

Monthly

Islamabad

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We are turning decades of goodwill
into a dynamic partnership that
delivers tangible results."

Ambassador of Egypt to Pakistan,
Dr. Ihab Mohamed Abdelhamid Hassan



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.



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.



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.
- 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.

A Wake up Call for the Muslim World

The Israeli strike on Doha is a stark reminder for the Muslim world that sovereignty and security remain vulnerable when nations stand divided. The attack, which caused deaths and injuries, has shattered assumptions about safe havens and exposed the risks that spill across borders when conflict escalates.

For too long, the Muslim world has confined itself to rhetorical condemnations without building coordinated political, diplomatic, and defensive mechanisms. The strike on Qatari soil demands more than words, it requires a united front that can safeguard states and people from similar violations in the future.

The alarm expressed by Arab and Islamic leaders shows that the urgency is understood, but solidarity must move beyond statements. Real unity means creating sustained institutions, sharing intelligence, strengthening crisis communication, and presenting a common diplomatic stance that deters further breaches of sovereignty.

Unity does not demand uniformity, it means standing on basic principles: protection of civilians, inviolability of territorial integrity, and the pursuit of just political solutions. Without cohesion, smaller states will remain exposed, mediators will lose credibility, and the Muslim ummah will continue to suffer displacement, insecurity, and instability.

The moment calls for practical steps. Muslim countries must strengthen diplomatic channels, build regional early warning systems, and insist on accountability for those who violate international law. Civil society and religious leadership also have a role to ensure governments act in common purpose.

If outrage is not converted into organisation, the consequences will be grave. The strike on Doha must become a turning point. Only by standing together can the Muslim world protect its sovereignty, preserve its dignity, and demand justice for Palestine and stability for the region. ■

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Over the decades, Egypt–Pakistan ties have grown into a broad-based partnership, deepening across political, economic, and cultural spheres

“We are turning decades of goodwill into a dynamic partnership that delivers tangible results.”

– Ambassador of Egypt to Pakistan, Dr. Ihab Mohamed Abdelhamid Hassan



Maarij Farooq
Deputy Editor

&
Chief Digital Media Strategist
Pakistan Economic Net (PEN)

P.I: EGYPT and Pakistan share a rich history of diplomatic engagement. Could you highlight the key milestones in the relationship between the two countries since the establishment of diplomatic ties?

H.E: Egypt and Pakistan established diplomatic relations in 1951, marking the beginning of a long-standing partnership built on shared values, mutual

respect, and close coordination on regional and international issues. One of the earliest milestones was the signing of a friendship agreement that same year. Over the decades, cooperation deepened through joint participation in the Non-Aligned Movement and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation. A particularly notable moment came in 1974, when President Anwar Sadat attended the 2nd OIC Summit in Lahore—a gesture that reaffirmed Egypt’s solidarity with Pakistan and the broader Muslim world.

In more recent years, our relations have expanded well beyond traditional diplomacy to encompass defense, trade, investment, and cultural exchange. For the latest developments, on 30 July 2025, President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi received General Sahir Shamshad Mirza, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, in the presence of General Abdel Majeed Saqr, Commander-in-Chief

of the Armed Forces and Minister of Defense and Military Production; The discussions focused on strengthening military and security cooperation, enhancing the exchange of expertise. During his visit, General Mirza also met with His Eminence Prof. Dr. Ahmed Al-Tayeb, Grand Imam of Al-Azhar Al-Sharif, to explore opportunities for religious and cultural engagement.

P.I: How do you view the evolution of Egypt-Pakistan relations over the past few decades, particularly in the political, economic, and cultural spheres?

H.E: Over the past decades, Egypt-Pakistan relations have evolved into a multifaceted partnership that continues to strengthen across political, economic, and cultural domains. Politically, our countries have maintained close coordination and mutual support, not only through regular high-level consultations but also within multilateral frameworks such as the United Nations,

D-8 Organization for Economic Cooperation, and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation. We consistently stand together on key issues of peace, security, and development, reflecting a shared commitment to principled diplomacy and the promotion of a rules-based international order.

Economically, while the overall volume of bilateral trade remains modest, it has shown resilience and the potential for significant growth. Both sides have identified promising areas for cooperation—ranging from agriculture, pharmaceuticals, and textiles to renewable energy and logistics—supported by recent discussions on reactivating the Egypt–Pakistan Business Council and exploring investment opportunities in the Suez Canal Economic Zone. These initiatives, coupled with efforts to facilitate trade and business connectivity, signal a new phase of economic engagement.

Culturally, our ties are rooted in deep historical connections and shared civilizational heritage. Egyptian institutions such as Al-Azhar continue to host Pakistani students, fostering academic and religious exchange. Cultural diplomacy has also played a key role, with exhibitions, artistic collaborations, and heritage preservation efforts serving as bridges between our peoples. Looking forward, expanding these exchanges alongside economic and political cooperation will ensure that our partnership remains dynamic, inclusive, and beneficial to both nations.

PI: The business communities of Egypt and Pakistan have significant untapped potential. What steps can be taken to enhance direct trade, investment, and joint ventures between the private sectors of both countries?

H.E: Unlocking the full potential of our private sectors requires a structured and proactive approach. First, we should formalize a bilateral trade facilitation agreement and establish a joint Egypt–



Pakistan Business Council to serve as a dedicated platform for continuous engagement, problem-solving, and sectoral match-making. Second, targeted business roadshows in key cities—such as Cairo, Alexandria, Karachi, and Lahore—would enable direct interaction between entrepreneurs and investors, focusing on high-growth industries like processed foods, surgical instruments, pharmaceuticals, textiles, and renewable energy.

Economic cooperation remains a top priority for the Egyptian Embassy, given the considerable untapped potential in our bilateral trade and investment relationship. Despite strong political ties, our current trade volume—still below USD 400 million annually—underscores the need for more focused, results-driven initiatives. Egypt's strategic location, connecting Africa, Asia,



Europe, and the Middle East via the Suez Canal, offers unparalleled access to regional markets. In parallel, Pakistan's growing industrial base—particularly in textiles, pharmaceuticals, and surgical tools—complements Egypt's strengths in logistics, manufacturing, and regional distribution.

The Embassy is actively facilitating business-to-business engagement, organizing sector-specific delegations, and strengthening institutional cooperation between chambers of commerce. One promising initiative under discussion is the potential collaboration between Pakistan's Gwadar Port Authority and Egypt's Suez Canal Authority, aimed at enhancing maritime connectivity, port logistics, and trade infrastructure investment.

We have already seen tangible steps in this direction. In September 2023, the Pakistan-Egypt Business Opportunities Conference in Cairo brought together more than 200 business leaders from vital sectors. Likewise, in January 2024, Egypt hosted the fourth "Look Africa" Conference, organized by the Pakistani Ministry of Commerce, focusing on building stronger trade links between Pakistan and MENA markets. The Em-



nations.

P.I: People-to-people connections form the foundation of strong bilat-



bassy also facilitated a commercial mission from the Gujrat Chamber of Commerce to Egypt, exploring new avenues for cooperation.

These initiatives align closely with Pakistan's "Engage Africa" strategy, which Egypt fully supports. Together, they reflect a shared vision to transform our longstanding goodwill into a robust, forward-looking economic partnership that delivers concrete results for both

eral relations. What initiatives do you believe could further promote cultural exchanges, academic collaborations, and tourism between Egypt and Pakistan?

H.E: The human dimension of our relations is vital, and I believe we can expand it in meaningful ways. Cultural exchanges could be deepened through annual Egypt-Pakistan cultural weeks,

traveling art and heritage exhibitions, and joint film or music festivals. Academic collaboration can be strengthened by expanding scholarships and joint research programs, especially in history, archaeology, and Islamic studies. On tourism, we should work with travel operators to develop attractive Egypt-Pakistan itineraries and explore the restoration of direct flights, making it easier for our citizens to experience each other's heritage and hospitality.

P.I: Educational exchange programs can play a vital role in strengthening ties. How can Egypt and Pakistan expand cooperation in higher education, scholarships, and skills development?

H.E: Educational exchange is a powerful locomotive for fostering mutual understanding, particularly among the younger generation. It is also a key dimension of Egypt's bilateral engagement with Pakistan, most notably through Al-Azhar University's longstanding academic and religious outreach.

Currently, 11 Egyptian professors are teaching at the International Islamic University in Islamabad, contributing to the intellectual landscape and promoting intercultural dialogue. In addition, Egypt offers 30 annual scholarships for Pakistani students to study at Al-Azhar

Al-Sharif— an esteemed beacon of Islamic scholarship and one of the world's most renowned centers for Islamic academic excellence.

Also, for centuries, students from South Asia have travelled to study at Al-Azhar Al-Sharif, deepening the historical and scholarly ties between our peoples. Today, this legacy continues through the active role of Egyptian scholars and cultural envoys in Pakistan, who help strengthen academic cooperation and foster mutual understanding. We see these educational connections as vital to shaping a shared future based on common values and respect for Islamic intellectual heritage.

P.I: In terms of economic cooperation, which sectors do you see as having the highest potential for mutual growth in the coming years?

H.E: Several sectors stand out for their potential to deliver mutual benefit. Renewable energy, especially green hydrogen, is a promising area where Egypt's infrastructure and Pakistan's technical expertise can converge. Agriculture and food processing present opportunities for cooperation on climate-smart farming, irrigation, and storage. The pharmaceutical and medical devices industries can link Pakistan's manufacturing capacity with Egypt's regional distribution networks. Textiles, logistics,



and maritime services also offer strong complementarities, given Egypt's strategic location as a trade hub and Pakistan's export capabilities.

P.I: How do you assess the role of joint platforms, such as business councils or cultural forums, in fostering sustained engagement between Egypt and Pakistan?

H.E: Joint platforms are essential for sustaining momentum in our bilateral engagement. A formal Egypt-Pakistan

Business Council can act as the central hub for private-sector cooperation, maintaining a pipeline of projects, removing trade barriers, and tracking progress. On the cultural front, forums dedicated to literature, cinema, and heritage preservation can keep our people-to-people connections vibrant. The key is to ensure these platforms are active, result-oriented, and supported at the highest political levels.

P.I: Looking ahead, what is your vision for Egypt-Pakistan relations over the next decade, and what specific steps do you believe can help transform that vision into reality?

H.E: My vision is for a partnership that is pragmatic, mutually beneficial, and future-oriented—one that doubles our bilateral trade, expands our educational and cultural ties, and positions us as partners in innovation and sustainable development. To achieve this, we must sign the pending trade facilitation agreement, establish the Business Council, and create a fast-track visa system for business and academic exchanges. We should also host annual investment forums, alternating between Egypt and Pakistan, and launch a joint scholarship program focused on strategic sectors. Through these steps, our relationship can evolve into a model of cooperation in the Global South. ■

Pakistan-Egypt Agricultural Ties Deepen With Focus on Cotton, Innovation



ISLAMABAD—A bilateral meeting between Pakistan's Minister for National Food Security Rana Tanveer Hussain and Egyptian Ambassador Dr. Ihab Abdelhamid has led to a renewed commitment to agricultural development, with both nations agreeing to expand cooperation in climate-resilient farming and seed technology.

Discussions revolved around joint ventures in drip irrigation, livestock health, and crop innovation. An MoU between Pakistan Agricultural Research Council (PARC) and Egypt's Agricultural Research Centre (ARC) was also finalized, setting the stage for scientific collaboration in modern agricultural practices.

The meeting marked a historic resolution to Pakistan's longstanding cotton cess issue, with Minister Hussain calling it a breakthrough for revitalizing Pakistan's cotton economy. Both sides committed to knowledge sharing and pilot programs targeting arid zones. ■



Pakistan Building Stronger Futures Through Trade and Innovation - Finance Minister Aurangzeb

French Revolution Inspires Values and Cooperation with Pakistan - Ambassador Galey

The Embassy of France hosted a reception at the Residence of France to mark the French National Day, with Finance Minister Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb as the chief guest. The gathering brought together members of the federal cabinet, parliamentarians, diplomats, senior civil and defence officials, business leaders, academia, and media.

In his welcome remarks, Ambassador Nicolas Galey conveyed greetings on behalf of the French people and highlighted the values of liberty, equality, and fraternity. He noted steady engagement between France and Pakistan, with emphasis on constructive dialogue, economic cooperation, and cultural exchange.

Finance Minister Aurangzeb congratulated France on its national day and conveyed best wishes from the Government of Pakistan. He underlined opportunities for deeper collaboration in trade and investment, climate resilience, renewable energy, agriculture, technology, education, and skills. He noted the role of private enterprise in driving growth and welcomed partnerships that support Pakistan's reform and development agenda.

The ceremony began with the national anthems of Pakistan and France, followed by a reception that featured elements of French cuisine and hospitality. Guests discussed expanding business to business links, academic partnerships, tourism, and creative industries, while also noting the importance of people to people connections.

Speakers reaffirmed a shared commitment to a broad based relationship anchored in economic cooperation, sustainable development, and cultural understanding. The evening concluded with appreciation for the strong participation of the diplomatic and business community, and a shared resolve to translate goodwill into practical projects in the months ahead.

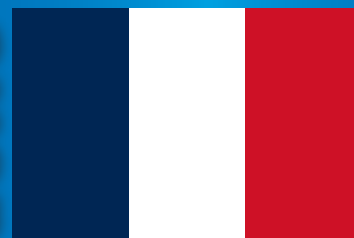
Ambassador Galey recalled the historic significance of July fourteen, noting that the spirit of the French Revolution continues to inspire cooperation on human dignity, civic values, and rule of law. He welcomed France Pakistan collaboration in multilateral forums, with particular attention to humanitarian response and climate adaptation, and appreciated Pakistan's efforts to strengthen resilience at the community level.

Finance Minister Aurangzeb outlined Pakistan's reform trajectory, including steps for macroeconomic stabilisation, improvement of the investment climate, and digital transformation of public services. He invited French companies to explore opportunities in renewable energy, water and waste management, urban transport, agribusiness value chains, tourism, and technology enabled services, and encouraged joint ventures with local partners.

The reception also highlighted education and culture, with acknowledgement of the Alliance Française network in Pakistan and the role of Campus France in student mobility. Officials noted a steady rise in Pakistani students choosing France for higher education, ongoing scholarship opportunities, and recent facilitation measures for visas. Plans for joint programmes in film, music, and heritage conservation in Karachi, Lahore, and Islamabad were discussed, aimed at further strengthening people to people ties. ■



French Republic



H.E. Mr. Nicolas GALEY

Born on 18th November 1960

Education:

- Institut d'études politiques de Paris (Sciences-Po)
- National School of Public Administration (ENA)

Positions held:

- Since January 2022: Ambassador of France to the Islamic Republic of Pakistan
- Policy officer at the Crisis and Support Center, Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs, Paris (2021- 2022)
- Ambassador of France to the Republic of the Philippines (2017-2021)
- Ambassador, inter-ministerial Delegate for Mediterranean affairs, Ministry of Foreign affairs, Paris (2014-2017)
- Ambassador of France to the Arab Republic of Egypt, Cairo, (2012-2014)
- Middle East advisor at the Diplomatic cell of the Presidency of the French Republic, Paris (2009-2012)
- Ambassador of France to the Republic of Cyprus, Nicosia (2007-2009)
- Deputy chief of staff of French Foreign minister – Ministry of Foreign affairs, Paris (2005-2007)
- Deputy director in charge of the Egypt-Levant region, Directorate for Middle East and North Africa, Ministry of Foreign affairs, Paris (2002-2005)
- Deputy Chief of mission, French embassy in Egypt, Cairo (1999-2002)
- Counsellor, Middle East/North Africa expert, French Mission to the United Nations, New York (1995-1999)
- Advisor to French Foreign minister – Ministry of Foreign affairs, Paris (1993-1995)
- Coordinator for cooperation and cultural relations with the Middle East and North Africa region, Ministry of Foreign affairs, Paris (1991-1993)
- First secretary, Embassy of France in Algeria, Algiers (1988-1991)

UK Strengthens Ties with Pakistan through Climate Action, E-Visa Reforms, and Humanitarian Aid



Islamabad: As Pakistan continues to grapple with the devastating impact of climate change and seasonal floods, the United Kingdom has stepped up its engagement with a series of initiatives aimed at strengthening bilateral ties, building resilience, and creating opportunities for Pakistan's people.

One of the most prominent efforts is the launch of a nationwide climate journalism training programme by the British High Commission. The initiative is designed to empower media professionals to drive awareness and action by spotlighting climate change solutions and their direct impact on communities. Deputy Director of Communications and Public Diplomacy, Sneha Lala, highlighted the stakes, noting that inaction on climate change could cost Pakistan an estimated \$1.2 trillion by 2050, with millions of lives and livelihoods at risk. She stressed that journalism has the power to incentivise action, highlight solutions, and influence change. The programme has already reached major media groups in Islamabad, including Express, Geo, Jang, The News, The Nation, and Nawa-e-Waqt, and will expand to Lahore and Karachi. Chevening alumni and environmental experts are playing a key role in guiding the sessions, alongside contributions from international partners such as Leo Hickman of Carbon Brief.

At the same time, U.K. High Commissioner Jane Marriott announced the launch of the UK-Pak e-visa system, describing it as a breakthrough in simplifying travel between the two nations. The new online system allows applicants to submit details and documents digitally, eliminating lengthy waits and physical visits. Marriott explained that this reform will benefit Pakistani students, workers, and professionals, while furthering economic, educational, and cultural ties. She also pointed to the Chevening Scholarship as a continued opportunity for young Pakistanis to pursue world-class education in the U.K., strengthening the network of future leaders. Looking ahead, she emphasized that the e-visa initiative is only the beginning, with plans to introduce direct flights and greater trade facilitation, especially in key sectors such as textiles where Pakistani products are in growing demand.

Complementing these long-term initiatives, the U.K. has also announced £1.33 million in humanitarian aid to support

Pakistan's flood-hit districts in Punjab, Gilgit-Baltistan, and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. The aid package is expected to benefit over 223,000 people by funding emergency food rations, mobile medical camps, restoration of water and irrigation systems, and livelihood support. The British High Commission noted that its programmes have already trained 2,400 community volunteers for rescue operations, while local partners such as Rescue 1122 and UN coordinators are ensuring aid reaches the most vulnerable.

Together, these initiatives illustrate a comprehensive approach by the United Kingdom, combining immediate humanitarian relief with structural reforms in travel, trade, and climate action. As Pakistan confronts both environmental and economic challenges, these developments signal a deepening of ties, offering pathways for resilience, opportunity, and long-term partnership between the two countries. ■





Malaysia Celebrates 68th Independence Day in Islamabad with Diplomatic Warmth

ISLAMABAD, Sept 3: Malaysia's 68th Independence Day was marked with a grand celebration in Islamabad, bringing together diplomats, government officials, business leaders, and friends of Malaysia to reaffirm the strong and enduring bonds between Pakistan and Malaysia.

The ceremony, held at a local hotel, featured a cake-cutting and cultural festivities reflecting the vibrancy of Malaysian heritage. The event was graced by Chief Guest Bilal Azhar Kayani, Minister of State for Finance of Pakistan, along with Dato' Azhar bin Mazlan, the High Commissioner of Malaysia to Pakistan.

In his remarks, Minister Bilal Azhar Kayani congratulated the Malaysian people and government on behalf of Pakistan, emphasizing that the two nations are bound by deep historical, religious, and cultural ties. He noted that Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif will pay a historic visit to Malaysia in October, which will serve as a milestone in strengthening mutual economic and trade relations. Kayani also highlighted the significant role of the Pakistani diaspora

in Malaysia, contributing to the host nation's economy and bridging the people-to-people ties between both countries.

High Commissioner Dato' Azhar bin Mazlan, while addressing the gathering, expressed gratitude to the Government and people of Pakistan for their longstanding friendship and support. He recalled that Pakistan was the first country to recognize Malaysia after its independence in 1957, and Malaysia's first embassy was established in Karachi the same year before being moved to Islamabad. He reaffirmed Malaysia's commitment to deepening cooperation with Pakistan in trade, investment, and cultural exchange, adding that the upcoming visit of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif will further strengthen relations.

The celebration was attended by ASEAN heads of mission, senior Pakistani officials, business community representatives, and distinguished guests, creating an atmosphere of camaraderie and diplomatic warmth. The event not only showcased the close kinship between the two nations but also underscored their shared determination to further broaden bilateral cooperation in the years ahead. ■



Pakistan and Sri Lanka Explore New Avenues for Trade and Investment

Islamabad: The High Commissioner-designate of Sri Lanka to Pakistan, Rear Admiral Fred Senevirathna, held a meeting with the President of the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI), Atif Ikram Sheikh, at the FPCCI headquarters in Islamabad to discuss opportunities for strengthening bilateral economic cooperation.

Welcoming the envoy, Atif Ikram Sheikh congratulated him on his appointment and emphasized that the visit reflects the longstanding friendship between Pakistan and Sri Lanka, built on mutual respect, regional cooperation, and historical goodwill. He underscored the potential for expanding economic and trade relations, highlighting Sri Lanka's strategic location and resilient economy as attractive for joint ventures, while noting Pakistan's large consumer market, industrial base, and focus on connectivity as key advantages. Sheikh reiterated FPCCI's commitment to facilitating stronger business-to-business collaboration and supporting initiatives to boost trade flows between the two countries.

Rear Admiral Senevirathna expressed appreciation for FPC-



such as SMEs, exports, IT, education, tourism, and agriculture. He also underlined the country's strategic position along vital maritime trade routes, coupled with modern infrastructure, a skilled workforce, and efficient transport networks, making Sri



CI's warm reception and acknowledged the continuous collaboration between Sri Lanka and Pakistan. He briefed the participants on his country's recent economic reforms under its political leadership, noting a clear focus on zero tolerance for corruption, good governance, and the creation of favorable conditions for investors. He stated that Sri Lanka has regained macroeconomic stability with IMF support, strengthened foreign reserves, expanded exports, and witnessed a rise in tourism and foreign direct investment over the past six months.

The envoy further emphasized Sri Lanka's investor-friendly policies, including reduced corporate tax rates for priority sectors

Lanka a competitive hub for international business.

The meeting was attended by A. Christy Ruban, Head of Chancery and Minister of the Sri Lanka High Commission, senior officials from Pakistan's Ministry of Industry, representatives of chambers of commerce from Islamabad, Haripur, and Rawalpindi, as well as members of Pakistan's gem and jewelry sector and other business leaders, both in person and virtually.

The dialogue reinforced the mutual resolve of both countries to enhance bilateral economic ties, open new avenues for trade and investment, and further deepen the longstanding Pakistan-Sri Lanka partnership. ■

Diplomatic Transition and Arrival of New Indonesian Ambassador



ISLAMABAD – Mr. Chandra Warsenanto Sukotjo has assumed charge as Indonesia's new Ambassador to Pakistan, marking a fresh chapter in the historically rich Indonesia-Pakistan relationship.

He is expected to deepen cooperation in trade, education, halal industry development, and interfaith dialogue through platforms like the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) and the Developing-8 (D-8). Ambassador Sukotjo follows the legacy of former envoys Iwan Amri and Adam Tugio, who



ISLAMABAD: Ambassadors standing in the first row from left to right, Ambassadors of Germany, the Netherlands, EU, Austria and Denmark are set to leave Pakistan.

were instrumental in revitalizing economic diplomacy between the two countries.

The arrival coincides with a wider diplomatic reshuffle in Islamabad, where ambassadors from Germany, the EU, Austria, the Netherlands, and Denmark have concluded their tenures, leaving behind legacies of collaboration in trade, climate action, and human rights advocacy. Their successors are anticipated to build on existing frameworks with a fresh vision for multilateral engagement. ■

Indonesia and ASEAN, Community Celebrations and Regional Dialogue with Pakistan

The Indonesian Embassy in Islamabad celebrated the eightieth Independence Day of Indonesia with a vibrant community gathering. The event included sports, cultural performances, and food stalls, creating a festive atmosphere that brought together Indonesian students, families, professionals, and embassy staff. The ambassador invited the community to participate in the official flag-hoisting ceremony on August 17, emphasizing the importance of unity and cultural identity.

At the regional level, ASEAN strengthened its engagement with Pakistan through multiple forums. The Institute of Strategic Studies in Islamabad hosted a roundtable with ASEAN diplomats and Pakistani officials to review the ASEAN Pakistan Practical Cooperation Areas for 2024-2028. This cooperation covers scholarships, trade initiatives, cultural diplomacy, and connectivity projects. Pakistan reiterated its aspiration for Full

Dialogue Partner status, which ASEAN representatives acknowledged as a possibility given Pakistan's long-standing sectoral dialogue role.

The ASEAN Day reception at Serena Hotel highlighted ASEAN's economic size, population, and diversity. Ambassador Wunna Han of Myanmar, serving as Chair of the ASEAN Committee in Islamabad, praised ASEAN's

unity and Pakistan's contribution as a partner. The evening included cultural showcases, tourism promotions, cuisine, and a joint fashion presentation themed Fabrics of ASEAN and Pakistan. By combining festive celebrations with policy dialogues, ASEAN and Pakistan demonstrated a balanced approach that integrates people-to-people connectivity with regional cooperation. ■



Pakistan, ASEAN Member States' Artists Shine at 58th ASEAN Day Celebrations

Swiss Community Celebrates 734th National Day in Islamabad



cantly speeds up applications. The High Commissioner also highlighted the UK's Chevening Scholarship, with applications opening on August 5, and underscored opportunities in education, trade, and direct flights to enhance people-to-people links. She pointed to rising demand for Pakistani textiles, including bed sheets, in the UK market, and said improved trade infrastructure could benefit both sides. She concluded that the e-visa launch is "just the beginning" of a broader strategy to expand trade, tourism, and investment. ■

ISLAMABAD: The United Kingdom has launched a new e-visa system for Pakistani applicants, marking a significant step in bilateral relations. British High Commissioner Jane Marriott described the facility as a "seamless and efficient" process that eliminates in-person visits and reduces approval times. She explained that the system enables students and workers to apply online by submitting personal details and documents with just a few clicks. The automatic processing system signifi-



Pakistani Students Earn Global Recognition at 2025 APAC Solution Challenge

MANILA – In a remarkable achievement, Pakistani students have earned top honors at the 2025 Asia-Pacific (APAC) Solution Challenge, co-hosted by Google and the Asian Development Bank, placing Pakistan on the global innovation map. Team GeoGemma from the Institute of Space Technology, Islamabad, won the prestigious Best AI Use Award for creating an early warning system that uses satellite data and AI to forecast natural disasters. The system, built using Gemini API, has been lauded for its life-saving potential, particularly in flood-prone regions of South Asia. Team i+I from NUCES FAST also made it to the Top 10 finalists with their AI-powered document classifier designed to aid neurodivergent individuals. Their innovation promotes inclusivity in digital communication and education. Pakistan's Ambassador to the Philippines, Dr. Asima Rabbani, hosted a reception for both teams, applauding their creativity and global impact. She highlighted the role of academic mentorship and underscored how these achievements align with Pakistan's emerging reputation in AI, innovation, and tech development.



The competition featured teams from South Korea, Japan, Singapore, and Indonesia, making Pakistan's strong showing a notable milestone in international academia. ■

Uzbekistan and Pakistan, Connectivity and Trade Driving Strategic Cooperation

Uzbekistan and Pakistan are steadily transforming their bilateral relationship into a strategic partnership centered on connectivity, trade, and cultural cooperation. Ambassador Alisher Tukhtaev has consistently highlighted the significance of the Trans Afghan Railway, which aims to connect Uzbekistan with Pakistan's ports of Karachi and Gwadar through Afghanistan. The ambassador has described this initiative as a regional game changer, reducing transport costs, enhancing market access, and deepening economic integration between Central and South Asia.

Trade between the two countries has grown rapidly. Uzbekistan's GDP reached one hundred and fifteen billion dollars in 2024, and bilateral trade with Pakistan exceeded four hundred million dollars that year. In the first half of 2025, trade climbed to over two hundred and fifty million dollars, a one hundred and twenty three percent increase compared to the same period in 2024. Exhibitions under the banners Made in Uzbekistan and Food Fest Uzbekistan held in Lahore, Karachi, and Islamabad produced more than one hundred and twenty million dollars in agreements. These events brought hundreds of Uzbek businesses into direct contact with Pakistani firms, strengthening long term commercial trust.



Permanent institutions such as trade houses in Lahore and Karachi, direct air links from Tashkent to Lahore and Islamabad, and simplified visa regimes have given structure to bilateral cooperation. The Preferential Trade Agreement is being expanded from seventeen goods to one hundred, while banking institutions are working to enable smoother mutual payment systems. Cultural exchanges and educational visits have also accelerated, including youth forums, university

partnerships, and tourism delegations.

Preparations are now underway for the first Made in Pakistan exhibition in Tashkent in December, which will feature textiles, processed food, jewelry, furniture, sports equipment, and handicrafts. The Uzbek Embassy has pledged to fully support this exhibition, which is expected to strengthen economic relations, showcase Pakistan's industries in Central Asia, and build momentum toward the target of two billion dollars in annual trade. ■

South-South Collaboration: Pakistan-Uzbekistan Bolster Energy Dialogue



Ambassador of Uzbekistan to Pakistan H.E Alisher Tukhtaev presenting a souvenir to Federal Minister for Petroleum Ali Pervaiz Malik

ISLAMABAD – Following Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's successful visit to Tashkent, Pakistan and Uzbekistan have fast-tracked their collaboration in energy sectors. Federal Petroleum Minister Ali Pervaiz Malik met with Uzbek Ambassador Alisher Tukhtaev to discuss joint ventures in oil and synthetic fuel.

The two sides proposed the establishment of a Pakistan-Uzbekistan Energy Working Group, which will serve as a bilateral mechanism for coordinating investment, project implementation, and strategic planning.

The conversation also revisited the goal of achieving \$2 billion in bilateral trade, with emphasis on Pakistan's growing demand for refined energy products and Uzbekistan's expanding fuel export capacity. The countries reaffirmed their desire to jointly address regional energy security challenges. ■



Pakistan and Uzbekistan Vow to Deepen Strategic Partnership at 34th Independence Day Reception in Islamabad

Islamabad, September 10, 2025: The 34th Anniversary of Uzbekistan's Independence was marked with a grand reception at Serena Hotel, Islamabad, hosted by Ambassador H.E. Alisher Tukhtaev and his spouse. Federal Minister for Railways, Mr. Mohammad Hanif Abbasi, attended as chief guest along with senior officials, foreign envoys, and dignitaries.

In his remarks, Minister Abbasi stressed that railways and transport could play a pivotal role in enhancing regional connectivity and bringing Pakistan and Uzbekistan closer. He reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to strengthening ties in trade, investment, culture, and education, noting that the two countries are bound by centuries of history and fraternal ties.

Ambassador Tukhtaev, addressing in both English and Urdu, said Independence Day is "the heartbeat of our nation." He

highlighted Uzbekistan's economic transformation under President Shavkat Mirziyoyev, noting six percent annual growth, a GDP of 115 billion dollars, record exports, and rising foreign investment. He emphasized that Uzbekistan is no longer just a raw material exporter but is diversifying its industries, tourism, and green energy.

The Ambassador also underlined growing bilateral trade, which has reached 320 million dollars this year, a 126 percent increase, with a target of 2 billion dollars set by both governments. He praised direct flights, exhibitions, and cultural exchanges as drivers of stronger people-to-people links.

The reception featured cultural performances by Uzbek artists and traditional cuisine, including the popular Pilao, leaving a memorable impression on the guests. ■



Pakistan and Azerbaijan Vow to Deepen Defence Relations

RAWALPINDI: Colonel General Karim Valiyev, First Deputy Minister of Defence and Chief of the General Staff of the Azerbaijan Army, called on Chief of Army Staff (COAS) Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir, NI (M), at the General Headquarters (GHQ).

Both sides discussed matters of mutual interest, focusing on the evolving global and regional security environment. COAS reaffirmed Pakistan's deep-rooted fraternal ties with Azerbaijan and expressed the resolve to further strengthen bilateral relations in defence and security. He also congratulated Colonel General Valiyev on the historic peace agreement between Azerbaijan and Armenia, terming it a significant milestone for regional stability.

Colonel General Valiyev lauded the professionalism of the Pakistan Armed Forces and conveyed his best wishes for Pakistan's Independence Day. He praised Pakistan's counterterrorism efforts and reaffirmed Azerbaijan's determination to enhance defence collaboration. On behalf of President Ilham Aliyev, he conferred upon COAS Field Marshal Asim Munir Azerbaijan's prestigious Patriotic War Medal for "Services in the Field of Military Cooperation," recognizing his contributions to fostering Pakistan-Azerbaijan defence relations.

Upon arrival at GHQ, Colonel General Valiyev was presented with a guard of honour and laid a floral wreath at the Yadgar-e-Shuhada to pay tribute to Pakistan's martyrs. Both sides reiterated their shared commitment to enhancing



military-to-military exchanges and working together for regional peace and stability. ■

Pakistani Embassies Celebrate 78th Independence Day with Zeal



ISLAMABAD: Pakistani embassies across the world celebrated the country's 78th Independence Day with traditional zeal, hosting flag-hoisting ceremonies and highlighting the historical significance of the occasion.

Saudi Arabia: A graceful ceremony was held at the under-construction Chancery building of the Consulate General in Jeddah. Consul General Khalid Majid led the event, joined by a large number of community members and legendary cricketer Javed Miandad. Special messages from Pakistan's leadership were read out, while students of the Pakistani School delivered patriotic speeches. Khalid Majid paid tribute to the founding fathers and highlighted Pakistan's achievements, particularly the success in Marka-e-Haq, which he described as a golden chapter in the nation's history.

Egypt: The Embassy in Cairo celebrated with Ambassador

Aamir Shouket hoisting the national flag at the Chancery. In his address, he praised the sacrifices of Pakistan's founding fathers and lauded the nation's unity and resilience, particularly during Operation Bunyan-Al-Marsoos in May 2025, which enhanced Pakistan's global standing as a dignified and responsible state.

United Arab Emirates: The Embassy in Abu Dhabi hosted a flag-hoisting ceremony attended by a large number of Pakistani community members. Ambassador Faisal Niaz Tirmizi congratulated the community and highlighted the guiding principles of unity, faith, and discipline as essential for Pakistan's socio-economic progress. He paid tribute to the resilience of the nation in the face of external aggression and recalled Pakistan's achievements in Marka-e-Haq and Operation Bunyan-um-Marsoos as historic milestones. ■

Aurangzeb Vows to Deepen Bilateral Ties with Turkmenistan



ISLAMABAD: Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb on Monday reaffirmed Pakistan's strong commitment to strengthening relations with Turkmenistan, describing the country as a brotherly partner with significant potential for trade and investment.

He made these remarks during a meeting with Ambassador of Turkmenistan Atadjan Movlamov, who called on him to discuss matters of mutual interest, with a focus on expanding bilateral trade, commerce, and investment. Ambassador Movlamov emphasized Turkmenistan's high regard for its partnership with Pakistan, highlighting Pakistan's role as an important trading and investment partner as well as a vital transit hub for bilateral and transnational trade.

The discussions explored avenues for joint ventures, particularly in energy, transportation, and construction. On behalf

of Turkmenistan's Minister of Finance and Economy Mammetguly Astanagulov, Ambassador Movlamov extended an invitation to Senator Aurangzeb to participate in the Turkmenistan Investment Forum, scheduled for mid-September in Ashgabat, coinciding with the 34th Anniversary of Turkmenistan's Independence.

Earlier, Senator Aurangzeb received a comprehensive briefing from the Competition Commission of Pakistan (CCP) regarding challenges in the sugar sector. The briefing, attended by senior officials including CCP Chairman Dr. Kabir Ahmed Sidhu, highlighted causes of recurring sugar crises in 2008-09, 2015-16, and 2019-20. Dr. Sidhu apprised the Minister of enforcement actions against cartelization and shared the Commission's ongoing work to prepare recommendations for the Sugar Sector Reform Committee. ■

Saudi Envoy Praises CDA's Performance, Discusses Pak–Saudi Cooperation

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Capital Development Authority (CDA) and Chief Commissioner Islamabad, Muhammad Ali Randhawa, met with Saudi Ambassador Nawaf bin Said Al-Malki to review cooperation and future initiatives. The Ambassador praised CDA's work under Randhawa, particularly its urban beautification and new projects that have transformed Islamabad into a modern, green city. He commended CDA's efforts in civic services and the establishment of a state-of-the-art nursery as a "Gardenia Hub."

The two sides discussed preparations for Saudi National Day on September 23 and explored opportunities in Islamabad's hotel industry. The Ambassador said that Saudi investors from the hospitality sector are planning visits to Pakistan.

Randhawa reaffirmed Islamabad's commitment to supporting Saudi cultural, economic, and religious initiatives, saying: "It is a privilege for our city to host partnerships with our brotherly country Saudi Arabia." The meeting ended with a pledge to deepen Pak-Saudi cooperation through joint urban, economic, and cultural projects. ■



Moroccan Ambassador Invites Pakistani Investors, Celebrates Throne Day in Islamabad



ISLAMABAD: The Embassy of the Kingdom of Morocco celebrated the 26th anniversary of the accession of His Majesty King Mohammed VI to the Throne with a grand reception at Serena Hotel. The event was attended by diplomats, senior officials, business leaders, and members of civil society. Federal Minister for National Food Security and Research Rana

Tanveer Hussain was the chief guest.

In his remarks, Ambassador Mohamed Karmoune highlighted Morocco's economic transformation under King Mohammed VI, particularly in the automotive, aviation, renewable energy, food, and tourism industries. He noted that Morocco's economy is now linked to nearly three billion consumers worldwide through free trade agreements with the EU, US, Turkey, UAE, Egypt, and others.

The Ambassador invited Pakistani investors to explore opportunities in Morocco, stressing its investment-friendly policies, major infrastructure projects, and strategic trade position. "I invite Pakistani businesses to take advantage of Morocco's economy and gain access to global markets," he said.

He also reaffirmed Morocco's deep friendship with Pakistan, built on shared values, mutual respect, and historic ties. He noted that upcoming high-level meetings will further strengthen cooperation in trade, defense, tourism, and joint ventures. The event concluded with a cultural reception featuring Moroccan cuisine, where the Ambassador declared: "Long live Morocco-Pakistan friendship." ■





Vietnam's 80th National Day Shines in Islamabad, Pakistan Backs Stronger Ties

The Embassy of Vietnam hosted a grand reception in Islamabad to mark the 80th Anniversary of Vietnam's Independence Day. The event was attended by senior Pakistani officials, diplomats, business leaders, and members of civil society.

Minister of State for Finance and Railways, Bilal Azhar Kayani, was the chief guest. Extending felicitations, he lauded Vietnam's remarkable economic and social progress and expressed Pakistan's desire to deepen bilateral cooperation. He also thanked Vietnam for its support at ASEAN forums.

Ambassador Pham Anh Tuan highlighted the 53 years of Pakistan-Vietnam diplomatic ties and noted that bilateral trade reached US\$850 million in 2024, with a target of US\$1 billion in 2025. He emphasized collaboration in textiles, pharmaceuticals, agriculture, and IT, assuring support for Pakistani businesses.

The evening featured cultural performances, traditional attire, and Vietnamese cuisine, celebrating the strong bonds of friendship and cooperation between the two nations.



Pakistan and Ethiopia Join Hands for a Greener Future



Islamabad: In a historic demonstration of international climate solidarity, Pakistan has joined Ethiopia's ambitious "Renewal Through Planting" campaign, contributing to a record initiative of planting 700 million seedlings in a single day under Ethiopia's Green Legacy Initiative. Launched in 2019 by Ethiopian Prime Minister Dr. Abiy Ahmed, the Green Legacy aims to restore ecological balance, reduce carbon emissions and soil erosion, and promote sustainable development and food security.

To mark Pakistan's participation, the Ethiopian Embassy in Islamabad organized a plantation drive and media briefing, drawing attendance from diplomats, parliamentarians, government officials, business leaders, youth, religious figures, and civil society. Federal Minister for Climate Change and Environmental Coordination Dr. Musadik Malik graced the event as chief guest, with Additional Secretary (Africa) Hamid Asghar Khan representing Pakistan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Ethiopian Ambassador Dr. Jemal Beker praised Pakistan's commitment to climate action, calling the partnership a powerful message that both countries stand united in combating climate change. He also announced that a high-level Ethiopian delegation of officials and climate experts will soon visit Pakistan to participate in "Green Dialogues" and joint plantation campaigns.

Further advancing this spirit of collaboration, the "Ethiopia-Pakistan Green Dialogue: Lessons from Ethiopia's Green Legacy" was held at the COMSTECH Secretariat in Islamabad. The

event, co-organized by COMSTECH and the Ethiopian Embassy, began with national anthems and a special documentary on Ethiopia's reforestation achievements. In his address, Prof. Dr.



M. Iqbal Choudhary, Coordinator General of COMSTECH, emphasized the importance of green diplomacy and collective action. Ambassador Dr. Je-



mal Beker outlined Ethiopia's success in setting an international benchmark for combating climate change through mass plantation and community-driven sustainability.

The dialogue was graced by Senator Yusuf Raza Gillani, Chairman Senate of Pakistan, who noted that despite contributing less than one percent of global emissions, Pakistan remains one of the most climate-vulnerable countries. He highlighted Pakistan's leadership role in climate diplomacy, including pushing for the Loss and Damage Fund at COP27 and advancing climate finance discussions at COP29. Stressing South-South cooperation, he invited Ethiopia's parliamentary leadership to Pakistan's upcoming Inter-Parliamentary Speakers' Conference.

The programme featured Green Legacy Awards, a symbolic tree plantation ceremony, and a thought-provoking panel discussion that brought together experts and policymakers. They shared strategies for ecological restoration, policy reforms, and community engagement. The dialogue concluded with strong commitments from both sides to deepen cooperation in climate resilience, sustainable development, and environmental diplomacy.

With Pakistan and Ethiopia aligning their efforts, the partnership stands as a model of South-South collaboration in addressing one of the greatest challenges of the century—climate change—while paving the way for greener, more sustainable futures for both nations. ■



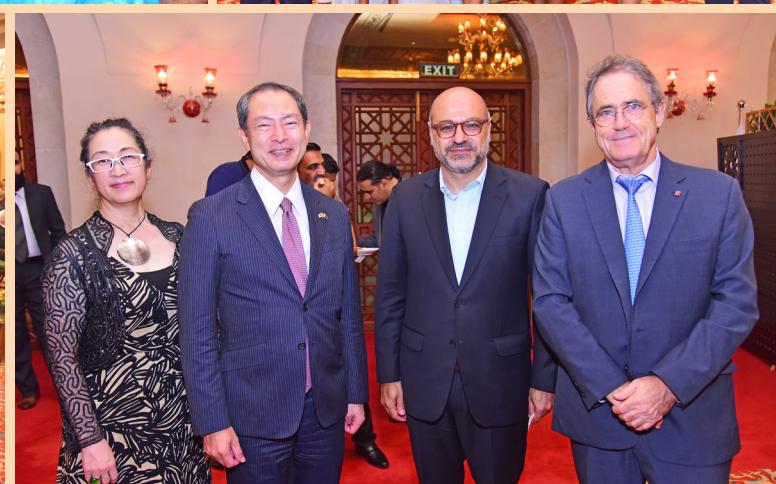
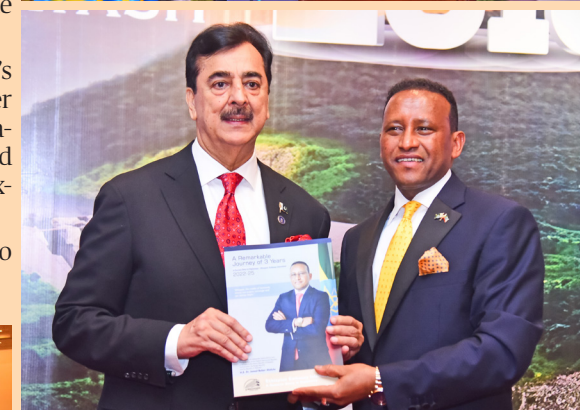
Ethiopian New Year Enkutatash Celebrated in Islamabad, Marking Deeper Ties with Pakistan

Islamabad: The Ethiopian community in Pakistan, along with senior officials and dignitaries, celebrated the New Year festival of Enkutatash at Serena Hotel in Islamabad, reflecting the strengthening friendship between Ethiopia and Pakistan.

The ceremony was attended by Chief Guest and Chairman Senate, Syed Yousaf Raza Gillani, along with Defence Minister Khawaja Muhammad Asif. Federal Minister for Culture Aurangzeb Khichi and the Ambassador of Ethiopia to Pakistan, Jemal Beker Abdula, joined other distinguished guests in a cake-cutting ceremony to usher in the Ethiopian year 2018.

Speaking on the occasion, Ambassador Jemal Beker Abdula emphasized Ethiopia's strong commitment to its relations with Pakistan. He recalled the growing number of high-level visits between the two countries that have reinforced bilateral cooperation. The Ambassador also praised the launch of direct flights connecting Pakistan and Ethiopia, describing it as a milestone that has enhanced people-to-people contacts, expanded trade opportunities, and promoted cultural exchanges.

The festive evening highlighted not only the celebration of Ethiopia's New Year but also the expanding partnership between the two brotherly nations. ■



Envoys of Multiple Countries and the European Union Present Credentials to President Asif Ali Zardari



Islamabad, September 10, 2025: President Asif Ali Zardari today received the credentials of newly appointed envoys from Sri Lanka, Indonesia (Chairman ASEAN Countries), Kyrgyzstan, Austria, Germany, Greece, Hungary, and the European Union at an impressive ceremony held at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

On arrival at the Presidency, the envoys were accorded a guard of honour by a smartly turned-out contingent of the Armed Forces, followed by formal introductions. The ceremony was attended by senior officials of the Presidency and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The President felicitated the Ambassadors and High Commissioners on assuming their responsibilities and expressed confidence that their presence in Pakistan would lead to stronger bilateral and multilateral engagement. He underlined Pakistan's commitment to expanding cooperation in diverse sectors, including trade, economy, culture, and people-to-people

exchanges.

President Zardari emphasized that Pakistan attaches great importance to cultivating partnerships across Asia and Europe and is keen to work closely with its international partners to promote peace, development, and mutual prosperity. He assured the envoys of the Government of Pakistan's full support in the discharge of their diplomatic responsibilities.

The envoys, while conveying warm greetings from their respective heads of state and governments, pledged to work towards enhancing cooperation with Pakistan. They expressed determination to advance collaboration in areas of mutual interest and strengthen ties during their assignments.

The ceremony reflected Pakistan's proactive diplomacy and its emphasis on building broad-based partnerships with countries across different regions, reinforcing its commitment to deeper international engagement. ■

Pakistan and Russia Explore Strategic Dimensions in Think Tank Dialogue



MOSCOW – A high-level strategic dialogue between Pakistan's Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) and Russia's Institute of China and Contemporary Asia (ICCA RAS) took place in Moscow to deepen bilateral academic cooperation and explore evolving geopolitical realities.

Led by Ambassador Sohail Mahmood, the Pakistani delegation engaged in robust discussions covering regional security dynamics, political collaboration, and humanitarian challenges. The dialogue reaffirmed the relevance of the April 2025 Memorandum of Understanding signed between the two institutes in Islamabad.

The meeting focused on collaborative research and joint publications that can serve as a foundation for future diplomatic and policy alignment. Scholars from both sides emphasized the importance of understanding Eurasian regional complexities and pledged to institutionalize annual exchange visits, think tank roundtables, and multi-lingual publications to bridge academic gaps between the two nations. ■

Pakistan Invites Rwanda to Inter-Parliamentary Speakers' Conference in Islamabad



ISLAMABAD: Advisor to the Senate Chairman Misbah Khar formally invited Rwanda to the first Inter-Parliamentary Speakers' Conference (ISC) scheduled for November 11-12 in Islamabad.

The ISC, a newly established multilateral forum, aims to promote dialogue on global challenges including climate change, water and energy security, and parliamentary cooperation. Khar emphasized Rwanda's role in the success of this landmark event, which will bring together parliamentary leaders from around the world. ■

Haroon Akhtar to Represent Pakistan at World Expo in Japan



ISLAMABAD: Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Industries and Production Haroon Akhtar Khan has been invited by Japanese Ambassador Akamatsu Shuichi to attend the World Expo 2025 in Osaka.

Khan will represent Pakistan at the Pavilion, meet senior Japanese leaders, and promote cultural heritage and business opportunities. He said the visit will strengthen trade and investment ties, especially as Pakistan introduces new Industrial and Energy Vehicle Policies under Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif. ■

Pakistan Must Stand With China

By: Maarij Farooq

Pakistan today finds itself in a complex geopolitical environment where its relationships with major powers are being tested and redefined. The recent growing proximity between Pakistan and the United States, coupled with China's steadfast partnership, presents both opportunities and challenges for our foreign policy. It is imperative that Pakistan maintains cordial relations with all countries, as this is a principle that should guide our diplomacy. However, this must be done without compromising the trust and loyalty of those who have stood by Pakistan through its most difficult times.

History shows that Pakistan has often played on both sides of the field, shifting alliances in pursuit of short-term gains. From the early days of the Cold War to more recent decades, we have witnessed moments when Pakistan stood firmly with one partner only to seek benefits from the other, switching allegiances when it suited immediate needs. This approach has often come at a cost, eroding trust and creating doubts about our long-term commitments.

The launch of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) in 2013 marked a turning point in our bilateral relations with China. CPEC became the flagship project of the Belt and Road Initiative, symbolizing a new era of economic cooperation and strategic trust between the two countries. China invested heavily in infrastructure, energy, and connectivity projects in Pakistan, cementing a friendship that has proven resilient in the face of global and regional shifts. It is no secret that America's distance from Pakistan in recent years was partly due to our deepening ties with China.

Recent events have again highlighted China's role as a reliable partner. Pakistan's decisive victory over India was made possible in large part due to Chinese support, including the provision of high-quality fighter jets and other critical assistance. This was not just a matter of military hardware, it was a demonstration of political will and strategic alignment. Yet, the renewed warmth in relations with Washington, particularly during Donald Trump's tenure, has created a situation that could tempt Pakistan to once again shift its loyalties.

Such a move would be a grave mistake. De-

cision makers must remember that China has been Pakistan's only consistent friend when many global powers, and even much of the Muslim world, chose to distance themselves. President Xi Jinping's visit to Pakistan, where he announced CPEC as the Belt and Road Initiative's flagship project, was a clear statement of trust and commitment. China has even paid the ultimate price, with Chinese workers losing their lives in Pakistan, yet it remains firmly committed to our partnership.

Pakistan has not always reciprocated this loyalty in full measure. We have failed to provide adequate security to Chinese nationals working in our country, failed to give assurances to their businesses, and at times failed to extend the full measure of support



that our Chinese partners deserve. Despite this, China has continued to stand shoulder to shoulder with Pakistan. This steadfastness should not be taken for granted.

Any shift in Pakistan's strategic orientation away from China in pursuit of short-term benefits from other powers would not only be shameful but would also damage our credibility in the eyes of the world. We should take a lesson from our neighbor India, which has demonstrated that consistency in strategic alignment builds influence and trust over time. If Pakistan cannot stand firmly with one side, it risks being sidelined by all.

Our future is directly linked to China. Be-

yond economics and defense, this is a partnership grounded in mutual respect and shared strategic interests. China is willing to do even more to support Pakistan's development and security, but our bureaucracy, our decision makers, and our establishment must prioritize this relationship. Public sentiment in Pakistan is already clear. Ask any ordinary citizen and they will affirm that China is Pakistan's only true friend. This is not an empty slogan, it is a reflection of lived experience.

Chinese nationals living and working in Pakistan often say they do not feel like they are in a foreign country. The warmth of people-to-people exchanges has been a vital part of building this trust. Pakistani hospitality, combined with China's commit-

ment to our progress, has created a bond that is rare in today's fractured world. It is now the responsibility of those in power to safeguard and strengthen this bond, not jeopardize it for fleeting diplomatic shifts.

Pakistan's history of switching sides has too often undermined its strategic interests. This is the moment to break that pattern. We must stand our ground with China, not as a matter of convenience, but as a matter of principle, foresight, and national interest. The stakes are too high for missteps, and the opportunities too significant to squander. ■

The writer is the deputy editor-in-chief at Pakistan Economic Network & Daily Ittehad Media Group.

Pakistan Army Celebrated PLA Ceremony

中国人民解放军建军九十八周年
98TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF
CHINESE PEOPLE'S LIBERATION ARMY



RAWALPINDI: The 98th Anniversary of the founding of the People's Liberation Army (PLA) of China was commemorated at GHQ with Ambassador Jiang Zaidong as chief guest. Senior officers from both countries attended the ceremony.

Chief of Army Staff Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir congratulated the PLA and lauded its role in China's defense and nation-building. He emphasized that Pakistan-China

relations remain unique, time-tested, and resilient amid evolving global challenges. "The Pakistan Army and PLA are true brothers in arms, and our enduring partnership is central to regional peace and stability," he said.

The Chinese Ambassador expressed gratitude for Pakistan's support, acknowledged the Pakistan Army's role in counterterrorism, and reaffirmed China's commitment to the strategic partnership. ■

Strategic Defence Engagement Between Pakistan and China Air Forces

ISLAMABAD – Pakistan and China reaffirmed their strategic airpower alliance during a high-level meeting between Chief of the Air Staff Zaheer Ahmed Baber Sidhu and Lt. Gen Wang Gang, Chief of Staff of the People's Liberation Army Air Force (PLAAF).

Both parties discussed regional threats, integration of Multi-Domain Operations, and training collaborations. Lt. Gen Wang commended PAF's professionalism, particularly during recent tensions, and emphasized long-standing strategic trust between the two air forces.

The two sides pledged to advance joint defence exercises and technology transfers, reflecting the enduring synergy that underpins Pakistan-China military ties. ■





Ina Lepel Kickstarts Second Tenure as German Ambassador

By: Tahir Farooq

Germany has reinforced its relationship with Pakistan by appointing Ina Lepel as ambassador in Islamabad for a second time. Few diplomats serve two terms in the same posting, making this appointment a rare expression of Berlin's confidence in her experience and familiarity with Pakistan's landscape.

Ambassador Lepel previously served as Germany's envoy to Pakistan from 2015 to 2019, where she earned recognition for her accessibility, people-to-people focus, and diplomatic acumen. Her return in 2025 signals a determination to deepen cooperation in renewable energy, vocational training, climate change adaptation, and industrial modernization.

Germany is a leading partner in Pakistan's green transition. Projects related to solar and wind energy, efficient water use, and vocational training are areas where German expertise has already left a positive mark. With Germany also being a central actor in the European Union's GSP Plus framework, Ambassador Lepel's role carries additional weight in ensuring Pakistan maintains and expands its trade access to European markets.

At the Aiwan e Sadr, where she presented her credentials, President Asif Ali Zardari emphasized Germany's role in supporting industrial reforms and climate resilience. With trade diversification, green energy, and technical education as shared priorities, the second tenure of Ambassador Lepel is likely to build a more practical and innovation-focused partnership between the two countries.



German Ambassador Ina Lepel has officially begun her second tenure in Pakistan, marking an important milestone in the continuation of Pakistan-Germany relations. During her first assignment in the country from 2015 to 2017, Ambassador Lepel played a highly positive role by engaging with communities and institutions across Pakistan. Her visits to major cities including Karachi, Lahore, Peshawar, and many others reflected her commitment to strengthening bilateral ties and building meaningful connections.

Ambassador Lepel brings with her an impressive diplomatic career spanning decades. She has served as Ambassador to Indonesia, ASEAN, and Timor Leste, as well as Ambassador to Japan. She was also the Director-General for Asia and the Pacific at the German Federal Foreign Office in Berlin, and previously held the position of Deputy Director-General for Global Issues, covering the UN Security Council, crisis prevention, humanitarian assistance, and counter-terrorism. Earlier in her career, she worked at the German Embassy in Islamabad as Deputy Head of Mission, at the UN Mission in New York, and within the German Chancellor's Office in Berlin.

As she embarks on this second tenure in Pakistan, there is optimism that Pakistan-Germany relations will further deepen and broaden. With her extensive experience and familiarity with Pakistan, it is expected that new avenues of cooperation will emerge in areas such as trade, education, climate resilience, technology, and the media sector. This renewed engagement is seen as the beginning of a promising era of collaboration and friendship between the two countries.



Serena Hotels Launches Global Prestige Club Loyalty Programme

ISLAMABAD: Serena Hotels unveiled its new global loyalty programme, Prestige Club, at a simultaneous launch across all its properties. The event at Islamabad Serena Hotel gathered diplomats, officials, corporate leaders, and members. The programme offers exclusive benefits on dining, wellness, and hotel services, with a dedicated mobile app for redemptions and reservations. CEO Aziz Boolani said the launch was "a commitment to elevating guest experiences and strengthening long-term relationships with Serena's valued clientele."





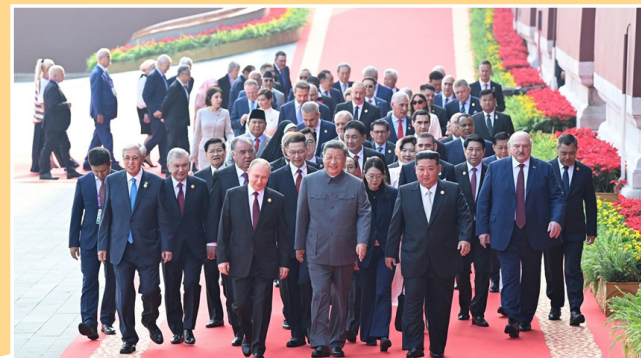
Beijing Parade Marks 80th Anniversary of China's Resistance, A Lesson for the World

Special Report

The recent military parade in Beijing, commemorating the 80th anniversary of the victory in the Chinese People's War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression and the World Anti-Fascist War, was much more than a display of military strength. It was a solemn reminder of China's immense sacrifices, the resilience of its people, and the enduring lessons that its struggle against fascism holds for the entire world. This commemoration was not confined to historical memory, rather it was a call to reflect on the meaning of unity, sovereignty, and global cooperation in an era where these principles are once again being tested.

China's resistance against Japanese aggression stands as one of the most remarkable and defining struggles of the twentieth century. Beginning in 1937, Japan's imperial forces unleashed devastation across Chinese cities and villages, turning a proud civilization into battlegrounds of suffering. The scale of destruction was staggering, with countless lives lost, towns razed, and unimaginable atrocities committed. Yet, amid this ordeal, the Chinese people demonstrated resilience that astonished the world.

What makes this resistance extraordinary is not just its duration or the magnitude of sacrifice but the collective spirit that drove it. Farmers, workers, intellectuals, and soldiers all became part of a nationwide effort to defend sovereignty. Against overwhelming odds, the people of China turned their determination into an indomitable shield. Their sacrifices were not only for the defense of their homeland but for the broader struggle of humanity against fascism and oppression.





The Chinese front in the Second World War was not a regional skirmish, it was a central theater in the global campaign against fascism. By tying down millions of Japanese troops, China prevented their redeployment to other battlefields, indirectly aiding the Allied effort. The endurance of China's resistance stretched the resources of Japanese militarism to a breaking point. This contribution is often understated in Western narratives, but for historians and global citizens who value truth, China's role was indispensable.

By the end of the war, China emerged battered yet unbowed, its sacrifices etched in history as a testament to the will of a people who refused to surrender their dignity. The victory in 1945 symbolized not just the end of foreign aggression but the triumph of collective courage over tyranny.

The anniversary parade in Beijing brought into sharp focus an enduring truth, that the survival and eventual victory of China were made possible through unity. The lesson resonates profoundly today. For nations confronting external pressure, internal instability, or ideological assaults, China's history teaches that national cohesion is the greatest defense.

Unlike short-lived resistance movements that faltered due to disunity, China's struggle endured because of its broad-based participation. It was not a war fought solely by armies on the frontlines, it was a war sustained by the resilience of the entire population. In the face of modern challenges from hybrid warfare to economic coercion, the Chinese example underscores the importance of solidarity in preserving sovereignty.

The commemoration of the 80th anniversary is not a ritual of nostalgia. It is a mirror for today's world, where new forms of hegemony and coercion threaten international peace. The rise of protectionism, unilateralism, and geopolitical rivalries once again test the



very foundations of global stability.

China's message to the world is clear, peace is not a gift handed down by the powerful, it is earned and protected through sacrifice, resilience, and cooperation. In an age when small nations often feel vulnerable before the might of greater powers, the Chinese resistance stands as a beacon, affirming that steadfastness can overcome oppression.

The vision articulated by Chinese leadership, of building a community with a shared future for mankind, flows directly from this historical experience. It is the continuation of the lesson that war and domination lead only to devastation, whereas cooperation, mutual respect, and peaceful coexistence pave the way for lasting prosperity.

Perhaps the most striking element of China's commemoration is the contrast between its past and its present. The nation that once bore the brunt of invasion and subjugation has today risen as a pillar of stability and development in the international system. This transformation is itself a tribute to the spirit of resistance that carried China through its darkest hours.

By lifting hundreds of millions out of poverty, investing in science and technology, and playing a constructive role in global governance, China has ensured that the sacrifices of its martyrs were not in vain. Its modern achievements reaffirm that the legacy of resistance is not only about remembering the past but about building a future that avoids the mistakes of history.

The world today faces crises ranging from conflicts in fragile regions to climate change, terrorism, and pandemics. Each of these challenges requires a spirit of collective resolve akin to what China





displayed eight decades ago. The lesson of the Chinese resistance is that only through solidarity and sacrifice can humanity overcome the gravest of threats.

For developing nations in particular, China's history offers a source of inspiration. It demonstrates that external domination, however powerful, cannot extinguish the will of a determined people. It shows that sovereignty is not granted, it is defended. For countries grappling with external pressures, the Chinese example offers both a moral compass and a strategic guide.

As China marked this anniversary with a solemn yet powerful military parade, it reminded the world that the memory of past sacrifices is not for ceremonial display but for moral renewal. The rows of disciplined troops, the advanced defense technologies, and the dignified presence of veterans all underscored one message, China remembers, and in remembering, it renews its commitment to peace and to the defense of its sovereignty.

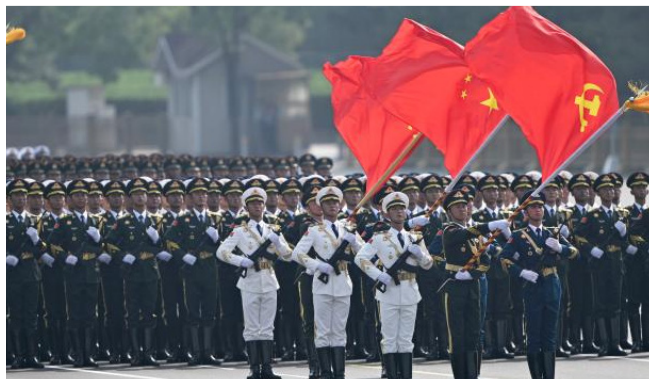
The younger generations in China and beyond must see this commemoration not as a distant history but as a living lesson. In a cen-



tury where global competition and ideological divides persist, the story of China's resistance should inspire a new ethic of responsibility, one that values resilience over submission, cooperation over coercion, and justice over might.

The 80th anniversary of China's victory in the War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression and the World Anti-Fascist War is more than a commemoration. It is a reminder that the course of history is shaped not only by great powers but by the courage of ordinary people united in purpose. China's resistance, forged in blood and sacrifice, altered the trajectory of the Second World War and offered humanity a timeless lesson, that oppression can be resisted, tyranny can be defeated, and peace can be achieved when nations stand together.

Today, as the world confronts renewed tensions and uncertainties, China's legacy of resistance is not just history, it is a guiding light. It is a lesson for the present and a promise for the future, that the sacrifices of yesterday continue to inspire the pursuit of a just and peaceful world tomorrow. ■



Pakistan Cannot Afford to Waver on China



By: Tahir Farooq

Pakistan is once again walking a tight-rope in its foreign policy. On one side, Washington is re-engaging, eager to pull Islamabad back into its orbit. On the other, Beijing remains the one partner that has consistently delivered, economically, militarily, and diplomatically, without asking Pakistan to compromise its sovereignty. The stakes could not be higher, and the choice could not be clearer.

For decades, Pakistan has had a habit of shifting alliances for short-term gain. From the Cold War to the War on Terror, Islamabad has jumped from one camp to another, often leaving a trail of damaged trust behind. That kind of transactional diplomacy might win headlines, but it never builds lasting partnerships.

China changed that dynamic. Since the launch of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor in 2013, Beijing has invested billions in Pakistan's infrastructure, energy, and connectivity, projects that have reshaped the country's development map. CPEC is not just an economic venture, it is a strategic lifeline. The United States might offer words, but China has delivered roads, ports, power plants, and investment, often

in the face of real security risks.

Let's be blunt, Pakistan's recent military edge over India was made possible in part by Chinese support, high-end fighter jets, technology, and political backing. Beijing stood firm while others, including parts of the Muslim world, stayed silent. Yet, with a warmer tone now coming from



Washington, the temptation to "rebalance" is back. That would be a dangerous mistake.

China has paid in blood for its friendship with Pakistan. Its engineers and workers

have been targeted on Pakistani soil, yet Beijing has not pulled back. Meanwhile, Pakistan has too often failed to provide the protection and assurances that such a partner deserves. This is not just poor diplomacy, it is reckless.

The lesson from global politics is simple, reliability matters. India has gained influence in Washington precisely because it sticks to its strategic choices. If Pakistan wants to be taken seriously, it must do the same. Playing both sides might feel clever in the short term, but it only ensures mistrust in the long run.

China is not a temporary ally. It is a partner whose interests align with Pakistan's security, stability, and economic growth. Walking away, or even appearing to hedge, would not only betray that trust, it would weaken Pakistan's own position in a world where strong alliances are everything.

The time for opportunistic diplomacy is over. Pakistan must plant its flag firmly. In today's geopolitical climate, standing shoulder to shoulder with China is not just smart foreign policy, it is survival. ■

The writer is Editor-in-Chief of Daily Ittehad Media Group and Pakistan Economic Network. He is also the Vice President of Council of Pakistan Newspaper Editors.

China's South Asia strategy and Geopolitical Shifts



Tahir Farooq
CHAIRMAN/ EDITOR IN CHIEF
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GROUP
V.P COUNCIL OF PAKISTAN
NEWSPAPER EDITORS

China's positioning in geo-politics due to realignments in the global politics have redefined its South Asia's strategy. Recent visits of Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi to three important countries — Pakistan, Afghanistan and India shows its pivotal place in the South Asian politics in shaping its relations at regional level. The presence of Wang Yi in Pakistan is a strategic and conventional matter owing to closer ties with Pakistan, his first ever visit to India since 2022 after chilly relations over Laddakh incident and a day trip to Afghanistan shows seriousness and consistent approach of China towards South Asia, ultimately showing China as a leading power of Global South.

China has skillfully used the recent developments in South Asia that shows grounded, yet mature diplomacy. Donald Trump's tariff war on India on importing Russian oil; India's reluctance to acknowledge Trump's mediatory efforts on stopping Pakistan-India war, are few to mention on regional geo-politics shifts. China's approach in New Delhi was for cooperation, connectivity and its long term

vision over opportunity. Wang Yi didn't rub salt on wounds, reflects Beijing's consistent response unlike conventional powers that are swayed by taking shifts in regional politics.

A similar analysis of Pakistan-US relations explains a familiar trend in the behaviour of international players in South Asia. Trump's symbolic gestures at the luncheon with Pakistani leadership and Washington's recent focus on Pakistan's mineral and rare earth resources,



to name few shows the same recurring historical pattern nature of U.S.-Pakistan relations. These ties oscillating between cooperation and mistrust further accentuate to have a stable global power particularly, China with steady presence and which is now crucial for ensuring stability in geo-regional politics.

India had to readjust its priorities

with China in the wake of US tariff pressure over importing Russian oil and US's visible support for Pakistan over India. India once comfortable within "US-India anti-China's cocoon" is now forced to make changes in its foreign policy. The decision to participate in the SCO 2025 might not have been in India's radar before such developments — reflects these readjustments. Pakistan for now need to avoid reaction with the sudden US policy shifts. Now is time to learn from the past and avoid knee jerk reactions in the wake of "pragmatic choices". With China, Pakistan has to be consistent and hand in hand due to certain major developments ahead; China is set to kick off CPEC-II (amid concerns of security of Chinese personnel as well as progress on CPEC I); joint ventures are planned in agriculture, climate and minerals sectors and the SCO 2025 where Russia, India and South Korea are there at the same time., Pakistan has to be there with China as strategic partner.

Both Pakistan and China should look at the changing global dynamics implying direct effects at regional level. The revived relations between Islamabad and Washington, in light of revived ties between Beijing and New Delhi are to be gauged without any abrupt reaction given an unpredictable history of US in South Asia. Pakistan's improving ties with Bangladesh is another benchmark to reset the regional geopolitics that goes in favor of Pakistan and China. It has already shaken the India's hard line and hegemonic policy in the region. The recent shifts in US foreign policy towards South Asia's favor China to prove its power as a trusted Global South power in the world politics. The SCO 2025 is shaping to be China's magnificent power show! ■





Strengthening Ties through Dialogue, Victor Gao Meets Tahir Farooq

Victor Gao, Vice President of the China Center for Globalization, held a cordial and insightful meeting with Tahir Farooq, Chairman of the Daily Ittehad Media Group. The exchange was marked by warmth, substance, and a shared commitment to deepening China Pakistan understanding through thoughtful engagement and responsible media.

Widely respected as a leading scholar and commentator, Victor Gao reaffirmed his support for Pakistan and spoke of the resilience of its people. He praised the role of the Pakistan Army and the Pakistan Air Force during the recent conflict between Pakistan and India, noting their professionalism, discipline, and contribution to regional stability.

The conversation also touched on President Xi Jinping's vision of a shared future for mankind. Both sides noted its relevance to a world that benefits from cooperation, inclusive development, and steady dialogue across cultures and regions. In this spirit, Pakistan's place in advancing connectivity and mutual prosperity was acknowledged with appreciation.

CPEC and its second phase, CPEC 2.0, were also discussed as transformative

frameworks for Pakistan's economic and social development. The projects under CPEC were recognized as a cornerstone of the bilateral partnership, opening new avenues for infrastructure development, industrial growth, and regional integration. Both Gao and Tahir Farooq stressed the importance of ensuring that CPEC 2.0 continues to generate opportunities for



people, strengthen regional linkages, and stand as a model of cooperation under the Belt and Road Initiative.

During the meeting, Tahir Farooq also presented to Victor Gao a historic book about China written in 1980 by his late father, Mr Shari Farooq. This book is regarded as

one of the oldest publications about China in Pakistan and stands as a testament to the Farooq family's decades-long commitment to strengthening China Pakistan friendship.

The role of the new generation was also highlighted, with Executive Editor of the Daily Ittehad Media Group, Mr Moiz Farooq, actively contributing to the discussion and emphasizing the importance of

Widely respected as a leading scholar and commentator, Victor Gao reaffirmed his support for Pakistan and spoke of the resilience of its people

modern media platforms in amplifying the narrative of cooperation, trust, and shared prosperity.

The meeting concluded with a shared resolve to broaden cooperation in research, media, and public diplomacy. Voices like Victor Gao's, grounded in knowledge and friendship with Pakistan, continue to add clarity to regional conversations and reinforce the trust that underpins the China Pakistan partnership. ■

Chinese Embassy in Pakistan Celebrates 98th Anniversary of the People's Liberation Army



Islamabad: The Embassy of the People's Republic of China in Pakistan hosted a grand reception to mark the 98th anniversary of the founding of the People's Liberation Army (PLA). The ceremony brought together an esteemed gathering of dignitaries, including senior military officials, government representatives, diplomats, members of the civil society, and prominent figures from Islamabad.

The event was graced by Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee, General Saher Shamshad, who attended as the Chief Guest. In his keynote address, General Shamshad congratulated the Chinese people and their armed forces on the historic occasion, while underlining the depth of Pakistan and China's relations. He described the bilateral partnership as

one that transcends ordinary friendship, calling it a bond forged in trust, mutual respect, and shared sacrifices. "Pakistan and China are not just friends, we are brothers whose destinies are interlinked. Our relationship is ironclad, time tested, and an enduring source of strength for both nations," he remarked.

General Shamshad reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to ensuring the safety and security of Chinese citizens working in the country. He stressed that Chinese engineers, technicians, and professionals contributing to Pakistan's progress, particularly through projects under the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), will be provided with complete protection. "The Government of Pakistan and our security institutions are fully dedicated to safeguarding Chinese workers. Their contribution to our economic growth and development is invaluable, and their safety is our responsibility," he emphasized.

Speaking about the ongoing collaboration under the second phase of CPEC, General Shamshad highlighted that both countries have entered a new era of partnership. He noted that projects related to industrial cooperation, agriculture, information technology, and energy diversification are not only strengthening Pakistan's economy but are also creating opportunities for future generations. "The second phase of CPEC will transform Pakistan's socio economic landscape, and together with China, we are determined to complete it successfully," he added.

The reception also featured addresses by Chinese officials who expressed gratitude to Pakistan for its unwavering sup-





port and solidarity. They acknowledged the sacrifices made by Pakistan's armed forces and security institutions in protecting Chinese nationals and projects in the country. Chinese representatives reiterated that the PLA, since its foundation 98 years ago, has stood as a symbol of China's strength, unity, and commitment to peace. They stressed that the friendship between Pakistan and China will remain unshakable despite global and regional challenges.

The gathering was attended by senior officials from Pakistan's armed forces, representatives from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, members of the diplomatic corps, and influential figures from Islamabad's political, business, and academic circles. The presence of such a wide range of dignitaries reaffirmed the

significance of the event and reflected the importance both countries place on their partnership.

The 98th anniversary of the People's Liberation Army thus became not only a celebration of China's military strength but also a reaffirmation of the deep rooted brotherhood between Pakistan and China. General Saher Shamshad's assurance of complete security for Chinese nationals, along with the shared commitment to completing the second phase of CPEC, underscored the forward-looking vision of both countries. The event echoed the longstanding reality that the Pakistan-China bond is not merely diplomatic, but one of blood, sweat, and shared aspirations for a better future.

China and Pakistan, Disaster Preparedness and Infrastructure Safety



China and Pakistan have strengthened cooperation in disaster preparedness through a swift water rescue training program in Islamabad. Conducted by a seven-member Chinese expert team led by Commander Zhong Yang of the Blue Sky Rescue Team, the training introduced Pakistani responders to advanced techniques in river rescue, rope handling, and coordination. The program reflects a shared commitment to strengthening Pakistan's resilience in the face of natural disasters.



In China, authorities reported a bridge collapse on the Sichuan Qinghai Railway project, resulting in fatalities and missing workers. Extensive rescue operations were launched, and investigators began reviewing materials and safety systems. The incident underscored the importance of rigorous quality control and safety oversight in large infrastructure projects, lessons that resonate in Pakistan as it pursues major construction under CPEC.



China will always stand by Pakistan

Mr. Peng Xuiben

Director General, Bureau for Southeast and South Asian Affairs, IDCPC

Chairman Daily Ittehad Media Group Meets DG IDCPC

A significant meeting was recently held between the Director General of the International Department of the Communist Party of China (IDCPC) Mr. Peng Xuiben and the Chairman of Daily Ittehad Media Group Mr. Tahir Farooq. The meeting provided an important opportunity to exchange views on key areas of cooperation, review the long-standing partnership between Pakistan and China, and explore avenues for strengthening media collaboration in the evolving international landscape.

During the meeting, both sides highlighted the enduring strength of Pakistan-China relations, a partnership often described as all-weather and time-tested. The Chairman Daily Ittehad Media Group emphasized the role of Pakistani media in reflecting the depth of these ties, while the DG IDCPC reiterated China's continued commitment to supporting Pakistan in its journey of economic growth and stability. He stated, "China will always stand with Pakistan as we are

ironclad brothers. No one or country can damage this bond." The discussion also touched upon the importance of the second phase of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), with both sides agreeing that its success is crucial for regional development and connectivity.

The meeting also focused on the significance of people-to-people exchanges as the foundation of lasting friendships. Delegations, student exchanges, cultural collaborations, and media initiatives were identified as critical tools for building deeper understanding between the people of Pakistan and China. It was agreed that such grassroots connections are essential in reinforcing bilateral trust and ensuring the relationship remains resilient in the face of external challenges.

Tribute was paid to the historical journey of Pakistan-China friendship, which dates back to the early 1950s. The DG IDCPC recalled the contributions of visionary leaders such as Zhou Enlai and Deng Xiaoping, along with successive



Pakistani heads of government, in building a partnership that has grown into a comprehensive strategic cooperative framework. The Chairman Daily Ittehad Media Group highlighted how these historical foundations continue to inspire media narratives that strengthen mutual understanding and solidarity between the two nations.

The meeting also addressed the role of media in the modern era. Both sides recognized that Pakistan and China have often been victims of fake news campaigns, but acknowledged that significant improvements have been made in countering such narratives. The DG IDCPC praised the role of Daily Ittehad Media Group and Pakistan Economic Net in presenting factual reporting, highlighting their contribution in showcasing the real and accurate stories to audiences in both countries.

It was emphasized that close cooperation in media not only helps counter misinformation but also strengthens the positive narrative of progress and friendship that defines Pakistan-China relations. The DG IDCPC also commended the steps taken by the Government of Pakistan for ensuring the security of Chinese citizens working and residing in the country, describing them as a vital part of sustaining trust and co-operation.

The meeting between the DG IDCPC and the Chairman of

“Daily Ittehad and Pakistan Economic Net have played an important role in countering fake news and showing the real and accurate picture of Pakistan-China friendship.” — DG IDCPC

Daily Ittehad Media Group reaffirmed the shared commitment of Pakistan and China to deepening their bond across diplomatic, cultural, and media platforms. By revisiting their historical ties, prioritizing people-to-people connections, and enhancing joint efforts against disinformation, both sides underscored their determination to carry forward this iron-clad friendship into the future.



SK Hydropower Marks First Anniversary

Special Report

SK Hydro Company has marked the first anniversary of the Suki Kinari Hydropower Project, one of the flagship energy projects under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). To celebrate this milestone, the company organised a Media Open Day at the newly established CEEC Pakistan Regional Office, where representatives from more than ten leading Pakistani media organisations were in attendance.

The event was hosted by the CEO of SK Hydro, the Senior Advisor of China Energy Engineering Corporation (CEEC), and other senior officials, who welcomed the participants and briefed them on the project's journey and achievements. Media representatives were also taken on a guided tour of CEEC's Corporate Culture Exhibition Hall and the soon-to-be-inaugurated "Smart Hydropower" centralised control room, which will introduce state-of-the-art monitoring and operational technologies to Pakistan's energy sector.

Since it began commercial operations on September 14, 2024, the Suki Kinari Hydropower Station has generated more than 2.7 billion kWh of clean electricity. This contribution has strengthened Pakistan's energy supply, reduced reliance on imported fuels, and supported the government's renewable energy drive. As one of the largest hydropower projects within CPEC's energy cooperation framework, Suki Kinari has played a vital role in balancing the national energy mix, lowering production costs, and advancing sustainable development goals.

Beyond power generation, the project has significantly impacted local communities. During peak construction, more than 6,000 jobs were created, household incomes rose, and a wide range of social responsibility initiatives were launched. These included the plantation of 150,000 trees to aid afforestation, the construction and handover of a 5,000-square-meter trout hatchery to preserve the local ecosystem, and the introduction of the

"Moving Forward with Dreams" education program to sup-

port local students. Infrastructure improvements were also prioritised, with the renovation of the N15 highway and the establishment of the Khan Area Government Service Center, which has enhanced public service delivery.

Media representatives at the event commended the hydropower station for its construction quality, operational excellence, and intelligent management systems. Many described the project as a model of CPEC cooperation, proving how energy investments cannot only provide clean and reliable power but also uplift surrounding communities.

History of the Company in Pakistan

SK Hydro, a subsidiary of CEEC, has established itself as one of the leading players in Pakistan's energy sector. Over the years, it has earned recognition for introducing advanced hydropower technologies, ensuring international construction standards, and delivering projects within committed timelines. The company has successfully integrated into Pakistan's energy landscape by combining technical expertise

“ From 2.7 billion kWh of green energy to 150,000 trees planted, Suki Kinari is lighting homes and transforming lives ”

with community-focused development. Its consistent performance has made it a trusted partner under the CPEC framework and a symbol of Pakistan-China energy cooperation.

Looking Ahead

As CPEC enters its second phase of high-quality development, SK Hydropower Station is set to continue delivering environmentally friendly and reliable electricity to millions of Pakistanis. With a strong commitment to social responsibility and sustainable progress, the project stands as a landmark of mutual benefit, connectivity, and shared prosperity between Pakistan and China.



Cui Jun - a true friend of Pakistan

Chairman Daily Ittehad meets President China Economic Net

Chairman Daily Ittehad Media Group, Mr. Tahir Farooq, met Mr. Cui Jun, President of China Economic Net to congratulate Mr. Cui Jun on receiving the Sitara e Quaid e Azam of Pakistan. He presented a commemorative shield in recognition of his services to Sino Pakistan understanding. The honor was acknowledged as a testament to sustained efforts that have strengthened confidence and continuity in the partnership.

Discussion focused on practical priorities in the next chapter of CPEC, industrial cooperation, special economic zones, modern agriculture, renewable energy, digital connectivity, and value addition that can expand exports. Both sides noted that the goal is to convert policy into jobs and skills, create predictable conditions for investors, support small and medium enterprises that feed supply chains, and communicate progress in language that audiences across Pakistan can easily follow. Opportunities in e commerce, logistics, and agri processing were highlighted as near-term avenues to lift productivity and incomes.

The meeting also reviewed social media and emerging au-

dience trends, with an emphasis on short form storytelling, credible explainers, and creator collaborations that help younger viewers track complex subjects. Equal emphasis was placed on the need to counter fake news, with agreement on rigorous verification before publication, clear attribution of facts, and prompt corrections when errors appear, so that public trust remains intact. Media literacy for audiences was discussed as a useful complement, practical tips that help readers distinguish rumour from verified information.

Mr. Cui Jun praised the role of Pakistan's media in advancing objective and responsible reporting on bilateral developments. He appreciated the contributions of Daily Ittehad and Pakistan Economic Net, describing them as front line platforms that prioritize facts, context, and reader trust. He also commented on the quality of their output, noting that consistent editorial standards and a clear sense of public interest have helped audiences navigate complex issues with confidence.

Accompanying the meeting were Moiz Farooq, Executive Editor Daily Ittehad Media Group, and officials of China Economic Net.



Visionary Aziz Boolani Honored with **Hilal-i-Imtiaz**



ISLAMABAD: Aziz Boolani, Global CEO of Serena Hotels and one of the most respected figures in Paki-stan's hospitality sector, has been conferred with the prestigious Hilal-i-Imtiaz, one of the country's highest civilian awards.

Recognized for his visionary leadership, Boolani has been instrumental in positioning Serena Hotels as a benchmark of quality, elegance, and cultural pride. His efforts have not only elevated the standards of hospitality within Pakistan but also placed the country's hotel industry on the global map. By intro-ducing world-class practices, nurturing local talent, and ensuring service excellence, he has played a vital role in shaping Pakistan as a destination for international business and leisure travelers.

Beyond business success, Boolani has been at the forefront of community development, youth em-powerment, cultural preservation, and heritage protection. Under his stewardship, Serena Hotels has actively promoted sports for youth, hosted prominent cultural festivals, and launched initiatives to safeguard Pakistan's diverse traditions. His humanitarian outlook ensures that Serena Hotels serves as more than a luxury brand, extending its influence to benefit local communities and underprivileged groups.

Industry leaders, diplomats, and civil society representatives have praised this recognition as a tribute to a man whose vision blends hospitality with service to humanity. The government's decision to award the Hilal-i-Imtiaz reflects an acknowledgment of Boolani's outstanding contributions not only to the hotel and tourism industry but also to Paki-stan's broader social and cultural fabric.

In addition, Aziz Boolani has played an important role in strengthening Pakistan's international profile. By ensuring that Serena Hotels hosts major diplomatic events, international conferences, and cultural exchanges, he has helped project Pakistan's soft image abroad, fostering goodwill and enhancing people-to-people connections. His leadership has made Serena Hotels not only a symbol of hospitality but also a bridge of cultural diplomacy.

