

Germany departs 81 Afghan nation-als under tougher migration policy

Berlin: Coordinated with Qatar, the flight departed this week as Berlin toughens migration policy. Officials said all deportees had criminal records and were required by law to leave. Germany deported 81 Afghanistan nation-als to their country of origin on Friday, marking the second such operation since the Taliban seized power in 2021 (Page-7)

Anne-Sophie Franais: A pas-sionate advocate for French citi-zens in Central Asia Celina Ali

Islamabad: In the heart of Central Asia, where diverse cultures converge and expatriate com-munities navigate unique challenges, one name has quietly but powerfully emerged as a beacon of advocacy, (Page-10)

China's AI tech boosts global trade efficiency, facilitates supply chain



screen. "China has the most complete industrial chain in the world, which makes its export product system rather complex, and that's why we've designed an AI system," he explained. For new energy vehicle products, it is necessary to input the origins of components like tires, bearings, and battery cells. Even small changes in parameters can result in different solutions from the large model. "The country where the product is assembled might be different from where its components are produced. We can help you analyze which scenario is more advantageous," Qiu said. Another service from the Nanjing firm in east China supports European Union-bound exporters by automating carbon footprint reporting and carbon tariff calculations. Beyond compliance, SKYTECH further delivers strategic guidance enabling clients to capture revenue opportunities through carbon trading schemes.

At a CISCE roundtable on Friday, SKYTECH spotlighted a success story. Under its support, Chinese solar-panel maker Trina Solar built a low-carbon, digitally optimized line that slashes the carbon footprint of its modules well below France's entry threshold, unlocking instant access to the European market.

In the neighboring booth, tech stars from east China's Zhejiang Province were unveiling their smart new products, and one of them was NetEase's AI agent for foreign trade firms.

The NetEase Foreign Trade Express uses "AI employees" to develop overseas customers, with precise inquiries increasing by 30 percent. The AI can automatically identify target customers with an accuracy rate of over 95 percent, saving foreign trade companies up to 1.5 working days per week in customer search time.

Last October, Alibaba International updated its "AI Business Assistant," enabling real-time optimization of product titles, keywords, images and selling points to drive more online exposure for home-made products for overseas market.

Veteran Chinese mechanics maker Xu Jingqian recalled a puzzling challenge with his screw compressors: strong website traffic in the United States but poor buyer inquiries on Alibaba.

As an early adopter of Alibaba's AI tool launched in 2023, he received targeted recommendations: Add U.S.



specifications, showcase product certifications and clarify door-to-door delivery costs. After implementing these changes, Xu saw his sales more than double. "AI now auto-translates Chinese small enterprises' product descriptions into export-ready visuals and listings, making global sales as easy as domestic ones," said Fan Min, general manager of public affairs at Alibaba 1688, at a CISCE event.

The introduction of these new products underscores China's ongoing efforts to sustain the global trade system via digital tools despite increasing uncertainties.

Empowered especially by AI technology, the thriving digital trade is emerging as a bright spot in global trade landscape.

At the five-day expo, Nvidia CEO Jensen Huang praised China's global leadership in AI models, engineering talent and industrial applications. "The supply chain of China is a miracle. It is the largest and most complex in the world, not just about labour, but built on deep technology, AI and software," said Huang.

In a dialogue event on Thursday, Huang said China is clever about open-source engineering. "Open source has many global implications. It's not just helping the Chinese ecosystem; it's helping ecosystems around the world."

China's open-source AI models like DeepSeek, Kimi and Qwen are powering supply chains across China and the rest of the world. In February, the NetEase Foreign Trade Express fully integrated with DeepSeek.

China's digitally deliverable service import and export value in 2024 grew by nearly 40 percent compared to 2020, as shown by figures released by the country's Ministry of Commerce.

Last year, China's digital economy core industries contributed about 10 percent of its GDP, while cross-border e-commerce exports grew by 16.9 percent year on year, according to China Council for the Promotion of International Trade, who organized the CISCE.

An initiative launched at the expo calls for the digitalization and intelligent upgrading of supply chains, promoting interconnected data across the entire chain to create better conditions for international trade and investment cooperation.

Pakistan, Denmark reaffirm strengthening cultural cooperation

Celina Ali

Islamabad: The Embassy of Denmark this week hosted a farewell reception in honour of the Ambassador Jakob Linulf, marking the conclusion of his diplomatic tenure in Pakistan. Pakistan, Denmark reaffirm strengthening cultural cooperation

The event was graced by the Federal Minister for National Heritage and Culture, Aurangzeb Khan Khichi, who attended as the chief guest.

During the reception, the Minister held a constructive dialogue with Ambassador Linulf, focusing on enhancing cultural cooperation, promoting tourism, and exploring joint initiatives in the fields of arts and heritage.

Highlighting the spirit of cultural diplomacy, Mr. Usman Shah, CEO of Niftysphere Institute of Arts and Design, presented a traditional painting to Ambassador Linulf on behalf of the Ministry of National Heritage and Culture.

The artwork, depicting the vibrant cultural heritage of Sindh, served as a symbol of appreciation and friendship between the two countries.

The event underscored the growing partnership between Pakistan and Denmark in fostering people-to-people connections and artistic ex-



change.

On the sidelines of the reception, Aurangzeb Khichi also held a brief meeting with the Italian Ambassador, Ms. Marilina Armellini.

The two dignitaries discussed avenues for future collaboration in the preservation and promotion of cultural and heritage sectors.

PIA issues UK flight schedule, as ban lifted on Pakistani airlines



In the second phase, the airline plans to restore flight operations from Islamabad and Lahore to London and Birmingham, subject to schedule approval and clearance from the UK Civil Aviation Authority.

The ban was originally imposed in 2020 after former aviation minister Ghulam Sarwar Khan claimed in parliament that a significant number of Pakistani pilots held fake licenses. The statement led to an international backlash, causing both the UK and European Union Aviation Safety Agency (EASA) to suspend Pakistani airline operations.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif celebrated the lifting of the ban in a post on social media platform X, stating: "Alhamdulillah! PIA returns to UK skies. The reckless and irresponsible statements made by PTI members caused irreparable reputational damage to Pakistan...

Celina Ali

Islamabad: In a major breakthrough for Pakistan's aviation sector, the United Kingdom this week officially removed Pakistan from its air safety list, paving the way for Pakistani airlines to resume operations in British airspace after a five-year ban.

The development has sparked a wave of relief and optimism among aviation authorities, passengers, and Pakistani communities abroad.

The announcement was made by the British High Commission in Islamabad, where High Commissioner Jane Marriott praised the collaborative efforts of aviation experts from both countries. "I look forward to traveling with Pakistani airlines," she said.

Following the UK's decision, the Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) has swiftly initiated preparations to resume direct flights to the UK. In the first phase, PIA will operate three weekly flights to Manchester using Boeing 777 aircraft.

Today's announcement brings long-awaited relief and new opportunities for families and friends to reunite."

The PM also extended gratitude to Deputy Prime Minister Ishaq Dar, Defence Minister Khawaja Asif, the aviation team, and other stakeholders for their efforts in securing the UK's trust.

The UK route has historically been one of the most lucrative for PIA, contributing up to 37% of its annual revenue, amounting to approximately Rs2 billion. Pakistan is the UK's third-largest trading partner; the . annual trade volume of the two countries is 4.7 billion pounds.

With over 1.6 million people of Pakistani heritage living in the UK, the resumption of flights is expected to significantly improve family reunification and business mobility.

According to the British High Commission, the decision to remove Pakistan from the air safety list was made through an independent technical assessment, reflecting Pakistan's improved safety standards and regulatory compliance.

Rail travel surges amid operational expansions

Henan Daily

Zhengzhou: China’s railway system set a new benchmark in the first half of this year, logging a record 2.24 billion passenger trips, up 6.7 percent from last year, as the country’s vast and increasingly advanced rail network continues to drive national mobility and support economic growth.

The figures, released by China State Railway Group, represent the highest number of passenger trips ever recorded in the country over a six-month period. The surge reflects increased capacity, improved service offerings and better support for tourism and international passenger services.

During the first six months, China’s railway network operated an average of 11,183 passenger trains per day, a 7.5 percent increase from last year. The growth has a direct correlation to the expanded use of high-speed and conventional lines, as well as the addition of new routes and stations such as the Chongqing East-Qianjiang section of the Chongqing-Xiamen high-speed railway. Another 121 new Fuxing bullet train sets were also launched during this period.

Passenger traffic peaked during major holidays. On May 1, the first day of the May Day holiday, China’s railways handled a record 23.1 million passenger trips, the highest single-day figure in history.

Beyond volume, authorities emphasized service diversification, ranging from maintaining regular-speed public interest trains to launching rural vitalization services and enhancing cross-border routes. Between January and June, the Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong Express Rail Link handled more than 15 million cross-border trips, a 16.1 percent increase from last year, while the China-Laos Railway carried nearly 139,000 cross-border travelers, up 19.1 percent. Connections with Russia, Vietnam and Mongolia also supported growing regional travel and trade. More foreign travelers are also turning to China’s rail system as a result of relaxed transit visa policies and tailored travel services. The first half of the year saw more than 9.1 million trips made by international passengers, a 30.1 percent increase from last year.

Tourism train services have also emerged as a vibrant new growth engine. A total of 972 tourism trains operated across the country from January to June, up 23.2 percent from last year, with routes designed to highlight China’s natural beauty and cultural heritage.

Que Chunying, 62, is among the many travelers who have hopped on these trains to enjoy the scenery. Que joined a six-day tour from Nanchang in Jiangxi province to Fujian province in April.

“It’s been such a long time since I’ve



heard so many old songs from my era,” she said. “We sang together, talked about our lives — I made so many new friends.” Que was especially moved by the cultural performances aboard the train, which featured traditional folk songs, dances and calligraphy demonstrations.

“Even the shyest passengers started humming along. By the end, it had turned into a group chorus,” she said.

These “silver-haired” tourism trains — including the Panda Train, Jinghe Line and Qilu No. 1 tourism train — are designed specifically for senior travelers, turning the journey into a cultural experience. The routes are planned in collaboration with local tourism authorities and scenic sites, with the aim of tapping into China’s growing “silver economy”.

With the summer travel season underway,

a new national train schedule was launched on July 1 to meet rising demand. The revised timetable adds 236 daily passenger trains, bringing the total to 13,302 scheduled services nationwide. The updated schedule aims to ease pressure during the peak season by adding trains, increasing stops and reducing travel times along popular tourist routes, making scenic destinations more accessible.

China's dairy industry becomes tested for advanced agriculture, food science



China Economic Net

Beijing: In a cavernous, unmanned factory on the grasslands of Inner Mongolia, the world’s fastest milk packaging machine seals 4.4 boxes of milk in literally “the blink of an eye.” Operating around the clock, this single machine produces 40,000 boxes daily — enough to supply nearly one million people. Welcome to the new face of Chinese dairy, where robots milk cows, artificial intelligence predicts breeding outcomes, and probiotic yogurt is engineered at the molecular level.

After decades of playing catch-up, China’s dairy sector is now undergoing a quiet overhaul. From genetically selected super-cows to precision-formulated yogurt, the country’s once-overlooked dairy industry has become an unlikely testbed for advanced agriculture and food science. The results are surprising: Chinese dairy is no longer simply growing — it is, in some aspects, setting the pace, CEN reported on Friday.

At the heart of this push is a quiet revolution in livestock genetics. Chinese dairy companies are moving into the premium realm of molecular biology. AI-driven genomic selection, gene editing, and embryo optimization are being used to cultivate cows that produce more milk, live longer, resist disease, and require fewer resources.

At Saikexing, China’s largest base for sexed frozen semen, the proprietary “No.1 Breeding Chip” selects embryos based on five core traits — yield, fertility, longevity, health, and low-carbon output. Compared with global counterparts, this approach improves breeding efficiency threefold while cutting production costs by 70%. AI now helps optimize egg-sperm pairing to maximize genetic potential, producing high-performance embryos with striking precision.

This is no small feat: In April 2024, bulls bred by Saikexing dominated the U.S. Holstein Association’s TPI (Total Performance Index) rankings, taking 8 of the top 10 spots and 57 of the top 100 — an unprecedented breakthrough for Chinese genetics.

As a result, China’s average milk yield per cow has surged from 5,500 kg in 2012 to nearly 10,000 kg in 2024. Top-performing herds now exceed 12,000 kg. This leap has occurred without significant growth in herd size. Instead, smarter breeding, data-rich feeding systems, and real-time health monitoring have done the heavy lifting.

In China’s most advanced “digital pastures,” each cow wears an RFID ear tag that records everything from heart rate to feed intake. Sensors monitor movement, respiration, and milk output, while smart algorithms detect anomalies and adjust conditions accordingly. Feed optimization has also advanced, with protein-rich alfalfa reducing input while boosting yield.

Fully unmanned systems at companies like Yili, a world’s top 10 dairy company, now feature robotic milkers, automated feeders, and environmental sensors that regulate barn temperature, humidity, and lighting. Milk is harvested and processed with minimal human touch, all while tracking every cow’s lifetime productivity and health.

In 2000, a Chinese dairy cow produced just 31.6% of what its American counterpart did. Today, average yields in China’s large-scale farms match or in some cases even surpass U.S. levels. Though total dairy cow numbers have remained stable at around 10 million since 2012, total milk output has jumped by 32%, reaching 40.79 million tonnes in 2024. Newly-developed enzyme preparations and probiotics for feed reduce methane emissions from dairy cows by over 20% by increasing feed conversion rate.

Once the milk is in the tank, another layer of innovation begins. At the National Dairy Technology Innovation Center, some “world’s firsts” can be found: One globally patented coating technique encapsulates probiotics, protecting them from stomach acid and ensuring delivery to the gut. Lab tests show bacterial survival rates up to 10 million times higher than conventional methods. Another breakthrough — an intelligent assessment system for infant formula — digitally evaluates 31 nutrients in human breast milk, improving formula design for digestion and health. China has also developed the world’s first milk naturally enriched with active phospholipid-based DHA, offering 25 times the bioavailability of synthetic additives. Lactoferrin, a key immune protein, is now separated and reintroduced in sterile conditions, producing the first room-temperature organic milk with active lactoferrin.

Using exclusive K56 probiotic strains, scientists have created seven new bioactive peptides that help regulate blood sugar and blood pressure. Functional dairy, once a



niche, is becoming a mainstream frontier. Behind the scenes, safety has become another pillar of competitiveness. The National Center operates one of the world’s most comprehensive dairy safety databases, integrating global contamination trends, AI risk modeling, and real-time traceability. If a problem arises, it can be traced down to a specific machine part in a specific factory and flagged industry-wide within moments.

Until recently, Chinese dairy was widely considered second-tier. In 2000, per-cow yields lagged behind the U.S. by nearly 70%. Today, China ranks among the top four dairy producers globally. Over 78% of its cows are now raised in large-scale farms of 100 head or more. Yili, the world’s second-largest holder of dairy-related patents, now processes nearly 10 million tonnes of raw milk annually. Despite this scale, it has maintained average microbial counts far below 10,000 CFU/mL for two consecutive years — surpassing even EU benchmarks.

Others should take note. The next dairy revolution may not come from Switzerland or Wisconsin — but from the grasslands of Inner Mongolia.

The 5th foreign languages speech contest for introducing henan to the world kicks off in Zhengzhou

Henan Daily

Zhengzhou: On July 15, the 5th Foreign Languages Speech Contest for Introducing Henan to the World officially kicked off in Zhengzhou city, central China’s Henan province. The contest is guided by Henan People’s Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries (HPAFFC) and Henan Association of Higher Education (HAHE), co-sponsored by Henan Translators’ Association (HTA), Dingdian News, Henan International Communication Center (HICC), Henan Economic Chamber of Commerce (HECC), and HAHE’s Foreign Language Teaching Research Branch, and undertaken by Zhengzhou Guancheng Cultural Industry Association (GCIA).

With the theme of “Voicing the Scene, Staging Central Plains”, this year’s contest aims to encourage participants to dig deep into the connotations of Henan culture and present its unique charm to the world. At the opening ceremony, more than 50 experts in language and international cultural communication, heads of foreign language departments from universities and colleges, and representatives from international enterprises gathered to explore new ways to enhance Henan’s global outreach through language as a bridge.

Since its establishment, the contest has been dedicated to promoting Henan’s voice globally through foreign languages. It has successfully held four previous editions. The most recent edition attracted nearly 100 universities and close to 1,000 participants. Stories told by outstanding contestants — such as “Restoration

of the Longmen Grottoes” and “The Inheritance of Bian Embroidery as Intangible Cultural Heritage” — have been praised by Chinese diplomatic envoys to foreign countries, effectively fostering cultural exchange between Henan and the international community. A contest organizing committee has been established, with three dedicated working groups — for liaison, promotion, and operations — to ensure its smooth operation. Detailed registration information will be released in a timely manner via Dingdian News, which will also host a special section to provide real-time updates on the contest’s progress.

As part of the opening ceremony, a school-enterprise exchange activity was also held, offering a platform for dialogue between foreign language departments of universities and representatives from industry.



Italy: Most poetic coastline

The Amalfi Coast



Newsire

Rome: Imagine the refreshing scent of lemon trees on one side, and colorful towns cascading down cliffs on the other, quietly watching the waves of the Mediterranean. The Amalfi Coast is not just unforgettable for its breathtaking beauty but for the feelings it evokes. In Positano, pastel-colored homes cling to the hills, glowing golden at sunrise and bathed in magic at sunset. Strolling through Amalfi's historic piazza, people watching in the lively streets of Positano, or witnessing a fiery sunset in the serene village of Praiano, every moment becomes a memory. Stretching along the southern edge of the Bay of Naples between Sorrento and Salerno, the Amalfi Coast winds through dramatic cliffs, offering shelter to picture-perfect villages nestled between rugged mountain slopes. During summer, Turkish Airlines (THY) operates two direct flights daily from Istanbul Airport to Naples. From Naples Airport, Positano is approximately a 1.5-hour drive, depending on seasonal traffic. Positano feels like a scene from a classic Italian film. With its narrow stairways, charming alleyways and vibrant buildings, every corner invites you to take a photo. Home to just 4,000 residents, the village welcomes up to 12,000 visitors daily during peak season, so be prepared for some traffic.

anniversary this year and for good reason. I've stayed in countless hotels through my work, but this one truly stands out. Light-filled, effortlessly elegant, and with all 56 rooms offering private terraces overlooking the sea, the hotel feels like a retreat into serenity. The rooms, redesigned by Fausta Gaetani, feature hand-painted ceramic tiles, Mediterranean-toned fabrics, antiques and crisp white walls blending luxury with coastal charm. Every corner, every plant, every detail is curated with care. Despite its grandeur, the hotel feels like home. The staff offers warm, personal hospitality, making you feel more like a guest in a private villa than a hotel. You'll often spot General Manager Andrea Zana personally greeting guests, whether at the reception, restaurant, beach or gardens. Zass Restaurant: Michelin-starred chef Alois Vanlangenaeker and his team craft dishes from fresh ingredients, many sourced from the hotel's own 10,000-square-meter terraced gardens. Dine on a romantic veranda facing Praiano's glittering lights or opt for the exclusive chef's table in the kitchen. Carlino: Located by the water, this casual beachfront restaurant is perfect for lunch. The fresh daily seafood and pasta are divine. The hotel also offers a private sundeck

carved into the rocks, complete with ladders into the sea. It's here, under the sun and surrounded by calm, that you begin to understand what Italians mean by La Dolce Vita. Next stop: Amalfi: Just a 40-minute drive from Positano, Amalfi is a tiny town with a big heart. Explore the majestic Cathedral of Amalfi, a striking blend of Norman and Arab architecture, along with its peaceful cloister. Visit the Museo della Carta to discover the town's historic role in papermaking and wander through the narrow, covered alleys that lead toward the Valle dei Mulini (Valley of the Mills). Stop by Cafe Pansa in the main square, famed for its delicate pastries and beloved lemon cake, ideal for people watching while enjoying a sweet bite. Nestled between Positano and Amalfi, Praiano is quieter and often overlooked, but its charm is undeniable. As you wander its narrow streets, make time for Cafe Mirante, a local secret with breathtaking views. Sip an espresso or cocktail to the sound of classic Italian tunes and feel, even for a moment, like time has paused. From cliffside walks to Michelin-starred dining, ancient churches to hidden cafes, the Amalfi Coast isn't just a destination, it's a feeling that lingers long after you leave.



A cherished seaside restaurant, Le Tre Sorelle is run by Luigi and Giovanna, the nephews of founder Giovannina. For over 60 years, the restaurant has combined quality ingredients with the simplicity of traditional family recipes. It's more than just great food and hospitality, it's a generational love story. It remains my all-time favorite for its unbeatable coastal location and comforting cuisine. A gem in Positano, Casa Mele offers modern Italian dishes and an open kitchen where guests can watch culinary magic unfold. Known for both its elegant dining and hands-on cooking classes, the restaurant focuses on fresh, local ingredients. With Michelin star-level cuisine and service, it's a must for any food lover. A favorite among global celebrities, Il San Pietro di Positano is celebrating its 55th



Is Europe 'losing out' in trade cooperation with China?

Global Times

Recently, some in the EU have been making frequent accusations against China of using exports to offload its so-called "overcapacity," thereby flooding European and global markets. They insist that China's industrial strength stems from large-scale government subsidies which create unfair competition, and have declared their intention to launch more anti-subsidy investigations into foreign-invested companies. Some European media have echoed this narrative, claiming that China's engagement with Europe is solely aimed at making money off it, while some have fueled the notion that Europe is "losing out" in cooperation with China.

As China and the EU commemorate the 50th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations, it's possible that these remarks are part

of a strategy to raise bargaining chips early. At the same time, they raise a deeper question: are some using the so-called "losses" in trade with China as a pretext to justify protectionist policies that cannot be openly defended?

According to data, as of June 2025, the EU has launched more than 260 original trade remedy investigations against China. Since the EU's Foreign Subsidies Regulation came into effect in 2023, nearly all in-depth reviews and investigations by the European Commission have involved Chinese enterprises. The EU's assertion that these actions are not targeting China only highlights their awareness of the nature of these moves - they are precisely the kind of protectionism Europe itself opposes and suffers from.

When it comes to production capacity, by the EU's logic - judging solely by output, export

volume and market share - many of Europe's own core industries are already "overcapacity." For instance, 80 percent of German-made cars are exported, and Airbus holds more than 50 percent of the Chinese market. However, China has never accused Europe of "dumping."

According to the International Energy Agency, global demand for new energy vehicles (NEVs) will reach 45 million units by 2030. Last year, China produced over 13 million NEVs - more than 70 percent of global output - but 90 percent were sold domestically, and only around 10 percent were exported, with a market share of just about 5 percent in Europe. Clearly, China's NEV production is nowhere near saturating European or global demand.

From the perspective of global green transition and long-term needs, China's new energy production capacity is not "over" but rather "insufficient" - and more importantly, it is "high-quality" capacity. China's green products actively support Europe's economic transformation and offer tangible benefits to consumers.

As for subsidies, China's industrial support policies adhere to principles of fairness, transparency, compliance and non-discrimination. They apply equally to both Chinese and foreign enterprises - including European firms operating in China - and conform to international norms. China's subsidies mainly target R&D and the consumer end, are not tied to exports, and do not fall under the prohibited subsidies defined by the WTO. By contrast, the EU is a true subsidy powerhouse. The WTO has repeatedly ruled that the EU's subsidies in areas like aviation and agriculture are illegal. For example, a 2018 ruling on EU subsidies to Airbus involved a record sum of \$22 billion.

In recent years, the EU has continually expanded and upgraded its subsidy tools. Statistics show that between 2021 and 2030, the EU will allocate over 1.44 trillion euros in subsidies under various strategic plans. Crucially, the EU's subsidy policies include numerous discriminatory provisions - for example, explicitly advocating



the preferential purchase of EU-made products, introducing exclusion clauses based on high "carbon footprints", and imposing high entry barriers for Chinese enterprises seeking to invest and do business in Europe. Such practices by the EU are a textbook example of double standards.

These accusations against China are less about Europe genuinely feeling that it has suffered losses than about the anxiety stemming from its own declining competitiveness. In September last year, former European Central Bank president and former Italian prime minister Mario Draghi, commissioned by the European Commission, led a report on the future of EU competitiveness, which clearly outlined the EU's concerns stemming from slowing economic growth. The report identified four main challenges facing EU competitiveness: innovation gap, market fragmentation, high energy costs and geopolitical risks.

None of these challenges originate from China. While China has built an efficient and complete industrial chain, fostered a fully competitive

market, and pursued relentless innovation and quality upgrades, the EU has chosen to respond not with cooperation and mutual benefit, but by throwing up obstacles through tariffs, penalties and market access restrictions.

This is nothing short of "drinking poison to quench one's thirst" - it won't achieve the goal of "de-risking", but will instead drag Europe's economy deeper into difficulty.

China sincerely views the EU as a partner for mutual growth. Despite misunderstandings and missteps on the EU's part, China continues to extend goodwill and inject constructive energy into advancing bilateral relations. But progress also depends on Europe moving in the same direction. Excessive anxiety will not solve competitiveness issues. Only an open mindset and equal dialogue can help find the right partners and a real way out of today's economic challenges.

Global Times

China's human rights protection reflected in tangible improvements in livelihoods: China and Central Asian countries experts



Global Times

On Tuesday, more than 60 experts and scholars from China and the five Central Asian countries participated in the 2025 China-Central Asia Human Rights Development Forum, held in Xi'an, the capital of Shaanxi Province in Northwest China. During the forum, experts from both domestic and international backgrounds discussed topics such as promoting the development of human rights through deepening exchanges and mutual learning between Chinese and Central Asian civilizations, safeguarding equality among different civilizations, and advancing global human rights governance. The Global Times selected the views of three experts.

Tillabev Mirzatillo, first deputy director of the National Center of the Republic of Uzbekistan for Human Rights

During my visit to Shaanxi Province, I personally witnessed China's efforts in advancing human rights. From the revival of ancient pottery in urban areas to modern mushroom cultivation using advanced technologies, as well as the application of artificial intelligence to improve people's livelihoods, I gained a deep under-

standing of China's vibrant practices in promoting public well-being and high-quality development. China has always regarded the pursuit of a happy life for its people as the highest goal of human rights.

Central Asian countries are important partners in the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), and human rights development has always been a key component of our cooperation. As my country is a participant in the BRI, I have personally witnessed the advancement of major infrastructure projects such as the China-Kyrgyzstan-Uzbekistan railway, and experienced how improved logistics directly enhance people's well-being.

President Xi Jinping has emphasized that living a life of contentment is the ultimate human right. I fully agree with this philosophy. The rights to subsistence and development are the primary and basic human rights. I believe the BRI is not only a platform for enhancing connectivity in transportation and energy, but also a powerful tool for improving human rights and advancing public well-being.

China promotes international dialogue based on equality

and mutual respect, and firmly opposes any form of "preacher-style" human rights interference. This stance aligns closely with Uzbekistan's own position. China has made impressive progress in areas such as ethnic diversity and gender equality, contributing positively to the global human rights cause. China and Uzbekistan share a friendship that spans thousands of years and enjoy a strong foundation for cooperation. Looking ahead, we can further deepen our collaboration in human rights under the framework of the BRI, work toward a fairer and more equitable global human rights governance system, and achieve common development and shared prosperity.

Sheradil Baktygulov, director of the Institute for World Policy Study in Kyrgyzstan

During my visit to Shaanxi, I gained a deep understanding of how the principle of "No one left behind" is being effectively implemented at the local level. Through technological progress and an improved social security system, local residents are not only able to access adequate public services, but also enhance their living conditions through decent wages. This enables them to enjoy a higher quality of life with greater dignity. This experience demonstrated to me that China's approach to human rights is not limited to policy declarations; it is genuinely reflected in tangible improvements in people's livelihoods.

In today's complex international environment, countries around the world face similar challenges: how to promote development through cooperation and how to find their own path to modernization. This makes the call for dialogue and cooperation more urgent than ever. Old problems such as confrontation and division continue to hinder global cooperation, which is why strengthening dialogue among civilizations, fostering unity and advancing human rights have become all the more important.

Every country in the world represents a unique civilization, with its own material and spiritual values, educational systems, artistic achievements, cultural traditions, and distinct social, political and economic structures. The development of human rights should aim to uphold the equality of civilizations, promote dialogue and

mutual learning among them, and reject the misguided notion of classifying nations and civilizations into "superior" and "inferior" categories.

Unfortunately, criticism of different human rights models is often rooted in fear, prejudice and outdated theories of the Clash of Civilizations. However, I firmly believe that through continuous dialogue and mutual learning, we can overcome these barriers. Constructive dialogue between civilizations must be built on respect for the world's diversity and for the varied paths of human rights development.

Chang Jian, director of the Research Center for Human Rights at the Nankai University

Currently, the global human rights situation and governance system face a range of severe challenges. Traditional human rights related issues such as war and conflict, poverty and hunger, terrorism, and racial discrimination remain unresolved. Meanwhile, new and emerging challenges - including pandemics, climate change, technological disruption, populism and xenophobia - continue to surface, creating a complex landscape where old and new problems are intertwined.

At the same time, the politicization and weaponization of human rights are becoming increasingly prominent.

Cold War mentality, hegemonism and unilateral sanctions have seriously undermined global human rights governance. Against this backdrop, a peaceful and secure environment, sustainable development, and international dialogue and cooperation have become indispensable for improving the global human rights situation.

China and Central Asian countries share common ground on human rights issues. We firmly oppose the politicization and weaponization of human rights, reject double standards, and

stand against using human rights as a pretext for interfering in other countries' internal affairs. Both China and Central Asian countries have suffered from such wrongful practices and recognize the urgent need to adopt new strategies and ways of thinking to address the global challenges of the new era.

In terms of human rights philosophy, the Western perspective tends to be relatively static and absolute. Its "static" nature is reflected in the tendency to judge the human rights situations of various countries without considering their stage of development or actual conditions, applying a one-size-fits-all standard to all nations. Such an approach, detached from the realities on the ground, is often ineffective in practice. As many Central Asian countries have emphasized, the implementation of human rights standards must be based on national conditions, and mechanically copying Western models simply does not work.

The key lies in assessing human rights progress based on each country's specific level of development. Only by fully taking into account national realities and applying appropriate human rights standards accordingly can we truly advance the cause of human rights and create a virtuous cycle of mutual reinforcement.

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High Commissioner Zahid Hafeez Chaudhri brings Pakistan, Australia even closer

Celina Ali

Islamabad: Pakistan’s High Commissioner to Australia, Zahid Hafeez Chaudhri, continues to garner praise for his tireless diplomatic efforts in reinforcing the historic and multifaceted relationship between Pakistan and Australia. His tenure has been marked by a renewed momentum in bilateral cooperation, expanded people-to-people ties, and an elevated profile for Pakistan in the Asia-Pacific region. Under the diplomatic stewardship of High Commissioner Chaudhri, Canberra and Islamabad have deepened their engagement across sectors, reinforcing shared values and broadening cooperation in both traditional and emerging domains. Zahid Hafeez Chaudhri, a seasoned diplomat and former spokesperson of Pakistan’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs, has brought a nuanced and proactive approach to his diplomatic mission in Australia. His ability to articulate Pakistan’s regional priorities, including peace, development, and strategic stability, has greatly enhanced Pakistan’s visibility and respect within Australian

policymaking circles. He has been instrumental in elevating security dialogue, facilitating cooperation in counter-terrorism, countering violent extremism, defence exchanges, and law enforcement training, pillars of the bilateral engagement. His leadership has ensured that both countries continue to exchange technical expertise and best practices in the face of shared global security challenges. High Commissioner Chaudhri has also placed strong emphasis on education diplomacy, with over 21,000 Pakistani international students currently enrolled in Australian institutions as of May 2024. Under his guidance, the Australia-Pakistan education partnership has flourished, with special emphasis on long-term impact programs like the Australia Awards, which support Pakistani scholars in fields vital to national development—such as water security, agriculture, inclusive growth, and women’s empowerment. He has advocated for equitable and inclusive educational opportunities, promoting bilateral exchange programs and ensuring support for Pakistani students during times

of global uncertainty, including the COVID-19 recovery period. The Pakistani diaspora, numbering over 100,000 in Australia, has emerged as a vibrant and valuable contributor to Australia’s multi-cultural fabric. High Commissioner Chaudhri has consistently celebrated this community’s achievements in academia, business, culture, and sport, fostering a sense of unity and shared purpose. From organizing community engagements to cultural events, Chaudhri has played a key role in connecting the diaspora to Pakistan’s diplomatic vision while also encouraging interfaith harmony and civic participation within Australia. Australia and Pakistan’s relationship is rooted in their Commonwealth connection, shared democratic institutions, legal traditions, and, of course, a mutual passion for cricket. High Commissioner Chaudhri has used this shared heritage as a springboard for building bridges across



communities and strengthening parliamentary and institutional ties. With regional challenges such as the Afghan refugee situation, the evolving Indo-Pacific strategic landscape, and global

economic realignments, Zahid Hafeez Chaudhri has effectively positioned Pakistan as a constructive regional partner, especially in areas of humanitarian concern and strategic cooperation.

Ambassador Asim Iftikhar Ahmad urges greater fiscal support for clean energy transition at UN Forum

Celina Ali

Islamabad: United Nations: Reaffirming its commitment to the global clean energy agenda, Pakistan this week called for increased international cooperation and financial support to help developing countries achieve Sustainable Development Goal 7 (SDG 7), which seeks to ensure access to affordable and clean energy for all. At the United Nations High-level Political Forum (HLPF) held in New York, Ambassador Asim Iftikhar Ahmad, Pakistan’s Permanent Representative to the UN, stressed that nations facing a debt crisis must be given adequate fiscal space to meet the urgent and exceptional needs of their populations, particularly in the context of energy transition. Speaking at a session reviewing progress on SDG 7, Ambassador Ahmad described Pakistan as a country that exemplifies both the urgency and potential of the global energy transition. Highlighting national challenges and ambitions, he revealed that approximately 40 million Pakistanis still lack

access to electricity as of 2024. Nevertheless, Pakistan has set an ambitious target of achieving 60% renewable electricity by 2030, including the addition of 13 gigawatts of new hydropower and continued reliance on nuclear power for stable, low-carbon energy. The envoy emphasized the country’s strides in solar energy, noting a “silent solar revolution” driven by affordable technology, low import tariffs, and net-metering incentives. By early 2025, solar was estimated to contribute around 25% of Pakistan’s utility electricity generation. Despite this progress, Ambassador Ahmad warned that Pakistan’s limited fiscal capacity hampers its ability to meet growing energy needs. He stated that the country will require more than \$100 billion in clean energy investment by 2030 to meet its transition goals. He further highlighted the global financing gap, noting that while the world must invest over \$4.3 trillion annually through 2030 to achieve energy and climate targets, public clean energy financing to developing countries remains grossly insufficient — totaling just \$21.6 billion, 83% of which comes in the form of debt.

Moreover, these investments disproportionately favour developed and mature markets. Ambassador Ahmad underscored the critical role of international cooperation and private capital in addressing this imbalance. He called for enhanced institutional capacity in developing countries to structure bankable projects and for expanded mechanisms to de-risk clean energy investments. He also pointed to the importance of energy solutions with multiple benefits, citing the 2022 floods in Pakistan. In response, solar kits distributed with UNDP support to over 2,200 flood-affected households not only restored electricity access but also improved mobility, health, and climate resilience. As a co-chair of the Group of Friends of Sustainable Energy, Pakistan remains firmly committed to aligning its clean energy efforts with both national development goals and the broader global agenda.



EU, Pakistan hold 10th Political Dialogue



Celina Ali

Islamabad: The European Union (EU) and Pakistan this week held the 10th Political Dialogue in Brussels covering key issues regarding EU-Pakistan bilateral coopera-

tion, as well as regional and international issues, including multilateral cooperation. However, both sides agreed to deepen dialogue and discussions on security-related issues. The EU and Pakistan reaffirmed their commitment to the implementation of Strategic Engagement Plan (SEP) signed in 2019. Both sides aim to further deepen cooperation in all areas covered under the SEP. The two sides reiterated their resolve to continue close engagement under the GSP+ framework, a Ministry of Foreign Affairs news release said. They acknowledged the meaningful cooperation on various aspects of migration, aiming to hold the third Comprehensive Migration and Mobility Dialogue later in 2025. Besides bilateral cooperation, both sides also exchanged views on regional and global issues.

The EU and Pakistan acknowledged the importance of multifaceted cooperation on security matters, including counter-terrorism and counter-narcotics. They condemned all forms of terrorism. Both sides agreed on the need for efforts based on dialogue and diplomacy in order to solve contentious issues and underscored the importance of upholding international law and the sanctity of international agreements/treaties. The parties exchanged views on the situation in Ukraine as well as Jammu and Kashmir. Both sides stressed the need to find peaceful solutions to conflicts, in full respect of the principles of international law and the UN Charter. They agreed on the urgent need to improve the humanitarian situation in Gaza. Both sides called for the resumption of a ceasefire, and expressed support for initiatives that contribute to a just, lasting, and comprehensive peace in Palestine in accordance with the two-state solution. The two sides reaffirmed their aspiration to convene the 7th Strategic Dialogue in 2025, underscoring its importance in strengthening

Pakistan-EU cooperation. They agreed to hold the next Political Dialogue meeting in 2026 in Islamabad. The EU delegation was headed by Olof Skoog,

Deputy Secretary General of the European External Action Service and the Pakistani delegation by Amna Baloch, Foreign Secretary in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Pakistan.

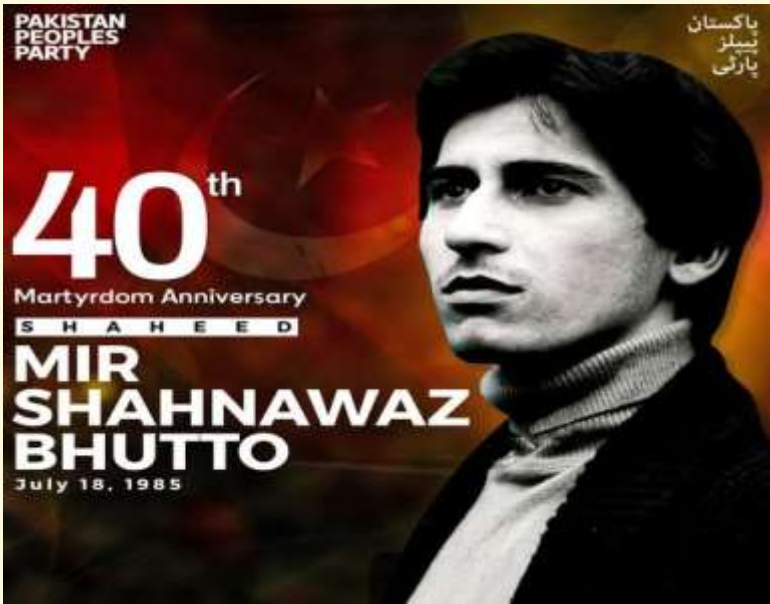


Umar Rehman Malik pays rich tribute to Shaheed Shahnawaz Bhutto



tory and the price of conviction. The Bhutto family bore the burden of sacrifice: martyrdoms, prisons, exile, and trial. Yet the thread that bound them to the people never frayed. Their story is woven into the democratic struggle, not through slogans, but through blood, resilience, and service. That commitment continues today through Bilawal Bhutto Zardari,” the PPP

He said that People of Pakistan and workers of PPP would always remember the struggle of Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, Benazir Bhutto and Shahnawaz Bhutto for the democratic rights of the people of Pakistan. Shahnawaz Bhutto was youngest son of Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto and was poisoned to death by his Afghan wife on July 18 1985 in France.



Benazir Bhutto, Sanam Bhutto, Shahnawaz Bhutto and Murtaza Bhutto.

Abdullah Jan
Islamabad: Pakistan People’s Party (PPP) leader Umar Rehman Malik this week paid rich tribute to Shaheed Shahnawaz Bhutto, the son of Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto. “Remembering Shaheed Shahnawaz Bhutto, a life taken too soon, shaped by the weight of his-

leader said. Umar Rehman Malik said Shahnawaz Bhutto travelled worldwide and met many international leaders to save life of his father but unfortunately his worldwide campaign could not save life of his father.

Germany deports 81 Afghan nationals under tougher migration policy

Covert Report

Berlin: Coordinated with Qatar, the flight departed this week as Berlin toughens migration policy. Officials said all deportees had criminal records and were required by law to leave.

Germany deported 81 Afghanistan nationals to their country of origin on Friday, marking the second such operation since the Taliban seized power in 2021 and the first under Chancellor Friedrich Merz's new government, which has promised a firmer stance on immigration.

In a statement, the Interior Ministry confirmed that the men, all of whom had previously come to the attention of judicial authorities, were returned on a flight organised in cooperation with Qatar. "These are Afghan men who are legally required to leave the country and who have a criminal record," the ministry said, according to local media.

Each deportee was issued up to €1,000 in financial support, as German courts can block removals if returnees face destitution.

Critics are sceptical about deportations to Afghanistan due to the threat of human rights violations in the country. "Afghanistan is not safe," says the Pro Asyl website. The Federal Foreign Office also warns of systematic human rights viola-



tions in Afghanistan, for example through "torture, extrajudicial killings, corporal punishment and public executions". Over 10 months ago, Germany resumed deportations to Taliban-ruled Afghanistan after a pause, with then-Chancellor Olaf Scholz pledging a more assertive approach to removals. His successor, Merz, placed stricter migration controls at the centre of his February election campaign and moved quickly to implement them after taking office in May. These included enhanced border checks and the suspension of family reunification for many migrants. Asylum applications in the country decreased from 329,120 in 2023 to 229,751 in 2024, with the numbers continuing to decline this year. "These figures clearly show we're on the right track, but we're not there yet," Merz said. Although Merz said Germany doesn't recognise the Taliban, ties have not been formally severed. "The decisive question is how one deals with this regime, and it will remain in technical coordination until further notice," he added. The flight comes just hours before German Interior Minister Alexander Dobrindt is set to host a high-level meeting with counterparts from France, Poland, Austria, Denmark and the Czech Republic, and the EU's migration commissioner, Magnus Brunner. The summit, taking place atop Germany's highest mountain, the Zugspitze, aims to coordinate responses to migration challenges across Europe.

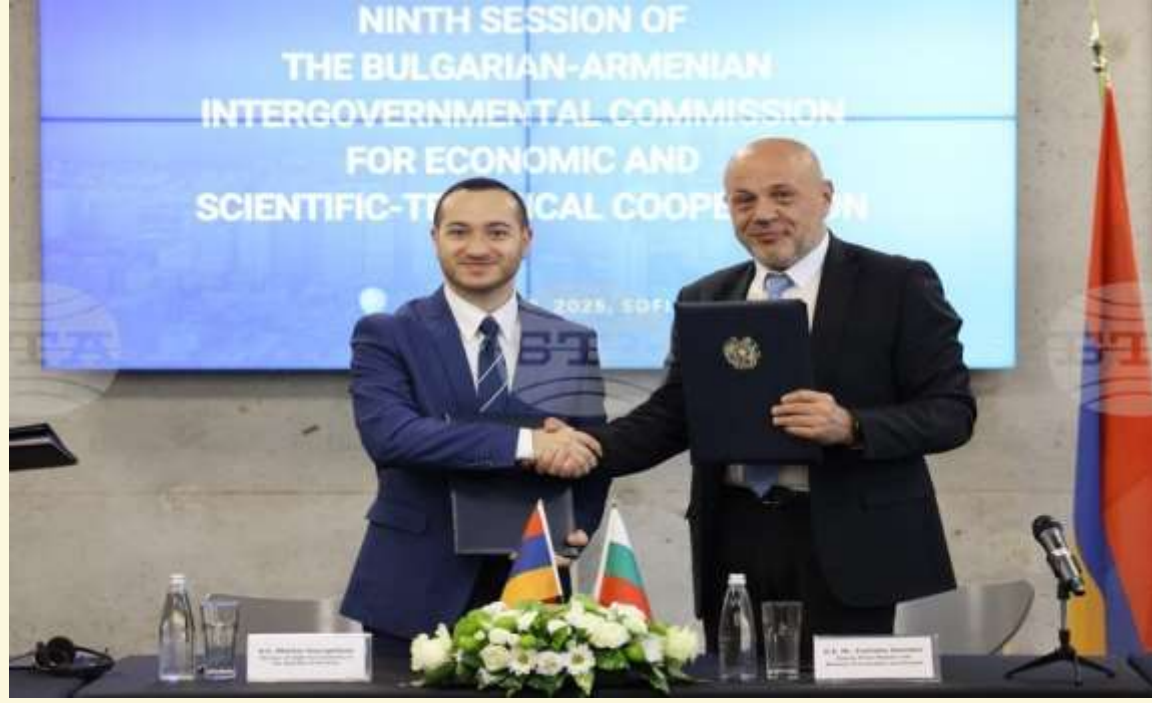
Bulgaria and Armenia deepen cooperation in the field of technological innovation

Newswire

Yerevan: Armenia and Bulgaria are entering a new phase of cooperation in the field of technological innovation. A number of relevant documents were signed during the 9th meeting of the Intergovernmental Commission on Economic and Scientific-Technical Cooperation between the Republic of Armenia and Bulgaria, held in Sofia.

According to the press service of the Armenian Ministry of High Technologies, the Armenian delegation is headed by the co-chair of the commission, Minister Mkhitar Ayrapetyan.

Following the meeting, the co-chairs of the two countries ratified a Memorandum of Understanding and Cooperation in the field of technological innovation and research activities between the Ministry of High Technologies of Armenia and the Ministry of Innovation and Growth of Bulgaria.



It provides for deepening cooperation in a number of strategic areas – artificial intelligence, space research, digital healthcare and biotechnology, exchange of IT specialists and development of a start-up ecosystem. The parties confirmed their readiness to support innovation, promote digital and green transition, introduce modern technologies, and apply the results of scientific research in practice.

Embassy of Portugal, Serena Hotels host first Portugal-Pakistan Chess Tournament in collaboration with Chess Federation of Pakistan



Celina Ali Islamabad: Embassy of Portugal and Serena Hotels this week organised the inaugural Portugal Pakistan Chess Tournament. The event was orga-

nized in collaboration with the Chess Federation of Pakistan. The tournament was a symbolic celebration marking the National Day of Portugal in Pakistan and commemo-

rated 75 years of diplomatic relations between Portugal and Pakistan. Designed to strengthen bilateral ties through the universal language of sports, the event symbolized Serena Hotels commitment to develop mutual respect, and cross-cultural understanding.

A total of around 40 chess players, ranging from seasoned professionals to emerging young talents, participated in the intellectually stimulating competition. The event created a lively and welcoming space where people of all ages could enjoy playing chess, a game that brings people together from different countries and cultures.

The tournament was widely attended by diplomats, representatives of government and international organizations, and members of Islamabad's civil society, all coming together to appreciate the power of chess as a



tool for diplomacy and cultural exchange. Serena Hotels, through its Sports Diplomacy, continues to create meaningful opportunities for people-to-people connectivity and engagement. By supporting events that blend intellect, sport, and intercultural harmony, Serena shows its commitment to peace, open conversations, and helping communities grow across the

Rank		S.No		Name	Rating	BH1 BH	
SB		Wins		Federation Points			
1	2	Hanif Qureshi		1890			
PAK 5	15	17	17.00		5		
2	5	Shujaat Ali		1859			
PAK 4	15	18	13.00		4		
3	3	Arqam Haroon		1632			
PAK 4	14	15	10.00		4		



Japan provides grant aid for the project for human resource development scholarship to Pakistan

Celina Ali
 Islamabad: The Government of Japan this week extended grant aid worth approximately 379 million Japanese Yen for the implementation of the Human Resource Development Scholarship (JDS) FY 2025 Program in Pakistan. A formal signing ceremony was held in Islamabad, where Notes Verbale were signed and exchanged between H.E. Mr. AKAMATSU Shuichi, the Ambassador of Japan to Pakistan, and Dr. Kazim Niaz, Secretary, Ministry of Economic Affairs, Government of Pakistan. Additionally, a Grant Agreement outlining the implementation details of the project for fiscal year 2025 was signed between Mr. Naoaki MIYATA, Chief Representative of the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) in Pakistan, and Mr. MiranMohi-uddin Soomro, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Economic Affairs. The JDS Program is part of Japan's commitment to strengthen the administrative capacities of the Government of Pakistan which was initiated in 2018. The program

offers highly capable Pakistani government officers the opportunity to pursue Master's and Ph.D. degrees at leading Japanese universities. These officers are selected from those involved in planning and implementing social and economic development policies. Through the JDS Program JICA has so far sent over hundred government officers to Japan, out of which nearly 70

scholars have successfully completed their studies and returned to Pakistan, contributing their enhanced knowledge and skills to the country's development. The focus areas of study under this program include public administration and finance (Disciplines of Public Policy and Development Studies), Industrial Promotion and Investment Climate, Energy Policy and Response to Climate Change and Agribusiness and Food Security. On this occasion, Ambassador AKAMATSU stated: "The Government of Japan fully understands the importance of social and human capital development



in Pakistan and believes among the key enablers is a responsive and accountable public administration. Building the capacity of young outstanding civil servants in various technical areas is thus imperative in strengthening public administration that can effectively address the multi-dimensional development challenges in this country." Mr. Naoaki MIYATA, Chief Representative of JICA Pakistan Office, added: "This program will make a significant contribu-

tion to human resource development in Pakistan. JDS fellows will acquire advanced knowledge and skills which will enhance their capacities in policy planning and implementation. We believe these individuals will play pivotal leadership roles within the Government of Pakistan, contributing to national development and the well-being of the people. Moreover, the JDS Program is a testament to the enduring partnership and friendship between Japan and Pakistan."

Pakistan, US aim to boost trade ties with focus on IT, minerals, and agriculture Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb says US remains Pakistan's largest trading partner



Liaquat Ali
 Islamabad: Pakistan and the United States agreed to enhance trade and economic cooperation to foster a mutually beneficial partnership, following a high-level meeting between Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb and US Secretary of Commerce Howard Lutnick, the finance ministry said. According to a statement, the Pakistani delegation also met with United States Trade Representative (USTR) Ambassador Jamieson Greer in Washington, DC. The discussions focused on advancing economic engagement, expanding market access, and identifying new avenues for collaboration. Both sides expressed satisfaction over the progress made in bilateral trade relations — a key pillar of Pakistan-US ties — and reaffirmed their commitment to explore opportunities in traditional and emerging sectors. Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb meets US Secretary of Commerce Howard Lutnick and US Trade Representative Ambassador Jamieson Greer in Washington on Friday, July 18, 2025. Photo: Ministry of Finance Aurangzeb stated that the United States remains Pakistan's largest trading partner, noting Islamabad's interest in expanding cooperation in sectors such as information technology, minerals, and agriculture. He said the aim was to diversify trade and investment in ways that serve the economic interests of both nations. The two sides expressed optimism that ongoing trade talks would result in positive outcomes, with technical-level discussions scheduled

to conclude in the coming week. Relations between Islamabad and the Trump administration have seen a notable upswing in recent months, particularly after the US intervened to mediate a ceasefire between Pakistan and India following a four-day conflict in May.

In what observers described as an unprecedented diplomatic gesture, President Trump hosted Chief of Army Staff Field Marshal Asim Munir at the White House last month. During a luncheon in his honour, Trump acknowledged the army chief's role in de-escalating tensions with

India. Last month, Aurangzeb and Lutnick also held a virtual meeting that focused on reciprocal tariffs — part of broader efforts to recalibrate economic ties amid shifting geopolitical dynamics.



Anne Sophie Français

A passionate advocate for French citizens in Central Asia

Celina Ali
Islamabad: In the heart of Central Asia, where diverse cultures converge and expatriate communities navigate unique challenges, one name has quietly but powerfully emerged as a beacon of advocacy, creativity, and compassion: Anne-Sophie Français. Residing in Lahore, Pakistan, Anne-Sophie serves as French Advisor for Central Asia, representing a vast and geopolitically complex region encompassing Pakistan, Iran, Kazakhstan, Afghanistan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Azerbaijan. Simultaneously, she is also the Cultural Officer of Alliance Française De Lahore. As a Conseillère des Français de l'étranger (French Advisor for French Citizens Abroad), Anne-Sophie Français is not merely a liaison between the French government and its overseas citizens, she is a committed force working tirelessly to

protect their rights, strengthen communities, and ensure access to essential services. Her role includes close collaboration with French embassies and consulates on a wide range of concerns, including education, social assistance, consular protection, and expatriate welfare. She is deeply engaged in policy consultation, consular councils, and community outreach, often going above and beyond to personally support French families and individuals navigating life far from home. Anne-Sophie Français' journey is rooted in a rich blend of art, education, and social activism. A proud graduate of the École des Beaux-Arts and Les Gobelins, two of France's most prestigious institutions for fine arts and visual communication, she brings a unique cultural and aesthetic sensitivity to her public service. Professionally, she has served as a creative director and a visual arts teacher, roles that reflect her belief in the transformative power of education and creativ-

ity. But beyond her professional work, Anne-Sophie Français has devoted herself to charitable causes, particularly those supporting women and children, a commitment that has earned her immense respect within and beyond the French community. What sets Anne-Sophie Français apart is not just her qualifications or dedication - it is her authentic connection to people. Living in Lahore with a deep respect for local culture, she has become an approachable and trusted figure within the French diaspora in the region. Her accessibility, whether through WhatsApp or email, and her responsiveness to community concerns exemplify the kind of people-first leadership that makes a lasting impact. Her hands-on support for educational initiatives, community events, and social support structures has improved lives in tangible ways, particularly for families seeking quality education, expatriates navigating complex bureaucracies, or citizens needing guidance during emergencies. Anne-Sophie Français embodies the ideal of a modern representative, intellectually grounded, artistically inclined, socially



conscious, and genuinely committed to public service. In often overlooked regions, she has brought a visible and vibrant French presence, ensuring that citizens are not forgotten but fully represented. Anne-Sophie Français is not only

fulfilling her mandate—she is redefining what it means to serve. Whether it is education, security, or simply being heard - Anne-Sophie Français is just a message away.



Pakistan, UK discuss health sector collaboration

Acting British HC Jo Moir meets HM Kamal



Celina Ali

Islamabad: A delegation from the British High Commission – led by Acting British High Commissioner and Development Director Ms. Jo Moir –this week met with Federal Minister for Health, Syed Mustafa Kamal to explore avenues for aligning the United Kingdom’s support portfolio with Pakistan’s national health priorities. During the meeting with the delegation, the Minister highlighted Pakistan’s chal-

lenges, including a high burden of both communicable and non-communicable diseases. The minister reaffirmed the government’s strong commitment to reforming the health sector and welcomed continued collaboration in critical areas such as maternal and child health, immunization, and health systems strengthening. He stressed the importance of shifting focus to preventive and promotive

healthcare by strengthening primary health care systems to reduce the strain on tertiary care facilities. The Minister emphasized the urgent need to address waterborne diseases, which account for 68% of illnesses in the country, by ensuring the provision of safe drinking water and improved sewage systems. He raised concerns about the high fertility rate, calling it a national issue requiring immediate attention.



He encouraged efforts to balance population growth through collaboration with stakeholders, including religious scholars and development partners. Key reforms discussed included revisiting the National Finance Commission (NFC) Award, suggesting that the current 80% weightage assigned to population be reduced to 50%, with 30% allocated as an incentive to provinces that successfully reverse population growth trends. The Minister also advocated for a focused Behavior Change Communication (BCC) campaign to educate men across the country about population control measures. The Minister thanked the Acting British High Commissioner and her team, ensuring that the progress made in these sectors would be sustained. He requested detailed presentations on the Global Fund Accelerator Program and population initiatives to further advance the agenda. Ms. Jo Moir appreciated the Federal Minister’s efforts and shared details of the UK Government’s ongoing support for Pakistan in the health and population sectors. She also highlighted plans to design a media campaign based on research findings, focusing on health and population awareness. Ms. Jo Moir expressed her gratitude to the Minister for his valuable time and feedback, reiterating the UK Government’s commitment to supporting Pakistan’s health and population priorities.



Life is really simple, but we insist on making it complicated.” – Confucius

Do not dwell in the past, do not dream of the future, concentrate the mind on the present moment.” - Buddha

Italy: Leonardo unveils new tank gun and 30 km range ammunition



Ambassador Stefano Pontecorvo
Chairman of the Board of Directors of Leonardo-Finmeccanica

NewsWire
Rome: Italian defense company Leonardo has introduced the new 120mm L55 tank gun featuring a 55-caliber long barrel, along with the VULCANO precision ammunition designed specifically for it.

According to RID, the extended 55-caliber barrel length delivers higher muzzle velocities and improved performance at elevated operating pressures. Leonardo credits this leap in capability to a proprietary autofrettage process that strengthens the barrel, enabling it to handle the stresses of modern high-energy munitions. The L55 120mm cannon, designed for Italy’s upcoming Panther-IT main battle tank, represents a major advancement in tank armament technology. The new gun is also compatible with Italy’s Ariete C2 tank and the AICS-120 combat vehicle, and has strong potential for export markets, the report noted. In addition, the company unveiled the new 120 mm VULCANO round, boasting a maximum range of up to 30 kilometers. This breakthrough opens up new possibilities for using tanks as makeshift self-propelled artillery, as direct fire at such distances is otherwise impossible. A similar tactic is already being actively used in the full-scale Russian-Ukrainian war, so it’s not surprising that this concept is being considered in the development of next-generation weaponry.



France's National Day celebrated in Karachi French Consul General Alexis Chahtahtinsky highlights bilateral ties



Abdullah Jan
Karachi: The Consul General of France in Karachi, Alexis Chahtahtinsky, this week hosted a grand reception to mark Bastille Day, France’s National Day, commemorating the historic revolution of 1789 and the values of Liberte, Egalite, and Fraternite. The event was attended by Governor Sindh Kamran Khan Tessori, Sindh Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah, Information Minister Sharjeel Inam Memon, Local Government Minister Saeed Ghani, diplomats, business leaders, students, and members of the French and Pakistani communities. Addressing the gathering, Chahtahtinsky said today we celebrate the unity of the French people and their enduring commitment to liberty, equality and fraternity – values born out of the French Revolution, 236 years ago. He recalled that on 14 July 1789, the people of Paris stormed the Bastille prison, symbolizing the fall of monarchy and arbitrary power. Celebrating this event in Karachi symbolizes France’s enduring friendship with Pakistan. He said France was the first non-Muslim country to recognize Pakistan’s independence in 1947 and has stood by it ever since — from military partnerships to cultural exchanges. He mentioned joint work in defense: Mirage jets, Alouette helicopters, and Agosta submarines built in Karachi with French assistance, a legacy that “cannot be undone.” Chahtahtinsky noted ongoing cooperation at the UN Security Council, with both countries currently serving (France as a permanent member and Pakistan as an elected member in 2025–2026), sharing global responsibility for peace. Speaking about recent environmental initiatives, he mentioned France’s hosting of the UN Ocean Conference (UNOC3) last month, where preservation of coastal zones and mangrove ecosystems was discussed, highly relevant to Sindh and Balochistan.

