



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

April 16-30, 2026

Table of Contents

1: April 18, 2026	3
2: April 21, 2026	4
3: April 22, 2026	6
4: April 23, 2026	10
5: April 25, 2026	11
6: April 26, 2026	13
7: April 27, 2026	14
8: April 28, 2026	16
9: April 29, 2026	18

Chinese Newspapers

1: April 16, 2026	20
2: April 21, 2026	21
3: April 22, 2026	21
4: April 24, 2026	25
5: April 25, 2026	26
6: April 27, 2026	28
7: April 28, 2026	30

Supervised by Prof. Dr. Tahir Mumtaz Awan

Data collected and compiled by Alishba Aslam, Aqsa Malik and Waqar Pervaiz

Disclaimer: PICS reproduce the original text, facts and figures as appear in the newspapers and is not responsible for its accuracy.

April 18, 2026

Business Recorder

Pakistan marks 75th anniversary of diplomatic ties with China

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan on Friday marked the 75th anniversary of its diplomatic relations with China with a symbolic “Chancery Showcase and Tree Plantation Ceremony” at its embassy in Beijing, highlighting renewal, cultural integration and the forward trajectory of bilateral ties.

The event, organised by the Embassy of Pakistan in collaboration with the Silk Road Cities Alliance, Jinshang Group and WTL Design, featured a presentation on the renovation of the chancery building, live musical performances, and a joint tree plantation ceremony.

Addressing the gathering, Pakistan’s Ambassador to China Khalil Hashmi said the occasion reflected both continuity and transformation in Pakistan–China relations, describing the renovated chancery and plantation drive as symbols of “renewal, stability and confidence in the future.”

He noted that the chancery’s renovation was not merely a structural upgrade but a representation of Pakistan’s cultural identity blended with contemporary design, creating a platform for cultural diplomacy and deeper engagement.

“The tree plantation, meanwhile, stands as a shared commitment to sustainability, growth and responsibility toward future generations,” he added.

The ambassador also acknowledged the contributions of partner organisations and embassy officials in executing the project and advancing Pakistan’s public diplomacy efforts in China. The ceremony was attended by members of the diplomatic corps, media representatives and members of the intelligentsia, reflecting broad engagement in commemorating a milestone year in Pakistan–China relations.

<https://www.brecorder.com/news/40417054/pakistan-marks-75th-anniversary-of-diplomatic-ties-with-china>

April 21, 2026

Business Recorder

**Central Asia access: Pakistan activates westward trade corridors via
China, Iran**

Nuzhat Nazar

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has effectively activated alternative westward trade corridors via China and Iran to access Central Asia, signalling a structural shift in its connectivity strategy away from Afghanistan-dependent routes, government and establishment sources told Business Recorder.

According to officials familiar with the development, Islamabad is no longer treating Afghanistan as the primary transit gateway to Central Asian Republics (CARs), citing persistent security risks, unpredictable border closures, and high transaction costs on Afghan routes.

Instead, Pakistan is operationalising two parallel corridors — one through China’s western region and the other via Iran — both of which are now being positioned as more reliable and scalable trade pathways.

Through China, Pakistan is leveraging improved infrastructure and year-round access via the Khunjerab Pass to connect with Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, and Tajikistan. Officials noted that routes to Bishkek and Almaty are not only shorter but also more secure compared to Afghan transit, with reduced delays and better logistics predictability.

On the western flank, the activation of the Gabd–Rimdan border crossing with Iran in April 2026 has opened a functional corridor toward Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. The first shipment toward Tashkent has already been dispatched, marking the operationalisation of the Iran route. While distances via Iran may be marginally longer than Afghan routes, officials emphasised that consistency, lower insurance premiums, and absence of informal levies make it more cost-effective in real terms.

Establishment sources said that Afghan routes — historically considered the shortest land bridge — have “limited practical utility” under current conditions. “Frequent closures at Torkham and Chaman, coupled with security concerns and weak infrastructure, make these routes commercially unreliable,” a senior security official said, adding that transit times often extend unpredictably, undermining supply chain planning.

The shift is being supported by a broader infrastructure push. Key projects include the planned upgrade of the Karachi–Peshawar ML-1 railway line, expansion under CPEC Phase II including Karakoram Highway improvements, and the operationalisation of Gwadar Port as a warm-water outlet for Central Asian trade. Officials also pointed to the development of dry ports and logistics ecosystems aimed at integrating these corridors into a cohesive trade network.

Policy planners view this transition as part of a larger geo-economic repositioning. “Pakistan is moving from being a terminal geography to a transit economy,” a senior official involved

in regional connectivity planning said. “This is about securing trade continuity, diversifying routes, and reducing exposure to single-point disruptions.”

Analysts say the development carries strategic implications beyond trade. By anchoring connectivity through China and Iran, Pakistan is aligning its logistics architecture with emerging regional alignments, potentially enhancing its role as a conduit between South Asia, Central Asia, and beyond.

While Afghan routes are unlikely to be completely abandoned, officials indicated that their role will diminish unless conditions stabilise. “The focus now is reliability over theoretical distance,” a government source said.

<https://www.brecorder.com/news/40417481/central-asia-access-pakistan-activates-westward-trade-corridors-via-china-iran>

Business Recorder

China backs Pakistan’s diplomatic efforts to facilitate US-Iran engagement

Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan Jiang Zaidong called on Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar on Tuesday and discussed the latest regional developments, the Foreign Office stated.

During the meeting, Ambassador Zaidong conveyed Beijing’s full support for, and appreciation of, Pakistan’s persistent efforts to facilitate engagement between the United States and Iran. He noted that such diplomatic initiatives are crucial for ensuring sustained peace and stability across the region and beyond.

The development takes place as Pakistan is set to host another round of negotiations between the United States and Iran aimed at a potential peace agreement, following the two week temporary ceasefire that expires on April 21.

Reaffirming the Pakistan–China All-Weather Strategic Cooperative Partnership, Deputy Prime Minister Dar underscored the enduring strength of bilateral ties. He further emphasised the importance of maintaining high-level exchanges between the two nations to further consolidate mutual strategic interests.

Earlier, Dar spoke with Egyptian Foreign Minister Badr Abdelatty as well to discuss the latest regional developments.

Both the dignitaries emphasised the importance of dialogue and engagement for peace and stability, and agreed to remain in close contact.

<https://www.brecorder.com/news/40417532/china-backs-pakistans-diplomatic-efforts-to-facilitate-us-iran-engagement>

April 22, 2026

Pakistan Observer

Balochistan's agriculture sector under CPEC phase 2.0

Dost Barrech

CHINA-Pakistan Economic Corridor CPEC has entered into CPEC Phase 2.0. This time the focus shifts from large-scale infrastructure to fostering of agricultural modernization, industrialization and socio-economic development.

Phase 2.0 will further bolster Pakistan's cooperation with China through trade expansion, Special Economic Zones (SEZs) and technology transfer in a bid to create jobs and reducing poverty. A question remains: What dividends will Balochistan obtain from CPEC Phase 2.0? Balochistan Assembly in October 2025 demanded inclusion of the province in CPEC Phase 2.0. The Assembly lawmakers maintained that Balochistan had to receive tangible dividends from the Phase 2.0 of mega project.

Agriculture modernization is the key component of CPEC Phase 2.0. Balochistan is called "fruit basket of Pakistan". The province nearly shares 90 percent of the national production of cherries, grapes and almonds. Approximately 60 per cent of apricots, pomegranates and peaches while around 34 percent apples and 70 percent of dates are exported from Balochistan. The agriculture and livestock sectors alone have the strength to provide more than two-thirds of the province's workforce. More than 11.77 million acres land of the province equal to Switzerland an area wise so far has remained uncultivated. Balochistan offers ideal agro-climatic conditions for olive cultivation. Cultivating above-mentioned areas particularly olive oil under CPEC Phase 2.0 will transform Balochistan. Once rural areas thrive, people will resist militancy prioritizing stability over confrontation. Developing crop-specific zones, modernizing irrigation systems and expanding agri-exports will generate enough job opportunities.

According to Food and Agriculture Organization Balochistan, nearly 70 percent people of the province directly and indirectly are dependent on agriculture and livestock sector. Against this backdrop, most part of the province is affected by the droughts. While, in 2022 floods, Balochistan was cut off from the rest of the country, disrupted transport, trade and market access. Agriculture sector is vulnerable to floods. The total losses of the province in 2022 floods were around \$ 5 billion contributing environmental radicalization. The Phase 2.0 pays special attention to climate change, promoting green industrialization and maritime economy. Green Balochistan Initiative launched by the Government of Balochistan needs to be aligned with CPEC Phase 2.0 to mitigate the environmental challenges.

The excessive utilization of tube wells using solar decreases the water level. Nearly 81 percent of farmers are concerned about an increasing water scarcity in the province. Fostering climate diplomacy with China, applying the Chinese successful models of addressing climate change challenges will be instrumental for Pakistan in general and Balochistan in particular. Meanwhile, the non-availability of good quality seeds further intensifies farmers' worries. Low quality seeds for crops causes around 40 percent germination failure. Farmers lack

lucrative markets to sell their products. The province is least populated and does not have the capacity to absorb the production. Farmers, thus, sell their products to other provinces. During monsoon season products are damaged due to poor road infrastructure.

To modernize the agriculture sector, Phase 2.0 should provide farmers crops insurance, credits and subsidies on pesticides and fertilizers. Expensive products available locally cannot compete globally, forcing farmers to leave the agriculture sector. Without addressing the grievances of the farmers, it is naïve to assume that the agriculture sector can be modernized.

As far as Sanaullah Khan Achakzai, former Deputy Director Agriculture Extension Department Killa Abdullah is concerned, the farmers have limited knowledge of post-harvest international standards for packaging and grading which influences the quality of the food. Quality maintains long-term market sustainability.

Nearly 65 per cent of fruit production of the province is sold and consumed in other regions. The province has limited cold storage, these cold storage centers enable farmers to store their items for a long period of time and would sell products when markets prices are favorable.

Due to limited facilities, Pakistani processed food brands, by and large, are absent from international markets while farmers lack global exposure. Enhancing their exposure would help them secure better prices for production. Removing the role of middlemen in the supply chain and establishing purchasing centres in each district would enable them to sell their produce directly to consumers. Under CPEC Phase 2 special scholarships be announced for the students of Balochistan to study in China and learn from China how the country modernized its agriculture sector.

Replicating China's One Village One Product OVOP modal in Balochistan will do miracle. Quetta, Pishin and Killa Abdullah are famous for the production of apples, grapes. Turbat and Panjgur are well-known for dates production while Ziarat and Kalat in apples and cherries. Building localized economic ecosystems will pave the way for each district to become a specialized, competitive market in national and global value chains. It is essential for the province to unite farmers into organizations and linking them with local traders, exporters and processing units enabling them to survive in the competitive era. Currently, Balochistan exports raw produce, the province should shift to dates packed, date syrup and export-grade dates and from apples to apple juice and dried apples.

Ostensibly, CPEC Phase 2.0. offers a great opportunity for Balochistan to modernize its agriculture sector.

The modernization of the sector will also strengthen the livestock sector as both sectors are closely interdependent. The large portion of the province relies on these two sectors. Lastly, Phase 2 could also end the perception of the marginalization within the province emerged during the CPEC Phase-I.

<https://pakobserver.net/balochistans-agriculture-sector-under-cpec-phase-2-0/>

Pakistan Observer

CPEC PHASE 2.0, CHINA'S 15TH FIVE-YEAR PLAN AND CM PUNJAB MARYAM'S PROSPEROUS PUNJAB VISION

Dr Mehmood Ul Hassan Khan

It seems that Maryam's good governance and strategic vision is supporting the early execution, implementation and completion of the CPEC Phase 2.0 projects further strengthening the province's contribution in the national GDP, industrialization, innovation, digitalization and hybrid agriculture.

The CM Punjab Maryam focus on massive green industrialization, hybrid agricultural modernization, and technology-driven growth has numerous similarities with the Chinese 15th Five Yera Plan which would have positive impacts on the province overall outlook, economic performance, economic stability and sustainability gearing towards greater socio-economic integration and cooperation during the 75th Anniversary of Pak-China Diplomatic Relations.

Additionally, the Punjab government has great vision of developing Special Economic Zones, specifically preparing a dedicated Garments City in Allama Iqbal Industrial City, and Quaid-e-Azam Business Park for Chinese investors which would have multiplier effects on the socio-economic development, employment generation and exports of the province. Hence, it has direct correlation and alignment with the CPEC Phase 2.0 and China's push for high-quality production under its 15th Five-Year Plan.

Moreover, Punjab is converting public infrastructure, such as prisons, gardens, libraries, public transports, schools and hospitals to solar power for achieving the sustainable development which has configuration with CPEC Phase 2.0 and the China's 15th Five Year Plan focusing on green technology, innovation, and modernization.

Clearly, the Punjab Development Program, featuring Rs. 304 billion for 52 cities, includes modernizing municipal services and waste treatment, echoing the high-tech urban development goals outlined in China's development roadmaps which should be integrated with the CPEC Phase 2.0 and its 15th Five Year Plan for creating a win-win propositions for all in the days to come.

It a good omen that China's 15th Five-Year Plan mainly focuses on new quality productive forces, technological self-reliance, and Digital China" initiatives which should be implemented in Maryam's Prosperous Punjab to achieve the desired goals of modernization, innovation, digitalization, AI, green & quantum technologies and hybrid agriculture in the province.

It is apparent that it focuses on shifting towards nation wide artificial intelligence (AI) across the economy, prioritizing industrial digitalization and smart manufacturing gearing China and its macro-economy towards greater innovation, modernization and digitalization.

Evidently, it plans to accelerate development in core technologies, including semiconductors, quantum computing, biotechnology, and 6G communications further strengthening its manufacturing capacity, diversifying the economy and exports as well.

It integrates environmental sustainability (carbon control) with digital growth, focusing on zero-carbon industrial parks which would have positive impacts on its national as well as global green cooperation even under its flagship projects of the BRI and CPEC Phase 2.0.

Last but not least, it upgrades traditional manufacturing through automation, digital tools, and smart supply chains which would transform Punjab's industrial capacity, development and outlook in the days to come.

It seems that CPEC Phase 2.0, China's 15th Five Year Plan and Maryam's Prosperous Punjab Vision have special conceptual, contextual and collaborative convergence which should be further explored, jointly pursued and mutually developed in the days to come.

It is a good omen that Huawei is partnering with Pakistan to train 300,000 young individuals in advanced Information and Communication Technology (ICT) skills, directly supporting the Digital Punjab vision which will have a positive impact on the province's overall drive of modernization, digitalization and AI.

The establishment of a joint working group between Punjab and China would further collaborate on environmental improvement, biodiversity, and smart technology to combat smog.

China's 15th Five Year Plan encourages international cooperation in digital trade and cross-border e-commerce, creating numerous opportunities for Punjab's nascent tech firms to contribute more and more in the overall GDP of the province and country alike.

Hopefully, the Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif invitation to the Chinese investors will explore new avenues of investment across Punjab, reaffirming Pakistan's strong partnership with China under the CPEC Phase 2.0 framework and pledging a business environment built on speed, transparency, and trust.

During a high-level meeting with a delegation of prominent Chinese investors the Chief Minister outlined Punjab's vision to become the "economic heart of Pakistan's modernization and industrial revival." She rightly projected Punjab's real potential for investment further enhanced by introducing a 'Zero Time to Start' policy to fully facilitate and encourage investors." Understandably, it aims to eliminate bureaucratic delays, enabling foreign investors, especially those from China, to begin operations immediately after project approval. It aligns with Punjab's broader agenda to streamline business processes, modernize industrial infrastructure, and enhance provincial participation in CPEC Phase 2.0 which focuses on industrialization and socio-economic uplift.

On her part, the CM Maryam highlighted that Chinese investors are "partners in progress" and reaffirmed her government's dedication to ensuring investor security and long-term collaboration. She emphasized that the province's stable law and order situation, improved logistics, and skilled workforce make it one of South Asia's most attractive destinations for industrial growth. It appears that the CM's engagement marks a strategic continuation of

Pakistan's policy to deepen provincial integration into CPEC, ensuring that economic benefits extend beyond ports and highways to the heartland of Pakistan's productivity, the Punjab province. So, it reflects Pakistan and Punjab's broader commitment to positioning itself as a regional hub for trade and investment, driven by CPEC's evolving synergy between Gwadar, Punjab's SEZs, and China's BRI. To conclude, CPEC Phase 2.0, China's 15th Five Year Plan and Maryam's Prosperous Punjab have trilateral conceptual and contextual cooperation transforming the lives of common people through people's friendly policies, revolutionizing rural communities through women empowerment, girl education, protections & provision of basic necessities of life, instilling quality development through qualitative industrialization, protecting environment through starting series of mega green energy projects and last but not least, brightening outlook of province by introducing and implementing many projects of digitalization and AI gearing Punjab towards a brighter future. Maryam Nawaz Sharif's leadership has set a new benchmark for good governance, openness, transparency, accountability, productivity and constructive participation inspiring future generations to pursue excellence and equality. Thus, she has a kind heart with futuristic vision empowering people and guaranteeing their bright futures with lots of fortunes in the days to come.

<https://pakobserver.net/cpec-phase-2-0-chinas-15th-five-year-plan-and-cm-punjab-maryams-prosperous-punjab-vision/>

April 23, 2026

Daily Times

Pakistan names astronaut candidates for training in China

The Space and Upper Atmosphere Research Commission (Suparco) on Wednesday announced a key development in its human spaceflight programme, naming two astronaut candidates who will undergo advanced training in China. Khurram Daud and Muhammad Zeeshan Ali are set to depart for the People's Republic of China to begin training at the Astronaut Centre of China. Officials said the move marked a significant step in Pakistan's space exploration efforts and placed the country among a limited number of nations pursuing human spaceflight capabilities. Under the collaboration, Pakistan is preparing for its first participation in a mission to the China Space Station, currently planned for launch in late 2026. A Pakistani astronaut is expected to serve as a payload expert on the mission, where they will carry out scientific experiments in microgravity. These experiments will focus on areas such as material science, fluid physics, life sciences and biotechnology, with potential applications in climate resilience, food security and industrial development. On the occasion, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif commended Suparco's efforts and termed the initiative a milestone for the country's space ambitions. He also highlighted Pakistan's close cooperation with China, describing the collaboration as a reflection of strong bilateral ties.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1482261/pakistan-names-astronaut-candidates-for-training-in-china/>

April 25, 2026

Business Recorder

President Zardari leaves for week-long visit to China

President Asif Ali Zardari departed on Saturday for a week-long official visit to China, the President House said in a statement.

According to Pakistan's Foreign Office, Zardari is paying a week-long visit on the invitation of the government of China.

The president will travel to Changsha, Hunan Province, from April 25 to 27, and to Sanya, Hainan Province, from April 28 to May 1.

He will hold meetings with the provincial leadership to discuss Pakistan–China bilateral relations, with a particular focus on economic and trade cooperation and China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

The visit is part of the longstanding tradition of high-level exchanges between Pakistan and China and holds special significance in the context of the 75th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries, being commemorated this year," the FO stated.

<https://www.brecorder.com/news/40418200/president-zardari-leaves-for-week-long-visit-to-china>

Dawn News

Pakistan successfully launches indigenous satellite from China

The Foreign Office (FO) said on Saturday that Pakistan had successfully launched an indigenous electro-optical satellite from China's Taiyuan Satellite Launch Centre, terming it a "significant milestone".

"The Pakistan Space and Upper Atmosphere Research Commission (Suparco) has successfully launched its indigenous electro-optical satellite (EO-3) from the Taiyuan Satellite Launch Centre, marking another significant milestone in the nation's space capabilities,"

"Beyond its core imaging mission, EO-3 carries advanced experimental payloads aimed at validating next-generation space technologies. These include a multi-geometry imaging module for enhanced imaging accuracy, an advanced energy storage system, and an onboard AI-powered data processing unit to enable real-time analysis and intelligent decision support," it said.

It said that the addition of EO-3 to Pakistan's Earth Observation satellite fleet "significantly enhances national capabilities in remote sensing".

"The integrated system will improve data continuity, imaging reliability, and analytical precision, supporting applications across Pakistan's socio-economic sectors," the FO said.

The military's media affairs wing, Inter-Services Public Relations, said the satellite would provide imaging data to "revolutionise urban planning, disaster management, food security and environment protection".

President Asif Ali Zardari, in a statement, termed the launch a "historic milestone".

He highlighted that it was a "clear manifestation of Pakistan's self-reliance, scientific expertise and growing capability in space technology".

The president praised the professional expertise of Suparco's scientists and engineers, saying their efforts were adapting Pakistan to modern requirements.

President Zardari also hailed China's "consistent and trustworthy cooperation" in the space sector.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1995020/pakistan-successfully-launches-indigenous-satellite-from-china>

President Zardari arrives in China for visit focused on economic cooperation CPEC

President Asif Ali Zardari arrived in China just past midnight on Saturday, for a trip where he will attend engagements related to economic and trade cooperation, as well as the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

According to a statement from his office, the president arrived in Changsha and was received by Hu Xusheng, Vice Chairman of the Standing Committee of the Hunan Provincial People's Congress.

"The ambassadors of China in Pakistan and Pakistan in China were also present on the occasion," the President's Secretariat said.

Earlier in the day, Punjab Governor Sardar Saleem Haider had seen off the president at the Allama Iqbal International Airport in Lahore, state-run PTV said.

According to the Foreign Office (FO), the president will travel to Hunan province's Changsha from April 25 to 27, and then to Hainan province's Sanya from April 28 to May 1.

"During the visit, the president will hold meetings with provincial leadership to review the full spectrum of Pakistan-China ties, with particular focus on economic and trade cooperation as well as the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC)," the statement added.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1994951/president-zardari-arrives-in-china-for-visit-focused-on-economic-cooperation-cpec>

April 26, 2026

Business Recorder

President Zardari calls for stronger Pak-China industrial cooperation

President Asif Ali Zardari on Sunday emphasised the importance of strengthening cooperation between Pakistan and China in industrial technology, skill development and joint ventures that support Pakistan's infrastructure and industrial growth.

He expressed these views during his visit to the SANY Heavy Industry Company Ltd at Changsha, Hunan province in China, the President House (Media Wing) reported.

The visit focused on exploring avenues for industrial cooperation, technology transfer and investment between Pakistan and China in the engineering and construction machinery sector.

President Zardari appreciated the scale, sophistication and technological depth of SANY's manufacturing ecosystem.

He also highlighted the potential for collaboration between both countries in areas such as construction machinery, digital manufacturing, clean energy and engineering solutions.

During the visit, the president was given a detailed overview of SANY's operations by Chairman of Sany Group Tang Xiuguo, including its core business areas of machinery.

The chairman of SANY Group expressed willingness to explore opportunities for increased collaboration with Pakistan in manufacturing, technology exchange and capacity building.

President Zardari also visited Hunan Tea Group Co., Ltd. Today as well, where he was briefed by Mr Zhou Zhongwang, Chairman of Hunan Tea Group, on its operations, supply chain and international market presence.

The president was apprised of the group's end-to-end model, which brings together cultivation, processing, research, marketing and tea culture within a single industrial framework. The briefing outlined how ecological tea garden bases, specialised production facilities and distribution systems are organised to support both domestic sales and exports.

President Zardari was informed that Hunan Tea Group functions as a coordinating platform for the province's tea sector, connecting growers, industry and research institutions with branding and market access.

During the visit, the president toured the company's history gallery and observed a presentation on tea processing and tea culture. He also attended a tea tasting session.

Zardari noted the scope for cooperation in value addition, agro-processing and export development, and invited the Group to explore opportunities for collaboration with Pakistan in these areas.

<https://www.brecorder.com/news/40418330/president-zardari-calls-for-stronger-pak-china-industrial-cooperation>

April 27, 2026

Daily Times

China ties cornerstone of Pakistan's foreign policy, says Zardari

President Asif Ali Zardari, Sunday, visited SANY Heavy Industry Co., Ltd. in Changsha, Hunan province; China where he was briefed by Chairman of Sany Group Tang Xiuguo, on the company's advanced manufacturing systems, product lines and ongoing investments in research and development. Vice Mayor of Changsha Qian Lixia was also present on the occasion.

The visit focused on exploring avenues for industrial cooperation, technology transfer and investment between Pakistan and China in the engineering and construction machinery sector, President Secretariat Media Wing said in a press release.

During the visit, the president was given a detailed overview of SANY's operations, including its core business areas of concrete machinery, excavators, cranes, piling equipment and road machinery.

He was also informed about the company's financial and operational performance, including its 2024 operating revenue which was \$11.27 billion, product segmentation and sustained investment in innovation and R&D capacity.

The president was accompanied by Senator Saleem Mandviwalla, Sharjeel Inam Memon, Senior Provincial Minister, Sindh; Ali Hassan Barohi, Syed Qasim Naveed Qamar, Special Assistant to the Chief Minister of Sindh for Investment and Public-Private Partnership Projects and Chief Secretary, Sindh; China's Ambassador to Pakistan Jiang Zaidong and Pakistan's Ambassador to China Khalil Hashmi.

The president was given a round of the company's flagship No. 18 Factory, which is a digitally integrated manufacturing facility recognised for its advanced automation and data-driven production systems.

He was briefed on the factory's intelligent operations, high automation rate and its role as a benchmark for modern industrial manufacturing.

He noted the scale of technological integration and its relevance for countries seeking to modernise industrial production and improve efficiency.

President Zardari appreciated the scale, sophistication and technological depth of SANY's manufacturing ecosystem. He emphasised the importance of strengthening cooperation in industrial technology, skill development and joint ventures that could support Pakistan's infrastructure and industrial growth.

He also highlighted the potential for collaboration in areas such as construction machinery, digital manufacturing, clean energy and engineering solutions.

Tang Xiuguo underlined the company's commitment to innovation, digitalisation and international partnerships and informed about country's ongoing operations in Pakistan and

expressed the willingness to explore opportunities for increased collaboration with Pakistan in manufacturing, technology exchange and capacity building.

Moreover, he visited Hunan Tea Group Co., Ltd where he was briefed by Mr Zhou Zhongwang, Chairman of Hunan Tea Group, on its operations, supply chain and international market presence.

The President was apprised of the group's end-to-end model, which brings together cultivation, processing, research, marketing and tea culture within a single industrial framework. The briefing outlined how ecological tea garden bases, specialised production facilities and distribution systems are organised to support both domestic sales and exports.

The President was informed that Hunan Tea Group functions as a coordinating platform for the province's tea sector, connecting growers, industry and research institutions with branding and market access.

During the visit, the President toured the company's history gallery and observed a presentation on tea processing and tea culture.

He also attended a tea tasting session.

The President noted the scope for cooperation in value addition, agro-processing and export development, and invited the Group to explore opportunities for collaboration with Pakistan in these areas.

Later, the president held a meeting with Shen Xiaoming, Party Secretary of Hunan Province, and attended a banquet hosted in his honour by Governor of Hunan Province Mao Weiming.

The engagement focused on advancing practical cooperation in agriculture, health, education and trade, while reaffirming the enduring strength of Pakistan-China relations.

During the meeting, the President invited Shen Xiaoming to visit Pakistan in connection with the 75th anniversary celebrations of diplomatic relations between the two countries.

He underscored that Pakistan-China ties remain a cornerstone of Pakistan's foreign policy and continue to enjoy broad-based support.

He also referred to his long-standing personal connection with China, recalling that his family, including his late father-in-law Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto and his late wife Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto, had always attached special importance to relations with China.

He said this tradition is now being carried forward by the next generation, including his son, former foreign minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari and First Lady Bibi Aseefa Bhutto Zardari.

The President emphasised Hunan's strengths in agricultural technology and equipment, noting their relevance to Pakistan's efforts to enhance productivity.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1484432/china-ties-cornerstone-of-pakistans-foreign-policy-says-zardari/>

April 28, 2026

Business Recorder

Pakistan, China sign three MoUs

CHANGSHA: Three MoUs were signed between Pakistan and China in the presence of President Asif Ali Zardari in Changsha, China.

The agreement on making seawater usable was signed by Sindh Senior Minister Sharjeel Inam Memon and Chairman of Luxian Environmental Technology Group Yuhui.

The agreement on agricultural technology cooperation was signed by Sharjeel Inam Memon and Chairman of Longpin High-Tech Information Company Chen Zhishen. The agreement related to the tea sector was signed by Senator Saleem Mandviwala on behalf of Pakistan while Zhou Chongwang and Hao Jiaolong on behalf of Chinese companies. The aim of these agreements is to promote water, agriculture, trade and bilateral cooperation. Sindh Senior Minister and Provincial Minister for Information, Transport and Mass Transit, Sharjeel Inam Memon, said in a statement after the signing of the MoUs that the agreements signed between Pakistan and China will prove to be significant milestones for the development of various sectors. The MoUs signed between the two countries will create new investment opportunities, provide basic facilities to the people, promote the use of modern technology, and strengthen industrial cooperation. Sharjeel Inam Memon said that, considering the growing needs of a large city like Karachi, seawater desalination projects are the need of the hour. Through modern technology, additional water can be supplied to citizens, which will help address the water crisis in the future. He said the Sindh government is taking serious steps to permanently resolve urban issues, and collaboration with world-class companies is part of this vision. This project will improve Karachi's infrastructure and urban amenities, while also creating investment and employment opportunities. Senior Minister Sharjeel Inam Memon said that cooperation between the Sindh Local Government Department and a Chinese company in the field of agricultural technology is highly encouraging for Sindh's economy. Sindh is an agriculturally fertile province, and the use of modern technology can significantly increase per-acre production. This agreement will provide farmers with access to modern research, improved seeds, smart farming systems, and advanced agricultural methods. He said the Sindh government aims to modernize agriculture so that farmers prosper, agricultural exports increase, and the country's economy grows stronger. China has made remarkable progress in agricultural research and technology, and Sindh can greatly benefit from this experience. He added that the MoU in the tea sector will further expand trade relations between Pakistan and China and will play an important role in promoting the tea industry, trade, investment, and people-to-people contacts. Special Assistant to the Chief Minister of Sindh for Investment and Public-Private Partnership Projects Qasim Naveed Qamar, Chief Secretary Sindh, Ali Hassan Brohi, and Pakistan's Ambassador to China Khalil Hashmi were also present at the ceremony.

<https://www.brecorder.com/news/40418571/pakistan-china-sign-three-mous>

Dawn News**Export of donkey meat hides to China allowed***Mubarak Zeb Khan*

ISLAMABAD: The Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) on Monday approved the export of donkey meat and hides from Gwadar Port to China.

The ECC gave its approval after taking up a summary submitted by the Food Security Division. It approved a proposal for the disposal of existing inventory in accordance with export protocols.

Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb chaired the meeting. The chief economist briefed the participants on recent trends in key economic indicators, particularly price movements of essential commodities and overall inflation dynamics.

The meeting noted with satisfaction that “inflationary pressures are easing”, with prices of essential commodities declining and overall trends pointing towards “a gradual stabilisation” after recent volatility.

The presentation noted that inflationary pressures were showing “signs of moderation”, with emerging trends pointing toward “improved price stability”.

Weekly monitoring data reflects that, after a temporary uptick, the pace of increase in prices of essential items has slowed.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1995662/export-of-donkey-meat-hides-to-china-allowed>

Daily Times**Asif Ali Zardari China Visit Aims to Make Pakistan Stronger: Governor**

Governor Punjab Sardar Saleem Haider Khan said that President Asif Ali Zardari is visiting China to make Pakistan stronger. He shared these views during a visit to the National Press Club Islamabad, where he congratulated newly elected office bearers. Moreover, he stressed that the visit will boost national strength and global ties. During the event, the governor also spoke about recent regional tensions. He claimed that the Pahalgam false flag narrative has now been exposed as false worldwide. Furthermore, he urged the government to focus on improving the economy and reducing inflation. He emphasized that economic relief should now become the top national priority. In addition, Sardar Saleem Haider Khan praised Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir. He said that God has honored him with unmatched respect. He added that Pakistan has never seen such recognition before. Therefore, he linked this respect to growing international confidence in the country. He also referred to remarks by former U.S. President Donald Trump. He claimed that Trump frequently praises Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and the army chief. Meanwhile, he said such statements reflect Pakistan’s improving global image. However, he did not provide specific examples of these remarks.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1485147/asif-ali-zardari-china-visit-aims-to-make-pakistan-stronger-governor/>

April 29, 2026

Pakistan Observer

CPEC 2.0: Pakistan's economic lifeline in a changing world

Muslim Mirani

IN 2026, as Pakistan navigates economic headwinds, inflationary pressures and global uncertainty, one national project stands out as a pillar of strength: the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). More than a decade after its launch, CPEC is no longer just an infrastructure initiative; it has evolved into a comprehensive economic strategy that is steadily reshaping Pakistan's future and strengthening its long-term development outlook.

The early phase of CPEC addressed some of Pakistan's most critical structural challenges. Chronic energy shortages, once a defining constraint on industrial growth, were significantly reduced through new power generation projects. Modern highways, rail links and transport corridors improved connectivity across provinces, linking remote regions with major commercial centres and ports. These foundational developments restored economic momentum, reduced logistics costs and created the conditions necessary for sustained national growth.

Today, in its second phase, widely referred to as CPEC 2.0, the focus has decisively shifted from infrastructure to economic productivity. This transition reflects a clear strategic vision shared by Pakistan and China: long-term prosperity depends not only on connectivity but also on industrialization, exports and innovation. Across Pakistan, Special Economic Zones are gradually emerging as hubs of manufacturing, technology transfer and foreign investment. These zones are beginning to reshape the country's industrial landscape, offering new opportunities for both local and international investors.

The impact of this transformation is becoming increasingly visible in the lives of ordinary Pakistanis. New employment opportunities are emerging in industrial clusters, while rising demand for skilled labour is encouraging vocational training and technical education. For Pakistan's young population, CPEC represents more than just employment; it opens pathways to entrepreneurship, innovation and participation in global value chains. Small and medium enterprises are also finding new space to grow, supported by improved infrastructure, energy availability and better access to markets.

Agriculture, the backbone of Pakistan's economy, is also experiencing gradual modernization under this framework. Cooperation with China is introducing advanced farming techniques, improved seed varieties and efficient irrigation systems. These developments are enhancing crop yields, reducing resource waste and increasing farmer incomes, particularly in rural regions where economic opportunities have historically been limited. In this way, CPEC is contributing not only to macroeconomic stability but also to grassroots economic uplift and rural development.

At the centre of this transformation lies Gwadar, a city that has become synonymous with Pakistan's economic future. In 2026, Gwadar is steadily emerging as a strategic deep-sea port with the potential to transform regional trade dynamics. Its location along the Arabian Sea

provides Pakistan with direct access to key maritime routes connecting the Middle East, Central Asia and Africa. As development continues, Gwadar is expected to generate large-scale employment, attract investment and serve as a catalyst for economic activity across Balochistan and beyond.

CPEC's significance extends well beyond Pakistan's borders. In a rapidly changing geopolitical environment, the corridor is positioning Pakistan as a vital link between South Asia, China, Central Asia and the Middle East. This connectivity is facilitating not only trade but also energy cooperation, logistics integration and regional economic coordination. In an era where economic corridors increasingly define global influence, Pakistan's strategic relevance is being strengthened through CPEC's expanding footprint.

On the global stage, CPEC has enhanced Pakistan's image as a country open to investment, infrastructure development and long-term international partnerships. As a flagship project of China's Belt and Road Initiative, it demonstrates how coordinated infrastructure investment can drive economic transformation in developing economies. Despite global economic volatility, the continued progress of CPEC sends a strong message of stability, continuity and commitment to development.

Importantly, 2026 marks a period of renewed national alignment around CPEC. There is increasing recognition across state institutions and policymakers that the corridor is central to Pakistan's economic future. Efforts to improve governance, strengthen security frameworks and streamline decision-making processes are helping accelerate project implementation and restore investor confidence. This institutional coordination is essential for ensuring long-term sustainability and maximizing economic returns.

While challenges remain, including the need for policy consistency and administrative efficiency, Pakistan has demonstrated resilience and adaptability. The experience gained over the past decade has strengthened institutional capacity and improved project execution. CPEC today is not merely a collection of projects; it is being integrated into a broader national development strategy focused on industrial growth, export expansion and economic diversification.

Ultimately, the true value of CPEC lies in its impact on people. It is creating jobs for the youth, empowering farmers, supporting small businesses and building infrastructure that connects communities. It represents a shift from short-term economic fixes to long-term structural transformation, from dependency to productivity and from isolation to connectivity.

As Pakistan moves forward, CPEC stands as its most powerful instrument of economic transformation. It is more than a corridor; it is a lifeline, a strategic vision and a pathway to a stronger, more resilient and more prosperous future.

<https://pakobserver.net/cpec-2-0-pakistans-economic-lifeline-in-a-changing-world/>

Chinese Newspapers

April 16, 2026

China Daily

Sino-Pakistan project yields satisfactory results

A hybrid rice variety, jointly developed by China's Wuhan University and the University of the Punjab in Pakistan, is moving toward wider commercial use in Pakistan.

According to the University of Punjab, the variety registered under the name PU-786 is the first Honglian-Type hybrid rice developed in Pakistan.

It has been tested across four provinces in the country before a commercialization agreement was signed in March, moving the project from the laboratory toward the market.

Muhammad Ashfaq, a professor at the Punjab University and one of the project's key researchers, said that before PU-786, Pakistan's rice sector faced low yields, vulnerability to pests and climate stress, and limited export competitiveness.

Farmers also face unsteady and high input costs, limiting harvest the sector's broader potential.

"PU-786 is remarkable because it triples yield potential — up to 5.6 metric tons per acre (13.83 tons per hectare) — while maintaining grain quality suitable for both domestic consumption and export," Ashfaq said.

"The difference is not just in numbers. You can see healthier, fuller panicles and more consistent grain quality."

The development partnership dates back to 2018, when the University of the Punjab began working with the Wuhan University team led by Zhu Renshan, a professor at the College of Life Sciences.

In 2021, the Luotian base of their joint research center was set up in Huanggang, Hubei, giving the cooperation a more formal institutional footing. Since then, the project has moved through breeding, regional trials, registration and commercialization.

The rice at the center of the cooperation comes from a longer Chinese research tradition. Zhu said the Honglian-Type hybrid, developed over decades at Wuhan University, is known for its broad adaptability, strong resistance, stable seed production and efficient use of nitrogen fertilizer, as well as its ability to combine high yields with good grain quality. It has been widely planted in China's Yangtze River Basin and has also flourished in Southeast Asia, South Asia and Africa, he added.

<https://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202604/16/WS69e03aaaa310d6866eb43b86.html>

April 21, 2026

China Daily

Xi'an hosts Belt and Road youth for Chinese Language Day

Xi'an in Shaanxi province brought together young people from countries involved in the Belt and Road Initiative on Monday in celebration of the 17th UN Chinese Language Day.

Hosted by Xi'an International Studies University, the event offered an immersive Chinese language and culture experience, aiming to deepen mutual understanding and enhance international communication.

Wu Yaowu, the university's president, said the event injected momentum into the university's international Chinese language education and created a platform for young people along the Silk Road to connect on a deeper level.

Plans are underway to expand the university's cooperation network, upgrade its education models, and further strengthen educational collaboration with other countries, he added.

<https://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202604/21/WS69e76a6ea310d6866eb44b17.html>

April 22, 2026

China Daily

2 Pakistanis chosen for training, one may fly to China's space station

Two Pakistani astronaut candidates have been selected, and one of them will likely become the first foreign national to fly onboard China's Tiangong space station, according to the China Manned Space Agency.

The agency said in a statement on Wednesday afternoon that Muhammad Zeeshan Ali and Khurram Daud have passed multiple rounds of selection procedures and will soon come to China to take part in spaceflight training.

"Upon completing all training courses and passing relevant assessments, one of them will be selected for a mission crew as a payload specialist to participate in a spaceflight, becoming the first foreign astronaut to visit the Chinese space station," the statement said.

If realized, it would mark the first time a Pakistani national has reached Earth's orbit.

According to the agency, the selection and training of Pakistani astronauts is a landmark event in the history of China's space industry.

"It stands as an iconic achievement of international cooperation on the Chinese space station, and also a successful example of the China-Pakistan all-weather strategic cooperative partnership taking concrete shape in the space sector,"

the statement said.

"This fully demonstrates the open attitude of the Chinese government to share the accomplishments of its space industry with the international community."

The statement added that the peaceful use of outer space for the benefit of humanity has always been a core mission of China's space programs.

"China's manned space program will always keep its doors wide open, welcoming all countries to actively participate in cooperation in fields such as scientific experiments and technological tests on the Tiangong space station, as well as astronaut selection and training," it said. "Together, we will expand humanity's understanding of the universe and contribute to building a community with a shared future for mankind."

In February 2025, the China Manned Space Agency and Pakistan's Space and Upper Atmosphere Research Commission signed an agreement in Islamabad to open bilateral cooperation on selecting and training Pakistani astronauts.

<https://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202604/22/WS69e89c9aa310d6866eb44efc.html>

Global Times

A very positive initiative: Pakistani journalist lauds Xinjiang's medical education for Pakistani students

On Wednesday, a delegation of Pakistani media professionals and think tanks visited Xinjiang Medical University in Urumqi, Northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, gaining firsthand insight into China-Pakistan cooperation in medical education.

Rashida Shoukat, a journalist from Abb Takk News, told the Global Times that she had long been curious about the study environment, facilities and possible challenges faced by Pakistani students in China. The visit offered her an opportunity to interact with Pakistani students and better understand their real experiences of studying and living in Xinjiang.

Through conversations with the students, Shoukat found that the university attracts international students with a combination of strong government support, high-quality medical education, abundant clinical practice opportunities and a safe, welcoming environment with adequate language assistance, all of which help students integrate quickly and benefit both academically and professionally.

As a female journalist, Shoukat paid particular attention to female Pakistani students, noting that they feel comfortable studying in Xinjiang, with access to high-quality education and a supportive environment. "I will report this back in my country and encourage those who want to study in China to go ahead. It's a very positive initiative," she said.

Xinjiang Medical University is one of the top medical institutions in the region. As one of the first demonstration bases in Xinjiang for international education and among the first universities to accept Chinese government scholarship students, the university currently hosts 842 international students from 24 countries, including 315 from Pakistan. Generous scholarships are provided to Pakistani students, covering tuition, accommodation and living expenses. Xinjiang Medical University has also established a more efficient admission

pathway for Pakistani students. To date, the pass rate of its graduates in the Pakistan Medical and Dental Council licensing examination has exceeded 90 percent, according to student representative Najeeb Ullah.

Ullah, a Pakistani PhD candidate in endocrinology and metabolism from the class of 2024, first came to the university in 2011 and has since completed his undergraduate and master's studies. "Since my enrollment, I have received scholarships and support from the Chinese government and the university, enabling me to focus on my studies without worries," he said.

"Here, I have met knowledgeable and patient teachers who constantly guide us to unlock our potential and pursue innovation. The advanced laboratories and abundant digital resources on campus have created an excellent learning environment. The student apartments are equipped with kitchens, gyms, laundry rooms and other facilities, bringing convenience to our daily life. This is not only a place for us to acquire professional knowledge, but also a place where we feel the warmth of home. China has become my second hometown," Ullah added.

Naureeta Yousaf, another Pakistani student, said she had multiple options for further study, including the UK and Australia, but ultimately chose Xinjiang Medical University because of its strong clinical training environment and proximity to hospitals. "I chose Xinjiang mainly because it has better opportunities, which provide strong clinical support for students. I would strongly suggest and encourage Pakistani students to come here," she said.

She added that students can experience a different culture, gain access to advanced technology and benefit from a welcoming environment where language is not a major barrier thanks to English support. "Since coming here, I have adapted well and gained a lot," she said, noting that her long-term goal is to return to Pakistan and contribute to improving the country's healthcare system by applying what she has learned in China.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202604/1359553.shtml>

China selects first foreign astronauts, two Pakistani candidates to train, one to join space station mission

The selection of the first group of foreign astronauts for the China's manned spaceflight program was completed with two candidates from Pakistan selected, according to an official release from the official WeChat account of China Manned Space on Wednesday.

The two selected Pakistani candidates, Muhammad Zeeshan Ali and Khurram Daud, will soon travel to China to undergo training as backup astronauts. Upon completing all required training and passing assessments, one of them will participate in a spaceflight mission as a payload specialist, becoming the first foreign astronaut to enter China's space station, according to the release.

According to an earlier report from the Xinhua News Agency in February 2025, the China Manned Space Engineering Office (CMSEO) and the Pakistan Space and Upper Atmosphere Research Commission (SUPARCO) signed a cooperation agreement on the spaceflight of Pakistani astronaut to the Chinese space station.

Under the agreement, the Chinese government will select and train a group of Pakistani astronauts, and one of them will be the first foreign astronaut to enter the Chinese space station, per Xinhua report.

The release indicated that the final selection of the two Pakistani backup astronauts went through three stages of rigorous screening and evaluation including preliminary selection, secondary selection, and final selection.

Pakistani media outlet Geo News said on Wednesday that Pakistan's Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) had said the cooperation is anchored in the bilateral Astronaut Cooperation Agreement signed in February 2025, under the leadership of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif. The agreement reflects the prime minister's vision and support, which were instrumental in enabling Pakistan's participation in human spaceflight.

The selection and training of astronauts for Pakistan mark a milestone in China's space history, the release underscored. It represents a landmark achievement in international cooperation on China's space station and serves as another successful example of the implementation of the China-Pakistan all-weather strategic cooperative partnership in the space sector, demonstrating China's openness to sharing the fruits of its space development with the international community, China Manned Space's release said.

The ISPR had described the development as a landmark achievement for Pakistan's space ambitions and a testament to growing bilateral cooperation between Pakistan and China in advanced scientific and technological domains, per Geo News.

The peaceful use of outer space for the benefit of all humanity has always been the original aspiration and mission driving China's space endeavors, the release said, adding that China's human spaceflight program will continue to keep its doors open, welcoming active participation from all countries in scientific experiments, technological testing, and astronaut selection and training related to China's space station, jointly expanding humanity's understanding of the universe and contributing wisdom and strength to building a global community with a shared future.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202604/1359564.shtml>

Xinhua News

Update: Two Pakistani astronauts selected for China's space mission training

BEIJING, April 22 (Xinhua) -- Two Pakistani candidates have been selected as the first foreign astronauts for China's space mission training, the China Manned Space Agency announced on Wednesday afternoon, calling it a landmark achievement in international cooperation on the Chinese space station. The agency said in a statement that Muhammad Zeeshan Ali and Khurram Daud will come to China soon as reserve astronauts for training. After completing all training and evaluations, one of them will participate in a space mission as a payload specialist, becoming the first foreign astronaut onboard the Tiangong space station. In February 2025, China and Pakistan signed a cooperation agreement on the spaceflight of a Pakistani astronaut to the Chinese space station in Islamabad, officially

launching the selection process for Pakistani astronauts. After three rounds of rigorous screening, two Pakistani reserve astronauts were ultimately chosen. According to the agency, this selection and training of astronauts for Pakistan is also a milestone in China's space program and another successful example of the China-Pakistan all-weather strategic cooperative partnership in the space sector. It fully demonstrates China's open attitude and willingness to share its space development achievements with the international community, the agency said. The peaceful use of outer space for the benefit of all humanity has always been the original aspiration and mission of China's space program development, the agency said. China's manned space program will always open its doors wide, welcoming countries around the world to participate in cooperation in areas such as scientific experiments, technological tests, and astronaut selection and training aboard the Chinese space station, jointly expanding the understanding of the universe, and contributing wisdom and strength to the building of a community with a shared future for humanity, the agency added.

<https://english.news.cn/20260422/5eced4ba3c2645f8a1e663f5326b52b5/c.html>

April 24, 2026

China Daily

Pakistani astronauts begin training at China space center

ZHAO LEI

Two Pakistani astronauts arrived at the Astronaut Center of China in Beijing on Friday, beginning training with Chinese counterparts, according to the China Manned Space Agency.

In a brief statement, the agency said it hopes the Pakistani astronauts will soon realize their dream and carry the Pakistani people's "dream of spaceflight", along with the friendship between the two nations, into the "heavenly palace", a term that usually refers to China's Tiangong space station.

The first foreign trainees at the Chinese center, Muhammad Zeeshan Ali and Khurram Daud, are expected to receive relevant training and then undergo evaluations. One of the two will be selected to join a crewed mission as a payload specialist, becoming the first foreign astronaut to visit China's Tiangong space station.

If the program is successful, it will also mark the first time a Pakistani national reaches Earth's orbit.

In February 2025, the Chinese agency and Pakistan's Space and Upper Atmosphere Research Commission signed an agreement in Islamabad, the Pakistani capital, paving the way for bilateral cooperation in selecting and training Pakistani astronauts.

Tiangong, one of the largest and most advanced structures ever deployed in Earth's orbit, is currently the only operating space station independently built and operated by a single nation. It has hosted 10 crews of Chinese astronauts.

<https://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202604/24/WS69eb2982a310d6866eb4563b.html>

April 25, 2026

Global Times

Pakistani delegates laud Wuhan's bridging role in China-Pakistan cooperation

Ma Ruiqian

A delegation of Pakistani media representatives and think tank scholars visited Wuhan, central China's Hubei Province on Friday, witnessing the implementation of the China-Pakistan All-Weather Strategic Cooperative Partnership through concrete projects, from cross-border trade exchanges to modern agricultural cooperation.

At Yangluo Port, towering bridge cranes rose and fell in orderly fashion under remote operation, steadily stacking containers into place. Freight vehicles moved constantly back and forth, while ships streamed across the river in an endless flow, creating a bustling scene. As an important intersection of the Yangtze River Economic Belt and the Belt and Road Initiative, Yangluo Port has become a convenient and efficient gateway for global goods entering the central China market.

Within the Wuhan Financial Holding Central China Trade Service Zone at Yangluo Port, the Belt and Road National Pavilion left a deep impression on the delegation. As an innovative platform integrated into national strategy and showcasing Wuhan's achievements in the opening-up, it highlighted the city's growing international connectivity.

Walking among the pavilions of dozens of countries, members of the Pakistani delegation quickly found the familiar national flag. Pakistani journalist Rashida Shoukat leaned close to the national flag for a photo. She said seeing the Pakistan Pavilion and products from her homeland in China "was a joy to see," and she hoped that more Pakistani goods would enter the Chinese market in the future.

At that moment, in the Pakistan Pavilion and many other exhibition halls, livestream hosts enthusiastically introduced specialty products from around the world, while large screens displayed real-time figures such as online viewers and transaction volumes. Products, including gemstones from Pakistan, are being sold across China through e-commerce channels.

Javid Iqbal, President of the National Institute of Maritime Affairs of Pakistan, told the Global Times that China represents an important opportunity for development.

"This is a center of innovation, a center of industry, and a major trade hub connecting the world. I believe this is also a very good opportunity for Pakistan to fully make use of such capacity," Iqbal said. He added that e-commerce has profoundly changed the way companies sell and promote products, making business exchanges more convenient and efficient.

"As a Pakistani, I feel very excited and proud to see a Pakistan Pavilion here, to see products from my country displayed here, and to be able to represent my nation," Zeeshan Khan, reporter for Dunya News in Pakistan, said. "The various supportive measures provided by the

Chinese government will help further advance bilateral economic and trade cooperation and create more employment opportunities," Khan told the Global Times.

Through the window of the Belt and Road National Pavilion, one can see the increasingly close economic and trade ties between Hubei Province and Belt and Road partner countries, and feel how BRI cooperation is being transformed from a grand vision into tangible results.

If Yangluo Port connects the world through waterways and railways, then the next stop, Hi-Tech Bio-Agricultural Park in Wuhan's core area, links the world through high-quality agricultural products. Before entering the office building of Wuhan Qingfa Hesheng Agricultural Development Co., Ltd, few members of the delegation knew that within this ordinary-looking building were stories of China-Pakistan friendship and cooperation.

From introducing hybrid rice and canola into Pakistan and establishing R&D farms for local variety breeding and technology transfer, to running training programs for Pakistani agricultural professionals, and receiving a letter of appreciation from the Pakistani side after post-disaster reconstruction assistance in Balochistan Province — China-Pakistan agricultural cooperation is steadily advancing in a "small yet impactful" way.

Photographs showing smiling Pakistani faces and sets of practical data vividly demonstrate the real changes that Chinese seeds have brought to Pakistan's agricultural development.

The "China-Pakistan cooperation project for the promotion and industrialization of hybrid double-low canola" is a flagship agricultural cooperation project under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor. It has improved taste while increasing yield and oil content, helping reduce edible oil imports, said the company's manager.

In hybrid rice, Chinese varieties and technologies represented by Qingfa Hesheng have helped Pakistan rise steadily from the world's seventh-largest rice exporter to fourth place, making "Chinese rice seeds" an important pillar for boosting grain output in the country, according to the company.

"In the past, many Pakistani farmers used local traditional techniques, and yields were nowhere near what they are today. As far as I know, their incomes have increased significantly through cooperation with China. In the future, if they continue to use such scientific and smart technology, they will certainly gain even greater economic benefits," Adnan Iftikhar, editor of the sub news media house in Pakistan, told the Global Times.

"China is helping the world grow and make progress together. When I see these seeds, I realize they are not just crop seeds - they are seeds of hope and love that China is sowing in our land. I am confident that both China and Pakistan will reap better food and sweeter fruit from these seeds," Noor Ullah, senior manager of Jang Media Group, told the Global Times.

From Wuhan in Hubei Province to the farmlands of Pakistan, Chinese agricultural enterprises are using technology as a bridge and industry as a bond, transforming China's agricultural resources and development experience into strong momentum for the agricultural modernization of Belt and Road partner countries.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202604/1359759.shtml>

Xinhua News

China launches Pakistani satellite

TAIYUAN, April 25 (Xinhua) -- China launched a Pakistani satellite from the Taiyuan Satellite Launch Center in north China's Shanxi Province on Saturday. The satellite, named PRSC-EO3, was lifted off at 8:15 p.m. (Beijing Time) by a Long March-6 carrier rocket and successfully entered its planned orbit. This launch marked the 640th flight mission of the Long March carrier rocket series. A Long March-6 carrier rocket carrying a Pakistani satellite blasts off from the Taiyuan Satellite Launch Center in north China's Shanxi Province on April 25, 2026. The satellite, named PRSC-EO3, was lifted off at 8:15 p.m. (Beijing Time) and successfully entered its planned orbit. (Photo by Guo Jinqi/Xinhua) A Long March-6 carrier rocket carrying a Pakistani satellite blasts off from the Taiyuan Satellite Launch Center in north China's Shanxi Province on April 25, 2026. The satellite, named PRSC-EO3, was lifted off at 8:15 p.m. (Beijing Time) and successfully entered its planned orbit. <https://english.news.cn/20260425/ce39dd219867410792f6b47f5f5f5948/c.html>

April 27, 2026

China Daily

China voice willingness to enhance all-round cooperation with Pakistan

China on Monday expressed its readiness to work with Pakistan to enhance friendly exchanges and cooperation.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Lin Jian made the remarks at a daily news conference as Pakistani President Asif Ali Zardari is expected to make a weeklong visit to China starting on Saturday, with stops in Hunan and Hainan provinces.

This year marks the 75th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and Pakistan, Lin said, adding that bilateral relations have maintained sound and robust growth at a high level.

China stands ready to work with Pakistan to enhance friendly exchanges and cooperation at all levels and in all localities, and jointly build an even closer China-Pakistan community with a shared future, he added.

<https://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202604/27/WS69ef2bb7a310d6866eb45ca3.html>

Pakistani President joked about taking a Chinese forklift home

On Sunday, Pakistani President Asif Ali Zardari visited Sany Group in Changsha, Hunan. Spotting an electric forklift, he joked, "My plane can carry it." As he bid farewell to Sany Chairman Tang Xiuguo, Tang said, "If you like, I can invest and copy this whole factory in Pakistan."

<https://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202604/27/WS69ef3835a310d6866eb45cbc.html>

Pakistani President awarded a Chinese doctor the Star of Pakistan

During his visit to China, Pakistani President Asif Ali Zardari awarded the "Star of Pakistan" medal to Dr Pan Xiangbin, deputy director of China's National Center for Cardiovascular Diseases. "Dr Pan is very famous in Pakistan and we don't have many doctors who can do what he does," said Pakistani official Qassim. Join China Daily reporter Peng Yixuan to know more about Pan's story!

<https://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202604/27/WS69ef4f89a310d6866eb45cf8.html>

Zardari's visit highlights push to boost cooperation

Pakistani President Asif Ali Zardari's weeklong visit, from Saturday to Friday, to China opened with a focus on factories, farming and provincial-level cooperation, underscoring the two countries' efforts to move their long-running economic partnership beyond infrastructure and into industrial upgrade, agricultural modernization and technology-driven growth.

During his visit on Sunday to Changsha in Hunan province, the first stop of his tour, Zardari visited SANY Heavy Industry, one of China's leading machinery manufacturers. He was briefed on the company's advanced manufacturing systems, product lines and investment in research and development.

Zardari showed strong interest in products including unmanned counterbalanced forklifts, telling Pakistani officials that he hoped such products could also be produced in Pakistan.

He also visited Hunan Tea Group on Sunday and was briefed on the company's operations, supply chain and international market presence.

According to Pakistan's Press Information Department, Zardari saw scope for cooperation in value-added processing, agro-processing and export development, and invited the company to explore collaboration with Pakistan in those fields.

Observers said Zardari's engagements in Hunan reflect the evolving nature of China-Pakistan economic cooperation. The first phase of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, a flagship project under the Belt and Road Initiative, was largely associated with roads, power plants, ports and other infrastructure projects. Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan Jiang Zaidong said that CPEC 2.0 will focus on industry, agriculture and mining. He said the two sides would accelerate the development of demonstration industrial parks to help Pakistan strengthen industrial capacity, boost export earnings and create jobs, while also working to bring more Pakistani agricultural products into the Chinese market. Liu Zongyi, director of the Center for South Asia Studies at the Shanghai Institutes for International Studies, said that for Pakistan, the priority is to draw on China's experience to strengthen its industrial capacity and advance modernization. He added that as this year marks the 75th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries, the latest visit suggests both sides are seeking to translate long-standing political trust into more concrete economic cooperation through provincial-level exchanges and enterprise-to-enterprise engagement. The broader relationship was also reflected in medical and people-to-people cooperation. Zardari on Sunday conferred

the Star of Pakistan honor on Chinese doctor Pan Xiangbin, in recognition of his work leading a Chinese medical team that provided free minimally invasive heart surgeries for Pakistani children and trained local doctors. On Monday, Zardari visited Shaoshan, where he toured the former residence and memorial hall of late Chairman Mao Zedong. A frequent visitor to China, Zardari once cited Mao's emphasis on self-reliance when asked about his biggest takeaway from his China trips, saying that China had grown stronger and more prosperous through its own efforts and offered an example for other developing countries. Every visit to China, he added, left him feeling there was still much more to learn. Zhao Hongyan, a professor at the University of International Business and Economics in Beijing, said the Shaoshan stop added a historical and cultural dimension, and signaled Pakistan's respect for China's development path, as the site embodies the memory of New China's pursuit of independence and self-reliance. Zardari is scheduled to continue his China visit in Sanya, Hainan province, from Tuesday to Friday.

<https://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202604/27/WS69ef7800a310d6866eb45d25.html>

April 28, 2026

China Daily

Pakistan honors Chinese surgeon for contributions to local healthcare

Pakistani President Asif Ali Zardari awarded the Star of Pakistan honor to Pan Xiangbin on Sunday in Changsha, Hunan province, for his cross-border service providing heart surgeries for children.

In an interview, Pan dedicated the honor to the entire Chinese medical team and called it a testament to the 75th anniversary of diplomatic relations between China and Pakistan.

In January 2025, Pan, deputy director of China's National Center for Cardiovascular Diseases, led an expert team to Pakistan for a congenital heart disease treatment project. They performed free surgeries on several children, all of whom are recovering well post-operation.

The children's rapid recovery can be attributed to the percutaneous and non-fluoroscopic (PAN) technique developed by Pan's team. According to Pan, with this cutting-edge medical technology, patients can undergo surgery while fully conscious, without the need for incisions, radiation, or contrast agents.

Pan said that Chinese medical assistance goes beyond sending doctors to perform surgeries by bringing China's advanced medical technologies to Pakistan.

According to Qassim Naveed Qamar, an official of the Sindh government in Pakistan, Pan is very well-known in the country, and they have few doctors capable of performing the surgeries he can.

<https://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202604/28/WS69f092a8a310d6866eb46044.html>

Xinhua News

China Focus: Pakistani journalists, scholars explore cultural beauty, cutting-edge tech during China tour

URUMQI/WUHAN, April 28 (Xinhua) -- From the ancient streets of Kashgar to the cutting-edge robotics labs in Wuhan, a delegation of Pakistani media and think tank representatives concluded a visit to China, gaining firsthand insight into the country's regional development, technological prowess and the deepening cooperation between the two nations.

The "Pakistan media and think tank professionals China tour," held from April 18 to 28, took the 12-member delegation to northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region and central China's Hubei Province before proceeding to Beijing.

On April 18, the delegation experienced a vibrant opening ceremony at the Kashgar Ancient City. A major government investment launched in 2010 revitalized the region, upgrading housing and infrastructure while preserving its cultural heritage. Tourism now provides a reliable source of income for many residents.

"Walking into the ancient city of Kashgar felt like traveling back hundreds or thousands of years, allowing one to appreciate its historical and cultural beauty," said Javaid Iqbal, president of the National Institute of Maritime Affairs of Pakistan. Appreciating the seamless blend of preserved traditional lifestyles with renovated spaces and tourism development, he called it a place where "old and new stories unfold simultaneously."

The following day, the group visited the one-million-acre windbreak and sand-fixation forest base in Markit County, on the edge of the Taklimakan Desert. Since 2012, local efforts have led to the planting of over 500,000 acres of trees to combat desertification.

Mir Salam Khan Jomezai, a public relations officer with Pakistan Television News, expressed his astonishment. "This project sends a very positive message. China is solving its environmental issues; it's a lesson for the entire world," he said. Drawing parallels to his home province of Balochistan, he expressed the hope to share Xinjiang's afforestation experience to address similar challenges of drought and water scarcity in Pakistan.

The delegation also explored the Kashgar area of China (Xinjiang) Pilot Free Trade Zone and the Urumqi International Land Port Area, key hubs in Xinjiang's booming foreign trade, which grew 19.9 percent year on year in 2025.

Shaheer Ahmad, a research assistant at the Center for Aerospace and Security Studies, highlighted Kashgar's strategic role as a crossroads for trade with Central Asia, Pakistan, Afghanistan and beyond. "It's a win-win situation," he said, noting the ease it brings to regional traders.

Zeeshan Khan, a reporter with Dunya News, was impressed by the land port's connectivity. "I was already aware this region is strategically important for China, but I didn't realize just how important. And I had no idea it was this developed," he said, vowing to share his observations with the Pakistani public.

<https://english.news.cn/20260428/680be6e4ff7d4658b570f757c2d00310/c.html>