



For Better Understanding on China–Pakistan and CPEC

Gleanings from the National & Chinese Press

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June 17, 2026

Pakistan Observer

CPEC 2.0: Between Vision and Execution

Zahid Maqsood Sheikh

The idea of a young Pakistani engineer commuting to a modern energy-efficient industrial zone or farmers using smart agriculture tools to improve yields captures the promise often associated with the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) 2.0. It is an appealing vision: a shift from roads and power plants to a more diversified, innovation-driven economy.

Yet the real question is not whether this vision is attractive but whether Pakistan has the institutional capacity, policy consistency and economic stability required to translate ambition into outcomes.

CPEC's first phase focused largely on infrastructure, highways, energy projects and transport links. It helped address critical energy shortages and improved connectivity. However, it also left behind important questions about debt sustainability, uneven regional benefits and delayed industrial spillovers.

CPEC 2.0, in contrast, is being framed as a shift toward industrial cooperation, agriculture modernization, renewable energy and digital technologies. In theory, this second phase is meant to move Pakistan closer to export-led growth and value-added production. But transitions of this scale are never automatic.

The central promise of CPEC 2.0 is the development of Special Economic Zones (SEZs) and industrial clusters that can attract investment and generate employment. The underlying assumption is straightforward: better infrastructure leads to industrial growth, which in turn drives exports.

However, Pakistan's industrial history suggests that infrastructure alone is not enough. Weak governance in SEZ implementation, regulatory uncertainty and inconsistent energy pricing have often discouraged long-term investor confidence.

China's own industrial transformation is frequently cited as a model. It is true that infrastructure development played a key role in China's rise. But equally important were long-term policy consistency, export discipline and strong state capacity in managing industrial policy—elements that remain uneven in Pakistan's context.

The lesson is not replication but adaptation. Agriculture remains Pakistan's largest employer, contributing significantly to GDP. Yet productivity levels remain low compared to regional competitors. Post-harvest losses, weak storage systems and fragmented supply chains continue to reduce farmer incomes and export potential.

CPEC 2.0's emphasis on agricultural modernization, including logistics, cold storage and processing, addresses real structural gaps. If implemented effectively, such reforms could shift agriculture from subsistence and raw output toward value-added exports. However, agriculture reform is less about technology import and more about institutional coordination,

water governance, land productivity and market access reforms. Without these, technological investment risks remaining fragmented and underutilized.

Renewable energy, particularly solar, wind and hydropower, is another central pillar of CPEC 2.0. Pakistan's dependence on imported fossil fuels has long strained external accounts and energy pricing stability.

Diversification toward cleaner energy is, therefore, not just environmental policy; it is a macroeconomic necessity. Yet energy transition also requires grid modernization, regulatory reform and long-term pricing stability. Previous phases of CPEC energy projects showed that capacity addition alone does not resolve systemic inefficiencies in distribution and transmission. Without structural reforms in the energy sector, new investments may face the same bottlenecks as earlier projects.

Increasing attention is being given to digital technologies and artificial intelligence as future growth drivers. China's leadership in AI presents potential opportunities for collaboration in training, research and industrial application.

However, Pakistan faces a significant skills and infrastructure gap in this area. Limited investment in STEM education, low research output and weak industry-academia linkages could constrain meaningful participation in the digital economy. Bridging this gap will require sustained investment in human capital rather than isolated technology partnerships. Across all sectors—industry, agriculture, energy and technology—one factor consistently determines outcomes: governance.

CPEC 2.0 may provide capital, infrastructure and strategic cooperation, but its success ultimately depends on domestic execution capacity. Delays in project completion, policy inconsistency and institutional fragmentation remain key risks.

Recent discussions on China-Pakistan cooperation have also highlighted that economic progress cannot be separated from stability and security. Investment-led transformation requires a predictable environment where long-term projects can operate without disruption. As noted in broader strategic discussions, sustained instability not only raises financial risk but also undermines the very foundation of industrial cooperation and human capital exchange between the two countries. In this sense, economic corridors are as dependent on governance and security architecture as they are on infrastructure spending.

At the same time, the emerging global AI divide presents a new challenge for developing economies. Countries that fail to integrate artificial intelligence into education, industry and governance risk falling further behind in global competitiveness. Cooperation in AI development between China and Pakistan offers an opportunity to narrow this gap, but only if it is matched with domestic preparedness, digital infrastructure and skilled workforce development. Without this alignment, technology transfer risks remaining symbolic rather than transformative.

CPEC 2.0 represents a shift in ambition from connectivity to transformation, from infrastructure to industrialization and from energy security to economic diversification. But transformation is not defined by plans alone. It is defined by execution.

Pakistan's challenge is not a lack of vision but the ability to translate large-scale initiatives into sustained economic productivity. Without reforms in governance, education, regulatory consistency and institutional coordination, even the most well-designed framework risks underperformance.

CPEC 2.0 can indeed become a platform for long-term structural change, but only if ambition is matched by discipline. Otherwise, it risks remaining another promising idea constrained by familiar limitations.

<https://pakobserver.net/cpec-2-0-between-vision-and-execution/>

From Corridor to Catalyst: Embedding National Priorities in CPEC 2.0

Dr Mehmood Ul Hassan Khan

During the 75th anniversary celebrations of Pak-China diplomatic relations, both nations recommitted to accelerating CPEC 2.0. Yet, a stark disconnect persists between these pledges and Pakistan's national priorities.

Our economic, fiscal, industrial, investment, social export policies are not aligned to support the revival of this mega-project. Consequently, extreme poverty is resurging, social development and industrial growth have stalled, foreign direct investment is derailed, policy continuity remains absent damaging the early start of CPEC 2.0.

The neglect of health, education, people's welfare community development is glaring. This stems from flawed policies and a disintegration of coordination among the Planning Commission, the URRAN program, the Ministry of Finance, the Board of Investment (BOI), the SECP the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP). Their conflicting targets and mismanagement send mixed, confusing signals to both the local business community and foreign investors, turning CPEC 2.0 into a playground for bureaucratic turf wars that delay its commencement and completion.

The federal Budget 2026-2027 starkly illustrates this reality. It announced a massive Rs3.675 trillion in development allocations, yet contains hardly any new uplift projects. CPEC 2.0, the sole new initiative listed, received a meagre allocation of Rs1 billion. This token amount vividly reflects our true national priorities. Despite lofty rhetoric, the budget does not support or facilitate an early initiation of CPEC 2.0 a deeply ominous sign.

The government and its policymakers must immediately revisit their approach and focus on tangible economic development instead of building castles in the air. Austerity campaigns ring hollow when contrasted with the physical pomp of big protocols, motorcades security umbrellas.

Unfortunately, anti-people and anti-business conduct, the lust for unlimited discretionary powers, the worship of non-professionalism, and reliance on cheap marketing and media stunts have already burned the hopes of ordinary citizens. The nation's soul is scarred by the

capture of its economy and resources by elites, a calcified bureaucracy and ungovernable political domains.

It appears policymakers have somehow become hostages to their political parties and personality cults, preferring to dwell on past losses while making a mockery of the national exchequer. The bitter fruits are evident: brain drain, soaring inflation, price hikes, unproductivity, corruption incompetence have become the hallmarks of the national economy, sabotaging any dream of a qualitative life for the common people. As budgetary and fiscal deficits gain momentum, they mercilessly screw the poor. The government's only response, lacking a concrete policy to generate jobs, revenue exports, is to impose new taxes and petroleum levies. Public funds are wasted on hit-and-trial therapies for "parachuters" mostly blood relatives of powerful elites, cartels cronies and on futile ceremonies of self-projection and gratification.

Thus, the revival of CPEC 2.0 demands a complete overhaul of our national policies, plans, projects priorities, gearing the nation toward genuine socio-economic prosperity and stability.

It is encouraging that the Chinese Ambassador, Jiang Zaidong, has reaffirmed Beijing's commitment to deepening strategic cooperation and upgrading CPEC 2.0 with a focus on agriculture, industry mining. This must be appreciated and matched by our own commitment.

Analytically, CPEC Phase 1.0 delivered over \$25.9 billion in direct investment, created more than 260,000 jobs, added over 8,000 megawatts of power generation significantly improved infrastructure. Delays in Phase 2.0, therefore, create negative vibes among all stakeholders. The planned work, including the Karakoram Highway Phase-II realignment and the expansion of "small yet beautiful" welfare initiatives for education and water facilities in Balochistan, must be accelerated and extended to other provinces and sectors.

The 75th anniversary of diplomatic ties provides a new lifeline to CPEC 2.0, one that must be nurtured for the wellbeing of the common people. China's readiness to build an even closer community with a shared future must be honored and harmonized with our national priorities.

To that end, the incumbent government and all opposition parties should sign a long-term economic roadmap. This accord must introduce deep, effective structural reforms in every sector to put the economy, manufacturing, green transformation, human development energy production on the right path under CPEC 2.0, guided by total transparency, accountability, institutionalized merit, professionalism democratized rule of law.

The government should pioneer a concept of "Small Special Economic Zones" parallel to major CPEC projects. These would be dedicated hubs for promoting innovation, modernization, digitalization, AI, quantum technologies, robotic sciences, humanoid robots, the bio-medical sector hybrid agriculture.

We must learn from the Chinese model of economic growth, which is fundamentally aligned with people's welfare, community empowerment, enterprise liberalization economic diversification. This model is the key to CPEC 2.0's success.

The Planning Commission, Board of Investment, SECP, SIFC and Ministry of Finance must come out of their deep slumber and work jointly. CPEC 2.0 is our only hope for economic

survival, quality development, relocation of modern industries the promotion of local talent and a knowledge-based economy.

CPEC 2.0 will directly help Pakistan meet its development targets. The formation of an “Open Corridor” should be vigorously pursued by including other nations, transforming it into a project of greater regional development. Strengthening socio-economic ties and building integrated transport systems with Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Kazakhstan Kyrgyzstan would be a critical value addition. The core focus must remain on industrialization, technological collaboration, innovation, sustainability, agricultural modernization people-centered development.

Finally, the emerging US-Iran peace deal carries numerous socio-economic and geopolitical impacts. This moment must be translated into economic uplift seeking more investment from GCC countries, lifting the US embargo on the Iran-Pakistan gas pipeline fostering trans-regional connectivity and economic security.

This is the optimal time to translate all mediating efforts and diplomatic labour into sustainable economic partnerships to prevent a complete economic meltdown and ensure the early initiation of CPEC 2.0. The time for projecting power through protocols is over; the time for projecting purpose through policy is now.

<https://pakobserver.net/from-corridor-to-catalyst-embedding-national-priorities-in-cpec-2-0/>

June 19, 2026

Business Recorder

PCJCCI envoy sees scope of more mango exports to China

LAHORE: Commercial Ambassador Pakistan China Joint Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCJCCI) Adeel Munawar stressed that Pakistan possesses tremendous potential to expand its mango exports to China by focusing on quality improvement, modern packaging, branding, and efficient supply chain management.

In a statement, he said that China remains one of the largest and most promising markets for Pakistani mangoes and emphasized that growing consumer demand for premium-quality fruits in China presents a valuable opportunity for Pakistani exporters to strengthen their presence in the market.

Pakistani mangoes are internationally renowned for their unique taste, aroma, and quality. “However, to maximize export potential in China, we must focus on meeting evolving consumer preferences through improved quality standards, better packaging, and value-added products.”

He further stated that Pakistan’s share in China’s mango imports remains relatively low despite the country’s strong production capacity and reputation for producing some of the world’s finest mango varieties. According to him, this gap reflects a significant untapped opportunity for exporters. <https://www.brecorder.com/news/40426313/pcjcci-envoy-sees-scope-of-more-mango-exports-to-china>

June 23, 2026

The Nation

Pakistan's exports to China surge 48.7pc in first five months of 2026

BEIJING - Pakistan's exports to China exceeded \$1.55 billion in the January–May period of 2026, marking a robust 48.7 percent year-on-year increase compared with \$1.04 billion recorded in the same period of 2025, according to data from China's General Administration of Customs (GACC). The surge, equivalent to an additional \$507 million in just five months, represents one of the strongest bilateral trade performances in recent years. As per GACC data, copper products remained the dominant driver, accounting for 43.7 percent of total export value at \$675 million up from \$393 million a year earlier, a rise of 71.7 percent. March 2026 was the standout month, with exports reaching \$361.6 million, an 84.3 percent jump over March 2025's \$196.2 million, driven by accelerated copper shipments and the opening of the rice export season. April and May sustained strong momentum at \$331 million and \$286 million respectively, with May 2026 still comfortably above the best month of 2025. Zhejiang Province remained China's leading destination for Pakistani goods, absorbing \$480.7 million, up 40 percent year-on-year, owing to its role as the country's principal copper-processing hub. Beijing registered the sharpest provincial rise, jumping from \$101 million to \$232 million as state procurement agencies increased purchases of Pakistani rice and sesame seeds. Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region also emerged as a notable new corridor, with imports tripling to \$53 million, reflecting growing land-route trade through the Gwadar–Xinjiang CPEC network. Official sources point to the China-Pakistan Free Trade Agreement (CPFTA) as a key structural enabler, with \$2.16 billion of Pakistan's full-year 2024-25 exports flowing under FTA preferences. Negotiations for CPFTA Phase III, covering approximately 700 additional tariff lines, are currently ongoing and expected to further expand Pakistan's access in cereals, halal meat, processed textiles, and mineral products categories where Pakistan holds significant untapped potential.

Pakistan exports 2000 buffalo embryos to China

Pakistan exported 2000 buffalo embryos to Royal Cell Biotechnology (Guangxi), China, last week in connection with material transfer agreement between Ministry of National Food Security and Research Pakistan and China's Royal Group. Previously, Pakistan had exported 10,000 embryos valued at \$2 million to China in phases. As per future plan, Royal Cell biotechnology, Pakistan program manager Dr Qaiser Shahzad declared China intends to import at least 300,000 buffalo embryos from Pakistan. Given the growing demand for buffalo milk in China and the popularity of Pakistani buffaloes for their milk quality and production volume, China intends to further enhance Pakistan's superior buffalo breed through its advance technology, he explained. Royal Group is the only listed buffalo milk processing company in China. According to Derk Qin, Director of Overseas Business Department, Royal Cell Biotechnology (Guangxi) Co. Ltd (hereinafter referred to as Royal Cell), the sales volume of buffalo milk in China is about RMB 5 billion, Gwadar Pro reported on Monday. <https://www.nation.com.pk/23-Jun-2026/pakistan-s-exports-china-surge-48-7pc-first-five-months-2026>

Pak, China reaffirm commitment to regional peace, strategic cooperation

SHAFQAT ALI

ISLAMABAD - Pakistan and China yesterday reaffirmed their shared commitment to regional peace, stability, and enhanced strategic cooperation. Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Mohammad Ishaq Dar received the Ambassador of Jiang Zaidong at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, where both sides reviewed key developments related to ongoing diplomatic engagements aimed at promoting dialogue and de-escalation in regional conflicts, the Foreign Office said. During the meeting, the Deputy Prime Minister shared updates on recent high-level talks regarding the implementation of the Islamabad MoU, held in Bürgenstock, Switzerland. He also briefed the Chinese Ambassador on his recent participation in the R-4 Regional Foreign Ministers' Meeting in Cairo, where Pakistan engaged with Egypt, Saudi Arabia, and Türkiye to advance coordinated diplomatic efforts for peaceful resolution of disputes. The Deputy Prime Minister appreciated the consistent and principled support of China for Pakistan's peace initiatives. He particularly lauded China's contributions to regional diplomacy, including President Xi Jinping's Four-Point Proposal and the China-Pakistan Five-Point Initiative, describing them as important frameworks for promoting dialogue and stability. The Chinese Ambassador commended Pakistan's role in supporting de-escalation efforts and reiterated China's firm backing for Pakistan's constructive mediation role in advancing durable peace and regional stability.

Both sides underscored the importance of sustained diplomatic engagement, dialogue, and negotiations as the only viable path toward resolving outstanding issues.

Reaffirming the depth of bilateral ties, the Deputy Prime Minister expressed Pakistan's resolve to continue close consultations and coordination with China to advance shared objectives of peace, stability, and common development, while further strengthening the All-Weather Strategic Cooperative Partnership between the two countries.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/23-Jun-2026/pak-china-reaffirm-commitment-regional-peace-strategic-cooperation>

The Express Tribune

China praises Pakistan's de-escalation efforts

ISLAMABAD: Chinese Ambassador Jiang Zaidong on Monday conveyed Beijing's commendation to Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar for Pakistan's successful contribution to de-escalation and reaffirmed China's steadfast support for Pakistan's mediation role in promoting durable peace and stability in the region.

Dar received the Zaidong in the federal capital.

The DPM/FM shared updates on the high-level talks held in Bürgenstock, Switzerland, regarding the implementation of the Islamabad MoU.

Dar also recalled his recent visit to Cairo, where he had participated in the R-4 Regional Foreign Ministers' Meeting. <https://tribune.com.pk/story/2614654/china-praises-pakistans-de-escalation-efforts>

June 24, 2026

Pakistan Observer

Unlocking the Persian Gulf: The Economic Geography of BRI after a US-Iran Deal

According to a wide range of official data, the Middle East has emerged as a prime destination for China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). Cumulative investments and construction contracts in the region now stand at approximately \$3.5 trillion. Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Egypt and the UAE are the largest recipients, with BRI investments focused primarily on energy security, traditional infrastructure and green energy reshaping the landscapes of their economies, communities and enterprises alike.

However, the war and kinetic conflict between the United States and Iran in 2026 severely damaged the geopolitical equilibrium of the Middle East and geoeconomics became its foremost casualty. Economic security has therefore once again surfaced as a critical issue, one that Chinese policymakers must address through a holistic and comprehensive roadmap. This requires readjusting investment priorities and engagement strategies and reshaping both within a sustainable safety and security paradigm for the period ahead.

Fortunately, the first round of high-level talks between Iran and the United States in Switzerland has concluded, with the two sides agreeing on a roadmap toward a final deal to end their more than 100-day war. Moreover, during these marathon talks, Iran and the US agreed to establish communication lines to keep the vital Strait of Hormuz open and to end the fighting in Lebanon.

Pakistan stated that negotiators had reached agreement on a "roadmap towards reaching a final deal within 60 days," with technical talks set to continue for the rest of the week at the Swiss resort of Bürgenstock. Encouraging progress has thus been made, including the creation of a mechanism for further technical discussions, detailing a dedicated contact channel to "avoid incidents and miscommunication" over the Strait of Hormuz.

Additionally, the formation of a "deconfliction cell" involving the parties and authorities in Lebanon has been agreed upon to prevent fighting from erupting there again a good omen for achieving the desired goals of a US-Iran peace deal. Mediators described the first round of talks in Switzerland as positive and constructive, with working groups already established by the negotiators.

According to many regional security experts, the US-Iran war is accelerating the realization of the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor, because the future of Middle Eastern wealth and energy resources should no longer rely disproportionately on controlling the vulnerable waters of the Gulf but rather on securing the overland, technologically integrated corridors of tomorrow. However, drastic change in the new Middle East's geopolitics and geoeconomics it has very weak prospects.

At the same time, the present conflict in the Middle East is forcing Beijing to confront a different problem: physical risks to the infrastructure into which the BRI has poured massive investments. Analytically, even before the outbreak of conflict between Israel, the US and

Iran, security had been a growing problem for the BRI worldwide due to a complex web of proxies. Suicide attacks on Chinese personnel in Afghanistan, Tajikistan and along Pakistan's CPEC, persistent insecurity around Chinese-backed projects in various African countries, institutional discrimination in Latin America and the disruption of land trade routes following the Russia-Ukraine war had already compelled Beijing to grapple with security challenges.

According to numerous independent sources, China's direct investment in the Middle East reached roughly \$89 billion between 2019 and 2024. Energy terminals, seaports and logistics corridors in Qatar, the UAE and Oman now sit inside or near active conflict zones.

A comparative study suggests that at least 18 Chinese-financed projects across six countries in the region are either affected or at serious risk, with loans behind them totaling over \$6.5 billion. Three sites were struck directly, including Dubai International Airport, Qatar's Ras Laffan gas facility and Oman's Duqm Port.

When the Belt and Road Initiative was first proposed in 2013, it was hailed as a historical tribute to the ancient Silk Road. However, it is now clear that the BRI has evolved into something far more modern and complex. What began as a vision for physical roads and maritime routes has matured into a sophisticated framework for technology, green energy and cooperation. For the Middle East, a region that has always served as a bridge between East and West, the BRI has provided a new pathway for modernization.

Realistically, China's cooperation with the Middle East has supplied steady energy sources for its massive industrial growth. In the early years of the BRI, almost 60 percent of Chinese investment in the region was focused on this traditional energy sector. Countries like Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates are now integrating Chinese green technology into their national grids under the BRI framework. Massive solar parks in the desert and new hydrogen research facilities are being built with Chinese technical expertise in different countries across the region. With Chinese wisdom, the BRI is also an important participant in clean power innovation.

By 2026, the digital footprint of the BRI is visible in nearly every major Middle Eastern city. Chinese technology providers have become essential partners in building the region's telecommunications systems. From 5G networks and submarine fiber-optic cables to cloud computing and artificial intelligence, this partnership is helping the Middle East achieve strategic autonomy. By building high-tech infrastructure with Chinese hardware and software, regional countries are diversifying their economies and moving away from over-reliance on oil. The construction of smart city projects in Egypt and new digital finance hubs in the Gulf has further enhanced the strategic value of the BRI, providing the digital foundation for local startups to compete on a global stage.

In summary, China emerges as a key strategic and economic beneficiary of the June 2026 US-Iran peace deal. The reopening of the Strait of Hormuz and de-escalation of conflict stabilize Beijing's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) across the Middle East, securing vital energy flows of Iranian crude essential for China's industrial growth. The agreement's reconstruction framework for Iran further strengthens opportunities for Chinese firms already embedded in its infrastructure through long-term partnerships. With active hostilities ending,

Beijing is well placed to accelerate both terrestrial and maritime BRI networks across the Persian Gulf, deepening cooperation with Iran and GCC states, aligned with its 15th Five-Year Plan and broader goals of modernization, digitalization, green growth, quantum technologies and AI-driven development.

Last but not least, as Pakistan has become an integral part of Middle Eastern security, policymakers in China and Pakistan should consider further strengthening of CPEC into West Asia, connecting the Middle East, Central Asia, Africa and beyond.

<https://pakobserver.net/unlocking-the-persian-gulf-the-economic-geography-of-bri-after-a-us-iran-deal/>

From mediation to markets: CPEC 2.0 westward opportunity

AT a time when regional tensions have long constrained Pakistan's economic potential, recent diplomatic engagement between the US and Iran with Pakistan playing a facilitating role may open an unexpected pathway toward regional connectivity, trade expansion and strategic economic integration under CPEC Phase II. For decades, Pakistan's regional economic potential has remained constrained by geopolitical tensions, weak connectivity and limited regional integration. Despite sharing a long border and strong economic complementarities, Pakistan and Iran have historically failed to build robust trade relations. Bilateral trade has only recently approached \$5 billion a figure that sits far below actual potential considering the size, proximity and location of both economies. This underperformance is largely the result of structural constraints, including weak transport infrastructure, sanctions-related complications, border inefficiencies and a lack of formal financial mechanisms. Consequently, Pakistan's trade structure remains heavily dependent on a small number of traditional markets, increasing its vulnerability to external shocks.

As CPEC enters Phase II, the focus is gradually shifting from basic infrastructure construction toward industrial cooperation, Special Economic Zones (SEZs) and connectivity-driven growth. However, without a deliberate westward expansion, CPEC risks remaining a limited, vertical north-south corridor. This is where Iran emerges as the critical missing link. Iran's geographic position gives Pakistan direct overland access to Central Asia, Middle East, Turkey, Russia and onward European markets. Integrating Iran into CPEC's westward framework would effectively transform the corridor from a bilateral initiative into a multidirectional regional trade network. The real challenge, however, is whether Pakistan can convert this diplomatic opening into measurable economic gains. The most immediate channel lies in reducing the transportation inefficiencies, logistics bottlenecks and regulatory barriers that continue to inflate trade costs between the two neighbours. International evidence shows that reducing trade costs significantly increases trade volumes, while improved corridor integration can raise regional trade growth by as much as 10 to 15 percent.

Fortunately, Iran's domestic demand aligns perfectly with Pakistan's primary export strengths. Agricultural products such as rice, meat, citrus fruit, mangoes and maize remain in high demand due to Iran's food security needs. Simultaneously, industrial goods including machinery, transport equipment and construction materials are emerging growth sectors, while consumer goods like pharmaceuticals, textiles and surgical instruments continue to

hold stable demand. This means Pakistan already possesses the production base required to aggressively expand exports if logistics barriers are dismantled.

Beyond immediate bilateral trade, the broader strategic value of Iran lies in macro-market access. Through Iran, Pakistan can seamlessly connect to Central Asian economies with a combined GDP exceeding \$400 billion. The Middle East, meanwhile, represents an import market worth more than \$2 trillion annually, particularly in sectors where Pakistan holds a comparative advantage. Furthermore, connectivity through Iran provides shorter land routes toward Turkey and Europe reducing dependence on longer maritime pathways while linking Pakistan to Eurasian trade routes via the International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC) and Caspian Sea networks.

The economic implications of this shift are substantial. Studies suggest that transport costs account for nearly 30 to 40 percent of total trade costs for transit-dependent economies. Corridor integration can reduce these transport costs by 20 to 25 percent while lowering transit times by up to 30 percent, directly sharpening Pakistan's export competitiveness.

This geographic integration also reimagines the strategic significance of Gwadar. Gwadar's future success depends heavily on regional stability; as tensions ease in key maritime zones, shipping confidence and port utilization naturally improve. Crucially, Gwadar and Iran's Chabahar Port should not be viewed solely as rivals. The two ports can function as complementary regional hubs serving different segments of trade flows: Gwadar can operate as a transit and bulk cargo corridor connecting China and Central Asia, while Chabahar can facilitate trade into Iran, Afghanistan and Middle Eastern markets. Global trade experience demonstrates that coordinated port ecosystems generate greater efficiency, cargo specialization and long-term commercial sustainability than Zero-sum port competition.

Energy cooperation forms another major pillar of this westward opportunity. Pakistan's economy remains highly vulnerable to imported energy, which accounts for nearly 25 to 30 percent of the country's total import bill. Because most oil and LNG imports originate from distant Middle Eastern suppliers, Iran offers a geographically proximate and cost-effective alternative. Cross-border electricity trade and the revival of the Iran-Pakistan gas pipeline could reduce Pakistan's energy import costs by an estimated 10 to 15 percent over the medium term. Lower, more reliable energy costs would directly inject productivity into energy-intensive domestic sectors such as textiles, fertilizer and manufacturing.

Ultimately, improved regional stability could revive the investor confidence that CPEC Phase II desperately requires. Pakistan's Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) inflows have languished below \$2 billion annually in recent years, reflecting political uncertainty. International evidence shows that countries participating in regional connectivity corridors experience noticeable spikes in investment following infrastructure integration. In Pakistan's case, integrating Iran into the CPEC matrix could stimulate targeted investment in logistics, warehousing and export-oriented SEZs along the Gwadar corridor. Recent developments already indicate momentum in this direction. Pakistan has operationalized a new trade corridor through the Rimdan border, enabling exports toward Central Asia via Iran, while the gradual easing of banking and trade restrictions suggests that economic normalization is slowly becoming possible.

These developments reinforce a larger reality: regional peace is not merely a diplomatic objective; it is a potent economic instrument. To fully capitalize on this changing environment, Pakistan must strategically operationalize westward connectivity by strengthening border infrastructure, improving customs facilitation, establishing formal financial channels and promoting export-oriented industries. Pakistan should also pursue preferential trade arrangements, integrated border markets and coordinated customs mechanisms with Iran to institutionalize westward connectivity. The US-Iran diplomatic engagement may represent far more than a temporary geopolitical thaw. For Pakistan, it is the potential foundation of a new regional economic architecture. In the emerging regional order, Pakistan's greatest opportunity lies not merely in geography, but in its ability to transform diplomacy into connectivity and connectivity into economic power.

<https://pakobserver.net/from-mediation-to-markets-cpec-2-0-westward-opportunity/>

June 25, 2026

Pakistan Observer

Pakistan, China urge action on long-pending UN resolutions

NEW YORK – Pakistan and China jointly convened an informal meeting of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) to discuss ways of strengthening the implementation of Security Council resolutions and enhancing the effectiveness of the UN's decision-making process.

The meeting brought together council members and other UN representatives to exchange views on ensuring that Security Council resolutions are implemented in a consistent, comprehensive and timely manner.

Senior UN officials and policy experts briefed participants on challenges facing the implementation of council decisions. Speakers stressed that the credibility and effectiveness of the Security Council depend largely on the successful execution of its resolutions.

They highlighted the importance of realistic mandates, clear implementation strategies, adequate resources, regular monitoring and strong political commitment to translate council decisions into meaningful action on the ground.

Speaking at the meeting, Pakistan's Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Ambassador Asim Iftikhar Ahmad, said Security Council resolutions carry legal obligations under the UN Charter and should be implemented without discrimination.

He noted that delays or failures in implementing resolutions undermine the authority of the Security Council, prolong conflicts and contribute to human suffering in various regions of the world.

The ambassador pointed to unresolved international disputes, including Jammu and Kashmir and Palestine, and said the lack of implementation of relevant UN resolutions has hindered efforts to achieve lasting peace and justice.

Pakistan also presented a number of proposals aimed at improving implementation mechanisms. These included conducting regular reviews of resolutions that remain

unimplemented or only partially implemented, strengthening follow-up procedures and improving coordination between UN peace operations and Security Council decisions.

Participants welcomed the initiative by Pakistan and China and shared suggestions for making Security Council decisions more effective and actionable. Delegates emphasised the need for sustained diplomatic engagement, periodic assessments and sufficient resources to support implementation efforts.

By organising the meeting, Pakistan and China reaffirmed their support for multilateral cooperation and their commitment to strengthening the role and effectiveness of the United Nations in addressing global challenges.

<https://pakobserver.net/pakistan-china-urge-action-on-long-pending-un-resolutions/>

The Express Tribune

Pakistan, China urge for stronger implementation of UNSC resolutions

Pakistan warns selective implementation undermines UNSC, prolongs unresolved disputes and deepens human suffering Pakistan and China called for stronger mechanisms to ensure the implementation of UN Security Council resolutions, arguing that selective or prolonged non-implementation undermined the council's credibility, weakened its authority and prolonged unresolved conflicts, including those in Jammu and Kashmir and Palestine.

At a meeting convened by Pakistan and China on Thursday, titled "Bridging the Implementation Gap: Security Council Resolutions and the Maintenance of International Peace and Security", Pakistan's Permanent Representative to the UN, Ambassador Asim Iftikhar Ahmad, said Security Council resolutions were "not mere expressions of intent but legal obligations under the UN Charter".

The meeting was briefed by UN Assistant Secretary-General Khaled Khiari, Security Council Report Executive Director Shamala Kandiah, and International Crisis Group's Richard Gowan.

The briefers stressed that implementation lies at the heart of the council's credibility, authority, and effectiveness, and argued that resolutions must be accompanied by realistic mandates, clear implementation pathways, sustained reporting, adequate resources, political will, and follow-up mechanisms capable of translating council decisions into action on the ground.

Iftikhar, addressing the meeting, said "selective or prolonged non-implementation weakens the Council's authority, prolongs unresolved disputes and deepens human suffering", including in situations such as Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) and Palestine.

He said the non-implementation of Security Council resolutions on the Jammu and Kashmir dispute had meant that "a major international dispute remained unresolved", resulting in "grave consequences for international peace and security" and prolonged suffering for the Kashmiri people.

Pakistan's representative also proposed a series of measures aimed at improving implementation, including an annual review of unimplemented and partially implemented resolutions, clearer implementation pathways, stronger follow-up mechanisms, and better alignment of the UN Secretary-General's good offices, peace operations, and regional arrangements with Security Council decisions.

According to the statement by the foreign ministry, Security Council members and other participating states welcomed the initiative by Pakistan and China and shared views on strengthening the implementation of Security Council resolutions across both country-specific and thematic situations.

"Participants emphasised that Security Council decisions should be realistic, actionable, and supported by sustained diplomacy, regular review, timely reporting, and adequate resources," it stated.

The statement further added that the meeting underscored that implementation remained a key test of the Security Council's credibility and relevance and reaffirmed that the council must ensure its decisions were carried forward with consistency, objectivity, and resolve.

"By convening the discussion, Pakistan and China reaffirmed their commitment to multilateralism, the authority of the Security Council, and the purposes and principles of the UN Charter," said ministry.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2615035/pakistan-china-urge-for-stronger-implementation-of-uns-c-resolutions>

Chinese Newspapers

June 16, 2026

China Daily

China to continue efforts with Pakistan for early restoration of peace in Middle East: Chinese FM

BEIJING -- China stands ready to work with Pakistan to continuously promote peace and advance dialogue, and keep making efforts for the early restoration of peace, stability and development in the Middle East, Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi said Tuesday.

Wang made the remarks in a phone conversation with Pakistan's Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Mohammad Ishaq Dar.

<https://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202606/16/WS6a315b55a310986e2b46058d.html>

JV sees record debut

ZHOU LANXU

A Sino-Pakistani joint venture tire manufacturer has debuted on the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) in a move market participants described as the first listing by a Chinese-invested company on the country's bourse and a milestone in the deepening integration of industrial and financial cooperation between the two nations.

Service Long March Tyres Ltd — a JV between Pakistan's Servis Group and China's Chaoyang Long March Tyre Co Ltd —

was listed on the PSX on Monday. Chinese shareholders held about 43 percent of the company before the offering.

Shares of SLM opened at 21.95 Pakistani rupees (\$0.079) on Monday, up 10.03 percent from its issue price of 19.95 rupees, and remained at the upper limit of the day's trading band during early trading, the PSX website said, pointing to strong investor demand following the heavily oversubscribed offering.

The initial public offering raised 7.77 billion Pakistani rupees, making it the largest private-sector IPO in Pakistan's capital market history.

The book-building process attracted bids worth 69.4 billion rupees, representing an oversubscription of 16.7 times and setting records for both subscription amount and subscription speed on the exchange.

The listing comes as capital market cooperation is increasingly complementing trade, infrastructure and industrial links under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor.

You Hang, executive vice-president of China Financial Futures Exchange and Chinese shareholder director of the PSX, said SLM's successful debut reflects the combined impact of industrial cooperation, technology transfer and capital market support between China and Pakistan.

In 2017, a Chinese-led consortium that included the China Financial Futures Exchange, the Shanghai Stock Exchange and the Shenzhen Stock Exchange acquired a strategic stake in the PSX, helping improve its corporate governance and strengthen cooperation between the two countries' financial markets.

Proceeds from the IPO will mainly be used to finance construction of a new passenger-car radial tire plant in Pakistan. The project — with a planned investment of about 22.56 billion rupees — is expected to begin operations in 2028 and further improve the tire industry chain in Pakistan.

<https://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202606/16/WS6a30a15da310986e2b460269.html>

Global Times

Pakistan, China welcome Iran-US agreement

Pakistan and China have welcomed the memorandum of understanding reached between Iran and the United States. Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar discussed the development with his Chinese counterpart during a telephone conversation. The agreement is being viewed as an important step toward regional peace and stability.

During the call, both leaders exchanged views on recent diplomatic efforts that helped reduce tensions in the Middle East. The Chinese foreign minister praised Pakistan's diplomatic engagement and mediation efforts. He also acknowledged Islamabad's contribution to promoting dialogue and supporting broader international peace initiatives.

Meanwhile, Dar appreciated China's support for Pakistan's efforts regarding the Iran-US understanding. He also recognized the significance of the joint five-point initiative advanced by Pakistan and China. According to officials, both countries remain committed to encouraging peaceful solutions to regional disputes.

Furthermore, the two foreign ministers emphasized the importance of maintaining close coordination during the implementation phase of the understanding. They agreed that continued communication among all stakeholders would be necessary to ensure progress and prevent renewed tensions. Both sides stressed the need for constructive engagement and confidence-building measures.

The leaders also highlighted the strategic importance of keeping the Strait of Hormuz open for international trade. They noted that uninterrupted maritime traffic remains essential for global energy supplies and economic stability. The conversation reflected growing cooperation between Islamabad and Beijing on regional diplomacy and conflict resolution.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1508768/pakistan-china-welcome-iran-us-agreement>

People's daily

Pakistan reaffirms commitment to SCO, highlights role in regional connectivity, development

ISLAMABAD, June 15 (Xinhua) -- Pakistan's Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Mohammad Ishaq Dar on Monday reaffirmed the country's commitment to the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), describing it as a vital platform for promoting regional cooperation, peace, security and economic development.

In a message marking the 25th anniversary of the SCO, Dar congratulated the organization and its member states, noting that the organization has grown into an influential forum for regional collaboration since its establishment in 2001. "The milestone of the 25th anniversary confirms the enduring power of the 'Shanghai Spirit,' which continues to guide us through mutual trust, equality, respect for cultural diversity, shared development and constructive engagement," Dar said. The foreign minister noted that Pakistan's progression from an SCO observer to a full member in 2017 reflects its strong commitment to multilateralism and

regional cooperation. Pakistan remains firmly committed to the principles and objectives of the SCO Charter and appreciates the organization's emphasis on international law, mutual respect and good-neighborly relations, added the minister. The foreign minister added that Islamabad would continue pursuing a forward-looking and action-oriented agenda focused on expanding economic cooperation, strengthening regional connectivity and deepening people-to-people exchanges among SCO member states. Highlighting the organization's contribution to regional stability, Dar praised the SCO's role in fostering peace and security, stressing that Pakistan values its collaborative efforts to combat terrorism, separatism and extremism. Beyond security cooperation, the foreign minister welcomed the SCO's initiatives in economic development, digital innovation, energy security and the promotion of national currencies in mutual transactions. According to the foreign minister, Pakistan stands ready to contribute to greater regional cooperation in trade, investment, food security, climate resilience, public health, education and sustainable development.

Dar also said Pakistan is looking forward to assuming the chairmanship of the SCO Council of Heads of State later this year and hosting the SCO Summit in 2027.
<https://en.people.cn/n3/2026/0616/c90000-20467804.html>

June 17, 2026

Global Times

China appreciates Pakistan for advancing international peace

Foreign Minister of China Wang Yi on Tuesday appreciated Islamabad for making a vital contribution to advancing international peace and stability, as Pakistan is set to host the signing ceremony of the US-Iran peace accord in Geneva on Friday after intense and prolonged diplomatic efforts by several international actors particularly Pakistan.

In a telephonic conversation, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar and Chinese FM Yi welcomed the understandings reached in the Iran-US Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), describing the consensus as an important step towards promoting sustainable peace and stability in the region, according to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

FM Yi commended Pakistan's proactive diplomatic outreach and robust mediation efforts, which helped create conducive conditions for sustained engagement between Iran and the United States.

DPM Dar lauded China's consistent support for Pakistan's efforts to facilitate dialogue and diplomacy between Iran and the United States. He also acknowledged China's important contributions for the restoration of regional peace and stability, especially President Xi Jinping's Four-Point Proposal and the Pakistan-China Five-Point Initiative.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1508944/china-appreciates-pakistan-for-advancing-international-peace>

People's daily

**China to continue efforts with Pakistan for early restoration of peace in
Middle East: Chinese FM**

BEIJING, June 16 (Xinhua) -- China stands ready to work with Pakistan to continuously promote peace and advance dialogue, and keep making efforts for the early restoration of peace, stability and development in the Middle East, Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi said Tuesday.

Wang, also a member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China Central Committee, made the remarks in a phone conversation with Pakistan's Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Mohammad Ishaq Dar.

Dar briefed on the situation of the first-phase memorandum of understanding (MoU) reached between Iran and the United States, expressing gratitude to China for maintaining close communication with Pakistan over the past few months and providing valuable support for Pakistan's mediation efforts. The Pakistani side looks forward to continuing communication and coordination with the Chinese side, maintaining the current momentum of peace talks, and jointly playing a positive role in achieving lasting peace and stability in the region, Dar added. Wang congratulated Pakistan on facilitating the first-phase MoU between Iran and the United States, and stressed that working for peace is an international responsibility shared by all countries, including China and Pakistan.

As long as there remains hope for peace, every effort is worthwhile, he said. Since the outbreak of the war, China has engaged with all parties and actively promoted a ceasefire and peace talks, Wang noted. From the very beginning, China has firmly supported Pakistan and emphasized to all parties that Pakistan is a trustworthy mediator, he said, adding that China has also engaged separately with Iran and the United States in its own way.

Quoting a Chinese saying, "For a journey of a hundred miles, reaching ninety is only half the task," Wang noted that the current consensus is far from the end point but a new starting point, and lasting peace in the Middle East and the Gulf region still requires sustained efforts from all parties.

It is foreseeable that, compared with the first phase of the talks, the second phase will be even more difficult. However, China believes there must be no turning back, still less any return to the use of force, he said.

The international community should further support the Iran-U.S. talks, and multilateral institutions, including the United Nations Security Council, should also play a greater role, said Wang. China has consistently advocated that regional countries should take their future and destiny into their own hands, and hopes to explore, through dialogue and consultation, a peace and security architecture that is jointly participated in by all countries in the region, he said. Once the door to peace has been opened, it should not be closed again, said Wang, adding that the Middle East has been deeply scarred by war and its people deserve peace.

<https://en.people.cn/n3/2026/0617/c90000-20468122.html>

June 18, 2026

China Daily

China, Pakistan eye deeper capital market cooperation after landmark IPO

Zhou Lanxu

The successful listing of a Sino-Pakistani tire manufacturer on Pakistan's stock market may have paved the way for broader capital market cooperation between China and Pakistan, including more fundraising by Chinese-invested enterprises and potential cross-border investment products, a senior Chinese exchange executive said.

You Hang, executive vice-president of the China Financial Futures Exchange and Chinese shareholder director of the Pakistan Stock Exchange, said in an exclusive interview with China Daily that the CFFEX will continue expanding its pipeline of qualified Chinese-invested companies in Pakistan seeking equity and debt financing through local capital markets.

Beyond corporate listings, You said CFFEX and PSX will explore broader product cooperation. Subject to regulatory approval, the two sides may study the feasibility of cross-border exchange-traded fund or ETF products and examine potential operational, regulatory, and technical arrangements for future market connectivity.

The remarks came days after Service Long March Tyres Ltd — a joint venture between Pakistan's Servis Group and China's Chaoyang Long March Tyre Co Ltd — became what market participants describe as the first Chinese-invested company to list on the PSX.

The company raised 7.77 billion Pakistani rupees (about \$28 million), making it the largest private-sector IPO in Pakistan's history. Proceeds will be used mainly to build a new passenger-car radial tire plant in Pakistan.

The project, expected to begin operations in 2028, will expand local manufacturing capacity, reduce import dependence, and support exports, thus helping Pakistan address the challenges of tight foreign exchange reserves and an imbalance in international payments, You said.

As of mid-day on June 18, shares of SLM traded at 25.6 rupees, nearly 30 percent above the IPO price of 19.95 rupees, reflecting strong investor demand, according to the PSX website. Experts said such market recognition suggests that capital market cooperation between the two countries is gradually evolving from individual projects toward a more institutionalized framework.

"By raising funds through Pakistan's domestic capital market, it has created a market-oriented and sustainable development model that combines Chinese technology, bilateral industrial capacity cooperation, and local capital," he said.

Building on the listing of SLM, the CFFEX will proactively promote more high-quality corridor projects to list on the PSX, You said, planning to conduct regular research visits to Chinese enterprises operating in Pakistan and identify financing needs in sectors such as energy, manufacturing, and infrastructure.

The listing also highlights a decade-long partnership between the two exchanges. In 2017, a Chinese-led consortium — including the CFFEX, the Shanghai Stock Exchange, and the Shenzhen Stock Exchange — acquired a strategic stake in the PSX, becoming its largest single shareholder.

CFFEX has worked with the Pakistani bourse on initiatives ranging from technology upgrades and governance reforms to ETF development and corporate listings, with SLM the first flagship industrial IPO completed under the cooperation framework.

You said further cooperation would also cover market infrastructure and product development. Building on the launch of ETF products in Pakistan, CFFEX will continue supporting efforts to broaden the range of investment products available to local investors, including assisting PSX in preparing for the potential introduction of equity-index and single-stock futures, and exploring Islamic finance products.
<http://chinadaily.com.cn/a/202606/18/WS6a33b2bfa310986e2b460c71.html>

China-Eurasia Expo to host more than 2,000 exhibitors in Xinjiang

Yuan Shenggao

Preparations for the ninth China-Eurasia Expo have been completed, with the event set to kick off in Urumqi, Xinjiang Uygur autonomous region, from June 25 to 29. The scale of participating domestic and international businesses has reached a record high, underscoring the expo's growing influence as a platform for regional cooperation. According to organizers, to date, more than 2,000 enterprises and institutions from 27 countries, regions and international organizations, as well as all Chinese provinces, the Xinjiang Production and Construction Corps and Xinjiang's 14 prefectures have confirmed their participation. Investment promotion pavilions are to be held by 24 provinces and the Hong Kong and Macao special administrative regions. This year's expo adopts a "one venue, multiple zones" layout, covering a total exhibition area of approximately 140,000 square meters. It features six major sections: investment cooperation, new quality productive forces, distinctive competitive industries, green development, cultural-tourism integration and Silk Road cooperation. Focusing on frontiers such as artificial intelligence, digital economy, low-altitude economy and biomanufacturing, the expo will showcase cutting-edge scientific and technological achievements in areas such as embodied intelligence, modern logistics and smart agriculture. "Positioned in Xinjiang to serve China and connect Asia-Europe, the ninth China-Eurasia Expo prioritizes high-level openness, high-quality innovation and profound cooperation," said Zhou Chao, deputy secretary-general of the Xinjiang Uygur autonomous regional government. Focused on trade, investment, consumption and innovation, the expo is to host over 80 events, ranging from product debuts and business matchmaking to investment road shows. The event offers direct dialogue between enterprises and consular officials. In a move to deepen Belt and Road ties, the expo will feature key industrial parks within national pavilions for the first time to display emerging cooperation fields. It will also introduce a dedicated border trade zone, bringing specialty goods from Xinjiang's seven border areas and surrounding nations to the show floor. Exhibitor caliber is at an all-time high, with over 300 participants including Fortune Global 500 firms, China Top 500 enterprises, central and local State-owned enterprises, listed companies, as well as "little giant" firms and high-tech

enterprises, according to organizers. Air China, a top carrier on China-Europe routes, is to participate in the expo alongside Shenzhen Airlines and Shandong Airlines. The focus will be on showcasing support for the national westward opening strategy and Urumqi's aviation hub development, promoting Xinjiang through express routes and European network expansion to fulfill global connectivity commitments. During the expo, Air China is to display a customized cabin mock-up of the domestic C919 aircraft, featuring seats developed by Air China and a State-owned aircraft seating manufacturer. This is the first fully localized and deeply customized aviation seat series in China, which is in service across multiple Air China fleets. The booth is to offer interactive experience zones, cultural and creative merchandise displays and business negotiation areas, with live streaming available. Next, Air China said it will increase investment in its Xinjiang hub, optimize its Asia-Europe route network, deepen multisector cooperation, and contribute to high-quality development along the Silk Road Economic Belt. XCMG Group, a leading Chinese construction machinery manufacturer, is to participate in the expo, showcasing its full range of high-end equipment and integrated solutions to support the development of the Silk Road Economic Belt with its "national heavyweight" machinery. A regular participant since the inaugural edition, XCMG has grown alongside the China-Eurasia Expo. Over the past decade, its presence has evolved from traditional products to smart construction and green equipment, marking a comprehensive upgrade from product exports to technology transfer and localized operations. Having entered the Central Asian market as early as 2001, XCMG was among the first Chinese brands to establish a footprint in the region. With subsidiaries and joint ventures established across multiple countries, over 30,000 XCMG units are currently deployed in local energy, transportation and infrastructure projects, securing the company's position as the market leader. At this year's expo, XCMG is to spotlight high-end equipment and solutions tailored for Asia-Europe operational scenarios, covering mining, new energy, and infrastructure. The company is to introduce an integrated model combining manufacturing, finance and service, offering life cycle support. XCMG said it will continue to leverage the expo to deepen cooperation with Asian and European nations, refine its regional industrial layout, and contribute to a shared community with a common future in the region. This year's expo is jointly organized by the Ministry of Commerce, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the China Council for the Promotion of International Trade, and the Xinjiang Uygur autonomous regional government. It is supported by the Secretariat of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, the Secretariat of the China-Central Asia Mechanism, and the Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation Institute. Kazakhstan and Pakistan serve as guest countries of honor, while Hubei and Shaanxi provinces serve as guest provinces of honor. Since its inception in 2011, the China-Eurasia Expo has hosted eight editions. It has evolved into a crucial platform for building a corridor across Asia and Europe, establishing a bridgehead for westward opening-up, and creating a strategic pivot for the new development paradigm.

<https://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202606/18/WS6a339e70a310986e2b460c00.html>

Dragon Boat Festival marks anniversary and ties

To celebrate the anniversary of China-Pakistan friendship, a colorful Dragon Boat Festival, which lands on June 19 this year, was held on Sunday on the banks of the Kabul River in Pakistan's northwest Peshawar city as the two countries marked 75 years of diplomatic relations.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

<https://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202606/18/WS6a3335a0a310986e2b4609ef.html>

June 23, 2026

China Daily

Pakistan, China strengthen capital ties

Tire manufacturing joint venture listing on PSX paves way for broader relations

ZHOU LANXU

The successful listing of a Sino-Pakistani tire manufacturer on Pakistan's stock market may have paved the way for broader capital market cooperation between China and Pakistan, including more fundraising by Chinese-invested enterprises and potential cross-border investment products, a senior Chinese exchange executive said.

You Hang, executive vice-president of the China Financial Futures Exchange and Chinese shareholder director of the Pakistan Stock Exchange, or PSX, said in an exclusive interview with China Daily that the China Financial Futures Exchange, or CFFEX, will continue expanding its pipeline of qualified Chinese-invested companies in Pakistan seeking equity and debt financing through local capital markets.

Beyond corporate listings, You said CFFEX and PSX will explore broader product cooperation. Subject to regulatory approval, the two sides may study the feasibility of cross-border exchange-traded funds or ETF products and examine potential operational, regulatory and technical arrangements for future market connectivity.

The remarks came days after Service Long March Tyres Ltd — a joint venture between Pakistan's Servis Group and China's Chaoyang Long March Tyre Co Ltd — became what market participants describe as the first Chinese-invested company to list on the PSX.

The company raised 7.77 billion Pakistani rupees (\$28 million), making it the largest private-sector IPO in Pakistan's history. Proceeds will be used mainly to build a new passenger-car radial tire plant in Pakistan.

The project, expected to begin operations in 2028, will expand local manufacturing capacity, reduce import dependence and support exports, thus helping Pakistan address the challenges of tight foreign exchange reserves and an imbalance in international payments, You said.

As of midday on Monday, shares of SLM traded at 25.2 rupees, more than a quarter above the IPO price of 19.95 rupees, reflecting strong investor demand, according to the PSX website. Experts said such market recognition suggests that capital market cooperation between the two countries is gradually evolving from individual projects toward a more institutionalized framework.

"By raising funds through Pakistan's domestic capital market, it has created a market-oriented and sustainable development model that combines Chinese technology, bilateral industrial capacity cooperation and local capital," he said.

Building on the listing of SLM, the CFFEX will proactively promote more high-quality corridor projects to list on the PSX, You said, planning to conduct regular research visits to Chinese enterprises operating in Pakistan and identify financing needs in sectors such as energy, manufacturing and infrastructure.

The listing also highlights a decade-long partnership between the two exchanges. In 2017, a Chinese-led consortium — including the CFFEX, the Shanghai Stock Exchange and the Shenzhen Stock Exchange — acquired a strategic stake in the PSX, becoming its largest single shareholder.

CFFEX has worked with the Pakistani bourse on initiatives ranging from technology upgrades and governance reforms to ETF development and corporate listings, with SLM the first flagship industrial IPO completed under the cooperation framework.

You said further cooperation would also cover market infrastructure and product development. Building on the launch of ETF products in Pakistan, CFFEX will continue supporting efforts to broaden the range of investment products available to local investors, including assisting PSX in preparing for the potential introduction of equity-index and single-stock futures, and exploring Islamic finance products.

June 25, 2026

People's daily

Chinese FM calls for early normalization of shipping through Strait of Hormuz

BEIJING, June 24 (Xinhua) -- Normal navigation through the Strait of Hormuz should be restored as soon as possible to ensure the stability of global industrial and supply chains, Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi said on Wednesday.

Wang, also a member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China Central Committee, made the remarks in a phone conversation with Pakistan's Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Mohammad Ishaq Dar.

During the conversation, Wang thanked the Pakistani side for promptly informing China of the new stage of negotiations between Iran and the United States. He said that the signing of the memorandum of understanding (MoU) between the two countries was the result of the joint efforts of the international community, and Pakistan played a key and unique role in it.

The peace process has just begun, and there is still a long, even tortuous and difficult road ahead, Wang noted, stressing that China will, as always, support Pakistan and other like-minded countries in continuing to play a constructive role, and stands ready to maintain close communication and coordination with Pakistan.

Wang pointed out three key priorities in the next stage.

First, it is essential to consolidate the comprehensive ceasefire and cessation of the war, and under no circumstances should the war be reignited, he said.

The Iran-U.S. MoU aligns with Iran's fundamental and long-term interests, as well as the shared expectation of the international community, Wang said, adding that China is willing to work with all parties to firmly support the negotiations to advance without interference.

Second, normal navigation through the Strait of Hormuz should be restored as soon as possible to ensure the stability of global industrial and supply chains, he noted, adding that

arrangements concerning the strait should respect the sovereignty and legitimate rights and interests of states bordering the strait, while conforming to international practices and the common aspirations of all countries.

Third, efforts should be made to support Middle East countries in improving their relations and exploring a new regional security architecture, said Wang.

The Middle East, including the Gulf region, should no longer serve as an arena for great power competition or a victim of geopolitics, and regional countries should uphold genuine strategic autonomy and firmly keep their future in their own hands, he noted.

The Palestinian issue has always been the core of the Middle East issue, said Wang, calling on countries in the region to speak with a more unified voice and take more coordinated actions in addressing the Palestinian issue, so as to implement the two-state solution at an early date and realize lasting peace and stability in the region.

<https://en.people.cn/n3/2026/0625/c90000-20470766.html>