



For Better Understanding on
**China–Pakistan and
CPEC**
Gleanings from the
National & Chinese Press

April 01-15, 2026

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April 01, 2026

Business Recorder

Chinese envoy for advancing upgraded phase-2 of CPEC

ISLAMABAD: Chinese Ambassador Jiang Zaidong reaffirmed that Pakistan and China remain committed to advancing the upgraded Phase-2 of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and said that their cooperation is now expanding into new areas such as agriculture, mining, and social development.

The Chinese Ambassador expressed these views while addressing the Annual Awards Ceremony for Outstanding Pakistani and Chinese Staff of CPEC Projects 2026, hosted by the Ministry of Planning, Development, and Special Initiatives here on Tuesday.

The Annual Awards Ceremony recognised the exceptional contributions of professionals from both countries working across CPEC projects nationwide.

<https://www.brecorder.com/news/40414185/chinese-envoy-for-advancing-upgraded-phase-2-of-cpec>

Pakistan, China release five-point initiative

Naveed Siddiqui

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and China on Tuesday released a ‘Five-Point Initiative’ for restoring peace and stability in the Gulf and Middle East in the wake of the US-Israel-Iran war, calling for immediate cessation of hostilities and the commencement of peace talks as soon as possible, the Foreign Office (FO) said in a statement.

Member of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee and the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the People’s Republic of China, Wang Yi, and Deputy Prime Minister/Foreign Minister of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar, met in Beijing on 31 March to review the situation in the Gulf and Middle East region, the statement added.

According to the proposed five-point initiative, both China and Pakistan called for immediate cessation of hostilities and utmost efforts to prevent the conflict from spreading, urging that humanitarian assistance must be allowed to all war-affected areas.

They have stressed that sovereignty, territorial integrity, national independence, and security of Iran and the Gulf states should be safeguarded. “Dialogue and diplomacy are the only viable options to resolve conflicts. China and Pakistan support the relevant parties in initiating talks, with all parties committing to the peaceful resolution of disputes, and refraining from the use or the threat of use of force during peace talks,” they added.

The proposed plan suggested that principle of protecting civilians in military conflict should be observed with China and Pakistan call on parties to the conflict to immediately stop attacks on civilians and non-military targets, and fully adhere to International Humanitarian Law (IHL), and stop attacking important infrastructure, including energy, desalination and power facilities, and peaceful nuclear infrastructure, such as nuclear power plants.

The Strait of Hormuz, together with its adjacent waters, is an important global shipping route for goods and energy. Both countries have called on the warring parties to protect the security of ships and crew members stranded in the Strait of Hormuz, allow the early and safe passage of civilian and commercial ships, and restore normal passage through the Strait as soon as possible, the initiative emphasized.

China and Pakistan also called for taking pragmatic efforts to practice true multilateralism, to jointly strengthen the primacy of the United Nations, and to support the conclusion of an agreement for establishing a comprehensive peace framework and realizing lasting peace based on the purposes and principles of the UN Charter and international law.

Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister, Ishaq Dar, arrived in Beijing on a day-long visit on Tuesday. Upon arrival, he was received by the Foreign Minister of China, Wang Yi, at the Diaoyutai State Guesthouse for their bilateral meeting. Meanwhile, Pakistan and China reaffirmed their unwavering commitment to further strengthening the All-Weather Strategic Cooperative Partnership, emphasising on advancing high-quality development, deepening economic and strategic cooperation, including CPEC 2.0, and enhancing high-level exchanges and collaboration across all domains.

Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Ishaq Dar on Tuesday met with Wang Yi, Member of the Political Bureau and Minister of Foreign Affairs, in Beijing. According to a Foreign Office statement, the meeting was held in an exceptionally warm and cordial atmosphere, featuring hours of engagement from restricted talks to delegation-level discussions. The two sides reviewed the full spectrum of bilateral relations, exchanged views on regional developments in West Asia, and discussed a wide range of issues of mutual interest.

As Pakistan and China commemorate the 75th anniversary of diplomatic relations this year, both sides have agreed to further deepen bilateral relations in all spheres.

On the evolving situation in West Asia, both sides underscored their shared commitment to peace, stability, and dialogue, and issued a Five-Point Initiative aimed at promoting regional peace and stability. Foreign Minister Wang Yi appreciated Pakistan's constructive and consistent diplomatic efforts in this regard. The two sides also reaffirmed their close coordination at multilateral fora and agreed to remain in regular and close contact.

<https://www.brecorder.com/news/40414195/pakistan-china-release-five-point-initiative>

Pakistan and China trade relations FPCCI regional office hosts consultative session

LAHORE: The Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI) Regional Office in Lahore hosted a high-level consultative session focused on strengthening bilateral trade relations between Pakistan and China.

The meeting was graced by the Consul General of the People's Republic of China, Sun Yan, who paid an official visit to the FPCCI Regional Office. The session was chaired by FPCCI Regional Chairman and Vice President Zaki Ejaz.

Zaki Ejaz proposed the establishment of a Joint Business Working Group to enhance the effectiveness of bilateral cooperation and extended a formal invitation to Chinese companies to relocate their industries to Pakistan's Special Economic Zones (SEZs). He highlighted tax concessions, duty-free machinery imports, and Pakistan's GSP Plus status as significant competitive advantages that position the country as an attractive destination for Chinese industrial investment. Both sides emphasized the need to accelerate CPEC 2.0 on the occasion of the 75th anniversary of Pakistan-China diplomatic relations, with industrial development, technology transfer, and business-to-business partnerships identified as central pillars of this renewed momentum.

Consul General Sun Yan described Pakistan and China as "all-weather strategic partners" and noted that CPEC 2.0 is generating new opportunities for the private sector, particularly in industry, agricultural modernisation, and innovation. He added that China's 15th Five-Year Plan, centered on developing "new quality productive forces" would further broaden the scope of bilateral cooperation. He also assured attendees that the Chinese Consulate is playing an active role in promoting business linkages, with ongoing progress being made in coordination with relevant authorities in Beijing regarding business visa facilitation and policy support.

The meeting was attended by prominent business figures, including Shahzad Ali Malik, Dr Shahla Javed Akram, Nazir Hussain, President of the Pak-China Joint Chamber, Mian Nadeem Bari, President of the Nankana Chamber of Commerce, Kashif Khokhar, Tariq Mahmood, as well as chairpersons from various trade associations and representatives of regional chambers. Business leaders present at the session stressed the importance of expanding agricultural cooperation and establishing technical and vocational training centres aligned with industrial requirements.

<https://www.brecorder.com/news/40414163/pakistan-and-china-trade-relations-fpcci-regional-office-hosts-consultative-session>

Dawn News

Five-point plan unveiled in China to defuse tensions

Baqir Sajjad Syed

- Framework agreed in Beijing during Dar's meeting with Chinese counterpart
- Calls for immediate cessation of hostilities, US-Iran talks, humanitarian access
- Stresses no use of threat during talks, protection of critical infrastructure
- Urges steps to secure Strait of Hormuz, maritime routes
- Iran welcomes Pakistan's diplomatic efforts, peace initiatives

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and China on Tuesday called for an immediate cessation of hostilities and the start of US-Iran talks, as Islamabad and Beijing unveiled a five-point initiative aimed at de-escalation in the Middle East.

The understanding was reached during talks in Beijing between Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar and Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi, held as a follow-up to their telephone conversation on the Iran war last week.

The engagement yielded a coordinated framework that officials described as a basis for joint diplomatic efforts to end the conflict.

According to a statement issued by Pakistan's Foreign Office, the meeting was held "in an exceptionally warm and cordial atmosphere," with discussions ranging from restricted talks to delegation-level exchanges. Both sides reviewed regional developments and "underscored their shared commitment to peace, stability and dialogue," the statement said.

At the core of the outcome was a five-point initiative titled "Restoring Peace and Stability in the Gulf and Middle East Region", which outlined a sequenced approach to de-escalation.

The first element called for an "immediate cessation of hostilities" and efforts to prevent further spread of the conflict, alongside unhindered humanitarian access.

The second urged the start of peace talks "as soon as possible", stressing respect for sovereignty, territorial integrity and national independence of Iran and Gulf states, while reaffirming that dialogue and diplomacy are the only viable path forward.

"China and Pakistan support the relevant parties in initiating talks, with all parties committing to peaceful resolution of disputes, and refraining from the use or the threat of use of force during peace talks," the communique said.

The third point focused on the protection of civilians and non-military targets, calling for adherence to international humanitarian law and an end to attacks on critical infrastructure, including energy facilities, desalination plants and peaceful nuclear installations. The fourth called for the security of shipping lanes, particularly the Strait of Hormuz, urging safe passage for commercial vessels and restoration of normal maritime traffic. The fifth underscored the primacy of the United Nations Charter, calling for "true multilateralism" and support for a comprehensive peace framework grounded in international law. Diplomatic observers see the initiative as a consolidation of earlier positions articulated by Islamabad, now backed by Beijing.

The Beijing meeting also pointed to closer China-Pakistan coordination on the Iran conflict. Pakistan's ongoing diplomatic outreach, including contacts with regional capitals and reported backchannel efforts, has provided Beijing with a channel to support de-escalation without direct engagement with Washington.

Moreover, for China, stability in the Gulf is closely tied to energy security and protection of its economic interests, including Belt and Road investments.

It is believed that the joint initiative will help the two sides to align positions and potentially shape a diplomatic track leading to cessation of hostilities. While Beijing has avoided direct mediation in the crisis, its involvement, nevertheless, adds weight to the emerging framework and signals its interest in a stabilised regional environment.

Analysts say the communique's immediate value lies in providing a structured diplomatic template and maintaining momentum for dialogue. The emphasis on maritime security and protection of infrastructure reflects shared economic concerns, particularly the risks associated with disruption in Hormuz.

At the same time, the absence of explicit references to ongoing military actions by major actors suggests the document has been calibrated to retain acceptability among stakeholders.

Earlier China said it would strengthen cooperation with Pakistan on Iran. "The two foreign ministers will strengthen strategic communication and coordination on the Iran situation and... make new efforts toward advocating for peace," Chinese foreign ministry spokeswoman Mao Ning told a press conference, calling China and Pakistan "all-weather" strategic partners.

Mr Dar landed in Beijing in the late afternoon and was greeted by high-ranking Chinese officials. He was later received by the Chinese foreign minister at Diaoytai State Guest House for a bilateral meeting.

The trip marks his second official visit to Beijing this year, the FO noted in a post sharing Dar's departure from Islamabad.

Iran's Ambassador to Pakistan Reza Amiri Moghadam, in a post on X, appreciated the "initiative and goodwill and good office by the friendly and brotherly country of Pakistan to stop the US-Israeli aggression against Iran and restore peace and stability to the region".

"Iran welcomes Pakistan's proactive diplomatic initiatives based on goodwill to restore peace and [bring] lasting stability to the region," the envoy reiterated in another post.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1987352/five-point-plan-unveiled-in-china-to-defuse-tensions>

Daily Times

Five-Part Peace Plan

The real significance of Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar's visit to China, especially after hosting a high-profile quadrilateral meeting, lies in how Pakistan is deploying every lever available to shape the first serious diplomatic frame around the month-long war, terrifyingly expanding across multiple theatres.

Mr Dar's decision to travel to Beijing despite medical advice to rest after a hairline fracture adds to the urgency driving Pakistan's diplomatic push, reflecting a recognition that the window for political intervention is closing fast. The two countries have now issued a five-point initiative calling for an immediate halt to hostilities, early peace talks, protection of civilians and non-military infrastructure, restoration of safe commercial passage through the Strait of Hormuz, and a broader peace framework under the United Nations.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1471485/five-part-peace-plan/>

Pakistan Observer

CPEC 2.0: Reimagining Pakistan's Agricultural Future

Zahid Maqsood Sheikh

For most Pakistanis, the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) has long been associated with highways, power plants and large infrastructure projects.

That was the most visible face of CPEC. But CPEC 2.0 points to something deeper. It suggests that the next phase of CPEC will be judged not only by roads and energy, but by whether it can strengthen the productive sectors of the economy. In that shift, agriculture deserves to be at the centre.

This is not simply an economic question. Agriculture remains deeply woven into Pakistan's social and economic life. It contributes 23.5 percent to GDP and employs more than 37 percent of the labour force, making it central to food security, rural livelihoods and economic stability. Yet the sector has long been held back by low productivity, outdated farming methods, weak storage, poor transport, limited processing and growing climate pressure. Pakistan has the land, the farming experience and the crop diversity. What it has lacked is a consistent push toward modernization and value addition.

That is why the agricultural focus emerging under CPEC 2.0 matters so much. The recent Pak-China Agriculture Investment Conference offered a strong signal of intent. The signing of 78 memorandums of understanding worth 4.5 billion dollars showed that agriculture is no longer being treated as a secondary area of cooperation. It is becoming part of a broader strategy to improve productivity, strengthen supply chains and support export growth.

The logic behind this shift is clear. Pakistan and China are moving beyond connectivity alone and toward sectors that can create lasting economic returns. In agriculture, that means better seeds, improved irrigation, modern machinery, climate resilient farming, stronger logistics and greater investment in processing and agribusiness. These are the practical building blocks of a more competitive agricultural economy.

Rice offers a useful example of what this transformation could look like. Pakistan has a long history of rice cultivation and has built an important position in both Basmati and Non Basmati rice. Basmati, in particular, has earned international recognition because of its quality and aroma, while other varieties have helped maintain export volumes and foreign exchange earnings. Over time, the sector also moved from a more state led framework toward stronger private sector participation.

The figures show that Pakistan already has strengths worth building on. In 2023 and 2024, rice exports crossed 6 million metric tons and earned close to 4 billion dollars. In 2024 and 2025, exports remained strong at around 5.8 million metric tons, generating roughly 3.35 billion dollars. These numbers matter because they show that Pakistan already has agricultural sectors with established export potential.

This is where CPEC 2.0 could make a real difference. Pakistan's agricultural problem has never been limited to what happens in the field. A large part of the loss occurs after harvest. Weak warehousing, poor cold storage, underdeveloped logistics and limited processing mean

that too much value disappears before products reach domestic or international markets. Investment in storage, transport, food processing and farm to market systems can help change that. Such improvements would not benefit rice alone. They could also strengthen dairy, halal meat, horticulture, cotton related value chains and processed food exports.

That is why rice should be seen as an illustration, not the whole argument. The larger story is about the future of Pakistan's agriculture as a whole. CPEC 2.0 offers the possibility of moving beyond a pattern in which Pakistan exports raw produce and imports higher value products at greater cost. If the country can improve processing, packaging, branding and quality control, it can retain more value at home and compete more effectively in regional and global markets.

Corporate farming is one part of this wider discussion. Its supporters argue that it can bring scale, technology, investment and more efficient management. That may be true, especially in a sector where fragmentation and weak organization often hold back productivity. But reform must be handled carefully. If modernization benefits only large investors while small and medium farmers are left behind, the result will be deeper inequality rather than wider progress. Modernization must be inclusive.

This is also why youth and vocational training deserve much more attention. A modern agricultural economy needs more than land and machinery. It needs skilled people who can work in irrigation systems, farm management, food processing, storage, logistics, export marketing and agricultural services. Pakistan has a young population, but too many young people still see agriculture as a sector of hardship rather than opportunity. Practical education in agribusiness, machinery use, crop management, processing and supply chain operations can help build a stronger rural workforce and open new paths to income and dignity.

The benefits of such a shift could be far reaching. Farmers could gain from better yields and better returns. Exporters could benefit from improved logistics and stronger quality standards. Rural communities could see more jobs and steadier incomes. Investors could find opportunities in seeds, irrigation, processing, storage and farm technology. Most importantly, Pakistan could begin to build an agricultural economy that is more productive, more resilient and less dependent on low value exports.

Still, none of this will happen through agreements alone. Pakistan must address water stress, climate risks, infrastructure gaps and policy inconsistency if this promise is to become reality. The real test of CPEC 2.0 will not be how many announcements are made, but whether farmers and rural families actually feel the change in their daily economic lives.

CPEC 2.0 gives Pakistan an opening that should not be wasted. If used wisely, it can help turn agriculture into a stronger source of jobs, exports and long term stability. The real success of this new phase will be measured in whether Pakistan finally gives agriculture the strategic attention it has needed for decades.

<https://pakobserver.net/cpec-2-0-reimagining-pakistans-agricultural-future/>

CPEC Phase 2.0, 75th Anniversary of Diplomatic Relations and 15th Five-Year Plan: Strategic Triangle

Dr Mehmood Ul Hassan Khan

Fortunately, CPEC Phase 2.0, the 75th Anniversary of Diplomatic Relations and China's 15th Five-Year Plan share strong complementarities, proposing numerous mutually beneficial projects that can steer both countries, communities and enterprises toward greater economic stability, sustainability, social unity and enhanced political understanding.

Together, they offer a powerful framework to counter hegemonic geo-politics and volatile geo-economics in the region and beyond. The convergence of these three narratives reflects a shared vision of prosperity through openness, modernization, digitalization, artificial intelligence and green transformation, ultimately greening grey areas and advancing quality development and improved living standards.

The Chinese Ambassador, Jiang Zaidong, has emphasized that the all-weather strategic cooperative partnership between China and Pakistan continues to thrive due to frequent high-level exchanges between the two nations. He highlighted key projects such as the steady progress of the Karakoram Highway Phase II, agricultural training programs for Pakistani youth and the launch of the New Gwadar International Airport, all of which significantly contribute to CPEC Phase 2.0. Looking ahead, he described 2026 as a landmark year, marking the 75th anniversary of diplomatic relations. Despite global and regional complexities, China's continued commitment to Pakistan is expected to further strengthen the pace, progress and productivity of CPEC Phase 2.0.

The Ambassador also outlined key initiatives for 2026, including the advancement of an upgraded CPEC Phase 2.0, expansion of the China-Pakistan Free Trade Agreement and the introduction of small-scale livelihood projects aimed at improving the welfare of people, particularly in remote and underdeveloped areas. These initiatives will reinforce the true spirit of Pak-China diplomatic relations and deepen the consolidation of CPEC Phase 2.0. In parallel, the adoption of China's 15th Five-Year Plan during the Two Sessions 2026 provides a strategic roadmap for modernization, encompassing digitalization, AI, green transformation, quantum technologies, innovation and hybrid agriculture. This roadmap is expected to facilitate the smooth advancement of CPEC Phase 2.0 in the years ahead.

Undoubtedly, the 15th Five-Year Plan serves as an open invitation to the global community, encouraging countries and enterprises to pursue mutually beneficial modernization. It offers a central opportunity for Pakistan and China not only to sustain growth but also to enhance the quality of that growth. While CPEC Phase 1.0 successfully strengthened Pakistan's energy and infrastructure sectors, the next phase demands alignment with China's evolving priorities, including innovation-driven industrialization, quality manufacturing, hybrid agricultural modernization, intelligent mining and digital and green development. Effective implementation of these priorities within CPEC Phase 2.0 can usher in a new era of export-oriented, technology-intensive and high-quality industrial growth in Pakistan.

Pakistan is particularly well positioned to benefit across several key domains, including qualitative industrial cooperation through the expansion of Special Economic Zones and

relocation of light manufacturing, agriculture modernization, green energy transition, mining and mineral processing and enhanced logistics and connectivity through Gwadar, land borders and rail modernization. Furthermore, emerging global uncertainties, such as tensions in the Strait of Hormuz, instability in the Red Sea and potential disruptions in the Suez Canal, have highlighted the strategic importance of Gwadar Seaport. Its expansion and integration as a sustainable alternative corridor can ensure smooth and secure supplies of food and energy for both Pakistan and China.

To maximize these opportunities, Pakistan should leverage the 15th Five-Year Plan as a production, processing and connectivity partner, attracting export-oriented Chinese investments across its priority sectors. The Plan's focus on developing new productive forces, promoting high-standard opening-up and advancing institutional reforms will create a more innovation-driven and efficient economic environment. This, in turn, can enhance CPEC Phase 2.0 by drawing greater Chinese investment in advanced industrialization, digitalization, AI, quantum and green technologies, lithium batteries, electric vehicles, hydrogen energy and disaster management.

Moreover, the evolving global economic landscape, shaped by geopolitical tensions, trade disruptions and shifting supply chains, presents new opportunities for Pakistan. Companies engaged with China or seeking entry into its market can move beyond commodity trade toward higher-value participation. The advanced manufacturing ecosystem, clean technologies and digital innovations emerging in China can be effectively integrated into CPEC Phase 2.0 projects, creating mutually beneficial outcomes. In this context, China's continued opening-up and trade diversification can foster deeper cross-border joint ventures, technology partnerships and service integration.

At the outset of China's 15th Five-Year Plan (2026–2030), Pakistan aims to achieve significant progress in trade and investment quality, technological advancement, green development, digital economy expansion and people-to-people connectivity under the umbrella of CPEC Phase 2.0. This period represents a golden opportunity to transform symbolic bilateral relations into tangible economic outcomes. The 75th Anniversary of Pak-China diplomatic relations further reinforces this momentum, highlighting a long-standing friendship while encouraging stronger efforts to translate political trust into increased exports, productive investments, technological advancement, employment generation and economic resilience.

However, the success of Pakistan-China cooperation will depend largely on the quality and pace of implementation. Efficient project approvals, improved planning, enhanced safety and security for Chinese personnel, regulatory consistency and strong local capacity-building are essential to achieving desired outcomes. A disciplined and reform-oriented approach by the government of Pakistan will be critical to ensuring that CPEC Phase 2.0 delivers on its promise of sustainable and inclusive development.

In conclusion, the year 2026 holds significant importance for strengthening Pak-China relations and advancing CPEC Phase 2.0 through the strategic guidance of the 15th Five-Year Plan. Both countries must adopt a holistic and comprehensive approach to deepen bilateral cooperation, focusing on commercial viability, social inclusiveness, grassroots development

and a people-centric growth model supported by innovation, digitalization, AI and green technologies. Moving beyond rhetorical commitments, there is a need to develop concrete frameworks for socio-economic engagement, strengthen diplomatic coordination and ensure meaningful participation of the private sector. Such efforts will transform the 75th Anniversary of Diplomatic Relations into a truly impactful milestone, fostering long-term prosperity for both nations and their people.

<https://pakobserver.net/cpec-phase-2-0-75th-anniversary-of-diplomatic-relations-and-15th-five-year-plan-strategic-triangle/>

April 02, 2026

Daily Times

Pakistan, China navies conclude maritime exercise Sea Guardian IV

Exercise SEA GUARDIAN IV, conducted from 25 March to 1 April 2026 between the Pakistan Navy and PLA (N), aimed to enhance interoperability and maritime cooperation. The exercise included a five-day port phase in Karachi and a two-day sea phase in the North Arabian Sea.

During the port visit, PLA Navy Ship DAQING was welcomed by PNS TAIMUR. Activities included exchange visits, orientations at naval installations, professional discussions on maritime challenges, and a maiden Young Officers Seminar.

The sea phase featured key exercises such as air defence drills against multi-domain swarm threats, operations with a Pakistan Navy submarine, conventional war-at-sea exercises, and live gunnery firing strengthening operational and tactical coordination.

The exercise concluded with a coordinated patrol in the Arabian Sea, reaffirming both navies' commitment to regional maritime security and stability.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1471783/pakistan-china-navies-conclude-maritime-exercise-sea-guardian-iv/>

April 03, 2026

Pakistan Observer

Gwadar a future energy hub: a strategic vision for Pakistan's energy future

Assessing Post-Conflict Regional Order In the evolving geopolitics of energy, nations that merely consume resources remain vulnerable, while those that process, store, and transit energy emerge as strategic players.

Pakistan today stands at such a crossroads. The concept of making Gwadar a "Future Energy Hub" (FEH) offers a transformative pathway—one that leverages geography, regional partnerships, and emerging energy technologies to reposition the country from an energy importer to an energy integrator. This vision becomes particularly viable within a forward-

looking geopolitical scenario—one characterized by a gradual de-escalation of regional conflicts, a more stable security environment, and the potential easing of sanctions on Iran.

Under such conditions, Gwadar can evolve into a cornerstone of the region's emerging energy architecture. At first glance, it may seem counterintuitive to advance such a proposition at a time when conflict continues to shape regional dynamics. Questions may arise regarding the relevance of long-term strategic thinking amid immediate instability. However, it is precisely in such moments that forward planning becomes most critical. Present conditions, however turbulent, are not permanent; policy and infrastructure decisions must anticipate the realities of a more stable future.

An optimistic yet pragmatic outlook suggests that Pakistan and its regional counterparts may increasingly recognize their mutual interdependence, fostering greater cohesion and cooperation in pursuit of shared economic prosperity, energy security, and long-term stability. While such an outcome may not materialize in full in the near term, incremental progress is both possible and likely. In this context, elements of the proposed framework can begin to take shape, with other components implemented progressively as conditions evolve.

Gwadar: From Port City to Energy Nerve Center located at the mouth of the Arabian Sea and near the energy-rich Gulf region, Gwadar is uniquely positioned to serve as a hub for crude oil, refined products, and emerging fuels like hydrogen. Its deep-sea port, proximity to Iran and the Gulf states, and integration within the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor make it an ideal site for large-scale energy infrastructure.

The FEH concept envisions Gwadar not merely as a logistic node, but as a fully integrated energy ecosystem—combining refining, storage, pipelines, and renewable energy. In the background of recurring conflicts and wars in the region, much attention is often given to defence cooperation among nations. Yet an equally compelling question arises: why not economic cooperation? Why should regional actors meet only in times of tension and stress, and not in pursuit of shared prosperity? Gwadar presents an opportunity to adopt an optimistic and pragmatic vision—one where even traditionally competing or conflicting players can converge for mutual economic benefit.

Convergence of Strategic Investments One of the most compelling aspects of this vision is that its building blocks are already in motion.

Saudi Arabia's Long-Awaited Refinery for years, Saudi Arabia has expressed interest in financing a large-scale refinery in Gwadar. This project, often discussed but yet to materialize, represents a critical anchor for FEH concept. A Saudi-backed refinery would: bring capital and technical expertise, ensure stable crude supply chains, integrate Pakistan into Gulf energy networks and beyond. Its long delay is less about intent and more about execution: translating policy ambition into bankable, investor-confidence frameworks for complex, a multi-billion-dollar energy project.

UAE's Storage Infrastructure parallel to this, the United Arab Emirates has shown interest in developing oil storage facilities at Gwadar. Storage is often overlooked, yet it is central to energy security and trade. Such facilities would enable strategic reserves for Pakistan, support regional oil trading, complement refining and export operations China's Strategic Interest No

discussion of Gwadar is complete without China. Under CPEC, China has a strong stake in Gwadar's development—not only as a port, but as an energy gateway to western China.

For China, Gwadar offers, a shorter, safer route for energy imports, reduced reliance on chokepoints like the Strait of Malacca, opportunities to invest in refining, petrochemicals and hydrogen production. This triangular interest—Saudi, UAE, and Chinese—creates a rare convergence of capital, markets, and strategic intent.

Integrating Iran: The Missing Link With the easing of sanctions, Iran becomes a natural partner in the proposed FEH framework at Gwadar. Crude Supply Advantage Iran's vast reserves and proximity make it an ideal supplier of crude oil to Gwadar. A dedicated refinery designed specifically for Iranian heavy crude would maximize efficiency, reduce dependence on distant suppliers, capture cheaper or possibly discounted crude opportunities.

The same refinery if built with sufficient flexibility, it can be utilized for Russian crude, depending on how the sanction regime is managed in the future. Basra Heavy from Iraq and Arab Heavy from Saudi Arabia are possible alternative sources in the case of sanctions or other future disruptions. **Gas Connectivity** The long-discussed Iran Pakistan gas pipeline, particularly its extension to Gwadar, could provide, reliable fuel for refinery operations, feedstock for hydrogen production, power generation capacity for the region This integration transforms Gwadar into a multi-source energy node, combining oil and gas flows.

The Hydrogen Dimension: Future-Proofing the Hub Hydrogen is at the heart of modern refining—especially when dealing with heavy and sour crude oils like those from Iran. Without sufficient hydrogen, such crude cannot be efficiently converted into high-value fuels. This is precisely where hydrocracking becomes indispensable.

A new refinery at Gwadar can be designed to handle heavy crude efficiently, by integrating hydrogen production from Iranian gas initially; whereas in longer term hydrogen production can be supported through solar-powered desalinated seawater.

Production of power, sweet water and oxygen as biproducts can be aligned to get maximum benefits from the integrated process. Beyond conventional hydrocarbons, FEH concept introduces a forward-looking component: hydrogen production. Contrary to common concerns, hydrogen production requires relatively modest water volumes. A well-designed desalination system can simultaneously supply water for hydrogen production and could provide potable and industrial water for Gwadar's population Initially, hydrogen can be produced using natural gas (a practical and cost-effective approach), with a gradual transition toward solar-based green hydrogen as technology matures.

Qatar: a commercial-energy systems player for LNG An additional dimension worth noting is the potential role of Qatar as a leading global supplier of liquefied Natural Gas (LNG). As one of the world's most dominant LNG exporters, Qatar's long-term strategy increasingly revolves around securing reliable demand centers and expanding its global footprint across regasification and downstream infrastructure. In this context, Gwadar presents a compelling opportunity—not merely as an import terminal, but as a potential node in a broader regional LNG distribution network.

While the technical and commercial contours of such a proposition require detailed examination, the integration of floating LNG infrastructure and phased market development could align well with Qatar's strategic interests.

This aspect warrants deeper analysis and is proposed to be explored in a subsequent dedicated study. Economic and Strategic Payoffs If executed effectively, GFEH concept offers multiple benefits. For Pakistan, reduced import of refined petroleum products, better utilization of crude oil (especially heavy grades), development of Balochistan's economy, and enhanced energy security are some the major benefits.

Whereas for the Region, it will offer a new energy trade corridor, Integrating Gulf with South Asian and Chinese energy systems and create opportunities for petrochemical and industrial expansion. Challenges That Cannot Be Ignored Ambition must be matched with realism. The GFEH vision faces significant challenges. Those related to geopolitics are risks of: sanctions, regional rivalries and external pressures. Financing constraints are critical as multi-billion-dollar investments are required.

Governance issues, policy inconsistency and lack of execution capability are also major disablers and must be addressed. Security concerns are related to peace and stability in Balochistan, which needs immediate attention. These are not trivial challenges—but neither are they insurmountable if approached with strategic clarity and with stakeholders' confidence. From Vision to Reality The idea of Make Gwadar an Energy Hub (GFEH) is more than an infrastructure plan—it is a strategic reimagining of Pakistan's role in the global energy system.

At its core, it asks a simple but profound question, should Pakistan remain a price-taking importer of energy, or become a value-adding hub connecting producers and markets? Gwadar provides the geography; Iran offers resources.; Saudi Arabia and the UAE bring capital; China contributes scale and strategic depth; and renewable energy adds future resilience. What remains is execution.

<https://pakobserver.net/gwadar-a-future-energy-hub-a-strategic-vision-for-pakistans-energy-future/>

April 08, 2026

Business Recorder

Mainly imported from China: Copper filter dryers values revised

Sohail Sarfraz

ISLAMABAD: The Directorate General of Customs Valuation, Karachi, has revised the customs values for 10 different types of copper filter dryers, mainly imported from China.

According to a recent valuation ruling (2059 of 2026) issued by the directorate, representation from the importer M/s Crescent Corporation was received for re-determination of customs values of Copper Filter Dryers, as the current Valuation Ruling of the subject item is more than seven years old and international prices of copper have increased significantly in the last seven years. Therefore, a preliminary analysis of import data, declared values,

assessed values, and market prices was undertaken for the determination of customs values of the subject goods under Section 25A of the Customs Act, 1969.

A meeting for the determination of customs values was held, which was attended by the relevant stakeholders. The viewpoints of the participants were heard in detail, and the stakeholders were requested to submit documentary evidence to substantiate their contentions. For the determination of customs values of the subject goods, ninety (90) days' import data was retrieved and thoroughly scrutinized in light of the information received from stakeholders.

Finally the Customs values of the subject goods have been determined under Section 25(9), read with Section 25(6) and Customs Rule 121 (2) of Customs Rules, 2001 which provides that the methods of valuation, to be employed under sub-section (9) of section 25 of the Customs Act, 1969 may be inclusive of those laid down in sub-sections (1), (5), (6), (7) and (8) of the said section, but a reasonable flexibility in the application of such methods would be in conformity with the aims and provisions of subsection (9) of that section, the ruling added.

<https://www.brecorder.com/news/40415304/mainly-imported-from-china-copper-filter-dryers-values-revised>

Chinese personnel, families: Hameed Latif Hospital to provide services

LAHORE: In significant step toward strengthening Pakistan China friendship and enhancing welfare for the Chinese community in Lahore, the Pakistan China Joint Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCJCCI), the Consulate General of the People's Republic of China in Lahore, and Hameed Latif Hospital have initiated a collaborative healthcare partnership to provide dedicated medical services for Chinese personnel and their families.

The initiative follows an official Expression of Interest issued by Hameed Latif Hospital proposing comprehensive healthcare facilities, including complimentary on-site OPD sessions, priority consultations, diagnostic services, and preferential hospital care for Chinese Consulate staff and Chinese nationals working in Lahore.

With the growing presence of Chinese professionals, engineers, investors, and business representatives in Pakistan under various economic initiatives, ensuring their health and well-being has become increasingly important. This partnership aims to provide a reliable healthcare support system and a sense of comfort and security for Chinese friends living and working in Lahore.

Sun Yan, Consul General of China in Lahore appreciated the initiative and emphasized the importance of supportive facilities for Chinese nationals. He remarked that "we appreciate the efforts of PCJCCI and Hameed Latif Hospital for this thoughtful initiative. Providing healthcare support to Chinese nationals strengthens confidence and enhances cooperation. Such initiatives further deepen people-to-people friendship and promote a conducive environment for bilateral collaboration."

Nazir Hussain President PCJCCI welcomed the initiative and highlighted the importance of people-to-people connectivity. He stated that the Pakistan and China share a historic and

time-tested friendship. “Our Chinese friends working in Pakistan are contributing significantly to economic development and bilateral cooperation. Ensuring their well-being is our collective responsibility. This healthcare collaboration reflects our commitment to strengthening mutual trust and long-term partnership between our two brotherly nations.”

Dr Haroon Latif Khan, Executive Director of Hameed Latif Hospital expressed that Hameed Latif Hospital is honoured to extend its healthcare expertise to the Chinese community. “We aim to provide compassionate, timely, and high-quality medical care. This initiative is not just a healthcare partnership but a symbol of friendship and cooperation between Pakistan and China.”

<https://www.brecorder.com/news/40415283/chinese-personnel-families-hameed-latif-hospital-to-provide-services>

Pakistan Observer

A Corridor at the Crossroads: What China’s 15th Five-Year Plan Means for CPEC 2.0

China’s 15th Five-Year Plan, formally adopted on 12 March 2026, is one of the most significant reorientations of Beijing’s economic strategy in a generation.

For Pakistan, it is not merely a foreign policy development to monitor — it is the policy architecture within which every CPEC negotiation over the next five years will take place. The question is whether Pakistan is positioned to turn this moment into durable economic gain or whether it will once again find itself on the receiving end of decisions made elsewhere.

The plan’s most consequential structural shift is one of priority order. Where the 14th Five-Year Plan placed technological innovation first and industrial application second, the 15th inverts this hierarchy. Beijing is no longer primarily concerned with generating breakthroughs — it is focused on converting existing capabilities into scalable production and relocating excess manufacturing capacity into partner economies. For Pakistan, this creates a genuine industrial opportunity. The question is whether our institutions are ready to receive it.

The financing model that built CPEC’s first decade, however, is gone. Chinese BRI engagement in 2025 reached a record \$213.5 billion — but Chinese development finance institutions committed only \$6.1 billion in sovereign loans, continuing a collapse from the peak lending years of 2015 to 2017. Major infrastructure projects that once moved seamlessly on government-to-government concessional terms are now being restructured through multilateral co-financing arrangements, open bidding, and international procurement norms. This is no longer the CPEC of exclusive policy bank cheques and bilateral contracts. Planners in Islamabad must internalise that reality.

“Pakistan must transition from being a passive recipient of Chinese capital to an active architect of mutually beneficial economic integration.”

Three sectors stand out as genuinely aligned with the 15th FYP's priorities. Critical minerals are Pakistan's strongest strategic card. With an estimated \$6–8 trillion in mineral wealth — copper, lithium, cobalt, rare earths — Pakistan sits at the intersection of competing Chinese and American demand. The Pak-China E-Mining Platform launched in January 2026 targets \$10 billion in investment, and the inclusion of Siah Diq Copper Mine within the CPEC framework marks a positive step. The Reko Diq project, with \$3.5 billion in Phase 1 financing and production beginning in 2028-29, demonstrates what is possible when governance and investor confidence align.

Green energy is the most tangible near-term opening. Pakistan imported 17 GW of Chinese solar panels in FY2024-25 — 12% of China's total solar exports. The 15th FYP's ambition to reach 100 GW of offshore wind and 25% non-fossil energy by 2030 will accelerate Chinese green technology outflows. Pakistan must move from being a panel importer to a manufacturing destination. Without policy clarity on tariffs, land, and grid connectivity, Chinese solar manufacturers will continue choosing Vietnam and Indonesia over Karachi.

Manufacturing relocation — the most frequently cited opportunity — remains the most contested. China's industrial upgrading creates space for relocating labour-intensive production in electronics, textiles, pharmaceuticals, and electric vehicles. Pakistan has 44 approved Special Economic Zones. But only 4 are partially developed or under active development, and none has yet attracted Chinese investment at scale. Security concerns, low labour productivity, and absent one-stop window operations are the recurring complaints. The gap between SEZ approval and SEZ operationality is Pakistan's most urgent institutional failing.

The risks demand equal candour. China produces 30% of the world's manufactured goods but consumes only 18%. That gap finds its outlet through export — and Pakistan's domestic manufacturers in steel, textiles, and consumer goods are exposed to the same price undercutting that closed 4,300 factories in Thailand and displaced 80,000 textile workers in Indonesia in 2024. Trade defence mechanisms are not protectionism; they are the responsible management of an asymmetric economic relationship.

Pakistan's debt exposure to China — approximately \$29 billion, 22% of total external debt — also constrains the next phase. The PKR 423 billion in outstanding CPEC power sector arrears is not a rounding error; it is evidence that Phase 1's commercial loan model produced obligations Pakistan struggles to service. New projects must be structured through equity, joint ventures, or multilateral co-financing — not additional sovereign debt.

The 15th Five-Year Plan is, ultimately, China's plan for China. Its manufacturing relocation agenda serves Chinese industrial needs as much as Pakistani development goals. Its financing shift serves Chinese fiscal discipline as much as Pakistan's debt sustainability. That is not a criticism — it is the nature of economic statecraft. Pakistan's task is to identify where genuine complementarity exists and build the institutional capacity — in SEZ governance, mineral policy, green energy regulation, and debt management — to capture it on its own terms.

The corridor is at a crossroads. The opportunity is real. The window is open. Whether Pakistan walks through it or watches it close will depend not on Beijing's next five-year plan, but on Islamabad's next five decisions.

<https://pakobserver.net/a-corridor-at-the-crossroads-what-chinas-15th-five-year-plan-means-for-cpec-2-0/>

April 10, 2026

Business Recorder

Chinese tyre co briefs PM about investment plans

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif said on Thursday that Pakistan was committed to strengthening business-to-business cooperation with China, as his government prioritises measures to facilitate foreign investors through a transparent and sustainable investment framework.

Sharif made the remarks during a meeting with a four-member delegation led by Jin Yongsheng, Chairman of Service Long March Tyres, according to a statement from the Prime Minister's Office.

He said Islamabad was working on a priority basis to expand Pakistan-China business partnerships and remained committed to providing a stable, transparent and investor-friendly environment.

Sharif added that the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) was supporting investors through streamlined procedures and institutional facilitation.

Calling joint ventures such as Service Long March Tyres vital for bilateral economic cooperation, he said such partnerships contributed to economic growth, job creation, technology transfer and export development.

The delegation briefed the prime minister on its upcoming investment plans in Pakistan, adding that the company remained focused on export-oriented production and generated export revenue of USD54 million in 2024-2025.

Officials said the Board of Investment had facilitated the company across multiple sectors, including support for establishing a development zone in Nooriabad, in Sindh province.

Jin said he appreciated Pakistan's investor-friendly policies and economic reforms, expressing confidence in expanding the company's footprint in the country.

Federal Minister for Board of Investment Qaiser Ahmed Sheikh, Minister of State for Finance and Railways Bilal Azhar Kayani, tge special assistant to the prime minister on industries Haroon Akhtar and other senior officials also attended the meeting, the statement said.

<https://www.brecorder.com/news/40415715/chinese-tyre-co-briefs-pm-about-investment-plans>

April 14, 2026

Business Recorder

Pakistan China MoUs: Zardari briefed about Progress

KARACHI: President Asif Ali Zardari was given a detailed briefing on the progress of Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) signed during his recent visits to the People's Republic of China.

The briefing, held at the Chief Minister House Karachi, reviewed ongoing work relating to joint initiatives between Sindh and Chinese partners. The President underscored that these agreements must translate into practical results, with clear timelines, institutional coordination and sustained follow-up.

The President noted that Pakistan's cooperation with China presents an important opportunity to modernise infrastructure, strengthen industrial capacity and advance socio-economic development.

<https://www.brecorder.com/news/40416296/pakistan-china-mous-zardari-briefed-about-progress>

Mideast ceasefire a priority China tells Pakistan

BEIJING: Maintaining a ceasefire in the Middle East war is an "immediate priority" for resolving the conflict, China's top diplomat told his Pakistan counterpart in a phone call on Monday.

Pakistan's Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif also said on Monday that the ceasefire between the United States and Iran was "holding" and that efforts were underway to reach an agreement after talks in Islamabad at the weekend failed to do so.

"The immediate priority is to make every effort toward preventing the resumption of hostilities and to maintain the hard-won ceasefire momentum," Wang Yi told Pakistan's Ishaq Dar, according to a Chinese foreign ministry statement.

<https://www.brecorder.com/news/40416303/mideast-ceasefire-a-priority-china-tells-pakistan>

April 15, 2026

Pakistan Observer

Can green CPEC shape Pakistan's sustainable climatic future?

THE relentless rise in global temperature has indeed emerged as one of the most pressing challenges of our time.

From intensifying heat waves and melting glaciers to rising sea levels and extreme weather events, the consequences of climate change are more evident today than ever. As human activities such as burning of fossil fuels, deforestation and industrialization continue to release greenhouse gases into the atmosphere, the planet's natural balance is disrupted at an alarming rate. Pakistan is one of the most climatically vulnerable countries in the world

despite contributing less than one percent of global greenhouse gas emissions and recently being ranked as the world's smoggiest country in 2025 as per the report by IQAir. The study found that fine particulate matter (PM2.5) levels in Pakistan's air reached up to 13 times higher than WHO guidelines. Climate change has intensified natural disasters, disrupted agricultural productivity and increased economic uncertainty. The catastrophic floods of 2022, which affected millions of people and caused billions of dollars in losses, exposed the country's fragile climate resilience and the urgent need for sustainable development strategies. In this context, Green CPEC can serve as a major opportunity to integrate climate-conscious policies into Pakistan's long-term development.

CPEC has a massive potential for making it climatically sustainable for Pakistan. Green CPEC also aligns with China's broader global vision under the Belt and Road Initiative, which increasingly emphasizes green financing having a more climate-resilient model. To improve Pakistan's economy and regional trade connections, CPEC has mostly concentrated on energy plants, highways and connectivity projects till now. The growing focus on ecologically conscious development indicates that ecological preservation and economic growth must coexist. By incorporating renewable energy, green transportation and environmental protection initiatives, CPEC can contribute to Pakistan's climate commitments.

The switch to renewable energy is crucial for Green CPEC that can influence Pakistan's climatic future. Relying on imported fossil fuels, which raise carbon emissions, adversely puts the country's economy at risk due to volatile oil prices like today due to Middle Eastern war. Long-term energy security, air quality and greenhouse gas emissions can all be improved by renewable energy projects. These can reduce the cost of producing electricity, which will help households and businesses alike. Increasing clean energy capacity aids Pakistan's transition to a low-carbon economy and supports the nation's international climate obligations under the Paris Agreement.

Building climate-resilient infrastructural projects is another significant contribution of Green CPEC. Green CPEC encourages climate-smart urban planning, ecologically friendly building techniques and effective transport systems that lower pollution and fuel consumption. In addition to safeguarding communities, climate-resilient infrastructure stops financial losses brought on by natural disasters. Pakistan can guarantee the long-term sustainability of infrastructure investments by incorporating climate adaptation measures. Another key tenet of Green CPEC is the preservation of biodiversity. Adopting environmentally responsible practices is crucial because economic development frequently puts strain on natural ecosystems. Afforestation projects, the preservation of marine and coastal ecosystems and sustainable water management can all benefit from collaboration under the CPEC. Environmental protections around Gwadar and other coastal regions can support local fishing-dependent livelihoods while also assisting in the preservation of marine biodiversity. For Pakistan, where environmental degradation and water scarcity present long-term issues, sustainable resource management is vital. Green CPEC can balance between ecological preservation and industrial growth. Additionally, employment opportunities in environmentally sustainable sectors could be created by green CPEC. Skills in environmental

engineering, sustainable agriculture, climate research and renewable energy technologies are in demand due to the world's shift to green economies.

Being a youth populous country, Pakistan stands to gain from investments in green industries that foster entrepreneurship and innovation. Green jobs can promote ethical patterns of production and consumption. CPEC can also assist Pakistan in developing its capabilities in climate science, environmental management and clean energy development by fostering research and technological cooperation.

There are a few concerns that need to be resolved about air pollution and carbon emissions that were raised by coal-based power projects in earlier stages of CPEC. Even though these initiatives lessened the scarcity of electricity, cleaner alternatives must be given priority in future funding. Ensuring transparency in environmental impact assessments presents an issue. Ensuring that development projects adhere to environmental standards, robust regulatory frameworks and monitoring systems is a must. It takes adequate policies and institutional coordination to strike a balance between rapid economic development and ecological protection. Implementing green initiatives is also hampered by technological and financial limitations. Infrastructure for renewable energy frequently has a large upfront cost, but over time, it becomes affordable. To accomplish sustainability goals, Pakistan must thus draw in climate finance, promote public-private partnerships and bolster international cooperation. For environmentally conscious projects to be implemented successfully, institutional capacity-building, research collaboration and technical training are crucial. Going forward, multi-stakeholder cooperation and strategic policy direction will be critical to the success of Green CPEC. Environmental factors can be incorporated into economic planning with a stronger focus on green industrialization, climate-smart agriculture, renewable energy projects and sustainable transportation. Collaboration among government agencies, businesses, academic institutions and civil society can guarantee inclusive and open decision-making procedures. Monitoring the ecological impacts of development projects requires strengthening of environmental governance mechanisms. Promoting sustainable practices through community involvement could be impactful. Long-term behavioural change can educate the public about conservation, climate change and responsible resource use. Green CPEC should support research, innovation and environmental programs that support sustainable development. In conclusion, by turning economic cooperation into a chance for sustainable growth, Green CPEC can be a turning point in Pakistan's climate journey. CPEC can assist Pakistan in addressing its climate vulnerabilities while fostering economic growth by placing a high priority on renewable energy, climate-resilient infrastructure, environmental protection and green employment. The other day while talking to the Chinese Ambassador Jiang Ziadong, the Prime Minister reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to advancing the second phase of CPEC but accomplishing these objectives calls for solid governance, consistent policy and a dedication to environmental responsibility. Green CPEC, if properly implemented, can help Pakistan to guarantee security and sustainability for the future generations.

<https://pakobserver.net/can-green-cpec-shape-pakistans-sustainable-climatic-future/>

Chinese Newspapers

April 01, 2026

Global Times

China, Pakistan put forward five proposals on restoring peace, stability in Gulf region and Middle East

Shen Sheng

China and Pakistan put forward five proposals on restoring peace and stability in the Gulf region and the Middle East during talks between Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi and Pakistani Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Mohammad Ishaq Dar in Beijing on Tuesday.

The proposals are immediately ceasing hostilities, initiating peace talks as soon as possible, ensuring the safety of non-military targets, ensuring the safety of navigation, and safeguarding the primacy of the UN Charter, according to Xinhua.

During the meeting, Wang said that after hosting a quadrilateral foreign ministers' meeting in Islamabad,

the Pakistani side came straight to Beijing without pause to jointly discuss how to ease tensions in the Middle East, which China welcomes.

"Pakistan's efforts to shuttle between parties to promote peace and end the fighting demonstrate its firm commitment to safeguarding regional and global peace.

The timely strategic communication between China and Pakistan on major international and regional issues and the deepening of strategic coordination embody the essence of the China-Pakistan community with a shared future.

China supports and looks forward to Pakistan playing a unique and important role in de-escalating tensions and restoring peace talks. This process will not be easy, but Pakistan's mediation efforts are in line with the common interests of all parties," Wang said.

Hours before the proposals, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Mao Ning said on Tuesday afternoon that the "two foreign ministers will step up strategic communication and coordination on the situation in Iran and other international and regional issues of mutual interest, jointly call for peace and a just position, and make new efforts to help end the conflict and bring about peace and stability in the region."

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202604/1358000.shtml>

April 02, 2026

Xinhua News

Asia-Pacific Community: CPEC's success serves as testament to unbreakable bond between Pakistan, China: official

ISLAMABAD, April 2 (Xinhua) -- The successful implementation of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) served as a strong testament to the unbreakable all-weather strategic bond between Pakistan and China, Pakistan's Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Ahsan Iqbal said.

The partnership, rooted in trust, is strengthened through cooperation and enhanced by a shared vision of prosperity, said the minister while addressing the Annual Award Ceremony for Outstanding Pakistani and Chinese Staff of CPEC Projects 2026 recently.

The event was held to recognize the exceptional contributions of professionals from both countries working across CPEC projects in Pakistan.

Highlighting the role of CPEC in driving Pakistan's economy, Iqbal said that CPEC has strengthened Pakistan's energy security, infrastructure, and connectivity, while laying the foundations of a modern economic architecture.

"CPEC is now entering the second phase, marking a strategic shift from infrastructure development to industrialization, innovation and inclusive growth," he said, expressing hope that both sides would continue to move forward with firm determination, building the upgraded Version 2.0 of CPEC into a corridor full of hope, innovation, opportunity and prosperity.

On the occasion, Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan Jiang Zaidong said that the two countries have had a good start to development since the beginning of the year, with close exchanges at all levels.

China is willing to work with Pakistan to implement the important consensus reached by the two countries' leaders, promote the detailed implementation of the action plan for building a China-Pakistan community with a shared future, and accelerate the building of the upgraded Version 2.0 of CPEC, he said.

Usama Shahzad, a representative of the award-winning Pakistani employees and security supervisor of Pak Matiari Lahore Transmission Company, said that Chinese colleagues provide much help to Pakistani employees in their daily work.

"They are like family, cooperating seamlessly. During the second phase of CPEC, Pakistani employees will be able to receive more training opportunities in cutting-edge technologies such as artificial intelligence to optimize human resources," Shahzad said.

<https://english.news.cn/asiapacific/20260402/8b65e0aee974464a8c1af35fabeb45db/c.html>

April 03, 2026

Xinhua News

15 killed as heavy rains, flash floods wreak havoc in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD, April 3 (Xinhua) -- A fresh spell of heavy rain accompanied by strong winds and thunderstorms wreaked havoc in Pakistan's Balochistan province and southern port city of Karachi, leaving 15 people dead over the last 24 hours, while causing widespread disruption and infrastructure damage.

In Balochistan, at least eight people were killed and several others injured in rain-related incidents after heavy rainfall lashed over a dozen districts of the province, according to the officials from the Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) on Friday.

The PMDA said that the rainstorms also damaged houses, infrastructures and standing crops as well as perished livestock across the province.

Separately, seven people were killed in incidents of electrocution and wall collapse during intermittent heavy showers in Karachi, said local rescue officials, adding that measures are being taken to mitigate road inundation and facilitate smooth traffic during the rainy spell.

Commissioner Karachi Syed Hassan Naqvi said that emergency camps have been set up across Karachi in anticipation of the expected rains, with administrations remaining on high alert to ensure a timely response and facilitate citizens.

Earlier, Pakistan Meteorological Department predicted heavy rains with thunderstorms in parts of the South Asian country until April 4, saying the heavy rainfall may generate flash floods, landslides and cause damage to standing crops.

<https://english.news.cn/asiapacific/20260403/ef6a6cb87ca64f998534cf976fd9719a/c.html>

April 04, 2026

Global Times

China-Pakistan joint naval exercise concludes in north Arabian Sea

The China-Pakistan "Sea Guardian IV" joint naval exercise concluded on April 1, as the Chinese People's Liberation Army's (PLA) guided-missile frigate Daqing and Pakistani naval vessels parted ways in the northern Arabian Sea, marking the end of the drills, according to CCTV News.

The exercise kicked off on March 25 and was conducted in two phases: exchanges at harbor and live sea drills. During the joint exercise, ships from both sides took turns serving as the command vessel, per the report.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202604/1358219.shtml>

April 08, 2026

China Daily

AI weather model to aid BRI nations

ZHAO YIMENG

Countries involved in the Belt and Road Initiative have expressed a strong willingness to participate in a meteorology project recently launched by China that uses artificial intelligence to improve weather forecasting amid increasingly frequent extreme weather conditions.

Kouam Magloire, head of the data processing office at Cameroon's meteorological services, said the project could provide a major opportunity for the country to strengthen its early warning systems and respond more effectively to extreme weather events.

The project, launched in March, is funded by the Ministry of Science and Technology and led by the China Meteorological Administration's Center for Earth System Modeling and Prediction.

It builds on China's MAZU early warning system, an open-source meteorological service platform already deployed in countries including Pakistan and Ethiopia to support real-time weather monitoring and disaster alerts.

Altansuvd Bold, an engineer with Mongolia's National Agency for Meteorology and Environmental Monitoring, said the country frequently experiences extreme weather events and urgently needs AI-powered nowcasting — forecasts from minutes to hours ahead — based on meteorological satellite and radar data.

Mongolia hopes to use the cooperation to build a more advanced long-term weather forecasting system, he said.

Leta Bekele Gudina, a senior expert at the Ethiopian Meteorological Institute, said China is at the forefront of meteorological forecasting and AI development.

"Ethiopia hopes to gain access to advanced technologies through the project, train local professionals and help fill the country's gap in nowcasting and early warning services," he said.

According to the China Meteorological Administration, many countries participating in the Belt and Road Initiative face rising risks from extreme weather and climate events. Between 1980 and 2022, direct economic losses from meteorological disasters in these countries averaged \$214.7 billion annually, accounting for about 28.4 percent of global losses.

Many of these nations have limited meteorological infrastructure, including sparse observation networks and insufficient computing capacity. The meteorological gap has become a key constraint on disaster preparedness and sustainable development.

To address these challenges, the project aims to develop an integrated AI-based forecasting system capable of producing predictions from short-term to sub-seasonal time scales. The

system combines physical atmospheric models with AI approaches and will be adapted for local conditions in partner countries.

An integrated intelligent forecasting device will be designed for flexible deployment in countries with different levels of technical infrastructure, according to the China Meteorological Administration.

Han Wei, the project leader, said the platform will operate for at least six months in more than six countries, with early warning services expected to reach about 10 million people.

The AI models developed through the project will be integrated into the MAZU early warning platform to provide a stable technological foundation for international services, he said.

Chen Deliang, an academic of the Chinese Academy of Sciences, said the project addresses urgent needs in Belt and Road countries while applying cutting-edge AI technology to meteorology.

Zhang Xiaoye, an academic of the Chinese Academy of Engineering, suggested further strengthening regional downscaling techniques to better meet the specific forecasting needs of partner countries.

<https://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202604/08/WS69d5b9b1a310d6866eb422de.html>

China, Afghanistan, Pakistan hold meeting in Urumqi from April 1 to 7

BEIJING -- Representatives from China, Afghanistan and Pakistan held an informal meeting from April 1 to 7 in Urumqi, northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur autonomous region, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Mao Ning said on Wednesday. Mao told a regular press briefing that members of the three delegations were from their countries' departments of foreign affairs, defense and security. They had candid and pragmatic discussions in a good atmosphere, following a problem-focused, result-oriented, and action-driven approach, said Mao.

<https://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202604/08/WS69d60e92a310d6866eb423f9.html>

China welcomes Pakistan-mediated Iran-US ceasefire

ZHAO JIA

China has welcomed the announcement that Iran and the United States have agreed to a two-week ceasefire, and voiced support for mediation efforts by countries including Pakistan.

At a regular press briefing, Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Mao Ning said China has consistently called for an end to hostilities, and for disputes to be resolved through political and diplomatic means so as to achieve lasting peace and stability in the Middle East and the Gulf region. Mao said China supports the mediation efforts undertaken by Pakistan and other countries, and that it has also made its own efforts in this regard.

<https://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202604/08/WS69d6128da310d6866eb4240e.html>

China says Afghanistan, Pakistan agree to seek early easing of tensions after Urumqi talks

China hosted a week of informal talks in Urumqi, capital of the Xinjiang Uygur autonomous region, from April 1 to 7 involving representatives from China, Afghanistan and Pakistan, Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Mao Ning said on Wednesday.

Speaking at a regular news briefing, Mao said the three delegations, made up of officials from diplomatic, defense and security departments, held candid and pragmatic discussions in a constructive atmosphere, demonstrating a problem-oriented, results-oriented and action-oriented approach.

She said the Afghan and Pakistani delegations both expressed appreciation and gratitude for China's mediation efforts and its thoughtful arrangements as host.

According to Mao, Afghanistan and Pakistan reaffirmed their commitment to resolving differences as soon as possible and putting bilateral relations back on track, and agreed not to take actions that could escalate or further complicate the situation.

China will continue to stay in communication with both sides, provide a platform for dialogue, and play a constructive role in improving and developing Afghanistan-Pakistan relations as well as advancing practical trilateral cooperation, she said.

Mao said China had taken note of the outcomes of the meeting and summarized the following understandings reached by the three sides.

Afghanistan and Pakistan reaffirmed that they are Muslim brothers and close neighbors, while all three sides agreed that, amid a turbulent international and regional landscape, maintaining good-neighborly and friendly relations between Afghanistan and Pakistan is vital to the peoples of both countries and to peace and stability in South Asia.

The three sides stressed that dialogue and consultation are a realistic and effective way to resolve complex international disputes, including the differences between Afghanistan and Pakistan.

They also agreed to explore a comprehensive solution to the problems affecting Afghanistan-Pakistan relations. China emphasized that terrorism is the core issue affecting ties between Afghanistan and Pakistan, and all three sides agreed that the Urumqi process is of substantive significance and would continue communication and dialogue.

<https://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202604/08/WS69d612c6a310d6866eb42412.html>

April 09, 2026

China Daily

Afghanistan, Pakistan laud China's mediation

Afghanistan and Pakistan have expressed "deep appreciation" for China's mediation efforts, describing Beijing as fair, impartial and fully committed, after seven days of informal talks in Urumqi, the Foreign Ministry says.

At a regular news briefing on Wednesday, ministry spokeswoman Mao Ning said representatives from the three countries met in Urumqi, capital of the Xinjiang Uygur autonomous region, from April 1 to 7. The three delegations included officials from diplomatic, defense and security departments.

Mao said that the Afghan and Pakistani sides reaffirmed, in line with the purposes and principles of the United Nations Charter and the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence, their commitment to resolving differences as soon as possible and putting bilateral ties back on track. They also agreed not to take actions that could escalate tensions or further complicate the situation.

Both sides spoke highly of China's Global Security Initiative and its security vision, particularly the emphasis on seeking common ground while shelving differences, treating all parties as equals, and resolving disputes peacefully through dialogue and consultation, she said.

China will continue to maintain communication with both sides, provide a platform for dialogue, and play a constructive role in improving Afghanistan-Pakistan relations and advancing practical trilateral cooperation, she added.

The three sides reached a series of consensuses during the talks, Mao said. They agreed to explore a comprehensive approach to addressing the problems affecting Afghanistan-Pakistan relations, with China stressing that terrorism is the central issue affecting the neighbors' ties.

All three sides agreed that the Urumqi process carries substantive significance and should remain a channel for continued communication and dialogue.

They also agreed that, amid a volatile regional and international landscape, good, neighborly relations between Afghanistan and Pakistan are vital not only to the peoples of the two countries but also to the peace and stability in South Asia.

The Urumqi talks followed months of tensions between Afghanistan and Pakistan. Border skirmishes and airstrikes have continued since February.

Defusing tensions

In recent weeks, China has used its own channels to help defuse tensions. Foreign Minister Wang Yi spoke separately by phone on March 10 with Pakistani Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Mohammad Ishaq Dar and on March 13 with Afghan counterpart Mawlawi Amir Khan Muttaqi.

The special envoy on Afghan affairs has shuttled between the two countries to promote peace talks, while Chinese embassies in both nations have remained in close communication with the two sides.

Liu Zongyi, director of the Center for South Asia Studies at the Shanghai Institutes for International Studies, said that China does not want to see tensions escalate between Pakistan and Afghanistan.

China's security vision rejects closed blocs and confrontational alliances, and instead emphasizes shared security, respect for differences, and the peaceful settlement of disputes through dialogue and consultation, Liu said.

The consensus reached at the trilateral talks will not only contribute to regional peace and stability, but also help lay the groundwork for practical economic cooperation among China, Pakistan and Afghanistan, he said.

<https://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202604/09/WS69d70050a310d6866eb42610.html>

April 12, 2026

Xinhua News

U.S., Iran hold face-to-face Islamabad talks, negotiations might be extended

ISLAMABAD, April 11 (Xinhua) -- The United States, Pakistan, and Iran on Saturday held a face-to-face trilateral meeting in Islamabad, according to Pakistani sources.

Meanwhile, media reports citing the White House said that U.S. Vice President JD Vance, U.S. special envoy Steve Witkoff and Jared Kushner were in the meeting.

Some reports said that the meeting was also attended by Pakistani Chief of Army Staff Asim Munir, and the Iranian parliament speaker Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf and Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi.

The Pakistani sources said that the meeting lasted about two hours.

U.S. and Iranian negotiating teams arrived here on Saturday for talks to end their recent hostilities in the Middle East region.

<https://english.news.cn/20260412/db7cda0c838546bca1092054aab63adf/c.html>