Huawei has already trained tens of thousands of local professionals on telecommunication skills, and a recent memorandum of understanding signed by Alibaba and Pakistan's government departments aims to empower local startups in frontier technologies, he said.

Scholars also anticipate future cooperation in emerging sectors such as space exploration and advanced manufacturing. Earlier this year, China announced that the first foreign astronaut to visit the Chinese space station will be from Pakistan, marking a significant milestone in high-tech collaboration.

Manufacturing cooperation is shifting from export-driven models to building overseas supply chains leveraging the advantages of special economic zones, said Mao Keji, a researcher at the National Development and Reform Commission. He cited electronics assembly as a key sector that helps transform Pakistan into an industrial power in new energy vehicles, solar panels, and consumer electronics.

Global governance has also been deepened by the two countries with a shared commitment. Earlier this year, the two sides released a joint initiative on peace and stability in the Gulf and Middle East region. Cultural ties through film co-productions and people-to-people

exchanges, especially in education and human resources, have also advanced significantly as bilateral relations shift into high gear.

As both nations look to the decades ahead, the CPEC 2.0 upgrade is far more than an economic blueprint -- it is a profound evolution of their all-weather strategic cooperative partnership. By deepening their community with a shared future, China and Pakistan are setting a new benchmark for South-South cooperation, scholars said.

<https://en.people.cn/n3/2026/0615/c90000-20467461.html>

Xinhua News

Economic Watch: Green, innovative, inclusive cooperation underpins China-Pakistan relations as ties enter new stage

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