## Chinese premier offers to help Pakistan cope with energy crisis

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内容：I AMA A - China and Pakistan should make cooperation on power generation a priority, Chinese Premier Li Keqiang said, as Islamabad seeks to end an energy crisis that triggers power cuts of up to 20 hours a day, bringing the economy to a near standstill. Li arrived in the Pakistan capital under extratight security yesterday on the second leg of his first official trip since taking office in March after a visit to India. Li-s plane was escorted by six air force fighter jets as it entered Pakistan air space. Security measures also included shutting down mobile phone networks across the city. In an interview with Pakistan media, Li said there was still -great potential- for the relationship. Bilateral trade last year rose above US$12 billion for the first time and both sides are aiming to reach $15 billion in the next two or three years. The power shortages have sparked violent protests and crippled key industries, costing hundreds of thousands of jobs in a country already beset by high unemployment, a failing economy, widespread poverty, sectarian bloodshed and a Taliban insurgency. There are several joint energy and infrastructure projects under way in Pakistan and China has taken over operation of the strategically important Gwadar port. Li said that since the establishment of diplomatic relations 62 years ago, China and Pakistan have treated each other with equality and mutual trust in political affairs, enjoyed mutual benefit and allwin results in economic areas, and shown mutual understanding and mutual support on issues concerning their respective core interests. -It is the consistent policy of the Chinese government to develop a friendly relationship with Pakistan. The Chinese side would firmly consolidate and develop ChinaPakistan relations no matter how the international and regional situation changes,- the premier said. China would as always support Pakistan-s efforts to preserve its sovereignty and territorial integrity and materialise stability and development in the country, Li added. Li hoped that, through his visit, the two nations could carry forward their traditional friendship, deepen cooperation and plan for the future. He was expected to exchange views with the Pakistani leaders over bilateral ties and issues of common concern so as to advance ChinaPakistan strategic partnership for cooperation. During his visit to the Southern Asian nation, Li would meet with Zardari, Khoso, as well as leaders from other political parties, the parliament and the military. He was also to give a speech in the country-s parliament. A number of cooperation agreements would be signed in such areas as trade, infrastructure and education. - E TE / INH A