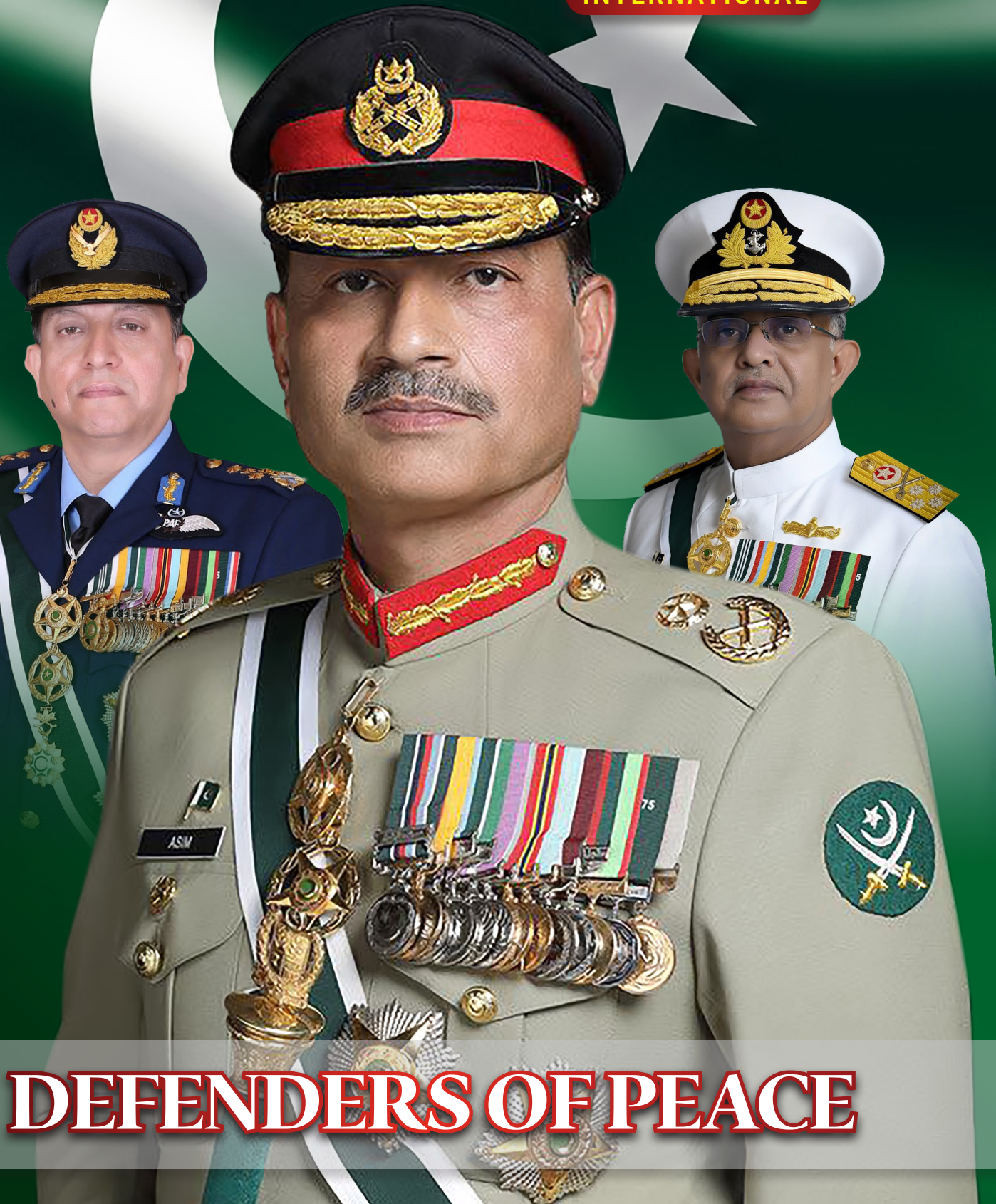


Monthly

Islamabad

PEACE

INTERNATIONAL



DEFENDERS OF PEACE



PEN

PAKISTAN ECONOMIC NETWORK



Mission

To inform, engage, and empower audiences through impactful storytelling focused on Pakistan's economic development, regional connectivity, and political landscape. Pakistan Economic Network is committed to fostering a deeper understanding of national and regional economic issues by producing credible journalism, high-quality explainer videos, and engaging podcasts. We aim to create a media ecosystem where business activity, economic policies, and public narratives converge to drive inclusive growth and informed decision-making.



Objectives

- Pakistan Economic Network strives to deliver purposeful content through the following goals. We aim to offer fact-based insights into Pakistan's economic direction, bringing clarity to the public on key indicators such as trade performance, inflation trends, investment flows, and development programs. A core objective is to amplify Pakistan's regional importance by highlighting strategic connectivity projects like CPEC, transnational trade corridors, and bilateral agreements with neighboring countries.
- We intend to promote a business-friendly narrative by covering local entrepreneurship, SME success stories, export innovations, and government policies that impact the private sector. Our content prioritizes inclusivity by giving voice to underrepresented regions and communities, especially those impacted by economic transitions. Through dedicated coverage of local politics, we seek to unpack how governance decisions shape the broader economic and social fabric of the country.



Vision

To become Pakistan's leading digital media platform that shapes national discourse around economic progress, regional cooperation, political awareness, and business innovation. We envision a future where media not only reports change but becomes a catalyst for it by elevating voices, simplifying complex economic issues, and connecting communities with opportunities for development.

- Pakistan Economic Network also emphasizes the importance of media literacy in the digital age. We produce clear, accessible explainer videos that break down complex economic, political, and developmental issues for young and diverse audiences. Our podcast series features leading voices from politics, economics, business, and civil society, creating a space for thought-provoking dialogue and problem-solving.
- We aim to act as a bridge between policymakers, citizens, and the business community by regularly analyzing public policy and regulatory shifts. As a forward-looking platform, we are committed to tracking global trends that affect Pakistan, from shifts in international trade policy to digital transformation and sustainability.
- Finally, we believe that journalism must be both accountable and creative. Our focus on digital innovation allows us to deliver timely, relevant, and compelling content across platforms—ensuring that Pakistan Economic Network remains a trusted source for news, analysis, and strategic communication in a rapidly evolving media landscape.

BRICS and the Rise of a New Global Order

The shifting sands of international politics are becoming increasingly evident in the growing role and influence of BRICS—a coalition originally formed by Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa, now expanding its reach with new members and fresh ambition. At a time when traditional Western powers are grappling with internal divisions, economic challenges, and a crisis of credibility, BRICS offers an alternative model rooted in multipolarity, inclusivity, and cooperation.

One cannot discuss the strength and direction of BRICS without acknowledging the pivotal role of China. As the world's second-largest economy and a nation deeply invested in global development, China has become the linchpin of this bloc. Its Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) has already connected more than 150 countries through trade, infrastructure, and cultural exchanges. The same spirit of connectivity and inclusiveness now defines BRICS under China's influence.

In contrast to the policies pursued by the United States, particularly under recent administrations, the BRICS alliance presents a different approach. The U.S. continues to rely on protectionism, sanctions, and military alliances. Its unwavering support for Israel, even amid global condemnation of the atrocities committed in Gaza, has further alienated many nations in the Global South. Meanwhile, high interest rates and economic tightening have disrupted markets in emerging economies. This growing disillusionment with the Western-led order is giving rise to alternatives and BRICS is stepping in to fill the void.

China's diplomatic posture offers a more balanced and forward-looking narrative. It promotes peaceful development, respect for sovereignty, and economic cooperation rather than confrontation. China's leadership within BRICS reflects this vision. It has actively encouraged financial reforms within the bloc, including the idea of a BRICS currency, greater use of local currencies in trade, and the expansion of the New Development Bank, aimed at reducing dependency on Western financial institutions like the IMF and World Bank.

Today, BRICS is not merely a platform for economic coordination, it is becoming a political force. It represents over 40 percent of the world population and a significant share of global GDP. Its decisions increasingly reflect the collective interests of the Global South. And as new countries express interest in joining, the bloc's legitimacy and reach continue to expand. The world is witnessing a quiet yet powerful rebalancing.

This rise comes at a time when the West appears fragmented. The European Union faces growing internal challenges, from economic stagnation to political divisions and a far-right surge. The United States, still reeling from the trauma of the Trump years, is again staring at the possibility of his return. With such uncertainty looming, the world is naturally seeking steadier partners and China's consistency in foreign policy, its emphasis on peace, and its developmental agenda make it an anchor of stability within BRICS.

It is important to recognize this moment in history. The international system is evolving, and BRICS is at the center of this transformation. China's role in shaping a new world order—one based on mutual respect, multipolarity, and shared growth is undeniable. It offers a vision that many nations now find more appealing than the traditional dominance of Western powers. In a world yearning for fairness, cooperation, and dignity, BRICS, guided by China's balancing presence may well be the alliance that leads the way. ■

Founding Editor

Sharif Farooq (TI)

Editor in Chief & Publisher

Tahir Farooq

Dy Editor in Chief

Maarij Farooq

Associate Editor

Dr. Shamaila Farooq

Assistant Editor

Moiz Farooq

Editor Central Asia

Muhammad Abbas Khan

USA Correspondent

Sarah Khaqan

UK Correspondent

Imdad Hussain Shahzad

Head Office

Flat 1, Block 22, PHA Flats, G 7/1

Zero Point, Islamabad

Tel 051-2202846

Fax 051-2891447

Cell 03339229390

Email :

monthlypeaceinternational@gmail.com

www.peaceinternational.com.pk

Printer: Rohani Art Press

Price PKR 300/- USD 3

A Miscalculation That Backfired



Maarij Farooq
Deputy Editor

&
Chief Digital Media Strategist
Pakistan Economic Net (PEN)

The recent flare-ups between India and Pakistan, and the violent escalation between Israel and Iran, were not isolated episodes. They point to a much deeper and coordinated attempt to destabilize two key nations in the Muslim world. What we witnessed was not merely regional conflict, but what appears to be a carefully orchestrated attack on the sovereignty of Pakistan and Iran.

For Pakistan, the provocation came from across the eastern border. India, perhaps misled by Pakistan's economic situation, assumed that Islamabad would lack the strength to respond. The assumption was rooted in arrogance and strategic blindness. Pakistan,



however, stood tall. It delivered a firm, timely and precise response, reminding the world that its defense is not defined by economic hardship but by national resolve and unity.

On the western front, Iran was targeted with equal hostility. Israel's

long-standing ambition to weaken and change the regime in Tehran came into focus again. While the plan did not succeed, it reflected the dangerous belief that sovereign states can be pushed into submission through external aggression. Iran's retaliatory



response shattered that illusion.

These events were not just military provocations. They were attempts to test the resilience and willpower of two nations that have long been on the radar of aggressive foreign policy agendas. Pakistan and Iran did not crumble. They countered with determination and clarity, delivering a powerful message to those who believe they can act without consequence.

The role of major powers in de-escalating the crisis cannot be overlooked. President Donald Trump, with his unfiltered style of diplomacy, played an unexpectedly positive role in managing tensions. His outreach, quiet conversations and timely statements helped lower the temperature, particularly between India and Pakistan.

Equally, if not more, significant was the role of Chinese President Xi Jinping. His statesmanlike leadership, timely engagement and clear support for Pakistan at a critical moment proved instrumental. China stood firmly with Pakistan, not only as a friend but as a



responsible global player seeking stability and peace in the region.

Pakistan's message to the world has been reaffirmed. It is a country that seeks peace, values diplomacy and believes in coexistence.

Pakistan also deeply values the strong support extended by Turkey and Azerbaijan. These countries stood by Pakistan when it mattered most, offering moral, diplomatic and strategic backing. In a world where many chose silence, their voices carried the weight of brotherhood and trust.

The events also exposed a dangerous mindset among the attackers. Israel and India, both projecting themselves as regional powers, seemed convinced that they could act as they pleased. This self-delusion that they are above international norms was shattered. The responses from both Pakistan and Iran were a reality check and a firm slap to the faces of those who operate under the illusion that might is right.

Pakistan's message to the world has been reaffirmed. It is a country that seeks peace, values diplomacy and believes in coexistence. But when provoked, it will respond with full capability. The miscalculation made by those who sought to exploit its vulnerabilities has only strengthened its position.

This chapter marks a new understanding of regional strength and international solidarity. The support Pakistan received was beyond expectation. The reply it gave was clear and dignified. And the lesson it left behind is one that the world would do well to remember. ■





Tahir Farooq

CHAIRMAN/ EDITOR IN CHIEF
DAILY ITTEHAD MEDIA GROUP

VP

COUNCIL OF PAKISTAN NEWSPAPER
EDITORS

In a world increasingly marred by division and distrust, the value of interfaith harmony cannot be overstated, especially in Pakistan, a country that was founded on the promise of inclusivity, tolerance, and justice for all. From the very beginning, Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah envisioned a nation where people of every religion, caste, and creed could live with dignity and freedom. In his famous speech of August 11, 1947, he clearly stated: “You are free, you are free to go to your temples, you are free to go



to your mosques... that has nothing to do with the business of the state.” These words laid the foundation of what Pakistan was meant to be a country where religious diversity was not just tolerated but respected.

However, the reality over the past several decades has often strayed from this vision. Pakistan is home to not just Muslims but also Christians,

Interfaith Harmony and Its Importance in Today’s Pakistan



Hindus, Sikhs, Parsis, and other religious minorities. While many communities have coexisted peacefully in various parts of the country, growing intolerance and the politicization of faith have created serious divides in society. Interfaith harmony is not just a moral or religious imperative, it is critical for national unity, economic progress, and global credibility.

Religious hatred and sectarian violence have done more damage to Pakistan’s



social fabric than many external threats. Communities that once celebrated together now live in fear of discrimination, marginalization, and even violence. The absence of a tolerant environment fuels extremism, isolates communities, and weakens the sense of shared national identity. A fragmented society, where one group is pitted against another on the basis of belief, cannot progress in any meaningful way.

The economic cost of religious intolerance is equally devastating. Religious violence, riots, and fear among investors damage Pakistan’s economy, deter tourism, and reduce international trust in our institutions. Global investors, human rights organizations, and even friendly nations observe these trends closely. A society that fails to protect its minorities or uphold the principle of religious freedom finds itself isolated on the international stage.

The misuse of religion often stems from ignorance and lack of understanding. Islam, like all other major religions, is rooted in peace, coexistence, and respect for others. The Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) set examples of tolerance and compassion toward non-Muslims, granting them rights, protection, and dignity under Islamic rule. Yet these teachings are often forgotten or twisted by those seeking political gain. Reclaiming the true narrative of Islam is essential to counter hate and fear.

Education plays a vital role in shaping a more tolerant society. Schools, colleges, and universities must promote ethical values, empathy, and understanding of diverse faiths. Our curriculum should not reflect biases or foster stereotypes. Instead, they should teach our youth about the contributions of all religious communities to Pakistan’s development from science and education to defense and social welfare. When young people grow up appreciating diversity, they become agents of peace rather than perpetrators of division.

While recent efforts by the government to restore minority places of worship, celebrate minority festivals, and appoint non-Muslims to important positions are commendable, they are only a starting point. Legal protections must be robust, hate speech must be punished, and law enforcement agencies must ensure that no one is targeted because of their religion. Interfaith dialogue must move beyond symbolism and be embedded into the policy framework.

Religious leaders with global influence, such as the Imam-e-Kaaba and the Pope, hold immense moral authority and are respected across the world. Their voices carry the power to unite people beyond borders. In these turbulent times, where religion is often misused to divide rather than unite, their role in promoting peace, harmony, and compassion becomes even more important. A joint appeal for unity from such leaders can resonate deeply and

set a global tone for coexistence and respect.

At the same time, interfaith harmony is a two-way street. In Pakistan, while it is vital to protect and empower religious minorities, it is also important to encourage mutual respect from all sides. Minorities, too, have a role to play in strengthening this social contract. Respect for the cultural and religious sentiments of the majority community fosters goodwill and reinforces national cohesion. This approach must always be based on affection, understanding, and peaceful coexistence, rather than expectation or pressure. A society in which all communities uphold one another's dignity naturally flourishes in peace and stability.

Pakistan's strength lies in its diversity. When a Hindu doctor saves lives in a government hospital, when a Christian teacher educates the next generation, or when a Sikh officer defends the

country's borders, they do so as proud Pakistanis. Their faith does not diminish their patriotism; it strengthens the fabric of the nation. If Pakistan is to progress, it must build a sense of unity that transcends religious boundaries.

Young people today have an important role to play in shaping a more inclusive future. Social media campaigns, community engagement, cultural exchange, and dialogue initiatives can bridge gaps that decades of hate have created. The power to counter religious intolerance lies in the hands of those who refuse to let division define their country.

Interfaith harmony is not a luxury; it is a necessity. The Pakistan of tomorrow depends on what we choose today. Will we allow hate to consume us, or will we rise above it to build a peaceful, pluralistic nation that stands tall among the nations of the world? The choice is ours and time is of the essence. ■

Qatar and Pakistan Deepen Ties Through Dialogue and Cultural Exchange



Qatar and Pakistan have significantly broadened their diplomatic and strategic partnership through a series of high-level meetings and cultural engagements, reflecting a shared commitment to regional peace, youth empowerment, and bilateral cooperation across multiple sectors.

In Morocco, Senate Chairman Syed Yousaf Raza Gillani held a pivotal meeting with Dr. Hamda Bint Hassan Al-Sulaiti, Deputy Speaker of Qatar's Shura Council. The two dignitaries reaffirmed the importance of long-standing people-to-people ties, mutual respect, and shared Islamic heritage that bind the two nations. Chairman Gillani lauded.

Gillani emphasized the potential of parliamentary diplomacy in

promoting mutual understanding and cooperation, calling for the signing of new Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) to institutionalize these interactions. He also appreciated the "Manzar" art exhibition organized under the patronage of Sheikha Al Mayassa bint Hamad Al Thani, which celebrated Pakistan's rich cultural tapestry in Doha.

Furthering these positive developments, Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi visited Doha for crucial discussions with Qatari Prime Minister Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani. At the heart of the conversation was the growing concern over regional stability, especially in light of recent tensions between Pakistan and India.

The Qatari Prime Minister responded by emphasizing the importance of dialogue and de-escalation, stating Qatar's continued support for diplomatic solutions to regional disputes.

These successive meetings mark a renewed momentum in Qatar-Pakistan relations, driven by high-level trust and shared regional interests. As both nations navigate complex global challenges, their evolving partnership is expected to further deepen through expanded parliamentary engagement, defense cooperation, cultural exchange, and strategic investment.

H.E. Ali Mubarak Ali Essa Al-Khater, the Ambassador of Qatar to Pakistan, played a key role in facilitating the event and fostering meaningful engagement between both sides. His active and constructive diplomatic efforts continue to significantly strengthen the bilateral relationship between Qatar and Pakistan. ■

Cooperation Across Education, Trade, and Strategic Sectors with Kazakhstan

Kazakhstan's Ambassador to Pakistan, Yerzhan Kistafin, along with his diplomatic team, has been playing a pivotal role in deepening bilateral

Rector Major General (Retd.) Shahid Mahmood Kayani and Rector M.K. Syrlybayev, aims to foster mutual cooperation in educational and scientific

ecosystem.

'Study in Kazakhstan' Forum: A Higher Education Consortium Emerges

Further cementing educational ties, the Higher Education Commission (HEC) of Pakistan hosted a special Vice Chancellors' forum at the National University of Technology (NUTECH), Islamabad, bringing together top academic leaders from Pakistan and a delegation of 12 prominent Kazakh universities.

The forum, held under the banner 'Study in Kazakhstan', showcased the academic strengths of Kazakh institutions and laid the foundation for a Pakistan-Kazakhstan University Consortium. HEC Chairman Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed proposed the formal creation of this consortium to streamline partnerships and institutionalize cooperation.

Trade and Connectivity: From Aspirations to Action

On the economic front, bilateral trade and connectivity were at the core of a strategic dialogue between Ambassador of Kazakhstan to Pakistan, Yerzhan Kistafin, and Rana Ihsaan Afzal Khan, the Prime Minister's Coordinator on Commerce.

The total trade volume between the two nations reached \$172.5 million in 2023-24, with Pakistan's exports accounting for an impressive \$170.82 million. Both sides agreed to build on this momentum by formalizing trade

ties between the two countries. Through consistent engagement, strategic outreach, and unwavering commitment, the Ambassador has helped drive momentum across multiple sectors—most notably in education, trade, and regional cooperation—bringing Pakistan and Kazakhstan closer than ever before.

Pakistan and Kazakhstan are witnessing a significant strengthening of their bilateral relations, marked by a series of high-level engagements and agreements across academic, economic, and strategic sectors. These recent developments underscore a shared vision between the two countries to transform their historical goodwill into a comprehensive, future-focused partnership, with education and trade forming the pillars of this evolving relationship.

Academic Diplomacy: New Frontiers of Knowledge Exchange

In a major push toward academic internationalization, the National University of Modern Languages (NUML), Islamabad, signed two landmark agreements with Kazakhstan's leading universities—Shokan Ualikhanov Kokshetau University and Al-Farabi Kazakh National University.

The agreement with Shokan Ualikhanov Kokshetau University, signed by NUML

fields. The two institutions agreed on faculty exchange, joint research projects, educational publication development, and co-hosting of seminars and conferences.

In parallel, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed with Al-Farabi Kazakh National University, Kazakhstan's premier academic institution, represented by Chairman of the Board-Rector Prof. Tuimebayev Zhanseit.

These collaborations mark a transformative shift in NUML's role as a hub for academic diplomacy—positioning it as a bridge between South and Central Asia in the global education



cooperation through a proposed MoU between the Trade Development Authority of Pakistan (TDAP) and its Kazakh counterpart.

Key issues discussed included:

- Visa facilitation for business delegations
- Finalization of a Transit Trade Agreement, enabling Kazakh goods to reach global markets via Pakistani ports
- Participation in the upcoming Kazakhstan Business Forum, set to take place in June 2025
- Promotion of B2B linkages and industrial visits, as seen in the successful Pak-Kazakhstan Business Forum in Karachi earlier this year

Rana Ihsaan emphasized Pakistan's strategic location as a gateway to South Asia, Central Asia, and the Middle East, offering Kazakhstan unprecedented trade access via land and sea corridors under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

"The government is committed to providing a supportive environment for trade and investment with Kazakhstan and its Central Asian neighbors," he noted.

People-to-People Linkages and Regional Vision

The ongoing engagements also highlighted the need to enhance cultural exchanges and people-to-people connectivity, in line with the broader vision of regional integration. Both countries are exploring:

- Joint academic and cultural festivals
- Tourism cooperation
- Exchange programs for youth, researchers, and think tanks
- Collaborative participation in international education expos and trade exhibitions

These efforts align with Pakistan's increasing focus on its "Vision Central Asia" policy, while Kazakhstan seeks to expand its role in South-South cooperation through educational and economic diplomacy.

From the signing of academic MoUs to the launch of a higher education consortium and the broadening of trade frameworks, Pakistan and Kazakhstan are charting a strategic course for bilateral relations. ■

Kazakhstan-Pakistan Ties Strengthen Across Multiple Fronts



The Republic of Kazakhstan significantly expanded its diplomatic engagement with Pakistan in May 2025, demonstrating growing momentum in bilateral cooperation across governance, trade, legal, and cultural spheres.

Kazakhstan's Ambassador to Pakistan, Yerzhan Kistafin, held a high-level meeting with Muhammad Ali Randhawa, Chairman of the Capital Development Authority (CDA), where both sides reviewed the outcomes of the 13th session of the Kazakhstan-Pakistan Joint Intergovernmental Commission and the Kazakhstan-Pakistan Business Forum. Discussions touched upon collaborations in trade, education, sports, information, and institutional linkages between the capital chambers of commerce, universities, and city administrations.

The CDA chairman expressed interest in exploring Astana's urban development expertise and proposed knowledge-sharing initiatives. Both sides agreed to deepen cooperation between Islamabad and Astana, focusing on urban development, trade, and cultural exchange.

Separately, Ambassador Kistafin paid a landmark visit to the Islamabad High Court Bar Association (IHCBA), where he received a warm welcome from President Wajid Gillani and the full cabinet of the association. In a passionate speech, Mr. Zaildar Ahsan Shah presented a proposal for a Pakistan-Kazakhstan Legal Cooperation Initiative, earning full support from both sides.

Ambassador Kistafin also highlighted the growing strategic relationship, referencing the visit of Pakistan's Chief of Army Staff General Syed Asim Munir to Astana earlier this year and Kazakhstan's expanding role in bilateral forums. The meeting concluded with both sides agreeing to begin online discussions to kickstart legal cooperation.

These developments underscore a multifaceted and forward-looking bilateral partnership, with Kazakhstan emerging as a key Central Asian ally committed to institutional, legal, and economic exchange with Pakistan. ■



Maarij Farooq
Deputy Editor

&

Chief Digital Media Strategist
Pakistan Economic Net (PEN)

In a world where conflicts and divisions increasingly dominate international headlines, China's recent political dialogue with neighboring countries—

China's Political Dialogue with Neighboring Countries Reflects a Vision of Peace and Unity



hosted by the International Department of the Communist Party of China (IDCPC) in Beijing stood as a strong symbol of diplomacy, unity, and peaceful development. With over 29 countries participating, including nations from South Asia, Central Asia, and the Indian Ocean region, the event reaffirmed China's growing influence as a promoter of regional stability and constructive engagement.

The timing was especially crucial. From the ongoing crisis in Ukraine to persistent tensions in Kashmir and instability in parts of the Middle East, the world today is facing multiple fault lines. Against this backdrop, China's multilateral dialogue was not only timely but deeply strategic. It brought together countries with diverse backgrounds and historical complexities, offering them a common platform to discuss shared futures rather than past

disputes.

What set this dialogue apart was its inclusive nature. Instead of focusing on individual or bilateral issues, it fostered a spirit of collective conversation. Countries like Pakistan, India, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Nepal, Maldives, Mauritius, and several Central Asian republics came forward with their ideas, challenges, and expectations. As someone who was



privileged to attend, I observed firsthand the clarity of purpose and professionalism with which the IDCPC organized the forum. The energy and discipline of its young officers and the respect shown to every delegate created an atmosphere of sincerity and trust.

The dialogue also strongly echoed President Xi Jinping's vision of global connectivity and peaceful development. China made it clear that its foreign policy does not rest on confrontation or coercion, but on mutual growth and regional harmony. This outlook is best exemplified by the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), which has already become a cornerstone of infrastructure and trade cooperation across continents. Unlike protectionist models that promote division, China's message was clear—growth must be inclusive, trade must be fair, and peace must be pursued through partnerships.

For Pakistan, this dialogue reaffirmed the depth of its strategic friendship with China. CPEC continues to revolutionize Pakistan's energy, transport, and industrial landscape. Similarly, China's development partnerships with Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Nepal, and Uzbekistan show that its commitment extends beyond rhetoric—it is building roads,



Maarij Farooq, Deputy Editor-in-Chief of Daily Ittehad Media Group and Pakistan Economic Net, with Mr. Liu Jianchao, Minister of the International Department of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee.

ports, and bridges that unite regions and empower communities.

The dialogue also served to shift global perceptions. The high-level participation

and diverse representation reflected growing trust in China's leadership, built over decades of non-interference, support in crises, and consistent economic engagement. China is increasingly seen not just as a major power, but as a responsible one—committed to solving problems through cooperation rather than domination.

In essence, this dialogue was not merely another diplomatic gathering—it was a reflection of a broader strategy. A strategy grounded in regional understanding, economic integration, and long-term peace. China is demonstrating that in today's interconnected world, leadership is not about imposing will, but about inspiring confident.

China's initiative provided a compelling model for how regional issues can be addressed with dignity, inclusion, and a focus on shared growth. It offered a roadmap for countries searching for stability and progress amid global uncertainty. In an age of deepening divides, China's political dialogue stands out as a testament to what diplomacy can achieve when guided by vision, respect, and a commitment to common prosperity.■



Senator Mr. Nayar Bukhari, Senator Anoshay Rehman and others speaking at the conference

China stronger as trade conflict Ends



Moiz Farooq

Executive Editor Pakistan
Economic Net and Daily
Ittehad Media Group

After years of economic confrontation, Washington and Beijing have opted to pause their escalating trade tensions, signaling a broader shift in global economic thinking. While portrayed as a mutual de-escalation, it is increasingly evident that China has emerged more resilient, while the United States is reckoning with the costs of a miscalculated economic conflict.

The trade war, which began in 2018 under the Trump administration, quickly evolved into a broader strategic contest. The United States imposed tariffs and technology restrictions to curb China's

rise. But rather than buckle, China responded with strategic composure, diversifying trade partnerships, promoting domestic innovation, and remaining committed to multilateral cooperation.

Even under the Biden administration, which brought a softer tone, Washington maintained most hardline policies. Export controls, tech firm blacklists, and supply chain isolation remained central. Yet the

predicted slowdown in China never arrived. In 2024, China recorded a 5.0% GDP growth, reaching nearly \$18.77 trillion. It deepened trade with ASEAN and the Middle East and advanced its technological capabilities despite external pressures.

In contrast, the U.S. began to face the consequences of economic decoupling. Manufacturers dealt with rising costs, farmers lost access to critical markets, and tech giants like Apple and Tesla raised



concerns over their disrupted operations in China. With inflation straining American households and growing corporate pressure for market access, the Biden administration was left with fewer effective tools.

This recent easing of tensions is not a symbolic gesture, it is a practical necessity for Washington. The return to engagement comes amid increasing realization that aggressive tactics have yielded limited results and growing international skepticism about U.S. consistency in global economic leadership.

China's response throughout this period has reinforced its long-standing belief in dialogue over confrontation. Despite being subjected to tariffs and sanctions, Beijing remained open to cooperation, advocating mutual benefit and global stability. This approach not only preserved growth but also strengthened China's reputation across the Global South.

One of the immediate impacts of this policy shift is the normalization of global trade flows. Pandemic-era disruptions and trade barriers had strained supply chains. Now, multinational companies in electronics, auto parts, and pharmaceuticals are reevaluating their global strategies with renewed optimism. Despite repeated Western calls for "decoupling," the global production ecosystem remains deeply connected to China's industrial base.

U.S. agriculture, particularly soybean and pork producers, stands to gain as economic ties reopen. These sectors were hit hard during the earlier rounds of tariff exchanges. China's willingness to restore trade despite past economic pressure reflects a mature, forward-looking posture focused on stability and mutual gain.

In the tech sphere, there is cautious optimism. Although core tensions remain, especially around artificial intelligence, semiconductors, and digital sovereignty, there is now room to pursue limited collaboration or at least reduce conflict. During the years of tech restrictions, China accelerated its domestic innovation and now relies far less on Western technology, yet a cooperative environment benefits all stakeholders.

Diplomatically, this shift enhances

China's image as a responsible global actor. From championing climate initiatives to advancing the Belt and Road Initiative, China continues to promote inclusive and multipolar cooperation. In contrast, the U.S. has often oscillated between economic engagement and containment, struggling to maintain a coherent foreign economic strategy.

China's response throughout this period has reinforced its long-standing belief in dialogue over confrontation

frustrated, inflation remains a concern, and its global leadership image has suffered. The decision to recalibrate is less a show of strength and more an admission that the status quo was unsustainable.

China, meanwhile, continues to chart its own course, strengthening ties with regional partners, investing in homegrown capabilities, and engaging emerging economies on equal footing. It no longer seeks validation from the U.S., but remains open to cooperation grounded in mutual respect.

Ultimately, this trade conflict has been about more than tariffs. It has represented a battle of narratives: one built on suspicion and zero-sum competition, and the other on stability and long-term growth. In this contest, China's steady and patient approach has stood out as the more sustainable strategy.

The road ahead is not without hurdles. Disputes over data governance, global



Efforts by Washington to isolate China economically have also caused discomfort among allies. Countries across Europe, Asia, and Africa have resisted binary choices, instead favoring China's inclusive model of development. Today, China is seen by many in the Global South as a dependable partner advocating fairness in global governance.

While some argue this agreement provides China breathing space, the reality is more nuanced. It is the U.S. that finds itself under domestic and international pressure. Its industries are

trade rules, and tech standards remain. But a shift from threats to dialogue opens the door to a more balanced and productive economic relationship, not just for the U.S. and China, but for the entire world.

This pause marks more than a tactical shift. It reflects a changing global order where quiet confidence, strategic consistency, and economic openness traits embodied by China are proving to be more effective than confrontation.■

Special Technology Zones: Powering Pakistan's Leap into the Future



Special Report

In the 21st century, technology and innovation are not optional, they are essential for a nation's progress. For Pakistan, with over 64 percent of its population under 30, investing in a knowledge-based digital economy is a national necessity. Recognizing this, the Government of Pakistan established the

Special Technology Zones Authority (STZA), a body with the vision to turn Pakistan into a global IT and innovation hub.

The Birth of a Vision

Formed in 2020, STZA was created to develop world-class technology zones that provide a supportive environment for the tech industry. These zones are designed to integrate IT companies, R&D centers, startups, training institutes, and advanced

manufacturing units. The aim is to attract investment, generate high-income jobs, reverse brain drain, and increase IT exports. This move signals Pakistan's seriousness about becoming a competitive digital economy.

Institutional Mandate and Strategy

STZA acts not just as a regulator but as a facilitator and reformer. Its scope includes: Zone Development: Overseeing the



development of new technology zones.

Policy Advocacy: Coordinating with federal and provincial bodies for business-friendly policies.

Investor Facilitation: Providing a one-window solution for investors.

Incentivization: Offering 10-year tax holidays on income, imports, and capital gains.

Human Capital Development: Partnering with universities and firms to train youth in emerging tech like AI, blockchain, and cloud computing.

This integrated approach is attracting both local and international tech players.

Milestones and Momentum

STZA has already made tangible progress.

The Islamabad Technopolis, located near Chak Shahzad, is set to become the Silicon Valley of Pakistan. It will host venture capital firms, R&D centers, and digital campuses. Other zones in Lahore,

technology zones are not only creating jobs and attracting investment but also encouraging expats to return

networking, enabling Pakistan's tech ecosystem to evolve beyond outsourcing into a full-fledged innovation-driven economy.

Skills Development and Capacity Building

Thousands of students have been trained under STZA's programs, which cover cybersecurity, digital marketing, and data science. These skill development

e-commerce, and more.

Hardware Manufacturing: The next phase will focus on scaling mobile device and hardware manufacturing.

Global Cooperation: STZA is enabling partnerships with countries like China, Turkey, Saudi Arabia, and the UAE in R&D, AI, and smart city development.

Inclusion and Diversity: Dedicated initiatives will support women and rural youth in tech.

Agile Governance and Digital Operations

STZA's governance model is built on speed and transparency. With automated approvals and online investor support, it ensures low red tape and high confidence. Collaboration with SECP and FBR promotes consistency and regulatory clarity.

Challenges and Forward Strategy

STZA faces hurdles such as utility access, land use, and aligning federal and



Karachi, Peshawar, Quetta, and Gilgit-Baltistan are strategically positioned near universities and industrial areas.

Strategic Partnerships

Over 50 agreements have been signed with tech giants including Huawei, Microsoft, and DICE Foundation. These MoUs are bringing in substantial investment and supporting Pakistan's access to global markets. Startups benefit from joint ventures, export programs, and mentorship, all facilitated by STZA.

Freelancers and Startups Empowered

Pakistan's gig economy is growing, and STZA is providing freelancers with tax relief, co-working spaces, and improved payment solutions. Startups working within the zones enjoy access to mentorship, funding, and investor

initiatives are helping to create a talent pool ready to meet global tech demands.

Socio-Economic Impact

Technology zones are not only creating jobs and attracting investment but also encouraging expats to return. STZA's outreach is expanding into second-tier cities like Sukkur, Abbottabad, and Faisalabad. Programs for women-led startups and safe, inclusive workspaces are also gradually transforming Pakistan's tech landscape.

Looking Ahead: The Next 5 to 10 Years

\$10 Billion in Exports: With consistent growth and global integration, Pakistan can aim to reach \$10 billion in annual IT exports by 2030.

1 Million Jobs: Tens of thousands of jobs will be created in data science, fintech,

provincial policies. However, its proactive engagement with stakeholders, inter-agency coordination, and private sector partnerships indicate its readiness to overcome them.

Conclusion: Building a Digital Pakistan

The Special Technology Zones are more than just infrastructure—they are shaping Pakistan's digital identity. They offer a clear roadmap for economic transformation by empowering youth, supporting startups, and expanding exports. STZA's efforts mark the beginning of a long journey toward positioning Pakistan as a global tech leader.

The movement has begun, driven by vision, backed by policy, and fueled by ambition. ■



Pak-China Agricultural Cooperation Enters a New Phase under CPEC – Shi Yuanqiang



In a major development that signals a new era of agricultural transformation, Pakistan and China have entered a deeper phase of cooperation in the agricultural sector under the framework of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). This renewed collaboration was highlighted by Mr. Shi Yuanqiang, Deputy Chief of Mission at the Chinese Embassy in Islamabad, during a recent seminar focusing on modern agriculture and high-quality development.

Speaking to agricultural experts, government officials, researchers, and industry stakeholders, Mr. Shi emphasized that agriculture has now emerged as a top priority in the second phase of CPEC. He noted that both countries are expanding bilateral trade in agricultural products while simultaneously boosting cooperation in research, training, and technological innovation.

“The China-Pakistan Agricultural Cooperation Center is being actively developed as a key platform to promote joint research, technical training, and technology transfer,” stated Mr. Shi. “We are focused on improving crop yields, agricultural processing, and value chain development through modern, science-based solutions.”

The Deputy Chief of Mission underlined that this collaboration is already

producing results on the ground. China has become one of the leading importers of Pakistani agricultural products including mangoes, chilies, sesame seeds, pine nuts, and rice. In return, Chinese expertise in hybrid seed technology, drip irrigation, pest management, and smart farming is significantly contributing to the modernization of Pakistan's agricultural sector.



He further highlighted that an increasing number of Pakistani agricultural enterprises are being registered with the General Administration of Customs of China (GACC), a move that has allowed Pakistani exporters to expand their access to the massive Chinese market. This shift in policy is proving to be a game-changer for Pakistani farmers and agribusinesses seeking to diversify and scale up their exports.

Mr. Shi also emphasized the importance of sustainable and climate-smart agriculture in the face of mounting global environmental challenges. He reiterated China's commitment to supporting Pakistan in developing climate-resilient crop varieties, promoting digital agriculture, and adopting eco-friendly practices aligned with both countries' green development agendas.

During the seminar, both Chinese and Pakistani participants stressed the importance of building stronger institutional linkages between agricultural universities, research institutes, private enterprises, and policy bodies. There was consensus that agriculture is not only critical to ensuring food security but also serves as a powerful engine for rural uplift, poverty alleviation, and long-term economic stability.

As Pakistan aims to modernize and commercialize its agricultural economy,



the deepening partnership with China under CPEC offers a timely and strategic pathway. Through joint ventures, knowledge exchange, and targeted investments, this cooperation is set to transform traditional farming into a

high-tech, value-added, and globally competitive sector.

This new chapter in agricultural collaboration stands as a testament to the evolving scope of CPEC—from roads

and infrastructure to food security, technological advancement, and people-centered development. As Mr. Shi concluded, "Agriculture is the heart of our shared prosperity." ■



Azerbaijan and Pakistan Reaffirm Strategic Trilateral Cooperation

BAKU: Azerbaijani Parliament Speaker Sahiba Gafarova met Pakistani Ambassador Qasim Mohiuddin to discuss strategic and parliamentary collaboration.

Gafarova praised PM Shehbaz Sharif's visit to Azerbaijan and the Azerbaijan-Pakistan-Türkiye summit in Lachin, highlighting trilateral unity. She thanked Pakistan for supporting Azerbaijan during the Patriotic War and reiterated her country's commitment to peaceful resolutions under international law.

Both sides emphasized the importance of inter-parliamentary dialogue and regional cooperation in energy, trade, and diplomacy.

The leaders also touched upon youth and parliamentary internship exchange programs, aimed at building a new generation of regional leaders. Azerbaijan proposed holding a trilateral parliamentary summit later this year.



Azerbaijan, Pakistan and Türkiye Reaffirm Strategic Trilateral Cooperation

Ambassador Mohiuddin suggested launching a joint media platform highlighting success stories and collaborative development projects

among the three nations. Discussions also explored potential cooperation in defense technology and agricultural innovation.■

Independence Day of Azerbaijan Celebrated in Islamabad



Türkiye and Pakistan Reinforce Strategic Brotherhood

Since the arrival of H.E. Dr. Irfan Neziroglu, the Embassy of Türkiye in Pakistan has significantly accelerated its diplomatic and cultural activities. Building on the longstanding bond between the two nations, the embassy has organized a series of impactful events, dialogues, and image-building initiatives that are not only enhancing bilateral engagement but also deepening the friendship between Türkiye and Pakistan.

Many such activities took place between in the month of May as the relations between Türkiye and Pakistan saw renewed vigor through collaborative initiatives in energy and cultural diplomacy.

Federal Minister for Petroleum Ali Pervaiz Malik held a strategic meeting with Turkish Ambassador Dr. Irfan Neziroglu. The two sides agreed to advance cooperation in petroleum exploration, mineral development, and joint investments in Pakistan's natural resources. Türkiye's state-owned Turkish Petroleum Corporation (TPOC) was provisionally awarded two onshore blocks in Balochistan and Sindh, as part of a consortium that includes MariEnergies, OGDCL, and PPL. Future offshore collaboration was also discussed.

Ambassador Neziroglu reaffirmed Türkiye's unwavering support for Pakistan and praised Pakistan's mature handling of regional conflicts. He emphasized shared values, historical solidarity, and the potential for youth-led cultural and



economic collaborations.

Complementing diplomatic talks, the Turkish mission celebrated Turkish Cuisine Week with a grand event at the Ambassador's residence. Pakistani dignitaries, including the State Minister for Heritage and the Federal Secretary for Information, were treated to classic Turkish dishes, music, and cultural storytelling. The evening symbolized the soul of Türkiye-Pakistan relations—brotherhood, hospitality, and shared heritage. ■

A Taste of Friendship, Turkish Cuisine Week Brings Flavor and Warmth to Islamabad

ISLAMABAD: The spirit of togetherness, the scent of simmering spices, and the sound of heartfelt laughter filled the residence of Türkiye's Ambassador as Turkish Cuisine Week was celebrated in true Turkish style, generous, warm, and full of flavor.

Hosted by Ambassador Dr. Irfan Neziroğlu, the evening was more than just a culinary event. It was a celebration of the enduring friendship between Türkiye and Pakistan. From homemade delicacies to the aroma of Turkish coffee brewed in hot sand, every detail reflected the charm and richness of Turkish culture.

This year's theme revolved around classic Turkish dishes, the very soul of Türkiye's culinary heritage. Prepared with love by Turkish chefs, the spread included traditional specialties that showcased not only flavor but the deeply rooted culture of sharing and community. Guests were also offered recipe booklets so they could carry the experience back to their own kitchens.



Prominent figures including State Minister for National Heritage Mr. Huzaifa Rehman, Federal Secretary for Information and Broadcasting Ms. Ambreen Jan, and Serena Hotels Global CEO Mr. Aziz Boolani joined the celebration.

In his address, Ambassador Neziroğlu spoke warmly about the special connection between the two nations. He said, "In Türkiye, we believe food is not just nourishment, it is a way to connect, to share, and to care. And tonight, we share it with our Pakistani

friends with deep affection."

He added, "The bond between Türkiye and Pakistan is unlike any other. We celebrate each other's joys, stand by each other in pain, and grow stronger with every passing year. Here in Pakistan, we never feel like foreigners, we feel at home."

The ambassador extended heartfelt thanks to his wife for her tireless efforts in curating the evening and acknowledged the young Turkish diplomats and Deputy Head of Mission for guiding guests through a memorable culinary experience.

The night concluded with the rich aroma of Turkish coffee in the air, served traditionally in hot sand, marking not just the end of a meal but the continuation of a beautiful journey of friendship.

As guests departed with full hearts and fuller stomachs, the message of the evening echoed loud and clear, Türkiye Pakistan dosti zindabad, Turkish cuisine paidabad. ■

Uzbekistan and Pakistan as Accelerators of Interregional Dialogue

In the evolving landscape of global politics, “region-to-region” cooperation has emerged as an increasingly relevant format for addressing interconnected challenges such as security, sustainable development, and social stability. A compelling example of this trend is the growing engagement between Central and South Asia, with Uzbekistan and Pakistan taking leading roles in shaping this interregional dynamic. Their collaboration is rooted in shared geoeconomic priorities, strategic location, and mutual interest in promoting regional connectivity.

The foundation for this cooperation was laid at the 2021 Tashkent conference titled “Central and South Asia: Regional Connectivity,” and momentum continues to build with the upcoming Termez Dialogue. With waning U.S. interest in the region post-Afghanistan withdrawal,



economic growth through its pivotal role in CPEC and seeks to expand trade with Central Asia and Russia, particularly in agriculture. This convergence of interests enhances their strategic alignment and

These efforts aim not only at economic integration but also at social stabilization within Afghanistan.

However, several challenges persist. Public diplomacy remains underdeveloped, with limited educational and cultural exchanges and no shared universities or media cooperation among the three nations. Transport connectivity is weak, with insufficient air links and the Trans-Afghan route still under construction. Water disputes, such as over the Amu Darya and Kunar Rivers, add complexity to regional cooperation, while threats from extremist groups like ISIS-K and TTP require sustained joint counterterrorism efforts.

To overcome these challenges, the institutionalization of interregional dialogue is essential. The Termez Dialogue offers a promising platform for inclusive political, academic, and business engagement. Complementary initiatives in Peshawar and



countries like China and Russia have shown declarative support for the format. However, it is Uzbekistan and Pakistan that have demonstrated concrete engagement, pushing forward investment-backed infrastructure and transit initiatives, notably the Trans-Afghan Transport Corridor.

Both nations are prioritizing geoeconomic goals over geopolitical ones. Uzbekistan seeks access to seaports through Afghanistan and Pakistan, with initiatives like the Belt and Road, Middle Corridor, and Trans-Afghan Corridor providing strategic depth. Meanwhile, Pakistan emphasizes



positions both countries as vital players in broader Eurasian connectivity.

Afghanistan stands at the center of this cooperation. Uzbekistan and Pakistan have extended support to Afghanistan's socio-economic recovery, including humanitarian aid and infrastructure development. The Trans-Afghan Corridor is particularly critical, enabling Uzbekistan's access to Pakistani ports and connecting Pakistan to northern Eurasia. Educational initiatives, such as Uzbekistan's madrasa project in Mazar-i-Sharif, reflect a broader vision for human capital development.



Kabul could further broaden stakeholder participation. Additionally, establishing a Central and South Asian Joint University in Termez and a Museum of the Peoples of South and Central Asia in Lahore could strengthen educational and cultural ties, promoting long-term unity.

In conclusion, Uzbekistan and Pakistan are uniquely positioned to champion interregional cooperation between Central and South Asia. By focusing on connectivity, education, and shared development, they can transform this engagement into a durable and replicable model for regional integration. ■

Uzbekistan Airways Launches Islamabad-Tashkent Direct Flights

ISLAMABAD: In a major connectivity milestone, Uzbekistan Airways announced direct weekly flights between Tashkent and Islamabad starting June 14, 2025.

The route aims to deepen regional cooperation under the Central and South Asia Connectivity Initiative. It complements existing biweekly Lahore-Tashkent flights and is expected to boost trade, tourism, academic exchange, and religious pilgrimages.

This step reinforces transregional supply chains and creates new pathways for bilateral collaboration in agriculture, textiles, pharmaceuticals, education, and cultural diplomacy. Both countries hope to leverage their geographic advantage to become regional connectivity hubs.

Officials from Pakistan's Ministry of Commerce and Uzbekistan's



Civil Aviation Authority jointly welcomed the move, citing the strategic alignment with BRI and CAREC connectivity frameworks. Educational institutions from both nations plan to offer bilateral research fellowships and language

courses in response to anticipated student exchanges. Travel operators noted a spike in inquiries for summer packages to Samarkand and Hunza. A joint media campaign highlighting shared historical roots along the Silk Road is also in the works. ■

Myanmar-Pakistan Cooperation in Trade and Defense Discussed

ISLAMABAD: The Ambassador of Myanmar, Htun Htun, welcomed a high-level delegation led by UBG Secretary General Zafar Bakhtawari to explore enhanced bilateral cooperation. The meeting focused on increasing trade, launching joint business ventures, and developing tourism and medical collaborations. Zafar Bakhtawari highlighted Myanmar's support for Pakistan's ASEAN dialogue status and referenced strong defense ties including the JF-17 aircraft sale.

Delegates proposed scholarships, relaxed visa policies, and direct air links. The discussions aimed to transform longstanding cultural and historical ties into tangible collaboration in education, business, and people-to-people exchanges.

In addition, participants suggested forming a Pakistan-Myanmar Friendship Forum to institutionalize

bilateral dialogues across business, academia, and cultural sectors. Proposals were made to initiate

student exchange programs and organize bilateral expos in Yangon and Karachi. The meeting concluded with a mutual resolve to enhance bilateral trade volumes by reducing tariffs and formalizing SME linkages. A cultural showcase of traditional Burmese and Pakistani art is also being planned to foster deeper societal bonds. ■



Foreign Secretary Amna Baloch presents shield to the Ambassador of Myanmar Aung Myo Mint

U.S. INDEPENDENCE DAY RECEPTION CELEBRATES CONTINUED PARTNERSHIP WITH PAKISTAN



US Eyes Greater Investment in Pakistan's Mining Sector

ISLAMABAD: The Government of Pakistan, in collaboration with the US Embassy, hosted a high-level virtual webinar titled "Opportunities in Pakistan's Mining Sector – Unlocking Mineral Potential." The event aimed at attracting American

investors to explore Pakistan's rich mineral resources. Federal Minister for Energy (Petroleum Division) Ali Pervaiz Malik and US Chargé d'Affaires H.E. Natalie Baker jointly chaired the session at OGDCL Headquarters.



Minister Malik highlighted Pakistan's wealth in minerals including gold, copper, rare earth elements, and coal—resources crucial for the global shift to renewable energy. He pointed to the significance of the Reko Diq copper-gold project and recent mineral discoveries in Balochistan and Waziristan. Stressing Pakistan's role in the global energy transition, he noted the proactive leadership of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and COAS Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir in steering the sector's growth.

Ms. Natalie Baker reaffirmed US commitment to economic cooperation with Pakistan, lauding recent regulatory reforms and expressing optimism about Pakistan's potential in global mineral supply chains. The webinar also featured a detailed Q&A session, discussions on the National Minerals Harmonisation Framework, and updates on the digitalization of geological data. ■



“Taste the World” A Celebration of Cultures Through Cuisine

Serena Hotels, in collaboration with the Islamabad Foreign Women's Association (IFWA), proudly hosted “Taste the World, under the Cultural Diplomacy Initiative. This vibrant event brought together people from across the diplomatic, cultural, and local communities to experience the rich culinary heritage of 28 countries, each showcasing traditional dishes from their homelands.

The event featured culinary delights from around the world, with embassies and diplomatic missions offering visitors a taste of their national cuisines in an atmosphere filled with color, music, and camaraderie.



Serena Hotels: Championing Culture, Sports, and Sustainability

Serena Hotels emerged as a major player in promoting inclusive diplomacy in June 2025. In collaboration with Nomad Art Gallery, it hosted a vibrant crafts and cultural exhibition featuring artisans from across Pakistan. Ambassadors from Austria, Ireland, and Jordan inaugurated the event.

The following day, in partnership with the Embassy of Turkmenistan, Serena organized its third World Bicycle Day Rally, promoting environmental consciousness and healthy living. The rally, part of Serena's Sports Diplomacy initiative, drew wide participation from civil society, diplomats, and youth.

These events underscore Serena Hotels' growing role in bridging cultures and communities through creative and athletic engagement. ■





Bulgaria-Pakistan Celebrate 60 Years of Diplomatic Relations

ISLAMABAD: The Embassy of Bulgaria commemorated the Day of the Bulgarian Alphabet and Culture with a grand cultural event titled “The Ancient Treasures of Bulgaria,” marking 60 years of diplomatic ties with Pakistan. Ambassador Irena Gancheva welcomed guests including diplomats, scholars, and officials. The event featured an exhibition showcasing Bulgaria’s archaeological and cultural heritage. An assistant professor from Bulgaria guided visitors through historical narratives and noted the shared traditions between the two nations. The ambassador highlighted Bulgaria’s role as the birthplace of the Cyrillic alphabet, calling it a pillar of national identity. The exhibition and festivities served as a bridge for deeper cultural understanding and were praised



by Chief Guest Additional Foreign Secretary for Europe Mohammad Ayub. Ambassador Gancheva reaffirmed Bulgaria’s commitment to enhancing

cooperation in education, culture, science, and trade with Pakistan. Bulgaria and Pakistan also explored new avenues of engagement including digital culture exchanges, educational partnerships between universities, and capacity-building in heritage conservation. The event included a musical interlude showcasing traditional Bulgarian instruments, enhancing the atmosphere of friendship. Ambassadors present reiterated the significance of language and heritage in global diplomacy. The occasion underscored Bulgaria’s strategic intent to deepen its role in South Asia through people-to-people connections and academic outreach. A future Bulgarian cultural week in Pakistan was also proposed. ■



Philippines-Pakistan Relations Rooted in Trade and Culture

The Philippines Embassy held a strategic meeting with the Pakistan-ASEAN Friendship Association to explore avenues for deeper cooperation in trade, tourism, and culture.

Ambassador Emmanuel Fernandez emphasized the need for direct air connectivity and proposed greater representation of Philippine products in Pakistani markets. He welcomed the idea of literary and cultural exchanges, including celebrating Allama Iqbal in Manila and translating Dr. José Rizal's works into Urdu.

Both sides agreed to work toward stronger ASEAN engagement and initiate events like a Filipino film festival at PNCA and participation in Manila FAME. ■





Portugal-Pakistan Relations Gain Momentum Through Culture

Portugal and Pakistan are deepening their ties through a series of cultural and linguistic engagements that underscore the role of soft diplomacy in building global partnerships. From celebrating the Portuguese language to musical performances by a world-renowned guitarist, recent events mark a turning point in the visibility and vibrancy of Portugal-Pakistan relations.

The Embassy of Portugal, in collaboration with Brazil, celebrated World Portuguese Language Day in Islamabad. Ambassadors Frederico Silva of Portugal and Olyntho Vieira of Brazil jointly highlighted the historical and linguistic importance of Portuguese, spoken by over 300 million people worldwide. This year's theme focused on the digital dissemination of Lusophone culture and the use of AI in promoting linguistic heritage.

Marking the cultural crescendo was the visit of acclaimed Portuguese guitarist Pedro Jóia, who performed at the 2025 International Jazz Festival in Islamabad and Lahore.

These initiatives were part of a broader celebration of Portugal's National Day in Pakistan, reflecting Lisbon's desire to enhance its cultural footprint in South Asia. ■





Pakistan-Russia Relations Reaffirmed on National Day



ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari congratulated the Russian Federation on its 35th National Day, highlighting Russia's global stature and growing bilateral ties with Pakistan.

In his speech, President Zardari emphasized recent high-level exchanges and acknowledged Russia's role in Eurasian peace and Pakistan's regional diplomacy. He referred to the recent meeting between PM's Special Assistant Tariq

for greater educational, trade, and diplomatic cooperation. The event concluded with a cultural performance featuring Russian folk music.

The reception also featured a Russian culinary corner and photo exhibition showcasing historical Pak-Russia interactions. Officials reiterated intent to revive stalled energy discussions, particularly around the Pakistan Stream Gas Pipeline. Think tanks from both countries are expected



Fatemi and Russia's Foreign Minister in Moscow as a symbol of mutual trust.

Russian Ambassador Albert Khorev appreciated Pakistan's interest in Russian language and culture and expressed hope

to host strategic forums later this year focusing on regional multipolarity. Ambassador Khorev also proposed expanding Russian language teaching centers in Lahore and Karachi to foster closer educational ties. ■



Hungary-Pakistan Cooperation Expands Through Higher Education and Multilateral Diplomacy



Hungary and Pakistan are building a resilient and future-focused relationship anchored in educational cooperation, climate advocacy, and international peacebuilding. The recent visit of a Hungarian parliamentary delegation to Islamabad underscored these evolving priorities.

Led by Dr. Attila Tilki, Member of Parliament and Chair of the Pakistan-Hungary Parliamentary Friendship Group, the delegation engaged with top Pakistani officials to discuss student exchange programs, joint research in renewable energy, and cooperation in water management technologies. The Stipendium Hungaricum Program, which has enabled hundreds of Pakistani students to pursue higher education in Hungary.

Dr. Tilki also commended Pakistan's balanced diplomatic posture and its significant contributions to UN peacekeeping missions. Hungarian officials expressed appreciation for Pakistan's consistent advocacy for sustainable development and interfaith dialogue.

Moreover, the Hungarian Embassy's support for arts and

cultural exhibitions in Islamabad has helped broaden awareness about Central European history and art among Pakistanis. ■



NA Speaker calls for stronger Pak-Hungary ties, global peace in meeting with Hungarian ambassador

Africa and Pakistan Celebrate Unity Through Dialogue and Culture

Africa, with its vast natural resources, young population, and emerging markets, holds immense strategic and economic value in today's global landscape. Recognizing this potential, Pakistan has been actively working to strengthen its ties with African nations through enhanced diplomatic engagement, trade partnerships, and people-to-people exchanges. Under its "Engage Africa" policy, Pakistan is forging new avenues of cooperation in sectors such as agriculture, health, education, and technology, aiming to build long-term, mutually beneficial relationships that contribute to regional and global development.

To recognise the strong ties between Pakistan and African countries, Africa Day 2025 was celebrated with unprecedented enthusiasm and strategic engagement in Islamabad, reflecting Pakistan's growing ties with African nations under its "Engage Africa" policy.

At the residence of UN Coordinator Mohamed Yahya, the African Group



of Ambassadors hosted a vibrant reception showcasing Africa's cultural and culinary diversity. Highlights included Moroccan, Egyptian, Sudanese, and Ethiopian cuisine and live Ethiopian coffee ceremonies.

The next day, the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) hosted a special event featuring speeches by Director General Ambassador Sohail Mahmood, Foreign Secretary Amna Baloch, and Dean of the African Corps, Moroccan Ambassador Mohamed Karmoune.

The event acknowledged Africa's rising global role, the African Union's admission to the G20, and the need for investment and global governance reforms.

Pakistan's support for Africa was reaffirmed with the Senate declaring May 25 as Pakistan-Africa Friendship Day. Key sectors like education, defense, agriculture, and peacekeeping were highlighted for future cooperation. Cultural stalls and African art displays capped off the celebration. ■

Australia-Pakistan Ties Celebrated Through Cultural Innovation

The Australian High Commission hosted "Australia Day in Spring 2025" in Islamabad, turning its lush gardens into a vibrant celebration of people-to-people ties.

Federal Minister for Industries Haroon Akhtar graced the event, which embraced a unique "Powered by People" theme. The reception featured truck-art kangaroos, native bird

sounds, and fusion performances.

Australian High Commissioner Neil Hawkins highlighted the historic journey of the Pakistani diaspora in Australia, praised grassroots collaborations in education, agriculture, and climate resilience, and emphasized that "this friendship is not just official—it's powered by people." ■



Saudi-Pakistan Relations Reinforced Through Strategic Dialogue and Crisis Solidarity

Pakistan and Saudi Arabia continue to demonstrate the resilience of their strategic partnership through high-level diplomatic engagement and consistent moral support during times of regional crisis. The Kingdom remains a steadfast ally in Pakistan's efforts for regional stability, development, and global diplomacy.

In Islamabad, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar held a meeting with Saudi Ambassador Nawaf bin Saeed Al-Malkiy. The two sides reviewed the entire spectrum of bilateral ties, focusing on trade, investment, defense, and cultural cooperation. Dar reiterated Pakistan's appreciation for the Kingdom's unwavering support during economic challenges and regional tensions.

In another significant development, the President of the Islamabad Women's Chamber of Commerce and Industry (IWCCI), Samina Fazil, acknowledged Saudi Arabia's moral and humanitarian support for Pakistan during the recent rise in tensions with India. Fazil praised the Kingdom's stance, along with those of Turkiye and China, as reflecting genuine solidarity with Pakistan's sovereignty.

As Pakistan seeks to reposition itself economically and diplomatically, Saudi Arabia continues to play a pivotal role not only as an investor but also as a strategic voice on global



forums. With shared priorities in regional peace, Islamic unity, and socio-economic development, the enduring Riyadh-Islamabad partnership remains a cornerstone of Pakistan's foreign policy outlook. ■

Bangladesh-Pakistan: A Slowly Warming Relationship Marked by Cultural and Parliamentary Engagement

Pakistan and Bangladesh have recently taken cautious steps toward repairing their complex historical relationship, focusing on cultural diplomacy and parliamentary interaction. These gestures reflect a mutual understanding that regional progress depends on bridging historical divides.

At an inter-parliamentary conference in Morocco, Pakistani and Bangladeshi delegates exchanged views on cooperation in climate resilience, youth empowerment, and gender inclusion. The dialogue was seen as a positive signal from both governments that they are ready to explore common ground without political grandstanding. The road to normalized Pakistan-Bangladesh ties may be long, but the recent undertakings underscore a willingness to move forward through dialogue, not discord.



Dutch Ambassador Hosts Inspiring Group of Pakistani Women

The Ambassador of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to Pakistan had the pleasure of hosting a group of inspiring Pakistani women at the Embassy yesterday. The gathering was a celebration of the vital role women play in shaping a brighter, more inclusive future for Pakistan and beyond.

The event brought together women from diverse professional backgrounds who are driving meaningful change in their communities through leadership, innovation, and advocacy. Their passion, resilience, and unwavering commitment to progress deeply impressed all in attendance.

Speaking on the occasion, the Dutch Ambassador expressed admiration for the women's efforts and reaffirmed the Netherlands' commitment to promoting gender equality and women's empowerment in Pakistan. "When women support each other, incredible things happen," the Ambassador noted, highlighting the transformative impact of collective action and mutual support

among women.

The Embassy of the Netherlands continues to support initiatives that advance inclusivity, equal opportunity, and empowerment. Events such as this are part of the broader mission to foster dialogue, build partnerships, and

encourage platforms where women's voices are heard and amplified.

The Embassy looks forward to furthering this journey with local partners and stakeholders to ensure that gender equality remains central to development and diplomatic cooperation. ■



Armed Forces Day Celebrated in Azerbaijan with Reflection on Historic Legacy



BAKU: Azerbaijan celebrated Armed Forces Day on 26 June, commemorating the formation of its first regular army unit in 1918. This foundational move was critical in safeguarding Baku and surrounding regions during the turbulent post-World War I era. Despite Soviet suppression and the execution of many military leaders after the fall of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic, Azerbaijanis continued to excel in military service during WWII.

Following Azerbaijan's independence in 1991, significant efforts in army building resumed, with major contributions by National Leader Heydar Aliyev, including the establishment of military institutions. His 1998 order officially designated 26 June as Armed Forces Day. In recent years, the Azerbaijani Army has demonstrated strength in conflicts, notably the April 2016 counter-offensive and the liberation of occupied lands in Nakhchivan in 2018. ■

Romania and Pakistan Deepen Cultural and Economic Linkages

Romania has emerged as a vibrant partner for Pakistan, initiating wide-ranging collaborations in May 2025 that span business, arts, and performing education.

Ambassador Dr. Dan Stoenescu began the month with a significant visit to the Gujranwala Chamber of Commerce and Industry (GCCl), where he met with business leaders and officials from the Pakistan-Romania Business Council. The discussions emphasized SME collaboration, trade enhancement, and business-to-business linkages.

The Romanian mission then co-hosted the Foundation Film Festival 2025 with Foundation University Islamabad, showcasing the acclaimed documentary "The King's War." The festival served as a cultural bridge, with an exhibition on Romanian heritage and dialogues on art's role in peacebuilding. Former Federal Culture Minister Jamal Shah and Romania-Pakistan Friendship Association Chairman Zaildar Ahsan Shah emphasized expanding bilateral ties through media, tourism, and education.

Culminating the month's activities, the Embassy of Romania and Pakistan National Council of the Arts (PNCA) launched Pakistan's first-ever Opera Singing Courses. Ambassador Stoenescu not only inaugurated the program but also announced music scholarships for Pakistani students in Romania, reinforcing long-term academic and

cultural ties.

Furthermore, the Embassy of Romania in Islamabad celebrated the International Day of the Romanian Blouse for the first time in Pakistan. The event brought together Romanian community members, diplomats, and Pakistani guests to honor

Romanian blouses, traditional music, and Romanian cuisine, offering a rich cultural experience.

Ambassador Dan Stoenescu highlighted it as a cultural treasure and a bridge between Romania's past and present. The celebration coincides with Sânzienă,



the traditional Romanian blouse, known as the ie, a symbol of national identity and cultural heritage.

Guests wore traditional garments from various cultures, celebrating the universal appeal of folk art. The event featured an exhibition of handmade

a Romanian midsummer folk tradition, and marks Romania's commitment to cultural diplomacy.

These initiatives collectively reflect Romania's commitment to fostering deep-rooted cultural, economic, and educational cooperation with Pakistan. ■

Poland and Pakistan Mark Constitution Day with Condemnation and Culture

The Embassy of Poland hosted a solemn yet vibrant celebration of Poland's Constitution Day, combining strong political statements with cultural celebration.

Ambassador Maciej Pisarski began his keynote by condemning the terrorist attack on schoolchildren in Khuzdar, Balochistan. He reaffirmed Poland's commitment to peace and praised the de-escalation efforts between Pakistan and India.

He also honored historic Polish contributions to Pakistan, especially in aviation. The evening featured a jazz performance by the JAH Trio,



celebrating Poland's cultural strength. The event highlighted Poland-Pakistan friendship and the shared values of peace, democracy, and historical respect. ■



Pakistan, Bangladesh and China Launch New Trilateral Cooperation Mechanism



Chinese Vice Foreign Minister Sun Weidong, Bangladesh's acting Foreign Secretary Ruhul Alam Siddique and Pakistan's Additional Foreign Secretary Imran Ahmed Siddiqui at the meeting on June 19 in Kunming, China.

Islamabad, June 21, 2025 — Pakistan, Bangladesh and China have formally launched a trilateral cooperation mechanism aimed at fostering “win-win” collaboration and signaling a significant shift in South Asian strategic dynamics.

The initiative was announced following the first meeting of the Bangladesh China Pakistan Vice Foreign Minister/ Foreign Secretary forum, held on June 19 in Kunming, China. The session was attended by Chinese Vice Foreign Minister Sun Weidong, Bangladesh's acting Foreign Secretary Ruhul Alam Siddique, and Pakistan's Additional Foreign Secretary Imran Ahmed Siddiqui, Pakistan's Foreign

Secretary, Amna Baloch, also participated in the opening session via video link

In her remarks, Ms. Baloch emphasized Pakistan's desire to deepen engagement with both China and Bangladesh. She highlighted the positive momentum in bilateral ties and expressed Pakistan's readiness to collaborate in areas such

as trade, investment, agriculture, digital economy, environmental protection, marine sciences, green infrastructure, culture, education, and people-to-people exchanges

To ensure progress, the three countries agreed to form a joint working group tasked with monitoring and implementing the agreements made during the meeting.

This trilateral platform marks a notable geopolitical development in South Asia—particularly as Pakistan and Bangladesh have historically maintained distant diplomatic relations. Ties between the two nations have warmed significantly since the removal of former Bangladeshi Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina last year, with the interim government under Chief Adviser Muhammad Yunus actively seeking to expand international partnerships.

Bangladesh's recent outreach includes inviting Chinese investment in strategic infrastructure projects like the Teesta River and Mongla Port, reflecting a pivot away from its previous India-focused stance.

For China, the trilateral mechanism supports its regional ambitions, including the development of alternative economic corridors, deepening its presence in the Bay of Bengal, and countering India's regional influence.

India, in turn, may view this emerging China Pakistan Bangladesh alignment with concern, particularly because some planned Chinese-backed infrastructure lies close to India's sensitive northeastern border.

Although still in its early stages, the institutionalization of this trilateral forum indicates the three nations' intention to pursue a long-term partnership, potentially evolving into a new regional bloc involving broader connectivity, defense collaboration, and coordinated international positions.

No specific dates were set for subsequent meetings, but the joint working group is expected to expedite follow-up discussions and cooperation across a wide range of sectors. ■

Japan Donates Knowledge Collection to NUTECH to Strengthen Bilateral Understanding



ISLAMABAD: The Embassy of Japan in Pakistan, along with the Nippon Foundation, donated 92 English-language books to the National University of Technology (NUTECH) under the “Read Japan Project.” The donation aims to deepen understanding of Japan’s culture, politics, and economy among Pakistani students.

Ambassador AKAMATSU Shuichi commended NUTECH for its role in vocational education and people-to-people exchanges, particularly through Japan’s Technical Intern Training Program. Rector Lt. Gen (Retd) Moazzam Ejaz expressed gratitude and reaffirmed NUTECH’s commitment to nurturing future ties between the two nations.■

Diplomatic Transitions Signal New Era in Foreign Engagement



ISLAMABAD: A wave of diplomatic transitions has been observed in Islamabad as several foreign envoys conclude their assignments. Among the notable departures is Hungarian Ambassador Bela Fazekas, who served two separate terms in Pakistan—a rare feat in diplomatic circles. His efforts in strengthening bilateral ties, particularly in trade and education, were widely acknowledged.

Ambassador Andrea Wicke of Austria retired after a tenure focused on economic and cultural collaboration. Iraq’s Ambassador Hamid Abbas Lafta and South Korea’s Ambassador have also concluded their tenures, the latter amid political shifts back home. EU Ambassador Riina Kionka, known for her role in trade and human rights advocacy, is also departing, along with Denmark’s Ambassador Jakob Linulf, an active voice

in climate initiatives.

Unexpected exits include envoys from Kyrgyzstan and Sri Lanka, likely driven by political changes in their respective capitals. These departures signal a period of diplomatic renewal, with expectations that incoming envoys will carry forward the momentum of collaboration with Pakistan in key areas including trade, technology, and development.■



IRS Leads Strategic Dialogue and Policy Engagement in May and June 2025

The Institute of Regional Studies (IRS), based in Islamabad, is one of Pakistan's premier think tanks dedicated to the study of regional and international affairs. Established in 1982, IRS serves as a research and policy advisory institution focusing on South Asia, the Middle East, Central Asia, and global political dynamics that impact Pakistan's foreign policy. Over the decades, it has carved out a distinct space in Pakistan's strategic community by offering data-driven insights, promoting intellectual debate, and facilitating expert engagement with policymakers, diplomats, and academia.

During the months of May and June 2025, the Institute remained actively engaged in critical policy debates and strategic dialogue, conducting a number of high-level roundtables, public talks, and policy-oriented sessions in Islamabad. These activities reflected the Institute's consistent commitment to analyzing regional developments and contributing to the shaping of national discourse on foreign policy and security.

On May 26, IRS organized a significant roundtable titled "Pakistan-India Confrontation 2025: Decoding the New Normal." The session brought together experienced voices including Ambassador (R) Ashraf Jehangir Qazi, Lt. Gen (R) Naeem Khalid Lodhi, and Dr. Salma Malik from Quaid-i-Azam University. The discussion centered on the renewed tensions along the Line of Control, the evolving nature of hybrid warfare, and strategic miscalculations in New Delhi. Experts collectively underscored the importance of preparedness and the need for a calibrated diplomatic approach to de-escalate future crises while maintaining credible deterrence. The roundtable's findings were compiled in a policy brief shared with key decision-makers in Islamabad.

In response to shifting Middle Eastern dynamics, particularly following the Iran-Israel confrontation, IRS held a seminar on June 12 titled "What's Next for Iran-US Nuclear Negotiations." Participants included Ambassador (R) Najm us Saqib, Dr. Rabia Akhtar, and Mr. Hamid Reza Gholamzadeh from Tehran. The speakers highlighted Iran's internal consolidation

after repelling external threats and discussed how the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) could be revived in a new format involving China and Russia as more assertive stakeholders. Pakistan's potential role as a neutral facilitator and regional peace promoter was a recurring theme throughout the session.

On June 5, the Institute hosted a well-attended public talk titled "Pakistan, Afghanistan, and the Regional

strategic roundtable evaluating the recent visit of Pakistan's Chief of Army Staff General Asim Munir to the United States. The session included high-level figures such as Ambassador (R) Jalil Abbas Jilani, Air Marshal (R) Shahid Latif, and senior officials from the National Security Division and U.S. Embassy Islamabad. Discussions focused on the evolving strategic partnership between Pakistan and the United States, with emphasis on military cooperation, counterterrorism,



Geopolitical Powerplay." Eminent speakers including Ambassador (R) Asif Durrani, Dr. Huma Baqai, and Dr. Dawood Khan analyzed the strategic space being vacated by the West and the emerging possibilities of a regional consensus involving Pakistan, China, Iran, and Central Asia. The dialogue stressed the need for Pakistan to adopt a multi-vector policy toward Afghanistan that is grounded in economic integration, counterterrorism cooperation, and border stability.

The Institute continued its deep-dive into contemporary narratives with an academic roundtable on June 18, titled "The Pursuit of Truth: Competing Narratives in Post-Pahalgam." The event examined the role of media and information warfare in shaping perceptions after the Pahalgam incident in Indian-Occupied Kashmir. Speakers such as Dr. Ayesha Siddiqi, Mehr Tarar, and IRS's own Mr. Junaid Sulaiman analyzed how disinformation, digital propaganda, and constructed silence have become tools of modern conflict. The roundtable reinforced IRS's effort to initiate more robust work in the area of narrative-building and media diplomacy.

On June 17, IRS convened a closed-door

and regional stability. The session was praised for its candid, policy-oriented analysis and will likely inform future briefings to government stakeholders.

Throughout these two months, IRS also contributed several research publications on issues ranging from Pakistan's evolving policy toward Afghanistan, the impact of Modi's third term on Kashmir, and strategic takeaways from the China-Central Asia Summit in Astana. These reports were shared with foreign embassies, universities, and government ministries, further reinforcing IRS's reputation as a center of credible and timely policy research.

The Institute of Regional Studies, through its engagements during May and June, demonstrated its pivotal role in supporting Pakistan's strategic vision in a rapidly changing regional and global environment. Its forums continue to serve as intellectual platforms where seasoned voices and new thinkers converge to examine Pakistan's foreign policy challenges and shape narratives that are rooted in national interest, informed debate, and international responsibility. ■

Pakistan-Rwanda Partnership Strengthened on Rwanda's Liberation Day



ISLAMABAD: The Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) and the Pakistan Africa Institute for Development and Research (PAIDAR) jointly commemorated Rwanda's Liberation Day. Key speakers included Senator Mushahid Hussain Syed, Ambassador Sohail Mahmood, Rwanda's

High Commissioner to Pakistan Ms. Harerimana Fatou, and other diplomats. The event reflected on Rwanda's journey post-genocide, highlighting its progress in reconciliation, governance, and economic development under President Paul Kagame.

Senator Mushahid called attention to global double standards in addressing genocides, including ongoing humanitarian crises.

Ambassador Sohail Mahmood lauded Rwanda's success in post-conflict recovery and emphasized Pakistan's "Engage Africa" policy. Growing trade, academic exchanges, and mutual diplomatic presence signal deepening Pakistan-Rwanda ties, with both sides committed to expanding cooperation in trade, education, technology, and tourism. ■



ISLAMABAD: Senator Mushahid Hussain Syed, Governor Sindh Kamran Tessori, High Commissioner of Rwanda to Pakistan, Harerimana Fatou and others cutting the cake during National Liberation Day ceremony at a local hotel in the Federal Capital.

Portugal and Denmark Support Sustainable Development in Chitral

CHITRAL: Ambassadors of Portugal and Denmark visited remote valleys of Chitral to assess Aga Khan Development Network's (AKDN) climate resilience and community empowerment projects.

Portuguese Ambassador Frederico Silva and Danish Ambassador Jakob Linulf observed successful micro-hydro projects, climate-smart agriculture training, solar-powered greenhouses, and WASH improvements in schools. Both envoys praised the integrated development model that has empowered local communities and reduced environmental stress.

The visit reinforced the growing cooperation between Pakistan and European nations in addressing climate change and promoting sustainable development in hard-to-reach areas. The ambassadors also engaged in

discussions with community leaders, AKDN field staff, and local youth about the challenges of climate-induced disasters and how technology and education are transforming rural resilience. In a joint statement, the ambassadors praised

the grassroots-led approach of AKDN, especially in ensuring gender participation and local ownership. They emphasized the importance of scaling up such climate-resilient models across South Asia. The visit ended with a community gathering where local students presented environmental songs and storytelling performances, reflecting a growing awareness of sustainability values in youth culture. ■





Peter John Foundation and Joel Amir Sahotra Uplifting Lives through Education and Empowerment

Peter John Foundation, in partnership with renowned social worker Joel Amir Sahotra, continues to carry out remarkable efforts aimed at transforming the lives of underprivileged communities across Pakistan. Together, they are not just offering support, they are inspiring change, promoting education, and instilling hope where it is needed the most.

Joel Amir Sahotra has emerged as a dedicated force for good, working selflessly to uplift marginalized segments of society. His commitment to serving under-resourced children and families, especially in urban and rural communities, speaks volumes about his character and vision. He has consistently focused on ensuring that the most vulnerable are not left behind, believing in equal opportunity, dignity, and empowerment through education



this mission. With a strong foundation rooted in service, the organization has been actively involved in a wide range of welfare programs. These include educational support, distribution of learning materials, awareness drives,

learning. Their initiatives often focus on equipping children with the tools they need to succeed academically, socially, and emotionally.

What sets their work apart is its consistency and sincerity. There is a deep understanding that true social change comes from meaningful engagement, not temporary interventions. Through collaboration with other organizations and diplomatic missions, they have managed to extend their reach and bring international attention to local issues, highlighting how partnerships can lead to shared progress.

Joel Amir Sahotra's unwavering resolve and the Peter John Foundation's grassroots strength form a powerful alliance that continues to influence lives positively. Their joint mission reflects a genuine concern for the well-being of the underserved and a strong belief



and awareness. His projects such as youth awareness program for women empowerment, distribution of Sewing Machines, Peter John Sahotra School and Covid-19 food support drive are some of the many initiative which he and his organisation have taken not to only support Christian community but overall society in general.

The Peter John Foundation, known for its community-centered approach, shares

and skill-building efforts, all of which are designed to foster independence and confidence among beneficiaries.

Together, this collaboration between Joel Amir Sahotra and the Peter John Foundation has evolved into a movement of compassion and action. They emphasize the importance of not just providing aid, but also creating lasting impact by nurturing young minds and enabling communities to grow through



that everyone deserves a fair chance at a better future.

This ongoing work is not just an example of philanthropy but is a model of responsible leadership and sustainable development. Joel Amir Sahotra and the Peter John Foundation deserve widespread recognition, not just for what they do, but for the hope they continue to inspire in the hearts of so many. ■




TEA O'CLOCK WITH MAARIJ


A PODCAST BY
PAKISTAN ECONOMIC NETWORK

Unfiltered, Unscripted, Unmissable

**EVERY SUNDAY
04:00 PM**



 @pakeconet

 @pakistan.econet



<https://pakeconet.com.pk/>



PakistanEconomicNet



@PakistanEconomicNet

Shahbaz Sharif Leads Pakistan's Outreach Amid Regional Tensions



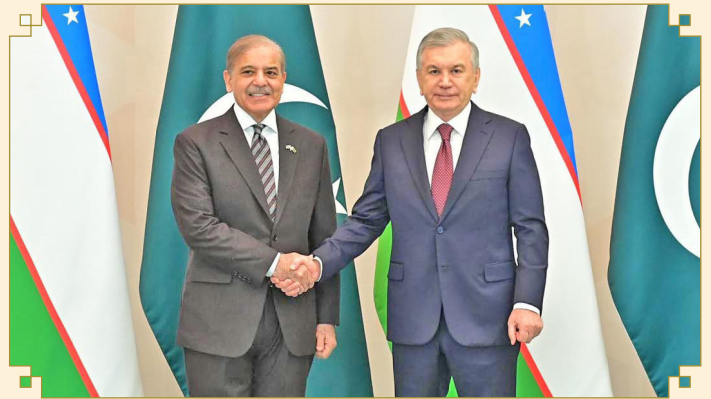
Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif being received by Türkiye's President Recep Tayyip Erdogan in Dolmabahçe Palace in Istanbul on 25 May 2025.



Lachin: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif meets with President of Azerbaijan H.E. Ilham Aliyev, on 27 May, 2025.



President of Tajikistan H.E. Emomali Rahmon welcomes Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif upon arrival at the Palace of Nations in Dushanbe on May 29, 2025.



President of Uzbekistan H.E. Shavkat Mirziyoyev receiving Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on his arrival at the Congress Centre Tashkent on 26 February, 2025.



Minsk: Belarusian President H.E. Aleksandr Lukashenko and Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif shake hands at the Independence Palace of Belarus on April 11, 2025.



Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif met with His Royal Highness Prince Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdulaziz, the Crown Prince and the Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, in Makkah al-Mukarramah on 6 June 2025.



President of UAE His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan received Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif at Qasr Al Shati in Abu Dhabi on 12 June 2025.



Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif receives Guard of Honor at Sa'dabad Palace, Tehran on May 26, 2025.