

High Commissioner Zahid Hafeez Chaudhri marks Defence Day

Canberra: Pakistani High Commissioner to Australia Zahid Hafeez Chaudhri this week marked the Defence Day along with the member of the Pakistani High Commission. "Honouring the courage and sacrifices of our heroes on Pakistan Defence Day, we celebrate this day as a symbol of the nation's

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Pakistan, UK vow to strengthen partnership Ishaq Dar meets the Deputy Prime Minister of UK Celina Ali

Islamabad: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar this week met the Deputy Prime Minister and Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government of

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Can the US and China avoid a catastrophic clash?



Daniel R DePetris

New York: Last week, US National Security Adviser Jake Sullivan travelled to China for a multi-day trip in an attempt to keep relations between Washington and Beijing on a somewhat even-keel as the United States prepares for a political transition in several months' time. The trip was notable in several respects. It was the first time in eight years that a US national security adviser made the trip to Beijing, and Sullivan managed to grab a meeting with General Zhang Youxia, the vice chairman of the Central Military Commission. The mere fact that this specific meeting occurred, after a two-year freeze in communications with its military officials, suggests that China's President Xi Jinping is as interested in maintaining stability over the proceeding months as the Biden administration is.

The readouts of the conversations don't tell us much. On the US side, the word of the day was "responsibility," as in both superpowers have a responsibility to ensure the competition between them doesn't veer into a conflict. While this phrase has taken on a robotic-like character over the years, it happens to be true. The consequences of a direct US-China conflict, either over Taiwan, the disputed shoals of the South China Sea or by sheer miscalculation, are unfathomable. One war-game conducted earlier in the year assessed that tens of thousands of US service members would be lost in addition to dozens of ships and hundreds of aircraft. The economic repercussions would be just as gargantuan, with perhaps as much as 10 per cent of global gross domestic product wiped out. Systemic rivalry aside, the US and China don't have an interest in flirting with such a catastrophic scenario. To the extent Sullivan's meetings reinforced this theme,

then they were time well spent. But nor is there much room for problem-solving among US and Chinese officials at this particular time. Indeed, just as Sullivan stressed the urgency of responsibly managing relations, he also made it clear that Washington wasn't going to reorient its China policy. American technologies that could contribute to the modernisation of China's People's Liberation Army (PLA) will continue to be restricted. Sullivan called out China for its repeated use of so-called "grey zone"

tactics around the Sabina and Second Thomas Shoals, designed to interrupt Philippine re-supply missions. Taiwan will remain the biggest point of contention, with Sullivan yet again denouncing any moves by China to settle the issue by force. China's Foreign Minister Wang Yi was equal parts scathing and diplomatic during his time with Sullivan, arguing that the United States needed to start treating China as an equal rather than a systemic competitor. In

fact, Chinese officials completely disagree with the notion that the United States and China can be a competitor and a partner at the same time. On the South China Sea, Beijing wants the United States to stay out entirely. Xi remains emphatic that US export controls are as much about preventing Chinese economic development as they are about constraining the PLA. Short of outright US capitulation to Chinese demands, there is little Washington can do to assuage Beijing on any of these matters.



Denmark's FLSmidth keen to invest in mining sector



Celina Ali

Islamabad: A Danish multinational firm, FLSmidth, this week expressed its interest in investing in Pakistan's mining industry. FLSmidth, which provides the global mining and cement industries with equipment and services, expressed interest during a meeting of a Danish business group, led by Denmark's Ambassador Jakob Linulf, with Pakistani ministers for finance, commerce, petroleum, and privatization in Islamabad. Commerce Minister Jam Kamal Khan said Denmark was an important business partner of Pakistan and Danish cooperation in Pakistan's mining sector and bilateral business activities would strengthen the Pakistani economy, the state-run Radio Pakistan broadcaster reported. "CEO of FLSmidth, Mikko Keto, said they will move

forward with actionable suggestions and profitable projects in the mining industry," an official report read. Since avoiding a default last year, Pakistan has been trying to boost trade and foreign investment to revive its fragile \$350 billion economy. There has been a flurry of visits, investment talks and economic activity between Pakistan, China, and Central Asian and Gulf states in recent months. During the meeting, Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb assured the Danish businessmen of every possible facilitation with regard to investment in Pakistan, according to Radio Pakistan. "The government wants to promote business activities with the support of private sector," Privatization Minister Abdul Aleem Khan said, describing possible Danish investment as "encouraging."

Aseefa Bhutto pledges leading role in fight against TB



Liaquat Ali

Islamabad: Aseefa Bhutto Zardari, First Lady of Pakistan, this week reaffirmed her commitment to combating Tuberculosis (TB) in Pakistan and on the global stage. In a high-level meeting with the leadership of Dopasi Foundation and a delegation of esteemed parliamentarians, led by Dr Shazia Sobia Aslam Soomro, the discussion centred on addressing Pakistan's TB burden and identifying solutions for closing persistent gaps in TB care, especially for underprivileged communities. The delegation from the Dopasi Foundation, led by CEO Ms Kinz-ul-Eman, included key figures such as Dr Usman Rasool Lodhi, Program Manager; Dr Tilal Asif, Director of Programs; Ms Mishal Javed, Manager of Communications; along with Dr Syed Karam Shah, Senior Technical Advisor and head of the Stop TB Partnership Pakistan. Parliamentarians in attendance included Dr Mehreen Bhutto, Ms Sehar Kamran, Khurshid Junejo, and Ms Musarat Rafique—prominent voices in the fight against TB. The meeting provided an opportunity to reflect on Pakistan's progress since the United Nations High-Level Meeting on TB in 2023 while exploring new strategies to tackle ongoing chal-

lenges in TB notification and treatment. In a commitment, Ms Aseefa Bhutto Zardari announced her role as a champion for TB advocacy, pledging to lead national and international efforts. "I am proud to lend my voice to the fight against TB. The fight against Tuberculosis is not just a health issue, but a matter of dignity and justice for the millions affected by this preventable disease. Together, we can create a future where no one is left behind, and every individual has access to the care and support they deserve," said Ms. Bhutto Zardari. During the meeting, Aseefa Bhutto Zardari accepted the role of chair for the TB Survivors Event. She pledged to advocate for the rights of TB survivors and equitable access to quality healthcare in all provinces. Aseefa Bhutto Zardari also praised the work of the End TB Parliamentary Caucus, which promotes cross-provincial collaboration to boost TB advocacy. The First Lady urged broader participation from parliamentarians to create a unified response to TB. Dopasi Foundation, a leading non-profit in Pakistan, partners with the Ministry of Health and global stakeholders to make significant progress in controlling TB and addressing related health targets, especially among marginalised populations.

113 Pakistani students to get top Chinese universities, institutions' scholarships



Gwadar Pro

Islamabad: The National Vocational and Technical Training Commission (NAVTTC) this week announced that 113 of its students have been selected for scholarships to study at top universities and receive training at industrial institutions in China. NAVTTC, in collaboration with the Chinese-Commercial Culture-Technical Training Employment (CCTE), organized an international China scholarship ceremony at the Center of Excellence H-9, Islamabad, aimed at enhancing youth skills and employment. The event aimed to equip the youth with technical skills through the Pak-China joint degree/diploma program, which is part of the CCTE initiatives. Under this program, 113 students undergoing training in various fields across the country, under NAVTTC, were selected after various exams. These students were given an 8-month Chinese language course at the local level, after which Chinese teachers conducted online test. The 113 students who passed the test were selected for one-year training in China. Among these students, 11 are female. These students will first receive top-notch training in their respective fields at the best universities in China, followed by practical training at leading industrial institutions in China, and those who meet their standards will be offered employment there.

CPEC a critical factor: Mushahid Hussain Sayed



NewsWire

Islamabad: Pakistan-China Institute (PCI) Chairman Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed this week asserted that a strategic window of opportunity is emerging for Pakistan, as the South Asian geopolitical landscape is being reshaped, potentially positioning the country as a key player in regional connectivity and development initiatives. Mushahid made these remarks during his keynote speech at a workshop titled 'Training the Trainers,' which focused on Pakistan's role in global politics. The event was organized by the Center for International Strategic Studies (CISS) in Islamabad. He expressed optimism about Pakistan's geo-economic potential, influenced by significant developments both within and outside its borders. He pointed to the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) as a critical factor, noting it "will link Central Asia with the Indian Ocean through Pakistan," enhancing trade and economic integration. According to him, the cessation of conflict in Afghanistan has presented "Pakistan with strategic space for the first time in 42 years." He further highlighted the geopolitical shifts that add to this strategic opening, including the Iran-Saudi rapprochement and the political change in Bangladesh. Additionally, the diminished influence of Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi compared to his previous term was mentioned as a factor contributing to a more favorable regional environment for Pakistan. Mushahid maintained that Pakistan's hosting of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) and its application for membership in BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa) are steps towards greater international integration and recognition of its strategic role. Despite these positive indicators, Mr. Mushahid did not shy away from addressing the internal challenges facing Pakistan. He stressed that many of the country's problems are self-created and therefore, can be rectified. According to him, the resilience and spirit of the Pakistani people are key factors that will drive the



country to overcome these obstacles and move forward. During the inaugural session of the workshop, Dr. Maleeha Lodhi, former Permanent Representative of Pakistan to the United Nations, outlined seven key features that define today's strategic landscape. She cautioned against referring to the current global situation as a "world order," suggesting it is more akin to a "global world disorder."

Her key points included the economic shift toward multipolarity with wealth and power moving from the West to other regions, the escalating U.S.-China confrontation highlighted by Washington's strategy to contain China, and increased East-West tensions, notably exacerbated by the ongoing war in Ukraine. Additionally, she noted the growing threats to multilateralism and the rules-based international order, the rise of populism, technological disruptions in a hyperconnected

world, and the emergence of middle powers determined to forge their own foreign policy paths independently of major international alliances. Addressing the workshop, CISS Executive Director Ambassador Ali Sarwar Naqvi said that Pakistan is a pivotal state located at the crossroads of South Asia, Central Asia and the Middle East which highlights its geopolitical importance.

Enormous Potential for China-Pakistan Toy Industry: Both Sides Seeking Collaboration

Gwadar Pro

Shantou: Under the chairmanship of Mr. Muhammad Imran, Trade and Investment Counselor of the Consulate General of Pakistan in Guangzhou, a video conference was held between Mr. Chen Liangqq, Executive Vice President of the Chenghai Toy Association, Ms. Chen Qichun, Deputy Director of the Organizing Committee of the 23rd Toy Expo, and Mr. Shahzad Aslam, President of the Pakistan Toy Association, Mr. Zahid Javed, Secretary General of the Pakistan Toy Association, and Mr. Aamir Allawala, CEO of Tecno Group on September 5. This meeting further confirmed both parties' intentions for cooperation and explored future development aims, following a meeting at the end of last month focused on deepening collaboration and exchanges between the toy industries of Shantou Chenghai and Pakistan. During the meeting, Counselor Muhammad Imran noted that Pakistan, with a population of over 240 million (ranking fifth in the world), has 54% of its population under the age of 30, which drives a growing demand for toy products and indicates a market with enormous

potential. The Consulate General of Pakistan in Guangzhou aims to foster partnerships between Shantou Chenghai and the Pakistan Toy Association to facilitate the entry of more high-quality Chinese toys into the Pakistani market. Additionally, as a sub-sector of the plastics industry, toys are one of the key industries that the Pakistani government is actively nurturing and supporting. He expressed hope that this exchange would serve as a platform for organizing business visits, sharing resources and technology, and achieving a win-win situation for the toy industries in both countries. Guangdong Province is China's largest toy production and export region, with Chenghai District in Shantou City being recognized as the "Toy Capital of China." It is home to over 50,000 toy manufacturing and creative industry enterprises, employing over 200,000 people, with an annual output value exceeding 50 billion yuan. Official data shows that in 2022, the Chenghai toy industry reached an output value of 48.37-billion-yuan, accounting for 33% of the global toy production capacity. To attract both domestic and international buyers, the 23rd China Chenghai International Toy and Gift Fair is scheduled to be held from October 25 to 27 at the Shantou International Convention and Exhibition Center. Mr. Chen Liang, Executive Vice President of the Chenghai Toy Association, stated that the 23rd Toy Expo, being the largest specialized toy exhibition in the country, has invited buyers from all over the world, presenting an excellent opportunity for the Pakistani delegation to showcase and promote its products.



Number of Pakistani students growing in Italy varsities



Celina Ali
Islamabad: The Italian Consulate in Karachi has since long promoted University cooperation between Italy and Pakistan, as evidenced by a sizable and growing number of Pakistani students who choose Italy as their destination for Higher Education

Karachi on the invitation of the Institute of Business Administration (IBA). The visit of Prof. Tottoli to Karachi highlights the Italian Consulate's efforts to strengthen academic exchanges and cooperation. L'Orientale University of Naples has a Memorandum of Understanding

both the Vice Chancellors of IBA and University of Karachi to discuss further possibility of cooperation. The growing interest of students in Sindh and Balochistan in pursuing Higher Education in Italy is increasing, with over 600 students from Sindh and Balochistan having gone to Italy for graduate, post-graduate, and doctorate degree programs in the past year.

The University portal provides a step by step guideline for students to access top universities in Italy. The Italian system of Higher Education includes around 144 institutions, most of them being public sector universities imparting excellence in research and education. Four out of ten oldest universities in the world are Italian and these are the University of Bologna (1088), the University of Padua (1222), the "Federico II" University of Naples (1224), and the University of Siena (1240).

The influx of Pakistani students to Italy has significantly increased during the last few years as leading universities in Italy offer degree programs taught in English and hence has become a popular destination for higher education.

With the visit of Prof. Tottoli to Karachi, besides academic cooperation in varied discourses and disciplines, the Consulate of Italy in Karachi is aiming for bilateral promotion of Italian and Urdu language between Italian and Pakistani universities that aims to promote teaching of Italian language in Sind and promotion of Urdu language in Italy.



as well as by the joint-research projects undertaken with benefits for both countries. It is especially important today to invest in the younger generations providing them with wider opportunities and promoting scientific and technical knowledge and cultural exchanges. Prof. Roberto Tottoli, Chancellor of the University of Naples L'Orientale visited

(MoU) with the University of Karachi, which was signed in 2022 and is envisaging establishing a long-term cooperation with IBA. Prof. Tottoli's expertise lies in Arabist studies, Islamic history, and Arabic Qur'anic manuscript traditions. L'Orientale University also has a Department of Urdu language and culture. The CG of Italy Danilo Giurdanella accompanied Chancellor Tottoli to meet



Adjusting cross-border adoption policy inevitable outcome of China's development and progress

Global Times

The Chinese government has recently adjusted its cross-border adoption policy. Henceafter, apart from the adoption of a child or stepchild from one's collateral relatives by blood of the same generation and up to the third degree of kinship by foreigners coming to China, China will not send children abroad for adoption. This adjustment not only respects the spirit of relevant international covenants, but is also an inevitable advance in China's social security system.

Children in difficult circumstances are one of the most vulnerable social groups in need of care and protection. The adjustment of adoption policies reflects the Chinese government's commitment to protecting children's rights. The principles of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, and the Convention on Protection of Children and Cooperation in Respect of Intercountry Adoption emphasize ensuring the best interests of children, which aligns completely with China's commitment to developing children's services. Any policy adjustments regarding child rights protection are made with the utmost consideration of children's best interests, following thorough research, and will help better protect orphans'

legal rights under new circumstances.

During the early period of reform and opening-up, China's economy was weak, with an annual per capita GDP of only a few hundred dollars. The living conditions of ordinary families were significantly behind those in Western countries, and the social welfare system was insufficient to support all orphans with the care and environment needed for their growth. Cross-border adoption provided a practical solution for some orphans to change their living conditions. For decades, cross-border adoption has generally provided many orphaned children with the warmth of a family in a foreign country. However, at the same time, some international adoption cases have unfortunately involved abuse, exploitation, and violence, which is deeply troubling. Today, international adoption has fulfilled its mission in China. In recent years, China has adhered to the principle of "the best interests of the child" as outlined in intercountry adoption conventions and the principle of "the best interests of the adoptee" in the Civil Code of the country, while maintaining the practice of "domestic adoption as a priority."

Currently, domestic adoptions account for nearly 90

percent of the total number of adoptions. This means that even before the introduction of the new policy adjustment, cross-border adoptions had already been significantly declining. This is also consistent with the development trend of cross-border adoption in various countries. This decline is primarily due to the profound changes China has undergone over the past few decades. Rapid economic development has led to continuous improvements in the social welfare system.

Increased government investment in education, healthcare, and social security has made significant progress in maintaining social fairness and justice, eliminating extreme poverty, and ensuring the wellbeing of the people, thereby laying a solid foundation for the shift in orphan adoption policies.

An undeniable fact is that comprehensive economic and social progress has significantly reduced the number of orphans in China. Statistics show that in 2013, there were 549,000 orphans nationwide. By the end of 2023, this number had dropped to 144,000. Consequently, the number of orphanages and other child welfare institutions has also decreased substantially.

Today, with China having comprehensively built a moderately prosperous society and with per capita GDP exceeding \$10,000, improvements in healthcare have greatly reduced the incidence of newborn disabilities, and attitudes toward gender discrimination have also improved significantly.

With the significant improvement in people's living standards and the continuous improvement of the social security system, Chinese people are increasingly willing to adopt orphans. Under such circumstances, it is logical to adjust the policy of cross-border adoption and cease the practice of sending children abroad for adoption.

In recent years, as China has made continuous progress in economic and social development, it has also increasingly explored a comprehensive social security system for orphans, significantly improving the living conditions of orphans, including disabled children. The average support standard for domestically raised orphans' basic living standards has reached 1,885.4 yuan per person per month.

Local governments have also established a natural growth mechanism for the basic living guarantee of orphans based on their actual economic and social



development. The country has strengthened the professional level of child welfare institutions, and continuously improved the integrated development of orphan care, medical care, rehabilitation, education, and social work. Some healthy orphans with mild disabilities have returned to their families and integrated into society through domestic adoption, family foster care, and "family-like" care. Some severely disabled orphans who are not suitable for family adoption can receive specialized medical rehabilitation within child welfare institutions.

In order to promote the return of disabled orphans to their families, the Chinese government introduced support service policies to encourage domestic families to adopt disabled orphans.

In regions like Shandong, Shanxi, Inner Mongolia, Ningxia, Yunnan, Anhui, Guangdong, and Liaoning, mechanisms have been established to encourage adoptions, and activities such as the "Tomorrow Plan on Surgical Rehabilitation for Orphans with Disabilities," orphan education assistance, have reduced the burden on families adopting disabled children in

terms of raising, medical rehabilitation, etc., so that disabled children can receive rehabilitation assistance and regain family warmth.

It can be said that with the solid advances of child welfare in China, adjustments to China's cross-border adoption policies have naturally followed. As long as one has some understanding of the relevant situation in China, he or she will not be surprised by the adjustment of the intercountry adoption policy, and there is no need to over-interpret it. Adjusting cross-border adoption policies is a reflection of China's overall development and progress, and also a reflection of China's continuous exploration of the protection and safeguarding of children's rights. We also hope that the international community will continue to work with China to advance global child welfare efforts, ensuring that every child can grow up in an environment of love and care.

Global Times



Why did Chinese tennis player Zheng Qinwen respond to a slur assertively?

Ding Gang

China's Zheng Qinwen defeated her old rival, Donna Vekic, in a rematch of their Olympic final on Monday, advancing to the US Open quarterfinals. During the match, some spectators shouted the racially discriminatory English slur "yellow banana." With unwavering courage, Zheng boldly responded, "I will beat you!"

Why did Zheng feel offended? In the modern context, this term carries strong racial discrimination connotations.

The metaphor originated in mid-20th century Asian American communities, particularly among Chinese Americans. "Banana" implies being "yellow on the

outside, white on the inside," referring to someone who is ethnically Asian but culturally more Western or "white." It reflects the struggles of second and third-generation immigrants caught between their ancestral and mainstream Western cultures.

This concept isn't unique to Asian communities. Similar terms exist for other cultures, like "coconut" (brown outside, white inside) for South Asians or Latinos and "Oreo" for African Americans.

When "yellow banana" first became popular in Asian communities, it often carried a self-deprecating or humorous tone. However, over time, it has become an offensive racial descriptor. It suggests a "split" between a person's appearance and internal cultural identity, making them feel like an "outsider" caught in the middle.

The metaphor suggests that even if someone of Asian descent excels in a certain activity or field, they may not be fully accepted or recognized because of their cultural

background. This is especially common in situations where someone is participating in activities that are traditionally associated with Western culture, such as tennis, which is often seen as a "Western game."

Once upon a time, the tennis circle was like an old Western "club." Suddenly, young players from the East "burst in like a whirlwind." At the traditional Western dance, Eastern melodies began to play, disrupting the familiar rhythm of this ancient club.

Zheng's success undoubtedly challenges some people's traditional sense of superiority.

In today's globalized world, cultural clashes are like different spices mixed, sometimes creating beautiful flavors but also potentially causing discomfort. Some people may choose to belittle others to maintain their psychological balance. This behavior reveals a clinging to the notion of white supremacy.

In the increasingly complex global political landscape, shouting the slur on the court is discrimination against the identity of Chinese athletes. Zheng's success is a personal victory and an important demonstration of Chinese presence on the global sports stage, akin to Yao Ming's brilliant performance in the NBA.

"They are on the field!" They come from the East and are not just two or three individuals but a group demonstrating skills as high as those of American and European athletes in many events. This is unprecedented in the world of sports and the Olympic arena.

The outstanding performance of Chinese athletes on the world stage stems from the momentum released by China's reform and opening-up. Today, China has tens of thousands of tennis courts. Although China's tennis courts still need to be expanded, it represents significant progress compared to the past.

China has established a systematic youth tennis training system starting from the grass-roots level to discover and nurture talent. With the facilities, investment, and more young people loving the sport, it's



no surprise that Chinese athletes are stepping onto the podium.

The essence of sports competition lies in fair play and the display of individual abilities, not racial or cultural superiority. Zheng's assertive response effectively answers why she can rise to the top of the global tennis scene.

When Westerners can watch international competitions, which they have historically dominated, with a more open mind-set and appreciate the new perspectives and styles brought by athletes from different cultural backgrounds, it will signify their true acceptance of globalization. This globalization doesn't belong solely to the West.

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Covert Report A statement was issued by the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) on behalf of the chairman joint chiefs of staff committee, Services Chiefs and Armed Forces, saying that they “proudly commemorate the triumphant legacy of the 1965 War” — something they described as “a paradigm of the nation’s indomitable will and unyielding spirit.”

“This day serves as a poignant tribute to the valor, sacrifice, and heroism of our gallant soldiers who valiantly defended the motherland against formidable odds,” the ISPR statement said.

“Fifty-nine years ago, the Pakistan Armed Forces decisively thwarted the enemy’s malicious designs, securing a historic victory that will be etched in the annals of history forever. The 1965 War was a beacon of hope, exemplifying the nation’s resilience and determination in the face of adversity.

“We pay heartfelt tribute to the martyrs of Pakistan who have laid down their lives since 1947 in defence of Pakistan and especially those who have given ultimate sacrifices in fights & war against terrorism. Their sacrifices will never be forgotten.”

Pak Embassy celebrates Defence Day in Paris



News wire Paris: Pakistan Embassy, Paris this week hosted a reception to commemorate the Defence and Martyrs Day of Pakistan. The event was attended by members of Parliament, Ambassadors, Defence Attaches, dignitaries from French Armed Forces, Foreign Affairs, Defence industry and think tank representatives.

In his welcome remarks Ambassador Asim Iftikhar Ahmad thanked the guests for joining noting that their presence marked the bonds of friendship and cooperation with Pakistan. He said that 6th September was a reminder of the exemplary courage, indomitable will, spirit of unmatched sacrifice and bravery of the armed forces and the people of Pakistan.

All nations honour their heroes, and broadly speaking, such commemorations are homage to all those men and women who fight for the right cause and defend their homelands, he added.

The Ambassador paid tributes to Defence Forces and martyrs of Pakistan. He mentioned that Pakistan does not harbour any aggressive designs against any country, but we are today supremely placed to effectively defend against any foreign aggression at any level and scale.

He mentioned Pakistan’s contributions for regional and global peace and stability especially under UN peacekeeping missions. The Ambassador highlighted that Pakistan has also been a key partner in the international community’s collective efforts in counter terrorism. He stressed upon the importance of addressing the root causes of conflict and instability.

The envoy advocated the benefits of dialogue, diplomacy, and respect for international law. Further, he mentioned that pacific settlement of disputes in accordance with the UN Charter was a cornerstone of Pakistan’s foreign policy. A just and peaceful solution of the Jammu & Kashmir dispute in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the UN Security Council and the wishes of the Kashmiri people was imperative for durable peace and stability in South Asia, and for unlocking the full development potential of our region.

Pakistan expected the responsible members of the international community to play their due role in promoting a peaceful resolution of the Jammu & Kashmir dispute in line with international legitimacy and UNSC resolutions, to enable the Kashmiri people exercise their inalienable right to self-determination that was promised to them by the UN and the international community.

Similarly, Pakistan stood in complete solidarity with the Palestinian people in their just struggle against illegal occupation and for the right to self-determination and statehood.

Speaking of Pak-France multi-faceted bilateral relationship, including longstanding defence ties, the Ambassador affirmed Pakistan’s commitment to further advance this partnership for mutual benefit.

He underlined that Pakistan believed in forging partnerships and strengthening international cooperation across the board in pursuit of shared objectives of global peace, security and development. Pakistan shall continue to work together with all its friends and partners in this collective endeavour.

Amna Baloch appointed as Pakistan's new foreign secretary



Celina Ali Islamabad: Amna Baloch, a Grade 22 officer, has been appointed as the new foreign secretary of Pakistan. The official notification of her appointment was issued by the Establishment Division following the approval of the prime minister.

Amina Baloch, who previously served as Pakistan’s ambassador to Belgium, will now take on the role of foreign secretary, one of the most critical positions in the country’s diplomatic framework. Her appointment comes as Pakistan navigates complex global challenges and seeks to strengthen its international relationships.

Ms Baloch is set to take charge of office on September 11 after the incumbent, Muhammad Syrus Sajjad Qazi, retires on September 10. Qazi has been appointed as a member of Federal Public Service Commission.

The decision to appoint Baloch as foreign secretary reflects her extensive experience and expertise in international diplomacy. During her tenure as ambassador, she was instrumental in advancing Pakistan’s diplomatic interests in Europe, particularly in Belgium, where she played a key role in enhancing bilateral relations.

Baloch will be Pakistan’s second-ever female foreign secretary, following in the footsteps of Tehmina Janjua, the first woman to hold the position. Baloch, a seasoned career diplomat, brings extensive experience from her service in various international capitals.

Before her current role as Pakistan’s ambassador to Belgium, Amna Baloch served as the high commissioner of Pakistan in Malaysia. Baloch holds a master’s degree in history and began her diplomatic career by joining the Pakistan Foreign Service in 1991.

Throughout her career, she has held various key positions both at the headquarters and in missions abroad, including consul general of Pakistan in Chengdu, China; minister counsellor in Colombo, Sri Lanka; joint secretary at the Prime Minister’s Office; and additional secretary in the foreign minister’s office.

Faisal Trimizi, currently serving as Pakistan’s ambassador to the UAE, is expected to succeed Baloch as the country’s envoy to Brussels and the European Union.

Additionally, Foreign Office spokesperson Mumtaz Zahra Baloch is set to become Pakistan’s ambassador to France, succeeding Asim Iftikhar Ahmad, who was recently appointed as Pakistan’s additional permanent representative to the United Nations in New York. It is anticipated that Ambassador Asim Iftikhar Ahmad will eventually take over from Ambassador Munir Akram, a veteran diplomat.

Other diplomatic appointments include Janbaz Khan as the new Ambassador to Brunei, Malik Farooq as the envoy to South Africa, and Mohammad Saleem as Pakistan’s Ambassador to Canada.

Umar Rehman Malik lauds Aseefa Bhutto for raising public issues in NA



Abdullah Jan
 Islamabad: Pakistan People's Party (PPP) leader Umar Rehman Malik this week lauded First Lady Aseefa Bhutto Zardari for raising the public issues in the National Assembly.
 "A very pertinent point raised by Aseefa Bibi. Seems the total load of the country has been artificially capped despite having excess capacity to gener-

ate in the system," he said in a statement, citing Aseefa Bhutto's speech in the National Assembly on load-shedding.
 Umar Rehman Malik: "Power plants lower down in the merit order list in Punjab generating expensive electricity are running whereas plants in Sindh higher up in the merit order generating cheaper electricity are not being given

dispatch, leading to load shedding." Earlier, amid heightened scrutiny and ambiguity surrounding the independent power producers (IPPs) the federal government claimed that no loadshedding is being carried out in the country due to generation shortfall.
 Speaking on the National Assembly floor, Federal Law Minister Azam Nazeer Tarar said that distribution companies (Discos) are carrying out load management in areas based on losses in corresponding feeders.
 The minister's remarks come as the incumbent government faced much scrutiny owing to exorbitant electricity bills and hours-long power outages across the country – especially during

this year's summer. Ever since coming to power in February earlier this year, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's administration has faced challenges on multiple fronts with power sector being one of them. The Centre faced country-wide protests over prolonged loadshedding and sky-high bills throughout the summer. However, Energy Minister Awais Leghari said that the nation would receive "good news" regarding the IPPs soon.



Sunken village emerges in Greece as drought dries up lake

NewsWire

Lake Mornos: From beneath the shrinking Lake Mornos in central Greece, the muddied remains of homes are re-emerging nearly 45 years since the village that once stood there disappeared underwater. After a winter of hardly any snow, a summer of punishing heatwaves and months of little rain and drought across much of Greece, the huge man-made lake which supplies water for nearly half the Greek population has dwindled to its lowest level in decades. "Day by day, the water goes down," said Mr Dimitris Giannopoulos, mayor of the broader Dorida municipality, who said nothing similar had been seen for 33 years. Long stretches of cracked soil surround the ruins of the lost village of Kallio, which was flooded in 1980 to create a lake to meet the ever-increasing water needs of

the capital, some 200km away. Bricks lie among mounds of seashells. Greece's arid Mediterranean climate has made it particularly susceptible to the effects of global warming, which has worsened summer wildfires including blazes that reached the outskirts of Athens in August. Scientists say extreme weather linked to climate change is now driving the decline of the lake. "It is an alarm bell," said Dr Efthymis Lekkas, professor of disaster management at the University of Athens. "We don't know what will happen in the coming period. If we have a rainless winter, things will get difficult." Mr Giannopoulos gestures towards Mount Giona towering over the lake, which used to be snow-capped but saw no snow last winter, Greece's warmest on record. On the lake's receding rim, trees have taken on a yellowish hue.



"They lack water. This has never happened before," he said. Wells in the area are drying up and surrounding villages, which do not take water from the lake, suffered water cuts this summer, he said. A local firefighter chief said the risk of wildfires loomed as the forests became drier. The lake's surface area has shrunk from around 16.8 sq km in August 2022 to just

12 sq km in 2024, according to satellite images released by Greece's National Observatory. Water reserves there and at the three other reservoirs supplying Attica, the region which includes the 5 million residents of Athens, had dropped to 700 million cubic metres in August down from 1.2 billion cubic metres in 2022, the environment ministry said. The state-run Athens water company

EYDAP had begun supplying the network with additional sources of water, it said. Former residents of Kallio were surprised to see the village again, but were saddened at its state. "I used to see it full and say it was a beach. Now all you see is dryness," said 90-year-old Konstantinos Gerodimos. His 77-year-old wife Maria chimes in: "If it continues like this, the entire village will appear, all the way to the bottom, where the church and our home were."

From classroom to startup: Teenovator's role in shaping Bulgaria's young innovators

NewsWire

Sofia: The issue of young people who are not in employment, education or training (NEETs) continues to be a challenge and concern in Bulgaria. According to the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), NEET rates in Bulgaria in 2020 were among the highest in the EU at 18% against a European average of 14%. Moreover, the figures regarding higher education after graduating from school showcase yet another trend. Back in 2013 the outbound mobility rate was 8%. According to UNESCO, this figure rose to 10.8% in 2021. Currently, over 25K Bulgarian students are pursuing bachelor's, master's, or PhD degrees abroad. On the one hand, this reflects the connectivity and mobility of the Bulgarian students worldwide, as well as their desire to develop and seek better opportunities. On the other hand, it raises some concerning questions. What are the issues with the Bulgarian education system? What steps must be taken to encourage future professionals to build their careers in the country? The traditional education system often falls short in providing the right training for future professionals, lacking both flexibility and practical experience. Therefore, programs like Teenovator play a vital role in linking professionals from diverse fields with high

school students interested in entrepreneurship. Launched in 2018 as a pilot project in four schools in Sofia, it has since grown to involve participants from 30 cities across Bulgaria. Teenovator emphasizes learning through practice, fosters creative thinking, and focuses on solving problems through entrepreneurial initiatives. "Teenovator, however, is something that could not be put in school. This program is built to be happening outside of the formal classroom because it is meant to be practical, experimental, and challenging," shared Zornitsa Mitkova, the Managing Director of Teenovator, previously for The Recursive. According to their research, after the program, over 78% of respondents aged 19 or older stayed in Bulgaria, and more than half are either working or interning. Mentors play a crucial role in shaping and developing each team. The program emphasizes minimal theory, with a focus on team exercises and real business examples. It highlights soft skills and practical knowledge on building a startup from A to Z. The Recursive talked to the mentors, Viktoria Karoleva and Tsvetelina Asenova, of this year's winning team, Errandix. The project, created by the team from 91. German Language School in Sofia, presents a platform that connects young job seekers with individuals looking for services and support to meet their needs.



Tsvetelina is an HR and recruitment professional, while Viktoria is the founder of FAME, entrepreneurial space for female founders, angel investors and mentors. Both of them share the moment when the spark started a chain reaction of creativity and motivation. "The first meeting was indeed challenging, as we needed to find our approach and develop an alternative and innovative method to connect with the students," says Tsvetelina. "After the second meeting, we focused on following our intuition, playing games, having fun, and creating a bond among the team," adds Viktoria. She also explains that the roles in the team came very naturally but the mentors were the ones who lead the process. Teenovator was a first time experience for both Viktoria and Tsvetelina. They shared how being a mentor requires a serious commitment. But they are eager to continue with the sessions and help the team push the project to the next level. Teodora Stoyanova, part of Errandix's team, explained that there is now a strong bond between their group of students and the mentors.

"We became like a family," she says. Teodora was a leading part of the team, presenting their initial idea of the winter mid-competition Teenovator: Weekend of ideas. "It was very exciting for me; the lack of sleep really took its toll. I don't think I've ever been so anxious in my life. However, it definitely helped me improve my presentation skills." Mihaela, another team member, remembers that: "a lot of the participating teams were well-prepared in advance. We had to prepare our presentation from scratch, and we proved that even with limited time, we managed to do well." "The opportunity to present in front of a lot of people helped me feel much more comfortable at the final competition", tell us Teodora. "I initially signed up on a whim, without fully understanding what the program entails. Thanks to Teenovator, my perspective is now different." Viktoria explained that together with Tsvetelina they were mentoring two teams at the mid-competition and they naturally "divided into boys and girls, showcasing two distinct behavior models. Both groups won awards,

I was incredibly proud of them." Over 70% of Teenovator participants are eager to pursue a business career after completing the program, according to their survey. More than half continue to advance the ideas they developed during Teenovator, and 65% feel a greater sense of responsibility towards society. Teodora notes that their current main challenge is finding someone who can develop Errandix's platform. "After that, we will proceed with client offerings." "The main idea is to offer employment opportunities to students under 18," concludes Tsvetelina. The application process for mentors and students for Teenovator 7 is currently open. Every single contribution of yours helps us guarantee our independence and sustainable future. With your financial support, we can keep on providing constructive reporting on the developments in the region, give even more global visibility to our ecosystem, and educate the next generation of innovation journalists and content creators.



Portugal Golden Visa: Eligibility, benefits and application process



Gather documents: Prepare necessary documents, including passports, proof of investment, criminal records, and Portuguese tax IDs.

Make the investment: Transfer funds and keep all related documentation.

Submit application: Apply online through SEF, providing all required details and documents.

Biometrics appointment: Attend a SEF appointment in Portugal for fingerprinting and photos.

Upon approval, receive your residency cards: Receive residency cards, valid for two years.

Renewal and citizenship: Renew the visa every two years; after five years, you can apply for permanent residency or citizenship.



NewsWire

Lisbon: Portugal's Golden Visa, launched in 2012, is a residency-by-investment program aimed at attracting foreign investments. It is popular among non-EU citizens as it offers them a path to Portuguese residency, which if they stick to the law of the land can lead to permanent residency and in the end to citizenship. It also proposes benefits like visa-free travel in the Schengen Area not just for the applicants but also for their family members. After five years, they may apply for citizenship.

This guide covers the Golden Visa process, including eligibility, application steps, and benefits for families. Whether you are an investor or seeking a new start, this visa offers a flexible route to Portuguese residency.

Family Eligibility: You can apply with your spouse, children, dependent parents, and minor or dependent siblings, all of whom can live, work, and study in Portugal.

Work Rights: This is one of the best benefits this visa offers. The Golden Visa holders and their family members can work in Portugal, with the same employment rights as citizens.

Self-Application Process: Choose an investment: The visa offers multiple options including real estate, capital transfer, job creation, or investments in research, culture, or venture capital.



Prince Hisahito becomes first royal male in Japan to reach adulthood in 4 decades

Mari Yamaguchi

Tokyo: In a big milestone for Japan's royal family, Prince Hisahito turned 18 on Friday, becoming the first male royal family member to reach adulthood in almost four decades. It is a significant development for a family that has ruled for more than a millennium but faces the same existential problems as the rest of the nation — a fast-aging, shrinking population. Hisahito, who is set to become the emperor one day, is the nephew of Japanese Emperor Naruhito. His father, Crown Prince Akishino, was the

last male to reach adulthood in the family, in 1985. Hisahito is the youngest of the 17-member adult imperial family, which currently has only four men. His status as the last heir apparent poses a major problem for a system that doesn't allow empresses. The government is debating how to keep succession stable without relying on women. The 1947 Imperial House Law, which largely preserves conservative pre-war family values,

only allows a male to succeed to the throne and forces female royal members who marry commoners to lose their royal status.

His older cousin, Princess Aiko, the only child of Naruhito and his wife Masako, a Harvard-educated former diplomat, is the general public's favorite as the future empress. But the existing law forbids Masako to take over that role even though she comes from a direct line of descent.

The succession chart can get confusing: Naruhito is the emperor. His brother, Akishino, is second in line. Hisahito, the son of Akishino, comes next.

An earlier proposal to allow an empress after Aiko's birth was shelved as soon as Hisahito was born in 2006. "Right now I would like to cherish my remaining time in high school," Hisahito said in a statement. He has long been interested in insects and even co-authored an academic paper on a survey of dragonflies on the grounds of his



At the Akasaka estate in Tokyo, the statement said. A largely conservative government-commissioned panel of experts in January 2022 recommended that the government propose allowing female members to keep royal status after marriage as a way to prevent the declining population within the imperial family, while

adopting male descendants from now-defunct royal families to continue the male lineage with distant relatives. Critics say those measures would have a limited effect as long as the male-only succession is maintained because it was workable largely with the help of concubines in the pre-modern era.



Prince Hisahito: First Male Heir In Japan's Royal Family To Reach Adulthood In Nearly 40 Years

Pakistan, US discuss protection of Afghan refugees, asylum seekers



Celina Ali

Islamabad: Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar and United States Ambassador to Pakistan Donald Blome this week discussed the protection of Afghan refugees and asylum seekers in Pakistan amid several other bilateral issues during a meeting in Islamabad, a statement from the US Embassy said.

A large number of Afghan immigrants, with an estimated 1.7 million undocumented as of October 2023, reside in Pakistan. Last year, the then care-

taker government announced the repatriation of all illegal foreigners citing security concerns.

According to a statement issued by US Mission spokesperson Jonathan Lalley, US Ambassador Blome met Deputy Prime Minister Dar today and discussed issues which included the "protection of Afghan refugees and asylum seekers, economic cooperation, security, and counterterrorism and regional cooperation".

It said that the ambassador welcomed the oppor-

tunity to hear from the deputy premier on Pakistan's "priorities in the lead-up to the UN General Assembly" as the country prepared to begin its term as a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council (UNSC).

Pakistan launched the first round of deportation in November last year, and according to state-run Radio Pakistan, 675,190 Afghans have returned to their country as of August 4 under the drive.

While the government had decided to begin the

second round of repatriation of holders of Afghan Citizenship Cards (ACC), it last month granted 1.45m Afghan refugees another year, extending their permitted stay in Pakistan till June 30, 2025.

Meanwhile, the Joint Action Committee for Refugees urged the government to "remember that ordinary Afghans in Pakistan are not security threats ... but ordinary families who have made Pakistan their home or themselves fled the Taliban".

It said the government must push the West to take its share of asylum-seekers and refugees, and to speed up processing so that families could be reunited within Pakistan.

"Hastily announced expulsion programmes only result in harm to families and individuals who are a part Pakistan."

A statement issued by the Foreign Office (FO) said that the discussion between Dar and Blome covered various aspects of the bilateral relationship between the countries, including avenues for enhanced cooperation in diverse fields.

"They also discussed matters relating to the upcoming session of the UN General Assembly," the FO said.

Pakistan was elected with a massive majority as a

non-permanent member of the UNSC last month, pledging to contribute to meeting the challenges that the world was facing.

Pakistan will replace Japan on January 1, 2025, to begin a record eighth term, which would continue for two years.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif will arrive in New York on September 21 to participate in the UN-sponsored Summit of the Future and the UN General Assembly session.

The debate at the UNGA will begin on Sept 24 and run through Sept 28. PM Shehbaz is slated to address the General Assembly on Sept 27, the day following Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's address.

The discussions are expected to focus on the Gaza crisis. Following its election to the UN Security Council earlier this year, Pakistan has amplified its role in addressing concerns related to Gaza and Kashmir.

During his visit, PM Shehbaz Sharif will also hold bilateral meetings with various world leaders to discuss mutual interests. He will attend the annual reception hosted by the US president and engage with prominent members of the Pakistani-American community.

European Investment Bank Keen to fund projects in Pakistan



Celina Ali

Islamabad: The European Investment Bank (EIB) this week expressed keen interest in financing the upgrade of the National Highway (N-5 from Karachi to Torkham and a major water project in Karachi) and com-

mitted £50 million (\$55.5m) for the rehabilitation of a hydropower project in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. As a visiting delegation of the EIB, led by Edvardas Bumsteinas, head of Division for Asia & the Pacific, showed interest in being part of significant infrastructure projects fi-

nanced by major multilateral lenders like the World Bank, Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank and Asian Development Bank. Pakistan shared a portfolio of about 12 such projects for investment opportunities, including in power transmission and railways sectors.

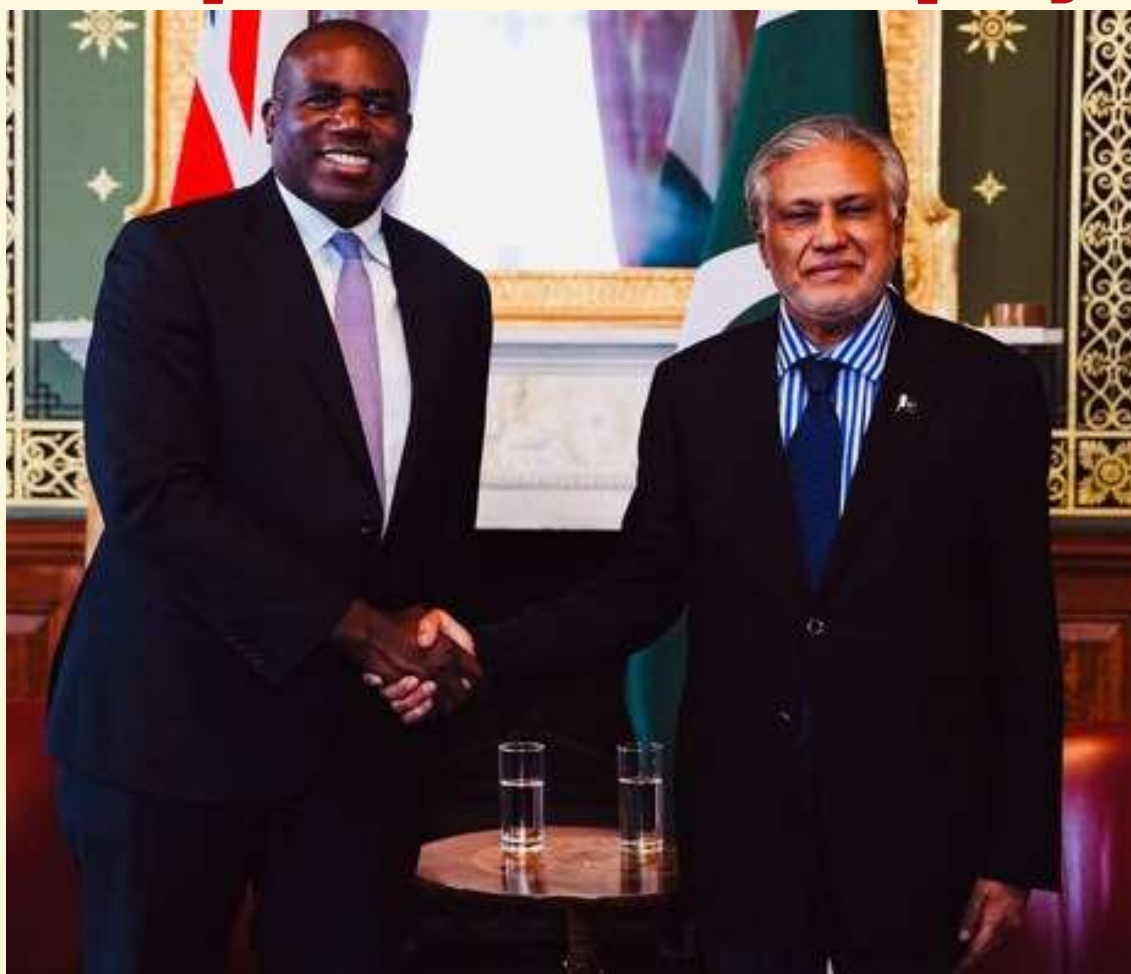
In a statement, the Ministry of Economic Affairs said that during a technical session with a team led by its Secretary Kazim Niaz, a list of 12 potential projects for co-financing was shared with the visiting delegation and discussed at length. The economic affairs minister, who also had a meeting with the delegation that also included key representatives from the EU Delegation in Pakistan, “expressed hope that the EIB would consider funding some of these key projects to support Pakistan’s development agenda”, a statement said. “Mr Edvardas Bumsteinas responded positively, indicating that he would discuss these projects with senior officials at the EIB HQ to explore possible funding opportunities,” the statement said. The two sides hoped the ongoing engagement would help explore various avenues for close collaboration between the EIB and Pakistan. The minister highlighted that EIB’s priority areas such as climate action and high-impact global investments in water, energy and transport sectors aligned with Pakistan’s development needs. He welcomed the EIB’s £50 million loan for the rehabilitation of the Warsak Hydropower Project, noting its critical role in restoring the plant’s capacity. The statement said the EIB dele-

gation “has shown interest in several key projects including those financed by other international financial institutions such as the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank and Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank”. They are particularly keen on exploring opportunities to provide loans for a range of significant initiatives in Pakistan, the statement said, adding that among these included the N-5 road widening project, which aims to improve road connectivity and transportation efficiency, particularly in the flood-hit areas. Additionally, the delegation was interested in water filtration and industrial water recycling projects in Karachi, which are vital for addressing urban water supply challenges, and in renewable and hydropower energy projects, which align with global trends towards sustainable energy solutions. “This interest underscores the EIB’s commitment to supporting critical infrastructure and development efforts that are essential for Pakistan’s economic growth and sustainable development”, the statement said. It added that the minister requested the mission to explore extending technical and financial assistance to National Transmission Despatch Company and Pakistan Railways.



Pakistan, UK vow to strengthen partnership

Ishaq Dar meets the Deputy Prime Minister of UK



Celina Ali
Islamabad: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar this week met the Deputy Prime

Minister and Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government of the United Kingdom Ms. Angela Rayner.

Deputy Prime Minister Dar congratulated Ms. Rayner on her appointment as the British Deputy Prime Minister. He underscored the importance of a strong Pakistan

-UK partnership for furthering the two countries' shared interests in the bilateral and regional domains. The Deputy Prime Minister lauded the contributions of British-Pakistani diaspora towards further enriching the longstanding ties between the two countries.

Recalling Deputy Prime Minister Rayner's visit to Pakistan in the aftermath of the 2022 floods, Deputy Prime Minister Dar expressed Pakistan's desire to work with the UK on climate action and mobilizing international assistance for climate-

vulnerable countries. He noted that creating opportunities for young people, and enhancing bilateral trade and investment were other shared priorities of both countries. He also appreciated the UK's continued duty-free access facility for Pakistani exports.

Deputy Prime Minister Rayner congratulated Deputy Prime Minister Dar on Pakistan's election to the UN Security Council. She also noted the positive role of the British Pakistani community in bringing the two countries closer together.



Genius is one percent inspiration and ninety-nine percent perspiration.- Thomas Edison

If you want something said, ask a man; if you want something done, ask a woman.
Margaret Thatcher

Italy: Meloni defends government after culture minister quits over scandal



NewsWire

Cernobbio: Italy's Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni said this week her government has not been weakened by a controversy over a consultancy role offered to the former lover of a minister who resigned after a tearful televised apology to his wife.

Culture Minister Gennaro Sangiuliano, 62, quit on Friday after being embroiled in a scandal which has dominated front pages and become an embarrassment for the government. "If someone thinks that situations such as these could be a way to weaken the government, I am afraid that's not case," Meloni said when asked to comment on the situation at a business forum in Cernobbio. Praising Sangiuliano's work over the past two years, she said she had followed the events "like other women" have.

Meloni added: "And I must say that my idea of how a woman earns a role in society is the complete opposite." Sangiuliano had faced a media storm over the role of Maria Rosaria Boccia, a self-proclaimed fashion entrepreneur who last week posted on Instagram that she had been nominated "Advisor to the minister for major events". Meloni - who had initially rejected Sangiuliano's offer to resign - also criticised Italian media for giving disproportionate attention to the events over the past two weeks. "I eventually accepted Sangiuliano's resignation to spare the government from such media pressure," she said. "A minister has quit, let's welcome the new minister." Sangiuliano was replaced shortly after his resignation on Friday by Alessandro Giuli, head of the MAXXI contemporary arts museum in Rome. It was the first change in Meloni right-wing coalition government, which currently chairs the G7 forum of leading democracies and has over the past two years looked solid, with high popularity ratings and facing a divided opposition. Sangiuliano was politically close to Meloni, but not a member of her party. He was also gaffe-prone, saying for example at an awards ceremony that he would "try to read" the books that, as a juror, he was supposed to have already read. Italy's European Affairs Minister Raffaele Fitto is set to leave his cabinet post after being nominated for a role in the European Commission, but his appointment needs to be confirmed by the European Parliament. "As Italy's national recovery plan has been in good hands with Raffaele Fitto, I have no doubt that it will be in good hands also in the coming years," Meloni said, referring to the imminent appointment of a new minister to manage EU funds.



Italian Ambassador to Pakistan, Marilina Armellini

New French PM has Europe's interests 'at heart': EU chief



Covert Report

Brussels: European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen this week welcomed the nomination of the European Union's former Brexit negotiator Michel Barnier as France's prime minister. "Congratulations," said von der Leyen, the head of the EU's executive arm. "I know that Michel Barnier has the interests of Europe

and France at heart, as his long experience shows. I wish him every success in his new mission," she added in the post on X. At 73, he is the oldest premier in the history of modern France, succeeding Gabriel Attal, who was the country's youngest prime minister. Barnier served as French foreign minister but also as EU commissioner in Brussels and had also unsuccessfully sought the role of European Commission president in 2014. But Barnier is best known for negotiating Britain's exit from the European Union on behalf of the bloc from 2016 to 2020.