



For Better Understanding on China–Pakistan and CPEC

Gleanings from the National & Chinese Press

March 16-31, 2026

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March 16, 2026

Daily Times

Chinese-backed Ramazan Iftar drive serves over 300 daily in Gwadar

A Ramazan iftar reception supported by the Chinese Embassy in Pakistan, China Overseas Port Holding Company (COPHC) and the local NGO Helping Hand Foundation Gwadar has been launched for underprivileged residents in Gwadar. According to organisers, the iftar reception began on March 13 and will continue until the end of Ramadan, Gwadar Pro reported on Sunday. The organisers said the programme is providing daily iftar meals to more than 300 people from low-income communities in the port city during Ramadan. Food served at iftar includes water, beverages, traditional snacks, meals and local dishes. A COPHC official said the company was arranging the iftar receptions for Muslim residents of Gwadar as part of its corporate social responsibility efforts.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1464882/chinese-backed-ramazan-iftar-drive-serves-over-300-daily-in-gwadar/>

March 17, 2026

Business Recorder

‘Misunderstanding with China’: FO rubbishes speculation

ISLAMABAD: The Foreign Office (FO) on Monday rubbished speculation about any misunderstanding between Pakistan and China over what it said were efforts to resolve Islamabad’s conflict with Afghanistan.

Pakistan has always welcomed the Chinese mediatory role in settling issues with Kabul. Commenting on media reports that Pakistan had turned down a Chinese role in easing Pak-Afghan border tension, the FO Spokesperson Tahir Andrabi commented, “Any unnecessary speculation or fabrication of facts in this regard is unwarranted”. Pakistan and China remain trusted partners and close friends. “We maintain regular and close communication on all issues of mutual concern and shared interest,” he remarked.

Andrabi highlighted that during the recent telephone conversation between the Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Dar and the Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi, a wide range of issues were discussed, including developments related to Afghanistan. Similarly, during the visit of the Chinese Special Representative for Afghanistan, Ambassador Yue Xiaoyong, consultations were held on matters relating to regional peace and stability, including Afghanistan.

In a media report, it was claimed that Pakistan has conveyed to China in a ‘polite manner’ that they will continue with their existing policy of non-engagement with the Taliban regime, as they have not seen any change in the attitude of Kabul on accommodating the outlawed Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) and other terrorist organizations operating from Afghan soil. This is equivalent to saying that Pakistan has turned down yet another effort by its

friendly country, China, to ease tensions between Pakistan and Afghanistan, the report further claimed.

We enjoy unanimity of views on all issues, including with respect to Afghanistan. As you know, we are engaged in a dialogue process on Afghanistan. Afghanistan features both in our bilateral dialogue, as well as, in our trilateral dialogue framework, the FO spokesperson said in a media briefing last week.

With respect to the visit of the Chinese Special Envoy, we maintain close coordination with China at all levels, including at the Special Envoy's level. So our Special Envoy, Ambassador Sadiq, is in touch with his Chinese counterpart.

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2026/03/17/12-page/1093991-news.html>

Daily Times

Pakistan denies refusing China's push for Afghan talks

The conflict began when Afghan forces targeted Pakistan border posts on Feb. 26 in response to Islamabad's earlier air strikes on what it said were Pakistani Taliban and Daesh camps inside Afghanistan.

China said on Monday its special envoy had spent a week mediating between Afghanistan and Pakistan and had urged an immediate ceasefire after deadly cross-border clashes flared.

However, some Pakistani media reports suggested Islamabad had politely declined China's mediation efforts, citing Kabul's failure to change its stance on the presence of militant groups on Afghan soil.

"Pakistan and China remain trusted partners and close friends. We maintain regular and close communication on all issues of mutual concern and shared interest," Pakistan foreign ministry spokesman Tahir Andrabi told Arab News, saying any speculation or fabrication of facts in this regard was "unwarranted." "During the recent telephone conversation between the Deputy Prime Minister/Foreign Minister [Ishaq Dar] and Foreign Minister Wang Yi, a wide range of issues were discussed, including developments related to Afghanistan," he said. "Similarly, during the visit of Chinese Special Representative for Afghanistan, Ambassador Yue Xiaoyong, consultations were held on matters relating to regional peace and stability, including Afghanistan."

China has poured tens of billions of dollars into Pakistan to fund massive transport, energy and infrastructure projects as part of Beijing's transnational Belt and Road scheme. Islamabad used Chinese-made military hardware, including jets, against India during a short conflict last May. Analysts say Beijing has also become a crucial partner of the Taliban authorities since they swept back to power in Kabul in 2021 after ousting the foreign-backed government.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1465547/pakistan-denies-refusing-chinas-push-for-afghan-talks/>

Over 48,000 treated at China-aided Gwadar hospital in two months

The China-aided Pak-China Friendship Hospital in Gwadar attended to 48,656 patients in the first two months of 2026, Gwadar Pro reported on Monday.

According to the hospital administration, inpatients are provided with free medicines, diagnostic services, and meals. On average, between 1,100 and 1,200 patients visit the facility daily to receive treatment and avail free diagnostic services. As a major healthcare facility for residents along the coast of Balochistan, the Pak-China Friendship Hospital continues to serve and benefit the local population.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1465432/over-48000-treated-at-china-aided-gwadar-hospital-in-two-months/>

March 18, 2026

Business Recorder

Pakistan, China jointly moving towards upgraded phase of cooperation under CPEC 2.0: CG

LAHORE: Newly-appointed Chinese Consul General in Lahore Sun Yan has said that Pakistan and China are jointly moving towards an upgraded phase of cooperation under CPEC 2.0, which will focus on critical sectors such as industry, agriculture and mining, while emphasizing that human capital equipped with Chinese language skills will be essential for unlocking the full potential of bilateral trade and investment.

He said that as the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor deepens, professionals who understand Chinese language and culture will be in high demand, as language acts as a bridge for communication and a powerful tool to enhance mutual understanding and business collaboration between the two nations.

He was speaking at the Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI) at the concluding ceremony of a three-month Chinese language course organized for members of the business community.

LCCI President Faheem Ur Rehman Saigol warmly welcomed the Chinese Consul General and Chinese Commercial Consul Li Haoteng. LCCI Vice President Khurram Lodhi and Executive Committee Members Firdos Nisar, Ahad Amin Malik, Karamat Ali Awan, Abdul Majeed and Amir Ali were also present on the occasion.

In his address, LCCI President Faheem Ur Rehman Saigol said that the Pakistan-China friendship is time-tested and has always stood strong in every challenging situation, rooted in mutual trust, sincerity and unwavering support. He stated that the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor is a landmark initiative that has transformed bilateral relations into a comprehensive strategic partnership encompassing trade, investment, infrastructure, technology and people-to-people linkages.

He highlighted that China has consistently remained Pakistan's largest trading partner, reflecting the depth of economic engagement between the two countries. However, he

pointed out that there is a significant imbalance in bilateral trade, with Pakistan's exports to China recorded at around 2.5 billion dollars compared to imports of approximately 16.3 billion dollars. He stressed the need for corrective measures and expressed hope that, with the facilitation of the Chinese Consulate, Pakistani exporters would be able to effectively utilize the China-Pakistan Free Trade Agreement to expand their footprint in the Chinese market.

The LCCI President emphasized that Pakistan possesses strong export potential in sectors including agriculture, food processing, minerals, seafood, surgical instruments, sports goods, textiles, leather products and IT services. He said that with improved market access, better certification mechanisms and enhanced business-to-business cooperation, these sectors can significantly increase their presence in China.

He further stated that Pakistan offers highly attractive investment opportunities in areas such as information technology, renewable energy, agriculture, electric vehicles, textiles and value-added manufacturing. He added that the Special Economic Zones established under CPEC provide an excellent platform for Chinese investors to expand their global operations while benefiting from Pakistan's strategic geographic location.

Faheem ur Rehman Saigol also underscored the importance of global economic stability, noting that ongoing geopolitical tensions, particularly involving Iran, Israel and the United States, have created uncertainty in international markets. He expressed confidence in China's role in promoting dialogue and peaceful resolution, emphasizing that sustainable economic growth can only be achieved through stability, cooperation and diplomacy.

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2026/03/18/3-page/1094110-news.html>

Punjab to install 150MW of solar power project at Quaid-e-Azam Solar Park

LAHORE: The government of Punjab is considering the installation of a 150-megawatt solar power plant at the Quaid-e-Azam Solar Park as part of its strategy to secure affordable and green energy resources.

The proposal was discussed during a meeting of provincial energy department chaired by Punjab Minister for Energy Malik Faisal Ayub Khokhar. The meeting reviewed multiple initiatives aimed at promoting affordable, reliable, and sustainable energy while strengthening the province's industrial sector, officials stated.

Addressing the participants, the minister stressed that a cost-effective and sustainable energy system is essential for industrial growth. He noted that the provincial government is committed to introducing reforms in the energy sector by adopting modern, environmental friendly technologies to ensure cheaper electricity for industries and to bolster the economy. He added that waste-to-energy projects would not only provide alternative energy sources but also help address urban waste management challenges.

During the meeting, three major proposals were examined in detail. The first focused on off-grid power generation through alternative sources, including solar, waste-to-energy, and hydropower projects. Officials highlighted that expanding renewable energy in Punjab could significantly increase electricity generation while ensuring low-cost energy supply to both

industrial and urban sectors. Citing a 2022 study by the World Bank, the meeting was informed that around 30 potential sites for waste-to-energy projects have been identified across major cities such as Lahore, Faisalabad, Gujranwala, Multan, Rawalpindi and Sialkot.

The second proposal discussed the use of solar energy through wheeling arrangements to supply low-cost electricity to WASA and the Lahore Orange Line Metro Train. Officials stated that the proposed solar plant at Quaid-e-Azam Solar Park is expected to generate approximately 300 million units of electricity annually. Of this, 250 million units could be allocated to WASA Punjab, while 50 million units may be supplied to the metro train system. The estimated cost of solar power generation was projected at Rs10.97 per unit, offering significant savings compared to current tariffs.

The third proposal addressed the provision of affordable electricity to industrial zones across Punjab. Officials noted that industries are currently burdened by high electricity tariffs, with demand in industrial zones expected to increase by an additional 307 megawatts by 2030. Detailed load projections were presented for key industrial estates, including Sundar Industrial Estate Lahore, Quaid-e-Azam Industrial Estate Kot Lakhpat, Multan Industrial Estate (Phases I & II), Rahim Yar Khan Industrial Estate, Quaid-e-Azam Business Park Sheikhpura, Bhalwal Industrial Estate, Vehari Industrial Estate, and Chunian Industrial Estate.

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2026/03/18/3-page/1094109-news.html>

Daily Times

Diamer-Bhasha Dam project offers new jobs for local residents

The Diamer-Bhasha Hydropower Project has announced 18 driver vacancies for residents of District Diamer as construction work on the mega dam continues.

The project is owned by the Water and Power Development Authority (WAPDA), with the main construction contract awarded to the Power China-FWO joint venture, Gwadar Pro reported on Tuesday. According to the announcement, the vacancies are for driver positions linked to the project. Applicants with valid driving licences and relevant experience can apply through Central Testing Services by March 30.

The recruitment is part of ongoing efforts to create employment opportunities for communities in the project area, according to the project statement.

Diamer-Bhasha Dam is being built on the Indus River about 40 kilometres downstream of Chilas. WAPDA says the project is expected to be completed in 2030. Once finished, it is expected to have a gross water storage capacity of 8.1 million acre-feet, help irrigate 1.23 million acres of land, and generate 4,500 megawatts of electricity, with annual output of about 18 billion units.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1465831/diamer-bhasha-dam-project-offers-new-jobs-for-local-residents/>

March 18, 2026

K2 Daily

پتہ: روزنامہ "کے لو" 48
 رشتہ ہے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ دونوں ممالک نے ہر
 مشکل جگہ میں ایک دوسرے کا ساتھ دیا
 ہے۔ گورنر پنجاب نے کہا کہ پاکستانی قوم چنانچہ
 سے محبت کرتی ہے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ مسعود
 پاکستان آصف علی زرداری نے کی ایک میں گائیڈی
 کردار ادا کیا۔ گورنر پنجاب نے کہا کہ
 2008 سے 2013 کے درمیان صدر آصف علی
 زرداری نے چنانچہ کے 14 سرکاری دورے
 کیے۔ انہوں نے مزید کہا کہ پاکستان اور چنانچہ
 کے تعلقات میں گورنر پنجاب نے کئی بار
 اقدام کرتے ہیں۔ گورنر پنجاب نے کہا کہ پاکستانی
 طلباء چنانچہ میں تعلیم حاصل کرنے کو ترجیح دے
 رہے ہیں۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ چنانچہ اور پاکستان کے
 درمیان تعلیمی اور بزنس کے شعبوں میں ترقی کے
 زیادہ سے زیادہ مواقع ہونے چاہئیں۔ چنانچہ
 تو فیصل جزل سن این (Sun Yan, Mr) نے
 کہا کہ مستقبل میں بھی پاک چنانچہ تعاون ہر سطح پر
 جاری رہے گا

چین سے اعتماد کا ٹوٹا انگ شہ گورنر پنجاب
 دونوں ممالک کے درمیان تعلیم، تجارت اور تحقیق میں تعاون بڑھانے پر توجہ مرکوز کرنی چاہئے
 گورنر پنجاب سے چینی تو فیصل جزل کی ملاقات، پاک چین تعلقات میں مزید مضبوط بنانے پر اتفاق
 لاہور (این این آئی) گورنر پنجاب سردار سلیم نے گورنر ہائس لاہور میں ملاقات۔ گورنر پنجاب موقع پر گفتگو کرتے ہوئے گورنر پنجاب سردار سلیم
 حیدر خان سے لاہور میں سے تہنیت ہونے والے نے سے تہنیت ہونے والے چینی تو فیصل جزل کو حیدر خان نے کہا کہ پاکستان اور چنانچہ کے درمیان
 چینی تو فیصل جزل سن این (Sun Yan, Mr) سہارن پور کی اور ایک خواہشات کا اظہار کیا۔ اس اعتبار اور محبت کا ٹوٹ (باقی صفحہ نمبر 48)

<https://epaper.dailyk2.com/isl/2026-03-18/page8>

<https://epaper.dailyk2.com/isl/2026-03-18/page6>

چینی کرنسی میں ادائیگی کی شرط پر
 پاکستانی کنٹینرز کو آبنائے ہرگز سے
 گزرنے دیا گیا، مشاہدہ حسین
 اسلام آباد (آئی این بی) سینیٹر عبدال
 مشاہد حسین نے دعویٰ کیا ہے کہ ایران نے
 آبنائے ہرگز سے (باقی صفحہ نمبر 31)

<https://epaper.dailyk2.com/isl/2026-03-18/page8>

<https://epaper.dailyk2.com/isl/2026-03-18/page7>

March 19, 2026

Business Recorder

CM, Chinese CG underscore need for expanding strategic cooperation, promoting CPEC

LAHORE: Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif met the newly appointed Consul General of China, Sun Yan, here Wednesday in which both sides agreed to further strengthen strategic cooperation and promote the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor.

During the meeting, the Chinese Consul General invited the Chief Minister to visit China, an invitation that she accepted with thanks.

The meeting also reaffirmed the commitment to further strengthen Pakistan-China friendship and work together for shared prosperity.

Both sides emphasised enhancing bilateral cooperation in trade, infrastructure, energy and information technology while expanding economic and cultural exchanges between the Government of Punjab and the Chinese Consulate.

The Chief Minister congratulated Sun Yan on assuming his diplomatic responsibilities in Lahore. She appreciated China's continued defence cooperation with Pakistan and its role in helping ease tensions with other countries, describing the friendship between Pakistan and China as exemplary.

Speaking on the occasion, Consul General Sun Yan said China deeply values its longstanding friendship with Pakistan. He described Sino-Pakistan relations as a shining example of strategic trust, mutual respect and unwavering solidarity. He also appreciated Pakistan's firm commitment to regional peace, stability and development and expressed interest in further strengthening economic cooperation with businesses and development partners in Punjab.

The CM Maryam Nawaz stated that China has played an important role in Pakistan's regional security, sovereignty and development. She noted that Punjab is keen to strengthen cooperation with Chinese partners in industrial development, technological collaboration and urban management.

She highlighted that Punjab aims to accelerate economic growth through industrialisation, logistics corridors and technology partnerships under CPEC. The province is developing Special Economic Zones for Chinese investors, including opportunities at the Allama Iqbal Industrial City and the Quaid-e-Azam Business Park, where a Garments City is being prepared for Chinese investors, she added.

Maryam Nawaz Sharif said, "Punjab is offering investment opportunities for foreign investors in textiles, agriculture, renewable energy, electric mobility, waste management and information technology."

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2026/03/19/4-page/1094286-news.html>

Daily Times

Bilateral trade, cooperation in focus as Punjab CM meets new Chinese CG

Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif met the newly appointed Consul General of China, Sun Yan, in Lahore.

CM Maryam Nawaz Sharif congratulated Sun Yan on assuming his diplomatic responsibilities in Lahore. During the meeting, the Chinese Consul General invited the Chief Minister to visit China, an invitation that she accepted with thanks.

Both sides agreed to further strengthen strategic cooperation and promote the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor. Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif appreciated China's continued defence cooperation with Pakistan and its role in helping ease tensions with other countries, describing the friendship between Pakistan and China as exemplary. Local event listings

The meeting also reaffirmed the commitment to further strengthen Pakistan-China friendship and work together for shared prosperity. Both sides emphasised enhancing bilateral

cooperation in trade, infrastructure, energy and information technology while expanding economic and cultural exchanges between the Government of Punjab and the Chinese Consulate.

CM Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif stated that China has played an important role in Pakistan's regional security, sovereignty and development. She noted that Punjab is keen to strengthen cooperation with Chinese partners in industrial development, technological collaboration and urban management.

She highlighted that Punjab aims to accelerate economic growth through industrialisation, logistics corridors and technology partnerships under CPEC. The province is developing Special Economic Zones for Chinese investors, including opportunities at the Allama Iqbal Industrial City and the Quaid-e-Azam Business Park, where a Garments City is being prepared for Chinese investors.

Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif said Punjab is offering investment opportunities for foreign investors in textiles, agriculture, renewable energy, electric mobility, waste management and information technology. She added that dedicated China desks and business facilitation centres have been established to support Chinese companies.

The Chief Minister further stated that economic zones in Punjab have been designed as industrial gateways for Chinese investment, focusing on export-oriented manufacturing, supply chain integration and long-term industrial partnerships. The plug-and-play Garments City at Quaid-e-Azam Business Park is being developed with ready infrastructure and utilities to attract foreign investors.

She emphasised that Chinese companies are contributing significantly to technology transfer, industrial diversification and employment generation in the province.

Ensuring the security of Chinese citizens and projects remains a priority for the Government of Punjab, which is committed to providing a safe and business-friendly environment for Chinese investors.

Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif reiterated Punjab's interest in expanding cooperation with China in innovation, green development and advanced manufacturing.

Speaking on the occasion, Consul General Sun Yan said China deeply values its longstanding friendship with Pakistan.

He described Sino-Pakistan relations as a shining example of strategic trust, mutual respect and unwavering solidarity.

He also appreciated Pakistan's firm commitment to regional peace, stability and development and expressed interest in further strengthening economic cooperation with businesses and development partners in Punjab.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1466445/bilateral-trade-cooperation-in-focus-as-punjab-cm-meets-new-chinese-cg/>

PA speaker meets Chinese CG, vows to fortify Pak-China ties

Punjab Assembly (PA) Speaker Malik Muhammad Ahmad Khan held a meeting with the newly-appointed Chinese Consul General Sun Yan at the Assembly Chamber, here on Wednesday. Both sides discussed ways to further strengthen Pakistan-China relations and enhance bilateral cooperation across multiple sectors.

The speaker congratulated the Consul General on assuming his new responsibilities and extended his best wishes.

During the meeting, detailed discussions were held on the progress of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor projects and prospects for collaboration in emerging sectors.

Speaker Malik Muhammad Ahmad Khan said that Pakistan-China friendship was an enduring bond rooted in mutual trust, respect and shared interests, adding that China had always stood by Pakistan in challenging times. He emphasized that exchange of parliamentary delegations would further deepen bilateral ties, noting that China had consistently remained a sincere and reliable partner in Pakistan's development journey.

He added that under the leadership of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, new dimensions were being added to Pak-China economic relations, while Punjab, under Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif, was progressing steadily on the path of development and prosperity.

Highlighting the importance of CPEC, the Speaker termed it a cornerstone of Pakistan's sustainable development and a key driver of economic growth for both countries, enhancing Pakistan's strategic importance at regional and global levels.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1466330/pa-speaker-meets-chinese-cg-vows-to-fortify-pak-china-ties/>

China leads Pakistan's Feb FDI with \$140.1m in net inflows

Pakistan attracted \$213.5 million in net foreign direct investment (FDI) in February, with China accounting for the largest share, Gwadar Pro reported on Wednesday quoting the State Bank of Pakistan's (SBP) latest statistics. China contributed \$151.2 million in gross inflows during the month, while \$11.1 million was recorded as outflow, bringing its net investment to \$140.1 million.

This represents 65.62% of Pakistan's total FDI for February. Cumulatively, during the first eight months of FY 2025-26 (July-February), Pakistan attracted a total net FDI of (\$1.19 billion. Of this total, \$635.7 million was attributed to China alone during the period. Sector-wise, the electricity, gas, steam, and air conditioning supply sector attracted the highest investment at \$655.8 million. The manufacturing sector received \$281 million, followed by construction with \$94.8 million, while the remainder distributed across other sectors.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1466403/china-leads-pakistans-feb-fdi-with-140-1m-in-net-inflows/>

March 20, 2026

Business Recorder

China's goal: technical self-reliance by 2030

Dr Farid A Malik

China's march forward continues. The People's Republic has embarked on an economic transition based on technological self-reliance to be achieved by 2030. It is part of their five-year development plan (2025 to 2030). In October last year while attending the International Pittsburgh Coal Conference in Beijing, I came to know that the country intends to stop the use of coal by the year 2030. Little did I know that there was an all-inclusive leap forward program by this deadline. After the Communist revolution in 1949, the People's Republic of China (PRI) has followed a clear road map for advancement of its national objectives. Clear focus has been on socio-economic development and common good. Poverty has been tackled as a foremost challenge to be overcome.

Through its ambitious BRI (Belt & Road Initiative) PRI plans to globally expand the distribution network of its products. CPEC (China Pakistan Economic Corridor) is part of this effort for global connectivity. Economic transition is only possible through technological self-reliance; there is clarity at all levels. Unfortunately, in the land of the pure no such road map exists. Pakistan opened its innings with clearly documented five-year development plans. Planning Commission of Pakistan was well manned with experts. It was headed by Deputy Chairman reporting directly to the Chairman who was also the President of the republic. Assessment of needs was carried out followed by implementation either through PIDC (Pakistan Industrial Development Corporation) or private sector initiatives. Entire framework was prepared well before the October 1958 takeover by the Field Marshal.

Jinnah decided to follow the Western route of technology development in which scientific research in a laboratory was the starting point followed by application and technological understanding to produce marketable products. It was a linked chain starting with science leading to technology and finally production and marketing. After the Second World War (WW II) study of physics was dominant. Jinnah wrote to the leading scientists of the time. Dr Rafi Chaudhry was identified who after completing his PhD from Cambridge University was teaching at Aligarh. On the invitation of the father of the nation Dr Chaudhry came to Pakistan to head the Physics department at Government College. He established the first high tension Physics laboratory in Asia. It is located across the road from the main entrance of the Civil Secretariat complex. Dr Chaudhry was the father of Physics in the new land that ultimately emerged as the 7th Nuclear power of the world. Dr Abdul Salam, the Nobel laureate, was his student. Pakistan was the first country in Asia to go into space followed by production of Silicon for Solar cells and ball point pens. Fortunately, the ball-point pens were developed and produced in the private sector by Syed Engineers led by the brilliant engineer Syed Ajmal Hussain. Unfortunately, we were unable to use our Silicon for commercial production of Solar cells in Asia. PRI now leads the world in this area. While our scientific research remained restricted to technical publications China focused on marketable products.

There was a clear road map to reach the marketplace for commercialization and application of research.

As Chairman Pakistan Science Foundation (PSF), I represented the country in several international forums. In one of the symposiums the Deputy Minister of Science and Technology presented China's road map for development. He knew the subject well but could not express himself in English while our head of the delegation only had command of the language. Technocrats are needed to develop technology as such all technical ministries should be headed by them. Compared to PRI our road map for technological self-reliance is seriously flawed without which economic transition will remain a pipe dream.

Technological self-reliance is another misunderstood subject in the land of the pure. Iran learnt it the hard way. After the revolution in 1979 the Iranian Air Force (IAF) was grounded mainly due to lack of availability of small consumable and replaceable parts of USA origin. The Semiconductor Research Centre in Tehran was set-up which worked closely with the manufacturing facility in Sheraz to overcome this dependence. Today the country is producing its indigenous drones and missiles. The latest F-35 series of fighter aircrafts of USAF (United States Air Force) has several electronic components produced commercially in Japan. In case of disruption of supplies, they can be produced locally. While the US has technological self-reliance it lacks commercial viability for large scale production of these vital parts. Today PRI has emerged as the manufacturer of the world now it desires to develop its own technologies by 2030. It plans to lead not follow.

In a world driven by technology only change is permanent. Management of Technology (MOT) basically requires understanding of change mechanisms. Status-quo is no longer an option. Those who come in the way of change in fact inflict harm. Despite good intentions of the individuals at the helm, nations continue to suffer at the altar of stagnation managed and defended by champions of status-quo. Like PRI the IRP needs an effective road map for technological self-reliance.

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2026/03/20/5-page/1094461-news.html>

Daily Times

China hails Pak-Afghan fighting pause, slams killing of Iranian leaders, civilians

China on Thursday welcomed the temporary ceasefire between Pakistan and Afghanistan while condemning the killing of Iranian leaders and attacks on civilians amid rising tensions in the region.

Foreign Ministry spokesperson Lin Jian made the remarks at a regular press briefing after Pakistan announced a "temporary pause" in Operation Ghazab Lil Haq against the Afghan Taliban and terrorists in the neighbouring country on request of mediating countries and the upcoming Eidul Fitr holidays.

Lin said China hoped that both countries would remain calm and restrained, resume peace talks promptly, achieve a comprehensive and lasting ceasefire as soon as possible, resolve differences through dialogue, and jointly maintain peace and stability between the two

countries and in the region. He said China appreciated the efforts made by relevant Islamic countries, and was mediating the conflict via its own channels, adding that China was willing to continue playing a constructive role in this regard.

Lin also condemned the killing of Iranian leaders and said Beijing opposed the use of force, adding that attacks on civilian targets were “unacceptable”.

“The killing of Iranian leaders and attacks on civilian targets are by no means acceptable,” he said in response to a question. The remarks came after reports that Ali Larijani, secretary of Iran’s Supreme National Security Council, was killed in an Israeli strike. China has repeatedly called for restraint and a peaceful resolution as the conflict intensifies.

China on Tuesday announced emergency humanitarian assistance for Iran, Jordan, Lebanon and Iraq, citing worsening humanitarian conditions amid ongoing regional conflict.

Speaking at a regular briefing in Beijing, Lin said the conflict had caused “excruciating humanitarian disasters” affecting people in Iran and other countries in the region.

“China deeply sympathises with people in relevant countries and our hearts go out to them,” he said.

Lin added that China would continue efforts to promote peace and a ceasefire, facilitate the early restoration of regional stability, and prevent the humanitarian crisis from worsening.

Gulf Arab states are pressing the United States not to stop short in its campaign against Iran, urging it to neutralise Tehran’s ability to threaten the region’s oil lifeline, sources and diplomats told Reuters.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1466792/china-hails-pak-afghan-fighting-pause-slams-killing-of-iranian-leaders-civilians/>

March 24, 2026

Business Recorder

Sahiwal Power Plant keeps grid stable during Ramazan demand surge

ISLAMABAD: The 1,320-megawatt Sahiwal Coal-Fired Power Plant ensured uninterrupted electricity supply throughout the holy month of Ramazan, meeting the sharp rise in national demand through close coordination between government authorities and the enterprise.

From February 18 to March 20, millions of households across Pakistan relied on steady power to carry out religious and daily activities.

Ensuring a stable electricity supply during this period was vital for maintaining social harmony and supporting nationwide observances. This year, however, the energy landscape posed exceptional challenges.

Regional security tensions, volatility in international energy markets, and domestic logistical constraints, particularly the shortage of railway wagons and reduced transport efficiency, placed significant pressure on the power sector.

Compounding these difficulties, higher-than-average temperatures and reduced precipitation in northern regions led to a substantial shortfall in hydropower generation, further widening the electricity supply gap. Against this backdrop, the responsibility on thermal power producers to sustain uninterrupted supply became increasingly critical.

As a key pillar of Pakistan's national grid and a flagship project of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, the 1320MW Sahiwal Power Plant rose to the occasion by promptly activating a comprehensive Ramazan power assurance plan.

Taking a leading role, the plant coordinated across the entire operational chain, including fuel procurement, railway logistics, plant operations, and external stakeholder engagement, to ensure smooth and reliable performance.

To address core challenges related to fuel supply, transportation, and policy coordination, the plant maintained close and continuous engagement with major national stakeholders, including the National Grid Dispatch Center, the Central Power Purchasing Agency, and Pakistan Railways. Through targeted consultations and high-level coordination, the plant highlighted operational constraints and secured essential institutional support, enabling a unified and efficient response.

Simultaneously, collaboration with industry partners facilitated the expedited handling of railway wagon spare parts, from port arrival and customs clearance to dispatch and on-site maintenance, contributing to sustained improvements in rail transport capacity.

National institutions played a pivotal role in supporting these efforts. The National Grid Dispatch Center, prioritizing system stability, issued optimized load dispatch directives aligned with the plant's operational strengths and strategic location, reinforcing its role as a cornerstone of grid reliability.

The Central Power Purchasing Agency ensured timely financial support for fuel procurement and operational continuity. Meanwhile, Pakistan Railways, in coordination with its regional divisions, prioritized coal transport for the plant, streamlining train scheduling, mitigating wagon shortages, and effectively establishing a dedicated green corridor for fuel movement. During the holy month of Ramazan, four ships were successfully unloaded at the port, while 96 coal trains were dispatched and fully unloaded at the plant site, resulting in a total handling volume of 192,000 tons of coal. Over the same period, the power plant generated approximately 660 million kilowatt-hours of electricity, with the highest single-unit load rate reaching 92 percent, reflecting strong operational performance under challenging conditions.

The plant's performance ensured a stable and reliable electricity supply throughout Ramazan, supporting households across Pakistan in observing the holy month with ease and continuity. It also underscored the effectiveness of coordinated action between public institutions and enterprise stakeholders in addressing critical national challenges.—APP

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2026/03/24/5-page/1094732-news.html>

Dawn News

On Pakistan Day, Xi vows closer ties for ‘shared future’

Chinese president says he is pleased by Islamabad’s development achievements

- King Charles highlights cooperation in building climate resilience
- PM, Dar reiterate commitment to peace, wiping out terror
- Star-and-crescent raised in Tehran embassy amid US-Israel war

ISLAMABAD: As the nation marked Pakistan Day under the shadow of simmering crises in the region, the political leadership vowed to protect the country’s peace and security, while several countries conveyed messages of goodwill.

Chief among them was Chinese President Xi Jinping, who expressed willingness to work with President Asif Ali Zardari to build an even closer Sino-Pak community with a shared future in the new era.

President Xi’s message to the president highlighted the start of China’s 15th Five-Year Plan this year, as well as the 75th anniversary of diplomatic ties between China and Pakistan.

He expressed hope that both sides would carry forward their traditional friendship, enhance strategic communication and alignment of development strategies, and move forward together on their respective paths to modernisation.

He lauded the Pakistani government on steadfastly safeguarding national sovereignty, independence, territorial integrity and national dignity, overcoming various risks and challenges, and advancing national development, as well as making contributions to regional peace, stability, development and prosperity.

As a close friend, China is sincerely pleased with Pakistan’s development achievements, Xi added.

Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi on also extended his congratulations on Pakistan Day in a message to Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar.

Over the past years, the Pakistani government and people have overcome various risks and challenges, achieved economic and social development, and played an increasingly important role in international and regional affairs, said Wang — also a member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China Central Committee — in his congratulatory message

Wang expressed willingness to work with Dar to follow through on the important consensus reached by leaders of the two countries and deepen the Pak-China all-weather strategic cooperative partnership.

Charles’ message

King Charles III of Great Britain also sent a message to the president, saying that he looked forward to the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting later this year to reaffirm shared commitments and chart a course for the future.

In his message, the British monarch reflected on the shared bond between the two countries, and the vibrant British-Pakistani community that serves as a vital link.

He also mentioned the practical cooperation between London and Islamabad on building climate resilience and a better future — something of a pet subject for King Charles — and highlighted efforts to strengthen flood preparedness and water management as examples of the new partnership between both nations.

According to the Associated Press of Pakistan, President Zardari reciprocated King Charles' heartfelt message, saying that his warm words reflected a bond that went beyond diplomacy, rooted in people, culture and shared future.

Commitment against terrorism

In his message to the nation, Deputy Prime Minister Ishaq Dar, said the country was celebrating Pakistan Day at a time when the region was engulfed in conflicts. and the economic and political repercussions of the ongoing conflict had affected Pakistan as well.

Saying that Pakistan remained firmly committed to eradicate the menace of terrorism, he singled out Afghanistan, saying that actions targeting terrorist outfits such as the Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) were directed towards this goal.

He paid tribute to the martyrs and heroes who had rendered the supreme sacrifice for the betterment of our collective future, and also recalled the exceptional sacrifices given by Kashmiri brothers and sisters in their quest for the inalienable right to self-determination.

Earlier, in his own Pakistan Day message, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif had termed military action inside Afghanistan “a symbol of our national resolve against terrorism”.

“We will not allow any harm to the peace and security of our country,” he added.

Ceremonies

Pakistan Day was marked with traditional zeal across the country, even though the festivities had been toned down in line with prevailing austerity measures.

PM Shehbaz Sharif raised the national flag in a small ceremony in his Lahore camp office, while changing of guard ceremonies were held at the Mazar-i-Quaid and the tomb of Allama Iqbal, among other key sites.

Diplomatic missions around the world also observed Pakistan Day, including in Tehran, where amid intermittent bombing, a flag hoisting ceremony was held and the president and PM's messages were also read out.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1984747/on-pakistan-day-xi-vows-closer-ties-for-shared-future>

March 27, 2026

Business Recorder

Governor, Chinese CG for accelerating pace of work on projects in Sindh under CPEC

KARACHI: Sindh Governor Muhammad Nehal Hashmi and China's Consul General Yang Yundong agreed on Thursday to expand cooperation in infrastructure, investment and emerging economic sectors, as both sides reaffirmed their commitment to deepening bilateral ties.

At a meeting held at the Governor House, the two dignitaries discussed accelerating development projects in Sindh under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), with a focus on improving infrastructure and boosting Chinese investment in the province.

They also explored opportunities to enhance collaboration in Pakistan's blue economy, highlighting its increasing strategic and economic importance. Both sides agreed to strengthen youth engagement through expanded exchange programmes and increased educational scholarships, and expedite joint initiatives in education, also pledging to boost cooperation in the mining and minerals sector. Hashmi stressed the need to benefit from China's advanced agricultural technologies to improve productivity and support Sindh's rural economy.

Pakistan's Prime Minister's Youth Programme was equipping young people with market-relevant skills, he added. He announced to host an investment conference in near future to promote joint ventures between Pakistani and Chinese investors. "Pakistan and China share common friends and challenges," Hashmi said, adding that Beijing's support to Islamabad reflected a longstanding and reliable partnership. He emphasized the need for greater investor collaboration amid evolving global economic conditions. The Chinese Consul General described Pakistan as a "close, reliable and long-standing partner," noting that China's blue economy has surpassed one trillion yuan in value, offering significant scope for cooperation. He said the Chinese Consulate recently held a seminar on scholarships, attended by representatives from 30 Pakistani universities, including vice chancellors, faculty and students. Yang also highlighted sub-national ties, noting that Karachi and Shanghai are sister cities, while Sindh and Hubei are sister provinces. Both sides reiterated their commitment to strengthening these linkages. The Chinese envoy invited Hashmi to visit Shanghai, signalling continued high-level engagement between the two countries.

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2026/03/27/9-page/1095263-news.html>

March 28, 2026

Business Recorder

Thar Foundation wins three CSR awards

KARACHI: Thar Foundation, the community investment arm of Thar Block II entities, has won awards for Community Impact,

Social Impact and Women Empowerment at the 15th Annual Corporate Social Responsibility Summit & Awards 2026.

General Manager Thar Foundation Farhan Ansari while speaking on the occasion lauded the recognition to the Foundation's inclusive business model based on the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

“Thar Foundation and Sindh Engro Coal Mining Company (SECMC) have strived to ensure that the benefits of the Thar project directly uplift local communities through impactful projects in education and vocational training, health, clean water, women empowerment and biodiversity conservation,” said Farhan.

It is to be noted that Thar Foundation has established 33 school units and provided vocational training to 2000 youth in industry relevant skills of welding, solarization, IT, stitching and dressmaking while the Government Polytechnic Institute (GPI) in Mithi currently enrolls over 300 students.

Similarly, Thar Foundation's seven medical facilities (consultancy, ultrasound, lab services, maternal and child health, and medicines) have provided free critical healthcare services to over 450,000 community members.

“To address severe maternal and child health challenges, the Islamkot facility is being expanded into a 50-bed hospital,” said Farhan,

adding that access to clean drinking water has been extended through 33 Reverse Osmosis (RO) plants, delivering over 12 million litres of clean drinking water to around 34,000 community members monthly.

Moreover, the Village Electrification Project (VEP) has brought uninterrupted solar power to more than 3,750 households,

completing 100 percent solarization of Block II including 235 solar streetlights and around 500 pit latrines, improving daily life across the region.

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2026/03/28/5-page/1095453-news.html>

March 31, 2026

Business Recorder

President visits Chinese embassy

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari reportedly paid an unannounced visit to the Chinese Embassy late Sunday night following the conclusion of four-party talks in the federal capital on the Middle East crisis, as Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar is scheduled to visit China on Tuesday.

According to official sources, the Presidency has neither confirmed nor denied the development; however, the visit reportedly took place shortly after the high-level consultations, indicating possible diplomatic engagement in the evolving regional context.

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2026/03/31/2-page/1095881-news.html>

Dawn News

Beijing talks to ‘refine’ peace framework

Dar to visit China today to discuss US-Iran dialogue; ceasefire, maritime trade protection among guiding principles

- China backs Pakistan’s role as mediator; EU supports all mediation efforts
- Iran lauds Islamabad’s peace efforts, says it did not participate in framework

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan-China talks in Beijing on Tuesday are likely to focus on developing a framework and guiding principles for a prospective Iran-United States dialogue to end the war, a diplomat closely following the developments said.

Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar will travel to Beijing for a brief visit lasting only a few hours to further deliberate on ideas discussed during his telephone conversation with Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi last week.

“At the invitation of the Foreign Minister of China, Mr Wang Yi, the Deputy Prime Minister/Foreign Minister ... will undertake a visit to China on 31 March 2026,” the Foreign Office said, adding that the visit would allow both sides to hold in-depth discussions on regional developments as well as bilateral and global issues.

Mr Dar was initially scheduled to depart on Monday, but a fall on Sunday delayed his travel. He is now expected to stay in Beijing only briefly.

The visit comes a day after Mr Dar publicly hinted that Pakistan could host direct US-Iran talks in the coming days, as Islamabad stepped up efforts to position itself as a venue for negotiations.

The diplomatic push follows a four-country meeting hosted by Pakistan over the weekend involving Saudi Arabia, Türkiye and Egypt, where foreign ministers met for about 100 minutes and emphasised the need for de-escalation and dialogue. The ministers backed efforts to create conditions for structured negotiations between Washington and Tehran before departing on Sunday night.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif thanked the visiting ministers, saying, “Grateful for their confidence in Pakistan’s sincere efforts for regional peace and stability.”

Five principles guiding talks

An official said Pakistan, in its communication with China, outlined five key principles to guide any prospective talks: an immediate cessation of hostilities, resumption of dialogue, protection of civilians, security of maritime routes, and adherence to the principles of the United Nations Charter.

These principles are expected to form the core of discussions in Beijing, where both sides may seek to refine a broader framework for engagement between Tehran and Washington.

Pakistan is expecting an outcome document from the visit that would outline parameters for a talks process it seeks to facilitate, with particular emphasis on respect for Iran’s sovereignty, territorial integrity and independence.

China backs Pakistan’s role

During last week’s call, Mr Wang endorsed Pakistan’s role in facilitating dialogue and urged Iran to join the negotiations process aimed at ending the conflict.

Ahead of the visit, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Mao Ning said Beijing supports all efforts aimed at de-escalation and restoration of dialogue.

“We appreciate Pakistan’s efforts in promoting the easing of the situation, support Pakistan in continuing to play its role as a mediator, and are willing to strengthen communication and coordination ... to jointly promote peace and cease war, and safeguard regional peace and stability,” she said.

Iran’s cautious response

Iran, however, has maintained a degree of distance from the engagements Pakistan is undertaking to support the talks.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Esmail Baqaei said Pakistan’s consultations with regional countries were part of “a framework they themselves have designed, and we have not participated in this framework.”

“It is obvious that if regional and neighbouring countries are concerned about peace and security, this is commendable,” he said.

“However, the logical demand of the Islamic Republic of Iran is that any country or party addressing the issue of war in the region should pay attention to which side started this war.”

“It is necessary for perspectives to be realistic and fair, and not to expect restraint from only one side,” he added.

While Pakistan is positioning itself as a front-facing facilitator, leveraging its contacts with both Tehran and Washington, China is providing diplomatic backing and reinforcing Islamabad’s role as a credible intermediary.

An official said Beijing’s endorsement, coupled with support from key regional players, is expected to strengthen Pakistan’s credentials as an “honest broker” and advance a

coordinated push to steer the conflict toward negotiations, even as fighting on the ground continues to shape the pace and prospects of any talks.

EU endorsement

EU Council President António Costa, in a conversation with the PM, expressed the support of the 27-member European bloc for the peace efforts.

“The EU supports all mediation efforts. Only dialogue and diplomacy can bring peace and stability back to the Middle East, in full respect of the UN Charter and international law,” Costa said in his post on X while expressing concern over the prolongation of the war and its increasing global impact.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1986999/beijing-talks-to-refine-peace-framework>

Chinese Newspapers

March 16, 2026

China Daily

China ready to help with Afghan-Pakistani reconciliation

ZHAO JIA

China said on Monday that it is ready to continue contributing to reconciliation and the easing of tensions between Afghanistan and Pakistan.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Lin Jian made the remarks at a regular press briefing, saying that China has been working through its own channels to mediate in the ongoing conflict between the two countries. In recent days, China's Foreign Minister Wang Yi has held separate phone calls with Pakistani Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Mohammad Ishaq Dar and Afghan Foreign Minister Mawlawi Amir Khan Muttaqi, while China's special envoy for Afghan affairs has conducted shuttle diplomacy between the two countries. The Chinese embassies in both Afghanistan and Pakistan have also kept lines of communication open, Lin said. Both Afghanistan and Pakistan have expressed appreciation for China's active mediation efforts, he added. Lin noted that Afghanistan and Pakistan are neighbors that cannot move away from each other, and any problems between them can only be resolved through dialogue and consultation. The immediate priority is to prevent the fighting from expanding and to bring the two sides back to the negotiating table as soon as possible, he said. China hopes the two sides will remain calm and restrained, engage in face-to-face communication at an early date, achieve a ceasefire as soon as possible and resolve their differences through dialogue, Lin added.

In recent weeks, scores of people from both sides have been killed or injured in the conflict between Afghanistan and neighboring Pakistan, according to officials from both countries.

<https://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202603/16/WS69b7c242a310d6866eb3e140.html>

Beijing takes measured, confident approach

Maarij Farooq

At a time when the global economy is grappling with uncertainty, geopolitical tensions and uneven growth, China's annual political gatherings, known as the two sessions, which concluded last week, have attracted considerable international attention.

The just concluded meetings in Beijing of the nation's top legislative and political advisory bodies are not merely procedural events within China's governance framework. They represent an important moment when the country reviews its progress, sets policy priorities and signals its economic and strategic direction to the world.

This year's two sessions carried particular significance. They marked the beginning of the 15th Five-Year Plan (2026-30) period, a phase that is expected to play a decisive role in China's broader goal of achieving the status of a moderately developed country by 2035. At a moment when the international system is witnessing structural shifts in technology, trade and development models, the policy signals emerging from Beijing offer insight into how China would balance the imperative of maintaining economic momentum with the need to transition toward higher-quality growth.

The Government Work Report delivered during the sessions reflected a measured yet confident approach. China set its economic growth target for this year within a range of 4.5 to 5 percent, a figure that may appear modest compared with the double-digit expansion of earlier decades, but one that reflects a deliberate shift toward sustainable, innovation-driven development.

This approach is consistent with the broader transformation underway in the Chinese economy. Rather than relying solely on traditional drivers such as large-scale infrastructure investment or export-led manufacturing, China is steadily moving toward a model anchored in technological innovation, digital transformation and green development. The emphasis on these sectors reflects not only economic necessity, but also a strategic vision for long-term competitiveness.

President Xi Jinping's leadership and policy framework have been central to shaping this transition. Over the past decade, Xi has consistently articulated the concept of Chinese modernization, a development path that combines economic dynamism with social stability, technological advancement and environmental sustainability. His remarks during various deliberations during the two sessions reinforced the importance of innovation as the core driver of future growth. Artificial intelligence, advanced manufacturing, green technologies and the digital economy are no longer peripheral sectors. They are now integral to China's national development blueprint.

Equally important is the long-term planning embodied in the five-year plan system. The 15th Five-Year Plan (2026-30) continues a tradition of strategic foresight that has often distinguished China's economic management from more short-term policy cycles seen elsewhere. The plan seeks to consolidate China's progress in research and development, strengthen industrial capabilities and expand the digital economy, while maintaining a strong commitment to environmental protection and public welfare.

One of the notable policy directions emerging from the sessions is the continued expansion of research and development investment. China aims to maintain robust annual increases in R&D spending, recognizing that technological leadership will be a decisive factor in the global economy of the future. At the same time, the country is placing increasing emphasis on the digital economy, with core digital industries' added value expected to rise significantly as a share of national output.

Environmental sustainability has also become a central pillar of China's development strategy. The commitment to reducing carbon emissions reflects a broader understanding that economic progress and ecological balance must advance together. In this respect, China's transition toward green energy and sustainable industrial practices is likely to have implications well beyond its own borders, given the scale of its economy and its role in global supply chains.

The Government Work Report also outlined an ambitious set of 109 major national projects to be implemented over the coming five years. These initiatives span a wide range of sectors, including technological innovation, infrastructure modernization and improvements in public well-being. The emphasis on cultivating what Chinese policymakers call new quality productive forces suggests a forward-looking approach designed to strengthen China's industrial base while fostering emerging sectors that will define the next phase of global economic competition.

Beyond domestic policy considerations, the outcomes of the two sessions carry broader international implications. China today occupies a central position in the global economic landscape. It is a major trading partner for a vast number of countries and plays an increasingly important role in shaping global supply chains, technological standards and investment flows. As such, China's economic direction inevitably influences global markets and development trajectories.

From this perspective, the policy signals emerging from the two sessions this year underscore China's determination to maintain stability while advancing structural transformation.

In an international environment marked by fragmentation and uncertainty, China's emphasis on long-term planning, technological innovation and sustainable growth offers a model of development that prioritizes continuity and resilience.

If the objectives outlined during the two sessions are implemented effectively, China's development trajectory over the next decade could further reinforce its role as a major driver of global economic stability and technological progress. In a world searching for new engines of growth and cooperation, the direction set by Beijing will continue to command close attention.

<https://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202603/16/WS69b754d5a310d6866eb3df41.html>

March 17, 2026

China Daily

Pakistani researcher drawn to China's fast-growing biotech sector

HEFEI — Almost every morning, Muhammad Jalal finds himself squeezed between shelves and equipment in a laboratory at Anhui Agricultural University in Hefei, capital of East China's Anhui province, collecting various types of experimental data.

"China's stunning development in biotechnology and its robust scientific research capacity never cease to amaze me. Studying here has brought me ever closer to my dream," says the 24-year-old Pakistani student, an undergraduate majoring in biotechnology. Over the past three years in China, he has witnessed the leaps made by the country's science and technology sector.

Jalal's bond with China began with a special experience during his childhood. "My family struck up a close friendship with a Chinese doctor in Pakistan. Her passion and professionalism left a deep impression on me. Also, a book about cancer I chanced upon encouraged me to pursue research in this field," says Jalal, noting that he was greatly impressed by China's remarkable progress in genetics and molecular biology, as well as the rapid application of China's medical and scientific research achievements.

"Having witnessed Chinese scientists developing vaccines at such an astonishing speed, I really felt the power of biotechnology. At that moment, I was sure that this was the path I wanted to take," says Jalal, who adds that China has remained committed to achieving high-level self-reliance regarding science and technology.

"Robots and artificial intelligence technologies are now widely applied in scientific research, and they are pushing the boundaries of science, making China an ideal place for me to delve deep into biotechnology and pursue my dreams," Jalal notes.

Currently, Jalal and his Chinese classmates are carrying out joint research into the pathogenesis of colorectal cancer, exploring and verifying the efficacy of relevant drugs in a bid to find new breakthroughs for cancer treatment. His days are fully occupied with laboratory work, and careful guidance and patient mentoring from his supervisor serve as solid support for his research journey.

China has detailed a 2026 policy mix to bolster growth and innovation, and to promote high-standard opening-up. The country will expand access to its services market, including pilot programs in the telecommunications and biotechnology sectors, as well as wholly foreign-owned hospitals.

Such developments are filling Jalal with great enthusiasm. In Jalal's view, this is not only injecting a powerful impetus into the development of China's biopharmaceutical industry, but also building a broad platform for international exchanges and cooperation. "It enables international students to communicate and share opportunities for scientific and technological innovation," he explains.

According to Jalal, the development of China's production sector is brimming with vitality and dynamism, and the in-depth integration of artificial intelligence and biomedicine, as well as innovations in the fields of science, technology and industry, have constantly fostered new opportunities.

"This open environment has created more opportunities for scientific cooperation. I hope that one day, researchers from China and Pakistan can join hands to tackle challenges like cancer, and this dream is now well within reach," he says.

<https://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202603/17/WS69b8aa36a310d6866eb3e2b7.html>

March 19, 2026

China Daily

China welcomes Pakistan-Afghanistan Eid al-Adha ceasefire

Mo Jingxi

China on Thursday welcomed the agreement between Pakistan and Afghanistan to observe a temporary ceasefire during the Muslim holiday of Eid al-Adha, saying it hopes the two neighbors will maintain calm and restrain, resume peace talks promptly, and achieve a comprehensive and lasting ceasefire at the earliest. Foreign Ministry spokesman Lin Jian made the remarks after the two countries said they were suspending fighting at the request of Saudi Arabia, Turkiye and Qatar. The ceasefire is set to run from midnight Wednesday to midnight Monday. Lin said the two sides should appropriately resolve their differences through dialogue and jointly safeguard regional peace and stability. He also expressed China's appreciation for efforts made by relevant Islamic countries to promote the ceasefire. "China has been mediating the Pakistan-Afghanistan conflict through its own channels and stands ready to continue playing a constructive role," Lin added.

<https://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202603/19/WS69bbb7e8a310d6866eb3ebc4.html>

March 25, 2026

China Daily

Studying in China helps build new world narrative

Muhammad Zamir Assadi

As a fast-developing nation, a country with a rich history and a growing global impact, China is a very attractive place to study among students of all nationalities.

My personal experience of studying at Renmin and Tsinghua universities demonstrates how studying in China may change your worldview and improve cross-cultural relationships.

Academic rigor is not the only feature that makes education in China unique; how the education corresponds to real-world progress is also crucial.

The exposure you get to massive construction works, technology and policy trials is especially important to a student from a developing country such as Pakistan. Information is

provided on the models of development, forms of governance and strategies on innovation, which can be modified and applied elsewhere.

The work ethic of Chinese students and the high regard for education in China is also impressive. The interest in innovation and the readiness to adopt new concepts also helps to create a vibrant academic environment in Chinese universities.

Learning in China does not only give one the opportunity to study at the best universities, it also gives a student an interactive experience where the past and the present coexist.

Whether in the back streets of Beijing or in the state-of-the-art labs of the most prestigious schools, students see a society that is both traditional and progressive in terms of technology. This enables students to experience the way in which China is able to balance cultural longevity and economic change. It also helps to break down preconceived ideas and allows you to think about China in a more subtle way, beyond the news headlines.

Chinese society is seen as an introverted one by some. Many students arrive with a set of assumptions based on propagandistic Western media discourses or with a simple lack of information. However, when one spends time here, you see a different side of the coin. Hospitality, respect for education, a high emphasis on collective identity are among the values that foreign students learn to value in Chinese society.

Working with peers aids in the breaking down of stereotypes and the building of long-term friendships that cannot be limited only to academic life.

Studying and living in China enables students to develop their own informed opinions. Students experience the diversity of China in the megacities and the remote small provincial towns. They are exposed to its systems of governance, social services and social standards. When they go back to their countries of origin or take up jobs internationally, they become informal cross-cultural ambassadors.

In this context, Chinese education can be described as people-to-people diplomacy. It seals the gaps on a personal as opposed to an official level.

As a Pakistani student, it is important to me that the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) has brought the two nations closer, both culturally and economically.

My study time in China gave me an even better insight into this. It enabled me to observe the way that education exchange could supplement financial collaboration. Knowing the path of China's development and its institutional structures, students from countries like Pakistan will be better able to contribute to the development of joint projects and policy discussions.

This viewpoint can be applied particularly well in the modern global reality, where the voice of developing countries is becoming more and more significant.

The Chinese education system provides students of the Global South with the ability to tackle global problems in a more informed and balanced way. With the increasing presence of China on the world stage, international education will become even more important.

Universities are not merely educational institutions, they also serve as venues of discussion, invention and cultural interaction. Studying in China provides a chance to get beyond simplistic narratives and explore a dynamic society.

International students are welcome to share ideas and work with others from around the world in what is an open society. The experience of studying in China is not just about academic work it is a step to a new worldview and the building of relationships.

It also provides international students a new perspective for looking at their own countries. In a world where there are many misconceptions, these learning experiences bridge cultures, ideas and bring individuals together.

Studying in China is not only useful to individuals but also crucial to creating a more collaborative and globalized world.

<https://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202603/25/WS69c38d74a310d6866eb3fce9.html>

March 27, 2026

China Daily

China to enhance strategic communication with Pakistan to promote peace: Chinese FM

BEIJING -- China is willing to enhance strategic communication and coordination with Pakistan and make efforts to promote peace and end the war, Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi said on Friday.

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

<https://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202603/27/WS69c671c7a310d6866eb404f3.html>

March 28, 2026

China Daily

Pakistani PM's special representative: China creating mutual opportunities

China has created important development opportunities for the world through reform and opening-up. These opportunities are mutual — not only are foreigners coming to China, but Chinese people are also reaching out to the world, promoting mutual learning and shared development, Zafar Uddin Mahmood, special representative of the prime minister of Pakistan on China affairs, said at the thematic forum — Telling Stories Well: From Empathetic Communication to Cultural Identity on March 28

<https://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202603/28/WS69c7c7e4a310d6866eb406de.html>

FM says China supports Pakistan to play mediating role

Zhao Jia

Foreign Minister Wang Yi said on Friday that China appreciates Pakistan's untiring efforts to de-escalate the situation in the Middle East, saying China supports Pakistan in continuing to play a mediating role.

Wang made the remarks in a phone call with Pakistani Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Mohammad Ishaq Dar, reiterating China's commitment to strengthening strategic communication and coordination with Pakistan, and to working together to promote peace and stability in the region.

Wang added that initiating peace talks "is no easy task", but that dialogue was the only way to avoid further casualties and losses, prevent the fighting from spreading and help restore normal navigation through the Strait of Hormuz.

He said that China and Pakistan, as strategic partners who trust and support each other, have maintained an objective and impartial position on the conflict and hold broadly similar views.

Since the outbreak of the conflict, Wang has spoken with foreign ministers from multiple countries as part of China's diplomatic efforts to promote a ceasefire and a return to negotiations. His phone call with Dar was the latest in that endeavor and their second exchange in just over two weeks.

Dar briefed Wang on the latest situation in Iran and thanked China for supporting Pakistan's mediation efforts, saying a ceasefire,

an end to the fighting, and the restoration of peace are the common aspirations of all parties.

Dar said that the situation had reached a critical moment for restarting talks and urged the international community to encourage the United States and Iran to return to the negotiating table. Pakistan stands ready to work with China to play a positive role in promoting peace and ending the war, he added.

According to media reports, US officials are using Pakistani mediation to explore an off-ramp from the war with Iran, with indirect talks in Pakistan under consideration.

"In reality, US-Iran indirect talks are taking place through messages being relayed by Pakistan. In this context, the US has shared 15 points, being deliberated upon by Iran," Dar wrote in a social media post on Thursday.

<https://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202603/28/WS69c71be3a310d6866eb4058d.html>

March 30, 2026

China Daily

China backs Pakistan's mediation in US-Iran talks

Ji Haisheng

China supports all efforts conducive to de-escalation, cooling the situation and the resumption of dialogue in ending the Middle East conflict, and calls on all parties to start the peace talk process as soon as possible, Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Mao Ning said on Monday.

Mao's remarks came after Pakistani Foreign Minister Mohammad Ishaq Dar said that both Washington and Tehran have expressed confidence in Pakistan to facilitate talks aimed at ending the ongoing conflict. Dar raised the possibility after a meeting in Islamabad over the weekend with the foreign ministers of Turkiye, Egypt and Saudi Arabia to discuss the regional situation.

"We appreciate Pakistan's efforts to promote the easing of the situation and support Pakistan in continuing to play its mediation role," the spokeswoman said.

China stands ready to strengthen communication and coordination with Pakistan and all other relevant parties to jointly promote peace, end hostilities and safeguard regional peace and stability, Mao added.

<https://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202603/30/WS69ca3b2ca310d6866eb40b20.html>

March 31, 2026

China Daily

China, Pakistan to step up coordination on Iran situation during Dar visit

Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Mao Ning said on Tuesday that China and Pakistan will strengthen strategic communication and coordination on the Iran situation.

Mao made the remarks as Pakistani Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Mohammad Ishaq Dar visits China on Tuesday. It will mark his second trip to China in three months.

Speaking at a regular news briefing in Beijing, Mao said as all-weather strategic cooperative partners that trust and support each other, China and Pakistan hold similar positions and maintain close communication on major international and regional issues.

Mao said China believes that Foreign Minister Wang Yi and Dar will enhance strategic communication and coordination on international and regional issues of common concern including the situation in Iran, echo a united voice for peace and justice, and make fresh efforts to promote talks for peace and safeguard regional peace and stability.

<https://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202603/31/WS69cb7fb5a310d6866eb40f27.html>