



For Better Understanding on China–Pakistan and CPEC

Gleanings from the National & Chinese Press

March 01-15, 2026

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March 03, 2026

Business Recorder

Dar, Chinese envoy discuss regional situation

Naveed Siddiqui

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and China on Monday held extensive discussions on the evolving regional situation, particularly in the wake of US-Israel strikes on Iran and cross-border terrorism emanating from Afghanistan.

Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar received Jiang Zaidong, Ambassador of China to Pakistan here at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA). The Deputy Prime Minister emphasised the importance of dialogue, diplomacy, and continued consultations, reaffirming Pakistan's commitment to peace and stability in the region and beyond.

Later in the day, Senator Ishaq Dar also spoke with EU High Representative and Vice President Kaja Kallas. Both sides expressed deep concern over recent developments in Iran and the wider Middle East.

The Deputy Prime Minister underscored the urgent need for dialogue, diplomacy, and de-escalation.

He further briefed the HRVP on Pakistan-Afghanistan tensions and appreciated the EU's constructive engagement. Both sides agreed to maintain close contact as the regional situation continues to evolve.

<https://www.brecorder.com/news/40409786/dar-chinese-envoy-discuss-regional-situation>

March 05, 2026

Business Recorder

Chinese envoy, Coordinator to PM explore opportunities to boost trade

ISLAMABAD: Rana Ihsaan Afzal Khan, Coordinator to the Prime Minister on Commerce, held a meeting with the Chinese Minister Counsellor to review bilateral trade relations and explore practical measures to enhance economic cooperation between Pakistan and China.

The meeting provided an opportunity to assess current trade dynamics and examine factors affecting export growth. Discussions focused on Pakistan's priorities for expanding exports to China while considering mutual trade interests.

Key deliberations centered on high-potential export sectors, including agricultural products, rice, and seafood. Arrangements intended to enhance Pakistani rice exports were also explored. The two sides further considered prospects in copper and other minerals, highlighting the potential value of strengthened business-to-business engagement to support sectoral opportunities.

The role of the Trade Development Authority of Pakistan (TDAP) in advancing bilateral trade was reviewed, with both sides noting the importance of further institutional coordination to facilitate meaningful engagement between Pakistani exporters and Chinese counterparts.

The Coordinator additionally drew attention to the newly formulated Gems and Jewellery Policy, noting potential avenues for collaboration in value-added sectors.

Both sides exchanged views on the ongoing CPFTA 3.0 negotiations, including offer and request lists, and discussed ways to progress talks in a balanced and mutually constructive manner.

<https://www.brecorder.com/news/40410178/chinese-envoy-coordinator-to-pm-explore-opportunities-to-boost-trade>

Skilled workforce production: Islamabad, Beijing set to hold talks

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and China are set to begin negotiations this month to expand the ongoing programme aimed at producing a technologically advanced and globally competitive skilled workforce in line with international market demands.

According to details, China International Intellectech Group Co, Ltd (CIIC Group) has sent a letter of appreciation to the Chairperson of the National Vocational and Technical Training Commission (NAVTTTC), Ms. Gulmina Bilal, in recognition of her outstanding services, effective cooperation, and achievement of targets related to skilled manpower development.

The letter stated that Chairperson NAVTTTC Gulmina Bilal Ahmed's visionary leadership has given a new direction to China-Pakistan cooperation in the field of skills development. The company noted that her strategic guidance helped create a conducive environment for multilateral partnerships and played a key role in establishing a joint skills certification framework.

As a result of this collaboration, an international Chinese welding certification has been introduced in Pakistan, marking a significant step toward strengthening skilled workforce development. During the pilot phase, from October to December 2025, 25 welders received specialized training in line with modern industry requirements. These trained welders are currently employed by Chinese companies operating in Pakistan, creating new job opportunities while promoting internationally recognized skill standards.

<https://www.brecorder.com/news/40410157/skilled-workforce-production-islamabad-beijing-set-to-hold-talks>

According to a statement, the Chinese delegation briefed the minister on the global profile and operations of their company. They informed that Aerospace Development Industry Investment Group is an international investment group with an AAA corporate credit rating, engaged in strategic industrial investments in areas including advanced technologies, aerospace development, artificial intelligence, electric vehicles, drone technologies, and energy projects.

“The delegation expressed keen interest in investing between \$5 billion to \$10 billion in Pakistan across multiple sectors, including mining and minerals, advanced technology industries, and industrial development,” read the statement.

The Chinese delegation also emphasised its interest in collaborating with Pakistan on skill development initiatives, highlighting its long-term vision of contributing to Pakistan’s economic development and technological advancement.

They further expressed their willingness to work with Pakistan to support the objectives of the One Belt One Road (OBOR) initiative and enhance regional connectivity and economic cooperation.

Federal Minister Qaiser Ahmed Sheikh appreciated the interest shown by the Chinese company and welcomed their intention to invest in Pakistan. He stated that Pakistan greatly values its longstanding friendship with China, which is widely recognised as a relationship “higher than the mountains and deeper than the oceans.”

The minister emphasised that Pakistan is keen to attract greater foreign direct investment (FDI) and expects strong support from China in this regard.

He further informed the delegation that the Government of Pakistan is taking concrete steps to improve the investment climate. The Board of Investment is actively working on regulatory reforms to facilitate investors, promote ease of doing business and streamline business procedures.

Highlighting the existing economic framework between the two countries, the minister noted that Pakistan and China already have a Free Trade Agreement, and Pakistan is now focusing on increasing its value-added exports.

Sheikh also briefed the delegation on the incentives available for investors in Pakistan’s Special Economic Zones (SEZs), including exemption from income tax and sales tax on the import of machinery, along with other attractive incentives designed to promote industrial investment.

The Board of Investment reaffirmed its commitment to facilitating investors and providing all possible support to promote foreign investment in Pakistan.

<https://www.brecorder.com/news/40410410/chinese-aerospace-firm-eyes-up-to-10bn-investment-in-pakistan>

gains onshore, up 2.5 percent. Oil & gas stocks fell 1.9 percent, while non-ferrous shares were down 2.1 percent.

Hang Seng Tech Index snapped a four-day losing streak, up 3.2 percent, after JD.com signalled it would scale back investment in its food-delivery business. China on Thursday unveiled its 2026 economic growth target at 4.5 percent-5 percent at its annual parliamentary meeting, with most other goals broadly in line with market expectations.

<https://www.brecorder.com/news/40410487/china-hk-shares-log-weekly-losses-on-geopolitics-muted-policy-signals>

March 08, 2026

Business Recorder

China says us talks vital as trump targets Beijing's key partners

BEIJING: US-China dialogue is vital to preventing globally damaging miscalculations, China's top diplomat said on Saturday, ahead of a highly anticipated summit this month between leaders Xi Jinping and Donald Trump.

"Failure to engage between the two nations would only lead to misunderstandings and misjudgements, escalating toward confrontation and harming the world," Foreign Minister Wang Yi told a press conference on the sidelines of an annual parliament meeting in Beijing.

With the US president focused on the war he and Israel launched against Iran, analysts are watching for signs that his visit to meet Xi will go ahead. China has not previously announced the summit, expected for the end of the month.

"The agenda for high-level exchanges (with the US) is on the table," Wang said.

"What is required is for both sides to make thorough preparations to create a conducive environment to manage existing differences," he added, without giving further details.

In addition to the week-old Iran war, which has killed Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei and more than 1,300 others in the country, according to Tehran, Trump authorised the capture of Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro in January, testing Beijing's commitment to its strategic partners.

Wang appeared to take a swipe at Trump's "Donroe Doctrine" - his rebranding of a 19th-century policy asserting Washington's zone of influence in the Americas. It poses a stern test of Xi's flagship "Belt and Road" infrastructure and global security initiatives.

<https://www.brecorder.com/news/40410648/china-says-us-talks-vital-as-trump-targets-beijings-key-partners>

March 11, 2026

Business Recorder

US Israel strikes on Iran: Pakistan, China underscore need for exercising restraint

Naveed Siddiqui

ISLAMABAD: In the aftermath of US-Israel strikes on Iran, Pakistan and China have underscored the urgent need for restraint, stressing that de-escalation must be prioritised.

Both countries emphasised dialogue and diplomacy as the only viable solution, urging adherence to the principles enshrined in the United Nations Charter.

“Pakistan and China have stressed the importance of de-escalation and emphasized the need to pursue dialogue and diplomacy in accordance with the principles of the United Nations Charter,” reads a statement released by Pakistan’s Foreign Office Spokesperson on Tuesday.

The statement stated that Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar held a telephonic conversation with the Foreign Minister of China, Wang Yi.

They exchanged views on the evolving regional situation and broader global developments, the spokesperson added. The DPM/FM shared Pakistan’s perspective and underscored the urgent need to ease tensions in the Middle East and the wider region.

Foreign Minister Wang Yi appreciated Pakistan’s constructive efforts aimed at promoting de-escalation and stability in the region, the statement said.

Both sides also reaffirmed the enduring strength of the Pakistan-China All-Weather Strategic Cooperative Partnership, reiterated their shared commitment to further deepening bilateral cooperation, and agreed to remain in close contact.

<https://www.brecorder.com/news/40411034/us-israel-strikes-on-iran-pakistan-china-underscore-need-for-exercising-restraint>

K2 Daily



<https://epaper.dailyk2.com/isl/2026-03-11/page1>

<https://epaper.dailyk2.com/isl/2026-03-11/page7>

چین کا نیا طیارہ برادر چھانڈو چین

چین کی ایئر فورس نے ایک نیا طیارہ برادر چھانڈو چین کے لیے پیش کیا ہے۔ اس طیارے کی طرز پر امریکا کی ایک نیا طیارہ بھی تیار کیا گیا ہے۔ اس طیارے کی طرز پر امریکا کی ایک نیا طیارہ بھی تیار کیا گیا ہے۔ اس طیارے کی طرز پر امریکا کی ایک نیا طیارہ بھی تیار کیا گیا ہے۔

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<https://epaper.dailyk2.com/isl/2026-03-11/page4>

روزنامہ "کوا" 59

اس روزنامے میں پاکستان کے حالات اور سماجی مسائل پر لکھی گئی خبریں اور تبصرے شامل ہیں۔

چینی گروپ 10 ارب ڈالر کی سرمایہ کاری کا خواہشمند

دقائق وزیر پٹرول سے وفد کی ملاقات، سرمایہ کاری مواقع پر تبادلہ خیال

چینی گروپ کی سرمایہ کاری سے چاروں ملانزستیں پیسہ ہانوں کی دعا ہیں

اسلام آباد (آئی این ٹی) چین اور پاکستان میں سرمایہ کاری کے مواقع پر تبادلہ خیال کے لیے ایک وفد نے وزیر پٹرول سے ملاقات کی۔ وفد کی سربراہی چینی گروپ کی ایک ٹیم نے کی۔ وفد نے وزیر پٹرول سے ملاقات کے دوران پاکستان کی سرمایہ کاری کے مواقع پر تبادلہ خیال کیا۔ وفد نے وزیر پٹرول سے ملاقات کے دوران پاکستان کی سرمایہ کاری کے مواقع پر تبادلہ خیال کیا۔

<https://epaper.dailyk2.com/isl/2026-03-11/page8>

<https://epaper.dailyk2.com/isl/2026-03-11/page6>

March 12, 2026

K2 Daily

چین کی اہم ترین سالانہ سیاسی سرگرمی

چین کی اہم ترین سالانہ سیاسی سرگرمی، یعنی 14 ویں قومی کمیونسٹ پارٹی کی چھٹی نمائندگی کی چھٹی نشست، 12 مارچ کو چین کی دار الحکومت بیجنگ میں منعقد ہوئی۔ اس نشست میں چین کے صدر شی جن پنگ اور دیگر اہم ترین سرکاری کارکنوں نے شرکت کی۔

اس نشست کے دوران شی جن پنگ نے اپنے خطاب میں چین کی معیشت کی ترقی اور سماجی استحکام پر زور دیا۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ چین اپنی معیشت کو عالمی سطح پر ترقی دینے کے لیے کوشش کرے گا۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ چین اپنی معیشت کو عالمی سطح پر ترقی دینے کے لیے کوشش کرے گا۔

اس نشست کے دوران شی جن پنگ نے اپنے خطاب میں چین کی معیشت کی ترقی اور سماجی استحکام پر زور دیا۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ چین اپنی معیشت کو عالمی سطح پر ترقی دینے کے لیے کوشش کرے گا۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ چین اپنی معیشت کو عالمی سطح پر ترقی دینے کے لیے کوشش کرے گا۔

<https://epaper.dailyk2.com/isl/2026-03-12/page4>

March 13, 2026

Business Recorder

China's mediation eases fighting between Pakistan Afghanistan

ISLAMABAD/BEIJING: Chinese mediation efforts, including a message from President Xi Jinping, have helped ease the worst fighting between Pakistan and Afghanistan since the Taliban returned to power in 2021, three Pakistani government officials said.

The officials said a meeting between the Chinese ambassador to Pakistan, Jiang Zaidong, and Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif late last month included a message from Xi to cease hostilities.

Neither side has reported any Pakistani air strikes on Afghanistan in recent days and ground fighting along the 2,600-km (1,600-mile) border has tapered off, although daily clashes continue to be reported.

China has said it is in contact with both countries about ending hostilities but Mosharraf Zaidi, a spokesman for Sharif who has previously said there would not be any talks with the Taliban, did not respond to questions about Beijing's efforts.

Pakistani security officials have said the military campaign will continue until desired goals were achieved, which was to prevent militant attacks in Pakistan launched from Afghan soil.

Pakistan's foreign ministry and military did not respond to Reuters requests for comment. The Chinese efforts came as Qatar, Saudi Arabia and Turkey, who hosted talks between Pakistan and Afghanistan during previous clashes in October, have been embroiled in the war in the Middle East following the US and Israeli strikes on Iran.

"China's Special Envoy for Afghanistan Affairs is currently shuttling between the two countries to mediate, while Chinese embassies in both nations maintain close communication with the respective parties," the Chinese foreign ministry told Reuters in an e-mail.

"The most urgent task is to prevent the fighting from expanding and for the two countries to return to the negotiating table as soon as possible."

The foreign ministry added that Foreign Minister Wang Yi held telephone talks with Pakistan's Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar on Tuesday to discuss the conflict.

China's ambassador to Kabul, Zhao Xing, and the special envoy Yue Xiaoyong met Afghanistan's acting Foreign Minister Amir Khan Muttaqi this week, the Afghan foreign ministry said in a statement.

<https://www.brecorder.com/news/40411428/chinas-mediation-eases-fighting-between-pakistan-afghanistan>

K2 Daily



<https://epaper.dailyk2.com/isl/2026-03-13/page3>

<https://epaper.dailyk2.com/isl/2026-03-13/page6>

Dawn News

FO confirms Engagement with China to reduce Kabul Tensions

ISLAMABAD: The Foreign Office (FO) on Thursday acknowledged that Pakistan was engaging with Beijing on the issue of the recent Pakistan-Afghanistan border hostilities.

During his weekly briefing, spokesperson Tahir Andrabi said that Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar had recently held a phone call with Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi, adding that Islamabad and Beijing “cherish a long-standing strategic partnership, founded in mutual trust and deep respect”.

“We [Pakistan and China] 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,” Mr Andrabi added.

Pakistan launched Operation Ghazab lil-Haq on Feb 26 against the Afghan Taliban after “unprovoked firing” from across the border. The reference to an ongoing dialogue process seemed to refer to recent engagements between Chinese diplomats with Afghan officials.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1981536/fo-confirms-engagement-with-china-to-reduce-kabul-tensions>

March 14, 2026

Dawn News

China urges Pakistan, Afghanistan to resolve tensions via talks, not force

Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi told his Afghan counterpart Amir Khan Muttaqi in a phone call that disputes between Afghanistan and Pakistan should be resolved through dialogue and consultation, not force, the foreign ministry said in a statement published on Friday.

Wang urged both sides to remain calm and exercise restraint, hold face-to-face talks as soon as possible, seek an immediate ceasefire and address differences through dialogue, according to the statement.

The further use of force would only complicate the situation and intensify tensions, Wang said.

“China is willing to continue to make active efforts to help achieve reconciliation and detente between Afghanistan and Pakistan,” said Chinese Ambassador to India Xu Feihong on X, sharing the call’s details.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1981979/china-urges-pakistan-afghanistan-to-resolve-tensions-via-talks-not-force>

K2 Daily



<https://epaper.dailyk2.com/isl/2026-03-14/page4>

Chinese Newspapers

March 02, 2026

Xinhua News

FIH Hockey Men's World Cup 2026 Qualifiers match: China vs. Pakistan

Du Shihao (2nd R) of China celebrates scoring with his teammates during the FIH Hockey Men's World Cup 2026 Qualifiers match between China and Pakistan in Ismailia, Egypt, March 1, 2026. (Xinhua/Ahmed Gomaa)

Wang Yaqi (L, rear) of China breaks through during the FIH Hockey Men's World Cup 2026 Qualifiers match between China and Pakistan in Ismailia, Egypt, March 1, 2026. (Xinhua/Ahmed Gomaa)

<https://english.news.cn/20260302/99ca597944d446f58713ad6b9429fc0d/c.html>

March 03, 2026

Xinhua News

Pakistan's trade deficit widens 25 pct in first eight months of FY26

ISLAMABAD, March 3 (Xinhua) -- Pakistan's trade deficit widened by 25 percent year on year to 25.04 billion U.S. dollars in the first eight months of the current fiscal year 2025-26, official data showed on Tuesday.

According to the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS), the country had recorded a trade deficit of 20.04 billion dollars during the same period of the previous fiscal year.

The increase in the deficit during July-February was driven by higher imports and a decline in exports.

Exports during the first eight months of FY26 stood at 20.46 billion dollars, down 7.3 percent from 22.07 billion dollars in the corresponding period of FY25, the PBS said.

Imports rose 8.1 percent to 45.50 billion dollars, compared with 42.11 billion dollars a year earlier. In February 2026, exports fell 8.8 percent year on year to 2.27 billion dollars from 2.49 billion dollars in February 2025, while imports declined 1.6 percent to 5.25 billion dollars from 5.34 billion dollars in the same month last year. As a result, the trade deficit in February stood at 2.98 billion dollars, up 4.6 percent from 2.85 billion dollars a year earlier. On a month-on-month basis, the deficit increased 8.4 percent from 2.75 billion dollars recorded in January 2026, the data showed.

<https://english.news.cn/asiapacific/20260303/078bc0276f8644a48015ea814add6161/c.html>

March 04, 2026

China Daily

Five-year plans the ballast for stable growth

National development calibrated over years to chart country's successful progress

CAO DESHENG

For over seven decades, China's five-year development plans have stood as the foundation of the country's economic and social progress, and functioned as powerful tools of governance to translate the leadership's strategic vision into measurable action.

After the fourth session of the 14th National People's Congress, China's top legislature, opens in Beijing on Thursday, the draft bill on national development planning will be submitted for review. Under a long-standing practice, it is expected to be codified into law.

The draft law, which has undergone three readings and an array of revisions at NPC Standing Committee sessions, consists of six chapters and 37 articles. It outlines the overarching requirements for national development planning and procedures for formulation, review, and approval, as well as supervision of the implementation of national development plans in accordance with the law.

The five-year plans also serve as a window for the international community to observe China's medium to long-term policies. Analysts have said national development planning legislation helps improve the country's macroeconomic governance framework, enhances the guiding role of national development planning in promoting high-quality development, and advances the modernization of the country's governance system and capacity.

Zamir Ahmed Awan, founding chair of the Global Silk Route Research Alliance based in Islamabad, Pakistan, said China's five-year plans are more than just policy documents. They offer a disciplined, visionary governance approach — aligning national goals, market mechanisms, and local execution within a coordinated framework.

China's five-year plans provide macroeconomic direction without suffocating market vitality, identify priority sectors, define key targets, and set the tone for public investment while allowing the private sector to thrive within a predictable policy environment, Awan said.

The plans are important as they foster policy coherence across ministries and regions. By using a defined performance language that includes targets, key indicators, and time frames, the plans ensure alignment from the central government to local levels of government, he said.

Awan added that they act as stabilizers in times of global uncertainty. Whether in the face of trade frictions, supply chain disruptions, or financial shocks, the five-year plans reaffirm policy continuity and long-term commitment, and give businesses and ordinary people a sense of confidence. "The five-year framework is not merely an economic management tool but a social contract, ensuring that China's collective advancement remains steady, structured and resilient," Awan said.

'Footprints of history'

The first Five-Year Plan was adopted in 1953, and China has formulated and implemented 14 such plans.

China was once an impoverished agricultural nation where per capita steel output was barely enough to make a sickle, and manufacturing cars, airplanes and tractors was beyond reach. Under the planning process, however, the country has grown into the world's top manufacturer and second-largest economy.

From advancing industrialization, to ensuring a decent standard of living for the people, to completing the building of a moderately prosperous society and embarking on a new journey toward building a modern socialist country, the five-year plans are like the footprints of history.

The preparation of each five-year plan is a meticulous process of consultation, research, and consensus-building.

Experts across various disciplines contribute studies, forecasts, and scenario analyses. The plan undergoes multiple revisions based on inputs from ministries, enterprises, and regional authorities. Public consultations and expert symposiums enrich the draft with perspectives from diverse sectors of society.

The success of the five-year plans lies in China's ability to translate strategic goals into operational mechanisms and keep long-term development plans on track across decades with institutional designs. This ensures national strategies transcend political cycles and are implemented phase by phase.

Across the 14 five-year plans, the priorities have evolved — from industrialization and reform to sustainability and innovation — but the overarching mission has remained unchanged: national development and prosperity.

Xi Jinping, general secretary of the Communist Party of China Central Committee, has said on various occasions that the scientific formulation and consistent implementation of five-year plans constitute an important experience of the CPC in governing the country, and an important political advantage of the socialist system with Chinese characteristics.

The established practice is for the CPC Central Committee to propose recommendations for a five-year plan, the State Council, China's Cabinet, to organize the draft of the plan outline, and the NPC to review and approve it for implementation before it is formalized in legislation.

The third draft of the national development bill, which was reviewed at the 19th session of the NPC Standing Committee on Dec 22, includes an amendment to the definition of national development planning.

The draft bill notes the vision for long-term development may be proposed as needed in addition to the outline of the five-year plan for national economic and social development.

It also highlights the need to improve the national planning system and properly manage the relationships among various types of plans formulated by governments at different levels.

Specific requirements for practicing whole-process people's democracy in formulating the national development plan have been added.

An amendment stipulates that the formulation of national development plans should uphold the unity of top-level design and public consultation, while leveraging the supporting role of industry associations.

The draft adds a provision to promote the coordinated efforts of policies related to consumption, investment, and trade in the implementation of the national development plans.

It specifies that the State Council organizes the formulation of the annual plan for national economic and social development.

It adds a provision that the specific task of drafting such an annual plan is undertaken by the national development planning department under the State Council in collaboration with other relevant departments.

Liu Rui, a professor of economics at Renmin University of China, said that the national development planning legislation will contribute to the healthy development of the socialist market economy, and further improve the country's macroregulation system. It also helps other countries understand China's major policies more accurately and have more stable expectations, while facilitating the country's efforts to further integrate into the global economy, Liu said.

Global opportunities

At the upcoming NPC session, the draft outline of the 15th Five-Year Plan (2026-30) will also be reviewed and voted on by national lawmakers.

The plan will chart the course of the world's second-largest economy over the next five years, a vital period in China's push to basically achieve socialist modernization by 2035.

Although the final text of the new plan still awaits approval, recommendations adopted by the fourth plenary session of the 20th CPC Central Committee last October have set the tone.

It not only reaffirms China's commitment to high-quality growth but also signals a decisive strategic pivot toward high-level technological self-reliance, green transformation, and institutional modernization — all calibrated to navigate an era of intensifying geopolitical friction and domestic structural challenges.

For global investors, executives and policymakers, the 15th Five-Year Plan is more than a domestic road map — it is a lens to view China's role in the global economy, supply chains, and innovation ecosystems over the next half decade.

On various diplomatic occasions, President Xi has briefed world leaders about China's development plan in the upcoming five years, and assured them that the nation will further deepen reform on all fronts and expand high-standard opening-up.

He has sent a message that the 15th Five-Year Plan, which will steer China's modernization drive, is not only a blueprint for China's own development in the coming five years, but also offers opportunities to the world.

Micheal Martin, Taoiseach, or prime minister, of Ireland, told Xi during their meeting in Beijing on Jan 5 that China has effectively formulated and implemented long-term national development strategies and produced major achievements, which are admirable.

As China prepares to embark on its 15th Five-Year Plan, experts have emphasized a shift toward higher-quality growth while maintaining stability, thus underscoring the nation's resilience and adaptability as it navigates complex global headwinds. Xin Ge, a research fellow at the Institute of Public Policy and Governance of Shanghai University of Finance and Economics, said that as China enters the critical first year of its 15th Five-Year Plan period, the nation faces a defining moment in its economic trajectory. Confronted with the complex interplay of a global economic slowdown, heightened geopolitical tensions and shifting domestic dynamics, China has signaled a strategic pivot away from expansion to sustained high-quality development, driven by innovation and structural upgrading, and supported by a resilient internal economic engine, Xin said. "This shift is in line with China's longstanding practice of using five-year plans as a strategic compass. Over decades, these plans have evolved from merely quantitative targets into sophisticated frameworks guiding industrial modernization and social development," he said. "Notably, the 15th Five-Year Plan advances this trajectory by explicitly prioritizing innovation, structural transformation and new quality productive forces as central pillars." Shao Xia, a commentator on international affairs for Chinese media outlets, recently wrote in an article that in an era of global turbulence and transformation, the path toward a better world remains uncertain. "Yet amid this volatility, China is steering its course with one of its most enduring tools of governance: the five-year plan. More than a domestic blueprint, the 15th Five-Year Plan will serve as a source of certainty in an increasingly unpredictable world, offering not only stability at home, but opportunities abroad," Shao wrote.

<https://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202603/04/WS69a7730ca310d6866eb3b75a.html>

Global Times

China enters 'two sessions' time, sheds light on next development blueprint

Chen Qingqing and Ma Jingjing

Roughly one hour before the first press conference of China's "two Sessions" of 2026, some 200 Chinese and foreign journalists had already formed a long line outside the Great Hall of the People in Beijing where the event is held. Despite the lingering early-spring chill, a palpable sense of excitement rippled through the crowd as reporters eagerly anticipated clues about the world's second largest economy's development plan. During the approximately 1 hour and 15-minute press conference on Tuesday, Liu Jieyi, spokesperson for the fourth session of the 14th National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, took 12 questions from reporters. Two of them came from foreign journalists, focusing respectively on China's poverty reduction measures and its commitment to high-level opening up. <https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202603/1356235.shtml>

March 09, 2026

Global Times

Chinese FM holds phone talks with Kuwaiti FM, Bahraini counterpart

Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi, also a member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee, on Monday held separate phone conversations with Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Jarrah Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah and Bahraini foreign minister Abdullatif bin Rashid Al Zayani on the situation in the Middle East and Gulf region, the Xinhua News Agency reported. During Wang's phone call with Al-Sabah, the Kuwaiti foreign minister briefed the Chinese side on the latest regional developments, saying that Kuwait is not a party to the war but has nonetheless been affected by the conflict. Gulf countries, including Kuwait, remain committed to resolving disputes through dialogue but will not give up their legitimate right to self-defense, he said. Al-Sabah expressed appreciation for China's position and efforts and said that Kuwait is willing to strengthen communication and coordination with China to jointly promote the early restoration of regional security and stability. He added that Kuwait attaches great importance to the safety of Chinese personnel and institutions and will continue to ensure their security. Wang said that China has consistently advocated for resolving disputes through political and diplomatic means, noting that the current war should not have happened and brings no benefit to any party. He emphasized that the use of force against Iran by the US and Israel, without authorization from the United Nations while Iran-US negotiations were still underway, clearly violates international law. Wang added that the sovereignty, security and territorial integrity of Gulf countries should be fully respected, and any attacks on civilians and non-military targets should be condemned. The most urgent task is to achieve a ceasefire as soon as possible, he said, noting that China appreciates Gulf countries' calls for dialogue and negotiations. During Wang's separate phone call with Al Zayani, the Bahraini foreign minister introduced the regional situation and Bahrain's position, saying Bahrain has always favored peace and should not be subjected to illegal attacks. Al Zayani expressed appreciation for China's fair position and said Bahrain is willing to work with other Gulf countries and China to strengthen communication and coordination at bilateral and multilateral platforms including the United Nations to promote the early restoration of regional peace and stability. He also said Bahrain will continue to take effective measures to safeguard the safety of Chinese citizens and institutions. Wang said the situation in the Gulf region has sharply escalated and Bahrain's security has also been affected, which China is deeply concerned about. China's position is consistent and clear: The sovereignty, security and territorial integrity of all countries should be respected, and attacks on civilians and non-military targets should be condemned. Wang stressed that the most urgent task is to immediately stop military operations and prevent the war from further spreading. The way out lies in returning to dialogue and negotiations as soon as possible and striving to restore peace. The fundamental solution is for all parties to return to the track of observing international law and the basic norms governing international relations. As a strategic partner of Gulf countries and a responsible major country, China has been actively promoting peace and de-escalation. China's special envoy on Middle East affairs is currently visiting the

region and will also travel to Bahrain. China will continue to play a constructive role in safeguarding peace and stability in the Gulf region and hopes the Bahraini side will continue to ensure the safety of Chinese citizens and institutions in the country.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202603/1356674.shtml>

March 10, 2026

Xinhua News

Pakistan unveils measures to conserve fuel amid Middle East conflict

ISLAMABAD, March 10 (Xinhua) -- Pakistani Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Monday announced a number of austerity and fuel-saving measures to deal with the fuel crisis triggered by the ongoing conflict in the Middle East.

Under the new measures, the government will reduce fuel allocations for vehicles used by government departments by 50 percent for the next two months, adding that 60 percent of the vehicles used by government departments would be stopped, the prime minister said while addressing the nation. In addition, he said 50 percent of staff in both public and private sectors would work from home, except in essential services, underlining that government offices would operate four days a week. All schools in the country would be closed for two weeks starting at the end of the current week as part of the energy conservation measures. Sharif also warned traders against hoarding essential commodities to exploit the situation, urging the nation to demonstrate unity and responsibility in dealing with the crisis.

<https://english.news.cn/asiapacific/20260310/ee60f11626ad4fafa51772c0c44ccb1c/c.html>

March 12, 2026

Global Times

China's BRI vision listed in Government Work Report provides the Global South with a strategic window to diversify partnerships, enhance autonomous development capacity

Isaura Diez

China's Government Work Report stressed that the country will pursue high-quality Belt and Road cooperation. China will strengthen strategic alignment with Belt and Road partner countries and take solid, well-measured steps to promote stronger infrastructure connectivity, greater connectivity on rules and standards, and closer bonds with the people in these countries. Both major signature projects and "small and beautiful" public well-being projects will be launched.

The development of the China-proposed Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) has now entered a more mature phase, and one of the focal points today is to deepen strategic alignment with BRI partner countries by simultaneously advancing "hard connectivity," "soft connectivity," and "heart-to-heart connectivity." This conceptual triangle forms the backbone of the initiative's current upgrade.

"Hard connectivity" focuses on building and modernizing physical and logistical infrastructure - examples include China-Europe freight trains, the New International Land-Sea Trade Corridor, and the Chancay Port in Peru - which is poised to fundamentally reshape South American logistics and global trade patterns. "Soft connectivity" emphasizes regulatory and institutional harmonization, with mechanisms such as the Smart Customs cooperation partnership, written in this year's Government Work Report, and trade facilitation playing pivotal roles. "Heart-to-heart connectivity" centers on people-to-people exchanges, civilizational dialogue, mutual learning, and the cultivation of respect and trust among societies.

This three-dimensional approach reflects a complementarity between mega projects and grass-roots integration in the development of BRI projects. While landmark projects are expected to generate local employment, facilitate technology transfer, build institutional capacity, and produce multiplier effects across regional economies, smaller-scale initiatives directly address urgent needs: access to clean drinking water, primary healthcare, rural electrification, basic education, and food security. The holistic vision of the China-proposed BRI ensures that implementation remains adaptive to national contexts and involves active participation of local stakeholders, so that every project genuinely contributes to sustainable development and the well-being of the BRI partners.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202603/1356857.shtml>

March 14, 2026

Global Times

Chinese FM calls for resolving issues between Afghanistan and Pakistan through dialogue, consultation

Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi said on Friday that the issues between Afghanistan and Pakistan can only be resolved through dialogue and consultation.

The use of force would only complicate the situation and intensify the contradictions, which would be of no benefit to either side and threatens regional peace and stability, he said.

Wang, also a member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China Central Committee, made the remarks in a phone conversation with Afghan Foreign Minister Mawlawi Amir Khan Muttaqi at the latter's request.

Muttaqi thanked China for its active efforts in mediating the conflicts between Afghanistan and Pakistan, noting that the Afghan people, who have suffered greatly from war, cherish the opportunities for peace and development.

The Afghan foreign minister said his country wants to be a source of regional peace rather than unrest, reaffirming that its territory will not be used to attack neighboring countries.

Afghanistan does not wish to engage in military conflict with other countries, and looks forward to mutual trust and friendly coexistence with neighboring countries, he said.

The Afghan side believes that dialogue and consultation are the only way to resolve issues and looks forward to China, as a major country and a friendly neighbor, playing a greater role, he said. For his part, Wang said that the more volatile the external environment becomes, the more regional countries should strengthen unity and cooperation, overcome difficulties together, and forge a path of cooperative security and common security. Afghanistan and Pakistan are inseparable brothers and neighbors that cannot be moved away from each other, he said. China has always maintained an objective and impartial stance on the conflict between Afghanistan and Pakistan, Wang said. The special envoy on Afghan affairs of the Chinese Foreign Ministry is shuttling between the two countries to mediate, he said, adding that it is hoped that both sides will keep calm and exercise restraint, have face-to-face exchanges at an early date, achieve a ceasefire as soon as possible, and resolve differences and contradictions through dialogue. China is willing to continue to make active efforts to help achieve reconciliation and detente between Afghanistan and Pakistan, Wang said. The two sides also exchanged views on the situation in Iran.

Wang reaffirmed China's principled position, stating that China is willing to work with the international community, including Afghanistan, to further play a constructive role in striving for peace.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202603/1356951.shtml>

Xinhua News

Chinese FM calls for resolving issues between Afghanistan and Pakistan through dialogue, consultation

Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi said on Friday that the issues between Afghanistan and Pakistan can only be resolved through dialogue and consultation.

<https://english.news.cn/20260314/00957c65ccdd4374837caf89e8864357/c.html>

March 15, 2026

Global Times

Iran vows to target US-linked oil assets if its energy infrastructure under attack

Iran's Foreign Minister Seyed Abbas Araghchi on Saturday warned that any attack on Iran's oil and energy infrastructure would trigger retaliation against regional facilities linked to U.S. companies. In an interview with U.S. broadcaster MS Now, Araghchi responded to Friday's U.S. strike on Kharg Island, Iran's southern strategic oil terminal, and to President Donald Trump's threat to target the island's oil infrastructure if shipping through the Strait of Hormuz is disrupted. "Our armed forces have already stated that they will retaliate if our oil and energy infrastructure is attacked. They will strike any energy facility in the region that belongs to or is partially owned by an American company," Araghchi said. He also claimed that Friday's U.S. strikes originated from two locations in the United Arab Emirates: Ras Al-Khaimah and an area near Dubai, cautioning that using densely populated regions to launch

attacks on Iran is highly dangerous. "We would certainly retaliate, but we try to avoid hitting populated areas," he added. Echoing the warning, Iran's Khatam al-Anbiya Central Headquarters, the country's primary military command, said any attack on Iran's oil, economic, or energy infrastructure would prompt immediate strikes on regional facilities affiliated with American companies. "All oil, economic, and energy infrastructure linked to U.S. interests will be destroyed and reduced to a pile of ashes," spokesman Ebrahim Zolfaghari told the official IRNA news agency. Araghchi said the Strait of Hormuz remains open to shipping, except for vessels belonging to Iran's enemies and their allies. While some ships avoid the waterway due to security concerns, many tankers continue to pass through. Despite the strike, oil exports from Kharg Island continue uninterrupted. Ehsan Jahanian, deputy governor of Bushehr province, told semi-official Tasnim news agency that while military facilities and the airport on Kharg sustained damage, there were no casualties, and commercial operations remain ongoing. On Feb. 28, Israel and the United States launched joint attacks on Tehran and other Iranian cities, killing Iran's Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei, senior military commanders, and more than 1,300 civilians. Iran responded with waves of missile and drone strikes targeting Israeli and U.S. bases and assets across the Middle East.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202603/1356962.shtml>