



For Better Understanding on China–Pakistan and CPEC

Gleanings from the National & Chinese Press

May 16-31, 2026



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May 16, 2026

The Nation

Pakistan's entry into China capital market marks new era of financial cooperation

Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb, has said that Pakistan's inaugural Panda Bond issuance marks a transformational step in the country's financial landscape and opens a new chapter in Pakistan-China economic cooperation by enabling Pakistan to access the world's second-largest and second-deepest capital market for the first time. Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb emphasized that the Panda Bond issuance is not only significant for Pakistan's financing strategy but also contributes towards the internationalisation of the Renminbi. He noted that nearly one-quarter of bilateral trade between Pakistan and China is already being settled in RMB and Chinese Yuan, highlighting the increasing financial integration and expanding economic partnership between the two countries. Discussing the broader trajectory of Pakistan-China economic cooperation, the Finance Minister observed that while the first phase of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor largely focused on infrastructure development under the Belt and Road Initiative, the second phase is increasingly centered on business-to-business collaboration, industrial cooperation, and monetisation of infrastructure assets. He stated that the strategic priorities of Pakistan and China remain closely aligned in promoting connectivity, trade, investment, and sustainable economic growth. The Finance Minister further stated that Pakistan had successfully managed the first-order implications of the prevailing regional conflict, including challenges relating to procurement and logistics, while maintaining macroeconomic stability and ensuring that key economic indicators continue moving in the right direction. Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb reaffirmed the Government's commitment to structural reforms, fiscal discipline, and investment-friendly policies aimed at promoting long-term and inclusive economic growth. He noted that ongoing reforms in taxation, energy, state-owned enterprises, and digital governance are strengthening investor confidence and improving Pakistan's economic outlook. The Finance Minister participated in the interview following the official ceremony marking Pakistan's first-ever Panda Bond issuance held in Beijing on Friday. The landmark issuance gives Pakistan access to China's domestic capital market for the first time and represents a major milestone in the country's economic diplomacy and financial diversification efforts. The overall Panda Bond Programme is valued at US\$1 billion, while the inaugural issuance amounts to the equivalent of US\$250 million. The issuance is being supported by the Asian Development Bank and the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank. Representatives from China's Ministry of Finance and the People's Bank of China also attended the ceremony. Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb expressed appreciation for the support and cooperation extended by the Government of China, Chinese regulators, financial institutions, and multilateral development partners in facilitating Pakistan's successful entry into the Chinese onshore bond market. He expressed confidence that the successful issuance would pave the way for future sovereign issuances and deeper financial connectivity between Pakistan and China. <https://www.nation.com.pk/16-May-2026/pakistan-s-entry-china-capital-market-marks-new-era-financial-cooperation>

May 17, 2026

Dawn News

Pakistan confers civil awards on Chinese nationals

BEIJING: Pakistan conferred civil awards on five Chinese nationals in recognition of their outstanding contributions to the development of China-Pakistan relations.

Pakistan's ambassador to China, Khalil Hashmi, represented the President of Pakistan in presenting the honours during a special investiture ceremony in Beijing. The recipients were each recognised for distinguished contributions in their respective fields that supported Pakistan.

Wang Yongge, chairman and party secretary of China Zhongyuan Engineering Corporation, was awarded the Hilal-i-Quaid-i-Azam.

Since 1996, he has played a key role in advancing China-Pakistan cooperation on the peaceful use of nuclear energy, an important pillar of the friendship between the two countries. Two individuals received the Sitara-i-Imtiaz.

Xu Zhaodong, an expert in earthquake engineering and director of China-Pakistan Belt and Road Joint Laboratory for Smart Disaster Prevention at Southeast University, was honoured for implementing Pakistan's first seismic isolating project.

Cui Peng, chief scientist and founder of the China-Pakistan Earth Science Research Centre, was conferred the award for building a platform for bilateral cooperation in earth sciences and organising training for young Pakistani scientists.

Cui Jun, president of China Economic Net, was honoured with the Sitara-i-Quaid-i-Azam. He has played an instrumental role in strengthening bilateral ties through extensive media coverage of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor.

Qian Feng, director of the Research Department at the National Strategy Institute at Tsinghua University, was awarded Tamgha-i-Quaid-i-Azam. Through extensive research and commentary, he has contributed to deeper mutual understanding between the two peoples, CEN reported.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/200828/pakistan-confers-civil-awards-on-chinese-nationals>

Pak-China-US triangle

Muhammad Ali Rana

DURING US President Donald Trump's visit to China, the concept of the 'Thucydides Trap' invoked by Chinese President Xi Jinping drew the attention of Western strategic circles.

Many observers saw the remark as a subtle indication that China is now more willing to acknowledge its emergence as a global power.

For nearly a decade, Beijing carefully avoided projecting itself as a challenger to the international order, cultivating, instead, the image of a leader of the Global South and a partner of developing economies.

If that posture is shifting, the implications could be profound for global politics and for countries like Pakistan, positioned at the intersection of great-power competition, economic dependency and regional strategic realignment.

The Thucydides Trap broadly refers to a historical pattern where an established power is threatened by the rise of a new one, creating conditions that could lead to conflict. Xi's use of

the phrase in the context of US-China ties was therefore significant. It was a carefully calibrated political message aimed at Washington.

Many observers interpreted it as a subtle indication by Beijing that it increasingly views the US as a declining power struggling to preserve an international order that long served American interests.

At the same time, China's leadership appears more confident in presenting itself as both an economic giant and a central actor in shaping the future global order.

This confidence is rooted in economic realities.

Over the last two decades, China has transformed itself into the principal manufacturing and trading hub across Eurasia and much of the Global South, while the US continues to dominate the financial and military architecture of the Atlantic alliance system.

China's trade volume exceeded \$6 trillion in 2025,

and its expanding influence in green technology, infrastructure development and industrial production is now challenging the foundations of the post-1945 US-led order.

Yet the US retains structural advantages through dollar dominance, technological innovation, semiconductor leadership, military alliances, global universities and capital markets.

For this reason, most projections for the coming decade point not towards the complete decline of one power or the absolute victory of another, but a fragmented, increasingly bipolar international system shaped by sustained US-China rivalry in technology, finance, AI and geopolitical influence.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/2000842/pak-china-us-triangle>

May 20, 2026

Dawn News

Pakistan China share converging vision on regional and global issues says

Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar on Wednesday said Islamabad and Beijing shared a "converging vision" on regional and global matters.

"Pakistan and China share a converging vision on regional and global issues," said Dar while addressing the Senate.

A Chinese delegation was present in the visitors' gallery to mark the 75th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Pakistan and China.

"We are committed to upholding the purposes and principles of the UN Charter in a world facing complex challenges," the foreign minister said.

Dar stressed that cooperation between Pakistan and China at the United Nations, the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO), and other international forums had been "vital in defending the interests of developing countries and promoting global peace".

<https://www.dawn.com/news/2001761/pakistan-china-share-converging-vision-on-regional-and-global-issues-says-dpm-dar>

Daily Times**Pakistan, China push forward next CPEC phase**

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif reaffirmed Pakistan's strong partnership with China during a meeting in Islamabad on Wednesday.

He met a senior Chinese delegation led by Cai Dafeng. The delegation visited Pakistan to celebrate 75 years of diplomatic relations between both countries.

Moreover, Sharif described the relationship as a historic and time-tested strategic partnership based on mutual trust. He also praised China's continuous support for Pakistan's sovereignty and regional stability.

During the meeting, Sharif extended greetings to Chinese President Xi Jinping, Premier Li Qiang, and the Chinese people.

He reaffirmed Pakistan's support for China's core interests and stressed deeper bilateral cooperation. Furthermore, he highlighted the importance of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor in Pakistan's economic growth and development. He said Pakistan would continue advancing the next phase of CPEC projects. These projects will mainly focus on agriculture, information technology, industry, and mining sectors.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1496174/pakistan-china-push-forward-next-cpec-phase/>

Pakistan Observer**CPEC, 75th Years of Pak-China Diplomatic Relations and Thucydides Trap**

Dr Mehmood Ul Hassan Khan

It appears that prior to the visit of US President Donald Trump, Chinese authorities properly utilized diplomatic channels to clearly convey their red lines, notably concerning the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and other mega projects.

As a result, the issue was neither raised nor became part of the historic Beijing Summit.

Furthermore, during the head-of-state meeting, the Chinese President invoked the ancient Greek historian Thucydides. He specifically referenced the "Thucydides Trap," a political theory popularized by Harvard professor Graham Allison based on the Peloponnesian War, to caution President Trump about the structural tensions between the world's two largest economies.

This reference aptly suggests that when an established global superpower like the United States feels threatened by the rise of a new power such as China, conflict often becomes historically inevitable. However, such a trajectory should be systematically avoided because the two economies are fundamentally complementary, creating numerous mutually beneficial propositions.

The Chinese President's message was loud and clear: China and the United States must transcend the so-called "Thucydides Trap" and forge a new paradigm for major-power relations. This relationship should be anchored in mutual respect, economic globalization, international cooperation, equality, productivity and, above all, the rule of law.

Many Western media outlets quoted this statement, interpreting it as a warning that aggressive containment policies could lead both nations into an extremely dangerous conflict, while urging President Trump to pursue partnership over rivalry. The full context of President Xi's remarks championed cooperation over confrontation, coordination over conflict and

collaboration over conspiracy, steering both economies, communities and enterprises toward a win-win domain. Notably, President Trump did not raise concerns about China's Xinjiang, Hong Kong, Taiwan or the BRI projects. This appears to be sensible posturing on his part, steering bilateral relations toward more meaningful interaction and prospective dividends in the days to come.

The writer extends sincere good wishes on the eve of the 75th anniversary of Pak-China diplomatic relations to be celebrated on May 21, 2026, hoping this milestone will further strengthen bilateral ties across economy, investment, joint ventures, social development and qualitative industrialization through digitalization, AI, green and quantum technologies, as well as science and space cooperation; to mark the occasion, the writer has authored a new book, "Pak-China 75th Anniversary of Diplomatic Relations: Pak-China Friendship: Strategic Vision, Achievements, Way Forward and China's Economic Miracles," highlighting the strategic significance of the true, trustworthy and deeply rooted holistic connection between the two countries.

The book comprehensively covers strategic cooperation across economics, politics, social development and diplomatic ties, with a special focus on CPEC Phase 1, Phase 2.0 and beyond, highlighting how both nations' leadership visions have transformed crises into opportunities, developed communities and translated potential into tangible realities, while advancing shared goals of connectivity, socio-economic prosperity, financial integration, infrastructure development, hybrid agriculture, energy cooperation and progress in education, culture and people-to-people contacts, marking an initial step toward a "Corridor of Knowledge" for deeper mutual understanding; it further underscores that Pakistan-China friendship is widely regarded across Pakistani society as vital, permanent, positive, productive and participatory, strengthening an ironclad bond rooted in deep societal consensus and the sincere sentiments of the younger generation toward China.

It is a good omen that China remains willing to work with Pakistan to practice the concept of people-centered diplomacy, accelerate the building of a China-Pakistan Community with a Shared Future and better benefit the peoples of both countries—a commitment that is truly commendable. China has always treated Pakistan as an equal partner, which has generated immense love and respect for China among the Pakistani people.

The 75th anniversary of diplomatic ties reaffirms that building a China-Pakistan Community with a Shared Future continues to lead the way in fostering a broader neighborhood community with a shared destiny. This serves to better benefit the peoples of both countries and plays an exemplary role in safeguarding regional peace, stability, development and prosperity.

It is a healthy sign that China stands ready to work with Pakistan to create an upgraded Version 2.0 of CPEC, striving to build a growth corridor, a livelihood-enhancing corridor, an innovation corridor, a green corridor and an open corridor. The focus will center on three key sectors—industry, agriculture and mining—while ensuring the sound operation of Gwadar Port, securing the smooth passage of the Karakoram Highway and propelling CPEC into a new stage of high-quality development. Furthermore, China is ready to deepen cooperation in areas such as information technology, cybersecurity and people-to-people and cultural exchanges.

In summary, both nations, belonging to Eastern civilization, value friendship and uphold righteousness, forging an unbreakable traditional bond. China welcomes Pakistan to play a greater role in international affairs. As Pakistan's ironclad friend, China has always shared weal and woe, with a strategic partnership as solid as rock. Developing friendly relations with China remains a consensus across Pakistani society.

The writer is of the view that policymakers on both sides should redefine, redraft and re-chart strategic cooperation for early execution of CPEC Phase 2.0, particularly focusing on renewable energy development (solar, wind, lithium batteries and EVs), making the "Corridor of Renewables" the way forward; furthermore, drawing on China's 15th Five-Year Plan, CPEC Phase 2.0 should incorporate a "Corridor of Humanoids" alongside medical, industrial and science corridors to enhance its scope, utility and impact on national economy and social development; additionally, both sides should revisit policies for emerging industries in Pakistan by prioritizing ICT, IT, semiconductors, quantum industries, big data, bio-medical manufacturing, unmanned textiles and steel mills.

<https://pakobserver.net/cpec-75th-years-of-pak-china-diplomatic-relations-and-thucydides-trap/>

Pakistan-China – New World Order Strategic Architecture

Brig Tariq Khalil

President Trump has concluded his China state visit. First in nine years.

The visit has thrown open new strategic realities and has changed the world order. China has been accepted as an equal world power. No concrete result has come out. Trump, in desperation, has raised anti-China and visible threats of renewed hostilities in the Gulf. It seems Israeli efforts to pressure Trump have been successful. In renewed hostilities, the importance of CPEC becomes more important and relevant.

Pakistan is the first country to recognize China in 1949 when the Communist Party of China triumphed in the civil war and took power. Pakistan also pioneered opening its airline to China, the first in the world. Pakistan was also responsible for China having a permanent seat in the Security Council instead of the Nationalist China government. Pakistan also arranged a meeting between Henry Kissinger and China's leadership in 1971, opening the way for US-China rapprochement and relations between the USA and China, changing the global strategic scenario at that time. China has emerged as a strong and powerful country since then. Pakistan was first to settle border issues with China, opening the way for mutual cooperation in infrastructure development and defence cooperation. In both domains, Pakistan and China went ahead unhindered despite extreme pressure from the US and Western countries. Pakistan always balanced this approach between China and the West, bearing all sorts of pressure.

Pakistan shared President Xi's vision when BRI was announced. CPEC is the flagship project of BRI. It is a matter of great satisfaction that, in spite of all sorts of pressure, sabotage and economic arm-twisting, Pakistan and China went ahead and successfully completed the CPEC Phase One. Phase Two has already commenced, though delayed for various reasons: Pakistan's internal issues, an extremely volatile geostrategic environment and the continuity of sabotage and subversive activities against Pakistan, not only in the KP and Balochistan but also throughout Pakistan. The Chinese engineers in these projects were not only threatened

but many lost their lives due to sabotage activities. Pakistan is taking special arrangements to ensure the safety of Chinese personnel. CPEC Phase Two is now progressing satisfactorily, though delayed in its timeline.

Strategic overtures include Russia-approved INSTC. Pakistan and Russia have agreed to develop the North–South Corridor. Gwadar is linked to Iran by road networks, further linked to the Caspian Sea. It is a major development for Russia and Pakistan and enhances the economic viability of not only Gwadar but other areas of Pakistan. It will also bypass terror-ridden Afghanistan.

What is needed within Pakistan is a cohesive political atmosphere to ensure that Pakistan benefits from the projects of CPEC Phase Two, which are extremely important for a breakthrough in Pakistan's economy and the success of the project. The projects in Phase Two include infrastructure roads and railways, industrial zones, high-technology industries and many other projects like upgradation of Gwadar Port and Gwadar International Airport. Pakistan needs to ensure that its internal domestic cohesion is stable to fully benefit and utilize the opportunity. The Pakistan government should take all parties with it in all the projects. There should be 0% tolerance for any violence against the Chinese and also anybody who is creating hindrance in the implementation of the projects.

It must also be noted that the war between India and Pakistan last year displayed the strength of the strategic bond between China and Pakistan, resulting in victory against India. In this short war, Pakistan had mastery over Chinese equipment and support and training in communication and space technology. Pakistan's use of multi-domain operations with the help of China against India ensured the India–Pakistan battle scenario entered the 21st century, giving a complete shock to India. While Pakistan was prepared to fight a 21st-century war, India was fighting a 20th-century war. This made their aircraft and naval vessels, including aircraft carriers, sitting ducks and made their political leadership extremely worried, which resulted in the grounding of all aircraft after Pakistan struck and withdrew the aircraft carrier.

The war also changed the complete strategic milieu not only in South Asia but also in West Asia. In the follow-up of the US–Iran war, Pakistan emerged as a leading player to ensure that destruction is minimized. It proved its diplomatic skills by arranging negotiations between the two warring parties who trusted Pakistan, i.e. Iran and the USA. This made Pakistan the natural mediator. It raised the stature of Pakistan globally and ensured that in the future the major player in West Asia is going to be Pakistan. It alters the strategic posture in West Asia and globally in the new world order.

The strategic scenario emerged after the US–Iran war. Pakistan is ready to play a dominant role in the new global environment, to the dismay of India. Indians and Israel are trying their best to sabotage the process. Sabotage activities are initiated in Pakistan not only from Afghan territory with active support of RAW and Mossad but also through supporting subversive elements and sleeping cells in Pakistan. It is necessary that Pakistan strengthens all the pillars of the state, that is, military, economy, social cohesion and political landscape. This will allow Pakistan to play its dominant role in the new world order, which has altered the mono-superpower status of the USA to a multipolar power structure in which China and Russia have emerged as dominant powers.

Pakistan is an applicant of BRICS and a member of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization; it should not only benefit from this membership but also play an active role to benefit geographically and economically. It should also strengthen Pakistan's defence through alliances and cooperation. It is also important that Pakistan should prepare itself to counter fifth-generation warfare initiated by India against Pakistan in all three domains, that is, economy, political cohesion, social fabric and law and order. Pakistan's strength emanates from the friendship of China, to be preserved at all costs, since in kinetic operations against India and even other countries, China has pledged support.

Pakistan, however, must keep its relationship with the USA friendly without compromising its own principles. This speaks of the importance of economic self-reliance. Pakistan's dominant role in West Asia after the US–Iran war has altered the power structure scenario in the Middle East. Pakistan has a leading role as the most dominant emerging power. For that reason, Israel has declared Pakistan as their number one enemy and so have the people of Pakistan. To counter that potent threat, Pakistan needs to be prepared and careful against multiple aggressions.

The concept of 21st-century war further strengthens the requirement of Pakistan–China bonds. This needs not only hard work but also investment. The most appropriate platform is civil-industrial corporate cooperation along with military-civil partnership. We must improve engineering, electrical, telecom and high-tech industries in collaboration with China, making it clear that Pakistan can be a base for such engineering goods exported to the Middle East and globally at lower cost due to short land routes. To that end, Pakistan needs a complete re-examination of fiscal and industrial policies to ensure ease of business. First, cutting government and other expenses for two to three years to ensure Pakistan is out of the IMF. Pakistan must also focus on export substitution industries along with high-tech manufacturing in collaboration with China. This can prove vital in the coming years for both Pakistan and China, providing a reliable partner in South Asia and a pivotal role in West Asia. In the new global strategic balance, Pakistan's emerging role adds responsibility. It is only possible with an economically and politically stable Pakistan.

<https://pakobserver.net/pakistan-china-new-world-order-strategic-architecture/>

The Nation

Building a Shared Future (Part 3)

Tang Mengsheng

The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is a pioneering pilot project of the Belt and Road Initiative. Guided by the leaders of both countries and strongly promoted by leading departments, including China's National Development and Reform Commission and Pakistan's Ministry of Planning, and governed by the principles of extensive consultation, joint contribution and shared benefits, CPEC construction has yielded fruitful results, transformed Pakistan's national development landscape, improved people's well-being, and promoted integrated development between China and Pakistan.

The Corridor has addressed bottlenecks that long constrained Pakistan's economic and social development. It has brought a total of 25.4 billion US dollars in direct investment to Pakistan, created 236,000 jobs, helped add 510 kilometres of expressways, 8,000 megawatts of electricity and 886 kilometres of national core transmission power lines to Pakistan. All-

round China-Pakistan cooperation has continued to expand and deepen, significantly enhancing the capacity and resilience of Pakistan's economy.

Notably, from the outset of CPEC construction, the two sides identified transportation and energy infrastructure as breakthrough areas to ease bottlenecks constraining Pakistan's economic growth and lay a solid foundation for its future growth. Energy projects were the centrepiece of the first phase, as energy and power supply was the most pressing need for Pakistan's economic development.

Take the 22 priority projects in the first phase of the Corridor's construction as an example, among which 11 are energy projects.

Thanks to joint efforts, Pakistan's power generation capacity has been greatly improved, and the problem of insufficient power supply has been basically resolved.

The energy sector, the largest area of Corridor investment, has provided Pakistan with clean, stable and low-cost electricity, making an extraordinary and irreplaceable contribution to easing power shortages, reducing electricity costs, serving economic and social development and boosting local employment. Stable energy supply has strongly promoted high-quality development of the Corridor in the new stage, laid a sound foundation for Pakistan's economic and social development, and provided key support for its industrialisation and modernisation. Transportation infrastructure was the second key area in the first phase.

Specifically, four major transportation infrastructure projects financed by preferential loans from the Chinese government are: the Karakoram Highway Phase II Upgrade Project (Havelian–Thakot),

the Sukkur–Multan Section of the Karachi–Lahore Motorway, the Lahore Orange Line Metro Train Project, and the China-Pakistan Cross-Border Optical Cable Project. All four projects have progressed rapidly and been successfully completed.

The construction and operation of Gwadar Port is one of the most strategically significant highlights of CPEC and China-Pakistan cooperation as a whole.

This once small fishing village is gradually developing into an important regional logistics hub and industrial base.

The construction of the port free zone is progressing steadily, attracting investment from Pakistan and abroad. With improved handling capacity and supporting facilities, Gwadar Port has provided Pakistan with a new gateway to the Arabian Sea, greatly enhanced its international trade status and opened new growth areas for the economic development of Balochistan Province and Pakistan as a whole through the “port + industrial park + city” model.

At present, CPEC has entered a new stage of high-quality development. While advancing major strategic infrastructure projects, the focus is shifting to industrial cooperation, with new priority areas including social livelihood, agriculture, science and technology, information technology and renewable energy.

In infrastructure, the upgrade of the ML-1 Railway Line is of strategic significance to Pakistan's economic and social development; the two sides are actively discussing phased implementation and financing models.

The realignment of the Karakoram Highway (Raikot–Thakot) is crucial to keeping the only land corridor between China and Pakistan open, and steady progress is being made. In industry, industrial cooperation is the top priority of high-quality CPEC development. China

and Pakistan signed the Action Plan for the China-Pakistan Industrial Cooperation Framework Agreement to strengthen industrial cooperation in various fields.

China supports Pakistan's industrialisation and encourages Chinese enterprises to invest in Pakistan's special economic zones, and welcomes third parties to actively participate in priority CPEC projects in industry, agriculture, information technology, science and technology, mining and other fields.

On Gwadar Port, as an important node of regional connectivity, supporting facilities will be accelerated to fully unlock its potential as a coastal city and especially a transit freight hub with shipbuilding capacity.

The two sides are actively promoting the construction of industrial parks and special economic zones under the CPEC framework to attract investment, facilitate technology transfer, create large numbers of jobs, help Pakistan enhance its "blood-making" capacity, and achieve the sustainable transformation from "blood transfusion" to "blood-making".

<https://www.nation.com.pk/20-May-2026/building-shared-future-part-3>

May 21, 2026

Business Recorder

Peace, stability in ME: Dar-hails Pakistan China initiatives

Sardar Sikander Shaheen

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister Ishaq Dar has said that Pakistan's and China's recent joint initiatives to promote peace and stability in the Gulf and the Middle East reflect "shared sense of responsibility as peace loving nations to contribute positively to global security and stability." He shared these views at the Senate session on Wednesday, as the Upper House of the Parliament passed a unanimous resolution in commemoration of the 75th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Pakistan and China. "Our recent joint initiatives to promote peace and stability in the Gulf and the Middle East reflect our shared sense of responsibility as peace loving nations to contribute positively to global security and stability," said Dar, who also holds the positions of Leader of the House in Senate, and the Foreign Minister.

<https://www.brecorder.com/news/40422125/peace-stability-in-me-dar-hails-pakistan-china-initiatives>

Dawn News

President premier hail Chinas role in regional peace

Syed Irfan Raza

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari and Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday vowed to further strengthen bilateral relations between Pakistan and China, appreciating Beijing's constructive role in promoting peace and stability in South Asia and the Middle East. They expressed these views on the occasion of the 75th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Pakistan and China. In his message, President Zardari said: "On behalf of the government and people of Pakistan, I extend warm felicitations to the leadership and people of China, especially President Xi Jinping, on the historic occasion of the 75th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Pakistan and China." <https://www.dawn.com/news/2001929/president-premier-hail-chinas-role-in-regional-peace>

The Nation

Writing a New Chapter of Cooperation

Jiang Zaidong

21 May marks the 75th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and Pakistan. Over the past 75 years, standing together through thick and thin, China-Pakistan relations have withstood the tests of an evolving international landscape, remaining as solid as a rock and as stable as China's Mount Tai. We have forged an ironclad friendship "higher than the Himalayas, deeper than the ocean, sweeter than honey", setting a model for state-to-state relations. Standing at a new historical starting point, the two countries are committed to building an even closer China-Pakistan community with a shared future in the new era, advancing their all-weather strategic cooperative partnership. Forging a Solid Foundation of Friendship and Public Support with Head-of-State Diplomacy. The traditional China-Pakistan friendship was personally nurtured by the older generation of leaders and represents a precious asset for both countries and peoples. Since the establishment of diplomatic relations, the two sides have maintained frequent high-level exchanges, cemented unbreakable strategic mutual trust and deepened the integration of interests. Since President Xi Jinping's historic state visit to Pakistan in 2015, the China-Pakistan all-weather strategic cooperative partnership has achieved remarkable leaps forward. In 2025, President Xi Jinping held talks and meetings with President Asif Ali Zardari and Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif respectively, reaching important consensus. The two governments issued the Action Plan on Building an Even Closer China-Pakistan Community with a Shared Future in the New Era, propelling China-Pakistan relations into a new phase. Not long ago, President Asif Ali Zardari of Pakistan visited China's Hunan and Hainan provinces. Bolstering Pragmatic Cooperation to Build a Benchmark for Inclusive and People-Centred Benefits. As a flagship project under the Belt and Road Initiative, the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) has yielded fruitful results in energy, infrastructure and other fields. It has attracted over USD 25.9 billion in direct investment and created more than 260,000 jobs, providing crucial support for Pakistan's economic and social development and serving as a model project for high-quality Belt and Road cooperation. President Xi Jinping has emphasised that the corridor's planning and layout should cover all regions of Pakistan, ensuring that development benefits all Pakistanis. As CPEC enters its "2.0 upgraded version", the two sides will focus on three priority areas — industry, agriculture and mining — and jointly build five corridors: growth, livelihoods, innovation, green and openness. This will better unlock Pakistan's development potential and enable it to share more opportunities from China's modernisation. Enhancing Multilateral Coordination to Demonstrate the Global South's Sense of Responsibility. As all-weather strategic cooperative partners, China and Pakistan have maintained close communication and coordination on major global and regional issues. Since the outbreak of the US-Israel-Iran conflict, President Xi Jinping has put forward four propositions on safeguarding and promoting peace and stability in the Middle East, which Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif positively responded to and highly praised. China and Pakistan have actively promoted peace talks and jointly issued a five-point initiative on restoring peace and stability. As members of the Global South, China and Pakistan firmly uphold the international system with the UN at its core and the international order based on

international law. Pakistan has been at the forefront of implementing the four major global initiatives proposed by President Xi Jinping. The exemplary effect of China-Pakistan cooperation has transcended bilateral relations, injecting valuable stability into a turbulent international and regional landscape. At present, transformations of the world unseen in a century are unfolding at a faster pace. China is implementing its 15th Five-Year Plan, while Pakistan is advancing the Uraan Pakistan initiative. Both countries' modernisation drives and bilateral cooperation across all fields are embracing new milestones and important opportunities. On the occasion of the 75th anniversary of diplomatic ties, China stands ready to work with Pakistan to earnestly implement the important consensus reached by the two leaders, deepen high-level political mutual trust, high-quality pragmatic cooperation and high-standard international coordination. We will leverage the certainty of China-Pakistan relations to address uncertainties in the international situation, set a powerful example for building a community with a shared future for neighbouring countries, and make greater contributions to building a community with a shared future for mankind.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/21-May-2026/writing-new-chapter-cooperation>

May 22, 2026

Business Recorder

75 years of Pakistan-China Friendship: Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, Prime Minister of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan

Today, we mark the 75th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Pakistan and China. On behalf of the Government of Pakistan, as well as on my own behalf, I extend my heartfelt felicitations to the peoples of Pakistan and China, on the historic occasion of the 75th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Pakistan and China. As we commemorate this historic milestone, in a befitting manner, it would enable our peoples, particularly the younger generations, to better appreciate the depth, breadth, vitality, and future-oriented character of Pakistan-China relations. The people of Pakistan hold the people of China in the highest esteem and affection. Since the establishment of diplomatic relations on May 21, 1951 the friendship between Pakistan and China has steadily evolved into an All-Weather Strategic Cooperative Partnership. Built on mutual trust, sovereign equality, and shared aspirations for peace and development, our bilateral relations have continued to grow in strength, substance, and strategic significance, amidst changing regional and global circumstances. Pakistan highly values the visionary leadership of President Xi Jinping and appreciates China's remarkable achievements in economic development, technological advancement, poverty alleviation, and global connectivity. Under President Xi's visionary leadership, China has achieved remarkable progress in modernization, innovation, poverty alleviation, and national rejuvenation. China's progress and transformation continue to inspire the developing world and contribute significantly to global peace and prosperity. The commitment of the Chinese leadership to strengthen Pakistan-China relations and advance the shared vision of building a closer "Pakistan-China Community of Shared Future in the New Era" is most commendable. Pakistan deeply appreciates China's cooperation with Pakistan in multifaceted fields. Pakistan remains firmly committed to the One-China principle and will continue to support China on issues concerning its core interests. China's robust support for Pakistan's socio-economic

development and national priorities has played a phenomenal role. The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), as a flagship project of the Belt and Road Initiative, has made tremendous contribution towards Pakistan's infrastructure development, energy security, industrial cooperation, and regional connectivity. Pakistan remains firmly committed to the high-quality development of CPEC as it enters its next phase, with greater emphasis on industrialization, agriculture, information technology, science and technology, green development, and enhanced people-centered cooperation. It is encouraging to witness Pakistan-China cooperation, expanding into new frontiers including digital economy, innovation, space cooperation, education, and cultural exchanges. From the Karakoram Highway to cooperation in outer space, Pakistan-China friendship continues to demonstrate how enduring strategic trust can be translated into meaningful progress and shared prosperity for our peoples. The 75th anniversary of the establishment of Pakistan-China diplomatic relations is not only about remembering the past; it is about shaping the future. At a time of increasing global uncertainty and transformation, Pakistan and China remain committed to multilateralism, peaceful coexistence, and inclusive development. Our All-Weather Strategic Cooperative Partnership continues to serve as a positive force for regional stability and international cooperation. <https://www.brecorder.com/news/40422238/75-years-of-pakistan-china-friendship-muhammad-shehbaz-sharif-prime-minister-of-the-islamic-republic-of-pakistan>

Pakistan China Diplomatic Ties SBP to issue RS75 commemorative coin marking 75 years

KARACHI: The State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) on Wednesday announced the issuance of a Rs75 commemorative coin to mark the 75th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Pakistan and China, highlighting decades of friendship, cooperation, and strategic partnership between the two countries. To mark the 75th anniversary of diplomatic relations Pakistan and China, the Government of Pakistan has decided to issue a commemorative coin of Rs.75 denomination. The coin will be available to the general public from May 25, 2026, through the exchange counters of field offices of SBP Banking Services Corporation. Diplomatic relations between Pakistan and China were formally established on May 21, 1951. The commemorative issuance reflects the long-standing ties between the two countries, which have expanded across political, economic, and development cooperation over the decades. The coin will have a denomination of Rs.75 and will be round in shape with milled edges and serration. It will be composed of Copper-Nickel, consisting of 75 percent copper and 25 percent nickel. The coin measures 36.0 mm in diameter and weighs 19.0 grams. On the obverse side of the coin, the waxing crescent moon and five-pointed star facing North-West in rising position, is in the centre. Along with periphery on the top of the crescent star is inscribed in wording "ISLAMI JAMHURIA PAKISTAN" in Urdu script. Below the crescent and on the top of two springs of wheat with arms curved upward, there is the year of issuance 2026. The face value of coin in numeral "75" in bold letters and RUPIA in Urdu script are written on the right and left sides of the crescent star respectively. <https://www.brecorder.com/news/40422288/pakistan-china-diplomatic-ties-sbp-to-issue-rs75-commemorative-coin-marking-75-years>

President vows to strengthen bilateral ties with China

Naveed Butt

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari said that Pakistan fully supports Chinese President Xi Jinping's vision of a Community of Shared Future for Mankind and its associated initiatives, including the Belt and Road Initiative, Global Development Initiative, Global Security Initiative, Global Civilization Initiative, and Global Governance Initiative. The president expressed these views during a meeting with Cai Dafeng, Vice Chairman of the Standing Committee of the 14th National People's Congress (NPC), at Aiwan-e-Sadr on Thursday. Welcoming the Chinese delegation, the president conveyed warm greetings to President Xi Jinping, Premier Li Qiang, and the people of China.

<https://www.brecorder.com/news/40422296/president-vows-to-strengthen-bilateral-ties-with-china>

Pakistan, China now prioritising second phase of CPEC

Naveed Siddiqui

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister (DPM/FM) Ishaq Dar said that Pakistan and China are now prioritising the second phase of CPEC, which focuses heavily on industrialization, agricultural modernization, and socio-economic development to uplift the lives of the populace. Dar stated that the two countries remain deeply committed to justice, fairness, multilateralism, and respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity across international forums. By reinforcing their shared vision for the future of mankind, he added the ironclad brotherhood between Pakistan and China stands ready to forge even closer ties, acting as a permanent anchor for peace, progress, and prosperity. Marking a historic milestone in international diplomacy, Pakistan and China are celebrating the 75th anniversary of the establishment of their bilateral diplomatic relations. The occasion highlights a unique journey that has transformed from its initial foundations into an ironclad, "All-Weather Strategic Cooperative Partnership" built on mutual respect, shared aspirations, and an enduring brotherhood that transcends transactional convenience. Over the past seven and a half decades, the bilateral relationship has consistently withstood the test of time and changing global dynamics. "Both nations have maintained unwavering solidarity, standing by each other through diverse challenges while firmly safeguarding each other's core interests," DPM remarked. This generational bond enjoys deep-rooted continuity across various governments and is heavily driven by the active contributions of leaders, business communities, entrepreneurs, professionals, and students from both sides. A central pillar of this enduring friendship is the valuable contribution of Chinese companies, engineers, and professionals working in Pakistan. Dar emphasised. Their dedicated efforts have driven significant development across the country, particularly under the framework of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). As the flagship project of the Belt and Road Initiative, CPEC has completely overhauled Pakistan's infrastructure and energy landscape over the last decade. Amid shifting and complex global geopolitical challenges, the strategic convergence between Islamabad and Beijing continues to provide critical regional stability.

<https://www.brecorder.com/news/40422308/pakistan-china-now-prioritising-second-phase-of-cpec>

Dawn News**Comment: the ironclad vanguard beyond 75 years***Huang Yunsong*

THIS year marks the 75th anniversary of diplomatic relations between China and Pakistan. Three-quarters of a century is a remarkable milestone; it represents a partnership forged through the crucible of Cold War realignments, regional conflicts, and shifting global order.

The upcoming summit in Beijing will be a watershed moment, as it will permanently elevate the tier and institutional efficacy of China-Pakistan strategic communication.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Chief of Defence Forces Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir's arrival together — a unique dual-leadership format — will be warmly welcomed in Beijing.

It projects strong and seamless civil-military alignment and signals a total consensus within Pakistan regarding its ties with Beijing. For Chinese scholars and policymakers, this unified front eliminates strategic fluctuation and guarantees institutional continuity at the highest levels of statecraft.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/2002140/comment-the-ironclad-vanguard-beyond-75-years>

May 23, 2026**Business Recorder****Pak China ties have evolved into strong strategic partnership: speakers**

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan-China relations have evolved into a strong strategic partnership due to mutual trust, non-interference, and shared geopolitical interests, with economic and technological cooperation serving as key drivers of Pakistan's future socio-economic transformation.

In a bid to reap the benefits of this partnership, Pakistan needs a policy shift by transforming dependence into interdependence and investing in strengthening governance, human capital, and institutional professionalism.

This was discussed during a seminar titled "Pakistan-China Relations at 75: Advancing Multidimensional Partnership for Regional Stability and Shared Prosperity," held at the Institute of Policy Studies (IPS), Islamabad.

The speakers at the session, which celebrated the platinum jubilee of Pakistan-China relations, included Ambassador Syed Abrar Hussain, vice-chairman IPS; former ambassadors to China Ambassador Salman Bashir (r), former foreign secretary and session chair, Ambassador Masood Khalid (r), Ambassador Naghmana Hashmi (r) and Ambassador Moin ul Haque (r); and Dr. Syed Muhammad Ali, a defense and strategic affairs expert.

In the opening remarks, Ambassador Abrar Hussain said that Pakistan-China relations have evolved substantially since the establishment of bilateral ties in May 1951. He emphasized that the Pakistan-China partnership has now entered a new phase with continued cooperation under both phases of CPEC, demonstrating the growing engagement between the two countries.

Ambassador Masood Khalid noted that Pakistan was the first Muslim nation to recognize the People's Republic of China. Emphasizing that the bilateral relationship is based on mutual trust, shared interests, and non-interference, he said that Pakistan-China friendship has unconditionally withstood multiple regional and global challenges over decades.

While noting that the two countries oppose regional hegemony and support peace, he nullified attempts to portray Pakistan-China relations as a strategic alignment against any third country.

Highlighting the changing global order, he said that China has emerged as a stabilizing actor that advocates cooperation, development, and peace. Regarding this, he termed CPEC as the central pillar of Pakistan's geoeconomic future and argued that it could help transform Pakistan into a prominent economy within the next decade.

Building on this, Amb Naghmana Hashmi emphasized the need to transform the existing strategic cooperation into a long-term and future-oriented relationship. She suggested reorienting CPEC towards industrialization and special economic zones, expanding cooperation with China in AI and green technologies, utilizing rare earth minerals, operationalizing ML-1 for connectivity, and leveraging Gwadar port's geostrategic significance, especially in the context of current regional developments.

In light of this, while highlighting key imperatives for Pakistan, she stressed considering trade deficits as a national security concern, improving mechanisms for project implementation, diversifying relations with nations without undermining ties with China, honing indigenous expertise, and strengthening people-to-people exchanges.

Amb Moin ul Haque described Pakistan-China friendship as a "historic reality and conscious choice" of the two nations. He stated that Pakistan's economic and security future is closely linked to China, and that Pakistan should capitalize on bilateral trade and economic opportunities with Beijing.

Sharing his experiences, he noted that Pakistan can learn from China's development model, which emphasizes state-led reforms, openness to foreign investment, provincial empowerment, investments in education, healthcare, and technology.

Additionally, Chinese societal values of hard work, merit, and discipline also play a constructive role in the country's rise.

Dr. Muhammad Ali highlighted China's critical contribution to Pakistan's national power and South Asian strategic stability. He noted that China has consistently supported Pakistan unconditionally and played an important role in maintaining the South Asian balance of power.

Referring to defense cooperation, he highlighted that behind Pakistan's indigenous military capabilities, technological cooperation with China played a pivotal role.

Discussing the May 2025 India-Pakistan military stand-off, he noted that modern Chinese defense technology demonstrated significant operational effectiveness. He also underlined the significance of Chinese-assisted civilian nuclear energy projects, which can help address Pakistan's energy problems.

Wrapping up the seminar, Ambassador Salman Bashir stressed that Pakistan-China relations go beyond conventional frameworks of international relations. This is because, as opposed to Western transaction-driven models, China takes a long-term civilizational approach in its relations with Pakistan, grounded in shared history and mutual understanding.
<https://www.brecorder.com/news/40422451/pak-china-ties-have-evolved-into-strong-strategic-partnership-speakers>

Pakistan seeks Beijing tariff relief on 700 products

Mushtaq Ghumman

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan is set to formally request China to extend unilateral tariff concessions on around 700 product lines under the proposed third phase of the China-Pakistan Free Trade Agreement (CPFTA), seeking parity with concessions already granted to African and ASEAN countries, well-informed sources told Business Recorder.

Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal and Secretary Commerce Jawad Paul have already arrived in Beijing as part of an advance delegation to finalise proposals in consultation with Chinese counterparts ahead of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's visit.

Other ministers and senior officials are also in China to support the negotiations.

<https://www.brecorder.com/news/40422483/pakistan-seeks-beijing-tariff-relief-on-700-products>

Customs values on Chinese artificial jewellery revised

Sohail Sarfraz

ISLAMABAD: The Directorate General of Customs Valuation Karachi has fixed new customs values on the import of artificial imitation jewellery from China and other origins.

The new values would be applicable on the import of Electroplated Jewellery white/yellow, without stones/beads; electroplated Jewellery white/yellow, with stones/beads and fancy Electroplated Jewellery white/yellow, with crystal stones/beads. The values specified shall not be applicable on branded or designer jewellery. The same will be assessed under Section 25 of the Customs Act, 1969, as per ruling. Earlier, the Customs values of Artificial Imitation Jewellery were determined vide Valuation Ruling No. 1871-2024. The Valuation ruling was more than two (2) years old. As per analysis of Import Data and change in the international market trends, the Directorate initiated the exercise FBR redetermination of values under Section 25 of the Customs Act- 1969.

Meetings convened that were attended by the representative authorized by various importers and stakeholders. The issues pertaining to the valuation of subject goods were deliberated upon in detail in the aforementioned meetings. The submissions and documents provided during the meeting were duly considered in the valuation exercise. Representative of Importers of Artificial Imitation Jewellery requested rationalization of customs values, contending that the subject item is prone to damages, defects and trends. The viewpoints expressed by stakeholders during consultations were carefully analyzed. In this regard, import data during the period from July 2025 to February, 2026 was thoroughly examined, along with the documents submitted by importers. In view of these findings, the customs values were determined in accordance with section 25 of the Customs Act- 1969.

Various markets were visited, and the actual prices of subject goods were acquired and by adjusting the amounts of profits. Finally, market survey, so gathered have been utilized and analyzed to determination of custom values of the subject goods under Section 25(7) of the Customs Act, 1969. This comprehensive evaluation ensures that the determination of customs values is Fair, transparent, and fully compliant with the law.

<https://www.brecorder.com/news/40422485/customs-values-on-chinese-artificial-jewellery-revised>

Dawn News**Sindh Assembly hails 75 years of Pak China friendship***Tahir Siddiqui*

KARACHI: The Sindh Assembly on Friday unanimously passed a joint resolution commemorating the 75th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Pakistan and China. The resolution, jointly moved by Law and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Ziaul Hassan Lanjar and Opposition Leader Ali Khurshidi, was also supported by members of the Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf and Jamaat-i-Islami. Both the law minister and opposition leader read the resolution on the floor of the House. Speaking on the resolution, the law minister said Pakistan and China had completed 75 years of diplomatic ties. “The friendship between the two countries is historic in nature, and CPEC has played a key role in further strengthening this bond,” he said. <https://www.dawn.com/news/2002349/sindh-assembly-hails-75-years-of-pak-china-friendship>

May 25, 2026**Business Recorder****SME development body, Alibaba group sign MoU to promote digital economy**

CHINA: In the presence of Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Industries and Production Haroon Akhtar Khan, the Small and Medium Enterprises Development Authority (SMEDA) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Alibaba Group aimed at enhancing digital trade and expanding global market access for Pakistan’s small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). Speaking on the occasion, Haroon Akhtar Khan said that in line with the Prime Minister’s vision, the government is undertaking comprehensive measures for the digital transformation of the SME sector. He stated that connecting Pakistani businesses with international markets through e-commerce platforms remains a key priority of the government. He further said that collaboration with Alibaba Group will create new opportunities for youth, entrepreneurs, and startups, while also contributing to the promotion of exports and digital commerce in Pakistan. <https://www.brecorder.com/news/40422691/sme-development-body-alibaba-group-sign-mou-to-promote-digital-economy>

PM urges industry relocation: Pak-China cos ink usd7bn deals

HANGZHOU, (China): Pakistani and Chinese companies have signed agreements and memorandums of understanding (MoUs) worth more than USD 7 billion to promote cooperation and investment in various sectors. The agreements and MoUs were signed during the Pakistan-China B2B Investment Conference on IT & Telecom, battery energy storage systems (BESS) and agriculture in Hangzhou, China on Sunday. While speaking on the occasion, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif invited the Chinese companies and entrepreneurs to relocate their industries and businesses to Pakistan, enter into joint ventures with the local firms, and benefit from the country’s investor-friendly policies, describing the initiative as a “win-win model” for both nations. <https://www.brecorder.com/news/40422697/pm-urges-industry-relocation-pak-china-cos-ink-usd7bn-deals>

Dawn News**PM Shehbaz lands in Beijing will hold high level meetings with Chinese leadership**

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif reached Beijing on Sunday, where he would have “high-level engagements” with the Chinese leadership, including President Xi Jinping and his counterpart, Li Qiang.

PM Shehbaz landed in Hangzhou on Saturday, kicking off his four-day official visit to China. He addressed the Pakistan-China Business-to-Business Investment Conference in Hangzhou earlier today, following which he reached Beijing, where he was received by Chinese Minister of Environment and Ecology Huang Runqiu.

“During his stay in Beijing, the prime minister will hold high-level engagements, including meetings with Chinese President Xi Jinping and Prime Minister Li Qiang to further strengthen Pakistan-China all-weather strategic cooperative partnership and advance cooperation under CPEC Phase-II, particularly in trade, investment, industry, agriculture, science and technology, and people-to-people exchanges,” a statement by the PM’s Office (PMO) said.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/2002753/pm-shehbaz-lands-in-beijing-will-hold-high-level-meetings-with-chinese-leadership>

The Express Tribune**Pakistan, China sign agreements spanning agriculture, education, media and trade**

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Chinese Premier Li Qiang on Monday witnessed the signing and exchange of several agreements, Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs), protocols, and cooperation documents in Beijing.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Saturday landed in Hangzhou, kicking off his four-day official visit to China to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries.

Following the conclusion of his engagements in Hangzhou, PM Shehbaz arrived in Beijing, where he held high-level meetings with Chinese Premier Li Qiang to discuss trade, investment, agriculture, science and technology, industrial cooperation, and the second phase of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing.

According to the Prime Minister's Office, the agreements are "aimed at further deepening cooperation in trade, investment, agriculture, science and technology, climate change, education, media, and people-to-people exchanges."

The documents signed covered a wide range of sectors. In agriculture, both sides signed a Protocol on Inspection, Quarantine and Sanitary Requirements for Dried Fruits and Nuts, a Protocol of Phytosanitary Requirements for Maize, an MoU on Strengthening Development Cooperation in the Agriculture Sector, and a Letter of Exchange on Animal Vaccines.

In the areas of economic development and trade, the two sides signed an MoU on Deepening Exchanges and Cooperation in the Field of Economic Development and an MoU on Supporting Free Trade and Multilateralism.

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investment, agriculture, science and technology, industrial cooperation, and the second phase of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing.

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On education and governance, both countries signed an Executive Programme on Educational Cooperation and Exchanges, an MoU on Cooperation between the Foreign Service Academy and China Foreign Affairs University, an MoU between the Party School of the CPC Central Committee — also known as the China National Academy of Governance — and Pakistan's National School of Public Policy, and an MoU on the Joint Implementation of the Human Resource Development Cooperation Programme for 2026.

In science and technology, an MoU on Conformity Assessment was signed alongside an MoU between the Pakistan Science Foundation and the China Association of Science and Technology. An MoU on Cooperation in the Fields of Environment and Climate Change was also among the documents exchanged.

In the media sector, Xinhua News Agency and Pakistan Broadcasting Corporation signed an MoU, as did China Media Group and Pakistan Television, with the latter focused on cooperation in joint documentary production.

The two sides also formalised a Sister-Province Relationship between Zhejiang Province and Punjab Province.

PM Shehbaz said the signing of these agreements "reflects the growing depth and diversity of Pakistan-China cooperation and opens new avenues for collaboration in key sectors that directly contribute to the welfare and prosperity of the peoples of both countries."

On Sunday, Pakistani and Chinese companies signed MoUs worth more than \$7 billion during a series of high-level engagements led by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif in the Chinese city of Hangzhou.

A major agreement signed during the conference on Sunday included a \$1.12 billion deal between Haolu Engineering and Technology Company and Fauji Fertilizer for fertiliser production. Another MoU worth \$100 million was signed between IBI Beijing United Information Technology and the RIC for cooperation in agrochemicals, agricultural machinery, and the establishment of a regional office in Multan.

Officials said more than 200 MoUs worth over \$20 billion had now been signed during five Pakistan-China business conferences held so far.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2609981/pakistan-china-sign-agreements-spanning-agriculture-education-media-and-trade>

The Nation

Ahsan reaffirms Pakistan's firm commitment to timely completion of CPEC projects

ISLAMABAD - Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Ahsan Iqbal has reaffirmed Pakistan's unwavering commitment to the timely completion of all ongoing and future CPEC projects and assured full support for the safety and security of Chinese citizens and enterprises working in Pakistan. Ahsan Iqbal said that Pakistan-China friendship remains one of the strongest and rare national consensuses in Pakistan, enjoying complete support across the country's political spectrum, said a press statement issued here. Addressing the China-Pakistan Political Parties Forum and the meeting of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor Political Parties Consultation Mechanism on the occasion of the 75th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Pakistan and China, Ahsan Iqbal said that despite political differences on domestic issues, all political parties in Pakistan stand united when it comes to strengthening relations with China. The minister expressed gratitude to the International Department of the Communist Party of China (IDCPC) for organizing the forum and praised its role in promoting dialogue, trust, and strategic understanding among political parties of both countries. He observed that the forum had evolved beyond a formal diplomatic engagement into an important bridge of political trust and long-term cooperation between Pakistan and China. Ahsan Iqbal said the Pakistan Muslim League (N) attaches immense importance to its institutional relationship with the Communist Party of China and values the constructive role played by IDCPC in strengthening strategic cooperation and inter-party harmony. He noted that broad-based political support in Pakistan has been one of the key factors behind the continuity and success of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), assuring Chinese partners that Pakistan's commitment to the strategic partnership rises above political cycles and changes of government. Referring to the Action Plan for Building a China-Pakistan Community with a Shared Future in the New Era signed last year, the minister said the agreement had elevated bilateral relations to a new strategic level and reflected the shared aspirations of both nations for peace, prosperity, connectivity, and development. He quoted Chinese President Xi Jinping as saying, "No matter how the international landscape may change, China will always stand firmly with Pakistan," adding that this enduring commitment had further strengthened mutual trust between the two countries.

Highlighting the significance of CPEC, Ahsan Iqbal described it as the flagship project of the Belt and Road Initiative and a shining symbol of Pakistan-China friendship. He said CPEC had transformed Pakistan's economic landscape by helping the country overcome crippling energy shortages, modernizing transport and logistics infrastructure, reviving Gwadar as a regional connectivity hub, and restoring investor confidence. The minister stated that Pakistan and China are now entering a new phase of cooperation under CPEC 2.0 focused on industrialization, technological collaboration, innovation, sustainability, agriculture modernization, and people-centered development. He explained that the future direction of CPEC cooperation would be guided by the framework of the "Five Corridors," namely the Growth Corridor, Livelihood Corridor, Innovation Corridor, Green Corridor, and the Open and Inclusive Regional Development Corridor. In a major proposal during his address, the

minister called for the establishment of “Five Political Corridors” between the IDCPC and political parties of Pakistan to provide long-term political support and strategic continuity to CPEC 2.0. He said these Political Corridors would serve as institutional platforms for strategic coordination, leadership engagement, policy continuity, and public consensus-building. Ahsan Iqbal said the Development and Governance Learning Corridor would enable Pakistani political parties and institutions to learn from China’s extraordinary development experience under the leadership of the Communist Party of China, particularly in industrialization, poverty alleviation, digital governance, urban planning, and long-term development planning.

He observed that China’s success demonstrated the importance of visionary leadership, political stability, merit-based governance, long-term planning, and policy continuity. The minister further stressed that the future of Pakistan-China friendship must be anchored in the next generation through enhanced cooperation in education, innovation, artificial intelligence, research, and youth leadership exchanges. Concluding his address, Ahsan Iqbal said Pakistan-China friendship has remained resilient because it is rooted in mutual trust, strategic understanding, and a shared commitment to peace and development.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/25-May-2026/ahsan-reaffirms-pakistan-s-firm-commitment-timely-completion-cpec-projects>

May 26, 2026

Business Recorder

CDF holds informal interaction with Chinese PM

Nuhzat Nazir

ISLAMABAD: Chief of Army Staff and Chief of Defence Forces, Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir, held an informal interaction with Chinese Premier Li Qiang during a high-level reception ceremony at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing during the Pakistani leadership’s ongoing visit to China.

According to official details, the Chinese premier warmly greeted Field Marshal Munir during the ceremony and exchanged views with him on the sidelines of the event, reflecting the continuing close strategic coordination between Pakistan and China at both political and military levels.

The interaction comes at a time of heightened regional geopolitical activity and follows recent intensive diplomatic engagements involving Pakistan on regional security, connectivity and strategic stability issues.

Analysts view the presence of Pakistan’s military leadership alongside the civilian leadership during the China visit as significant, particularly in the context of evolving regional alignments, CPEC cooperation, defence collaboration and broader discussions on regional peace and security.

<https://www.brecorder.com/news/40422837/cdf-holds-informal-interaction-with-chinese-pm>
[Business Recorder 26-05-2026](https://www.brecorder.com/news/40422837/cdf-holds-informal-interaction-with-chinese-pm)

China Pakistan boost economic relationship

BEIJING: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Prime Minister of China Li Qiang witnessed signing and exchange of several agreements,

Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs), protocols, and cooperation documents between the two countries.

These agreements/MoUs/protocols are aimed at further deepening cooperation in trade, investment, agriculture, science and technology, climate change, education, media, and people-to-people exchanges.

The documents signed and exchanged included:

The Executive Programme on Educational Cooperation and Exchanges;

Protocol on Inspection,

Quarantine and Sanitary Requirements for Dried Fruits and Nuts; Protocol of Phytosanitary Requirements for Maize; MoU on Strengthening Development Cooperation in the Agriculture Sector; Letter of Exchange (LoE) on Animal Vaccines;

MoU on Deepening Exchanges and Cooperation in the Field of Economic Development;

MoU on Cooperation in the Fields of Environment and Climate Change; MoU on Cooperation between the Foreign Service Academy (FSA) and China Foreign Affairs University (CFAU); MoU between the Party School of the CPC Central Committee (China National Academy of Governance) and Pakistan National School of Public Policy (NSPP);

MoU on the Joint Implementation of the Human Resource Development Cooperation Programme for the Year 2026; MoU on Conformity Assessment; MoU between Pakistan Science Foundation (PSF) and China Association of Science and Technology (CAST);

MoU between Xinhua News Agency and Pakistan Broadcasting Corporation (PBC); MoU on Cooperation in Joint Shooting Documentary between China Media Group (CMG) and Pakistan Television (PTV); MoU on Supporting Free Trade and Multilateralism; Establishment of Sister-Province Relationship between Zhejiang Province and Punjab Province.

<https://www.brecorder.com/news/40422843/china-pakistan-boost-economic-relationship>

Dawn News

China Pakistan reach new broad consensus on boosting ties

China and Pakistan have reached a new broad consensus on deepening their strategic partnership, according to a joint statement issued by the countries at the end of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's visit to Beijing.

The statement, shared by the Foreign Office (FO) on X, said, "The two sides engaged cordially and reached a new broad consensus on further deepening the China-Pakistan all-weather strategic cooperative partnership and on international and regional issues of mutual interest."

The statement was issued as PM Shehbaz concluded his four-day visit to China. He was seen off by Chinese Vice Foreign Minister Hua Chunying at the Beijing airport.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/2003203/china-pakistan-reach-new-broad-consensus-on-boosting-ties>

Daily Times**PM seeks stronger Chinese investment under CPEC II**

BEIJING: Prime Minister (PM) Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to expanding economic and industrial cooperation with China during a series of meetings with leading Chinese companies in Beijing under the framework of CPEC Phase II. The prime minister, currently on a four-day official visit to China, met senior executives of major Chinese enterprises and invited them to increase investment in Pakistan's infrastructure, agriculture, manufacturing and technology sectors.

During a meeting with a delegation of FAMSUN led by CEO Zhengjun Chen, Prime Minister Shehbaz appreciated the company's longstanding support for Pakistan's agriculture sector, particularly in grain storage, feed production and food security initiatives. He stressed the need to reduce post-harvest losses and encouraged the company to establish manufacturing and technology transfer facilities in Pakistan through Special Economic Zones and the Green Pakistan Initiative.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1498979/pm-seeks-stronger-chinese-investment-under-cpec-ii/>

May 27, 2026

Pakistan Observer**75 Years of Pak-China Relationship**

Faiza Zafar

Over the past 75 years, Pakistan and China have cultivated one of the world's most enduring strategic partnerships, founded on mutual trust, political solidarity and deep economic cooperation. Strengthened by strong people-to-people ties, the relationship continues to serve as a symbol of regional stability, diplomatic resilience and lasting friendship.

Pakistan was among the earliest Muslim states to recognize China in 1950, laying a strong foundation for a relationship built on respect and shared strategic interests. Even during the Cold War's intense ideological divisions, both nations consistently expanded their political and strategic engagement. A pivotal milestone was achieved in the 1960s with the peaceful resolution of their border disputes through the Sino-Pakistan Boundary Agreement of 1963, reflecting exceptional diplomatic maturity and trust. Further solidifying this partnership, Pakistan played a crucial intermediary role in facilitating the historic US-China rapprochement in the early 1970s, reinforcing China's confidence in Pakistan as a dependable and strategically significant ally.

Defense cooperation remains a cornerstone of Pakistan-China relations, encompassing joint military exercises, defense production, technological collaboration and strategic coordination. The partnership is exemplified by the co-development of the JF-17 Thunder and is driven by shared regional security interests, counterterrorism efforts and mutual diplomatic support on international issues.

Economic cooperation, particularly through the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), has remained the defining feature of Pakistan-China relations. The partnership entered a new phase of transformation with CPEC's launch under China's Belt and Road Initiative, widely regarded as a landmark project for Pakistan's economic uplift and regional integration. Initiated in 2015, CPEC encompasses extensive investments in infrastructure, energy,

transport networks, industrial zones and the development of Gwadar Port. These initiatives have significantly reshaped Pakistan's economic landscape by mitigating energy shortages, enhancing connectivity, upgrading road infrastructure and generating employment opportunities. Gwadar Port stands out as a flagship project, carrying immense geostrategic value by providing China access to the Arabian Sea while opening new trade corridors for Central Asia, the Middle East and South Asia. Despite global economic volatility and domestic challenges, both countries remain firmly committed to the long-term advancement of CPEC. The project's second phase places greater emphasis on industrial expansion, agricultural modernization, information technology and broader socio-economic development.

Beyond politics and economics, people-to-people cultural relations between Pakistan and China have expanded significantly over the years. Educational exchange programs, scholarships, language institutes, tourism and media collaboration have deepened mutual understanding among the citizens of both countries. Thousands of Pakistani students pursue higher education in China every year, particularly in medicine, engineering and technology. Similarly, Chinese language learning through Confucius Institutes has gained popularity in Pakistan, reflecting growing cultural engagement. Cultural diplomacy has also flourished through art exhibitions, film collaborations, tourism promotion and academic forums. These exchanges have helped transform the bilateral relationship from a state-centered partnership into a people-centered friendship.

One of the strongest aspects of Pakistan-China relations has been their unwavering support for each other during difficult times. Whether during natural disasters, economic crises, global emergencies such as the COVID-19 pandemic or war situations like today, both nations have extended humanitarian and diplomatic assistance to one another. China provided Pakistan with medical supplies, vaccines and technical support during the pandemic, while Pakistan strongly supported China in international forums against politicization and misinformation. Such gestures reinforced the emotional and strategic depth of the friendship. In an increasingly multipolar world, Pakistan-China relations hold substantial regional and global significance. Both countries advocate for peaceful coexistence, economic connectivity, regional stability and multilateral cooperation. Their partnership plays a crucial role in shaping the geopolitical dynamics of Asia. Pakistan serves as a critical bridge connecting China with the Middle East, Central Asia and the Arabian Sea, while China's economic and technological rise offers Pakistan opportunities for modernization and development. Their collaboration in forums such as the Shanghai Cooperation Organization further strengthens regional cooperation. The relationship also demonstrates how consistent diplomacy, mutual respect and shared interests can create a durable alliance despite changing global circumstances.

While the Pakistan-China partnership remains exceptionally strong, it also faces crucial challenges including regional instability, security threats to development projects in the form of terrorism, economic pressures, energy crisis and shifting international alliances. Militant attacks in regions such as Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa have raised concerns in Beijing regarding the safety of its citizens and investments. These incidents have occasionally slowed the pace of CPEC projects and increased pressure on Pakistan to enhance security arrangements. Ensuring the security of Chinese personnel working in Pakistan remain key

priorities for both governments. Concerns about debt sustainability, trade imbalance and limited local industrial spillovers from Chinese investments remain in Pakistan. Regionally, shifting dynamics involving India–China tensions, US–China rivalry and Pakistan’s balancing act in global diplomacy have also influenced the partnership’s complexity.

Nevertheless, the future of Pakistan–China relations appears promising. Emerging cooperation in digital technology, renewable energy, agriculture, artificial intelligence, space sciences and climate resilience presents new opportunities for both countries. As Pakistan and China celebrate 75 years of diplomatic relations, their partnership stands as a remarkable example of strategic trust and long-term cooperation. The friendship has successfully withstood geopolitical shifts, economic transitions and regional tensions while continuing to grow stronger with time.

The 75-year journey of Pakistan–China relations is a story of loyalty, strategic cooperation and shared aspirations. From diplomatic support and defense collaboration to economic development and cultural exchange, the relationship has evolved into a comprehensive strategic partnership admired around the world. As both nations move forward in an era marked by rapid global transformation, their enduring friendship is expected to continue contributing to regional peace, economic progress and international cooperation. The Pakistan–China partnership is not merely a bilateral relationship; it is a testament to the power of trust, mutual respect and visionary diplomacy.

<https://pakobserver.net/75-years-of-pak-china-relationship/>

The Nation

China, Pakistan deepen digital, industrial partnership

BEIJING - China and Pakistan reaffirmed their commitment to deepening economic and technological cooperation during Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif’s visit to the headquarters of IBI Guolian Gufen, China Economic Net reported on Wednesday.

Both sides highlighted new opportunities under CPEC 2.0 in digital economy, industrial development and youth empowerment. Prime Minister Sharif praised the growing collaboration between Chinese and Pakistani enterprises and assured investors of Pakistan’s full support. He highlighted that artificial intelligence and information technology are among the most important priorities under CPEC 2.0 and emphasized Pakistan’s efforts to empower its young population through skills development and digital training.

He also referenced recent engagements with major Chinese technology companies, including Alibaba, aimed at strengthening Pakistan’s e-commerce, agriculture, logistics and transportation sectors. Welcoming the Pakistani delegation, IBI Guolian Gufen Founder and Chairman Qian Xiaojun outlined a series of practical initiatives designed to transform bilateral cooperation into concrete industrial and commercial outcomes.

Qian said the company would mobilize its digital trade ecosystem, supply chain finance capabilities and procurement networks to help Pakistan expand agricultural exports to China, supporting the Pakistani government’s target of increasing food and agricultural exports to \$10 billion. He noted that Chinese enterprises attending the event were focused on delivering “real results” through cold-chain infrastructure, precision agriculture technologies, contract farming platforms and bio-organic fertilizer projects.

“We will systematically and efficiently connect Pakistani products such as sesame, rice, mangoes and seafood with major Chinese markets,” Qian said. The IBI Guolian Gufen chairman also emphasized cooperation in mineral processing and industrial value addition. He stressed that Pakistan’s natural resources should be processed domestically to create jobs and strengthen local industries, rather than being exported as raw materials. “Exporting raw ore belongs to a colonial economy; local value addition belongs to a partnership economy,” Qian remarked. During the event, both sides discussed plans for Special Economic Zones, including cooperation on a proposed 1,600-acre industrial zone in Lahore. Qian said future cooperation would focus on tangible achievements such as signed agreements, operational factories and local job creation.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/27-May-2026/china-pakistan-deepen-digital-industrial-partnership>

Pakistan, China vow to move faster on CPEC 2.0 projects

MATEEN HAIDER

Joint statement demands militant groups including TTP, ETIM should not be allowed to use any territory to threaten regional security Shehbaz Sharif assures full support to Chinese companies for business expansion. Beijing/ISLAMABAD - Pakistan and China agreed to accelerate work on major infrastructure, industrial and connectivity projects under the second phase of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), as Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif concluded a four-day visit to China focused on expanding strategic, economic and security cooperation. In a joint statement issued Tuesday after meetings between PM Sharif, Chinese President Xi Jinping and Premier Li Qiang, the two sides pledged to “promote the high-quality development of the upgraded version of CPEC 2.0” and strengthen coordination on regional and international issues.

The agreement reflects Islamabad’s broader push to reposition CPEC beyond traditional infrastructure financing toward industrial cooperation, manufacturing, agriculture, technology and regional trade connectivity as Pakistan seeks long-term economic modernization and export-led growth.

The statement said the two sides would advance the Karakoram Highway realignment project “in a phased and orderly manner,” expand the role of Gwadar Port as a regional connectivity hub and strengthen land connectivity through the Khunjerab Pass. China and Pakistan also welcomed third-party participation in CPEC projects “under the model agreed upon by China and Pakistan.”

The two countries agreed to deepen cooperation in industrial parks, mining, oil and gas exploration, digital economy, artificial intelligence, finance, information technology and energy. Both sides also committed to strengthening industrial supply chains and expanding cooperation in scientific and technological innovation.

China agreed to support Pakistan’s agricultural modernization efforts and facilitate market access for “more high-quality Pakistani agricultural products” following the completion of a Chinese training program for 1,000 Pakistani agricultural technicians.

The joint statement highlighted expanding educational, cultural and scientific exchanges, including plans for two Pakistani astronauts to train in China.

“China welcomes two Pakistani astronauts to come to China for training and looks forward to a Pakistani astronaut becoming the first foreign astronaut for the early entrance into the China Space Station,” the statement said.

On security cooperation, the two sides agreed to establish a “China-Pakistan Security Partnership,” expand military and counter-terrorism cooperation and strengthen security measures for Chinese personnel and projects operating in Pakistan.

The statement said both countries opposed “double standards on counter-terrorism” and agreed that militant groups, including the Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) and Eastern Turkistan Islamic Movement (ETIM), should not be allowed to use any territory to threaten regional security.

Pakistan reaffirmed support for China’s positions on Taiwan, Xinjiang, Hong Kong and the South China Sea, while Beijing reiterated support for Pakistan’s sovereignty, territorial integrity and development priorities.

The two countries also reiterated support for resolving the Jammu and Kashmir dispute peacefully in accordance with United Nations resolutions and bilateral agreements.

During the visit, the two sides signed multiple cooperation agreements across various sectors, according to the statement.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has reaffirmed Pakistan’s unwavering commitment to further strengthening Pak-China cooperation in agriculture, science, innovation, and rural transformation.

He was addressing a workshop on Pak-China agricultural cooperation in Beijing.

The Prime Minister said Pakistan seeks enhanced Chinese cooperation in the field of agriculture.

Stressing the need to revitalize Pakistan’s agricultural research centres, he said transformation in agriculture is vital for a better future and youth empowerment.

Shehbaz Sharif proposed sending one thousand fresh agriculture graduates from all provinces of Pakistan to Chinese universities for refresher courses and modern training in advanced areas of agriculture.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif says Pakistan will extend full support to Chinese companies for the promotion and expansion of their businesses and further strengthen economic, trade, and technological ties between the two countries.

He was addressing a ceremony during his visit to the headquarters of leading Chinese technology company, IBI Corporation, in Beijing.

During his address, he underscored the importance of strengthening Pakistan-China economic and commercial cooperation, promoting bilateral trade and investment, and enhancing institutional linkages between the business communities of the two countries. He noted that the deepening of such ties is a cornerstone of the All-Weather Strategic Cooperative Partnership.

The Prime Minister assured the company of all possible facilitation for the growth of its business activities in Pakistan.

He stated that under CPEC phase two, Artificial Intelligence and Information Technology are among Pakistan’s four most important priority programmes that the government is pursuing on a fast-track basis.

Addressing the young participants present in the ceremony, he described them as talented entrepreneurs and experts in their respective fields, adding that government of Pakistan is undertaking extensive measures to provide technical training and skills development opportunities to young people of Pakistan.

He said youth is our future and Pakistan-China cooperation would further strengthen through their close relations.

The Prime Minister further said that under CPEC phase two, vast investment opportunities exist in Special Economic Zones.

Inviting Chinese investors to visit the first Special Economic Zone near Port Qasim in Karachi, he said that the project spans over 6,000 acres and is a highly promising initiative where modern infrastructure and facilities will be provided.

Earlier, upon his arrival at IBI Corporation, the Prime Minister was received by Party Secretary of Fengtai District Beijing, Wang Shaofeng along with the President of IBI Mr Qian Xiaojun.

Over one hundred fifty companies and their representatives attended the thematic meeting about cross border industrial belt practices and further promoting China-Pakistan industrial collaboration.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has said it is our shared responsibility to nurture new branches of time- tested Pakistan-China friendship so that future generations inherit this relationship even stronger than what was envisioned by our forefathers.

He was addressing a ceremony in Beijing as part of the celebrations to mark 75th anniversary of the establishment of Pakistan-China diplomatic relations.

The Prime Minister said Pakistan-China relations have reached a high point where one cannot match or find a befitting parallel to match these great relations.

He said the tree of Pakistan-China friendship has deep rooted, giving shadows and has born very sweet fruits. He said this is the finest hour of the two countries friendship.

Shehbaz Sharif said these relations were carved out with the great commitment, devotion and dedication by great leaders of China and Pakistan over the last more than seven decades. He said today, we are like two souls and one heart and our hearts beat together.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/27-May-2026/pakistan-china-vow-move-faster-cpec-2-0-projects>

May 31, 2026

Daily Times

China and Pakistan to deepen cooperation in emerging sectors

China and Pakistan agreed to accelerate the development of CPEC 2.0, forge an upgraded bilateral free trade agreement, and explore cooperation in artificial intelligence, digital economy, agriculture and other fields, Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Mao Ning said. He shared this after the conclusion of Pakistani Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's official visit to China from May 23 to 26. Mao Ning noted that as China and Pakistan marked the 75th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations, the visit consolidated and elevated the special friendship between the two countries. It highlighted the strategic significance, mutually beneficial nature, and leading role of China-Pakistan relations through head of state diplomacy, pragmatic cooperation, and international coordination, CEN reported. During the visit, the two sides signed multiple cooperation documents covering

economy and trade, science and technology, agriculture and food, human resources and other areas. “The world is experiencing accelerating transformations unseen in a century. China and Pakistan have come to new junctures and face important opportunities for their respective modernization and bilateral cooperation in various fields,” Mao remarked. “China stands ready to work with Pakistan to deepen high-level political mutual trust, practical cooperation, security cooperation, and international coordination, to write a new chapter for China-Pakistan relations,” Mao stressed.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1500460/china-and-pakistan-to-deepen-cooperation-in-emerging-sectors/>

The Nation

China, Pakistan to accelerate CPEC 2.0, deepen cooperation in emerging sectors

BEIJING - China and Pakistan agreed to accelerate the development of China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) 2.0, forge an upgraded bilateral free trade agreement, and explore cooperation in artificial intelligence, digital economy, agriculture and other fields. This was shared by Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Mao Ning said following the conclusion of Pakistani Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif’s official visit to China from May 23 to 26.

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Pakistan’s economic recovery: remarkable progress under steady governance

After overcoming prolonged economic headwinds, including rampant inflation and depleted foreign reserves, Pakistan has achieved a remarkable economic turnaround in 2026 under the prudent and resolute leadership of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif’s administration.

Through well-calibrated economic policies, rigorous institutional reforms and robust international coordination, the government has successfully steered the nation away from potential fiscal risks and set in motion a solid, sustainable economic recovery. This news was stated by Prof Cheng Xizhong, Senior Research Fellow at the Charhar Institute, a non-governmental Chinese think-tank on diplomacy and international studies based in Beijing.

He highlighted that key macroeconomic indicators have registered substantial and encouraging improvements. Backed by disciplined fiscal consolidation and a landmark funding arrangement with the IMF, Pakistan’s foreign exchange reserves have risen steadily to \$22.58 billion as of May this year. Domestic inflation has been significantly curbed, while

the country's Gross Domestic Product growth is projected to reach 3.5 percent in the ongoing fiscal year.

Surging overseas remittances and the vigorous revival of domestic manufacturing sectors have further underpinned robust growth momentum, fully manifesting the administration's outstanding economic governance capability and effective crisis management.

The second-phase advancement of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor continues to act as a core engine driving national revitalisation. A wide array of industrial upgrading projects and livelihood initiatives have been implemented nationwide, generating hundreds of thousands of local employment opportunities, optimising industrial structures and enhancing Pakistan's export competitiveness. Such fruitful pragmatic cooperation has delivered concrete benefits to grassroots communities across the country, he added. Whilst lingering challenges including external debt pressure and regional security complexities remain, the Shehbaz Sharif government has secured extraordinary achievements in economic stabilisation and public welfare enhancement through pragmatic, people-centred governance.

With sustained institutional reform and deepened multi-lateral cooperation, Pakistan is well positioned to maintain stable economic expansion and usher in a more prosperous and resilient future, he concluded.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/30-May-2026/china-pakistan-accelerate-cpec-2-0-deepen-cooperation-emerging-sectors>

Chinese Newspapers

May 20, 2026

China Daily

Link of friendship

Muhammad Asif Noor

The CPEC is a practical outcome of China-Pakistan cooperation that has steadily strengthened over the past 75 years based on long-term mutual trust

This year marks 75 years of diplomatic relations between China and Pakistan. The anniversary comes at a time when the global landscape is unsettled. Economic fragmentation, an uneven recovery and uncertainty over development paths dominate international debates. Against this backdrop, the China-Pakistan relationship stands out for its steadiness, clarity and practical results. It reflects a partnership built on long-term mutual trust, development-first thinking and mutual respect, shaped by decades of cooperation and a shared outlook on the future.

What has defined China-Pakistan diplomacy over the years is consistency. From the earliest days of recognition through shifting regional and global circumstances, both sides have treated sovereignty, strategic autonomy and development as shared priorities. Political trust was established early and has been carefully maintained across leadership changes. Regular high-level exchanges have created a rhythm of cooperation that has remained stable even during periods of regional uncertainty. This is why the relationship has evolved into a genuine all-weather strategic cooperative partnership, supported by public confidence in both countries.

A major turning point came in 2015, when President Xi Jinping's visit to Pakistan translated political trust into a concrete economic vision through the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor. Conceived under the Belt and Road Initiative, the CPEC was never meant to be just a set of projects. It was designed as a long-term development plan aimed at addressing Pakistan's structural challenges. Pakistan's consistent support for China's core interests has been matched by China's firm backing of Pakistan's sovereignty, stability and development goals. This mutual understanding has given the partnership depth and lasting credibility.

The importance of this year was underscored right at its start. On Jan 4, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Mohammad Ishaq Dar visited Beijing to co-chair the seventh round of the China-Pakistan Foreign Ministers' Strategic Dialogue with Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi. The discussions reinforced strategic trust, reaffirmed support for each country's core interests and set the direction for advancing a high-quality CPEC 2.0. The focus on industry, agriculture and mining signals a shared commitment to the next phase of cooperation.

The impact of this partnership is most visible in economic outcomes. Chinese investment flows have picked up pace. It is estimated that net inflows from China surged to \$1.22 billion in the 2024-25 fiscal year, accounting for nearly half of Pakistan's total foreign direct investment of around \$2.5 billion. These figures reflect renewed investor confidence, supported by better connectivity, improved energy availability and steady progress under the CPEC.

Since its launch in 2013, the original phase of the CPEC focused on Pakistan's most pressing challenges, especially energy shortages and weak connectivity. Through a mix of coal, hydropower, wind and solar projects, more than 8,000 megawatts were added to the national grid. Urban load shedding, once as high as 18 hours a day, has largely faded, restoring industrial activity and improving daily life for households. At the same time, over 1,500 kilometers of modern highways, including the Multan-Sukkur Motorway, have reduced logistics costs and connected regions that had long remained on the margins of economic activity.

The CPEC has also broadened employment opportunities. By late 2025, special economic zones such as Rashakai had generated tens of thousands of jobs in textiles, manufacturing and information technology businesses, with growing participation by young workers. Security challenges remain in parts of Balochistan, yet dedicated protection measures have helped maintain continuity and investor confidence. At the same time, the presence of Chinese companies has accelerated technology transfer and productivity improvements across domestic industries.

Humanitarian cooperation has been equally significant. China's assistance during Pakistan's devastating floods in 2022 exceeded \$57.36 million, followed by continued support for climate resilience. These efforts went beyond emergency relief, deepening people-to-people ties and reinforcing a sense of solidarity during difficult times.

As the CPEC moves into its upgraded phase as the CPEC 2.0, the emphasis has shifted from infrastructure to high-quality, sustainable development. Formalized in September 2025 at the 14th Joint Cooperation Committee Meeting of the CPEC, this phase aligns with Pakistan's "5Es": Exports, E-Pakistan, Equity and Empowerment, Environment and Food Security, and

Energy and Infrastructure — a framework designed to tackle economic challenges proposed in the country's National Economic Transformation Plan 2024-29.

The CPEC 2.0 introduces five thematic corridors covering growth, livelihoods, innovation, green development and regional connectivity, including links to Afghanistan and Central Asia.

Industrial cooperation draws on China's experience in relocating manufacturing capacity, with appliance parks and textile hubs expected to create large-scale employment. Digital cooperation has expanded quickly, with agreements worth \$8.5 billion in artificial intelligence, e-commerce and connectivity, alongside advanced training programs for thousands of Pakistani professionals in China. Planned upgrades to the Main Line-1 railway project and the Karakoram Highway aim to improve trade efficiency, while mineral development and precision agriculture offer new paths for diversification and food security.

China's four global initiatives provide a wider governance framework for this partnership. The Global Development Initiative emphasizes inclusive growth and poverty reduction, reflected in the CPEC's focus on livelihoods and sustainability. The Global Security Initiative promotes dialogue and cooperative security, evident in China-Pakistan coordination on counter-terrorism and regional stability. The Global Civilization Initiative encourages mutual respect through education, media and people-to-people exchanges. The Global Governance Initiative highlights sovereign equality and fair participation in global decision-making, offering developing countries a stronger voice in international affairs.

Seventy-five years after diplomatic ties were established, the China-Pakistan partnership is defined more by outcomes than by statements. The foundation is strong, decades of trust have built resilience, and a shared development vision offers clear direction. At a time when the world feels increasingly divided, the China-Pakistan experience shows how long-term cooperation, rooted in development and mutual respect, can deliver real benefits and contribute to a more balanced and inclusive global order.

<https://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202605/20/WS6a0da2d1a310d6866eb49c4e.html>

Belt and Road Initiative's infrastructure projects improving lives abroad

REN QI

Under the framework of the Belt and Road Initiative, China and various involved countries have continuously advanced global interconnectivity. A series of major infrastructure projects have taken root worldwide, supporting the dreams of people for prosperity and development while injecting fresh vitality into the global economy.

On April 1, 2023, the New Belgrade-Surcin section of the E-763 highway in Serbia, constructed by a Chinese enterprise, officially opened to traffic. Spanning 7.9 kilometers, this segment serves as the starting point of the highway, seamlessly connecting the urban area of Belgrade with the previously completed Surcin-Obrenovac section.

With the opening of this new segment, the total operational length of the E-763 highway has reached 140 km. This vital transport artery brings large and medium-sized cities in southwestern Serbia into the capital's one-hour economic circle. Benefiting a population of over 4 million, the highway not only facilitates convenient travel for locals, but also plays a crucial role in promoting interconnectivity and economic and trade exchanges across the entire Balkan region.

Over the past decade, Chinese enterprises have consistently offered Chinese solutions to overcome complex technical challenges in highway construction across BRI-participating countries. Through collaborative efforts, they have successfully built landmark projects such as Cambodia's first expressway and Bangladesh's first elevated expressway.

The momentum extends to rail networks. On Oct 2, 2022, the Jakarta-Bandung High-Speed Railway — the first of its kind in both Indonesia and Southeast Asia — officially commenced operations. Stretching 142 km with a maximum design speed of 350 kilometers per hour, the railway has drastically slashed travel time between Jakarta and Bandung from over three hours to just over 40 minutes now.

This transformative railway was jointly built and operated by a joint venture established by China Railway International Co Ltd and four Indonesian State-owned enterprises. As a flagship project of the BRI and a symbol of practical cooperation between China and Indonesia, builders from both nations worked in tandem over eight years, conducting comprehensive, all-element and full-system cooperation.

From the Addis Ababa-Djibouti Railway, East Africa's first electrified railway, to the Mombasa-Nairobi Standard Gauge Railway, a major artery for regional interconnectivity; and from the China-Laos Railway, which transformed Laos from a landlocked country into a land-linked hub, to the Jakarta-Bandung HSR, which achieved the "fastest speed" in Southeast Asia — the past decade has seen China and partner countries pave roads of development and revitalization.

Together, they have spurred economic growth, transferred advanced technology, increased employment opportunities and improved local livelihoods, steadily marching toward common development and shared prosperity.

Aviation infrastructure has also seen remarkable progress. In 2019, the new terminal of Bole International Airport in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, built by Chinese enterprises, officially opened. As part of the airport's expansion and upgrading project, construction of the new terminal began in 2015 and was completed after four years of dedicated efforts.

Following the terminal's successful operation, the Ethiopian government continued to invite Chinese enterprises to participate in further expansion projects, aiming to transform the airport into a premier aviation transport hub in Africa.

From New Gwadar International Airport in Pakistan to Siem Reap-Angkor International Airport in Cambodia, multiple modern airports have sprung up in BRI participating countries over the past decade, with Chinese enterprises frequently playing key roles in their investment and construction.

These achievements are microcosms of the deepening cooperation between China and BRI participating countries in the field of new infrastructure. In recent years, the overseas service networks of China's three major telecom operators have expanded to over 40 countries, paving "highways" for new digital infrastructure.

Meanwhile, enterprises such as the State Grid and China Southern Power Grid have also actively strengthened the alignment, mutual recognition and application of rules and standards with BRI participating countries. This has promoted the "going global" of Chinese technology, standards and equipment, helping to build the BRI into a road of innovation.

Andrey Ostrovsky, chief researcher at the Institute of China and Modern Asia at Russian Academy of Sciences, said the BRI proposed by China brings new development opportunities to participating countries and significantly aids global common development.

To ensure the successful implementation of the BRI, China has introduced a series of supportive policies and promoted the establishment of institutions such as the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank and the Silk Road Fund.

Through this extensive cooperation, many countries have acquired vital facilities that would have been exceedingly difficult to build relying solely on their own capabilities, Ostrovsky said, adding that these projects have created excellent conditions for subsequent development and have become enduring sources of wealth for these nations.

<https://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202605/20/WS6a0d14a6a310d6866eb49a0c.html>

May 21, 2026

China Daily

China, Pakistan eye stronger cooperation

Xi and Zardari exchange messages on 75th anniversary of diplomatic relations

ZHAO JIA

President Xi Jinping called on Thursday for stronger strategic communication, continued traditional friendship and deeper all-around cooperation between China and Pakistan, as the two Asian neighbors marked the 75th anniversary of diplomatic ties.

In a congratulatory message sent to Pakistani President Asif Ali Zardari, Xi emphasized that he attaches great importance to the development of bilateral relations and stands ready to work with Zardari to accelerate the building of an even closer China-Pakistan community with a shared future in the new era, so that bilateral ties bring greater benefits to the two peoples and contribute to regional peace and development.

Xi said that China and Pakistan are good friends and all-weather strategic cooperative partners, linked by mountains and rivers and sharing weal and woe.

Over the past 75 years, the friendship between the two countries has remained rock-solid and unbreakable despite changes in the international landscape, he said.

The two countries have long maintained a high level of political mutual trust, practical cooperation, security collaboration and international coordination, setting an example for state-to-state relations, Xi added.

In his congratulatory message to Xi, Zardari said the Pakistan-China all-weather strategic cooperative partnership has become a firm pillar of regional peace, stability and development. Pakistan highly appreciates the far-reaching global initiatives proposed by Xi and deeply values his firm commitment to deepening Pakistan-China relations, he added.

Zardari expressed Pakistan's sincere gratitude for China's firm support toward safeguarding his country's sovereignty and territorial integrity, and promoting its economic and social development.

Pakistan will continue to support China on issues concerning its core interests and further elevate the Pakistan-China friendship to new heights, he said.

To mark the occasion, Premier Li Qiang exchanged congratulatory messages on Thursday with Pakistani Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, saying that China is ready to work with Pakistan to actively build an upgraded version of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor.

Sharif said that Pakistan remains firmly committed to advancing high-quality CPEC development and opening up new areas of cooperation with China.

In a separate message released by the Pakistani prime minister's office to mark the anniversary, Sharif said that CPEC's next phase will place greater emphasis on "industrialization, agriculture, information technology, science and technology, green development, and stronger people-centered cooperation".

"It is encouraging to witness Pakistan-China cooperation expanding into new frontiers, including the digital economy, innovation, space cooperation, education and cultural exchanges," he added.

Sharif said that from the Karakoram Highway to cooperation in outer space, Pakistan-China friendship continues to demonstrate how enduring strategic trust can be translated into meaningful progress and shared prosperity for the two peoples.

The two countries are set for another round of high-level engagement, with Sharif set to pay an official visit to China starting Saturday, less than a month after Zardari visited China in April. In addition to Beijing, the four-day trip will also take Sharif to East China's Zhejiang province.

Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan Jiang Zaidong said in a signed article published in the People's Daily on Thursday that frequent high-level exchanges have provided political guidance and strong momentum for the development of bilateral relations.

Beyond political engagement, he noted that high-level practical cooperation between the two countries has become a model that delivers broad benefits to the people.

China is Pakistan's largest trading partner and the second-largest destination for Pakistani exports.

According to Jiang, CPEC, a flagship project of the Belt and Road Initiative, has garnered over \$25.9 billion in direct investment and created over 260,000 jobs.

The emphasis on shared development was echoed by Pakistani Ambassador to China Khalil Hashmi, who said that China's development has created wider opportunities for other developing countries, especially those in the Global South.

Hashmi said that Pakistan-China relations carry significance beyond the bilateral level, particularly at a time of growing global uncertainty.

Pakistan and China have made valuable contributions to the global system, he said, noting that the two countries "closely coordinate, communicate and consult" at the United Nations, the World Trade Organization and many other multilateral platforms.

He described China's vision of building a community with a shared future for humanity, together with the BRI and the four major global initiatives — the Global Development Initiative, the Global Security Initiative, the Global Civilization Initiative and the Global Governance Initiative — as an action-oriented approach to addressing global challenges. These ideas, he said, reflect Chinese wisdom in a modern context and provide a comprehensive plan for a more peaceful, secure and prosperous world.

<https://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202605/21/WS6a0f235da310d6866eb4a008.html>

Trust, cooperation drive China-Pakistan ties, envoy says

ZHAO JIA

As Pakistan and China mark the 75th anniversary of diplomatic relations on Thursday, their all-weather friendship is being carried forward by strategic mutual trust, expanding practical cooperation and a shared commitment to multilateralism, Pakistan's Ambassador to China Khalil Hashmi has said.

Hashmi said in a recent interview with China Daily that the resilience of the relationship rests on three foundations: mutual trust, mutual respect and mutual support.

"We have a very high-quality, strategic mutual trust between our two countries," Hashmi said. "That lies at the heart of our relationship" and "provides the direction".

Such trust, he said, has helped Pakistan-China relations progress steadily despite changes in the international environment. High-level exchanges and strategic guidance from the two countries' leaders are essential, he added, describing them as a source of direction and momentum. "It works like oxygen. It works like blood in the body," he said.

That political trust, Hashmi said, has been translated into development cooperation, most visibly through the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, the flagship project of Belt and Road cooperation between the two countries.

Launched more than a decade ago, CPEC has helped Pakistan strengthen its transport and energy infrastructure, laying what Hashmi described as "critical foundations" for faster and broader economic growth. As the corridor moves into its next phase, cooperation is shifting toward agriculture, minerals, information technology and industrial development — areas he said will help unlock new growth drivers for Pakistan.

The corridor is also part of a broader effort to give economic ties a stronger business-to-business dimension. Pakistan has identified 21 priority sectors for cooperation with China and is encouraging Chinese companies to invest in the country and work with local partners to enhance Pakistan's productive capacity, he said.

More than 300 memorandums of understanding and over three dozen joint venture agreements have been signed between enterprises from the two countries, with a combined value exceeding \$13 billion, according to the top envoy.

Pakistan, he added, hopes to work with Chinese partners to add value to its products, make them more competitive and draw on China's strengths in technical and vocational education.

For Hashmi, the next stage of cooperation is closely linked to China's own transition toward high-quality development.

He said China's shift from high-speed growth to high-quality development is creating fresh opportunities for Pakistan and other Global South countries, as science and technology, advanced manufacturing and new quality productive forces become major growth drivers under China's 15th Five-Year Plan (2026-30). "What China is doing is a great favor to developing countries," he said, citing China's development of affordable, scalable digital and green technologies that can be learned, absorbed and deployed by developing countries at lower cost.

Beyond economic opportunities, Hashmi said China's broader vision for global development also resonates with Pakistan. He spoke highly of China's vision of building a community with

a shared future for humanity, calling it "a profound philosophy" rooted in the idea that people share "a destiny" and "an aspiration for a better future".

Together with the Belt and Road Initiative and the four major global initiatives, the vision reflects "ancient Chinese wisdom expressed and interpreted in modern times" and offers "a blueprint and a road map" for tackling "some of the most intricate problems of the modern world", he said.

That shared outlook, Hashmi said, is also reflected in the two countries' coordination on international affairs. Pakistan and China work closely at the United Nations, the World Trade Organization and other multilateral platforms to uphold multilateralism, international law, open and fair trade, and the central role of the UN in global governance, he said.

The ambassador said his views on China have also been shaped by years of firsthand experience in the country. Having previously served at the Pakistani Embassy in Beijing from 2008 to 2010 before returning as ambassador in 2023, he said he has witnessed striking changes in China's environmental, economic and social development, from cleaner air in Beijing and advances in green technologies to the expansion of high-speed rail and rising living standards.

To Pakistanis, he said, China is "our most trusted, most reliable and most friendly country".

Hashmi was recently among the first recipients of the Outstanding Diplomat Medal presented by China's Foreign Ministry. He said the honor belonged not only to him, but also to his embassy team and all those working to strengthen Pakistan-China relations.

"One person's contribution is never sufficient. It is always a team," he said, adding that the medal gives him more inspiration to continue advancing the relationship.

<https://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202605/21/WS6a0ec860a310d6866eb49f78.html>

Pakistani PM to visit China as ties mark 75th anniversary

Mo Jingxi

China's Foreign Ministry has announced that Pakistani Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif will pay an official visit to China from Saturday to Tuesday.

Ministry spokesman Guo Jiakun made the announcement at a regular news briefing on Thursday. This month marks the 75th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and Pakistan.

"Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's official visit to China is an important high-level exchange between the two countries as they mark the 75th anniversary of diplomatic ties," Guo said.

The leaders of the two countries will have in-depth exchanges of views on bilateral relations and issues of mutual concern, providing guidance for the development of China-Pakistan relations under new circumstances, he added.

As well as attending a reception celebrating the 75th anniversary of China-Pakistan diplomatic relations, Sharif is set to visit Zhejiang province.

According to Guo, China hopes the two sides will use the visit as an opportunity to carry forward their traditional friendship, deepen all-around cooperation, and write a new chapter in the building of an even closer China-Pakistan community with a shared future in the new era. <https://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202605/21/WS6a0eb0eea310d6866eb49f4e.html>

Seventy-five years of friendship: Pakistan and China step into the future

Asif Ali Zardari

Pakistan and China began their remarkable journey of friendship and cooperation 75 years ago with the establishment of diplomatic relations.

Since then, we have built a partnership defined by trust, consistency, and the ability to stand together through difficult times and shifting global realities. What began as a diplomatic engagement has evolved into a model of enduring cooperation between our two nations.

This relationship is also deeply personal for me. My late father in law, Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, and Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto, believed strongly in building lasting ties with China and played pivotal roles in shaping our early cooperation.

That legacy continues into the third generation. My son, Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, and daughter, Aseefa Bhutto Zardari, are both actively engaged in strengthening links between our two nations.

Our connection, however, predates modern diplomacy. For centuries, the regions that are now in Pakistan and China were linked through the ancient Silk Road — routes that crossed mountains and rivers, carrying goods, culture and ideas between our peoples. These exchanges have laid the foundation for a relationship that is both historic and natural.

Pakistan-China relations have never been transactional. They are rooted in mutual respect, trust and a shared understanding of each other's priorities.

Since 1951, we have supported each other on issues of core importance, including Pakistan's firm commitment to the one-China principle and our role in supporting China's rightful place at the United Nations in 1971.

What makes this partnership unique is how it has evolved. Regular high-level exchanges have kept it forward-looking, translating political understanding into practical cooperation, across infrastructure, energy, trade and agriculture — areas that directly impact people's lives.

I have witnessed this closeness firsthand. During my earlier tenure as President from 2008 to 2013, I visited China frequently.

These visits were not merely official engagements; they were opportunities to deepen trust, observe China's transformation and fortify our genuine friendship.

My visits again in 2025 brought those experiences full circle.

The scale of China's progress is extraordinary. Under the leadership of President Xi Jinping, China has consolidated its position as a leading global power and the world's second-largest economy.

This transformation reflects vision, discipline, and a sustained commitment to development that has reshaped the global economic landscape.

Through profound shifts in the international system — from the Cold War to today's more complex and fragmented world — Pakistan-China relations have remained resilient.

At a time when divisions often dominate global discourse, our partnership stands out for its consistency and clarity of purpose.

We do not view security and development as a race; we see it as a shared journey. This belief shapes our cooperation at the United Nations, within the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, and across the broader Global South, reflecting a shared commitment to multilateralism and dialogue.

This approach also guides our actions in times of crisis. During the recent war involving the United States, Israel and Iran, China played a constructive role by encouraging restraint and supporting dialogue, as well as resolutely backing Pakistan's mediation efforts, alongside its own compelling diplomatic engagement. This reflected our conviction that even the most complex disputes must be resolved peacefully.

China's Belt and Road Initiative has taken this philosophy of shared progress to a global scale. By investing in infrastructure and connectivity, it has opened new avenues for trade, strengthened economic linkages, and created opportunities for growth.

For many developing countries, it has demonstrated how connectivity can drive inclusive prosperity.

Within this broader vision, the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) stands as a flagship of our cooperation. It has transformed Pakistan's infrastructure, reduced energy shortages, and created new economic opportunities.

As CPEC enters its next phase, our focus is increasingly on people-centered development — industrial cooperation, modern agriculture, job creation, and technology transfer — to ensure growth is both sustainable and inclusive.

Our defense partnership remains another key of this relationship. Cooperation in defense technology, training, and joint exercises has reinforced Pakistan's pillar capabilities while contributing to regional stability. It is defensive in nature and reflects our commitment to peace.

Yet, the true strength of Pakistan-China relations lies beyond governments and agreements. It rests in the bonds between our people.

Students, artists, entrepreneurs, and young people from both countries are building connections that transcend political cycles. These human ties give real meaning to the idea of an "all-weather friendship".

The symbolism of this year's Chinese zodiac — the Year of the Horse — captures the spirit of our partnership: energy, resilience, and forward momentum.

As we look ahead, our direction is clear: deepen cooperation, strengthen solidarity among Global South nations, and work together for a rule-based international order.

Our partnership is not directed against any country; it is rooted in mutual respect and shared progress.

Seventy-five years on, Pakistan-China relations remain strong, steady, and deeply humane — and that enduring spirit will continue to guide us into the future.

<https://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202605/21/WS6a0e4f58a310d6866eb49d57.html>

Global Times

Resilience of China-Pakistan partnership inspires Global South

Zamir Ahmed Awan

The year 2026 marks the 75th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and Pakistan. Over the past seven and a half decades, the friendship between the two neighboring countries has transformed from cordial diplomatic engagement into an all-weather strategic cooperative partnership. At a time when global politics is increasingly characterized by uncertainty, turbulence and confrontation, China-Pakistan relations stand out as a model of consistency, stability and strategic vision.

One of the most important pillars of this partnership has been political trust. Both countries have consistently respected each other's sovereignty, territorial integrity and development paths. Pakistan has firmly adhered to the one-China principle and supported China on issues related to its core interests. Similarly, China has consistently supported Pakistan's sovereignty, territorial integrity, economic development and national stability.

Economic cooperation has emerged as another cornerstone of the bilateral relationship. The launch of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), a flagship project of the Belt and Road Initiative, opened a new chapter in China-Pakistan cooperation. Projects under CPEC have contributed to Pakistan's socio-economic development, generated employment opportunities, enhanced transportation networks and strengthened energy security. The development of Gwadar Port, in particular, reflects the long-term strategic vision shared by both countries for regional connectivity and economic integration. Importantly, CPEC is not merely an economic initiative; it is also a symbol of South-South cooperation, offering a valuable example of how strategic partnerships can contribute to national development without political conditionalities.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202605/1361499.shtml>

May 22, 2026

China Daily

Long-standing Sino-Pakistani relationship valued

As China and Pakistan marked the 75th anniversary of diplomatic ties on Thursday, political leaders, diplomats and analysts in Pakistan have highlighted the longstanding, multifaceted Sino-Pakistani relationship, emphasizing its economic, social, cultural and diplomatic dimensions.

China's significant investments, particularly through the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, have not only transformed Pakistan's economy and boosted its infrastructure but also helped Pakistan make substantial strides toward sustainability and green energy, they said.

Pakistan and China established diplomatic relations in 1951, and their partnership has since expanded into multiple sectors, including trade, infrastructure, defense, and cultural exchanges.

On Thursday, Pakistani Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif sent a message on the 75th anniversary of ties with Beijing, saying that his nation "deeply appreciates" China's cooperation in "multifaceted fields".

The CPEC, as a flagship project of the Belt and Road Initiative, has made a tremendous contribution toward Pakistan's infrastructure development, energy security, industrial cooperation, and regional connectivity, said the prime minister.

On Wednesday, the Senate of Pakistan unanimously passed a resolution reaffirming Pakistan-China friendship on the occasion of the 75th anniversary of diplomatic ties between the two nations.

The resolution was moved by Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Mohammad Ishaq Dar, who described Pakistan-China ties as a model of mutual trust, respect and shared aspirations. He said the relationship has continued to strengthen over the past 75 years and remains a cornerstone of regional peace, stability and development.

Dar reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to further expanding cooperation, while emphasizing the shared resolution of the two countries to carry forward their iron-clad friendship for future generations.

Zafar Uddin Mahmood, former special assistant to the prime minister of Pakistan, noted that Pakistan was the 17th country and the first Muslim nation to establish diplomatic relations with the People's Republic of China. Since the establishment of ties on May 21, 1951, the two countries have built a deep bond characterized as an all-weather strategic cooperative partnership.

The economic underpinning of the relationship evolved significantly, highlighted by the CPEC, which has driven major investments in infrastructure, energy and other projects, Mahmood said.

In the meantime, the acceleration of people-to-people connections, cultural and educational exchanges, scientific cooperation, frequent high-level visits, consensus and cooperation on major international issues and mutual support on core issues strongly bonded the countries, he said.

Shahid Khaqan Abbasi, a former prime minister of Pakistan, said implementing solar power, electric motorcycles and other electric vehicle projects with Chinese investment will help Pakistan reduce the amount of gas and diesel imported into the country while also cutting carbon emissions and greenhouse gas emissions.

Looking ahead, Mahmood told China Daily that facilitating more social contacts and exchanges, and promoting the study of the Chinese language and cultural understanding, are important for Pakistan. Meanwhile, the nation can learn from China's development and governance model to meet the challenges and move forward.

"China's development model for industrialization, poverty alleviation, education, health and other areas" is something that Pakistan can benefit from, he said.

Salman Bashir, a former foreign secretary of Pakistan, said the bonds of friendship between Pakistan and China are everlasting and each succeeding generation has contributed to making this relationship ever more special.

"It's good to see that the next generation is doing so well to give additional meaning to the relationship," he said. "This process of renewal is what makes the ties enduring. This process has continued over the ages and will continue."

<https://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202605/22/WS6a0faf88a310d6866eb4a10d.html>

May 25, 2026

China Daily

Xi meets Pakistani prime minister

BEIJING - China commends Pakistan for taking the initiative to play a mediating role in restoring peace in the Middle East, Chinese President Xi Jinping said on Monday when meeting with Pakistani Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif.

Sharif said that Pakistan appreciated China's support for Pakistan in mediating the US-Iran negotiations, noting that President Xi's four propositions on the Middle East situation offer guidance for achieving peace.

<https://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202605/25/WS6a1402cda310d6866eb4a91f.html>

China's growth model opens opportunities for Pakistan

ZHAO JIA

China's shift toward high-quality development under its 15th Five-Year Plan (2026-30) will create new opportunities for Pakistan to expand cooperation with it, particularly through the upgraded development of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, says Pakistan's ambassador.

Speaking to China Daily as the two countries mark 75 years of diplomatic relations, Khalil Hashmi said the 15th Five-Year Plan represents a new model of economic growth.

China's focus on science and technology, intelligent manufacturing, advanced manufacturing and new quality productive forces is especially relevant for developing countries looking for affordable technologies, industrial upgrading and new growth drivers, Hashmi said.

"China has a lot to offer in management practices, technology and capital," he said.

That experience is particularly relevant as the two countries move into the next phase of the CPEC, a flagship project of the Belt and Road Initiative and a central platform for practical bilateral cooperation.

Hashmi said the first phase of CPEC was "very substantial and important" because it helped Pakistan strengthen transport and energy infrastructure — two critical foundations for broader and faster economic growth.

With the foundations in place, the two sides are moving into CPEC 2.0, with a stronger focus on agriculture, minerals, information technology and industrial cooperation, he said.

These priorities match Pakistan's development needs and strengths, he said, citing its agriculture, mineral resources and young population. China and Pakistan have identified 21 priority sectors, with more than 300 memorandums of understanding and over three dozen joint venture agreements signed between their companies, he added.

The expanding practical cooperation is underpinned by the broader strength of Pakistan-China relations, which Hashmi said rest on "mutual trust, mutual respect and mutual support".

Unlike many interstate relationships that fluctuate, Pakistan-China ties have continued to move forward steadily over the years, he said.

Frequent high-level exchanges and strategic guidance from the two countries' leaders have been indispensable to that momentum, he said. "It works like oxygen. It works like blood in the body." On the diplomatic front, he said Pakistan and China have more than two dozen

institutional dialogue mechanisms, providing a strong framework for translating political trust into practical cooperation.

Hashmi, who recently received China's newly established Outstanding Diplomat Medal, said the honor was not his alone but belonged to all those who have worked to strengthen bilateral ties. "One person's contribution is never sufficient. It is always a team," he said.

The ambassador said he hopes to place greater emphasis on people-centered cooperation, particularly exchanges among young people, entrepreneurs, business leaders and social media influencers.

Having served at the Pakistani embassy in Beijing from 2008 to 2010 before returning as ambassador in November 2023, Hashmi said his travels across China have given him a close view of the country's transformation.

Those journeys, from western regions to coastal and inland provinces, have deepened his understanding of China's diversity, development path and governance experience, he added.

"China is our most trusted, most reliable and most friendly country in the world," he said, encouraging more youths and people from different walks of life in Pakistan to visit China.

"Seeing is believing," he said.

<https://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202605/25/WS6a13c004a310d6866eb4a8b2.html>

Closer China-Pakistan ties urged for better outcomes

Relations: Pakistan's mediating role praised

ZHAO JIA

President Xi Jinping said on Monday that China and Pakistan should accelerate the development of an even closer China-Pakistan community with a shared future in the new era and deliver more outcomes from their all-weather cooperation to better benefit the two peoples, contribute to regional peace and stability, and set a fine example for building a community with a shared future with neighboring countries.

Xi made the remarks during a meeting in Beijing with Pakistani Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, who is on a four-day official visit to China, as the two countries mark the 75th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic ties.

Over the past 75 years, China and Pakistan have enjoyed mutual understanding, trust and support, and forged an unbreakable traditional friendship, Xi said, adding that their strategic mutual trust and practical cooperation have strongly promoted the development of both nations. No matter how the international landscape may evolve, Beijing will always place priority on the development of China-Pakistan relations in its diplomacy with neighboring countries, he noted.

Xi emphasized China's firm support for Pakistan in safeguarding its independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity, and expressed readiness to maintain high-level exchanges, strengthen strategic communication and steer the relationship forward in the right direction.

The two sides should advance both major signature projects and "small and beautiful" livelihood programs, and deepen all-around cooperation in areas such as agriculture, industry, artificial intelligence and talent cultivation, he said.

Xi also shared his pleasure in receiving a letter from Pakistani students at Tianjin University, in which they expressed their aspiration to become builders of cooperation, promoters of exchanges and guardians of friendship between the two countries.

Xi added that he was truly heartened to see that the cause of China-Pakistan friendship has dedicated young successors.

Sharif described President Xi as a great friend of the Pakistani people and of all peace-loving people around the world, saying that the ironclad friendship between Pakistan and China "is growing ever stronger and is next to none".

Sharif reaffirmed Pakistan's firm commitment to the one-China principle and its support for China's position on all issues concerning its core interests.

He expressed Pakistan's readiness to learn from China's governance experience, deepen Belt and Road cooperation, advance the construction of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, and further develop bilateral relations for the benefit of the two peoples.

On multilateral affairs, Xi said the two countries should conduct higher-level security cooperation over a broader area and jointly safeguard regional peace and stability.

China commends Pakistan for taking the initiative to play a mediating role in restoring peace in the Middle East, Xi said, calling on the two sides to maintain close communication and coordination, jointly oppose unilateralism and Cold War mentality, promote an equal and orderly multipolar world and an economic globalization that is universally beneficial and inclusive.

Sharif thanked China for supporting Pakistan's mediation efforts in talks between the United States and Iran, saying that Xi's four propositions on the Middle East situation offer guidance for achieving peace in the region. Pakistan is willing to coordinate closely with China to jointly contribute to world peace and stability, he added. Also on Monday, Premier Li Qiang held talks with Sharif, and said that China is ready to work with Pakistan to further advance the construction of the CPEC, import more high-quality Pakistani products and actively build an upgraded version of the bilateral free trade agreement. Li expressed the hope that Pakistan will continue to take necessary measures to protect the safety of Chinese personnel, projects and institutions in the country. Sharif welcomed Chinese companies to invest and thrive in Pakistan, pledging that the country would continue to take strong measures to provide a safer and better business environment. After the talks, Li and Sharif witnessed the signing of multiple cooperation documents covering trade, science and technology, agriculture and food, human resources and other areas. China is Pakistan's largest trading partner and the second-largest destination for Pakistani exports. Statistics show that the CPEC has garnered over \$25.9 billion in direct investment and created over 260,000 jobs. Ahsan Iqbal, Pakistan's minister for planning, development and special initiatives, said on Sunday that Pakistan-China relations are entering a new era of high-quality development, technological cooperation, agricultural and industrial modernization, and deeper regional integration.

He described the CPEC as a symbol of the two countries' shared vision for peace and prosperity, saying that the relationship has never experienced an "autumn" but has always remained in "spring", with new waves of cooperation emerging year after year.

<https://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202605/25/WS6a14707fa310d6866eb4aa02.html>

Pakistani PM urges new steps to enhance relations

ZHAO JIA in Beijing and CHEN YE in Hangzhou

Pakistani Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif called on Sunday for turning the growing momentum in Pakistan-China cooperation into concrete agreements and real investment, as the two countries mark the 75th anniversary of diplomatic relations and seek to expand practical collaboration in industry, investment and the digital economy.

Speaking at the Pakistan-China B2B Investment Conference in Hangzhou, Zhejiang province, Sharif said that practical cooperation between the two countries is making positive progress and should now move toward faster implementation.

Pakistan is ready to deepen cooperation with China in areas including special economic zones, industrial development, infrastructure, rural development, water resources, skills training and employment promotion, he said.

Sharif noted that China's development experience and investment capacity are of great significance to Pakistan, which has a young population and hopes to strengthen skills training, education cooperation and capacity building.

Pakistan will work to create more convenient conditions for Chinese investors, including through better infrastructure, improved regulatory arrangements and one-window services, he added.

The business event brought together over 500 leading enterprises from China and Pakistan, representing sectors such as e-commerce, financial technology, artificial intelligence, gaming and animation, agriculture and battery energy storage systems.

Sources at the event indicated that Hangzhou was selected as the venue due to its reputation as a premier technological innovation hub in China. The conference aims to enhance targeted business matchmaking and investment cooperation in industrial technologies between Chinese and Pakistani companies across key sectors.

Pakistan sent to the event a high-profile delegation comprising several senior government ministers. Pakistani Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Mohammad Ishaq Dar said the conference reflected their shared commitment to deeper economic and trade cooperation. The two countries' all-weather friendship is being translated into a more active and broader business partnership. Minister of State for Information Technology and Telecommunication Shaza Fatima Khawaja said the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, and the Belt and Road Initiative have the potential to evolve into a broader "digital Silk Road", connecting the people, platforms and opportunities of the two countries. Pakistan's growing digital economy, startup ecosystem and talent pool are creating new opportunities for cooperation in AI, cloud computing, cybersecurity, smart cities and digital infrastructure, she said. Aamir Ibrahim, president and CEO of a financial enterprise in Pakistan, said China's progress in applying AI across different sectors offers valuable experience for Pakistani companies, while Pakistan's large market offers new opportunities for Chinese businesses. Sharif arrived in Hangzhou on Saturday on the first leg of his four-day official visit to China. On Sunday, he met with CEOs of leading Chinese companies, visited the headquarters of Alibaba and attended a ceremony for the signing of cooperation memorandums of understanding before departing for Beijing.

<https://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202605/25/WS6a138fcda310d6866eb4a6f9.html>

Friendship has been forged through trust and history

Tahir Farooq

For the past 75 years, the relationship between Pakistan and China has stood as one of the most enduring and resilient partnerships in international relations. Built not merely on strategic calculations but on mutual trust, political consistency and shared aspirations, the ties between the two neighboring countries have evolved into a model of interstate cooperation in an increasingly fragmented world.

As both nations commemorate the 75th anniversary of diplomatic relations, the moment offers an opportunity not only to celebrate a remarkable journey, but also to reflect on the deeper foundations that have sustained this friendship across decades marked by geopolitical upheavals, regional conflicts and shifting global alignments.

The roots of Pakistan-China relations stretch back to the early years of the Cold War, when Pakistan became one of the first Muslim-majority countries to recognize the People's Republic of China in 1951. At a time when ideological divisions dominated international politics, this early recognition laid the groundwork for a relationship that would steadily mature into what leaders from both sides have often described as an "all-weather cooperative strategic partnership".

History demonstrates that the strength of this relationship has been repeatedly tested in moments of crisis and uncertainty.

Whether during regional wars, economic challenges, natural disasters or diplomatic difficulties, both countries have consistently stood firmly side by side.

One of the defining features of Pakistan-China relations has been their remarkable continuity despite changing international environments. Unlike many relationships in international politics that fluctuate according to short-term interests, Pakistan and China have fostered a partnership grounded in strategic trust and long-term common interests.

In recent decades, economic cooperation has emerged as the most visible dimension of this partnership.

The launch of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor under the broader framework of the Belt and Road Initiative marked a historic turning point. The CPEC was never merely an infrastructure initiative. It represents a broader vision of regional connectivity, industrial modernization, energy cooperation and economic transformation.

From highways and power plants to Gwadar Port and Special Economic Zones, the corridor sought to address some of Pakistan's long-standing structural challenges while enhancing regional integration.

Critics in the West frequently attempt to portray the CPEC through a narrow geopolitical perspective, often framing it as a so-called "debt trap". Yet such narratives overlook the tangible visible realities across Pakistan today. Energy projects under the CPEC have helped alleviate severe electricity shortages that once hindered industry and daily life.

Modern road networks have improved connectivity between remote regions. Gwadar has emerged as a symbol of Pakistan's geoeconomic potential, while cooperation sectors in technology, agriculture and industry continue to expand.

More important, the CPEC has demonstrated China's willingness to invest in Pakistan at a time when many international actors remain cautious.

Beyond economics, people-to-people engagement between the two nations has expanded significantly.

Thousands of students from Pakistan study at Chinese universities, benefiting from educational opportunities in fields ranging from engineering to medicine and artificial intelligence. Cultural exchanges, tourism cooperation, media collaboration and academic partnerships have created new avenues for mutual understanding between younger generations. In Pakistan, admiration for China's extraordinary development journey has steadily grown, particularly among young people, who increasingly view China as a model of economic modernization, technological advancement and poverty alleviation.

China's transformation over the past few decades remains one of the most remarkable stories of modern history. Under the leadership of the Communist Party of China, hundreds of millions of people have been lifted out of poverty, infrastructure has expanded at an unprecedented pace, and China has emerged as a leading force in innovation, manufacturing and global trade. Pakistan's leadership and policy community have often looked toward this transformation with interest, seeking lessons that could help address Pakistan's own governance and development challenges.

The relationship has also gained renewed importance amid growing global uncertainty.

Rising geopolitical tensions, economic protectionism and regional instability have underscored the importance of dependable partnerships.

In this environment, Pakistan and China continue to advocate the principles of multilateralism, peaceful coexistence and shared development. Their cooperation increasingly extends into emerging sectors such as digital technology, renewable energy, AI and climate resilience.

Yet the true strength of Pakistan-China relations lies in the extraordinary goodwill that exists between the peoples of both nations.

For generations, Pakistanis have viewed China not merely as a strategic partner, but as a trusted friend that stood with Pakistan during difficult times. Similarly, China has consistently regarded Pakistan as a reliable and sincere partner.

As the two countries celebrate 75 years of diplomatic relations, the partnership enters a new phase shaped by changing global realities and evolving economic priorities.

The future of Pakistan-China relations will likely depend increasingly on industrial cooperation, technological innovation, educational exchange and deeper people-centered engagement. But the foundations built over the past seven decades remain exceptionally strong.

In an era when alliances often appear transactional and temporary, the Pakistan-China partnership continues to stand out for its durability, strategic depth and emotional resonance. Seventy-five years later, it remains not only a testament to diplomatic consistency, but also a powerful reminder that trust, mutual respect and shared vision can sustain international friendships across generations.

<https://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202605/25/WS6a13af8aa310d6866eb4a824.html>

Party exchanges spur evolution of China-Pakistan cooperation

ZHAO JIA

Pakistani political leaders said party-to-party exchanges with China are gaining greater significance as the two countries mark the 75th anniversary of diplomatic ties and seek to advance the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor into a new phase focused on industry, technology, agriculture, and people's livelihoods.

Speaking at the China-Pakistan Political Parties Forum and Meeting of CPEC Political Parties Joint Consultation Mechanism, they said cooperation with China now goes beyond infrastructure and trade to include lessons from China's long-term planning, policy continuity, poverty reduction, and people-centered development.

The event, hosted by the International Department of the Communist Party of China Central Committee, was attended by about 140 people from China and Pakistan. Liu Haixing, head of the International Department of the CPC Central Committee, said the two countries' political parties should deepen exchanges, strengthen strategic coordination, and build a consensus on development.

China would work with Pakistan to upgrade CPEC with high standards and bring more tangible benefits to the Pakistani people through practical cooperation, he said.

Pakistan's Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar said party-to-party exchanges have been a key pillar of bilateral cooperation over the past 75 years, helping the relationship withstand changes in the international environment and domestic political cycles. The all-weather strategic cooperative partnership enjoys cross-party support in Pakistan, he said, adding that both countries attach importance to the people, social development, and economic growth. China's achievements, Dar said, have been underpinned by policy consistency, the hard work of its people, and zero tolerance for corruption.

Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Ahsan Iqbal said CPEC, a flagship project of the Belt and Road Initiative, has helped reshape Pakistan's economic landscape over the past decade and is now moving into a more demanding phase.

Its focus, he said, is shifting beyond infrastructure-led growth and toward industrialization, innovation, sustainability, agricultural modernization, and people-centered development — areas that require stronger planning, policy continuity, and institutional coordination.

China's development offers useful references for that transition, Iqbal said, adding that Pakistani political parties, provincial governments, and public institutions can deepen exchanges with their Chinese counterparts under the CPEC framework on poverty alleviation, digital governance, urban planning, public services, and local development.

Syed Hussain Tariq, a senior leader of the Pakistan People's Party, said CPEC 2.0 will require more than project-level cooperation, calling on Pakistani political parties to help build the policy understanding, social support, and political momentum needed for the corridor's future development.

Tariq said that the delegation's visits to Beijing have offered a closer look at China's push to develop new quality productive forces and its emphasis on making artificial intelligence serve ordinary people, including farmers. Such exchanges, he said, have offered inspiration for Pakistan as it seeks to turn CPEC into broader gains for society.

Balochistan Governor Jaffar Khan Mandokhail said Pakistan-China cooperation should be measured not only by the projects completed, but also by whether ordinary people can see real changes in their daily lives.

Stronger public trust depends on tangible benefits, especially for young people, he said, citing scholarships, support for public universities, and cooperation in digital connectivity, artificial intelligence, and green technology as ways to bring new opportunities to local communities.

Amir Chishti, a senior leader of the Muttahida Qaumi Movement-Pakistan, said CPEC's future development should place greater emphasis on local empowerment and youth employment. Industrial projects and job creation, he said, can improve living standards, strengthen people's sense of ownership, and make the corridor more socially sustainable.

The second phase of CPEC is therefore not only an economic necessity, but also a social and strategic one, he said, as its success will depend on whether local communities can share in the prosperity it brings.

The question of whether development can reach ordinary families also shaped Malik Ahmad Khan's view of China's poverty reduction record. The speaker of the Provincial Assembly of Punjab said China's success in lifting nearly 800 million people out of poverty is one of the greatest achievements in human history, achieved not through slogans, but through generations of persistent and practical effort.

Malik said his visit to Beigou village showed how a once underdeveloped community had achieved prosperity within a single generation. For Pakistan, cooperation with China should not only be about learning how to build, but also about ensuring that every family truly benefits from development, he said.

Ahmad Mujtaba Chaudhary, a member of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf, said his first visit to China replaced a childhood image shaped by films with the reality of a country that had eliminated extreme poverty.

That achievement was not a cold statistic, but "a living testimony of a civilization", he said, adding that China's development showed what people can achieve when they work together toward a shared goal.

<https://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202605/25/WS6a145a8fa310d6866eb4a9f3.html>

Deal to ease US-Iran tensions is near, Pakistani mediator says

ZHOU JIN

An agreement between the United States and Iran, regarding the ongoing tensions, is close to being reached, Pakistani Army Chief Asim Munir told Foreign Minister Wang Yi on Monday.

During their meeting in Beijing, Munir briefed Wang on the latest developments.

Pakistan is willing to continue making every effort and hopes that China will continue to play its role in the process, Munir said.

Calling Pakistan a qualified mediator trusted by all parties, Wang said China appreciates and supports the country's efforts.

Despite the difficulties, peace will eventually come, he said.

This year marks the 75th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and Pakistan.

The two countries have maintained a high level of mutual political trust, practical cooperation, and international coordination, setting an example for state-to-state relations, Wang said.

He said that the Pakistani military has long been an important force in promoting China-Pakistan cooperation, and expressed confidence that it will continue to make new contributions to deepening bilateral traditional friendship.

Munir said the ironclad friendship between Pakistan and China has stood the test of time and has grown even stronger, a fact of which Pakistan is deeply proud.

He said the Pakistani military will continue to fully support the building of a Pakistan-China community with a shared future and the development of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor.

<https://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202605/25/WS6a144d0aa310d6866eb4a9e5.html>

Xinhua News

Xi says China commends Pakistan for its mediating role in restoring peace in Middle East

BEIJING, May 25 (Xinhua) -- China commends Pakistan for taking the initiative to play a mediating role in restoring peace in the Middle East, Chinese President Xi Jinping said on Monday when meeting with Pakistani Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif.

Sharif said that Pakistan appreciated China's support for Pakistan in mediating the U.S.-Iran negotiations, noting that President Xi's four propositions on the Middle East situation offer guidance for achieving peace.

<https://english.news.cn/20260525/a300f7bbe24a4cef98c0913df4923649/c.html>

May 26, 2026

China Daily

Full text: Joint Statement Between the People's Republic of China and the Islamic Republic of Pakistan

Joint Statement Between the People's Republic of China And the Islamic Republic of Pakistan (May 26, 2026)

1. At the invitation of H.E. Li Qiang, Premier of the State Council of the People's Republic of China, H.E. Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, Prime Minister of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, paid an official visit to China from May 23 to May 26, 2026.

During the visit, H.E. Xi Jinping, President of the People's Republic of China met with Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, and H.E. Li Qiang, Premier of the State Council of the People's Republic of China, held talks with the Prime Minister. The two sides engaged cordially and reached a new broad consensus on further deepening the China-Pakistan All-Weather Strategic Cooperative Partnership and on international and regional issues of mutual interest. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif also attended the commemoration of the 75th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries and paid a successful visit to Hangzhou, Zhejiang Province.

2. The two sides shared the view that the traditional friendship between China and Pakistan, built and nurtured by successive generations of leaderships, is an important wealth and a strategic asset of the two countries and two peoples. Throughout the 75 years of diplomatic

relations, this friendship has remained rock solid no matter how the international and regional situations evolved, and the two countries have always trusted, respected and supported each other and stood by each other in times of difficulties and challenges. In a world undergoing profound changes unseen in a century, the China-Pakistan All-Weather Strategic Cooperative Partnership has taken on an even more strategic importance and relevance. China and Pakistan will move faster to build an even closer China-Pakistan Community with a Shared Future in the New Era, which will set an example for the endeavor to build a community with a shared future that connects China and its neighboring countries.

3. Both sides are determined to unswervingly safeguard and develop their bilateral relations, maintain high-level exchanges, make significant progress under the Action Plan to Foster An Even Closer China-Pakistan Community with a Shared Future in the New Era between the Government of the People's Republic of China and the Government of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan (2025-2029), deepen mutual trust, practical cooperation, defense and security cooperation, and keep close coordination on international and regional issues, so as to better harness this relationship to the benefit of the two peoples and contribute to peace, stability and prosperity in the region and the world.

Pakistan attaches great importance to and supports the vision of building a Community with a Shared Future for Humanity and the Global Development Initiative (GDI), the Global Security Initiative (GSI), the Global Civilization Initiative (GCI), and the Global Governance Initiative (GGI) put forth by President Xi Jinping.

4. Both sides spoke highly of the visit by H.E. Asif Ali Zardari, President of Pakistan, in late April and early May 2026 to the Chinese provinces of Hunan and Hainan, and the visit to China by Mr. Sardar Ayaz Sadiq, Speaker of the National Assembly of Pakistan, in January 2026. Both sides welcomed the success of the seventh round of China-Pakistan Foreign Ministers' Strategic Dialogue in January 2026 and the China-Pakistan Political Parties Forum and Meeting of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) Political Parties Joint Consultation Mechanism in May 2026. Pakistan appreciated the visit by Mr. Cai Dafeng, Vice Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress of China, in May 2026 which included his participation in the commemoration held in Pakistan for the 75th anniversary of China-Pakistan diplomatic relations. Both sides agreed to further strengthen strategic dialogue and enhance exchanges at various levels to continue deepening political mutual trust and jointly keep China-Pakistan relations in the right direction.

5. The two sides reaffirmed their unyielding support for each other on issues concerning their respective core interests. They stressed that the authority of the U.N. General Assembly Resolution 2758 brooks no question or challenge. Pakistan reaffirmed its strong commitment to the one-China principle, and holds the view that Taiwan is an inalienable part of the territory of the People's Republic of China and the Taiwan question is at the core of China's core interests. Pakistan firmly supports all efforts by China to achieve national reunification and resolutely opposes any form of "Taiwan independence." Pakistan firmly supports China's just stance on issues concerning Xinjiang, Xizang, Hong Kong and the South China Sea. China reiterated its unwavering support for Pakistan in defending its national sovereignty, independence, and territorial integrity, and firmly supports Pakistan's efforts to safeguard its national security, stability, development and prosperity.

6. Pakistan congratulated China on the successful completion of the strategic goals of the 14th Five-Year Plan and the strong start in implementing the 15th Five-Year Plan. China congratulated Pakistani leaders on leading the country to achieve macroeconomic stability centered on Pakistan's National Economic Transformation Plan (2024-2029) (URAAN Pakistan). Both sides agreed to advance high-quality Belt and Road cooperation, hold the meeting of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor Joint Cooperation Committee (JCC) , and promote the high-quality development of the upgraded version of CPEC 2.0. Both sides agreed to advance the Karakoram Highway (Thakot-Raikot) realignment project in a phased and orderly manner. The two sides agreed to leverage the potential of the Gwadar Port and build it into a regional connectivity hub. The two sides will make good use of the Khunjerab Pass to strengthen land connectivity between China and Pakistan. Both sides welcomed third parties to participate in the development of CPEC under the model agreed upon by China and Pakistan.

7. The two sides agreed to advance the development of industrial parks in ways adapted to local conditions and create demonstration projects of industrial cooperation in areas including textiles and home appliances. Both sides commended the success of the China-Pakistan Mineral Cooperation Forum in January 2026, and agreed to advance bilateral cooperation in mining and oil and gas exploration and development in an orderly manner.

8. Both sides congratulated the successful completion of the training program for 1,000 young Pakistani agricultural technicians in China. In this context, Pakistani side expressed appreciation for strong support by Shaanxi, Hubei, Sichuan and Hainan Provinces of China. China agreed to assist Pakistan to promote its agricultural production capacity through multiple means, encourage Chinese enterprises to conduct agricultural investment and cooperation in Pakistan, and facilitate the market access of more high-quality Pakistani agricultural products to China.

9. Both sides agreed to tap into the potential for cooperation in such areas as economy and trade, energy, digital economy, finance, scientific and technological innovation, artificial intelligence, information and communication, water conservancy, marine affairs, among others, scale up personnel training, consult on advancing trade liberalization, and jointly safeguard the stability and security of industrial and supply chains. Pakistan commends China's cooperation philosophy of giving people both fish and fishing skills. The two sides stand ready to launch more "small and beautiful" livelihood projects in infrastructure, agriculture, education, health and other fields. China will continue to deliver on the plan of offering 3,000 training opportunities to Pakistan for the period of 2025-2029. Both sides will carry out the implementation plans for educational and cultural exchanges and cooperation, as well as expand cooperation between sister provinces and cities. China welcomes two Pakistani astronauts to come to China for training and looks forward to a Pakistani astronaut becoming the first foreign astronaut for the early entrance into the China Space Station. Both sides will continue to deepen space cooperation in a peaceful and mutually beneficial manner.

10. The Chinese side stands ready to work with the Pakistani side to fully implement the GSI, establish the China-Pakistan Security Partnership, conduct continued bilateral and multilateral counter-terrorism cooperation, and strengthen military-to-military cooperation, so as to further play a positive role in promoting regional peace and stability. The Pakistani side will take targeted steps to strengthen security measures and cooperation to ensure the safety

of Chinese personnel, projects and institutions in Pakistan. China supports Pakistan in its continued and firm fight against terrorism. Both sides called on the international community to enhance counter-terrorism cooperation, and reaffirmed their firm opposition to applying double standards on counter-terrorism or to politicizing and instrumentalize counter-terrorism.

11. Both sides agreed to firmly safeguard the international system with the U.N. at its core, the international order underpinned by international law and the basic norms governing international relations based on the purposes and principles of the U.N. Charter. The two sides agreed to jointly promote an equal and orderly multipolar world and a universally beneficial and inclusive global economic order.

12. Both sides agreed that it is essential to firmly uphold the victorious outcomes of World War II, and oppose any attempt to revive fascism and militarism. The two sides expressed support for the postwar international order underpinned by international legal documents such as the Cairo Declaration and the Potsdam Proclamation and other principles of international law for the maintenance of world peace and security and safeguard historical truth and international justice.

13. Pakistan supports China's initiative of establishing the World Artificial Intelligence Cooperation Organization, believing that this represents a concrete step toward promoting the development of artificial intelligence for good and for all, and will work with China to advance global governance and international cooperation on artificial intelligence.

14. Both sides reiterated opposition to any unilateral actions and reaffirmed the significance of maintaining peace and stability in South Asia, and resolving all outstanding disputes through dialogue and diplomacy. The Pakistani side briefed the Chinese side on the latest developments in the situation in Jammu and Kashmir. The Chinese side reiterated that the Jammu and Kashmir dispute is left over from history, and should be properly and peacefully resolved in accordance with the U.N. Charter, relevant U.N. Security Council resolutions and bilateral agreements.

The two sides expressed readiness to conduct trans-boundary water resources cooperation under the principle of equality and mutual benefit. The significance of the maintenance of international and regional security and stability was reiterated.

China reaffirmed its commitment to supporting Pakistan as the next rotating President of the SCO and leveraging Pakistan's term as a non-permanent member of the U.N. Security Council from 2025 to 2026 to further strengthen coordination and collaboration in the multilateral context. The Chinese side also commended Pakistan's various initiatives for strengthening multilateralism, peaceful resolution of disputes, and regional cooperation under its U.N. Security Council Presidency in July 2025.

15. The Pakistani side expressed support for the four propositions by President Xi Jinping on safeguarding and promoting peace and stability in the Middle East. China appreciated Pakistan's efforts in facilitating the temporary ceasefire between the U.S. and Iran and holding the Islamabad Talks. Both sides reiterated early implementation of the five-point initiative for restoring peace and stability in the Gulf and Middle East region. The two sides expressed their readiness to jointly make positive contributions for the early restoration of peace and stability in the region.

16. The Pakistani side spoke positively of the successful holding of the informal talks among China, Afghanistan and Pakistan in Urumqi, Xinjiang, China in April 2026, and welcomed the Chinese side to provide a dialogue platform for communication between Pakistan and Afghanistan. Both sides agreed to stay in close communication and coordination on the issue of Afghanistan. The two sides stressed on the need of not allowing any individual, group or party, including the Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP), the Eastern Turkistan Islamic Movement (ETIM) etc., to use the territories to harm and threaten regional security and interests, or conduct terrorist actions and activities.

17. During the visit, the two sides signed a number of cooperation documents in various fields.

18. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif thanked the government and people of the People's Republic of China for their warm and friendly reception extended to him and his delegation on the occasion of the 75th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations.

<https://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202605/26/WS6a154afca310d6866eb4ac88.html>

Closer Pakistan-China ties for a shared future

Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif

May 21 marks the 75th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Pakistan and China.

On behalf of the Government of Pakistan, as well as on my own behalf, I extend my heartfelt felicitations to the people of Pakistan and China, on the historic occasion of the 75th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Pakistan and China.

As we commemorate this historic milestone, in a befitting manner, it would enable our people, particularly the younger generations, to better appreciate the depth, breadth, vitality, and future-oriented character of Pakistan-China relations.

The people of Pakistan hold the people of China in the highest esteem and affection.

Since the establishment of diplomatic relations on 21 May 1951, the friendship between Pakistan and China has steadily evolved into an All-Weather Strategic Cooperative Partnership.

Built on mutual trust, sovereign equality, and shared aspirations for peace and development, our bilateral relations have continued to grow in strength, substance, and strategic significance, amidst changing regional and global circumstances.

Pakistan highly values the visionary leadership of President Xi Jinping and appreciates China's remarkable achievements in economic development, technological advancement, poverty alleviation, and global connectivity.

Under President Xi's visionary leadership, China has achieved remarkable progress in modernization, innovation, poverty alleviation, and national rejuvenation.

China's progress and transformation continue to inspire the developing world and contribute significantly to global peace and prosperity.

The commitment of the Chinese leadership to strengthen Pakistan-China relations and advance the shared vision of building a closer "Pakistan-China Community of Shared Future in the New Era" is most commendable.

Pakistan deeply appreciates China's cooperation with Pakistan in multifaceted fields. Pakistan remains firmly committed to the one-China principle and will continue to support China on issues concerning its core interests.

China's robust support for Pakistan's socio-economic development and national priorities has played a phenomenal role.

The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), as a flagship project of the Belt and Road Initiative, has made tremendous contribution toward Pakistan's infrastructure development, energy security, industrial cooperation, and regional connectivity.

Pakistan remains firmly committed to the high-quality development of CPEC as it enters its next phase, with greater emphasis on industrialization, agriculture, information technology, science and technology, green development, and enhanced people-centered cooperation.

It is encouraging to witness Pakistan-China cooperation, expanding into new frontiers including digital economy, innovation, space cooperation, education, and cultural exchanges.

From the Karakoram Highway to cooperation in outer space, Pakistan-China friendship continues to demonstrate how enduring strategic trust can be translated into meaningful progress and shared prosperity for our peoples.

The 75th anniversary of the establishment of Pakistan-China diplomatic relations is not only about remembering the past; it is about shaping the future.

At a time of increasing global uncertainty and transformation, Pakistan and China remain committed to multilateralism, peaceful coexistence, and inclusive development.

Our All-Weather Strategic Cooperative Partnership continues to serve as a positive force for regional stability and international cooperation.

May the enduring friendship between Pakistan and China continue to grow stronger with every generation!

<https://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202605/26/WS6a14fc35a310d6866eb4ab6f.html>

China ready to further advance CPEC construction with Pakistan: Chinese premier

BEIJING -- China stands ready to further advance the construction of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and push forward major connectivity projects between the two countries, Chinese Premier Li Qiang said on Monday when holding talks with Pakistani Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif in Beijing.

Noting that this year marks the 75th anniversary of China-Pakistan diplomatic ties, Li said that amid fluid and turbulent international situation, China and Pakistan have maintained close communication and coordination to safeguard common interests and inject positive momentum into regional peace.

Li said China always prioritizes relations and cooperation with Pakistan in its neighborhood diplomacy, and is willing to stand in even closer solidarity with Pakistan to carry forward traditional friendship, strengthen mutual support, continuously expand practical cooperation, and see the building of a China-Pakistan community with a shared future yield more fruitful outcomes.

He said China is ready to strengthen cooperation with Pakistan in areas such as industry, mining, agriculture, people's livelihood and finance, import more high-quality products from Pakistan, and actively work with Pakistan to upgrade the bilateral free trade agreement.

Li called on both sides to explore cooperation in areas like artificial intelligence, digital economy and green energy to jointly cultivate new drivers of development.

China is also willing to deepen cooperation with Pakistan in human resources development and welcomes more young Pakistani students to study in China, Li said, expressing the hope that the Pakistani side will continue to take necessary measures to protect Chinese personnel, projects and institutions in Pakistan and create a safe and stable cooperation environment.

Sharif said developing relations with China is the cornerstone of Pakistan's foreign policy, stressing that Pakistan adheres to the one-China principle and has always firmly supported China's just position on its core interests including Xinjiang, Xizang, maritime issues and the Taiwan question.

Pakistan stands ready to further enhance high-level exchanges with China, expand cooperation in various fields, and continuously advance the Pakistan-China community with a shared future, he said.

Sharif said Pakistan welcomes Chinese enterprises to invest in Pakistan, and will continue to take effective measures to provide a safer and more favorable business environment.

Pakistan supports the four global initiatives proposed by China and is ready to maintain close multilateral communication and collaboration with China to contribute to promoting world and regional peace, stability and development, Sharif added.

<https://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202605/26/WS6a151167a310d6866eb4ac0c.html>

China, Pakistan pledge deeper military ties

Jiang Chenglong

General Zhang Shengmin, vice-chairman of the Central Military Commission, met with visiting Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir, Pakistan's Chief of Defense Forces and Chief of the Army Staff, in Beijing on Tuesday, according to China's Ministry of National Defense.

Zhang said the leaders of China and Pakistan have provided strategic guidance for the development of bilateral relations, pushing forward the deepening of the China-Pakistan all-weather strategic cooperative partnership.

He stressed that military-to-military relations are an important pillar of ties between the two countries.

China is willing to work with Pakistan to follow the strategic guidance of the two countries' leaders, carry forward their traditional friendship, strengthen strategic communication, and deepen practical cooperation, Zhang said.

He added that China is ready to work with Pakistan to firmly support each other on issues concerning their respective core interests, strengthen coordination in international and regional affairs, and contribute to the development and security of the two countries, the region, and the wider world.

Munir said developing relations with China is a cornerstone of Pakistan's foreign policy, and that Pakistan appreciates China's long-standing support and assistance.

No matter how the international situation changes, Pakistan will always remain China's good friend and partner, he said. Pakistan will further deepen practical cooperation with China in defense, security and other fields, and continue to elevate the ironclad friendship between Pakistan and China to new heights, Munir said.

<https://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202605/26/WS6a15a9eca310d6866eb4ad4c.html>

Tianjin University student carries China-Pakistan friendship into climate research

Yan Dongjie in Tianjin

Asma Bibi, a Pakistani PhD student at Tianjin University, said she felt "immense pride and gratitude" after learning that a joint letter written by Pakistani students at the university was recently mentioned during a meeting between Chinese and Pakistani leaders.

"As a Pakistani student studying in China, I feel an even stronger responsibility to carry forward the friendship between our two countries," she said.

Bibi, from the university's School of Architecture, was recently selected to attend the Second International Open Dialogue forum in Moscow, which drew more than 1,600 submissions from 100 countries. She was among 104 participants invited to the event after multiple rounds of review and interviews.

Her paper, *From Floods to Futures: A Transformative Theory of Integrated Climate and Psychological Resilience*, was selected under the environmental investment track. Based on a decade-long case study in Pakistan, the research examines how community tree planting and landscape restoration can strengthen climate resilience and psychological well-being, especially among women and marginalized groups.

According to Bibi, the project has reached more than 200,000 people across 28 cities and 300 villages, with women accounting for 70 percent of participants. The research also supports several UN Sustainable Development Goals, including climate action, gender equality, and good health and well-being.

During the forum, Bibi joined discussions with policymakers and scholars on climate governance, sustainable development, and cooperation among countries in the Global South.

"This experience made me realize even more deeply that challenges such as climate change and inequality require global cooperation," she said, adding that she aims to act as a builder, promoter, and guardian of China-Pakistan bilateral ties through academic exchanges and climate action.

Last year, Bibi received the RK Pachauri Award for Youth-Led Climate Action, named after former IPCC chair and Nobel Peace Prize laureate Rajendra K. Pachauri.

<https://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202605/26/WS6a159c67a310d6866eb4ad2e.html>

Global Times

China and Pakistan 'are like two souls, one heart': Pakistan PM hails China-Pakistan ties at 75th anniversary reception in Beijing

Feng Fan

Chinese Vice President Han Zheng and Pakistani Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif attended a reception in Beijing on Monday evening to mark the 75th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and Pakistan during Sharif's four-day official visit to China.

Held in a warm and festive atmosphere, the commemorative event brought together more than 400 guests, including representatives from government departments, enterprises, academia, and media organizations from both countries. During the reception, Han and Sharif each delivered speeches reflecting on the long-standing friendship and expanding cooperation between the two neighbors.

As Sharif began his remarks, he greeted the audience with "Ni Hao" ("Hello" in Chinese), drawing enthusiastic applause from the crowd. The banquet arrangement also reflected the spirit of exchange, with Chinese and Pakistani guests seated together at each table to encourage conversation and interaction throughout the evening.

In his speech, Sharif reviewed the development of bilateral relations and stated that through the "commitment, devotion and dedication by great leaders of China and Pakistan over the last more than seven decades," ties between the two countries have reached an almost unmatched high point.

The Pakistani prime minister reflected on China's swift support and relief efforts after devastating floods hit Pakistan in 2010, using the story to illustrate what he described as a deeply rooted friendship between the two nations.

"I can quote many more such inspiring episodes between our two countries, this great journey of friendship," Sharif said, adding that "we are like two souls and one heart, our hearts being together."

Against the backdrop of evolving global tensions, Sharif also praised China's role in promoting multilateralism and advancing peace. While commending China's economic and military development, he said that despite possessing such strength, the "Chinese leader's philosophy of promoting multilateralism, promoting peace has risen to resolve the most dangerous conflicts through dialogue and diplomacy."

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202605/1361927.shtml>

Xinhua News

China-Pakistan friendship has always been rock-solid, unbreakable: Chinese FM

BEIJING, May 25 (Xinhua) -- No matter how the international and regional situation changes, the friendship between China and Pakistan has always been as solid as a rock and unbreakable, Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi said on Monday. Wang, also a member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China Central Committee, made the remarks when meeting with Asim Munir, Pakistan's Chief of Defence Forces and Chief of Army Staff. Wang welcomed Munir and Pakistani Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's visit to China together, noting that the two countries have maintained a high level of political mutual trust, practical cooperation and international coordination, setting a model for state-to-state relations. He said the Pakistani military has always been an important force in promoting China-Pakistan cooperation and is believed to make new contributions to deepening the traditional friendship between the two countries. Noting that the four major global initiatives and the Belt and Road Initiative have played a key role in promoting world peace and development and have been widely welcomed by the international community, Munir said the Pakistani side firmly supports and actively participates in these initiatives. The Pakistani military will continue to fully promote the building of a Pakistan-China community with a shared future and the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, Munir said. Munir briefed Wang on the latest progress in mediating the U.S.-Iran conflict, saying that an agreement is close to being reached and the Pakistani side is willing to continue its all-out efforts. Wang said China appreciates and supports Pakistan's mediation efforts.

<https://english.news.cn/20260526/a69119dff8e4474e93e02d8b9d22b577/c.html>

Pakistani blockbuster hits China

Eighteen years after first experiencing Olympic-era Beijing as a young tourist, Bilal Lashari returns as the filmmaker behind a record-beating movie, Xu Fan reports.

Xu Fan

During his first trip to Beijing, Bilal Lashari was a 27-year-old Pakistani traveling with his parents. It was the summer of 2008, when the Chinese capital was swept up in the euphoric atmosphere of the 29th Olympic Games.

Late one night, the family wandered onto a broad avenue in search of something to eat. They stumbled into a sea of people gathered beneath giant outdoor screens, cheering wildly as Chinese athletes competed live on television. Lashari remembered the energy as almost cinematic — strangers shouting in unison, waving flags. Caught up in the excitement, he found himself cheering as well.

"It was so emotional to watch so many people feeling proud of their country and celebrating together. And then, within just a few minutes, the street was completely cleared," Lashari recalls in an interview with China Daily, describing the Chinese public as "disciplined".

<https://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202605/26/WS6a14d88ba310d6866eb4aa54.html>

May 27, 2026

China Daily

Alumni bridge China and world

Wang Xin in Shanghai

When Muhammad Majid Riaz arrived in Shanghai on a rainy night in November 2017, he saw the city first through the windows of the airport, not knowing that it would become the place where he would study, work and build a future.

Nearly a decade later, the 32-year-old Pakistani radio frequency engineer still remembers that night as the beginning of his China story.

Riaz came to Shanghai through a language education opportunity supported by the Pakistani government. His interest in China had been sparked by the professionalism of Chinese colleagues he had worked with in Pakistan, as well as by his curiosity about Chinese culture.

The two-year language program at Shanghai University gave him the foundation he needed to continue his studies in China. In 2019, he was admitted to a master's program at the university, marking another important step in his academic and personal development.

Outside the classroom, Riaz immersed himself in campus activities and traditional Chinese culture. He developed a particular interest in tai chi and martial arts and joined several summer camps that took him to different parts of the country.

"The diversity and inclusiveness of Chinese culture left a deep impression on me. By the time I graduated, I had traveled to more than 30 cities across China and experienced both the beautiful scenery and the dynamic development of different regions," Riaz said.

After graduation, he began working at a leading Chinese multinational company in the global wireless communications sector. He said his education and career in China have allowed him to contribute to practical cooperation between China and Pakistan in high-tech industries, trade and people-to-people exchanges.

Riaz is one of many international alumni of Shanghai University who have turned their study experience in China into careers linking China with the wider world.

According to Li Yingjie, dean of the College of International Education at Shanghai University, the university began enrolling international students in 1966. By the end of last year, it had educated more than 30,000 international students from over 160 countries.

These alumni now work in fields ranging from politics and diplomacy to business, trade, culture and education, playing active roles in exchanges between China and other countries, Li said. Among them is Amzath Ahmed, Minister of State for Fisheries and Ocean Resources of the Maldives, who studied at Shanghai University for 12 years after arriving in 2003.

"Without the education I received at Shanghai University, I would not be who I am today," Amzath said at a campus celebration on May 15. "It gave us more than knowledge. It shaped our character, attitude, resilience and worldview. It taught us how to adapt to change, respect different cultures, think independently and serve society with a sense of responsibility."

In the business sector, Vietnamese alumnus Le Minh Quan, general manager of Mainland Group, found both his career path and his life partner during his years in Shanghai.

Le earned his bachelor's and master's degrees at Shanghai University between 2003 and 2010. His wife, Vu Tran Minh, another Vietnamese alumna, studied at the university from 2005 to 2013. Before she could speak fluent Chinese, Vu was already able to sing Chinese songs.

The couple met on campus, began their careers in Shanghai and later returned to Vietnam with their two children. They now run a business selling rubber products to the Chinese market. "Shanghai gave me many opportunities," Le said. "When I was a student, I worked part time as a translator for Vietnamese business owners. I learned a lot from them, and those experiences helped guide my future direction." Le said his familiarity with both Chinese and Vietnamese cultures has become an important advantage in business. Studying in China, he added, is not only about learning the language, but also about understanding the culture, business environment and way of thinking. "China is a huge market and is taking the lead in many areas, including new energy vehicles, drones, robotics, artificial intelligence and 5G technology," he said. "I see more international students coming to China not only for education, but also for opportunities for cooperation." The number of international students in China has continued to grow in recent years. According to education authorities, more than 380,000 international students from 191 countries and regions studied, conducted research or took part in training programs at more than 1,100 universities, research institutes and other educational institutions across China during the 2024-25 academic year, a 15 percent increase from the previous year. Zamir Ahmed Awan, founding chair of the Global Silk Route Research Alliance and also an alumnus of Shanghai University, said China's development and growing international engagement have made it increasingly attractive to young people around the world. Taking Pakistan as an example, Awan said about 30,000 Pakistani students are currently studying in China. "International students are very important. They are young, and they are the future," he said. "Learning more about China and Chinese culture can greatly support their own careers and help them contribute to the future of the world." For Riaz, the years he spent studying in Shanghai continue to shape his work, identity and understanding of cooperation between China and Pakistan. "I developed my roots and grew in Shanghai and China, and it made me who I am today," Riaz said. "I will continue to act as a bridge between the two countries and help strengthen people-to-people connections."

<https://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202605/27/WS6a162712a310d6866eb4ada3.html>

Friendship reflected in Sharif's visit

PM's trip to help further enhance economic cooperation, experts say

XU WEIWEI in Hong Kong

Pakistani Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's visit, which coincided with the 75th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Pakistan and China, is timely, significant, and reflects the depth of a friendship that has stood the test of time, analysts said.

They said Sharif's talks with Chinese leaders will further strengthen the ironclad brotherhood between the two nations, especially economic relations and the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, or CPEC.

President Xi Jinping and Premier Li Qiang met Sharif in Beijing on Monday after he arrived in Hangzhou, Zhejiang province, on Saturday. Sharif also attended an event marking the 75th anniversary of diplomatic relations, before leaving on Tuesday.

The high-level engagements in Beijing demonstrate the mutual trust and strategic understanding that continue to define relations between the two countries, said Khalid Taimur Akram, executive director of the Pakistan Research Center for a Community with Shared Future in Islamabad.

"Such exchanges are essential for strengthening cooperation in trade, investment, infrastructure, technology, and regional connectivity," Akram noted. In his opinion, this next phase of CPEC has the potential to create new opportunities for economic growth, job creation, and long-term prosperity for Pakistan.

Akram said the investment and business conference led by Sharif in China signals a transition from infrastructure development to broader economic cooperation in areas such as technology, industrial development, agriculture, and innovation.

Sharif's visit has been widely regarded as purposeful and forward-looking, setting the stage for progress, including greater socioeconomic prosperity and financial integration, said Mehmood Ul Hassan Khan, president of the Center for Knowledge and Public Policy in Pakistan.

"These developments have significantly enhanced political understanding, diplomatic consultations, economic cooperation, industrial collaboration, and, above all, the revitalization of CPEC 2.0," he said. "The visit, therefore, provided a major boost to Pakistan's economy, steering it toward greater stability, sustainability, and modernization, with the relocation of high-quality industries set to play a pivotal role."

In international relations, timing, gestures, and events signify the importance and depth of the relationship, said Shakeel Ahmad Ramay, CEO of the Asian Institute of Eco-Civilization, Research, and Development in Pakistan.

Ahmad said it is good that the Chinese and Pakistani leaders exchanged views, coordinated their positions, and devised future policies and courses of action to navigate the new world order and multipolar world together.

"Pakistan pins high hopes on securing good deals (with China) to foster Pakistan's economic growth and development," he said.

Financial sector cooperation is crucial for Pakistan amid the ongoing financial crisis and extreme pressure from international financial institutions such as the International Monetary Fund, he said.

Sharif's visit can definitely help the country find new opportunities, especially in the financial sector, such as bonds and mechanisms, to ease financial pressure, and to strengthen cooperation with China, he said.

Imtiaz Gul, executive director of the Center for Research and Security Studies in Pakistan, said China's warm reception of Sharif's visit underscored the unflinching nature of bilateral relations.

He said the new agreements on cultural exchanges and educational cooperation signed during the visit can "certainly help deepen Pakistanis' knowledge of rich Chinese culture, values of hard work, perseverance, and the phenomenal strides that China has made in science and technology".

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An enduring Sino-Pakistani friendship for a shared future

Syed Hasan Javed

As China and Pakistan celebrate the 75th anniversary of their diplomatic relations, many expressions are being used to describe their enduring friendship.

This is not surprising, given that the region now known as Pakistan has historically served as a bridge linking South Asia, Central Asia, the Middle East, Europe, and Africa, facilitating China's trade and exchange of ideas, goods, and philosophies since the Han Dynasty (206 BC–AD 220).

From ancient times, the people of this region have been fascinated by Chinese culture, particularly its silk, herbal medicine, food, tools and crafts.

Stories dating back 3,000 years, including the legend of the Queen Mother of the West, or Xi Wang Mu, and her peach banquet, are remembered by the people of Hunza in northern Pakistan, where they grow longevity peaches.

These fables and folk traditions have been passed down through generations, reflecting the deep bonds between the two countries.

The exchanges are evident not only in legends but also in the names and nomenclature of spices, herbs and medicines that persist to this day. Even sustained efforts by the colonial powers to erase these identities proved futile.

Pakistanis have always admired the Chinese values of hard work, humility, positivity and good neighborliness.

Chinese wisdom, which is rooted in common sense, has long been used to resolve complex problems. These cultural imprints are important, as they nourish the many values that unite the people of the two countries.

Like China, Pakistan is also an ancient civilization, being the cradle of the Indus Valley Civilization, as well as the Harappa and Gandhara civilizations.

Mahayana Buddhism was among this region's earliest cultural exports to China. Famous Chinese travelers Faxian and Xuanzang journeyed through what is now modern-day Pakistan in search of authentic Buddhist sutras.

Xuanzang's journey later became the inspiration for the Ming Dynasty (1368-1644) novel Journey to the West by Wu Cheng'en, highlighting the bonds that unite the two peoples. Today's generation in both countries is reenacting that history. The intelligentsia has a

common responsibility to help future generations know about their common heritage in order to build a community with a shared future for humanity.

China's remarkable advances in technology, the economy, artificial intelligence, national defense and governance

— underpinned by its deep cultural traditions and distinct development model with Chinese characteristics —

have become an important reference point for many countries in the Global South, particularly its "ironclad brother" Pakistan. The successes achieved so far in bilateral and multilateral cooperation underscore the strength, resilience and strategic depth of this multi-dimensional relationship.

The successful implementation of projects during the first phase of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor has been a major milestone. This success raises hopes that the second phase of the CPEC will be even more successful.

It is important to note that China-Pakistan cooperation extends far beyond the domains of the CPEC into strategic areas such as defense projects,

the peaceful use of nuclear energy, renewable energy, mining, automobiles, maritime monitoring capabilities, space exploration, AI and human resource development.

For example, Pakistan's integration into the Chinese supply chain and its adept use of Chinese aviation technology, such as the JF-17 Thunder and advanced J-10C aircraft, have made the Pakistan Air Force a global ambassador for these technologies.

A new world order is emerging as the old one crumbles.

With Asia on the rise, the unique relationship between China and Pakistan baffles many, particularly in the Western world.

Both countries enjoy a harmonious relationship built on trust, goodwill and cooperation. China has never interfered in Pakistan's internal affairs or exerted pressure.

Instead, it has assisted Pakistan without any expectation of a quid pro quo.

As steadfast allies, both countries always work closely to ensure peace, prosperity and stability in Eurasia, West Asia, the Gulf and South Asia.

The second quarter of the 21st century marks the beginning of a multi-polar world, with China and Pakistan seeking a just, equitable, peaceful, harmonious and prosperous global order.

China's vision of building a community with a shared future for humanity, under the Belt and Road Initiative, is the next phase of globalization.

As an ancient civilization, China follows the "prosper thy neighbor" philosophy, sharing its experience with all countries of the Global South.

Pakistan is ideally positioned to benefit from this partnership.

The author is the former director of the China Studies Centre at Pakistan's National University of Sciences and Technology and a former ambassador.

<https://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202605/27/WS6a1648e2a310d6866eb4aea5.html>

Pakistani PM honored for agricultural alliance

Sharif expresses hope to learn more from China's experience, expand cooperation

Zhao Yimeng

Pakistani Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif was awarded the title of honorary professor by the Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences on Tuesday in Beijing, in recognition of his contributions to promoting agricultural science and technology cooperation between China and Pakistan.

Speaking at the ceremony, Sharif said that agriculture remained a key topic of discussion during his meetings with Chinese leaders.

He said that Pakistan hopes to learn from China's development experience and expand cooperation in areas such as crop breeding, animal husbandry, climate-smart agriculture, agricultural machinery and agricultural product processing, in order to improve productivity and added value.

Sharif announced that Pakistan will launch the second phase of its "Thousand Talents Plan", which will see 1,000 more young people from Pakistan sent to Chinese agricultural institutions to study and undertake training.

"I propose sending 1,000 students and fresh agriculture graduates from all provinces of Pakistan to Chinese universities for formal courses and modern agricultural training," he said. Sharif's four-day official visit to China, which concluded on Tuesday, is an important high-level exchange between the two countries as this month marks the 75th anniversary of diplomatic relations.

His announcement was warmly welcomed by Pakistani students at the academy, many of whom view China's agricultural modernization as a model for Pakistan's rural development.

Nadeem Sarwar, a Pakistani scholar pursuing a PhD in agricultural water resources and environment at CAAS, said that the initiative would create valuable opportunities for more young people in Pakistan.

"More Pakistani graduates will have the opportunity to gain knowledge, experience and exposure at Chinese institutions. When they return to Pakistan, they can contribute to developing the agricultural sector there," he said.

Sarwar's research focuses on improving the efficiency of agricultural water use, an issue he said is particularly important for Pakistan.

"China has made great progress (in agriculture), especially in improving water-use efficiency," he said, adding that he hopes to use China's technologies and experience to boost Pakistan's agricultural productivity and improve its management of resources.

Muhammad Shahzad, also a PhD scholar at CAAS, who is studying animal genetics, breeding and reproduction, described the occasion as "a really big day" for Pakistani students.

"It is a matter of great pride for all Pakistanis that China truly acknowledges Pakistan and values our friendship."

Shahzad noted that Pakistan's livestock industry plays a major role in the country's agricultural economy, and that scientific breeding is essential for improving productivity.

"Our animals are resilient to hot weather and diseases, but we need more scientific breeding," he said. Huang Sanwen, president of CAAS and an academician of the Chinese Academy of Sciences, said that CAAS has established multiple joint platforms with Pakistani partners,

including laboratories for cotton biotechnology, sustainable crop pest control and molecular breeding of wheat.

Huang said that the academy has also promoted cooperation in crop breeding, prevention of animal and plant diseases, water and soil resource management, and agricultural product processing.

CAAS has trained more than 300 Pakistani students over the years and established a China-Pakistan Agricultural Technology Working Group with the Pakistan Agricultural Research Council, to institutionalize cooperation and strengthen capacity-building efforts, he added.

He Zhonghu, a researcher at the academy's Institute of Crop Sciences, who has worked with Pakistani researchers for more than two decades, said that China and Pakistan have already achieved remarkable results through joint agricultural research.

A wheat variety developed by Chinese and Pakistani researchers has recently been approved in Pakistan following years of field testing.

The variety yields about 10 percent more than local varieties, matures earlier than them and has strong resistance to lodging (stem bending or breakage), said He, who is also an academican of the Chinese Academy of Engineering.

"We are very happy to contribute what we can to Pakistan's agricultural development and food security," he added.

The researcher, who has trained 10 Pakistani PhD scholars and a number of agricultural technicians at the institute, said that future training methods should focus more on applying new technologies rather than on basic research.

For example, students studying genetics or wheat breeding should also be taken to experimental fields, seed companies and flour mills for hands-on experience, he said.

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China Daily

China-Pakistan partnership moves beyond infrastructure

Syed Inam Ali Naqvi

The China-Pakistan relationship is often seen through the lens of infrastructure development. Public discussions tend to reduce the partnership to roads, ports and energy projects connecting western China to the Arabian Sea through Pakistan, particularly the \$62 billion China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). While this perspective is not entirely inaccurate, it fails to capture the true nature of the relationship.

When the CPEC was formally launched in 2015, infrastructure development became the dominant symbol of bilateral cooperation. Power plants, road networks, and the development of the Gwadar Port were the visible foundations of the partnership.

Supporters saw CPEC as a transformative initiative capable of reshaping Pakistan's economy, while critics regarded it as a source of debt dependency. Despite their opposing views, both perspectives shared a common assumption that China-Pakistan cooperation was primarily an infrastructure-based relationship. Today, this assumption appears quite inadequate.

The first phase of the CPEC produced substantial outcomes. Pakistan's long-standing energy crisis, which had imposed serious economic costs, was eased through new energy projects and investments. Transport networks improved connectivity with previously isolated regions.

Furthermore, the Gwadar Port acquired strategic importance beyond its economic potential. Access to the Gwadar Port offers China additional connectivity to the Indian Ocean, helping diversify China's shipping channels beyond the Strait of Malacca. These were important achievements which demonstrated what sustained political commitment between the two countries could accomplish.

At a time of intensifying geopolitical fragmentation and economic uncertainty, the broadening of China-Pakistan cooperation reflects an effort by both countries to build longer-term strategic resilience.

Yet infrastructure alone cannot define the future of bilateral cooperation.

As economic priorities, technological change, and regional dynamics continue to evolve, the relationship increasingly appears to be entering a broader phase centered on resilience and long-term capacity building.

The emerging Phase II of the CPEC aims to transform infrastructure into broader economic opportunities. Recent cooperation initiatives have expanded beyond transport and energy to include industrial development, digital connectivity, innovation, and green cooperation.

Through special economic zones, technology partnerships, and growing business-to-business engagement, the focus is gradually shifting from building physical assets to creating longer-term economic and institutional ecosystems.

Special economic zones under the CPEC's expanded framework are not simply investment projects; they increasingly function as mechanisms for industrial development, investment attraction, and integration into regional and global value chains. Beyond infrastructure itself, they represent efforts to generate employment, expand exports, and create longer-term economic opportunities. The expansion of 5G networks, fiber-optic infrastructure, technology parks, satellite cooperation, and broader digital collaboration points to a shift from physical connectivity toward a more knowledge-based economy.

And cooperation deepening in areas such as e-commerce, digital skills development, and information technology further suggests an evolving partnership focused on strengthening technological capacity, innovation, and long-term economic development.

The evolution of Phase II can also be observed in the growing role of the private sector and business communities.

During the recent Pak-China B2B Investment Conference in Beijing, nearly 800 firms from both countries participated, resulting in joint ventures and MoUs worth approximately \$8.5 billion.

Such a shift not only broadens the relationship beyond governments but also strengthens its long-term sustainability through investment, entrepreneurship, and technological collaboration.

The partnership's human dimension is equally important and may ultimately prove more durable than material projects.

Nearly 29,000 Pakistani students studying at Chinese universities are developing technical expertise, language skills, and professional networks that could shape Pakistan's future institutions.

Many of these students will eventually enter government institutions, businesses, and policy circles. The relationships and networks they build today may shape China-Pakistan engagement for decades.

The relationship has also expanded diplomatically, reflecting broader coordination on regional and international issues. This evolution further suggests that China-Pakistan cooperation extends beyond infrastructure projects toward a more multidimensional partnership.

Ultimately, China-Pakistan cooperation is evolving beyond its earlier emphasis on infrastructure construction alone. While the first phase of the CPEC focused primarily on physical connectivity, the emerging phase increasingly emphasizes industrial development, technological capacity, business engagement, and human capital.

Challenges remain, including security concerns, financial constraints, and implementation difficulties.

Yet the broader trajectory suggests that both countries are attempting to build a more diverse and resilient partnership capable of adapting to a changing regional and global environment.

The long-term success of that partnership may ultimately depend less on individual projects than on whether both sides can translate connectivity into sustainable economic and institutional development.

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Xinhua News

Xiplomacy: Forging "ironclad friendships" in an uncertain world

BEIJING, May 30 (Xinhua) -- The overlapping visits last week of Pakistani Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Serbian President Aleksandar Vucic to China shone a spotlight on a phrase frequently used to describe Beijing's relations with both nations -- "ironclad friendship."

As a constant refrain throughout the visits, the phrase dominated media coverage and public discussion, underscoring the exceptional depth and resilience that define China's ties with Pakistan and Serbia.

<https://english.news.cn/20260531/e884097f240c49749fe982c0aef1bef9/c.html>