



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

January 01-15, 2026



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January 03, 2026

Dawn News

Dar arrives in Beijing to co-chair strategic dialogue with China

Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar on Saturday arrived in Beijing to co-chair the seventh round of the Pakistan-China Foreign Ministers' Strategic Dialogue, which is scheduled for January 4 (Sunday), the Foreign Office (FO) announced in a post on X.

In an earlier statement, the FO said the foreign minister will be the "first foreign dignitary to visit China in 2026", at the invitation of Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi, with whom he is co-chairing the dialogue.

In the X post, the FO said that Dar was received at the airport by China's Special Representative on Afghanistan, Ambassador Yue Xiaoyong, Pakistan's Ambassador to China and officials from the Pakistani Embassy.

"DPM/FM will also attend events marking the beginning of the 75th year of Pakistan-China diplomatic ties, with both countries planning initiatives and commemorative activities throughout 2026," the post added.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1964856/dar-arrives-in-beijing-to-co-chair-strategic-dialogue-with-china>

Pakistan Observer

Pentagon's security report 2025 & China's just stance

Dr Mehmood Ul Hassan Khan

THE Pentagon's latest report on China's military and security developments reflects an incongruous stance and faulty policy.

It is a combination of misinterpretations and misconceptions about China's military power over the past few years. The report continues to label China as a challenge and adversary by exaggerating its historic military buildup and fueling anxieties about the increasingly vulnerable US homeland. Additionally, it presents a purposeful duality, emphasizing that under President Trump's leadership, relations between the US and China are stronger than they have been in many years, promising to open a wider range of military-to-military communications with the PLA, providing a window into understanding the complex realities of current US-China relations. Thus, the Pentagon's new report is another effort at hyping the "Chinese military threat" theory, which has become an annual routine.

It is the first report under Trump's administration; however, it still maintains previous double standards, intentionally insisting on US military intervention in the Asia-Pacific region and portraying China's military development as a threat to Americans' security, which has no empirical evidence. Obviously, China has a peaceful defense capability, which is a legitimate measure to safeguard the security of over 1.4 billion people and every inch of its territorial sovereignty.

Comparative studies and critical analysis confirm that China's military expenditure has remained below 1.5 percent of its GDP for many years, which is lower than the world average, vividly reflecting its peaceful defense doctrine and negating the notions of Cold War mentality and hegemonic syndrome. The latest report once again highlights the failure of US policymakers to properly understand China and its peaceful defense policy, because China's purpose of building necessary defense capabilities has been transparent and consistent, which is to resolutely safeguard its legitimate rights and interests and preserve peace.

Interestingly, despite having a long land boundary and vast maritime territory, China's defense policy is defensive in nature. Moreover, strengthening national defense and military modernization seems to be a necessity in addressing complex security challenges and fulfilling its international responsibility. China's consistent stance of not seeking hegemony, expansion or spheres of influence clearly demonstrates its peaceful posturing and signaling. Evidently, the development of the Chinese military is designed to meet the basic requirements of winning a defensive war and deterring conflict. So, its military's peaceful growth equates to the country's comprehensive national power and its security obligations and international responsibilities. Certainly, it is not aimed at "benchmarking" against a certain major power.

The Pentagon report acknowledges the current US president's emphasis on stabilizing China-US relations, a positive signal that merits attention as it steers bilateral ties toward meaningful coordination, cooperation and stability while avoiding confrontational conflict, which would serve the interests of both peoples and the international community at large. Moreover, China's role as the second-largest contributor to the UN peacekeeping budget, its cumulative deployment of over 50,000 peacekeepers and maintenance of the most comprehensive range and largest number of standby forces demonstrate its international responsibility through escort operations in the Gulf of Aden, emergency assistance deliveries by Y-20 aircraft and medical services provided by the Peace Ark hospital ship. In addition, China's active participation in global security governance, advocacy of common, comprehensive, cooperative and sustainable security and commitment to dialogue underscore that its military capabilities are designed to provide global public security goods rather than pose the threat portrayed, making mutual understanding and the joint shaping of a constructive, mutually beneficial and win-win China-US relationship essential. China has consistently honored its commitment to peace and has never sought to build its own security at the expense of others. The world's peace and prosperity cannot be achieved without common development and mutual reinforcement between China and the US. The Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson, Guo Jiakun, has rightly shown strong dissatisfaction and firm opposition to the most recently announced US defense bill, pointing out that the US Fiscal Year 2026 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) hypes up the so-called China threat, interferes in China's internal affairs and undermines China's sovereignty, security and development interests.

His suggestion that the US should work with China in the same direction and jointly implement the important common understandings reached by the heads of state of the two countries during their meeting in Busan, South Korea, is the right way forward. The Chinese

government white paper entitled “China’s Arms Control, Disarmament and Non-Proliferation in the New Era”, with a full overview of China’s nuclear policy and position on nuclear disarmament, upholds its commitment to the no-first-use of nuclear weapons and a nuclear strategy that focuses on self-defense.

In summary, the Pentagon’s latest security policy is generally biased and not based on true facts, spreading mere planted fears, frictions and self-justifying its intentional involvement in the Asia-Pacific region. Its projection of China as a threat and the ongoing economic and trade talks between China and US delegations are self-contradictory and not helpful in achieving the desired goals of cooperation and competition.

On the other hand, China’s defense modernization is defensive and peace-oriented, which has nothing to do with any hegemony, expansion, aggression or onslaught against anybody in the region or beyond. Thus, peace has its own dynamics and propaganda has its own devils. Last but not least, its nuclear policy is not against any country because of its active participation in the review process of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and meetings of the P5 mechanism and it maintains dialogue with various parties on nuclear disarmament, negating all false, fake and fabricated Western propaganda.

<https://pakobserver.net/pentagons-security-report-2025-chinas-just-stance/>

January 04, 2026

Daily Times

Dar in Beijing to co-chair strategic dialogue with China

Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar on Saturday arrived in Beijing to co-chair the seventh round of the Pakistan-China Foreign Ministers’ Strategic Dialogue, which is scheduled for January 4 (Sunday), the Foreign Office (FO) announced in a post on X.

In an earlier statement, the FO said the foreign minister will be the “first foreign dignitary to visit China in 2026”, at the invitation of Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi, with whom he is co-chairing the dialogue.

In the X post, the FO said that Dar was received at the airport by China’s Special Representative on Afghanistan, Ambassador Yue Xiaoyong, Pakistan’s Ambassador to China and officials from the Pakistani Embassy.

“DPM/FM will also attend events marking the beginning of the 75th year of Pakistan-China diplomatic ties, with both countries planning initiatives and commemorative activities throughout 2026,” the post added.

The FO has said that the dialogue “will review the full spectrum of bilateral cooperation, identify new areas of partnership, and further advance the all-weather strategic cooperative partnership between Pakistan and China”.

Earlier this week, the FO had said the dialogue was the “highest consultative mechanism between Pakistan and China, providing a structured platform to review the entire spectrum of bilateral cooperation, as well as regional and international developments of mutual interest”.

It said that during the dialogue, the two foreign ministers will also announce a series of initiatives and commemorative activities to mark the 75th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries.

It had added that the visit formed an important part of the regular high-level exchanges between the two countries and reflected their shared determination to broaden and deepen their cooperative partnership, while reaffirming their mutual commitment to regional peace, stability, and sustainable development.

The sixth round of the strategic dialogue was held in Islamabad in August, with Yi visiting the capital and meeting Dar, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and President Asif Ali Zardari.

Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar started his China visit, which will last until January 5. During his visit to China, the seventh round of the China-Pakistan strategic dialogue between foreign ministers will be held.

The visit comes amid intensified high-level exchanges and reflects the growing depth of strategic coordination between the two countries. In 2025, President Asif Ali Zardari and Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif visited China successively. In August, Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi, also a member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China Central Committee, visited Pakistan and co-chaired the sixth round of the China-Pakistan Foreign Ministers' Strategic Dialogue.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1429430/dar-in-beijing-to-co-chair-strategic-dialogue-with-china/>

January 05, 2026

Business Recorder

China-Pakistan dialogue: foreign ministers review defence, trade, investment ties

Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar and Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi co-chaired the seventh round of the China-Pakistan Foreign Ministers' Strategic Dialogue, conducting a comprehensive review of bilateral relations.

According to a Joint Press Communiqué issued by the Foreign Office (FO) on Monday, both leaders engaged in an in-depth exchange on wide-ranging cooperation, spanning strategic and political ties, defence, security, trade, investment, and cultural exchanges.

During the dialogue, both sides reaffirmed their commitment to enhancing strategic communication and deepening mutual trust. They agreed to jointly safeguard common interests and promote socio-economic development within their respective countries. Furthermore, the two nations pledged to continue working together to advance peace, stability, and regional prosperity.

<https://www.brecorder.com/news/40400686/china-pakistan-dialogue-foreign-ministers-review-defence-trade-investment-ties>

China-Pakistan vow to deepen bilateral ties

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar met with China's Executive Vice Premier Ding Xuexiang in Beijing on Sunday, with both sides reaffirming their commitment to further strengthening the Pakistan-China all-weather strategic cooperative partnership.

According to a statement issued by the Foreign Office (FO), Dar met with Ding Xuexiang and other Chinese dignitaries in Beijing and the meeting focused on bilateral relations and ways to deepen cooperation between the two countries. Vice Premier Ding appreciated Pakistan's consistent support for China on issues of core interest.

Both leaders highlighted the significance of the 75th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Pakistan and China and agreed to use this milestone to develop a forward-looking vision for enhanced cooperation, particularly under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

<https://www.brecorder.com/news/40400645/china-pakistan-vow-to-deepen-bilateral-ties>

Daily Times

Pakistan-China friendship cornerstone of regional peace

Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar and his Chinese counterpart Wang Yi on Sunday termed Pakistan-China friendship "vital" for regional peace and stability as both leaders co-chaired the 7th round of the Pakistan-China Foreign Ministers' Strategic Dialogue in Beijing.

Dar reached Beijing on Saturday at Wang's invitation, primarily to co-chair the strategic dialogue.

Following the dialogue, the Foreign Office (FO) in a statement on social media platform X said: "Highlighting the salience of the All-Weather Strategic Cooperative Partnership, both leaders reaffirmed that the Pakistan-China friendship is vital for peace, stability, and prosperity in the region and for the two countries.

"They also agreed to enhance coordination at bilateral and multilateral fora," the FO added.

The two sides reviewed the entire spectrum of Pak-China relations and discussed "key issues at the regional and global levels". The FO further said views were exchanged on the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), trade, multilateral cooperation, and people-to-people exchanges.

"The two leaders also agreed to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the establishment of Pakistan-China diplomatic relations," the FO added.

In a separate post, the FO said Dar and Wang jointly unveiled the logo for the 75th anniversary of Pakistan-China diplomatic relations, "marking the start of year-long celebrations to commemorate this historic milestone in a befitting and memorable manner".

The sixth round of the strategic dialogue was held in Islamabad in August, with Yi visiting the capital and meeting Dar, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and President Asif Ali Zardari.

At the time, China had affirmed its commitment to working with Pakistan on promoting regional peace, development and stability.

Dar, who serves as the deputy prime minister as well, also held meetings with Chinese dignitaries in Beijing earlier in the day, with exchanges mainly focusing on bilateral ties, according to statements issued by the FO.

Among those Dar met was Chinese Executive Vice Premier Ding Xuexiang.

“The two sides reaffirmed their shared commitment to further deepening the Pakistan-China all-weather strategic cooperative partnership,” the FO said, adding that the Chinese executive vice premier “appreciated Pakistan’s consistent support to China on issues of core interest”.

Both leaders noted the historic significance of the 75th anniversary of diplomatic relations between their countries and agreed to utilise this milestone to chart a forward-looking vision for enhanced cooperation, including under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), the statement said.

Vice Premier Ding conveyed New Year greetings to the leadership and people of Pakistan, it added. A separate FO statement said Dar also met the minister of the International Department of the Communist Party of China (CPC), Liu Haixing.

Dar congratulated Minister Liu on the successful convening of the 4th Plenary Session of the 20th CPC Central Committee, the statement said.

It added that the two sides “expressed satisfaction with the steady and forward-looking trajectory of bilateral relations while reviewing party-to-party exchanges, regional developments, and progress on various projects under CPEC”. They also agreed to jointly commemorate the 75th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Pakistan and China in a “befitting and meaningful manner”. Dar, who is visiting Beijing at the invitation of Chinese Foreign Minister Yi, was received at the airport by China’s Special Representative on Afghanistan Ambassador Yue Xiaoyong, Pakistan’s ambassador to China and officials from the Pakistani Embassy. Apart from the Pakistan-China Foreign Ministers’ Strategic Dialogue, Dar was also set to attend events marking the beginning of the 75th year of Pakistan-China diplomatic ties, with both countries planning initiatives and commemorative activities throughout 2026, the FO previously said. The dialogue was the “highest consultative mechanism between Pakistan and China, providing a structured platform to review the entire spectrum of bilateral cooperation, as well as regional and international developments of mutual interest”. As per the FO, during the dialogue, the two foreign ministers were also to announce a series of initiatives and commemorative activities to mark the 75th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries.

It had added that the visit formed an important part of the regular high-level exchanges between the two countries and reflected their shared determination to broaden and deepen their cooperative partnership, while reaffirming their mutual commitment to regional peace, stability, and sustainable development.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1429812/pakistan-china-friendship-cornerstone-of-regional-peace/>

Dawn News

Pakistan China call for more visible verifiable actions to eliminate terrorist groups based in Afghanistan

Pakistan and China issued a joint communique on Monday calling for more “visible and verifiable” actions to dismantle and eliminate all terrorist organisations based in Afghanistan, and prevent them from using Kabul’s territory for militancy against any other country.

The joint statement came after the conclusion of the 7th round of the Pakistan-China Foreign Ministers’ Strategic Dialogue, for which Deputy Prime Minister Ishaq Dar travelled to Beijing.

“The two sides called for more visible and verifiable actions to dismantle and eliminate all terrorist organisations based in Afghanistan which continue to pose serious threats to regional and global security, and prevent terrorist organisations from using the Afghan territory for terrorism against any other country and to endanger any other country,” the statement said.

“The two sides agreed to keep in close communication and coordination on the Afghan issue, work with the international community to encourage the Afghan government to build an inclusive political framework, adopt moderate policies, focus on development, pursue good-neighbourliness, and play a constructive role in helping Afghanistan achieve stable development and integrate into the international community,” it added.

The statement also said that China commended the measures taken by Islamabad to combat terrorism and protect the safety of Chinese personnel, projects and institutions in Pakistan.

“China fully recognised the significant contributions and huge sacrifices that Pakistan made in combating terrorism over the years,” it said.

“The two sides reiterated their commitment to combating terrorism in all its forms and manifestations with zero tolerance, and agreed to further deepen all-round cooperation on counter-terrorism and security, and make concerted efforts to ensure that the China-Pakistan Belt and Road cooperation advances in a secure and smooth manner,” it said.

“Calling on the international community to strengthen counter-terrorism cooperation, the two sides expressed their firm opposition to double standards on counterterrorism,” it added.

Both countries also expressed the readiness to continue leveraging the China-Afghanistan-Pakistan trilateral foreign ministers’ dialogue and the China-Bangladesh-Pakistan cooperation mechanism to “deliver new outcomes”.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1965240/pakistan-china-call-for-more-visible-verifiable-actions-to-eliminate-terrorist-groups-based-in-afghanistan>

Pakistan China reaffirm bond amid regional tensions

ISLAMABAD: As tensions simmer in the region and further afield, Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar and his Chinese counterpart Wang Yi on Sunday termed the Pakistan-China friendship ‘vital’ for regional peace and stability as they cochaired the 7th round of the Pakistan-China Foreign Ministers’ Strategic Dialogue in Beijing.

Mr Dar arrived in Beijing on Saturday at Mr Wang's invitation, primarily to co-chair the strategic dialogue. Following the talks, the Foreign Office said in a statement: 'Highlighting the salience of the All-Weather Strategic Cooperative Partnership, both leaders reaffirmed that Pakistan-China friendship is vital for peace, stability, and prosperity in the region and for the two countries. The two sides also agreed to enhance coordination at bilateral and multilateral forums, the statement added. The two leaders reviewed the entire spectrum of Pakistan-China relations, and discussed key regional and global issues. They also exchanged views on the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), trade, multilateral cooperation and people-to-people exchanges. 75th anniversary 'The two leaders also agreed to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the establishment of Pakistan-China diplomatic relations,' the FO added. In a separate statement, the FO said Mr Dar and Mr Wang jointly unveiled the logo for the 75th anniversary of Pakistan-China diplomatic ties, 'marking the start of year-long celebrations to commemorate this historic milestone in a befitting and memorable manner'. Mr Dar, who also serves as deputy prime minister, held meetings with other Chinese officials in Beijing earlier in the day, with exchanges mainly focusing on bilateral ties. Among those he met was Chinese Executive Vice Premier Ding Xuexiang. The FO said the two leaders 'reaffirmed their shared commitment to further deepening the Pakistan-China all-weather strategic cooperative partnership', adding that Mr Ding appreciated Pakistan's consistent support for China on issues of core interest. Both leaders noted the historic significance of the 75th anniversary of diplomatic relations and agreed to utilise the milestone to chart a forward-looking vision for enhanced cooperation, including under CPEC. Mr Ding also conveyed New Year greetings to the leadership and people of Pakistan. 'Shared future' According to China's state-run Xinhua news agency, Mr Ding called for joint efforts to speed up the process of building an even closer China-Pakistan community with a shared future in the new era and to continue improving the well-being of the two peoples.

'China is willing to work with Pakistan to follow the strategic guidance of the leaders of the two countries, shore up political mutual trust and mutual support, better synergise development plans, improve quality and performance of pragmatic cooperation, and enhance communication and coordination regarding major international and regional affairs,' he added. Xinhua quoted Mr Dar as saying that Pakistan adhered to the one-China principle and was ready to use the 75th anniversary of diplomatic ties as an opportunity to further promote the all-weather strategic cooperative partnership. In another statement, the FO said Mr Dar also met Liu Haixing, minister of the International Department of the Communist Party of China. Mr Dar congratulated Mr Liu on the successful convening of the 4th Plenary Session of the 20th CPC Central Committee. The two sides expressed satisfaction with the steady and forward-looking trajectory of bilateral relations while reviewing party-to-party exchanges, regional developments and progress on various CPEC projects. They also agreed to jointly commemorate the 75th anniversary of diplomatic relations in 'a befitting and meaningful manner.

https://epaper.dawn.com/DetailImage.php?StoryImage=05_01_2026_001_006

The Express Tribune

Pakistan, China agree to align development plans, launch CPEC 2.0

Pakistan and China agreed to align their development strategies and build an upgraded version of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, known as CPEC 2.0, during wide-ranging talks in Beijing that also covered political ties, security cooperation and regional and international issues.

The Seventh Round of the Pakistan-China Foreign Ministers' Strategic Dialogue was co-chaired in Beijing on January 4 by Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi and Pakistan's Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Mohammad Ishaq Dar, who was visiting China from January 3 to January 5 at Wang's invitation, according to a joint press communiqué issued at the conclusion of the talks on Monday.

During the dialogue, the two sides exchanged views on strategic and political cooperation, defence and security, economy, trade, investment, and cultural and people-to-people exchanges. They also discussed international and regional issues of shared interest and agreed to enhance strategic communication, deepen strategic mutual trust, safeguard common interests, and promote economic and social development in both countries, as well as peace and prosperity in the region and beyond. As part of their economic engagement, Pakistan and China agreed to develop an upgraded CPEC, a pioneering project of the Belt and Road Initiative. The two sides said the new phase would focus on the key sectors of industry, agriculture and mining, promote the building and operation of Gwadar Port, ensure the smooth passage of the Karakoram Highway, and enhance Pakistan's capacity for sustainable development. They also agreed to deepen cooperation in trade and investment, information technology, science and technology, cybersecurity, technical and vocational training and education, and people-to-people and cultural exchanges. The two sides stated that the year-round opening of the Khunjerab Pass would facilitate two-way trade and further strengthen people-to-people contacts. They also welcomed third-party participation in CPEC cooperation in accordance with the modalities agreed by both countries. The dialogue took place as Pakistan and China announced plans to launch commemorative activities in 2026, marking the 75th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations. Both sides reiterated that they are all-weather strategic cooperative partners and reaffirmed their commitment to strengthening high-level exchanges and implementing the Action Plan to Foster an Even Closer Pakistan-China Community with a Shared Future in the New Era (2025–2029). The two sides also reaffirmed mutual support on issues concerning their respective core interests and expressed readiness to further strengthen cooperation in areas including counter-terrorism, finance and banking, space cooperation and multilateral forums.

The next round of the China-Pakistan Foreign Ministers' Strategic Dialogue will be held in Islamabad next year on mutually convenient dates, the communiqué said.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2585552/pakistan-china-agree-to-align-development-plans-launch-cpec-20>

January 06, 2026

Business Recorder

Trans-boundary water resources cooperation: Pakistan China signal readiness

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and China signaled their readiness to cooperate in developing trans-boundary water resources, based on the principles of equality and mutual benefit, while underscoring the importance of fulfilling international legal obligations. “The two sides expressed readiness to conduct trans-boundary water resources cooperation under the principle of equality and mutual benefit, and emphasized the imperative of fulfilling international legal obligations,” said the Joint Press Communiqué issued by Pakistan’s Foreign Office on Monday. The joint statement came after the conclusion of the 7th round of the Pakistan-China Foreign Ministers’ Strategic Dialogue, for which Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar travelled to Beijing. The two neighbours also called for “more visible and verifiable actions” to dismantle and eliminate all terrorist organizations based in Afghanistan, which continue to pose serious threats to regional and global security. Terrorist organizations must be prevented from using the Afghan territory for terrorism to endanger any other country, they demanded.

<https://www.brecorder.com/news/40400819/trans-boundary-water-resources-cooperation-pakistan-china-signal-readiness>

The Nation

Pakistan, China oppose any unilateral actions in South Asia

Shafqat Ali

ISLAMABAD - Pakistan and China on Monday reaffirmed their unyielding support for each other on issues concerning their respective core interests. The commitment was underscored in a joint communiqué issued following the Seventh Round of China–Pakistan Foreign Ministers’ Strategic Dialogue, co-chaired by Deputy Prime Minister Ishaq Dar and Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi in Beijing.

According to the communiqué, China reiterated its steadfast support for Pakistan in safeguarding its sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity. China supported Pakistan in firmly combating terrorism and playing a bigger role in international and regional affairs. Pakistan reaffirmed its firm commitment to the one-China principle, and reiterated that Taiwan is an inalienable part of China’s territory. Pakistan also firmly supported China on issues concerning Xinjiang, Xizang, Hong Kong and the South China Sea.

They reiterated to further promote their ironclad ties, deepen mutually beneficial cooperation, and continue to strengthen strategic cooperation to break new ground and set new goals in their All-weather Strategic Cooperative Partnership.

During the dialogue, the two sides announced the launch of commemorative activities this year celebrating the 75th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between

China and Pakistan, emphasizing this will serve as an opportunity to consolidate China-Pakistan friendship and expand new areas of cooperation.

The two sides reiterated that China and Pakistan are All-weather Strategic Cooperative Partners enjoying ironclad friendship and strategic mutual trust. It was noted that the sound and robust growth of China-Pakistan relations is of great strategic significance for regional peace, stability and development.

At the strategic dialogue, China commended the comprehensive measures taken by Pakistan to combat terrorism and protect the safety of Chinese personnel, projects and institutions in Pakistan. China fully recognised the significant contributions and huge sacrifices that Pakistan made in combating terrorism over the years.

The two sides reiterated their commitment to combating terrorism in all its forms and manifestations with zero tolerance, and agreed to further deepen all-round cooperation on counter-terrorism and security, and make concerted efforts to ensure that the China-Pakistan Belt and Road cooperation advance in a secure and smooth manner.

The two sides agreed to further align their development plans and priorities, and build an upgraded version 2.0 of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), which is a pioneering project of Belt and Road Initiative.

They agreed to focus on the three key sectors of industry, agriculture and mining, promote the building and operation of the Gwadar Port, ensure the smooth passage of the Karakoram Highway, and enhance Pakistan's capacity for sustainable development. The two sides will deepen cooperation in areas such as trade and investment, information technology, science and technology, cybersecurity, technical and vocational training and education, and people-to-people and cultural exchanges. They welcomed third-party participation in CPEC cooperation that conforms to the modalities set by China and Pakistan.

The two sides agreed to further strengthen cooperation in the financial and banking sectors, including extending mutual support at regional and international multilateral financial forums.

Both the countries expressed satisfaction at their expanding space cooperation and for the expected early entrance of Pakistani astronauts into the China Space Station. They agreed to explore space in a peaceful and mutually beneficial manner for greater economic and social development and prosperity.

The two sides emphasised the importance of a South Asian regional order underpinned by the U.N. Charter, international law, and the basic norms governing international relations. They reiterated opposition to any unilateral actions, and reaffirmed the significance of maintaining peace and stability in South Asia and the necessity of resolving all outstanding disputes through dialogue and consultation.

China reiterated that 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 reaffirmed their commitment to the purposes and principles of the U.N. Charter, their support for multilateralism and free trade, and their opposition to hegemonism, bullying behaviours violating national sovereignty of other countries, the forming of “small circles” and bloc confrontation.

The two sides agreed to keep in close communication and coordination on the Afghan issue, work with the international community to encourage the Afghan government to build an inclusive political framework, adopt moderate policies, focus on development, pursue good-neighborliness, and play a constructive role in helping Afghanistan achieve stable development and integrate into the international community.

The two sides called for more visible and verifiable actions to dismantle and eliminate all terrorist organizations based in Afghanistan which continue to pose serious threats to regional and global security, and prevent terrorist organizations from using the Afghan territory for terrorism against any other country.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/06-Jan-2026/pakistan-china-oppose-unilateral-actions-south-asia>

January 07, 2026

Pakistan Observer

BRI, New World Order and Latin America

Dr Mehmood Ul Hassan Khan

The Chinese Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) has once again come into the spotlight with the emergence of the “New World Order,” which seeks to control territories, resources and energy sources while bypassing the so-called rule-based world order primarily through the UN, Security Council, WTO, World Bank and IMF.

Simultaneously, the BRI has emerged as a defining pillar of China’s global shared prosperity and one of Xi Jinping’s four global initiatives, transforming countries, communities and enterprises around the world. It enjoys staunch support from the Global South and has become the largest source of FDI, socio-economic integration and trans-regional connectivity across South Asia, Central Asia, the Middle East, Africa and Latin America. However, the West’s hegemonic pressures threaten to compromise the BRI’s pace, scope and utility during 2026 and beyond.

The BRI has not only facilitated physical connectivity through roads, railways and ports but also cultivated a new political and diplomatic architecture where mutual respect and shared prosperity define engagement. Developing nations have thus repositioned themselves as equal partners in global politics, forging stronger alliances and asserting influence in multilateral platforms. Significantly, China’s approach emphasizes respect for national sovereignty and domestic political structures. Nations long subjected to Western financial paternalism have found a partner in China willing to engage without imposing ideological conformity.

Comparative studies reveal that the BRI’s socio-economic and political dividends in Latin America are equally profound. Venezuela, facing sanctions and political isolation from

Western powers, has found China a reliable economic and political partner. Chinese investments in Venezuela's oil industry, financial aid and infrastructure development have helped maintain political stability despite external pressures. Unfortunately, Venezuela has become a target of "Trumpnomics," ruthlessly protecting US national interests while violating international law, diplomacy, dialogue and development norms. Brazil has also deepened diplomatic engagement with China, coordinating on climate change, trade policy and other global issues.

The new rules of engagement, consent, concessions and contacts have thus been rewritten under the dominance of Western imperialist powers. The recent arrest of Venezuelan President Maduro under the rebirth of the Donroe Doctrine undermines law-based international systems. Prominent security experts suggest that Trump's actions—bombing Venezuela and abducting Maduro—are part of a broader US imperialist plan to impose hegemony in Latin America, control the region's natural resources (oil, gas, critical minerals, rare earths) and establish a supply chain that excludes China. This assault forms part of a wider US strategy in Latin America, invoking the 202-year-old Monroe Doctrine, updated as the "Donroe Doctrine," to exploit Venezuela's resources and cut the region's ties with China, Russia and Iran.

The Donroe Doctrine also serves as a warning to other left-wing governments in Latin America, including Cuba, Nicaragua, Brazil and Colombia, signaling US strategic preferences. A US takeover of Venezuela could dismantle regional integration efforts in organizations like ALBA and CELAC, threatening the unity of the Global South during 2026 and beyond. The Trump administration's 2025 National Security Strategy explicitly outlines the US goal of imposing hegemony across the Western Hemisphere, clearly invoking the Monroe Doctrine as justification.

Meanwhile, the BRI has increasingly focused on Latin America, reshaping the region's geo-economic landscape. Since its formal inclusion in 2017, Latin America has become a critical frontier, reflecting China's recognition of the region's strategic importance and development potential. Over the past eight years, the BRI has launched around 200 projects across Latin American nations, addressing infrastructure and connectivity gaps through investments in highways, public transport, energy transmission and specialized projects such as Argentina's deep space tracking station.

This direct Chinese investment provides a significant alternative to traditional lenders like the IMF or World Bank, opening new avenues for development financing. Beyond physical infrastructure, the BRI has fostered partnerships in science and technology, integrating Latin American countries into high-tech global networks. Currently, 21 Latin American countries have engaged with the BRI through MOUs, including key economies such as Chile, Argentina, Peru and Venezuela, with Colombia expressing interest in joining.

Despite these achievements, the writer expresses serious concerns about the BRI's effectiveness, productivity and progress in Latin America following Venezuela's corporate-style collapse. This represents a paradigm shift affecting the socio-economic, geopolitical and geostrategic landscapes of countries including Venezuela, Cuba, Colombia, Brazil, Chile and Peru. Chinese policymakers must revisit their BRI strategies in Latin America, as the fall of

Venezuela signals a new international order curtailing China's BRI, global supply chains, the expansion of the Global South and Xi's global initiatives during 2026 and beyond.

The reprioritization of trans-regional connectivity, economic ties, industrial and political cooperation faces serious threats. Economic globalization, constructive international cooperation, openness, digitalization and qualitative development will encounter significant obstacles. Latin America thus emerges as a dual-edged sword: a source of vital investment and technological collaboration, yet a catalyst for re-evaluating alliances and navigating complex global power shifts. Chinese policymakers must, therefore, reassess their socio-economic, geopolitical and geostrategic priorities in the region.

In conclusion, the rebirth of the Donroe Doctrine and the "America Again First" policy under Trump will have serious spillover effects on China, the Global South and the BRI. The US Administration's corporate memo reflects an anti-international law, anti-equitable world order and anti-sovereignty stance, directly impacting the BRI. The pursuit of energy resources—oil, gas and rare earth metals—will be set back, affecting BRI projects and regional economic integration. Careful strategic recalibration is essential for China to safeguard its investments, partnerships and influence across Latin America in this evolving global order.

<https://pakobserver.net/bri-new-world-order-and-latin-america/>

CPEC 2.0: Transforming Challenges into Green Opportunities

Zahid Maqsood Sheikh

CPEC has always been seen as a major opportunity for Pakistan, offering a path to economic prosperity through infrastructure development, energy solutions and industrial growth.

However, its journey has been far from smooth and while some progress has been made, the expectations from its early promises have yet to be fully realized. The hope, however, lies in the second phase of the project, often referred to as CPEC 2.0, which aims to build on the lessons learned from the first phase and address the challenges that have slowed down its success.

The first phase of CPEC was undeniably ambitious. The project aimed to connect Pakistan to global markets, enhance energy security and provide long-term infrastructure benefits. However, CPEC 2.0 represents a critical pivot, a move away from just building infrastructure to driving industrial growth, technology transfer and export-led development. This shift is significant because it aligns with Pakistan's economic needs in the current global context. CPEC 2.0 promises a more holistic, sustainable approach, incorporating green energy, renewable technologies and job creation, ultimately aiming to make Pakistan less reliant on external factors like imports and energy imports.

In the past, the project was criticized for placing a heavy debt burden on Pakistan, leading to concerns about the country's ability to manage the loans taken for infrastructure development. This financial strain was compounded by delays in several key projects that were supposed to transform the country's economy. Some of the Special Economic Zones (SEZs), a critical part of the CPEC vision, have either been underdeveloped or stuck in the

planning phase for too long, causing frustration, particularly in regions like Balochistan, which had high hopes for job creation and industrial development.

The issues in the initial phase were not just financial. Governance problems, such as a lack of coordination between departments and political instability, further delayed progress. These inefficiencies slowed down the implementation of the projects, leaving many of them unfinished or delayed far beyond their projected timelines. While these issues are undeniable, they also highlight the need for stronger governance and greater transparency in managing such large-scale initiatives. To move forward, Pakistan must strengthen its institutions and create a clearer, more efficient decision-making process that enables rapid project execution.

Security challenges, particularly in Balochistan where attacks on Chinese nationals and labourers created uncertainty, combined with geopolitical tensions and opposition to Gwadar Port and routes through disputed territories, significantly slowed CPEC's progress and made foreign investors cautious. These hurdles highlighted the urgent need for stronger governance, greater transparency and efficient project management. CPEC 2.0 provides Pakistan an opportunity to address these issues directly, ensuring that future phases are implemented more securely, transparently and effectively, restoring investor confidence and enabling smoother project execution.

With CPEC 2.0, Pakistan is set to embark on a more inclusive and sustainable path. This new phase places a significant emphasis on industrial cooperation, technology transfer and export-led growth, which is what Pakistan needs to transition from a resource-based economy to an industrialized, export-driven economy. It is no longer just about roads and energy plants, it is about creating an ecosystem that promotes manufacturing, innovation and technology exchange.

One of the most exciting aspects of CPEC 2.0 is its focus on green development. Pakistan, which has long relied on coal and other non-renewable resources, is beginning a shift to renewable energy. The focus on solar power, wind energy and hydropower projects will not only help Pakistan reduce its reliance on imported fuels but will also make its energy infrastructure more resilient and sustainable. Projects like the Quaid-e-Azam Solar Park and Jhang Wind Power Project are just the beginning, with plans for much larger capacity additions. This renewable energy transition will help Pakistan build a greener future while reducing its carbon footprint.

This emphasis on green industrialization is not just a trend, it is a critical part of Pakistan's development strategy. With energy-efficient manufacturing, eco-friendly factories and sustainable infrastructure, Pakistan is positioning itself as a competitive destination for green industries. By aligning industrial growth with environmental conservation, Pakistan can attract global investors who are increasingly focusing on sustainable business practices. This shift toward cleaner, smarter industries will be key to ensuring that Pakistan not only grows but grows responsibly.

CPEC 2.0 offers tangible opportunities for Pakistan to boost its manufacturing sector, create jobs and increase exports. The new focus on sectors like electric vehicles, solar manufacturing, pharmaceuticals, agriculture and textiles will expand Pakistan's industrial

base. The partnership with China will provide capital, technology and management expertise to jump-start these industries. By prioritizing export-oriented growth, Pakistan can reduce its \$27 billion trade deficit and improve its global market position.

In addition to boosting exports, CPEC 2.0 can strengthen Pakistan's logistics sector. With Gwadar Port as a critical hub, the country can act as a trade conduit between China, Central Asia and the Middle East, improving regional connectivity and expanding trade routes. This regional trade potential offers Pakistan the promise of becoming a key player in the global trade network.

To achieve this, Pakistan must address security challenges that held back the first phase. Ensuring stability, particularly in Balochistan and other sensitive regions, is crucial for creating an environment where investment can thrive. Governance and transparency must also be a priority. Clear structures, better coordination and accountable decision-making are essential to ensure that CPEC projects are executed efficiently and benefits reach all regions.

CPEC 2.0 emphasizes renewable energy, expanding solar, wind and hydro projects to reduce reliance on coal and other non-renewables, creating a more resilient and energy-independent Pakistan. Beyond energy, it promotes sustainable, technology-driven industries, enabling a shift from an import-driven to a self-sufficient, manufacturing-focused economy that generates jobs, reduces the trade deficit, strengthens logistics and ensures a smarter, greener and more inclusive economic transformation for all Pakistanis.

<https://pakobserver.net/cpec-2-0-transforming-challenges-into-green-opportunities/>

The Express Tribune

Pakistan to set up special unit in Islamabad to protect Chinese citizens

Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi on Wednesday announced the establishment of a special protection unit in Islamabad to ensure the security of Chinese citizens, calling their safety a top priority for Pakistan.

Naqvi made the announcement during a visit to the headquarters of China's Ministry of Public Security, where he was received by Chinese Interior Minister Wang Xiaohong. The two held a three-and-a-half-hour meeting covering Pakistan-China relations, counterterrorism cooperation, police training exchanges and other areas of mutual interest.

Both sides agreed that the joint working group on internal security would meet every three months, while interior ministers from the two countries would hold annual meetings. They stressed the need to improve coordination to further strengthen bilateral cooperation.

Xiaohong expressed satisfaction over measures taken by Pakistan to protect Chinese citizens and praised Islamabad's efforts in counterterrorism and internal security. He said China views Pakistan's sacrifices in the war against terrorism with great respect.

The two ministers also agreed to further strengthen the joint rapid response system against terrorism and crime. Discussions included sister city initiatives between Islamabad and Beijing, as well as a joint strategy to improve the training and professional skills of police and security personnel.

Naqvi highlighted the importance of exchanging experience and information between police and security institutions through training programmes. He briefed his counterpart on steps taken to ensure the security of Chinese nationals and joint projects.

“We have taken strong measures at all levels to ensure the security of Chinese citizens and joint projects,” Naqvi said, adding that a special protection unit was being set up in Islamabad for this purpose.

He said Pakistan would welcome Chinese cooperation in preventing cybercrime and intends to use Chinese support to strengthen the capacity of the National Cyber Crime Investigation Agency. He added that AI-based Chinese technologies could help Pakistan address counterterrorism and broader security challenges.

“Pakistan and China share an unbreakable bond of enduring cooperation, and no one can create a wedge between us,” Naqvi said, expressing his desire to further expand cooperation to protect mutual interests.

Naqvi invited Xiaohong to visit Pakistan, while the Chinese interior minister invited him to participate in the Global Security Cooperation Forum in China this September. Xiaohong said he was pleased to welcome the Pakistani minister at the start of 2026 and reaffirmed China’s readiness to enhance bilateral cooperation at all levels. He also hosted a luncheon in honour of Naqvi and his delegation.

Chinese officials present included Vice Ministers Xu Datong and Yu Xiuhe, Beijing Deputy Mayor and Director General of the Beijing Public Security Bureau Cen Yuanbiao, Director General of the Ministry of Public Security General Office Guo Kan, Director General of the Counter-Terrorism Department Gao Qiu, and Director General of the International Cooperation Department Wang Yong.

Pakistani officials included Federal Secretary Interior Khurram Agha, Pakistan’s Ambassador to China Khalil Hashmi, Director General of the National Police Academy Muhammad Idrees, Director General of the National Cyber Crime Investigation Agency Syed Khurram Ali, Chief Commissioner Islamabad Muhammad Ali Randhawa and Islamabad Police Inspector General Ali Nasir Rizvi.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2585915/pakistan-to-set-up-special-unit-in-islamabad-to-protect-chinese-citizens>

January 08, 2026

Daily Times

Pakistan to set up special unit to protect Chinese citizens

Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi on Wednesday said a Special Protection Unit (SPU) is being established in the federal capital specifically for protection of Chinese nationals.

Naqvi said this while briefing his Chinese counterpart on the steps taken for security of Chinese in the country, stating that the protection of Chinese nationals and joint interest projects is a top priority.

Earlier, the security czar arrived at the headquarters of the Chinese Ministry of Public Security, where he was warmly welcomed by Chinese Minister of Public Security Wang Xiaohong and his delegation.

During a three-and-a-half-hour meeting, the two ministers discussed Pak-China bilateral relations and joint counter-terrorism measures. Detailed talks were held on enhancing cooperation in counter-terrorism, police training exchange programmes, and areas of mutual interest.

Both sides agreed to hold joint working group meetings every three months and an annual meeting at the interior ministers' level. The Chinese public security minister expressed satisfaction with the measures taken for the protection of Chinese citizens and projects in Pakistan, thanking Naqvi and his team.

Xiaohong lauded Pakistan's efforts in internal security and stated that China highly values Pakistan's sacrifices in the war against terrorism.

The two leaders agreed to make the joint rapid response system against terrorism and crime more effective.

Naqvi noted that Chinese AI-based technology could significantly assist in tackling security challenges. He welcomed Chinese cooperation in preventing cybercrimes and expressed a desire to benefit from Chinese expertise to enhance the capacity of the National Cyber Crimes Investigation Agency (NCCIA).

The interior minister invited his Chinese counterpart to visit Pakistan and conveyed best wishes from President Asif Ali Zardari and Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif for the Chinese leadership. The Chinese minister invited Naqvi to attend the Global Security Cooperation Forum in China this September. Xiaohong remarked that Pakistan and China are strategic partners and expressed great pleasure in welcoming the Pakistani delegation at the start of 2026.

The meeting was attended by senior Chinese officials, including deputy interior ministers Su Detong and Yu Shuhuo, and the deputy mayor of Beijing. The Pakistani delegation included Federal Interior Secretary Khurram Agha, Ambassador Khalil Hashmi, and the inspector generals of the National Police Academy and Islamabad Police.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1431376/pakistan-to-set-up-special-unit-to-protect-chinese-citizens/>

The Nation

China offers AI technology to Pakistan

ISLAMABAD - Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi on Wednesday visited the headquarters of China's Ministry of Public Security, where he was warmly received by Chinese Interior Minister Wang Xiaohong and senior officials.

The two counterparts held an extensive three-and-a-half-hour meeting, discussing bilateral relations, counterterrorism cooperation, police training exchanges, and coordination in areas of mutual interest. Both sides agreed to strengthen institutional mechanisms and improve

operational coordination. According to officials, Pakistan and China reached consensus on holding a Joint Working Group meeting every three months, while the interior ministers of both countries will meet once a year. The ministers emphasized the need to enhance coordination to further promote bilateral cooperation. Chinese Interior Minister Wang Xiaohong expressed satisfaction with Pakistan's security measures for Chinese nationals and development projects. He thanked Mohsin Naqvi and his team, praising Pakistan's efforts on internal security and counterterrorism. He said China valued Pakistan's sacrifices in the fight against terrorism and viewed them with great respect. Both sides agreed to make joint and rapid-response mechanisms against terrorism and crime more effective, and to expand the scope of police training and exchange programmes. The two ministers also discussed matters related to Islamabad–Beijing sister-city cooperation and agreed on developing a joint strategy to strengthen training and professional capacity of police and security personnel.

Mohsin Naqvi stressed the importance of exchanging expertise and information through training programmes. He briefed the Chinese side on Pakistan's enhanced security arrangements for Chinese nationals, calling their protection a "top priority."

"We have taken strong measures at all levels to ensure the security of Chinese citizens and joint projects," Naqvi said, adding that a special protection unit was being established in Islamabad for this purpose. He welcomed Chinese cooperation to curb cybercrimes and said Pakistan sought support from Chinese institutions to strengthen the National Cyber Crimes Investigation Agency.

Naqvi added that China's AI-based technology could greatly assist Pakistan in tackling terrorism and emerging security challenges. "Pakistan and China share an unbreakable bond of enduring cooperation, and no one can create a wedge between us," he said.

The interior minister also invited his Chinese counterpart to visit Pakistan, and conveyed goodwill messages from President Asif Ali Zardari and Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif to the Chinese leadership.

Chinese Interior Minister Wang Xiaohong invited Naqvi to attend the Global Security Cooperation Forum scheduled in China in September. He reaffirmed that China and Pakistan are strategic partners and expressed pleasure at welcoming the Pakistani minister at the start of 2026, noting China's readiness to expand bilateral cooperation at all levels. Wang also hosted a luncheon in honour of the visiting delegation.

Senior Chinese officials present included Vice Ministers Xu Datong and Yu Xiuhe, Beijing Deputy Mayor and Director General of the Beijing Public Security Bureau Cen Yuanbiao, DG General Office Guo Kan, DG Counterterrorism Department Gao Qiu, and DG International Cooperation Wang Yong.

From the Pakistani side, Federal Interior Secretary Khurram Agha, Pakistan's Ambassador to China Khalil Hashmi, DG National Police Academy Muhammad Idrees, DG National Cyber Crimes Investigation Agency Syed Khurram Ali, Islamabad Chief Commissioner Muhammad Ali Randhawa, and Islamabad IGP Ali Nasir Rizvi attended the meeting.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/08-Jan-2026/china-offers-ai-technology-pakistan>

January 10, 2026

Daily Times

Pak-China ties growing stronger despite changing circumstances: Dar

Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar said that over the past 75 years, Pakistan and China have firmly upheld a tradition of mutual respect, trust, and cooperation, and that despite changing global circumstances, the “iron-clad friendship” between the two countries has continued to deepen.

In a recent interview with People’s Daily Online, he noted that 2026 will mark the 75th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Pakistan and China.

Ishaq Dar said that the two countries have always strongly supported each other on core interests and major issues, while steadily implementing the important consensus reached by the leadership of both sides through close cooperation in areas including the economy and industrial development.

He added that in the new era, efforts are being accelerated to build a China-Pakistan community with a shared future.

According to Ishaq Dar, the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is entering a new phase of high-quality development, and both sides are placing special emphasis on building a “corridor of people’s well-being.”

He said that agriculture is one of the cornerstone industries of Pakistan’s economy, and in recent years companies from both countries have achieved positive results through cooperation in crops such as chili peppers, rapeseed (mustard/canola), and sesame. Meanwhile, many Pakistani agricultural products have gained access to the Chinese market.

He noted that these developments are significant for enabling Pakistani farmers to integrate into regional value chains and increase their incomes.

He further explained that in 2025, Pakistan launched a training program for 1,000 agricultural experts in China, under which two batches were sent to China to understand its experience in agricultural innovation and systematically learn modern agricultural skills.

Ishaq Dar said that in the next phase, both countries hope to further deepen cooperation across the entire agricultural value chain under the CPEC framework, which will help transform and upgrade Pakistan’s agriculture sector.

Ishaq Dar said that close cooperation between Pakistan and China in industry and technology is delivering direct benefits to the Pakistani people.

He noted that Chinese solar photovoltaic equipment, electric vehicles, and electric motorcycles have entered the Pakistani market, making daily life and work more convenient for the public.

He added that Chinese companies have also established manufacturing units in Pakistan, creating opportunities for industrial upgrading. According to him, in areas where

infrastructure is weak and energy costs are high, China's new energy technologies are generating new hope for public welfare.

Speaking about cooperation in the space sector, he said that Pakistan and China have jointly launched nine satellites to date, covering areas such as communications, earth observation, remote sensing, and lunar missions. He added that it is expected that a Pakistani astronaut will visit the Chinese space station this year. One success after another in China-Pakistan space cooperation reflects a "trustworthy, reliable, and enduring partnership" between the two countries in the space domain.

Ishaq Dar said that China's prospects for economic development are vast. In 2026, China will begin its 15th Five-Year Plan, and its high-quality development and high-level opening-up are attracting global attention.

He said Pakistan is eager to further strengthen cooperation with China and learn from China's experience in modernization.

Commenting on the global situation, the Deputy Prime Minister said that amid a complex and rapidly changing international environment, the four initiatives proposed by President Xi Jinping have received broad recognition from the international community.

He said these initiatives offer far-sighted solutions to the major challenges facing the world today and are important for regional and global stability, long-term development, and building a community with a shared future for mankind.

He pointed out that in September 2025, the two countries issued the Action Plan for Building a China-Pakistan Community with a Shared Future in the New Era (2025-2029), and that both sides will further strengthen practical cooperation under this framework.

He said that Pakistan and China are all-weather strategic cooperative partners, and that Pakistan has always provided unwavering support to China on issues related to its core interests.

He stated that Pakistan's position is clear: Taiwan is an inalienable part of China, and Pakistan will firmly adhere to the One-China policy.

He added that countries in the region should oppose all forms of interference in each other's internal affairs and refrain from actions that escalate tensions or undermine mutual trust. According to him, promoting dialogue and cooperation, prioritizing development, and fostering a stable environment are essential for regional peace and stability, and will provide a solid foundation for lasting peace, shared development, and common prosperity in Asia and the world.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1432587/pak-china-ties-growing-stronger-despite-changing-circumstances-dar/>

The Express Tribune

CPEC entering next phase, says FM

BEIJING: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister (DPM/FM) Ishaq Dar has said the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is entering a new phase of high-quality development, with Islamabad and Beijing now prioritising the creation of a "corridor of people's well-being".

In a recent interview with People's Daily Online, Dar noted that 2026 will mark the 75th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Pakistan and China.

The DPM/FM said over the past 75 years, Pakistan and China have firmly upheld a tradition of mutual respect, trust, and cooperation, and that despite changing global circumstances, the "iron-clad friendship" between the two countries has continued to deepen.

He observed that the two countries have always strongly supported each other on core interests and major issues, while steadily implementing the important consensus reached by the leadership of both sides through close cooperation in areas including the economy and industrial development.

He added that in the new era, efforts are being accelerated to build a China-Pakistan community with a shared future. According to Dar, the CPEC is entering a new phase of high-quality development, and both sides are placing special emphasis on building a "corridor of people's well-being." He said that agriculture is one of the cornerstone industries of Pakistan's economy, and in recent years companies from both countries have achieved positive results through cooperation in crops such as chili peppers, rapeseed (mustard/canola), and sesame. Meanwhile, many Pakistani agricultural products have gained access to the Chinese market. He noted that these developments are significant for enabling Pakistani farmers to integrate into regional value chains and increase their incomes.

He further explained that in 2025, Pakistan launched a training programme for 1,000 agricultural experts in China, under which two batches were sent to China to understand its experience in agricultural innovation and systematically learn modern agricultural skills.

Dar said that in the next phase, both countries hope to further deepen cooperation across the entire agricultural value chain under the CPEC framework, which will help transform and upgrade Pakistan's agriculture sector. Ishaq Dar said that close cooperation between Pakistan and China in industry and technology is delivering direct benefits to the Pakistani people. He noted that Chinese solar photovoltaic equipment, electric vehicles, and electric motorcycles have entered the Pakistani market, making daily life and work more convenient for the public. He added that Chinese companies have also established manufacturing units in Pakistan, creating opportunities for industrial upgrading. According to him, in areas where infrastructure is weak and energy costs are high, China's new energy technologies are generating new hope for public welfare.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2586375/cpec-entering-next-phase-says-fm>

January 14, 2026

Business Recorder

Job fair for Pakistani students professionals in China

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's embassy in Beijing, in collaboration with the China Overseas Development Association and China International Intellectech Group Co., Ltd., organized on Sunday a Job Fair for Pakistani students and professionals in China.

According to statement issued by the Pakistani embassy, the event generated strong engagement, with nearly 2,000 participants joining on site and online. A total of 372 Pakistani candidates registered, including close to 100 who took part

in the on-site initial interviews conducted by representatives of leading Chinese State-Owned Enterprises.

This marked the first Embassy-led initiative designed to directly link Chinese enterprises with Pakistani professionals trained in China. The participating State-Owned Enterprises, among the largest Chinese investors in Pakistan, represented sectors including energy, infrastructure, engineering, and allied industries.

Addressing the gathering, Ambassador Khalil Hashmi, Pakistan's envoy in Beijing, described the job fair as a pilot initiative aimed at identifying and facilitating employment of Pakistani professionals in Chinese overseas projects. He underscored that Pakistanis educated in China combine technical competence with Chinese language proficiency and cultural fluency, positioning them strongly for supervisory and middle management roles.

<https://www.brecorder.com/news/40402035/job-fair-for-pakistani-students-professionals-in-china>

Pakistan Observer

CPEC: Pakistan Before the Corridor, Under It, and Without It

Zahid Maqsood Sheikh

Before the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) was conceived, Pakistan's economy was constrained by structural weaknesses that had persisted for decades.

Economic growth was inconsistent, infrastructure investment insufficient, and industrial expansion repeatedly disrupted by energy shortages. While policymakers acknowledged these challenges, the country lacked both the fiscal space and long-term planning capacity to undertake projects of transformative scale. This was the context in which CPEC emerged, not as a luxury, but as an attempted solution to long-standing bottlenecks.

In the years prior to CPEC, Pakistan's infrastructure deficit was severe. According to World Bank estimates, logistics costs in Pakistan were nearly double those of comparable regional economies, eroding competitiveness and discouraging investment. The railway system, once central to national integration, had deteriorated into an inefficient and loss-making enterprise,

carrying less than five percent of total freight. Urban congestion and poor intercity connectivity further reduced productivity.

The most damaging constraint, however, was energy. By 2013, Pakistan was experiencing electricity shortfalls of up to 5,000 megawatts. Load shedding of eight to twelve hours a day had become routine, particularly for industry. The Planning Commission estimated that power shortages alone were shaving nearly two percent off annual GDP growth. Factories closed, investment stalled, and exporters lost contracts to more reliable regional competitors.

Foreign direct investment reflected this fragility. Net FDI averaged under two billion dollars annually between 2008 and 2013, with most inflows concentrated in telecom and extractive sectors rather than manufacturing. Regional inequality deepened as economic activity remained concentrated in a few urban centers, while Balochistan, southern Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, and interior Sindh remained largely disconnected from national growth. This was the baseline from which CPEC was launched.

CPEC promised something Pakistan had rarely experienced, coordinated, long-horizon investment linked to a regional economic strategy. The corridor aimed to address energy shortages, modernize transport infrastructure, and reposition Pakistan as a trade and transit hub connecting China, Central Asia, and the Middle East. Between 2015 and 2020, CPEC-related power projects added over 7,000 megawatts to the national grid, significantly easing load shedding and restoring a degree of industrial stability.

Transport infrastructure also improved. New motorways reduced travel time between major cities, lowered freight costs, and improved access to previously isolated regions. Gwadar Port, while still operating below potential, entered global strategic and commercial discussions in a way no Pakistani port had before. These developments were not insignificant. They altered both capacity and perception.

Yet CPEC also exposed Pakistan's institutional weaknesses. Infrastructure development moved faster than governance reform. Roads were completed before regulatory frameworks matured, power plants came online before energy pricing and distribution were fixed, and financing was secured more easily than coordination between federal and provincial governments.

Special Economic Zones, intended to anchor industrial relocation and export growth, have faced challenges in full realization. However, they have laid a strong foundation for future development. As of 2024, while many SEZs are still in the early stages, they have the potential to attract private investment and generate employment in the coming years.

This imbalance created visible assets but delayed economic returns. While total public debt cannot be attributed to CPEC alone, repayment obligations coincided with broader fiscal stress, reinforcing public concern. More importantly, the expected spillover benefits, particularly exports, technology transfer, and employment, did not materialize at the scale or speed originally projected. Security challenges compounded these difficulties. In Balochistan, local grievances, weak communication, and the absence of meaningful economic inclusion turned development into a source of tension. Attacks on infrastructure and personnel increased costs and slowed progress, highlighting the risks of pursuing growth without social

anchoring. This raises the inevitable counterfactual. What if CPEC had never been conceived?

Without CPEC, Pakistan would not have remained static, but growth would almost certainly have been slower and more uneven. Energy shortages would likely have persisted longer, prolonging industrial stagnation and discouraging investment. Infrastructure development would have continued in a fragmented manner, constrained by fiscal limitations and political cycles. Pakistan would have relied more heavily on short-term external financing rather than long-term planning.

Regional connectivity would have remained largely aspirational. Trade with China would still have expanded, but without the strategic depth and scale provided by the corridor framework. Pakistan would have remained more dependent on traditional export markets and remittances, postponing difficult decisions on industrial diversification and productivity. Regional inequality would likely have widened further, reinforcing social and political fault lines.

At the same time, the absence of CPEC might have forced a more direct confrontation with governance failures. Without a large external anchor, pressure could have mounted for domestic reform in taxation, energy pricing, and state-owned enterprise restructuring. In that sense, CPEC may have eased immediate constraints while delaying necessary internal adjustments. The lesson is not that CPEC was either a failure or a panacea. It was a tool, powerful but imperfect, dependent on domestic capacity to use it effectively. Pakistan's mistake was not entering CPEC, but assuming that infrastructure alone could substitute for reform. Corridors do not create competitiveness. Policies do. Ports do not generate exports. Firms do. Energy capacity does not ensure growth unless pricing, regulation, and productivity are aligned. CPEC 2.0 must therefore be judged not by kilometers of road or megawatts installed, but by outcomes. Export growth, industrial clustering, job creation, and regional inclusion are the real metrics of success. This requires a shift from construction to coordination, from loans to local value creation, and from symbolic projects to measurable results. Pakistan today stands at a crossroads shaped by CPEC, but not defined by it. The corridor changed the terrain, but the journey ahead remains a choice. Whether CPEC becomes a foundation for sustainable growth or a missed opportunity will depend less on external capital and more on Pakistan's own capacity to govern, reform, and include. History will not ask whether CPEC was offered. It will ask how Pakistan used it. As I conclude this series of articles on CPEC for "Pakistan Observer", it's clear that CPEC has undoubtedly made an impact on Pakistan's economy. However, the pace of progress has not met the expectations many had hoped for, and this lag is not due to external factors but rather our own shortcomings. With this analysis, I believe the debate on CPEC should now come to a close and our focus should shift towards ensuring the successful completion of the project. It is possible that we may someday witness the launch of CPEC 3.0, but even then, we must maintain our optimistic outlook and continue striving for progress. Our goal should remain clear: to propel Pakistan forward and unlock its full potential.

<https://pakobserver.net/cpec-pakistan-before-the-corridor-under-it-and-without-it/>

BRI, Global South and New World Disorder: A Way Forward

Dr Mehmood Ul Hassan Khan

Many international organizations and leading security experts have expressed grave concerns about the emergence of a new world disorder that poses direct threats to the Global South, President Xi Jinping's global initiatives of development, security, civilization and governance, and particularly China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).

Recent developments vividly reflect this disorder, marked by naked power politics, unilateralism, economic protectionism, and attempts to contain China. The reported US actions and threats against Venezuela, Cuba, Brazil, and Iran exemplify a world order driven by coercion rather than rules. In this environment, BRI projects are likely to face growing pressure beyond 2026 across Latin America, the Arabian Gulf, Afghanistan, Iran, South Asia, Central Asia, and the Asia-Pacific. In South Asia, Afghanistan has once again emerged as a hub of international terrorism, gravely affecting Chinese investments and strategic plans. Targeted attacks on Chinese workers and investors—particularly those involved in mining and infrastructure—have raised serious alarms. These developments challenge China's vision of transforming Afghanistan from a war economy into an economy of connectivity, productivity, and participation. BRI's prospects in Afghanistan appear increasingly fragile due to clandestine alliances involving regional and extra-regional actors. Alleged links between RAW, TTA, TTP, Israeli-affiliated networks, and militant groups such as BLA, MB, FS, and IS-KP have intensified security risks. These evolving threats necessitate a strategic reassessment by Chinese policymakers, including the diversion of financial and logistical resources toward safer and more reliable corridors—particularly under CPEC Phase 2.0—to safeguard regional and global supply chains. Iran presents another critical challenge. Ongoing large-scale protests across more than 100 cities pose short- and long-term risks to Chinese investments under BRI.

Any externally driven regime-change scenario would be devastating for regional stability and for China's long-term economic plans. Moreover, the imposition of additional tariffs on Iran's trading partners threatens to marginalize China's vision of a sustainable Middle Corridor. With Chinese investments in Iran estimated at over US\$420 billion, the need for contingency planning and a viable Plan B has become urgent. In Central Asia—particularly Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan—incidents involving terrorism, the killing of Chinese workers, and attacks on Chinese companies have raised serious concerns regarding the continuity of BRI projects. At the same time, emerging arrangements such as the US–EU–Japan-backed C5+ framework and the US-led C5+ partnership have introduced new strategic constraints. These developments are likely to undermine the security and viability of Chinese investments in the region beyond 2026, further strengthening the case for accelerating CPEC Phase 2.0. South Asia also presents mixed prospects. In countries such as Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Nepal, and the Maldives, worsening socio-economic pressures, shifting geopolitical alignments, and India's growing hegemonic ambitions have slowed the pace and scope of BRI. These trends threaten China's long-term strategic interests. It is therefore imperative for China and Pakistan to jointly develop a comprehensive and coordinated roadmap to

operationalize CPEC Phase 2.0, countering external pressures and ensuring sustainable regional connectivity.

The US President's threat to withdraw from dozens of UN-affiliated organizations adds another destabilizing dimension, with serious socio-economic and geopolitical implications for the Global South and for China-led development initiatives, particularly the BRI. Despite these challenges, the BRI remains a historic achievement. Over the past decade, it has evolved from a vision into the world's largest international cooperation platform, with unparalleled geographic reach. However, the emerging world disorder seeks to encircle China's economy, industries, investments, and supply chains, posing structural challenges to the initiative.

The BRI remains aligned with the goal of building a global community with a shared future. Yet the world is undergoing transformations unseen in a century—changes that directly affect China, the Global South, and the sustainability of the BRI. Comparative studies show that the BRI has provided the Global South with a tangible pathway out of poverty and underdevelopment since 2013. According to the World Bank, BRI infrastructure projects have increased trade among participating countries by 4.1 percent and raised GDP in low-income countries by 3.4 percent.

From 2012 to 2021, the GDP share of emerging and developing economies rose by 3.6 percentage points—an outcome that underscores BRI's developmental value. Nevertheless, growing anti-China narratives and strategic countermeasures demand serious reassessment.

The evolving world disorder is unstable, fragmented, and largely rules-agnostic. It undermines Xi's global initiatives and threatens the BRI through contested narratives, regional disparities, fragmented technological ecosystems, and emerging battlefields involving rare earths, critical minerals, semiconductors, AI, and digital infrastructure.

The broader geopolitical landscape reveals deepening governance failures, erosion of multilateralism, widening geopolitical rivalries, and selective adherence to international norms. These dynamics weaken shared prosperity, global economic stability, and efforts to build a law-based international order founded on sovereignty, equity, and inclusive development—particularly beyond 2026. Ongoing conflicts in Ukraine, Gaza, Yemen, Sudan, Somalia, Nigeria, and other regions, combined with the paralysis of the UN Security Council, breakdown of arms control regimes, and weaponization of emerging technologies, demonstrate the collapse of the old order without a viable replacement. This volatility threatens China's macroeconomic stability, digital transformation, AI-driven modernization, and BRI-led connectivity.

The strategic weakening of Central Asian Middle Corridors—due largely to sustained Western pressure on Russia—raises further concerns, especially with the emergence of initiatives such as the C5+US Rare Earth Partnership. Meanwhile, selective humanitarian responses and double standards in global crises further erode trust in the existing order.

The Global South's refusal to align fully with Western positions on Ukraine, Gaza, and Venezuela reflects widespread dissatisfaction with power-based diplomacy and normative inconsistency.

In conclusion, Chinese policymakers must adopt heightened vigilance and deeper regional engagement to protect BRI investments and projects amid the emerging world disorder. Pakistan—China’s iron-clad partner with unmatched geographic and strategic advantages—must play a central role in this effort. Together, both countries should fast-track CPEC Phase 2.0 by launching mega projects in digitalization, AI, green technologies, hybrid agriculture, quality industrialization, modernization, and trans-regional connectivity to ensure resilience, sustainability, and shared prosperity in an increasingly turbulent world.

<https://pakobserver.net/bri-global-south-and-new-world-disorder-a-way-forward/>

Chinese Newspapers

January 04, 2026

Xinhua News

Chinese vice premier calls for closer China-Pakistan community with shared future

BEIJING, Jan. 4 (Xinhua) -- Chinese Vice Premier Ding Xuexiang met with Pakistani Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Mohammad Ishaq Dar in Beijing on Sunday, calling for joint efforts to accelerate the building of an even closer China-Pakistan community with a shared future in the new era and continue to improve the well-being of the two peoples.

Hailing the iron-clad friendship between China and Pakistan that has grown stronger over time, Ding, also a member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China Central Committee, said the two countries' leaders reached new, important common understandings regarding further development of bilateral ties in meetings held last year.

China is willing to work with Pakistan to follow the strategic guidance of the leaders of the two countries, shore up political mutual trust and mutual support, better synergize development plans, improve quality and performance of pragmatic cooperation, and enhance communication and coordination regarding major international and regional affairs, Ding said.

Noting that upholding friendly relations with China stands as the cornerstone of Pakistan's foreign policy, Dar said Pakistan adheres to the one-China principle, and is willing to take the 75th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic ties as an opportunity to promote the continuous development of the all-weather strategic cooperative partnership between Pakistan and China.

<https://english.news.cn/20260104/bc72e0c680954234ac2a18b2e5910468/c.html>

January 05, 2026

People's Daily

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<https://en.people.cn/n3/2026/0105/c90000-20410138.html>

Xinhua News

Full text: Joint Press Communiqué of the Seventh Round of China-Pakistan Foreign Ministers' Strategic Dialogue

BEIJING, Jan. 5 (Xinhua) -- The Seventh Round of China-Pakistan Foreign Ministers' Strategic Dialogue was held in Beijing on Sunday. Both sides issued a joint press communiqué on Monday.

Please see the attachment for the full text of the press communiqué.

<https://english.news.cn/20260105/1eaa84bbc2754ec5bc1023f8cc5aa5c3/c.html>

January 08, 2026

People's Daily

China's police chief meets with Pakistan's minister for interior, narcotics control

Chinese State Councilor and Minister of Public Security Wang Xiaohong met on Wednesday with Syed Mohsin Raza Naqvi, Pakistan's Minister for Interior and Narcotics Control.

Wang said that China stands ready to work with Pakistan to thoroughly implement the important consensus of the two countries' leaders, strengthen exchanges at all levels, and crack down on terrorism as well as on telecommunications and online fraud.

He added that China is willing to work with Pakistan to deepen cooperation in personnel, projects, institution security and law enforcement capacity building, so as to jointly tackle risks and challenges of all kinds, uphold the two countries' national security and social stability, and contribute to building an even closer China-Pakistan community with a shared future in the new era.

Naqvi said Pakistan is ready to deepen law enforcement and security cooperation with China, and will take further measures to protect the safety of Chinese personnel, projects and institutions in Pakistan.

<https://en.people.cn/n3/2026/0108/c90000-20411671.html>

People'sDaily

75 years of an iron-clad friendship between China and Pakistan

Zamir Ahmed Awan

On May 21 this year, Pakistan and China will mark the 75th anniversary of the establishment of their formal diplomatic relations—a milestone that few bilateral relationships in the contemporary world can match in depth, consistency, and resilience. The recent unveiling of the official logo for this historic anniversary by Pakistan's Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Mohammad Ishaq Dar and Member of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee and Minister of Foreign Affairs Wang Yi is more than a ceremonial gesture. It is a powerful reminder of a relationship that has grown stronger with time, weathered global upheavals, and emerged as a rare example of principled, all-weather friendship in an increasingly transactional world.

In an era where international relations are largely defined by shifting interests, short-term calculations, and conditional partnerships, the China–Pakistan relationship stands apart. It is not merely interest-based; it is trust-based. It is not confined to one sector or one government; it is multidimensional, people-centric, and enduring. Above all, it is rooted in mutual respect, sovereign equality, and unwavering support—without hidden conditions or material calculations.

A relationship forged in history and tested by time

Pakistan was among the earliest countries to recognize the People's Republic of China in 1950, laying the foundation for a friendship that would gradually evolve into one of the most comprehensive bilateral partnerships in modern diplomacy. Formal diplomatic relations were established on May 21, 1951, at a time when China was still finding its place in the international system. Pakistan's early and principled support helped cement mutual trust that continues to define the relationship today.

Over the decades, China and Pakistan have stood by each other through regional wars, political transitions, economic challenges, and global realignments. From Pakistan's consistent support for the one-China principle to China's steadfast backing of Pakistan's sovereignty, territorial integrity, and core interests, the relationship has never wavered. This consistency is precisely what makes the friendship exceptional.

The phrase "higher than the mountains, deeper than the oceans, stronger than steel, and sweeter than honey" may sound poetic, but it accurately captures the emotional and strategic depth of China-Pakistan ties. It is a relationship that has matured organically, guided not by compulsion but by conviction.

An all-dimensional partnership

One of the defining strengths of China-Pakistan relations is its truly all-dimensional character. Political trust forms its backbone, but the partnership extends far beyond diplomacy. Cooperation spans economic development, infrastructure, defense, science and technology, education, culture, health, and people-to-people exchanges.

The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), a flagship project of China's Belt and Road Initiative, is perhaps the most visible symbol of this partnership. Yet CPEC is not merely a collection of roads, power plants, and ports; it is a shared vision of connectivity, prosperity, and regional integration. By addressing Pakistan's long-standing infrastructure and energy deficits, CPEC has laid the groundwork for sustainable development and inclusive growth.

Equally important is defense and security cooperation, which has contributed to regional stability and mutual confidence. This cooperation is not directed against any third country but is rooted in legitimate defense needs and shared concerns about peace and security.

Cultural and educational exchanges have further deepened the relationship. Thousands of Pakistani students study in Chinese universities, while Confucius Institutes and cultural centers in Pakistan promote language learning and mutual understanding. These interactions ensure that the friendship is not confined to state institutions but is embedded in society itself.

A friendship beyond interests

What truly distinguishes China-Pakistan relations from most global partnerships is its non-transactional nature. In a world governed by realpolitik, alliances often shift when interests diverge. The China-Pakistan friendship, however, has consistently transcended immediate gains.

China has supported Pakistan during times of economic difficulty without imposing political conditions. Pakistan, in turn, has supported China on issues of core national interest without

hesitation. This mutual support is not driven by opportunism but by a shared belief in fairness, sovereignty, and non-interference.

This is why the relationship is often described as a "role model" for state-to-state relations. It demonstrates that international partnerships can be built on trust, equality, and long-term vision rather than coercion or exploitation.

People-to-people bonds: the soul of the relationship

While governments may change and policies may evolve, the true strength of China–Pakistan friendship lies in the bond between their peoples. In Pakistan, China is viewed not just as a strategic partner but as a sincere friend. In China, Pakistan enjoys a uniquely positive image as a trusted and reliable partner.

These sentiments are reinforced through humanitarian assistance during natural disasters, medical cooperation, cultural festivals, tourism, and academic collaboration. Ordinary citizens in both countries see tangible evidence of friendship in their daily lives—be it through infrastructure projects, educational opportunities, or cultural exchanges.

Such people-to-people connectivity ensures that the relationship is deeply rooted and self-sustaining. It is not dependent on personalities or political cycles; it is carried forward by shared experiences and mutual goodwill.

Facing and defeating conspiracies

It is no secret that in recent years, some external forces have attempted to undermine China–Pakistan relations through misinformation, propaganda, and covert destabilization efforts. These attempts stem from discomfort with an independent, sovereign partnership that does not conform to hegemonic designs.

Yet every such effort has failed—and will continue to fail. The reason is simple: the China–Pakistan friendship is not superficial. It is anchored in history, tested by adversity, and reinforced by the will of the people. No conspiracy can weaken a bond that is built on trust, mutual respect, and shared destiny.

Both countries have shown maturity and strategic patience in addressing challenges, refusing to be provoked or distracted. Their commitment to cooperation, dialogue, and development remains unshaken.

A vision for the future

As Pakistan and China enter the next phase of their relationship, the focus is not only on celebrating past achievements but also on shaping a shared future. The year-long celebrations marking the 75th anniversary—through high-level exchanges, cultural events, trade exhibitions, and public diplomacy—are an opportunity to renew commitments and explore new areas of cooperation.

Emerging sectors such as green development, digital economy, innovation, agriculture modernization, and public health offer vast potential for collaboration. At a time when the world faces climate change, economic uncertainty, and geopolitical fragmentation, China and Pakistan can jointly contribute to stability, development, and multilateral cooperation.

Their partnership aligns with broader global aspirations for peace, connectivity, and shared prosperity. It reflects the spirit of win-win cooperation and a shared future for mankind—principles that resonate far beyond bilateral ties.

An eternal friendship

75 years is a significant milestone, but in the context of China–Pakistan relations, it feels less like a conclusion and more like a continuation of an enduring journey. The friendship is traditional, time-tested, and, above all, eternal.

As the official logo for the 75th anniversary symbolizes, the China–Pakistan relationship is not confined to the past; it points confidently toward the future. It reassures both nations that no matter how the international landscape changes, their bond will remain firm.

In celebrating this platinum jubilee, Pakistan and China are not only honoring their shared history—they are reaffirming a powerful truth: that genuine friendship between nations is still possible, and when it is built on trust, respect, and the will of the people, it can withstand any test of time.

The China–Pakistan friendship is not just a bilateral success story. It is a message to the world.

<https://en.people.cn/n3/2026/0108/c90000-20412023.html>

January 09, 2026,

People's Daily

Expats hail China's 14th Five-Year Plan transformations through firsthand experiences

Michael Oduro

Over the past five years, China has focused on high level opening-up, innovation, green development, and digital transformation, setting the stage for a more sustainable and tech-driven future. These shifts resonate not only with locals, but also with expats who have made China their home, many of whom have witnessed tangible changes firsthand, from the rise of smart cities to breakthroughs in artificial intelligence.

Mamisoa Rakotoarivony, a Malagasy language expert with nearly a decade in China, reflected on the transformations tied to the 14th Five-Year Plan (2021-2025). "When I first arrived, mobile payments and online shopping were just starting to gain traction," he recalled. "Now, it's hard to imagine life without them. Whether it's paying for a cup of coffee or getting groceries delivered, everything is done with a few taps on your phone."

This digital leap is a key outcome of the 14th Five-Year Plan, which emphasized the importance of innovation and technology to boost economic and social development.

Bashiru Mohammed, a Ghanaian business professional who has lived in China for the past eight years, decided to start his business after completing his master's degree in 2019. He saw

the high volume of foreign visitors to China as a valuable opportunity to tap into a thriving market.

Mohammed commended China's openness to foreign business, highlighting that industries in China have made it easier and more affordable to engage in trade, even for countries like Ghana. "The business environment is very open. Without China, we would still think that producing and shipping goods to countries like Ghana would be costly. But Chinese industries have made it easier for every country to engage in trade," he said.

Mohammed shared that the business environment has become more accessible, attributing the improvements to advancements in logistics, e-commerce platforms, and payment systems that have made it easier to run his business. "The business environment became more open. It's now easier to access ports for exports, and the Chinese e-commerce apps are more accessible," he explained.

This progress aligns with the 14th Five-Year Plan's goal of modernizing China's digital economy and improving the ease of doing business through digital infrastructure.

Amna Munawar, a Pakistani foreign language expert who has lived in China for more than a decade, highlighted the notable advancements in China's public transport system while discussing the five-year plan's impact on daily life. "Public transport has undergone significant modernization, making it much easier to navigate major cities like Beijing. From my experience, it's become far more efficient, with the introduction of new routes and enhanced services," she noted.

She believes China's five-year plans are both forward-looking and practical, as they focus not only on economic growth but also on improving the quality of life of citizens and non-citizens altogether. "The emphasis on innovation, education, digital transformation, and environmental sustainability is impressive," she said.

Andy Mok, a university professor and a senior research fellow at the Center for China and Globalization, lauded China's technological advancements, saying "China's advancements in AI, robotics, and electric vehicles have been incredibly exciting. These technologies are not just shaping China's future but have a significant role in shaping global markets and influencing international relations."

One of the most noticeable impacts of the 14th Five-Year Plan, he believes, has been the modernization of infrastructure—especially in transportation and urban planning. "Beijing's advancements in subway systems and public transportation are just one example," Mok said.

"The 14th Five-Year Plan has solidified China's position as a global leader in technology, and this will only grow in the coming years as innovation in AI and robotics continues to expand," he added.

Sinkinesh Atale Gebre, an Ethiopian language expert with 10 years in China, reflected on China's increasing openness to foreigners, highlighting the welcoming environment, accessible education, business opportunities, and research resources.

"China is more peaceful, convenient, and welcoming for foreigners. I feel at home here, and I miss Beijing when I go back to my country. Living here is peaceful and without worries," Gebre said.

Looking ahead, the expats expressed optimism for the 15th Five-Year Plan, anticipating more policies supporting green development, technological innovation, and high-level openness, as well as deeper cooperation among Belt and Road countries in the Global South.

As China enters the 15th Five-Year Plan period (2026-2030), strong anticipation surrounds the nation's continued advancement as a global leader. With an emphasis on sustainable development, technological innovation, and international collaboration, the 15th Five-Year Plan promises to further solidify China's role on the world stage, fostering deeper connections with the rest of the world and strengthening its position as a key driver of global progress.

<https://en.people.cn/n3/2026/0109/c90000-20412495.html>

January 11, 2026

Global Times

**In a turbulent world, China's diplomacy stands out as a refreshing current:
Global Times editorial**

Less than two weeks into 2026, the international landscape has grown even more turbulent. "Bad news" is dominating global headlines, seemingly signaling a year fraught with volatility and anxiety. Yet this is not the full picture of today's world. Some foreign media have noted that in the first two weeks of 2026 alone, diplomatic events at home and the Chinese foreign minister's overseas visits have spanned Northeast Asia, South Asia, Europe, North America and Africa. With unprecedented breadth and depth, China's diplomacy has set the tone for the new year.

From hosting Pakistan's deputy prime minister and foreign minister to a South Korean president's state visit after a nearly nine-year hiatus; from the Irish taoiseach's five-day visit to China to the Canadian prime minister's upcoming China trip, and the Chinese foreign minister's Africa tour at the start of the year - now in its 36th consecutive year - a series of intensive, high-level diplomatic engagements has traced a clear and consistent theme: deepening global partnerships based on equality and mutual benefit, while firmly upholding international fairness and justice. By providing certainty through its own actions, China is injecting much-needed stability and positive energy into a restless world.

China's neighborhood remains the top priority of its overall diplomacy. At the very beginning of the year, in-depth high-level interactions between China and Pakistan, as well as between China and South Korea, set the tone for neighborhood diplomacy - stabilizing relations, building trust and advancing cooperation. On January 3, a Pakistani delegation visited China for the Seventh Round of China-Pakistan Foreign Ministers' Strategic Dialogue, which also kicked off the commemoration of the 75th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries. The all-weather strategic cooperation between China and

Pakistan has become an important stabilizing factor for the region and beyond. On January 4, South Korean President Lee Jae-myung began a visit to China, during which the two sides signed 15 cooperation documents and jointly sent a strong message opposing protectionism and upholding the outcomes of World War II. This not only signifies a new start for China-South Korea relations, but also makes a positive contribution to peace and stability in Northeast Asia.

China's diplomacy not only pays great attention to its neighborhood, but it also expands globally. Irish Taoiseach Micheál Martin arrived in China on January 4, with a focus on aligning development strategies in emerging fields such as artificial intelligence, the digital economy, and pharmaceutical and health industries. As an important member of the European Union and the rotating presidency holder in the second half of the year, Ireland has clearly expressed its willingness to play a constructive role in promoting the healthy development of China-EU ties, injecting momentum for their revival. Meanwhile, Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney announced he would visit China this week, reflecting the warming of China-Canada relations and the international community's general recognition of China's open market and the dividends of stable development.

This year marks the 70th anniversary of diplomatic relations between China and Africa. China's foreign minister visited Ethiopia, Tanzania and Lesotho. Lesotho, as one of the countries that have been most severely impacted by high US tariffs, has benefited from "zero tariff" treatment from China, which reflects China's firm commitment to supporting and assisting other developing countries.

Some Western scholars point out that today's world is increasingly chaotic and disordered, with some countries eager to engage in "small circles" and bloc confrontations, and certain major powers placing domestic law above international law. In contrast, China's diplomacy has consistently focused on managing its own affairs and providing opportunities for the world through its high-quality development.

2026 marks the beginning of the 15th Five-Year Plan. Recently, several mainstream international media outlets have made positive forecasts about China's economic prospects. With China implementing more incremental policies to expand domestic demand and accelerate high-level opening-up, the Chinese economy is expected to maintain stable and sustainable growth. The high stability of society and the predictability of economic development are the sources of confidence in China's diplomacy.

It is undeniable that some conflicts continue around the world, and humanity is entering a period of systemic problems. However, China views its development as intertwined with the development of the world. Some netizens have remarked, "While the world is in chaos, China is busy mending." This perspective reflects a simple truth: China can only do well when the world is doing well; when China does well, the world will get even better.

The diplomatic initiatives at the beginning of 2026 represent China's concrete actions in practicing the concept of a community with a shared future for humanity and new international relations. These actions demonstrate to the world that Chinese diplomacy values both righteousness and interests, with righteousness taking precedence. Chinese modernization will not follow the historical path of great powers engaging in plunder and expansion but is committed to closely aligning the interests of the Chinese people with those of people around the world to achieve common development. In the face of a complex and

interwoven international situation, Chinese diplomacy is playing a pivotal role amid changes unseen in a century with greater strategic determination, a more proactive stance, and more diverse approaches.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202601/1352904.shtml>

January 13, 2025

Global Times

Indonesia, Pakistan reportedly discuss potential JF-17 fighter jet deal; talks highlight international recognition of China-Pakistan co-developed aircraft: expert

Liu Xuanzun and Liang Rui

Indonesia and Pakistan are closing in on a defense deal involving JF-17 fighter jet jointly developed by China and Pakistan, Reuters reported on Monday, citing sources. A Chinese expert said on Tuesday that JF-17 is an outstanding warplane with advanced radar and weapon systems, and foreign interest reflects that it is gaining more international recognition. Indonesia's Defense Minister Sjafrie Sjamsoeddin met Pakistan's Air Force Chief Marshal Zaheer Ahmed Baber Sidhu in Islamabad, Pakistan to discuss a potential deal that includes the sale of combat jets and killer drones to Jakarta, Reuters quoted three security officials with knowledge of the meeting as saying. One source said the talks revolved around the sale of JF-17 jets, a multi-role combat aircraft jointly developed by Pakistan and China, and drones designed for surveillance and striking targets, according to the report. The other two sources said the talks were in an advanced stage and involved more than 40 JF-17 jets. One of them said Indonesia was also interested in Pakistan's Shahpar drones. The sources did not share any discussions about delivery timelines and the number of years a proposed deal would span, but the two sides confirmed the meeting, Reuters reported. Wang Ya'nian, chief editor of the Beijing-based Aerospace Knowledge magazine, told the Global Times on Tuesday that the JF-17 fighter jet has attracted more foreign interest, primarily due to its outstanding performance. The JF-17 is a top-level fourth generation fighter jet that has kept receiving upgrades to its radar, weapons and communications systems, while maintaining a considerably low procurement cost, he noted. Another reason behind the growing foreign interest in China-Pakistan co-developed weapons and equipment could be the air clash between Pakistan and India in May 2025, in which they demonstrated their capabilities in actual combat, Wang said. The JF-17 is not the only type of Chinese warplane Indonesia is considering procuring. In October 2025, the Indonesian Defense Minister reportedly said that the country would procure China's J-10 fighter jets. When asked to confirm the information, Zhang Xiaogang, a Chinese Defense Ministry spokesperson, said at a press conference on October 30 that the Chinese side takes a prudent and responsible attitude towards export of military products. "We are willing to share the latest achievements of equipment modernization with peace-loving countries, and jointly maintain peace and stability of the region and beyond," Zhang said.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202601/1353083.shtml>