

Monthly

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# PEACE

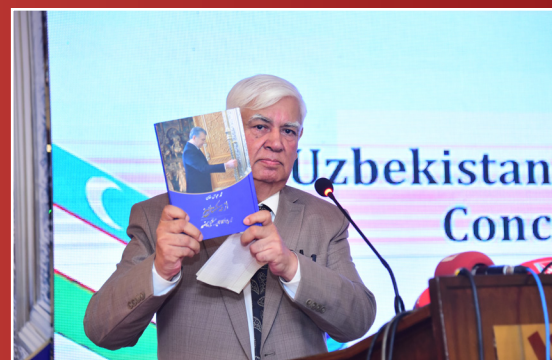
INTERNATIONAL



"My vision is to transform our traditional friendship into a strategic, multifaceted partnership."

– AMBASSADOR OF THE KINGDOM OF THAILAND

**H.E RONGVUDHI VIRABUTR**



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# PEN

PAKISTAN ECONOMIC NETWORK



## Mission

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



## Objectives

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



## Vision

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

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



## Azerbaijan's Inclusion and the Dawn of a Stronger C6 Order

Azerbaijan's growing engagement with Central Asia marks one of the most significant geopolitical developments in the region in recent years. As conversations intensify about transforming the C5 format into a C6 framework that formally includes Azerbaijan, the move carries far reaching implications for regional cooperation, security, and economic connectivity. This shift reflects a natural evolution, grounded in geography, shared cultural roots, economic complementarities, and a common strategic outlook shaped by the changing global landscape. The inclusion of Azerbaijan would not simply add another member, it would redefine the regional fabric and create a more cohesive and influential Central Asian bloc.

Azerbaijan already maintains multifaceted partnerships with Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Turkmenistan, built on cultural identity and historical bonds that stretch across the Caspian Sea. The country has emerged as a bridge between Central Asia, the Caucasus, and further into Europe. Its role in energy corridors, digital infrastructure, and trans continental transport makes it an indispensable partner for any regional cooperation agenda. The evolution from C5 to C6 therefore feels like a natural extension of existing realities, giving formal structure to a cooperation model that is already robust.

The strategic significance of Azerbaijan lies in its ability to advance the East West connectivity that Central Asian states urgently require. The Middle Corridor, one of the most important transport routes of the coming decades, relies heavily on Azerbaijan's infrastructure, ports, and logistics capabilities. By becoming part of a joint regional platform, Azerbaijan can help the Central Asian countries expand their reach into global markets through shorter, secure, and more efficient routes. This in turn supports the vision of building a self reliant, regionally integrated, and economically vibrant Central Asia.

A C6 format would also strengthen the political voice of the region at a time when global power centers are shifting and new alliances are emerging. Central Asia stands at the crossroads of major geopolitical contests. Unity matters now more than ever. Azerbaijan's inclusion enhances collective bargaining power in engagements with major powers, international financial institutions, and global markets. A broader and more united platform can articulate shared concerns more effectively, promote regional stability, and attract larger volumes of foreign investment.

Beyond the economic and geopolitical advantages, cooperation with Azerbaijan strengthens cultural and social linkages within the region. Shared Turkic heritage, linguistic similarities, and centuries of interaction create natural affinities that make collaboration deeper and smoother. These connections help foster trust, an element that remains central to successful regional integration.

As Central Asia navigates a rapidly changing world where energy transitions, technological advancements, and shifting trade patterns shape new opportunities, expanding the grouping to C6 would position the region for sustained progress. It offers a framework that is more inclusive, more strategic, and better suited for the challenges and aspirations of the coming decades.

Azerbaijan's inclusion in the Central Asian platform represents more than a structural adjustment. It is a timely recognition of shared destinies and a step toward building a more connected, more stable, and more prosperous region.

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## Thai Envoy Envisions Doubling Trade and Building Strong Economic Partnership with Pakistan

“My vision is to transform our traditional friendship into a strategic, multifaceted partnership.”

– AMBASSADOR OF THE KINGDOM OF THAILAND H.E RONGVUDHI VIRABUTR  
PANEL DISCUSSION WITH DAILY ITTEHAD MEDIA GROUP

### Maarij Farooq

Deputy Editor-in-Chief  
Daily Ittehad and Pakistan  
Economic Network

**Q: At present, what is the scale of trade between Pakistan and Thailand, and where do you see the most potential for growth?**

H.E: Our current bilateral trade is valued at approximately \$1.1 billion USD, with a clear imbalance. While this number reflects a strong foundation, it does not fully capture our potential. My primary goal is to strategically double this figure to \$2.2 billion USD within the next 2-3 years. The greatest potential for growth lies in unlocking new areas of collaboration and breaking down existing barriers.

Specifically, we see immense potential in Halal trade, where Thailand's world-class Halal food industry can easily meet the growing demand in Pakistan. We also see opportunities for Pakistan's

high-quality seafood and textile products to gain greater access to the Thai market. The key is to move beyond our traditional goods and embrace a more

**“Our current bilateral trade stands at \$1.1 billion, and my goal is to double it to \$2.2 billion within the next 2-3 years.”**

diversified trade portfolio that is responsive to modern market demands.

**Q: How can the two countries work together to diversify trade beyond traditional goods and services?**

Diversifying our trade is a cornerstone of our forward-looking vision. We are moving beyond the conventional focus on automobiles and seafood to embracing new, high-growth sectors. We believe in creating a new narrative for our





economic partnership, one that is not limited by geography but is driven by shared economic goals.

Our strategy involves a strong push into the services sector, particularly Information Technology (IT), and fostering collaboration in the Halal food industry, Halal Tourism, also defense industry. Furthermore, we are committed to empowering women in the economic sphere by using e-platforms to sell their products, which will unlock new, innovative revenue streams and contribute to inclusive economic growth. We are also working with UN WOMEN Pakistan through Women in Agriculture and Home Beauty Salon project to enhance their economic independence at the household level. These is a prime example of how we are thinking outside the box to create a more dynamic and equitable trade relationship.

**Q: Are there any new agreements or joint ventures under discussion that could significantly boost bilateral trade in the near future?**

H.E: Yes, absolutely. The most significant and transformative agreement on



the horizon is the Free Trade Agreement (FTA). This is not merely a technical document; it is a strategic framework that will fundamentally change the way we do business. Our current focus is on building a shared understanding of the mutual benefits of the FTA for Pakistan. For Pakistan, it will mean lower costs for raw material imports from Thailand, making local production more efficient and competitive. It will also offer Pakistani consumers access to a wider range of high-quality goods at more competitive prices.

Beyond the FTA, we are also working to elevate our dialogue. We are in discussions to transform the existing Joint

Economic Commission into a more comprehensive Joint Commission, led by our respective Foreign Ministers. This will provide a broader platform to discuss not just trade but also all facets of our bilateral relationship, ensuring a more integrated and coordinated approach to our shared future.

**Q: How can Pakistan and Thailand collaborate to enhance connectivity, particularly in logistics, shipping, and air routes, to support greater trade and investment?**

H.E: Enhanced connectivity is the lifeblood of our economic partnership. While we have existing air and sea links, our vision is to strengthen these ties to facilitate the rapid movement of goods, people, and ideas. We must work to streamline customs procedures and explore new direct air routes to boost tourism and business travel; increasing the frequency and capacity of the air services between the two country are also one of our top priority.

By improving logistics and creating more efficient shipping channels, we can reduce the cost and time of trade,

making our economies more competitive and attractive for investors. This is a shared objective, and we are committed to exploring all avenues for collaboration, from logistics and port management to the pilot project on paperless custom procedure with ASEAN (if possible).

**Q. Which sectors in Pakistan do you see as the most promising for Thai investors, and likewise, what opportunities in Thailand would appeal most to Pakistani businesses?**

H.E: For Thai investors, Pakistan offers a wealth of opportunities, particularly in its high-growth sectors. We are looking at a country with a large, young popula-





tion and vast potential. I see immense promise in Pakistan's agriculture, IT, renewable energy, and mining sectors. The Pakistani government's Special Investment Facilitation Council has made significant strides in creating a more investor-friendly environment, and we encourage Thai businesses to explore these exciting prospects.

Conversely, for Pakistani businesses, Thailand presents itself as a hub of manufacturing and innovation. Opportunities abound in our advanced manufacturing and data center sectors. Thailand's strong infrastructure and strategic location at the heart of ASEAN make it an ideal base for Pakistani companies looking to expand their footprint and access the broader Southeast Asian market.



**Q: How do you assess the role of free trade agreements, regional groupings like ASEAN, and Pakistan's linkages in South Asia in shaping future economic relations?**

H.E: These agreements and regional groupings are not just a part of the landscape; they are the very scaffolding upon which our future economic relations will be built. The FTA is the linchpin of our bilateral economic vision, and its successful conclusion will be a game-changer. It will formalise a partnership that benefits both our economies and fosters a more predictable and transparent trading environment.

Furthermore, Thailand's role as a key member of ASEAN and Pakistan's stra-



tegic location in South Asia create a powerful synergy. We are actively promoting a policy of "Look West," which complements Pakistan's "Vision East Asia" policy. By strengthening our bilateral ties, we are not just connecting two countries; we are building a bridge between two dynamic regions, unlocking unprecedented opportunities for trade and investment.

**Q: In your view, how much work still needs to be done to fully realize the economic potential between our two countries, and what steps are**

**being taken in that direction?**

H.E: To be frank, there is a significant amount of work still ahead of us. But this is not a challenge—it is a tremendous opportunity. Our vision is comprehensive and focuses on four key pillars: trade and investment, business cooperation, people-to-people connections, and enhanced diplomatic and security collaboration.

We are tackling these areas with a renewed sense of urgency and purpose.

The immediate steps being taken in-





clude accelerating the FTA negotiations, fostering greater collaboration between our business councils, and initiating high-level meetings to ensure a coordinated and strategic approach. By focusing on concrete, measurable outcomes, we are building a foundation that will ensure our economic potential is not just a vision but a reality.

**Q: How important is cultural diplomacy, tourism, and educational exchange in strengthening the relationship between Pakistan and Thailand?**

**H.E:** Cultural diplomacy is the soul of our relationship. While trade figures are important, the bonds of friendship, mutual respect, and shared history are what truly sustain our partnership. Pakistan and Thailand are connected by a shared cultural heritage, particularly the ancient Gandhara civilization. This historical link provides a unique and powerful foundation for our modern relationship while also presenting a wonderful opportunity to welcome more Thai tourists who wish to see such majestic civilization with their own eyes.

We are actively using cultural diplomacy to bring our peoples closer. A prime example is the recent presentation of a replica of the Fasting Buddha to Thailand, which has opened up a new chapter of friendship and understanding. We are also preparing a major Gandhara Exhibition in Bangkok for the 75th anniversary of our diplomatic ties next year. These initiatives are designed to foster tourism, promote educational exchanges, and strengthen the people-to-peo-



**health, and climate resilience?**

**H.E:** We believe that our future is intertwined with cooperation in cutting-edge fields. We are committed to fostering a new era of collaboration in science, technology, and health. The recent strategic partnership between the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) Standing Committee on Scientific and Technological Cooperation (COMSTECH) and the Central Islamic Council of Thailand is a testament to this commitment.

This collaboration will lead to concrete

power our communities but will also contribute to global efforts in health and climate resilience. Meanwhile, Thailand is pushing forward with our health diplomacy through the sharing of know-how and best practices on Universal Health Coverage and Primary Healthcare with Pakistan based on the Thai Model which is globally renowned.

**Q: Next year marks 75 years of diplomatic relations between Pakistan and Thailand. How would you describe the journey of bilateral ties over the decades?**

**H.E:** The journey has been one of consistent and evolving friendship, marked by mutual respect and shared principles. Our relationship began with the establishment of diplomatic ties in 1951 and has since grown into a robust, multifaceted partnership. Over the decades, we have seen cooperation flourish across political, economic, and cultural spheres. It is a journey that has seen us navigate global challenges together, and it has strengthened our resolve to work even more closely in the future.

**Q: What are the most significant achievements in Pakistan Thailand relations that you believe have set the foundation for stronger future cooperation?**

**H.E:** The most significant achievements



ple connections that are essential for long-term bilateral success.

**Q: What new initiatives are being considered to expand cooperation in areas like science, technology,**

initiatives, including scholarships for Pakistani students to study in emerging fields like artificial intelligence and big data, as well as the establishment of a Regional Halal Science Centre in Thailand. These projects will not only em-



are those that have built the bridges of understanding between our two peoples. I would highlight the deepening of cultural and educational ties, particularly through our shared Gandhara heritage. The presentation of the Fast-ing Buddha replica and the upcoming Gandhara exhibition are not just symbolic gestures; they are powerful tools for strengthening our bonds and paving the way for a new era of people-to-people connection.

On the economic front, the sustained effort to advance the FTA negotiations and the re-establishment of the Joint Commission and reviving of the Joint Economic Commission are foundation-

## “Scholarships in artificial intelligence and big data will prepare our youth for the future.”

al achievements that signal a renewed commitment to our economic partnership. These are the building blocks upon which we will construct a more prosperous and integrated future.

**Q: As both countries prepare for the 75th year of diplomatic ties, what is your vision for Pakistan Thailand relations in the next decade?**

**H.E.:** My vision for the next decade is



for our relationship to become a true strategic partnership. I envision a relationship that is not only economically prosperous—with our bilateral trade exceeding \$2.2 billion USD—but also deeply integrated on a cultural and social level. I see a future where our peoples travel more freely, our students study at each other's universities, and our businesses collaborate on innovative projects.

This strategic partnership will be built on the four pillars of my vision: concrete results in trade and investment, robust business cooperation, deeper people-to-people connections, and effective diplomatic collaboration. It is a

vision of a future where Thailand and Pakistan are not just friends, but trusted partners working together for regional stability, prosperity, and a more vibrant future for all.

Thank you for these insightful questions. It is a privilege to serve as the Ambassador of Thailand to the Islamic Republic of Pakistan. My team and I are dedicated to a forward-looking and results-oriented approach. My vision is centered on transforming our relationship from a traditional friendship into a strategic, multifaceted partnership ready to face challenges of the 21st century.

## Thai Envoy Hosts AIPA Secretary General, Advancing Parliamentary and Gender Dialogues

**Hook:** A focused luncheon links ASEAN parliamentary diplomacy with women's empowerment and deeper engagement with Pakistan.

The Ambassador of Thailand, serving as Chair of the ASEAN Committee in Islamabad, hosted a luncheon in honour of the Secretary General of the ASEAN Inter Parliamentary Assembly during her visit for a high level event with United Nations partners. Heads of Mission from ASEAN states and the Country Representative of United Nations Women attended.

Discussions centered on strengthening cooperation among ASEAN missions in Islamabad and with Pakistan's institu-

tions, with emphasis on women's empowerment, inclusive governance, and inter parliamentary dialogue. The event reaffirmed a shared commitment to ex-

pand ASEAN engagement with Pakistan and to promote practical, multilateral cooperation.





## Uzbekistan and Pakistan Celebrate Literary Diplomacy at Landmark Book Launch in Islamabad



Diplomats, ministers, scholars, journalists, and members of Islamabad's civil society gathered at the Marriott Hotel in Islamabad for the launch of "Uzbekistan, The Third Renaissance, Concept of the Future," a book by noted Pakistani journalist Muhammad Abbas Khan. Organized by the Embassy of the Republic of Uzbekistan in Pakistan in collaboration with the Daily Ittehad Media Group and the Center for Regional Connectivity with a Shared Future (CRCSF), the event celebrated intellect, cultural affinity, and the enduring friendship between the two nations.

The 446-page work traces Uzbekistan's modernization under President Shavkat Mirziyoyev and outlines the vision of the "Third Renaissance," centered on human dignity, creativity, and openness.

In his keynote address, Ambassador Alisher Tukhtayev described the occasion as "a celebration of shared dreams, common heritage, and brotherhood." He praised the author for portraying Uzbekistan's reform journey and highlighted that under President Mirziyoyev's leadership the country has achieved steady economic growth exceeding six percent annually, its GDP doubling to 115 billion dollars and ex-

pected to surpass 130 billion this year.

Foreign investment has risen beyond 130 billion dollars, while nearly 9,000 new enterprises have attracted 35 billion dollars in the past year alone. Ambassador Tukhtayev noted that tourism generated 3 billion dollars in 2024 and is expanding rapidly as Uzbekistan targets renewable energy of 54 percent by 2030.

Ambassador Tukhtayev reaffirmed that relations between Uzbekistan and Pakistan have reached the level of a genuine

strategic partnership. The High-Level Strategic Cooperation Council co-chaired by President Mirziyoyev and Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif provides a strong framework for cooperation.

He pointed to new direct flights between Tashkent and Islamabad as well as Tashkent and Lahore, a simplified visa regime, and progress on the Trans-Afghan Railway Project as symbols of expanding connectivity. "Bilateral trade has already reached 405 million dollars in the first nine months of 2025,







marking a 130 percent increase from last year, and our goal is two billion dollars,” he stated.

Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attaullah Tarar, the Chief Guest, hailed the book as “a complete recipe for national greatness.” He said it offers deep insights into Uzbekistan’s social, political, and economic transformation and called President Mirziyoyev “a leader of action who turns vision into reality.” Minister Tarar also appreciated

Daily Ittehad Media Group and its Editor-in-Chief Tahir Farooq for strengthening cultural diplomacy and promoting Pakistan-Uzbekistan relations.

Guest of Honour Murtaza Solangi, Spokesperson to the President of Pakistan, emphasized the centuries-old cultural linkages between the two nations. Other distinguished participants included Abdulaziz Abdullaev, First Deputy Director of the Mirzo Ulugbek Institute of Tashkent, Talha Burki and Ihsan

Afzal Khan, Special Assistants to the Prime Minister, along with diplomats Zafar Bakhtawari, Asif Luqman Qazi, and Atadjan Movlamov, Ambassador of Turkmenistan.

The ceremony was also attended by members of Islamabad’s vibrant civil society who praised the initiative taken by the Center for Regional Connectivity with a Shared Future and the Daily Ittehad Media Group, describing it as a vital step toward deepening Pakistan-Uz-







bekistan relations. Many attendees remarked that such cultural and intellectual engagements not only highlight shared values but also pave the way for long-term cooperation between the two brotherly nations.

Speakers and participants lauded the continued efforts of Mr. Tahir Farooq in promoting stronger diplomatic and cultural ties between Pakistan and Uzbekistan. They acknowledged his vision in bringing together the media, academia, and policy circles under one platform to build sustainable partnerships. Several guests also appreciated the leadership of Tahir Farooq for expanding the role of CRCSF in fostering people-to-people linkages and promoting dialogue among Central and South Asian countries.

The event was widely regarded as a milestone in public diplomacy, marking

a new phase of cooperation between the two countries. Many highlighted that initiatives such as these serve as bridges of understanding and create new avenues for trade, tourism, and cultural exchange.

Daily Ittehad Media Group and the Pakistan Economic Network (PEN) have played a leading role in promoting economic and cultural diplomacy between the two countries. Through consistent journalistic engagement and economic dialogue, they continue to advocate for regional cooperation and people-to-people connectivity.

Tahir Farooq reiterated his organization's commitment to fostering mutual understanding and described Uzbekistan as "a source of inspiration for Pakistan and the wider region."

Center for Regional Connectivity with a Shared Future (CRCSF), has likewise advanced scholarly collaboration and cultural exchange through publications, seminars, and policy initiatives focused on connectivity, CPEC, and sustainable partnership.

The evening concluded with resounding applause and a renewed pledge of cooperation. Ambassador Tukhtayev's closing words, "Uzbekistan, Pakistan dosti hamesha zindabad," echoed through the hall as a symbol of enduring brotherhood.

Through "Uzbekistan, The Third Renaissance, Concept of the Future," Muhammad Abbas Khan has built a literary bridge between the two nations, enriching understanding and paving the way toward a future of peace, progress, and shared prosperity.





# We recall with pride and gratitude Pakistan's unwavering support during our revolution and after independence in 1962

## Algerian Ambassador Dr Brahim Romani

### Algeria and Pakistan Celebrate Deepening Ties on the 71<sup>st</sup> National Day of the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria



The Embassy of Algeria in Islamabad hosted a grand reception to mark the 71st anniversary of Algeria's National Day, commemorating the Glorious Revolution of November 1, 1954. The event brought together dignitaries, diplomats, and business representatives in a warm atmosphere of friendship and partnership.

The Chief Guest, Haroon Akhtar Khan, Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Industries and Production, attended the ceremony along with ambassadors, senior officials, parliamentarians, and members of the business community. A ceremonial cake-cutting added a festive touch to the evening, symbolizing unity and celebration.

In his address, Algerian Ambassador Dr Brahim Romani paid tribute to the strong ties between Algeria and Pakistan, recalling that Pakistan was among the first nations to support Algeria's struggle for independence during the 1955 Bandung Conference and later at the United Nations. "We recall with pride and gratitude Pakistan's unwavering support during our revolution and after independence in 1962," he said.

Ambassador Romani highlighted Algeria's strategic importance as the largest country in Africa and the Arab world, serving as a bridge between Africa, Europe, and Asia. He underscored that under the leadership of President Abdelmadjid Tebboune, Algeria is witnessing remarkable economic growth and modernization, with a GDP of around 270 billion dollars in 2024 and projections to reach 400 billion dollars by 2027.

He described Algeria as an emerging industrial and energy hub, producing 50 billion cubic meters of gas annually and hosting over 17 000 new investment projects under a reformed investment law designed to benefit both local and foreign investors. He also emphasized Algeria's leadership in Africa's start-up ecosystem, with over 10 000 active companies.

Ambassador Romani further referred to the success of the In-

tra-African Trade Fair 2024 hosted by Algeria in September, which saw participation from 132 countries and trade contracts worth 48.3 billion dollars. He said this demonstrated Algeria's growing role as a regional business hub and its commitment to promoting integration and cooperation across the African continent.

Inviting Pakistani investors to explore Algeria's vast opportunities in energy, mining, agriculture, and manufacturing, the envoy said both nations could build new economic bridges under Pakistan's "Engage Africa" policy. "Algeria stands ready to strengthen partnerships with Pakistan and to open new avenues of cooperation across the public and private sectors," he added.

Special Assistant Haroon Akhtar Khan praised Algeria's impressive progress and reaffirmed Pakistan's desire to strengthen its ties with the North African nation. He said that Pakistan is an open, reliable, and rewarding destination for global investors, and the government is committed to building a strong industrial framework that promotes sustainable growth. He added that through mutual cooperation, Pakistan and Algeria can progress together in industry, innovation, and prosperity.

Haroon Akhtar extended his congratulations to the government and people of Algeria on their National Day, expressing best wishes for their continued progress. "May the bonds between Pakistan and Algeria grow even stronger, guided by shared values and a common vision for a better future," he said.

The friendship between the two nations is rooted in deep historical solidarity. Pakistan was among the first countries to recognize Algeria's provisional government in 1958 and has consistently supported its people in their quest for freedom and self-determination. Diplomatic relations were formally established in 1963, and since then, both countries have cooperated closely in international forums, including the United Nations, the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation, and the Non-Aligned Movement.





Over the years, the relationship has evolved into one of mutual respect and partnership. Both countries have continued to express solidarity on international issues and maintain their commitment to the just causes of oppressed nations, including Palestine and Western Sahara.

The economic relationship, though modest, holds great promise. Pakistan's "Engage Africa" policy offers an opportunity to strengthen economic engagement with Algeria, which has become one of Africa's most dynamic markets. Pakistan's exports to Algeria currently stand at around 22 million dollars, but both sides are working to enhance this figure with a vision to reach 1 billion dollars in bilateral trade.

Algeria's reformed investment environment, expanding industrial base, and growing digital economy present immense opportunities for Pakistani businesses in textiles, agriculture, pharmaceuticals, and technology. Likewise, Pakistan's expertise in manufacturing, services, and human resources can complement

Algeria's development priorities.

As both countries look to the future, they are also exploring collaborations in science, research, and education, laying the foundation for deeper people-to-people ties. Strengthening youth exchanges, innovation partnerships, and cultural linkages will further cement their friendship.

The celebration of Algeria's National Day in Islamabad was not just a tribute to history, but a reaffirmation of a shared future. The event highlighted a mutual commitment to expanding cooperation in trade, investment, energy, and innovation, building on a legacy of solidarity that dates back nearly seven decades.

As the evening concluded, the hall resonated with the spirit of camaraderie between the two nations. The event was a reminder that Algeria and Pakistan, connected by history and guided by shared aspirations, continue to stand together for peace, development, and prosperity—an enduring friendship that grows stronger with time.





# Hearts of Pakistanis beat in unison with our Turkish brothers and sisters - PM Shehbaz Sharif

## 102<sup>nd</sup> Republic Day of Türkiye Celebrated with Dignity and Unity in Islamabad



By Centre for Regional Connectivity  
with Shared Future

Islamabad witnessed an evening of celebration and fraternity as the Embassy of Türkiye in Pakistan hosted a grand ceremony to commemorate the 102nd Republic Day of Türkiye. The event, organized at the newly inaugurated six-star Movenpick Hotel, was graced by Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif as the chief guest, along with more than a dozen cabinet ministers, senior officials, parliamentarians, diplomats, and dignitaries.

The ceremony opened with the national anthems of Türkiye and Pakistan, followed by Ambassador of Türkiye to Pakistan Dr. İrfan Neziroğlu reading out the congratulatory message of President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan. In his message, President Erdoğan highlighted the significance of the Republic's 102nd anniversary, pledging to up-

hold Türkiye's unity, independence, and progress. He described the Republic as the culmination of centuries of resilience and sacrifice, noting that "The Republic of Türkiye is the final roof of our selfless nation that clung with all its strength to its freedom and independence despite hardships and struggle." The Turkish leader reaffirmed his government's commitment to the vision of the "Century of Türkiye," emphasizing efforts to build a strong, peaceful, and prosperous nation respected globally.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, in his keynote address, congratulated the Turkish leadership and people on their national day, expressing admiration for Türkiye's remarkable journey of progress since the time of Ghazi Mustafa Kemal Atatürk. He lauded President Erdoğan's dynamic leadership, calling him a guiding light for progress and resilience across the Muslim world. "Today, the hearts of Pakistanis beat in unison with our Turkish broth-







ers and sisters,” the Prime Minister remarked, adding that Islamabad was adorned with Turkish flags to mark the deep-rooted friendship between the two nations.

Reflecting on the shared history between the two brotherly countries, the Prime Minister recalled the sacrifices of Muslims from the Indo-Pak subcontinent during the Khilafat Movement, when women sold their jewelry to support the Turkish cause. He said, “Our forefathers did not know that a day would come when an independent Türkiye would emerge and return that love with its unwavering support for Pakistan through every trial.” The Prime Minister also expressed gratitude for Türkiye’s consistent solidarity, particularly during the 2005 earthquake and the 2010 floods, and for its steadfast support on the Kashmir issue. He reaffirmed Pakistan’s continued support for Türkiye on the matter of Northern Cyprus.

The Prime Minister also acknowledged Türkiye’s diplomatic and moral support during Pakistan’s recent armed conflict with India, commending President Erdoğan for standing by Pakistan like a true brother. He lauded the bravery of Pakistan’s armed forces led by Field Marshal General Syed Asim Munir and Air Chief Marshal Zaheer Ahmad Babar Sidhu, who, he said, displayed exceptional courage and professionalism.

The event witnessed the presence of several high-ranking dignitaries including Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar, Defence Minister Khawaja Asif, Minister for Defence Production Raza Hayat Haraaj, Minister for Railways Hanif Abbasi, Minister for Communication Abdul Al-

eem Khan, Minister for Science and Technology Khalid Hussain Magsi, Minister for Maritime Affairs Junaid Anwar, Minister for Information Technology Shaza Fatima Khawaja, Minister for Religious Affairs Sardar Yousuf, Minister of State for Law Barrister Aqeel Malik, Minister for Poverty Alleviation Imran Shah, PM’s Coordinator on Tourism Sardar Yasir Ilyas, PM’s Coordinator for Youth Rana Mashhood Ahmad, PM’s Special Assistant on Foreign Affairs Tariq Fatemi, Additional Secretary of MOFA Hamid Asghar Khan, and Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi.

The grand reception hall, decorated in Turkish cultural themes, showcased the rich history and modern progress of Türkiye. A display of Turkish agricultural products, including premium honey produced through a TİKA-PARC collaboration at NARC, attracted attention, while models of Turkish fighter jets and drones reflected the country’s technological advancement. A vibrant cultural show featuring Turkish artists in traditional attire captivated the guests, and a special performance of “Dil Dil Pakistan” by a young child received resounding applause, with the Ambassador personally encouraging the performer.

The evening concluded with Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Ambassador Dr. Irfan Neziroglu cutting a ceremonial cake amid applause, symbolizing the everlasting brotherhood between Türkiye and Pakistan. With the presence of senior leadership, ministers, and diplomats, the event marked one of the largest and most significant national day celebrations in Islamabad this year, serving as a testament to the unbreakable bond between the two nations.





# Chinese Embassy Welcomes Pakistan's Top Digital Media Influencers



By Centre for Regional Connectivity with Shared Future

ISLAMABAD (PEN) : The Chinese Embassy in Islamabad hosted a special delegation of Pakistan's leading digital media influencers and publishers, brought together by the Center for Regional Connectivity with Shared Future (CRCSF). The event aimed to further strengthen China-Pakistan relations through digital collaboration and enhance understanding of China's development story among the Pakistani digital community.

The delegation included prominent figures such as Maarij Farooq and Moiz Farooq from Pakistan Economic Network, Laiba Farooq from Ittehad Digital Network, Kashaf e Murtaza from Pakistan TV, Talha Ahad, CEO of The Centrum Media, Talal Chaudhry, CEO of TechJuice, Influencer Hamza Bhatti, Social media Influencer Seemal Rehan, Imran Ghazali, former GM of the Digital

Media Wing, Government of Pakistan, Hammad Ali Nasir, CEO of Adcelerate 360, Ammaar Bin Saleem, host of Outloud with Ammaar, Bakhtwar Raja, Palwash Abbasi, Mir Haris Ali, Ammar Alvi from the Digital Communications Department, Government of Pakistan, Ibrahim Afridi, Founder of Greenova8, and Waseem Ghaffar from the Digital Team of the Prime Minister's Office.

The event began with welcome remarks by Mr. Shi Yuanqiang, Deputy Chief of Mission (DCM) of the Chinese Embassy in Pakistan, who warmly welcomed the delegation and described China and Pakistan as "ironclad brothers." He emphasized that both nations can cooperate in the digital media sphere to spread positive narratives and counter misinformation. Mr. Shi highlighted that while the China-Pakistan relationship continues to strengthen, there is a need to further amplify its presence across digital platforms so that Pakistan's young generation fully







understands and values this friendship.

Mr. Shi expressed that the Embassy was delighted to host such a vibrant delegation of digital media leaders and hoped that they would soon have more opportunities to visit China and witness the country's remarkable progress firsthand.

Following the opening remarks, Chinese Embassy officials delivered a comprehensive briefing on China's socioeconomic transformation, focusing particularly on developments in Xinjiang and China's nationwide poverty alleviation drive, which has lifted more than 800 million people out of poverty over the past 45 years. They described this as one of humanity's greatest success stories.

The Embassy officials also addressed the issue of Western propaganda that attempts to misrepresent China's achievements. They encouraged Pakistani digital influencers, including Talha Ahad, Imran Ghazali, Hamza Bhatti, and others, to use their platforms to promote truth and positivity.

A significant part of the briefing centered on the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), which the officials described as

a "joint child" of both nations. They strongly refuted rumors of CPEC being halted, emphasizing that its success depends on the continued commitment and cooperation of both China and Pakistan. The briefing further highlighted the emerging opportunities for youth and the digital sector under CPEC Phase II.

The participants, including Hammad Ali Nasir, Ammaar Bin Saleem, Bakhtwar Raja, Palwash Abbasi, Mir Haris Ali, Ammar Alvi, Ibrahim Afridi, Seemal Rehan, and Kashaf E Murtaza, expressed their appreciation for the event. They remarked that it provided valuable insights into China's development model, its vision for cooperation with Pakistan, and the immense scope for collaboration in digital communication.

Hamza Bhatti, Talha Ahad, and Imran Ghazali shared positive feedback, noting that the event deepened their understanding of China's economic progress and commitment to Pakistan. They thanked the Chinese Embassy and CRCSE for organizing such an insightful engagement and emphasized that similar initiatives would play a crucial role in fostering stronger people-to-people connections between both countries.





# China's Visionary and Ambitious Fifteenth Five Year Plan



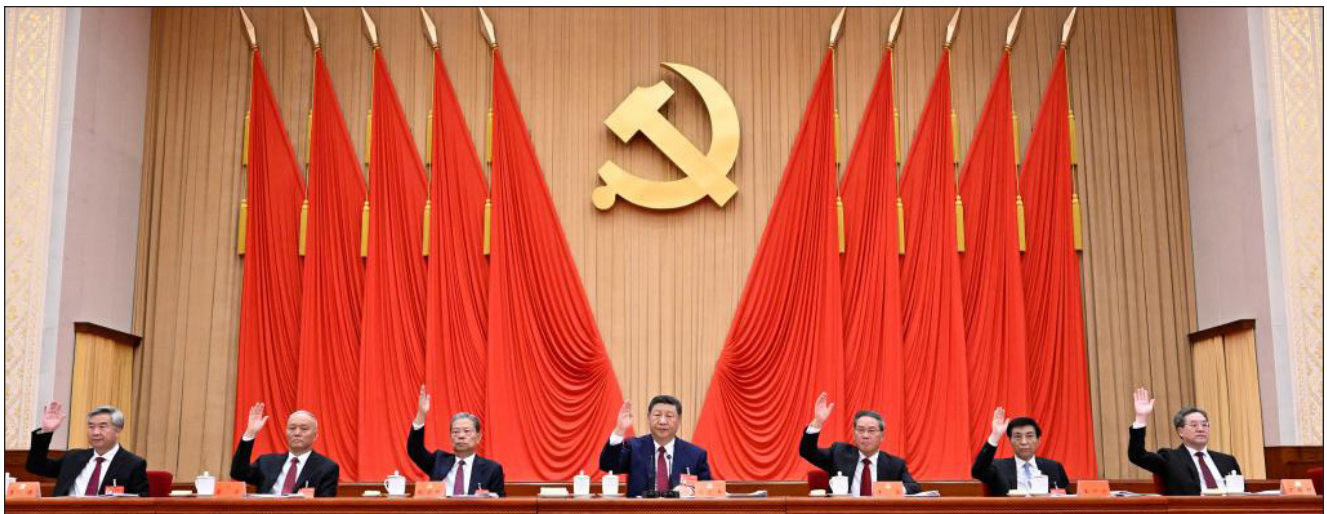
Look around yourself. What is happening. The graph of global events and circumstances is shifting its gears. In every tickle of clock, if dollar dances the rupee stumbles, the game of trade war tiding tight, the pulse of stock exchange beat relentlessly and innovation race faster than ever we thought. The world is full of unpredictability, but the Asian dragon has launches its new plan to make its country stand firm on its foot, on the global stage. The curtains over the great 15th five year plan “ 2026-2030 “ of China, has been lifted up. This plan is a small stepping stone towards its grand vision of becoming modern Socialist power by 2049. It is a bridge that will connects past achievements to the modern progress, and bright future of tomorrow.

The fourth plenum of communist party of China discussed key priorities including: development in all walks of life with tangible results, promoting socialist democracy and rule of law, en-

suring the people well being and protecting the environment, green energy, modernizing national defence, technological self-reliance and innovation, boosting domestic consumption, AI-driven services, upgrading industrialization, and improving quality over quantity.

The party further made it crystal clear that President Xi is their great leader and they will perform their duties , dedication and unwavering honesty, under his leadership. No doubt political stability is a magical lamp of building unity and confidence among nation, attracting investment, driving economic growth and continuity in development.

Moreover, key 11 officials has been dismissed in which 9 were top military officers. Chinese president Xi Jinping is on the mission to cut out the corrupt or disloyal figures in his government. This





indicates China strategy not only to shape its image as a liberal socialist country but also to improve its governance. Certainly, the countries with best economic growth are those that have good governance. It comes from freedom of communication. It comes from ending corruption. It comes from populace that go online and say, this politician, this administrator or this public official is corrupt. And that is how the Chinese government are eradicating the evils and loopholes from their system towards a nation of progress.

The communique prioritized technological self-reliance for the great economic tug of war. An innovation-led growth strategy has been built to improve industrial machinery, integrated circuits, high-end instruments, zero-to-one breakthroughs, aerospace, new energy, modern-agro machines, low altitude economy, trillion yuan market, which will take shape for the rest of the decade. On top of that, China is building a policy of what we can call “controlled globalization”, encouraging innovation and market efficiency, but always under the vigilant supervision of the state. It is an action plan to protect its inimitable resources, to ensure its national security and long-term power. With the aim that Western sanctions and export bans can't easily hurt it. The



recent meeting between Donald Trump and President Xi Jinping is a testimony to “managed decoupling” by both sides. The US has cut short the tariffs by 10-20 percent, while China has postponed its rare-earth export, which shows a wise tactic of not changing its total direction. By easing trade tensions, China is trying to calm global markets while still keeping its strongest bargaining tools, rare-earth minerals and advanced technologies, under firm control.

One of China's proactive approaches to competing at a high level of innovation on the global stage is to increase the scale of quality over quantity. China has shifted its focus from measuring success solely by its output and exports to reducing its reliance on foreign countries. To achieve this, China will advance its core hardware, including AI, quantum, biotech, chips, precision machinery, battery, and renewable manufacturing. The Chinese government is building research and development labs and providing subsidies and preferential credit to strengthen its domestic industry and build high-value industrial and technological capacity, making it hard to disrupt. If China succeeds in achieving “high-quality innovation,” it can change the world into two scenarios. First, the countries will be less dependent on one or two Western suppliers; rather, new windows of access will open up. Secondly, the world can drift into two rival spheres, one led by China and the other by the West. This fragmentation would raise costs and complicate operations for firms and policymakers alike. But, it would be quite challenging to shift the economy from mass production to innovation-led growth. This transition requires significant capital investment and a cultural shift that

fosters creativity. The plan emphasizes “dual circulation,” promoting domestic demand and internal innovation as twin pillars of growth. A key challenge is restoring confidence in the private sector, which has been affected by regulatory tightening. The plan's focus on “common prosperity” aims to narrow the wealth gap, requiring substantial fiscal resources to expand social services and maintain high employment. Local governments, already burdened by debt, face the challenge of funding these initiatives. The success of the plan will depend on China's ability to balance economic growth with social equity and manage its finances wisely.

This Plan reframes sustainability not as a moral obligation but as a competitive advantage, a tool to secure leadership in the global race for clean technologies. As Dr. Li Wei, an energy economist at the Oxford Institute for Energy Studies, observes, Beijing has learned from history that “the nations who controlled the key technologies of the era... became the global superpowers” and is now applying this logic to clean tech. By pledging to reach peak carbon and neutrality “actively and prudently,” Beijing signals pragmatic ambition. It cannot dismantle coal overnight but will use its industrial scale to dominate solar, battery, and electric



vehicle markets. This approach fuses environmental goals with national power projection. However, the credibility of this green rise depends on implementation. The same export-driven model that guarantees its manufacturing lead is now triggering protectionist responses in Europe and the US, creating a critical test. Ultimately, the world is watching to see if China can decarbonize its grid fast enough. If successful, this strategy would cement China not merely as a clean tech supplier but as the world's first true “green superpower,” wielding control over the tools of the energy transition as a primary lever of geopolitical influence.

The 15th five-year plan of the Communist Party of China is an enlightened vision that will change not only the nation's destiny but also world politics. The plan aims to harness the intellect of the nation's leaders to transform China into a great and beautiful nation. Beijing signals that power in the 21st century will belong to those who control the technologies of the future. The plan's emphasis on “smart, green, and integrated development” re-frames climate policy as an industrial strategy, allowing China to turn sustainability into a source of strength.

By improving the governance, political stability, promoting modernity and liberalism, and addressing loopholes in the system, China is telling the world that without transparency, rule of law, and meritocracy, success is like chasing shadows, always out of reach. The coming years will reveal whether Beijing can truly reconcile its twin aspirations to lead the world in innovation while preserving unchallenged political control. China's determination, discipline, and direction show it is penning a story for tomorrow's bright future.





## Victory Day celebrated in Islamabad, Pakistan and Azerbaijan reaffirm a trusted friendship

A full house at a new city venue celebrates fraternity, sovereignty, and a partnership rooted in respect, justice, and equality.

The Embassy of Azerbaijan hosted a reception in Islamabad to commemorate the fifth anniversary of Azerbaijan's Victory Day, with Acting President Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani attending as chief guest. Addressing guests, he described Pakistan and Azerbaijan as partners bound by time-tested friendship and shared principles, and he congratulated the people of Azerbaijan on a milestone that symbolizes resilience, unity, and restored sovereignty.

Ambassador Khazar Farhadov and his spouse welcomed dignitaries in the ballroom of the newly opened Mövenpick Hotel Islamabad. The gathering included federal ministers, parliamentarians, diplomats, academics, and business leaders, with the Minister for Communications Abdul Aleem Khan present as guest of honour. The reception underscored broad-based ties that span government, civil society, and business communities.

In his remarks, Acting President Gilani called Victory Day a proud chapter in Azerbaijan's modern history, a moment that affirms national dignity, and a reminder of courage and unity. He reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to deepening government-to-government, people-to-people, and business-to-business





cooperation with Azerbaijan.

Ambassador Farhadov recalled the significance of November eight, two thousand twenty, noting that the forty-four-day Patriotic War restored control over territories occupied for decades, at great sacrifice by the Azerbaijani people. The commemoration honoured the martyrs of the conflict and celebrated the country's renewed sovereignty.

The reception highlighted the steady rise in high-level contacts and public goodwill between the two countries. Visuals and official messages shared by state institutions and media chronicled the evening, reinforcing the message that Pakistan and Azerbaijan continue to expand cooperation across diplomacy, trade, and cultural exchange.





# Honouring Valor - Romania's Armed Forces Day Celebrated in Islamabad



In a warm gathering in Islamabad, the Romanian Embassy celebrated Romania's Armed Forces Day, reflecting the growing military and diplomatic ties between Romania and Pakistan. Ambassador H E Dr Dan Stoenescu and Defence Attaché Colonel Cristian Răducu hosted the reception, which brought together senior Pakistani military leaders, foreign diplomats, and defence officials in an event that honoured Romania's military heritage and the strengthening of bilateral partnership.

Ambassador Stoenescu noted that October 25 is a significant date marking the liberation of the last Romanian territory in World War Two, a moment that symbolizes the nation's unity, resilience, and military sacrifice. He highlighted Romania's evolution from a historic European force to a modern contributor to NATO and EU security missions, underscoring the country's role as a responsible partner in regional stability.

The Ambassador reflected on contemporary global security challenges and reaffirmed Romania's commitment to strengthening collective defence, countering hybrid threats, and supporting NATO and EU initiatives. He also emphasized the deepening cooperation with Pakistan, noting recent exchanges between high level military officials of both countries. These engagements are expected to expand joint training, operational collaboration, and personnel exchanges, which will contribute to enhanced defence capability and shared security goals.

He also paid tribute to Pakistan's armed forces, praising their professionalism and significant contributions to peacekeeping and counterterrorism. The evening concluded with a cultural touch, including a ceremonial cake cutting and a dinner featuring traditional Romanian cuisine, creating an ambience that blended respect, diplomacy, and cultural exchange. The celebration served as a reminder of Romania's historic milestones while reinforcing a partnership with Pakistan built on mutual respect, shared interests, and a commitment to peace and cooperation.





## Fizza Hasan Receives the Insignia of Chevalier des Arts et des Lettres

A lifetime of language, theatre, and cultural dialogue earns one of France's highest artistic honours

At a ceremony hosted by the Ambassador of France, theatre director and cultural activist Fizza Hasan was decorated with the insignia of Chevalier of the Order of Arts and Letters. The Ambassador praised her role in teaching French, directing adaptations of classic French works, and fostering original productions that stimulate dialogue in Pakistan.

In her remarks, Fizza Hasan dedicated the honour to her family, colleagues, and students, recalling a personal journey that began with learning French and grew into a sustained cultural bridge between communities.



## From Primitive to Precision, Pakistan's Mining Turns to Mechanization and Skills

A Finnish delegation hears how regulatory harmonization and flagship projects can anchor responsible growth

The Federal Minister for Petroleum met a Finnish delegation led by the Ambassador of Finland, senior industry leadership, and Pakistan's Honorary Consul General. The Minister outlined a shift toward sophisticated and responsible mining under a harmonized regulatory framework and highlighted the role of a major copper and gold project as a sector torchbearer.

The delegation welcomed reforms, confirmed supplier roles, and announced plans to expand into additional projects while training local human resources. Both sides agreed to leverage Finnish technology and know how, align with sustainability goals, and grow joint ventures in Pakistan's mineral value chain.



## Rwanda, Skills and Technology Collaboration

Rwanda and Pakistan Explore TVET and Digital Pathways for Youth

A visit to a leading technology institute sets the stage for training linkages, capacity building, and innovation

The High Commissioner of Rwanda visited the Hazza Institute of Technology in Islamabad to explore cooperation in technical, vocational, and digital education. The institute briefed on microdegree and TVET programs aligned to market needs. Both sides emphasized knowledge sharing, institutional partnerships, and technology transfer to empower young people and support employment. The visit reaffirmed a shared vision for education led growth and stronger people to people ties.





## A Historic Defense Pact for Regional Security

The Strategic Mutual Defense Agreement signed between Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman and Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif represents a defining moment in the long-standing Saudi-Pakistan partnership. The accord declares that any aggression against one country will be considered an attack on both, institutionalizing decades of defense cooperation into a formal alliance.

The agreement's roots trace back to the 1960s, when Pakistan began providing training and advisory support to the Royal Saudi Air Force. Since then, the relationship has expanded into a multidimensional partnership covering defense, security, and development. The newly signed pact elevates this relationship to a NATO-style collective security framework, emphasizing deterrence, intelligence sharing, joint exercises, and de-



## A New Security Era: Riyadh and Islamabad Forge a Historic Defense Partnership

**A landmark defense pact, renewed celebrations, and shared security commitments mark a new phase in Saudi-Pakistan relations — one that promises to reshape regional stability and strategic cooperation.**

fense industry collaboration.

Former Saudi Ambassador Dr. Ali Awadh Asseri described the pact as “the culmination of a half-century of unwavering partnership,” highlighting its symbolic value when Prime Minister Sharif’s aircraft was escorted by Royal Saudi Air Force jets on arrival in Riyadh — an honor previously accorded only to world leaders such as Donald Trump and Vladimir Putin.

### Broader Implications for the Region

The defense pact, described as transformative, signals a new balance of power across the Middle East and South Asia. Analysts believe it will strengthen deterrence, enhance regional stability, and bolster Pakistan’s international standing. For Saudi Arabia, the deal reflects its strategic diversification under Vision 2030, while for Pakistan, it offers renewed confidence, investment potential, and defense modernization opportunities.

Observers note that this alliance could encourage trilateral collaboration with China and influence the region’s security calculus. The pact formalizes what has long been an unshakable brotherhood — uniting two key Muslim nations under a shared vision for peace, stability, and prosperity.

### Pakistan Celebrates Saudi National Day with Renewed Zeal

Following the landmark agreement, Pakistan celebrated Saudi Arabia’s National

Day with unprecedented enthusiasm. Islamabad’s streets were adorned with Saudi and Pakistani flags, symbolizing solidarity between the two nations. For the first time, the main ceremony was held at the Convention Center, attended by top government officials and Saudi diplomats.

President Asif Ali Zardari and Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif extended heartfelt congratulations to the Saudi leadership, calling the new defense pact a milestone in regional peace and cooperation. Federal Minister Musadik Malik, focal person for bilateral collaboration, stated that “this formalization has created a new zeal among the people of both countries.”

The day’s celebrations reflected a deep bond rooted in faith, friendship, and mutual respect. Millions of Pakistanis working in the Kingdom continue to serve as living ambassadors of this enduring partnership, further enriching Saudi-Pakistan relations.





# Wings of Brotherhood: Pakistan Air Force Expands Ties with Iraq and Bahrain

Through shared training, technological collaboration, and mutual trust, the Pakistan Air Force continues to build bridges across the Muslim world, reinforcing regional defense and strategic cooperation

## Pakistan-Iraq Air Force Partnership

Lieutenant General Staff Pilot Mohanad Ghalib Mohammed Radi Al-Asadi, Commander of the Iraqi Air Force, led a high-level defense delegation to Air Headquarters, Islamabad, where he met Chief of the Air Staff Air Chief Marshal Zaheer Ahmed Baber Sidhu. The two sides discussed strengthening cooperation in aviation training, capacity building, and defense technology.

Air Chief Marshal Sidhu emphasized the historic and religious ties between Pakistan and Iraq, reaffirming PAF's commitment to support Iraq in developing a modern, self-reliant air force. Both commanders agreed to conduct joint training exercises and collaborate on advanced operational programs to enhance interoperability.

General Al-Asadi expressed admiration for PAF's professionalism and technological evolution, particularly its National Aerospace Science and Technology Park, and expressed interest in replicating this model in Iraq. The visit included tours of the PAF Cyber Command and ISR Center, where the delegation was briefed on modern warfare systems. The visit reaffirmed the enduring defense cooperation between the two nations and opened new avenues for partnership in aerospace innovation.

## Pakistan-Bahrain Defense Cooperation

In another significant engagement, General Shaikh Mohammed Bin Isa Bin Salman Al Khalifa, Commander of the Bahrain National Guard, met Air Chief Marshal Sidhu at Air Headquarters. The discussions focused on expanding training programs, joint



exercises, and defense industry collaboration.

The Bahraini Commander lauded PAF's exemplary performance in its recent conflict with India, praising its operational readiness, professional excellence, and courage. He expressed Bahrain's keen interest in enhancing bilateral cooperation through institutional training and mutual exchange programs.

Air Chief Marshal Sidhu highlighted Pakistan and Bahrain's long-standing religious and historical ties and reaffirmed PAF's resolve to strengthen collaboration, particularly in aviation training and strategic planning. The meeting concluded with mutual agreement to broaden defense engagement and pursue future visits by senior Bahrain Air Force officials.

# Climate Resilience and Health, Pakistan Red Crescent Strengthens Partnerships in Norway

## A focused drive for climate adapted health systems and disaster response places vulnerable communities at the center

During a visit to Oslo, the Chairperson of the Pakistan Red Crescent Society met the President of the Norwegian Red Cross to advance cooperation on climate impacts, health, water, sanitation, and disaster response. She called for greater international aid for long term rehabilitation of flood affected communities in Pakistan and emphasized climate justice and international humanitarian law.

Meetings with the Acting Secretary General of the Norwegian Red Cross and the Director for the Humanitarian Department at the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation covered climate adapted health, emergency response, and support for returning populations. Both sides reaffirmed a shared mission to alleviate suffering and build resilience.







## Pakistan and ASEAN Envoys Target a Higher Trade Trajectory

The Federal Minister for Commerce hosted ambassadors and senior diplomats from seven ASEAN member states to deepen trade, investment, and people to people ties. He outlined policy steps on tariffs, vehicles, and facilitation and highlighted Pakistan's role as a gateway to Central Asia through expanding transit arrangements.

Technology transfer, value addition, and skills development headline a new push to unlock true potential with Southeast Asia

Participants discussed moving beyond commodity trade toward collaboration in technology, skills, and infrastructure. The meeting concluded with agreement to map concrete actions that lift trade from current levels to a more ambitious, long term path.

## Palestinian Question, Policy Imperatives for Pakistan and the Region

A sober call for action urges sanctions and real consequences, as speakers link Gaza's tragedy to global moral responsibility



The Institute of Regional Studies convened a special roundtable on the Palestinian question and regional stability, exploring humanitarian, historical, and political dimensions and their implications for Pakistan's foreign policy. Chairing the session, the President of the Institute described the unprecedented loss of life in Gaza and reaffirmed Pakistan's position in support of a just peace based on self determination.

Ambassador Zohair Mohammad Hamdallah Zaid delivered the keynote, stressing that the conflict stems from dispossession rather than religion and that Palestine has historically been home to Muslims, Christians, and Jews. He high-

lighted mass displacement and settlement expansion and urged decisive international action, including sanctions, to halt aggression and open a path to peace. Ambassador Ashraf Jehangir Qazi framed the issue as a global moral test, arguing that policies have rendered the two state approach unworkable and that a just solution requires a framework where people of all faiths live together in dignity. Participants concluded by noting the gap between rhetoric and reality, the enabling role of continued settlement funding, and the need for consistent media attention to daily civilian suffering.



# Hungary's National Day Shines in Islamabad



The Embassy of Hungary marked its National Day in Islamabad with an elegant reception that also celebrated sixty years of diplomatic relations between Hungary and Pakistan. The event brought together diplomats, officials, business leaders, and members of civil society in a setting that reflected friendship, heritage, and shared aspirations.

Hungarian Ambassador Zoltán Varga opened the evening with warm remarks, expressing gratitude for the strong relationship between Budapest and Islamabad. He described Pakistan as a reliable partner and highlighted future opportunities in trade, education, energy, and cultural exchange. Minister of State for Finance and Railways Bilal Azhar Kayani joined the ambassador for a cake cutting ceremony, extending congratulations to the government and people of Hungary and reaffirming Pakistan's commitment to strengthening bilateral engagement.

The reception featured a rich cultural display, including a graceful performance by Hungarian dancers whose traditional costumes and choreography captivated the audience. The décor, music, and visual elements showcased Hungary's heritage and modern identity, offering guests a glimpse into the country's history, including memories of the 1956 Revolution that remain central to its national character.

Ambassador Varga reflected on Hungary's historical journey and its longstanding connections with Pakistan, noting that people to people links existed even before formal diplomatic ties began. He highlighted the contributions of Hungarian companies such as MOL in Pakistan's energy sector and praised Pakistani students studying in Hungary, emphasizing education as a key pillar of partnership.

As the evening drew to a close, diplomats exchanged warm toasts and discussed avenues of cooperation in fields ranging from innovation to academic exchange. The reception blended diplomacy with cultural appreciation, celebrating a relationship rooted in history and driven by shared values. For Pakistan and Hungary, the occasion reaffirmed a partnership that continues to grow stronger with time, marked by mutual respect and a forward looking spirit.



# Pakistan and Greece, Parliamentary Friendship

## Dialogue and Diaspora, Pakistan and Greece Re energize Parliamentary Links

From migration management to olive cultivation, a broad agenda seeks practical, people focused outcomes



The Pakistan and Greece Parliamentary Friendship Group met at the Parliament House under the chair of Senator Rubina Qaim Khani, with the Ambassador of Greece, senators, and officials in attendance. The chair called for revived high level exchanges and acknowledged the positive role of the Pakistani diaspora in Greece. She proposed cooperation on safe and legal migration pathways and recognized Greece's efforts to streamline procedures.

Ambassador Eleni Pourichi reiterated Greece's commitment to international law and peaceful dispute resolution and highlighted cooperation opportunities in security, climate action, education, and skilled migration. Senators proposed collaboration in agriculture and digital innovation, noting potential for olive cultivation in the Potohar region. Both sides agreed to maintain close institutional engagement and translate goodwill into tangible projects across trade, education, migration management, and climate resilience.

## Shared Security and Soft Power, Japan and Pakistan Deepen Dialogue

From naval exercises and policy consultations to kimono, calligraphy, and youth events, the partnership spans hard and soft power



The Embassy of Japan hosted a reception to mark the anniversary of the Japan Self Defense Forces. The Ambassador welcomed the Federal Minister for Defense as chief guest and recalled humanitarian airlift operations during Pakistan's floods, joint relief work after major earthquakes, and recent participation of a Japanese destroyer in multinational exercises hosted by Pakistan. Military to military consultations scheduled for December aim to deepen dialogue and practical cooperation. The Ambassador reaffirmed Japan's commitment to peace, disarmament, and



non proliferation, and praised Pakistan's creative presence at a major international expo.

In a youth focused initiative, the Embassy organized a cultural exchange for Japanese language students from a national university. Sessions on traditional attire, calligraphy, and dining customs engaged students directly with Japanese culture. The Embassy emphasized that people to people ties and youth programs remain central to the friendship.



# “If GDP was measured in hospitality, Pakistan would be the richest country in the world”

## Mohamed Yahya, UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator in Pakistan Pakistan and United Nations Reaffirm Partnership for Global Progress at UN Day 2025 Reception in Islamabad

The United Nations in Pakistan hosted a reception at Serena Hotel to commemorate UN Day 2025 and to mark 80 years of the organization. The gathering brought together senior government officials, ambassadors, diplomats, and representatives from UN agencies and development partners, reflecting the strong and longstanding bond between Pakistan and the United Nations.

Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Pakistan, praised the UN's global contributions and its support for Pakistan's national development. He reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to multilateralism and stressed that global challenges including climate change, inequality, and humanitarian crises require collective action. He highlighted Pakistan's constructive engagement with the UN system, especially in peacekeeping, climate leadership, and development initiatives.

Mohamed Yahya, UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator in Pakistan, expressed appreciation for Pakistan's generosity and resilience. He remarked that if GDP was measured in hospitality, Pakistan would be the richest country in the world, drawing applause from the audience. He acknowledged the country's humanitarian spirit and its vital role in global peace and refugee protection. He noted that the UN has been continuously present in Pakistan since 1947 and works through more than twenty resident agencies to advance the Sustainable Development Goals in health, education, gender equality, labour rights, climate resilience, and inclusive growth.

Geir Tønstøl, Country Director of the International Labour Organization and Master of Ceremonies, observed that the world has changed significantly since 1945 but said that the eightieth anniversary is also a moment to welcome reforms that will make the UN more effective and more inclusive.

A short film screened at the event traced the UN's eight decade journey, highlighting peacekeeping, humanitarian work, and development efforts, along with the organization's deep partnership with Pakistan from early reconstruction to modern collaborations on disaster management, digital transformation, and social welfare.

The reception provided a warm setting for guests to reflect on shared aspirations for stability, prosperity, and sustainable development. Both Pakistan and the UN reaffirmed their intention to strengthen cooperation in climate adaptation, women's empowerment, education reform, and economic resilience.

In his concluding remarks, Mohamed Yahya thanked Pakistan for its trust and partnership, noting the country's global role in hosting refugees, contributing to peacekeeping, and advancing sustainable development. The message of the evening was clear. Pakistan and the United Nations stand together in a commitment to cooperation, compassion, and collective progress. The eightieth anniversary celebration honoured the UN's legacy while reaffirming a shared vision for a more peaceful, just, and sustainable world.





# Oman Celebrates a Renewed Era of National Progress



The Sultanate of Oman celebrates its Glorious National Day this Thursday, marking the Al Busaidi State Foundation Day. The occasion reflects the deep unity and patriotic spirit of the Omani people as they continue to advance under the leadership of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik.

Across the nation, progress continues in education, innovation, healthcare, social protection, the environment, economic diversification, and youth empowerment. His Majesty reaffirmed the central role of education in shaping the future, while the expansion of schools, the rise of Sultan Qaboos University in global rankings, and the growth of research programs highlight the country's commitment to modern knowledge and technology.

The social protection system has undergone a major transformation, now covering all stages of life with comprehensive programs for retirement, disability, maternity, income assistance, and savings. More than sixty three percent of the target population already benefits from these reforms, supported by advancements in services for persons with disabilities and the establishment of a national centre for autism care and rehabilitation.

In environmental stewardship, Oman ranks first among Arab countries and twenty second worldwide in the Global Pollution Index. Protected areas have been added to UNESCO's biosphere reserves, while investments in air quality monitoring, marine conservation, and water resource management reflect the nation's com-







mitment to sustainability.

Economic performance remains positive. Non oil exports continue to grow, foreign direct investment has increased, and special economic zones and free zones attracted over one billion rials in new investments during the first half of the year, strengthening the diversification strategy.

On the international front, Oman remains committed to peaceful diplomacy, dialogue, and respect for international law. His Majesty's visits to several countries and Oman's hosting of key regional negotiations reflect the nation's constructive role in global affairs. The Sultanate continues to support just causes, particularly the rights of the Palestinian people, and calls for peaceful political solutions across the region.

As Oman marks its National Day, the country stands united in its vision for a prosperous, stable, and modern future. Guided by the leadership of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik, the Sultanate continues its steady march toward progress and national strength.





## Indonesia and Pakistan Celebrate 75<sup>th</sup> Years of Friendship with a Grand Expo in Islamabad



Islamabad witnessed a vibrant celebration of friendship as Indonesia marked 75 years of diplomatic relations with Pakistan through the “Indonesian Expo 2025,” inaugurated at Centaurus Mall. The two-day event, held on November 8 and 9, brought together the essence of Indonesian culture, trade, and people-to-people ties, symbolizing decades of enduring trust and mutual respect between the two nations.

The opening ceremony was led by the Indonesian Ambassador, Chandra W. Sukotjo, accompanied by his wife, Mdm.

Tamara Y. Sukotjo, with the distinguished presence of former Senate Chairman Mushahid Hussain Syed as the Chief Guest. Diplomats, business leaders, and citizens from both countries attended the event, reflecting the deep-rooted friendship shared between Indonesia and Pakistan.

Ambassador Sukotjo, while addressing the gathering, emphasized the significance of holding the event in a public space. “Friendship should not stay confined within closed halls. It must be celebrated with people, where families, youth, and





communities come together. This Expo is about sharing joy, culture, and togetherness,” he remarked, highlighting the people-centric approach behind choosing Centaurus Mall as the venue.

Adding charm to the occasion, the Embassy’s Women Association, led by Mdm. Tamara Y. Sukotjo, performed a mesmerizing Angklung musical piece using traditional bamboo instruments. The performance of “I Have a Dream” and “Dil Dil Pakistan” filled the hall with harmony and symbolized cultural unity between the two nations.

In his remarks, Mushahid Hussain Syed fondly recalled his personal connection with Indonesia. “Indonesia holds a special place in my heart, as I spent memorable years in Jakarta during my father’s tenure as Pakistan’s first Defense Attaché to Indonesia,” he said while proudly wearing a Batik shirt gifted by Indonesian President Joko Widodo. He further shared that he had met President-elect Prabowo Subianto years ago and predicted his rise to leadership, reaffirming Pakistan’s admiration and close friendship with Indonesia.

The event’s highlight was a captivating performance by the Indonesian troupe “Paguyuban Citra,” whose colorful songs

and traditional dances enthralled the audience. Their rendition of the “Lenggang Jakarta” dance, joined by Pakistani performers, beautifully represented cultural exchange and the unity of spirit between the two brotherly nations.

The Expo also featured Indonesian products, business networking sessions, and live musical performances, offering visitors a glimpse into Indonesia’s vibrant traditions and craftsmanship. The second day promised an equally engaging experience with more cultural activities, showcasing the depth of Indonesia’s creativity and its commitment to strengthening people-to-people ties with Pakistan.

Visitors praised the event’s lively atmosphere and cultural richness. Many expressed their admiration for Indonesia’s artistic diversity and the warmth shared between both nations, calling the Expo a true reflection of friendship, harmony, and cultural celebration.

The Indonesian Expo 2025 not only celebrated 75 years of diplomatic relations but also reaffirmed the shared vision of Indonesia and Pakistan to continue building bridges of co-operation, mutual understanding, and lasting friendship for generations to come.







## Serena Hotels: Where Culture, Care, and Community Converge

Through art, health, and environment, Serena Hotels continues to redefine public diplomacy in Pakistan, bridging hearts, cultures, and causes under one roof



Serena Hotels continues to lead through its commitment to social responsibility, cultural promotion, and public diplomacy, hosting diverse initiatives that enrich Pakistan's intellectual, cultural, and environmental landscape.

### Health and Awareness

To mark World Heart Day, Serena Hotels partnered with Maroof International Hospital for a Raabta Panel Discussion focusing on preventive cardiac care. Federal Health Minister Syed Mustafa Kamal lauded the initiative and emphasized adopting healthy lifestyles to prevent heart diseases. The discussion featured leading cardiologists, WHO representatives, and journalists, underscoring innovations in cardiac care and the importance of public awareness.

### Environmental Responsibility

In collaboration with Subhe Nau and the Pakistan Scouts Association, Serena Hotels organized a Tree Plantation Drive at Sumbol Park, Islamabad. The initiative highlighted environmental conservation and community engagement. Volunteers, scouts, and civil society representatives participated, reaffirming the shared

commitment to sustainability and climate action.

### Cultural Diplomacy

Under its Cultural Diplomacy Initiative, Serena Hotels hosted "Mehfil-e-Sukhan," a celebration of Urdu poetry featuring renowned poets such as Anwar Masood, Kishwar Naheed, and Iftikhar Arif. Global CEO Aziz Boolani expressed Serena's pride in preserving Pakistan's literary traditions and reaffirmed continued support for creative dialogue and artistic expression.

### Cross-Cultural Exchange

The Embassy of the Republic of Korea held the "K-Wave Festa: Beauty, Beats and Beyond" at Serena Hotel, celebrating Korean culture through music, beauty, and art. The event featured a K-beauty masterclass, K-pop dance workshop, traditional cuisine, and Hanbok experiences, drawing an enthusiastic crowd and strengthening cultural bonds between Korea and Pakistan.

Through these initiatives, Serena Hotels continues to promote meaningful engagement, environmental awareness, and artistic appreciation, reaffirming its role as a catalyst for cultural and public diplomacy in Pakistan.





## New Envoys Present Credentials to President Zardari

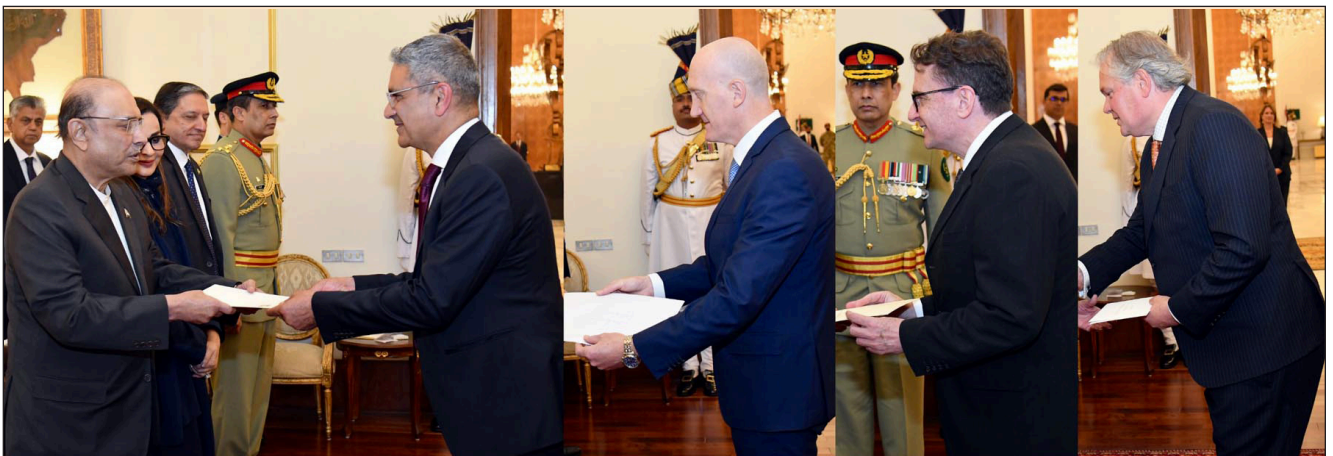


At a graceful ceremony in Islamabad, four newly appointed envoys presented their credentials to President Asif Ali Zardari at Aiwan e Sadr. Diplomats from Australia, Mauritius, Denmark, and the United Arab Emirates were welcomed with a Guard of Honour and warm exchanges focused on strengthening bilateral ties.

Australia's High Commissioner designate Tim Kane discussed cooperation in trade, investment, agriculture, and education. Mauritius' High Commissioner designate Munsoo Kurimbaccus emphasized partnership in trade, defense, and cultural exchange. Denmark's Ambassador

designate Maja Mortensen highlighted collaboration in technology, agriculture, and climate resilience. The UAE's Ambassador designate Salem Mohammed Salem Al Bawab Al Zaabi reaffirmed the historic friendship rooted in shared interests in trade, security, and people to people ties.

President Zardari conveyed his best wishes to all four envoys, expressing confidence that their tenure will deepen cooperation across diverse sectors. The ceremony reflected Pakistan's commitment to expanding global partnerships through mutual respect and forward looking diplomacy.





# A Night of Harmony: German Embassy and Goethe-Institut Host Jazz Concert in Islamabad



On a crisp evening in Islamabad, the German Embassy in collaboration with the Goethe Institut treated the capital's cultural scene to an unforgettable night of modern jazz. The Pakistan National Council of the Arts (PNCA) auditorium came alive as the acclaimed Eva Klesse Quartet, hailing from Cologne, Germany, delivered a performance that bridged continents, traditions, and generations.

## Setting the Stage for Cultural Dialogue

The event opened with a warm welcome from German Ambassador Ina Lepel, who reflected on Germany's dual identity: "a country of tradition, but also ... a very modern, urban and dynamic culture." Her remarks underscored a central theme of the evening — that jazz, with its improvisational edge and emotional depth, perfectly embodies that modern spirit while resonating with the vibrancy of Pakistani society, especially its younger audience.

For Ambassador Lepel, the Quartet's performance was not just entertainment — it was a form of communication. The evening symbolized Germany's desire to share more than diplomacy; it was about sharing culture, creativity, and connection.

## The Music: Contemporary Jazz with a Cologne Vibe

The Eva Klesse Quartet, made up of Evgeny Ring (saxophone), Felix Hauptmann (piano), Tabea Kind (double bass), and Eva Klesse (drums), brought a rich tapestry of sound to the stage. Their style seamlessly fused modern jazz improvisation with elements drawn from their hometown of Cologne, producing a soundscape that felt both grounded and exploratory.

Throughout their set, the Quartet explored complex rhythms, unconventional chord progressions, and spontaneous interplay — hallmarks of their globally celebrated work. Over the years, the group

has recorded six albums and earned international praise. Their performance in Islamabad marked the final stop of a Pakistan tour that had taken them through Karachi and Lahore, making this evening particularly special.

## A Connection Beyond Music

The concert was more than a performance; it was a gesture of friendship. Young Pakistani attendees swayed to the rhythms, while long-time jazz enthusiasts watched with rapt attention as the Quartet built musical bridges between Germany and Pakistan. The evening served as a reminder that art transcends geopolitical boundaries and spiritual divides.

In her closing comments, Ambassador Lepel expressed optimism for future exchanges: that cultural events like this could inspire collaboration in education, the arts, and innovation. Her vision seemed to resonate with many in the audience — especially students and budding musicians who saw in the Quartet's music a model for creative courage and international collaboration.

## Lasting Resonance

As the final notes faded, the applause was thunderous, and smiles lit up faces throughout the hall. For many, the concert was more than a diplomatic event — it was a moment of inspiration, a reminder of the power of music to unify, and a testament to the growing cultural ties between Germany and Pakistan.

The evening reflected a subtle but profound message: that cultural diplomacy, when done well, is not just about showcasing national talent — it's about creating shared memories, forging cross-cultural respect, and kindling new creative journeys.





# China's Expanding Role in Driving the Global Green Transition

By: Maarij Farooq

As the world moves deeper into what many describe as the decisive decade for climate action, the global green transition has increasingly come to define twenty first century geopolitics, economic strategy, and development discourse. Amid these rapidly evolving dynamics, China's role stands out not only for its scale and ambition, but also for its practical delivery, policy innovation, and support to developing nations. The country's expanding leadership, often understated in Western narratives, has become a central pillar in global efforts to confront climate change and accelerate sustainable transformation worldwide.

China's contribution is multidimensional and rooted in a vision that links ecological civilization, economic modernization, and shared development. This vision is now shaping some of the most consequential climate initiatives, from renewable energy deployment to green financing, technology diffusion, and South-South cooperation.

A major dimension of China's role lies in its domestic transformation. Over the past decade, the country has undertaken one of the fastest and largest clean energy expansions in human history. Today, China hosts the world's largest installed capacity of solar and wind power, and it leads the global supply chain for clean technology, including photovoltaics, batteries, and electric vehicles. The establishment of the world's largest carbon trading market, covering thousands of enterprises across multiple sectors, signals a commitment to market based mechanisms that can gradually shift industrial behavior and strengthen emissions management.

This domestic momentum has global implications. China's scale allows it to bring down costs of green technologies worldwide. Countries across Africa, Asia, Latin America, and even parts of Europe have been able to accelerate their own clean energy transitions because Chinese innovation made renewable solutions affordable. Solar power in many developing countries is now cheaper than fossil based alternatives precisely because China invested early and at scale in manufacturing capacity. This is not simply an economic contribution; it is an enabler of global climate progress.

Equally significant is China's approach to international climate cooperation, which has increasingly emphasized partnership, capacity building, and respect for national development priorities. Through the Belt and Road Initiative, the country has integrated ecological guidelines into overseas cooperation, promoting green and low carbon development as a key pillar. The Belt and Road International Green Development Coalition, which brings together governments, institutions, and experts from dozens of countries, has become an important platform for policy exchange, technology sharing, and practical project level collaboration.

South-South cooperation has emerged as one of China's most impactful contributions to the global green transition. Developing countries face a dual challenge: they must grow economically while simultaneously reducing carbon intensity and building resilience to climate shocks. For many, access to finance and technology remains the principal bottleneck. China's green financing partnerships, capacity building programs, and technology cooperation mechanisms are beginning to address these gaps in pragmatic and results oriented ways.

Whether through joint research centers, renewable energy demonstration projects, or training programmes for thousands of officials



and engineers, China has supported developing nations in enhancing their ability to implement sustainable solutions. This stands in contrast to the conditionalities often attached to Western assistance or the slow pace of multilateral climate finance disbursement.

China's role is also visible in climate diplomacy at the United Nations and other multilateral forums. The country played a constructive part in the adoption of the Paris Agreement and continues to uphold its commitments while urging developed nations to fulfil theirs. China's recent announcements of new Nationally Determined Contributions reflect a determination to peak carbon emissions before twenty thirty and achieve carbon neutrality before twenty sixty. For a country of China's size, complexity, and development stage, these commitments are not just ambitious, they are transformative.

Critics sometimes question China's ongoing reliance on some fossil fuels to meet energy security needs. Yet this critique often ignores the scale of China's transition and the structural realities it faces as the world's largest developing economy. No country has attempted a shift of this magnitude while supporting a population of one point four billion and maintaining rapid technological and industrial growth. The direction is clear, the policies are consistent, and the pace of renewable expansion far outstrips that of any Western nation.

The global green transition will require cooperation, not confrontation. Climate change does not recognize national borders, nor can it be addressed by fragmenting global supply chains or politicizing energy transitions. China's approach offers a model grounded in mutual benefit, technological pragmatism, and shared progress. At a time when many countries face widening financing gaps and implementation challenges, China's experience in scaling green markets, promoting innovation, and reducing costs can help bridge the divide.

As the world looks ahead to the next decade of climate action, China's role will continue to grow. Its leadership is not about replacing others but about contributing meaningfully to a collective effort. By expanding clean energy globally, strengthening South-South cooperation, and championing a development pathway that links prosperity with sustainability, China is helping to shape a greener, more inclusive future.

The global community should recognize that the success of the green transition will depend not on isolating major actors, but on building broad based partnerships. In this regard, China's constructive and forward looking engagement offers not only hope but also a practical roadmap for a world seeking climate stability and sustainable growth.



## Building Bridges in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa: U.S. and Pakistan Strengthen Youth and Development Cooperation

### A new chapter of U.S.–Pakistan partnership unfolds as KP Governor and the U.S. Consul General chart a path for youth empowerment, sustainable development, and regional resilience

Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi met with the newly appointed United States Consul General Thomas Eckert at the Governor House, Peshawar. The meeting focused on strengthening bilateral cooperation, fostering people-to-people exchanges, and exploring investment opportunities in the province's natural resources. Governor Kundi congratulated the Consul General on his posting and highlighted the long-standing partnership between Pakistan and the United States.

He appreciated America's continued support for Pakistan's development, particularly in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, and encouraged greater U.S. investment in education, sports, and youth development within merged districts. Stressing that the youth of KP possess exceptional potential, the Governor called for targeted programs to help them achieve excellence. He also drew attention to the challenges of terrorism and climate change facing the province and emphasized the need to promote sustainable agriculture, especially in southern districts where vast tracts of barren



land can be cultivated.

Consul General Eckert thanked the Governor for his hospitality and reaffirmed Washington's commitment to expanding cooperative initiatives and partnership projects across multiple sectors in Pakistan.

## Strengthening Bonds: Pakistan and Italy Deepen Ties Through Parliamentary Diplomacy

### At the heart of Islamabad, political dialogue and shared vision between Pakistan and Italy pave the way for a renewed era of friendship and cooperation

Chairman Senate Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani reaffirmed Pakistan's warm and cooperative relations with Italy during a luncheon hosted by Senator Sarmad Ali in honor of Italian Ambassador Marilina Armellin. The event, attended by senior government officials and parliamentarians, emphasized the importance of strengthening parliamentary and economic linkages.

Chairman Gilani lauded Italy's role as one of Pakistan's largest European trading partners and highlighted the contributions of the Pakistani diaspora in promoting mutual understanding. Ambassador Armellin acknowledged the efforts of the Pakistan–Italy Parliamentary Friendship Groups and conveyed greetings from her counterpart in the Italian Parliament, Sara Ferrari. She expressed optimism that upcoming parliamentary exchanges would further deepen bilateral cooperation. Senator Sarmad Ali thanked the Ambassador for her support and emphasized the growing significance of parliamentary diplomacy in enhancing mutual trust and collaboration. The luncheon concluded with a shared resolve to expand ties in trade, education, and cultural exchange.







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