

Archaeologists discover 5,000-year-old “fairy houses” in Italy **Newswire**

Rome: A team of archaeologists has unearthed three remarkably well-preserved prehistoric tombs, known as Domus de Janas or “fairy houses,” in Sardinia, Italy, shedding new light on the island’s ancient funerary culture. Discovered during restoration works at the Necropolis of Saint Andrea Priu — a sprawling archaeological site with ruins

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EU envoy Riina Kionka wins hearts by playing Pakistan's national anthem on Independence Day **Celina Ali**

Islamabad: The European Union’s Ambassador to Pakistan, Dr Riina Kionka, struck the right chord with Pakistanis on the country’s 78th Independence Day through a heartfelt and unique gesture. In a video message shared on social media, Dr. Kionka not only extended warm

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China to launch new type of visa for young science, technology professionals



visa types, K visas will offer more convenience to holders in terms of number of permitted entries, validity period and duration of stay, according to a press conference held by relevant authorities on Thursday. After entering China, K visa holders can engage in exchanges in fields such as education, culture, and science and technology, as well as relevant entrepreneurial and business activities. Bar specific age, educational background and work experience requirements, applications for K visas do not require a domestic employer or entity to issue an invitation, and the application process will also be more streamlined. "China's development requires the participation of talent from around the world, and China's development also provides opportunities for them," according to the press conference. The decision aims to further implement China's workforce development strategy in the new era, facilitate the entry for foreign young sci-tech talent into China, and

promote international cooperation and exchanges among young sci-tech professionals, said officials at the press conference. The decision is announced amid China's continuous streamlining of visa rules to promote international exchanges over recent years. As of the end of July, China had introduced unilateral visa-free entry or mutual visa-exemption agreements with 75 countries. Buoyed by these relaxed visa rules --

particularly the expansion of the country's visa-free travel programs -- China has seen increasing numbers of international visitors arriving at its borders. According to the National Immigration Administration, foreign nationals made a total of 38.05 million trips to or from China in the first six months of 2025 -- an increase of 30.2 percent year on year. Of these trips, 13.64 million involved visa-free entries, which was an increase of 53.9 percent over the same period last year.



Henan Daily

Zhengzhou: China will introduce a new visa category for young science and technology talent, following a decision by the State Council. Premier Li Qiang has signed a State Council decree to promulgate the decision to amend the country's regulation on the administration of foreigners' entries and exits.

According to the decision, China will add a K visa to its ordinary visa categories, available to eligible young science and technology professionals. Applicants for this visa must meet the qualifications and requirements set by relevant Chinese authorities and submit supporting documentation. The new rules will take effect on October 1. Compared with the existing 12 ordinary

Denmark: Netanyahu is “a problem in himself”



Covert Report

Copenhagen: Danish Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen said that Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu “represents a problem in himself,” stressing her intention to use Denmark’s current presidency of the European Union to intensify pressure on “Israel.” In an interview with the Danish daily Jyllands-Posten, Frederiksen stated, “Netanyahu has become a problem in himself,” adding that his government “has crossed the line.” According to Quds Press, the leader of the Social Democratic Party expressed regret over the “horrific and extremely catastrophic” humanitarian situation in Gaza, also condemning a new plan to build settlement units in the occu-

pied West Bank. **“We are among the countries willing to increase pressure on Israel, but we have not yet received support from EU member states,” she said.** Frederiksen explained that the goal is to impose “political pressure and sanctions, whether against settlers, ministers, or even Israel as a whole,” referring to potential trade restrictions or research-related sanctions. Since October 7, 2023, and with U.S. backing, “Israel” has been carrying out genocide in Gaza involving killings, starvation, destruction, and displacement, while ignoring international appeals and International Court of Justice orders to halt such actions.

Bilawal Bhutto dismisses 27th Amendment rumours as 'baseless'

Liaquat Ali

Islamabad: Pakistan People’s Party (PPP) Chairperson Bilawal Bhutto Zardari this week dismissed speculation on any potential legislation on a 27th Constitutional Amendment as “baseless”. Even as the 26th Constitutional Amendment remains marred in controversy, power corridors in Islamabad have been abuzz with rumours of a possible 27th Constitutional Amendment. Speculation suggests that the potential amendment would bring further changes to the structure and functioning of superior judiciary. The 26th Amendment had brought in sweeping changes to the judicial framework. Speaking to reporters at the launch of renovation works for Hyderabad’s Niaz Stadium, Bilawal rubished the “baseless rumours”. “So far, no federal minister, prime minister or party member has approached me regarding any amendments.” He underscored that the 26th Amendment was passed after reaching a consensus and with compromise from political parties. “PPP wanted constitutional courts, but we compromised,” said Bilawal. Meanwhile on X, PPP’s media wing quoted Bilawal as saying, “the 26th Constitutional Amendment is an eternal success. Judicial reforms and constitutional courts were a demand of the Charter of Democracy, but we prioritised a constitutional bench over a constitutional court for the sake of consensus.” Commenting on India’s stance on the Indus Waters Treaty, Bilawal asserted that Pakistan must receive its share of three rivers under the agreement, warning that if the treaty is not honoured,



Pakistan would seek water from all six rivers under international law. He recalled visiting Hyderabad a year ago to inaugurate a water filtration plant and expressed satisfaction over the pace of ongoing projects by the provincial government. “In the past, some politicians sowed seeds of hatred here, but now Hyderabad will keep moving forward.” Stressing the need to shift from traditional flood irrigation methods towards advanced water technology, he added, “so far, we have only focused on flood irrigation. The federal government must move towards modernisation in the water sector”

Xi says China, Brazil can set example of unity, self-reliance in Global South

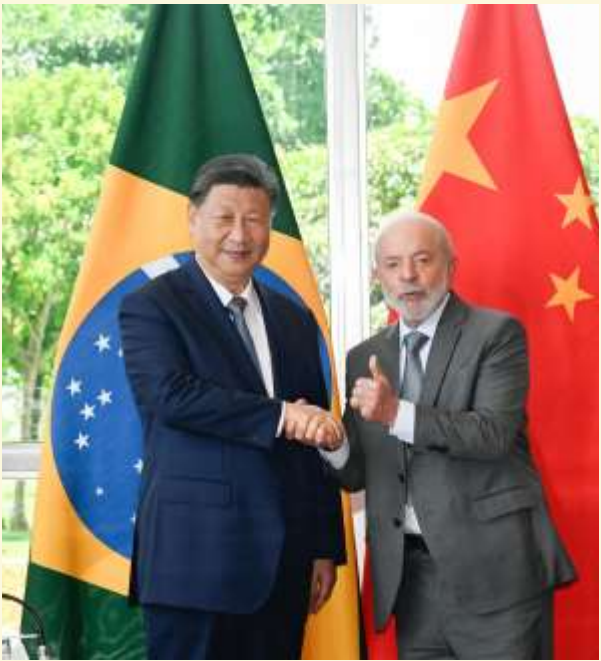
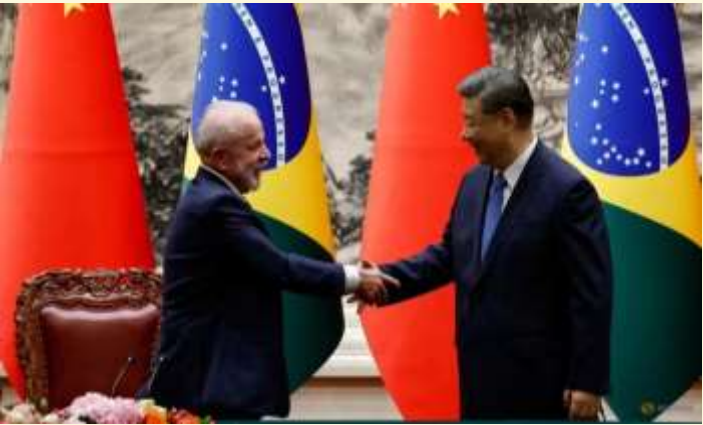
China Economic Net

Beijing: Chinese President Xi Jinping said this week that China is ready to work with Brazil to set an example of unity and self-reliance among major countries in the Global South, and jointly build a more just world and a more sustainable planet. Xi made the remarks during his phone talks with Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva.

China-Brazil ties are at their best in history, with the building

of a China-Brazil community with a shared future and the alignment of the two countries' development strategies getting off to a good start and making smooth progress, Xi said. The Chinese side stands ready to work with Brazil to seize opportunities, strengthen coordination, and deliver more mutually beneficial cooperation outcomes, he added. Xi also said that China backs the Brazilian people in defending their national sovereignty and supports Brazil in safeguarding its legitimate rights and interests, urging all countries to unite in resolutely fighting against unilateralism and protectionism. Noting that the BRICS mechanism is a key platform for building consensus in the Global South, Xi congratulated Brazil on successfully hosting the recent BRICS Summit. Xi called on Global South countries to jointly safeguard international fairness and justice, defend the basic norms governing international relations, and protect the legitimate rights and interests of developing countries. China and Brazil should contin-

ue to address global challenges, ensure the success of the upcoming UN Climate Change Conference in the Brazilian city of Belem, and promote the "Friends of Peace" group's role in facilitating the political settlement of the Ukraine crisis, he said. For his part, Lula said Brazil attaches great importance to its relations with China, and looks forward to strengthening cooperation with China, deepening strategic alignment and promoting greater development of bilateral ties. He briefed Xi on the recent situation of Brazil's ties with the United States, as well as Brazil's unwavering principled stance on safeguarding its own sovereignty. Lula spoke highly of China's efforts to uphold multilateralism and safeguard free trade rules, as well as its responsible role in international affairs. The Brazilian side, he said, stands ready to enhance communication and coordination with China in multilateral mechanisms such as the BRICS, oppose unilateral bullying practices, and safeguard the common interests of all countries.



'Dead to Rights' smashes box office records, raises awareness

Henan Daily

Zhengzhou: While the film Dead to Rights, with the original Chinese title translated to Nanjing Photo Studio, smashes summer box office records, it is also reigniting national awareness of a dark chapter in China's history and the courage of unsung heroes who stood up to fascism and brutality. Set against the backdrop of the Nanjing Massacre perpetrated by Japanese troops in China during World War II, the film's takings surpassed 2.2 billion yuan (\$308 million) on Sunday, according to movie-tracking data. The takings are a record for historical films screened during China's summer movie season, which runs from June to August. Marking the 80th anniversary of the victory in the Chinese People's War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression (1931-45), the film tells the story of a group of Nanjing residents, who sought refuge in a photo studio after the city's occupation by Japanese invaders. Forced to develop film for a Japanese military photographer, they discover photographic evidence of atrocities and risk their lives to smuggle the negatives out. The film has ignited nationwide interest since its July 25 release, according to media reports. The narrative of the historical drama draws on real events. The Nanjing Massacre began when Japanese troops captured Nanjing, Jiangsu province, on Dec 13, 1937. Over six weeks, they slaughtered approximately 300,000 Chinese civilians and unarmed soldiers. An apprentice at a photo studio in Nanjing secretly compiled an album of 16 photos of the atrocity taken by Japanese soldiers. These images ultimately became key evidence during subsequent war crime trials. When Japanese troops captured Nanjing, 15-year-old Luo Jin was an apprentice at Huadong Photo Studio on Changjiang Road, public records show. One day in January 1938, a Japanese officer brought two film rolls for development. As negatives emerged in the developer, Luo was shocked to see images of Japanese troops killing, raping and brutalizing Chinese civilians. Outraged, he secretly made copies of over 30 photos, selecting 16 for an album to preserve the evidence of these crimes. In 1941, while hiding the album during a search by Japanese troops, Luo lost the album. Wu Xuan, who was attending a same training program with Luo at the time found it, but was unaware of the owner. The Chinese character for "shame" on its cover convinced Wu the owner shared his patriotic fury. Wu guarded it at great personal risk and surrendered it after Japan's defeat. The album ultimately became key evidence in the war crimes trial of Hisao Tani, a Class-B war criminal. In 1995, Luo and Wu reunited at the Memorial Hall of the Victims in Nanjing Massacre by Japanese Invaders. It was their first meeting in over half a century. "Archives are vital vessels of historical memory," said Zhou Feng, curator of the memorial hall. "The 16 photos preserved by Luo and Wu, as key trial evidence, possess irreplaceable historical value. The Nanjing Massacre history brooks no distortion or denial," he said. After seeing the film, Evan Kail, an American who donated an

album of historic photos to China in 2022, praised the film as a "10 out of 10" cinematic achievement that confronts the Nanjing Massacre. His donated album contains photos of China dating back to World War II, including ones that document atrocities committed by Japanese soldiers. Kail said that "the most powerful aspect of the film is its tearing open the veil of history, allowing me, an outsider, to viscerally empathize with the unimaginable suffering endured by the Chinese nation during that catastrophe". Drawing on the true story of Luo, Wu and the photos, Dead To Rights centers on a group of Chinese civilians who take refuge in a photography studio during the Japanese occupation of Nanjing. In a desperate attempt to stay alive, they are forced to assist a Japanese military photographer in developing film only to discover the negatives contain evidence of atrocities committed by Japanese forces across the city. They secretly keep the negatives and risk their lives to deliver them to the outside world, in the hope of revealing the truth. When discussing his inspiration for the film, director Shen Ao said he was deeply influenced by the 1987 movie Massacre in Nanjing, which is also based on historical accounts. In 2023, after meeting screenwriter Zhang Ke, they decided to retell this part of history for contemporary audiences. The film's preparation took a full year, with the most critical task being the meticulous collection and restoration of historical details. Shen said much of the Japanese soldiers' dialogue was sourced directly from interviews after the war. "Our suffering was twisted into a trophy of militarism in their eyes," said Shen. "What's even more infuriating is how they staged 'goodwill photos' — smiling with children, pretending there was harmony — while committing atrocities. This hypocrisy must be exposed". During the film's Nanjing premiere on July 22, Shen juxtaposed authentic historical "goodwill photos" with scenes from the film. Nearly identical in their composition and angles, they exposed how invaders staged images to whitewash atrocities. "Beneath every war lies propaganda battles. I hope this film inspires audiences to uncover historical truths," he said. During its Beijing premiere on July 24, Shen said that as a graduate of the Beijing Film Academy he had a special bond with film reels. The opening sequence of Dead to Rights, for instance, links bullets being fired from a chamber and camera shutters clicking. "Shooting" applies to both guns and cameras, connecting violence with its documentation, he said. "A photo was a bullet on that battlefield. The click of a shutter echoed the crack of gun. The negatives pierced invaders' 'goodwill' lies," Shen said. He compared today's skyscraper-filled Nanjing with the war-torn city depicted in the film. "Everything has transformed, but no Chinese will forget the horrors Japanese troops inflicted here 88 years ago," he said. The production team did extensive research for the film — consulting publications, documentaries, photos, and material from the memorial hall. "We discovered something profoundly admirable in that generation:

conviction surpassing life itself," Shen wrote in an article in People's Daily. "Countless unsung heroes left no names in history books. This film is focusing on their resistance." In his view, a film must have dramatic elements, be thrilling, and ensure that it never distorts history. It is paramount to balance drama and historical accuracy. "To educate through truth demands utmost responsibility," Shen stressed in describing the team's approach to content. Zhang Guosong, a researcher at the memorial hall, called the massacre "not only an unprecedented catastrophe for China but also humanity's darkest chapter", and a warning for all humankind that requires perpetual remembrance. The film counters historical nihilism and revisionism, Zhang said. By showcasing citizens risking lives to preserve evidence, it upholds truth while underscoring remembrance. "Only through truth can we correctly evaluate history," he said, noting that Japanese right-wing forces still deny the massacre and glorify aggression. In 1982, Japan's Ministry of Education altered textbook accounts of imperialist invasions, sparking protests across Asia. "War harms both the victims and the perpetrators. Only by remembering lessons and thorough perpetrator reflection can future tragedies be prevented," said Zhang. One scene in the film shows a Japanese soldier removing a stone from Nanjing's ancient wall to be placed in a tower in Japan's Miyazaki Prefecture. Wu Xianbin, curator of a private museum commemorating the War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression, said Japan plundered over 370 stones for the tower. More than 200 came from China, including four from Nanjing. After Japan's 1945 defeat, Allied forces demanded the tower's demolition and repatriation of the stones. Japan has evaded this by "paying lip service but not taking actual action", Wu said. "This militarist symbol is now packaged as a 'peace tower'. Right-wing forces still poison Japanese youth with distorted history," Wu warned. China's Ambassador to the US Xie Feng attended the premiere of the film in Washington, D.C., on Aug 6. In his remarks, Xie said that since its release in China, Dead To Rights has achieved both critical acclaim and box office success. With its weighty historical truth and powerful artistic impact, it has evoked strong emotional resonance. The film transcends time and space, revealing the darkest corners of history while also shining a light on the best of the human conscience, the ambassador said. It constantly reminds us of the cruelty of war and the preciousness of peace, and urges us to learn from history and create a better future, he said. Xie pointed out that those who forget history are doomed to repeat it. The Chinese people nationwide united as one, fought heroically, and won the Chinese People's War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression with tremendous sacrifices, making an indelible contribution to the victory in the World Anti-Fascist War. The 1.4 billion Chinese people will never tolerate any attempt to tamper with the history of WWII, and all the peace-loving people in the world will never accept any move to turn back the wheel of history, he said.



The ambassador stressed that remembering history is to pave the way for a brighter future. With international releases underway, director Shen said he hopes the film "will make more people clearly realize that anti-fascism represents humanity's shared yearning for peace — a legacy requiring collective guardianship." Filming this history today, Shen said, connects the past and present. He said in our era, we are saturated with information, "But in that era of scarce information, photos from documented atrocities preserved history, and transmitted crucial truths." In Nanjing, the film has ignited a surge in interest in genealogy records. The Nanjing Municipal Archives reports soaring queries for 1946-48 household registration cards. A total of 1.54 million documents discovered in 2006 have been digitized for public access. "Daily queries averaged 10 previously. Since the film's release, they have peaked at 1,200 a day," said archivist Yin Yanbin. "Staff now work overtime to meet demand." The documents "reunite" Nanjing residents with their ancestors. "People arrive with familial longing. Many tear up upon finding photos or rush to show elderly relatives. It moves us deeply," said Yin. Social media is buzzing with "finding Republican-era family records in Nanjing Archives" stories.

Netizens share discoveries such as: "Our grandparents lived in Sanyuan Alley. They might've known each other.", "Our great-grandmother studied with my grandmother." Some even recognized relatives' names on the memorial hall's victim list, exclaiming "History feels so close". Amid the 80th anniversary commemorations, films, plays, music, and art themed on remembering the war are emerging. Dead to Rights makes history tangible. Many viewers connect its imagery to reality, sensing truth's weight. Tang Yitao, 40, a Nanjing restaurateur, took his sixth-grade son to see the film. "As locals, we grew up knowing this history's importance," he said. "For children, this impacts them more than textbooks, revealing war's cruelty and Japanese brutality." He teaches his son to remember suffering and humiliation, but not hatred, and encourages him to make himself stronger. One person who saw the film reflected online that photos traverse war, films cross time and textbooks make them vivid. "Children learn ancestors' courage, cherish peace, and grasp the meaning of self-strengthening." Another viewer declared the film has a "bonus scene" as evidenced by today's China. "When you exit the theater, today's thriving China — mountains and rivers unharmed, myriad lights glowing — that's its greatest reveal," the reviewer said.

Henan's green factories exceed 1,000 as 2025 provincial list unveiled

Henan Daily

Zhengzhou: The 2025 list of provincial-level green manufacturing entities has been released, according to the Department of Industry and Information Technology of Henan Province. The list features 467 green factories, 22 green industrial parks, 37 enterprises practicing green supply chain management, and 13 certified green-designed product models. The total number of green factories at or above the provincial level in Henan has exceeded 1,000. Green factories are central to the implementation of the green manufacturing system. For example, Henan Xinchang Copper Group Co., Ltd., newly included in the provincial-level list, has upgraded its production lines with intelligent technologies and established a digital energy and

carbon management center, enabling real-time, data-driven oversight of energy consumption. The company has also expanded the reuse of waste heat and launched a comprehensive copper slag utilization project, significantly enhancing energy and resource efficiency. Its energy performance now ranks among the best in the industry. As of now, Henan has cultivated a total of 1,210 green factories at the provincial level and above, along with 74 green industrial zones, 127 enterprises practicing green supply chain management, and 184 certified green-designed product models. Among them, the number of national-level green factories ranks fifth in China and first among the 6 Central China provinces. This progress has injected strong momentum into the province's green and low-carbon industrial transformation and laid a solid foundation for high-quality development.



Archaeologists discover 5,000-year-old “fairy houses” in Italy



NewsWire
Rome: A team of archaeologists has unearthed three remarkably well-preserved prehistoric tombs, known as Domus de Janas or “fairy houses,” in Sardinia, Italy, shedding new light on the island’s ancient funerary culture. Discovered during restoration works at the Necropolis of Saint Andrea Priu — a sprawling archaeological site with ruins spanning from prehistoric times to the Early Middle Ages — the newly revealed underground tombs had gone unnoticed for nearly two centuries, despite extensive research in the area, Caliber.Az reports via foreign media. According to a statement from the Regional Secretariat of Italy’s Ministry of Culture, archaeologists noticed unusual terrain features between two previously known tombs and began excavation. What they uncovered exceeded expectations: three subterranean structures carved into the rock more than 5,000 years ago, believed to have served as burial sites for

Sardinia’s prehistoric communities. The tombs — designated Tomb XVIII, XIX, and XX — exhibit varying complexity and artefacts. Tomb XVIII contains a corridor-like entrance, a central rectangular chamber with a symbolic hearth, and two adjoining rooms. Nearby, researchers found obsidian fragments, a spindle, and pickaxes. Tomb XIX, the smallest, includes a central chamber and a rounded side chamber. Inside, archaeologists uncovered pottery, including a miniature vase. Tomb XX is the most elaborate, featuring seven chambers, traces of decorative paint, and over 30 Roman-era artefacts such as jugs, plates, and oil lamps — a rare overlap of prehistoric and Roman material. The domus de janas, literally meaning “houses of the fairies,” are believed to have been constructed between 3000 and 5000 BCE. Though once surrounded by folklore — said to be homes to mythical fairies who guarded children and shared riches — these rock-cut tombs are now recognised by UNESCO as evidence of advanced prehistoric ritual practices and social structures. While precise dating of the new tombs is still pending, officials confirm they are consistent with other prehistoric burials on the island. Their discovery is expected to significantly enhance understanding of Sardinia’s early human history.



Ambassador of Italy to Pakistan, H.E. Marilina Armellin



Economic integration key to Thailand-Cambodia peace

Ding Gang

When news broke about the recent Thailand-Cambodia border conflict, my thoughts immediately turned to Rong Kluea Market. Covering over 66 acres along the border between Thailand's Sa?Kaeo Province and Cambodia's Poipet, this commercial hub features thousands of stalls forming a massive trading belt. Back in early 2011, during another border flare-up, my colleagues and I rushed to the scene to report on the events. Even then, cross-border economic integration was already deeply woven into daily life. Today, this market attracts tens of thousands of Thai and Cambodian shoppers daily, functioning as a vital node in the China-Thailand-Cambodia trade triangle.

Despite thriving trade, why couldn't these economic ties prevent conflict? Politics plays a role,

indeed, but colonial-era border maps remain the fundamental issue. Border disputes will require time to be fully resolved. However, the fact that a ceasefire was achieved so quickly in this conflict is noteworthy.

While international media highlights diplomatic mediation in securing the recent ceasefire, I believe economic integration deserves the spotlight. Think of economic ties as roots that have grown so deeply intertwined that pulling them apart damages both trees. Over the past decade, cross-border trade and investment have exploded, binding both nations in a web of mutual interest. Trade between Cambodia and Thailand reached \$4.29 billion in 2024, up 15.5 percent from the \$3.71 billion recorded the previous year. The eight official border crossings process tens of thousands of people daily, facilitating the trade of everything from agricultural products to

electronics.

Labor migration tells another compelling story. According to International Labour Organization data, approximately 650,000 Cambodian workers - both documented and undocumented - work in Thailand. Thailand's hospitality, construction and manufacturing sectors heavily depend on this workforce. When borders close, wages stop, and families suffer immediately. Thai investment in Cambodia has reached nearly \$3.8 billion during 2024, spanning food processing, rubber production and machinery assembly. These businesses employ thousands of Cambodian workers and extend supply chains across both sides of the border.

China has played a catalytic role in this regional integration. Between 2013 and 2023, Chinese investment in Cambodia totaled \$8.29 billion, focusing on infrastructure, manufacturing and real estate. The \$2 billion Phnom Penh-Sihanoukville highway has nearly halved transportation times, dramatically improving logistics efficiency. In border markets, many Chinese companies operate in special economic zones along the border, creating integrated production chains where Chinese goods are processed in Cambodia and exported via Thailand, or vice versa.

ASEAN integration initiatives further strengthen these bonds. After establishing the ASEAN Economic Community, tariffs between Thailand and Cambodia gradually decreased. World Bank statistics show customs clearance times dropped from five hours to three hours, reducing trade



costs and boosting cross-border commerce. For border communities, these markets have become central to everyday life. Market vendors, truck drivers, hotel staff and repair shops all need the market to live, which means countless families depend on cross-border trade for survival. During the recent conflict, economic damage was immediate and severe. Thailand estimates losses of \$307.88?million during the first five days of hostilities. When borders closed, transport and tourism revenues plummeted while prices for basic goods spiked. Looking ahead, Thailand-Cambodia trade will continue to grow. Special economic zones and e-commerce will drive further integration. As Belt and Road Initiative projects and ASEAN connectivity deepen, more

infrastructure will bridge these economies. The true driver of peace is this deep economic integration. When livelihoods, supply chains and national development all depend on stability, peace becomes not just desirable but essential. While external mediation can help, sustainable peace requires solid economic foundations - much like two neighboring houses sharing the same electrical system. Cut the power, and both go dark.

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'Nanjing Massacre Studies' contributes to world peace

Ding Gang

This year marks the 80th anniversary of the victory of the Chinese People's War of Resistance against Japanese Aggression. With the release of films such as Dead to Rights and 731 Biochemical Revelations, the historical memory of the Nanjing Massacre has gained new dissemination through artistic forms. These works not only present historical truths but also, through their emotional power, provoke deeper public reflection on war and human nature. However, relying solely on literature and film, or even on memories and evidence, is not enough to fully and deeply understand the arduousness and greatness of China's War of Resistance. Everyone who enters the Memorial Hall of the Victims in the Nanjing Massacre by Japanese Invaders is confronted with the following questions: Why did seemingly courteous Japanese soldiers become so brutal in war? How did their

inhuman psychology form? Why did Japanese culture fail to impose the most basic humanitarian restraints on the national psyche? Answering these questions requires in-depth study from multiple disciplines, including psychology, anthropology, cultural studies and ethics.

More than a decade ago, I called for the establishment of "Nanjing Massacre Studies" as a global academic field. Today, looking back, we can see that research on the Nanjing Massacre has made significant progress. The Institute of National Memory and International Peace (formerly known as the Institute of Nanjing Massacre History and International Peace) was officially established in 2016 and designated as a key high-end think tank in East China's Jiangsu Province. Related research outputs have been fruitful, and mechanisms for cultivating talent have been gradually improving.

However, compared with the comprehensive, multidisciplinary research that Jewish scholars

have conducted on the Auschwitz genocide, China's study of the Nanjing Massacre still shows a clear gap - it remains largely confined to a few fields, such as history and education, and has yet to form a complete disciplinary system like "Auschwitz Studies."

Looking back at Jewish efforts, they transformed "Auschwitz" from merely a place name and historical event into a global symbol - an academic emblem of 20th-century genocidal ideology. Universities across Europe and the US offer dedicated courses and research centers on the Nazi genocide, forming a complete educational pathway from the master's to doctoral level. In Western political science, philosophy, psychology, international relations, education, religious studies and theology, as well as other non-historical disciplines, one can see scholarly achievements based on Auschwitz research, which in turn have propelled the development of those fields themselves.

Chinese experts have also recognized this gap. At the 2023 Academic Committee Conference of the Institute of National Memory and International Peace, experts unanimously emphasized the importance of interdisciplinary research. Some scholars argued that the study of the Nanjing Massacre has moved beyond the "accumulative phase" and now requires "conceptual production and category formation" from the intersecting perspectives of philosophy, literature, sociology and other disciplines.

Establishing "Nanjing Massacre Studies" is not only an academic task but also a national mission. Deepening research on the Nanjing Massacre and building a systematic disciplinary framework - while inviting broader international participation - will not only more profoundly expose the crimes of Japan's war of aggression



against China but also make a significant contribution to peace in Asia and the world.

Moreover, developing "Nanjing Massacre Studies" into an independent discipline is not only a matter of academic institution-building but also a strategic need for China to participate in shaping global historical discourse. In the current contest among nations over the interpretation of World War II memory, whoever can transform historical narratives into a universal academic language will gain greater discursive influence on the international stage. Only in this way can we ensure that this history is not forgotten, and that

the "Nanjing Massacre," like "Auschwitz," becomes part of humanity's shared memory and a source of ideas for building a global culture of peace.

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78th Independence Day and “Marqa-e-Haq” commemorated in Jakarta with Patriotic Zeal Ambassador Zahid Hafeez Chaudhri pays tribute to Quaid-e-Azam, founding fathers

Newswire

Jakarta: The 78th Independence Day Anniversary of Pakistan, along with the commemoration of Marqa-e-Haq, was celebrated in Jakarta with national zeal and enthusiasm. The Embassy of Pakistan organized a flag-hoisting ceremony, attended by members of the



Pakistani community, their families, and Indonesian friends. The ceremony commenced with the recitation of the Holy Quran, followed by the hoisting of the national flag by H.E. Ambassador Zahid Hafeez Chaudhri, accompanied by the playing of the national anthem. Messages from the President and the Prime Minister of Pakistan were read out on the occasion. In his remarks, Ambassador Zahid Hafeez Chaudhri paid tribute to Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah and the founding fathers, whose vision, determination, and sacrifices led to the creation of Pakistan on 14 August 1947. He highlighted Paki-

stan’s journey through challenges, progress, and achievements over the years, reaffirming the country’s commitment to building a prosperous and peaceful future anchored in democratic values and the rule of law. The Ambassador noted that this year’s Independence Day was celebrated under the theme of “Marqa-e-Haq”, symbolizing Pakistan’s victory against external aggression and underscoring the nation’s resilience, unity, and steadfast commitment to its sovereignty. He added that this moment also reflects Pakistan’s steady economic recovery, growing defense capabilities, technological advancement, and cultural richness—projecting the image of a proud, united, and forward-looking nation to the world. Reiterating Pakistan’s principled stance, the Ambassador expressed the country’s unwavering moral, political, and diplomatic support for the people of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir in their just struggle for self-determination. He also expressed strong solidarity with the Palestinian people in their pursuit of justice and freedom.

Speaking on Pakistan–Indonesia relations, Ambassador Chaudhri highlighted the deep-rooted historic ties and shared values between the two nations, dating back to the era of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah and President Sukarno. He expressed satisfaction with the growing bilateral cooperation and emphasized the importance of further expanding collaboration in the areas of trade, defense, tourism, culture, and education. The Ambassador also acknowledged and appreciated the Pakistani community in Indonesia for their positive role in promoting Pakistan’s image and in fostering strong people-to-people connections. A commemorative video highlighting Pakistan’s



Independence Day and the spirit of Marqa-e-Haq was screened during the ceremony, celebrating the country’s strength, unity, and unwavering resolve to safeguard its sovereignty. The event concluded with special prayers for Pakistan’s peace, prosperity, and national unity.

At UNSC, Pakistan urges secure maritime domain, decries attempts to dominate waterways

Celina Ali

Islamabad: Underscoring that oceans must remain zones of peace, Pakistan has drawn UN Security Council’s attention to the unchecked naval build-ups, militarization of strategic waters and pursuit of regional influence “through muscle-flexing”, as the 15-member body debated maritime security this week. “Attempts to dominate maritime spaces or marginalize coastal States must be rejected; they are counterproductive”, Ambassador Asim Iftikhar Ahmad, permanent representative of Pakistan, said in the high-level debate convened by Panama, which holds the Council’s presidency for the month of August. “In some quarters,” he added, “the seas are seen not as a shared domain, but as a stage for asserting primacy.” Although the Pakistani envoy did not name any country, his comments about naval build-ups and attempts to dominate waterways were seen here as mainly directed at India. “The oceans connect us all,” Ambassador Asim Iftikhar told delegates. “As a coastal State at the confluence of major sea lanes in the northern Arabian Sea, Pakistan accords the highest importance to a secure, rules-based maritime domain—critical to our national security, economic resilience, regional connectivity, and food and energy security.” The United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), he said, remains the bedrock for ocean governance, ensuring freedom of navigation, peaceful dispute settlement, and equitable resource-sharing.

“Unwavering adherence to its principles is essential for safeguarding maritime security and peace.” “Yet,” the Pakistani envoy noted that “troubling patterns endure, manifested by unchecked naval build-ups, deliberate militarization of strategic waters, and the pursuit of regional influence through muscle-flexing and coercive posturing. “This mindset is laid bare in the orchestrated exclusion of certain States from maritime cooperation arrangements—undermining inclusivity, corroding trust, and destabilizing the balance of the seas,” Ambassador Asim Iftikhar said. Pakistan, he said, regards the Arabian Sea as its “fifth neighbour”—a cornerstone of its economic ambition and strategic horizon. “Positioned at the junction of vital sea lanes, Pakistan is uniquely placed to serve as a premier trans-shipment hub and the primary gateway linking the landlocked heart of Central Asia with the global trading system.” In this regard, he said, the Pakistan Navy participates in Combined Maritime Forces Task Forces and conducts regular Regional Maritime Security Patrols to ensure safe and secure seas. Pakistan, it was pointed out, also regularly hosts the multinational Exercise AMAN in Karachi, which is one of the largest naval gatherings in the region. At the national level, Pakistan has enhanced coordination through the Joint Maritime Information Coordination Centre (JMICC), while expanding satellite-based monitoring in collaboration with SUPARCO (Pakistan Space and Upper Atmospheric Research Commission). “Looking ahead, we are deploying Vessel Traffic Management Information Systems (VTMIS) across key ports to enhance navigational safety, improve maritime domain awareness, and strengthen our overall maritime

security architecture”. Emerging technologies — AI, satellite monitoring, and analytics — were transforming maritime security but they are also posing certain cyber weaponization and inequality risks, he said, adding, “They must be developed responsibly with equitable access and safeguards.” Pakistan, he said, supports embedding the climate-ocean—security nexus appropriately into global and inclusive frameworks to enable vulnerable coastal States to adapt and thrive. Emphasizing that maritime security was integral to global peace and stability, Ambassador Asim Iftikhar said, “We must reject any attempts to turn the seas into arenas of strategic rivalry, and should instead reaffirm our commitment to multilateralism, inclusivity, and cooperation.” He also proposed enhancing the developing countries capacity through technology transfer, maritime domain awareness tools, and joint training programmes; establishing a global early-warning and rapid-response mechanism to address piracy, trafficking, illegal fishing, and maritime accidents in real time; adopting a collaborative approach to emerging maritime technologies; fostering regional dialogue and trust-building to deter hegemonic designs; and integrating climate resilience and disaster-response capabilities into maritime security strategies, protecting coastal communities and safeguarding sea-based trade. “Pakistan stands ready to work with all countries to safeguard the maritime domain, uphold international law, and ensure our oceans remain open, peaceful, and shared for the benefit of all humankind,” Ambassador Asim Iftikhar said in conclusion. On his part, the President of Panama, Jose Raul Mulino, the Council president for August, spoke in his national



capacity to emphasize that his country is “intrinsically linked to maritime trade”. Noting that 80 per cent of global trade is transported via maritime routes, he pointed out that the illicit trafficking of drugs, weapons, migrants and counterfeit goods also occurs along such routes—which remain very due to limited surveillance capacity and a lack of effective cooperation between countries. Good maritime governance, guarantees vessel traceability, facilitates maritime surveillance and control and actively contributes to the prevention of international

crime, the president said. The role of port concessionaires is vital in this regard; they must be part of a comprehensive maritime security system. Ports are one of the most vulnerable areas to illicit actions by large, organized groups with global ties. In this regard, he said public international law is the guarantee of the law above any economic asymmetry or military power that may exist. “It is imperative for peace and true international security to preserve the neutrality of these routes as essential spaces for world trade, international cooperation and global stability.”

Paris glows green and white: Pakistan’s 78th Independence Day celebrated in France



Newswire

Paris: The Pakistan Embassy in Paris celebrated the 78th Independence Day of Pakistan with a flag hoisting ceremony.

Ambassador Mumtaz Zahra Baloch raised the Pakistani flag to the tune of the national anthem in the presence of members of the diaspora, embassy officials, and Pakistani families including a large number of children. The colourful Independence Day program included national songs and documentary. Meanwhile, the Pakistani community in the United Arab Emirates came together in a powerful display of patriotism to celebrate Pakistan’s Independence Day, with large gatherings and symbolic ceremonies marking the occasion. Flag-hoisting events were held at the Pakistan Embassy in Abu Dhabi and the Consulate in Dubai, drawing families and community members from across the Emirates. Pakistan’s Ambassador to the UAE, Faisal Niaz Tirmizi, raised the national flag in Abu Dhabi, leading the community in commemorating the

nation’s 78th Independence Day. Addressing the attendees, Ambassador Tirmizi emphasized the timeless principles of unity, faith, and discipline, calling them the cornerstones of Pakistan’s resilience and progress. He hailed the nation’s steadfast spirit and highlighted recent achievements in national defense. The ambassador also praised the vital role



played by the Pakistani diaspora, whose remittances reached \$7.9 billion last year, in strengthening bilateral ties and contributing to the UAE’s development. In a move aimed at further easing services for overseas citizens, Ambassador Tirmizi announced the launch of an online tracking system for passport and NICOP applications, crediting the embassy’s IT team for their efforts. He also

shared plans for expanding access to quality education through more Pakistani private schools opening branches in the UAE. This year’s Independence Day celebrations reached new heights with a grand event on August 10 at Dubai Expo City. An estimated 60,000 community members attended, making it one of the largest overseas gatherings in Pakistan’s national day history.



Bilawal Bhutto deserves recognition at highest level Umar Rehman Malik



Bilawal Bhutto Conferred with Nishan-e-Imtiaz

Abdullah Jan
Islamabad: Pakistan People’s Party (PPP) leader Umar Rehman Malik said this week that PPP chief Bilawal Bhutto Zardari deserved recognition at the highest level as the party chairman received



Nishan-e-Imtiaz. “Congratulations to Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari on receiving the prestigious Nishan-e-Imtiaz. Through principled diplomacy, he has eloquently championed Pakistan’s stance on the world stage while resolutely exposing India’s war driven posture. It is an honour truly earned and a proud moment for the PPP family,” Umar Rehman Malik said in a statement. He said honouring renowned politician Bilawal Bhutto Zardari with the Nishan-e-Imtiaz, one of the highest civilian medals, by the President of Pakistan is a moment

of pride for all those people of Pakistan who value democratic values, youthful leadership, and dedicated public service. “The prestigious recognition reflects his remarkable contributions as a politician, diplomat, and advocate for the people, both nationally and internationally,” he added. The Nishan-e-Imtiaz is not given lightly, it honours individuals whose work has brought distinction to Pakistan. In Bilawal Bhutto Zardari’s case, it acknowledges his political insight, steadfast commitment to democratic principles, and passion for serving the public. From assuming the role of PPP Chairman at a young age, Bilawal Bhutto demonstrated a maturity far beyond his years. Leading a party with such a historic legacy is no small task, especially in an en-

vironment as politically complex as Pakistan’s. Yet, he has done so with prudence, courage, and vision - qualities essential for steering Pakistan towards a better future. Umar Rehman Malik said one of the defining features of Bilawal Bhutto’s political journey is how he has navigated the most challenging political and national occasions. “Whether it was defending democratic institutions, raising his voice for the underprivileged, or presenting a clear stance on crucial national issues, Bilawal has shown that leadership is not about rhetoric but about decisive action with responsibility,” he said. Umar Rehman Malik said as Pakistan’s Foreign Minister, Bilawal Bhutto Zardari earned respect across the globe. He carried Pakistan’s message to international forums with diplomatic tact and firm advocacy for the country’s interests. His ability to engage world leaders, present Pakistan’s stance on sensitive issues, and promote bilateral cooperation showcased his competence in international relations. He said from representing Pakistan at the United Nations to engaging with regional powers and global organizations, Bilawal brought fresh energy and credibility to Paki-

stan’s diplomacy. His approach combined firmness on matters of national interest with an openness to dialogue - a balance that is critical in today’s interconnected world. One of Bilawal Bhutto’s most remarkable achievements is the way he has inspired Pakistan’s young generation to take an interest in politics. In a country where political disillusionment among youth is common, Bilawal Bhutto has presented politics as a path of service, integrity, and progressive change.



GERMANY AND BULGARIA

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Germany to create national security council



Rosalia Romaniec

Berlin: If Germany's planned National Security Council (NSR) already existed today, Chancellor Friedrich Merz would probably not be the sole target of criticism for halting German arms deliveries to Israel over the situation in Gaza. "The decision would probably have been made with better preparation and the vote would have been smoother," Aylin Matl, a security and defense expert at the German Council on Foreign Relations (DGAP), told DW.

"The withdrawal of German forces from Afghanistan would probably not have been so chaotic either because it would have been planned and decided at an earlier stage." Some 60 countries worldwide have security committees similar to the one about to be established in Germany.

Unlike in the US or France, however, this German council will not be able to make security decisions unilaterally.

Still, it will empower the German government to act more decisively in times of crisis.

The agreement to set up the NSR between Germany's coalition government of Conservatives (CDU/CSU) and Social Democrats (SPD)

ends decades of discussions.

This is partly because Germany was rarely called upon to take a leading role in security matters and could, therefore, afford to deliberate more slowly.

Also, coalition governments in recent years were often hampered by parties blocking certain security measures, thereby necessitating a more efficient decision-making process.

"As Berlin often failed to make up its mind, the German government regularly abstained on key European issues," Philipp Rotmann of the Global Public Policy Institute (GPPi) told DW.

This, in turn, caused frustration among Germany's European partners. Rotmann says it is key for Germany to make decisions more quickly and decisively to further its own interests.

This became clearer than ever since Russia's 2022 invasion of Ukraine.

"The German coalition government managed to draft a national security strategy but failed to create a national security council in the process," Matl told DW.

Now, the government finally wants to take this matter into its hands.

The coalition agreement enshrined the NSR,

which is considered Chancellor Merz's pet project.

The plan is for the government to decide on establishing the new body at its first cabinet meeting after the summer break in late August. Government sources say the NSR is to begin working in October.

The NSR's main task will be to gather and consolidate all relevant information and analyses in one place to make decisions as quickly as possible.

The NSR will meet regularly and also take on strategic forecasting and planning.

This is intended to continue what the previous coalition government — made up of the Social Democrats, Free Democrats and Greens — had set out in its national security strategy.

The current government wants to set its own priorities and further develop this strategy by enlisting "think tanks" and regularly "engaging with the national security councils of allied countries," as the plan states.

Another important task of the NSR entails developing scenarios and exercises for crisis situations, such as aircraft hijacking or attack simulations.

"The main aim is to proactively shape policy rather than simply react to events," DGAP expert Matl told DW.

The NSR will be chaired by the chancellor.

Permanent NSR members will include the head of the chancellery, who is responsible for coordinating the intelligence services and the foreign, interior, defense, finance, economic affairs, justice, development and digital ministries.

Other government members or representatives of the federal states may also be called in if required.

Representatives of other countries, NATO and the European Union could also join the NSR if necessary, as could the heads of security agencies, think tank experts, and private sector figures.

The NSR will be organized by a chancellery staff unit, which will be divided into three central areas: integrated situation assessment and strategic foresight analysis, as well as a

coordinative executive branch.

The NSR will replace the Federal Security Council, which so far was primarily responsible for approving German arms exports, and the Security Cabinet, which the chancellery used to coordinate and exchange information with the German ministries on key issues.

The NSR will be taking on these tasks and is intended to "pool, process, and coordinate expertise and knowledge," according to a document prepared for the NSR seen by DW.

The aim is to be able to make "political decisions with a 360-degree view," the document states.

Creating such a body would be a first in Germany and could mean ministries losing some of their independence.

"At the same time, however, they could help shape decision-making processes by submitting their own proposals early on," Rotmann told DW.

"If insights from all departments were gathered

in advance and used to prepare a joint assessment of the situation, decisions could be made more efficiently," DGAP expert Matl told DW.

She does, however, warn against high expectations.

"This is an important first step, but we have to wait and see how the committee develops," Matl said.

"Will the NSR be able to develop cross-departmental scenarios and make decisions, or will forces of inertia prevail, rendering it a paper tiger?"

The NSR will meet secretly, but its decisions will be made public.

In a democracy, it is essential "to explain the significance and relevance of these individual decisions and to give people insight," Rotmann said.

It is equally important, he said, to involve the parties at an early stage and to communicate openly so that "no conspiracy theories and rumors are spread about what happens in this National Security Council."



Bulgarian investigators probe arms export companies at request of Ukraine



Newswire

Sofia: In response to a request for legal assistance from the National Anti-Corruption Bureau of Ukraine, a team of investigators from the National Investigative Service (NIS) is conducting searches and seizures in homes and offices in Sofia and the country, the Bulgarian Prosecutor's Office said this week.

The request is related to an investigation of corruption crimes in Ukraine committed in trade with arms at inflated prices, the statement said.



Numerous investigators from the NIS, officials from General Directorate for Combating Organized Crime (GDCOC) within the Ministry of Interior and General Directorate Gendarmerie, Special Operations and Counterterrorism (GDSOCT) are involved in the

searches.

The actions in execution of the request for legal assistance are carried out under the supervision of the Supreme Cassation Prosecutor's Office.

Portugal

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NewsWire

Lisbon: Over my many decades in the cross-border financial services industry, I've seen first-hand how political and economic shifts in one country can shape the fortunes of another. Right now, Portugal is standing at the edge of what I believe will be one of its most significant growth periods for expatriate financial advice. With the UK's recent tax reforms – particularly the changes to the non-dom regime

– the writing is on the wall. High-net-worth individuals, business owners, and retirees are reassessing their futures, and many are deciding that now is the time to make the move. Portugal, with its enviable climate, quality of life, and competitive cost of living, is firmly on their radar. In the next five to ten years, I expect to see a marked increase in the number of UK millionaires and affluent families relocating here. The trend is already in motion – more people are leaving the UK than arriving – and Portugal, particularly

Lisbon and the Algarve, stands to benefit enormously. Rising demand – and opportunity When I first began operating in the Algarve, there were only a handful of established advisory firms specialising in the expat market. Today, demand is such that most locally based firms are looking to expand, I know my own organisation is seeking to recruit quality advisers right now. – the business is there for those who operate with integrity, compliance, and a deep understanding of both UK and Portuguese financial

systems. One of the most important aspects of serving this market is collaboration. I've spent decades building relationships with UK financial planners who recognise that, once a client leaves the UK, the UK adviser has difficulty in providing ongoing suitable and compliant advice. The most professional among them are keen to ensure their clients are looked after properly abroad, and that's where we step in – licensed, regulated, and experienced in cross-border advice. This relationship-building extends beyond the UK. Here in Portugal, my team and I have worked hard to foster connections with local legal firms, accountants, and other professionals. These partnerships are essential – they create a two-way flow of referrals and ensure that clients receive holistic, comprehensive advice and support. The planning challenge One of the biggest issues on the horizon is UK inheritance tax (IHT) and how the new UK rules will bring pensions into scope. For many clients, this is an unwelcome surprise – and one that demands careful, forward-thinking, planning before the move to Portugal is even made. Similarly, Portugal's own tax landscape can catch new arrivals off guard. Many come here under the Non-Habitual Resi-

dency regime (now NHR 2.0) without fully understanding that the beneficial treatment lasts just 10 years. After that, income is subject to Portugal's progressive rates. Without the right planning, the end of that 10-year window can cause significant financial strain. That's why I always emphasise – we are financial planners first and foremost. Wealth management and investment selection are important, but they're just one part of the bigger picture. True planning is about ensuring that, from day one of your move to Portugal right through to your later years, every tax exposure, pension consideration, and estate planning need is accounted for. Why now is the time For advisers, Portugal right now is a challenging environment – highly complex demand, an ever-growing expat community, and a need for genuinely expert, compliant, and trusted advice. For clients, it's a country offering lifestyle, safety, and a stable base in the EU – but only if they arrive with a proper plan. After nearly 40 years in this profession, I've learned that success in expat financial planning comes down to three things: knowledge, relationships, and trust. Portugal has never needed these more – and for those who get it right, the opportunities in the years ahead will be extraordinary.

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Pakistan, Japan hold strategic talks on auto, IT sector investment opportunities



planned shift from punitive to incentive-based measures to encourage investment. Opportunities for Japanese investment in Pakistan's automotive and textile sectors, the role of biofuels, and the need for regulatory standards in the auto industry were emphasised. The meeting also addressed special eco-

nommic zones and investment facilitation policies, as well as the logistics of a future Pakistan-Japan business dialogue. Both sides agreed to maintain close communication to ensure timely follow-up, given the urgency of Japanese industry timelines, and to work towards concrete outcomes that would further strengthen Pakistan-Japan economic relations.



Celina Ali
Islamabad: Special Assistant to the Prime Minister for Industries and Production Haroon Akhtar Khan, together with Abdul Hameed, Ambassador of Pakistan to Japan, held a high-level meeting with HE MAT-SUO Takehiko, Vice-Minister for International Affairs, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI) of Japan, in Tokyo this week. The meeting explored new avenues for industrial cooperation between Pakistan and Japan, with a focus on the automotive and IT sectors. Japan recognises Pakistan's large and young population, growing market potential, and the presence of over 70 Japanese companies already oper-

ating in the country. Discussions covered Pakistan's new industrial policy, which seeks to boost exports, reduce tariffs, streamline regulations, and attract greater foreign investment in line with the Prime Minister's vision for export-led growth, targeting 6-7 percent annual GDP growth. The Japanese side expressed interest in market diversification amid global trade risks and stressed the importance of regulatory certainty and targeted investment incentives for Japanese automakers to expand exports from Pakistan. Global industry trends were also discussed along with the Japanese auto industry's focus on biofuels in emerging markets led by Toyota and Suzuki. Both sides discussed Pakistan's Auto Industry Development Policy and the



Pakistan, US vow to boost trade, investment

Celina Ali
Islamabad: The Chargé d' Affaires of the Embassy of the United States, Natalie Baker this week called on Federal Minister for Finance, Muhammad Aurangzeb wherein they discussed matters of mutual interest, including avenues for enhancing bilateral trade, commerce, and US investment in Pakistan.

On this occasion, Aurangzeb said that Pakistan's economy had "turned a corner," noting that the recent upgrade by Moody's, aligning all three major international rating agencies in their assessment of Pakistan's economic performance, was clear evidence that the hard and necessary reforms undertaken by the government were yielding positive results.

He highlighted Pakistan's bold and much-needed tariff reforms aimed at liberalising trade and steering the country towards export-led growth. He recalled his recent visit to Washington, where he had constructive engagements with the US Secretary of Commerce Howard Lutnick and US Trade Representative Ambassador Jamieson Greer to finalise the trade agreement between both countries.

The minister emphasised that the agreement would usher in a new era of economic collaboration, particularly in energy, mines and minerals, IT, cryptocurrency, and other sectors, while expanding market access, attracting investment, and fostering cooperation in areas of mutual interest. He expressed hope that the deal would lead to increased US investment in Pakistan's infrastructure, development projects, and digital and mining sectors.



EU envoy Riina Kionka wins hearts by playing Pakistan's national anthem on Independence Day



Celina Ali

Islamabad: The European Union's Ambassador to Pakistan, Dr Riina Kionka, struck the right chord with Pakistanis on the country's 78th Independence Day through a heartfelt and unique gesture. In a video message shared on social media, Dr. Kionka not only extended warm Independence Day greetings but also played the tune of Pakistan's national anthem on trumpet, showcasing love, respect, and friendship for the people of Pakistan. "With Team Europe, we warmly congratulate Pakistan on its 78th Independence Day. This is a day of joy, freedom, and hope," she said. Her emotional and music-filled



tribute quickly caught people's attention, becoming a symbol of friendship and solidarity between the EU and Pakistan. On the occasion, Dr. Kionka personally played the anthem's tune on the trumpet – a gesture that was warmly welcomed not only by mainstream

media but also across social media platforms. It reflects cultural harmony and strengthens diplomatic ties between the two regions, proving that sometimes music can speak louder than words.



British High Commissioner Jane Marriott meets Chaudhry Salik to discuss Pakistan-UK ties



Celina Ali

Islamabad: Federal Minister for Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development Chaudhry Salik Hussain this week met with the British High Commissioner Jane Marriott.

The meeting discussed Pakistan-UK relations, providing skills and employment opportunities for Pakistanis, and bilateral ties. Chaudhry Salik Hussain welcomed the British government's recent decision to resume flights of Pakistan International Airlines (PIA). He stated that more than 1.6 million Pakistanis reside in the UK, and Pakistanis in Britain remitted \$6 billion in the last year. He emphasized the long-standing and historic relationship between Pakistan and the United Kingdom and said it can be further expanded through cooperation in various sectors. He noted that Pakistan has taken multiple legal and administrative measures to



curb illegal immigration.

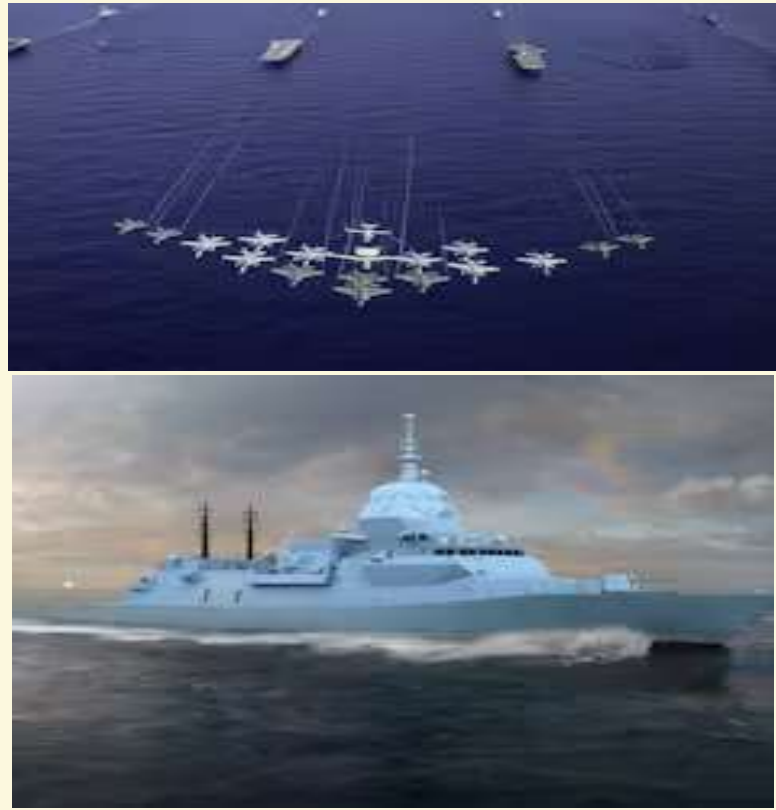
British High Commissioner Jane Marriott said that the UK-Pakistan strategic relationship is bilateral. Pakistani-origin citizens play a significant role in Britain's development, and Pakistanis contribute notably in politics, trade, and sports in the UK, which is highly valued. He was agreed during the meeting to form a joint working group for skills provision and curriculum reforms.



“We can’t become what we need to be by remaining what we are.” - Oprah Winfrey

“If there is no struggle, there is no progress.” - Frederick Douglass

Leonardo support Italian Navy at Formidable Shield 2025



Craig Langford
Rome: Leonardo’s advanced naval sensors and command systems were deployed aboard the Italian Navy’s Giovanni delle Bande Nere during NATO’s Formidable Shield 2025 exercise, where they demonstrated integrated air and missile defence capabilities alongside Allied forces, according to a company statement this week.
The Giovanni delle Bande Nere, the first of Italy’s PPA “full” configuration multi-purpose combat ships, used Leonardo’s SADC 4 command-and-control system and Dual Band Radar to detect and track a range of ballistic, aerial and surface threats in a live-fire environment. These systems operated in close coordination with NATO assets, contributing to joint situational awareness and multi-domain defence. Formidable Shield, led by U.S. Sixth Fleet and conducted by NATO’s STRIKFORNATO command, is held biennially and focuses on Integrated Air and Missile Defence (IAMD) across Allied naval forces. The 2025 edition included simulated and live engagements against advanced aerial and missile threats. According to Leonardo, SADC 4 functioned as the ship’s central decision-making system, integrating human-machine interfaces designed to accelerate command processes and enhance operator responsiveness. “SADC 4 integrates advanced technologies based on the continuous evolution of interaction between man and machine... simplifying tasks and reducing decision-



Stefano Pontecorvo, Chairman, Leonardo

making times,” the company stated. The Dual Band Radar, also developed by Leonardo, was used to detect and track both airborne and ballistic targets. Its configuration allows for 360-degree surveillance, target tracking, fire control, and electronic warfare functions simultaneously. During the exercise, the system identified and maintained tracks on short- and medium-range ballistic missiles, sharing data across NATO networks via tactical links. Leonardo reported that the radar system

“initialised tracking within seconds of launch and accurately tracked ballistic missiles for hundreds of kilometres, even at supersonic speeds.” The ship also acted as a forward observer, autonomously detecting and disseminating missile launch data in real time. The Italian Navy was recognised during the final forum of the exercise for its high level of IAMD capability, particularly for its ability to integrate effectively with NATO systems, including those of the U.S. Navy, say the firm.

France urges Israel to abandon controversial West Bank E1 settlement plan



Covert Report
Paris: France this week condemned Israel’s decision to build thousands of new homes in the West Bank and called on Israel to drop the controversial E1 project to link Jerusalem and the Maale Adumim settlement, calling it “a serious violation of international law”. France’s foreign ministry Saturday called on Israel to drop a plan to build thousands of new homes in the West Bank, calling the project “a serious violation of international law”.

“France calls on Israel to abandon this project, which constitutes a serious violation of international law,” said a French foreign ministry statement. It came days after Israeli far-right Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich has approved plans for a settlement that would split East Jerusalem from the occupied West Bank, a move his office said would bury the idea of a Palestinian state. The construction on a tract of land east of Jerusalem named E1 has been under consideration

for more than two decades, and is especially controversial because it is one of the last geographic links between the major West Bank cities of Ramallah and Bethlehem. “France strongly condemns the decision by the Israeli authorities to approve the E1 settlement project, which involves the construction of more than 3,000 housing units east of Jerusalem,” said the statement. “Its implementation would cut the West Bank in two and seriously undermine the two-state solution, which is the only way to guarantee lasting peace and security for Israelis and Palestinians. France reiterates its condemnation of settlement activity and all the tensions and violence it provokes,” the statement added. The UN human rights office on Friday said Israel’s decision to build the new settlement was illegal under international law and that it put nearby Palestinians at risk of forced eviction, which it described as a war crime. Development in E1 was long frozen, largely due to US pressure during previous administrations. On Thursday, Smotrich praised US President Donald Trump and US Ambassador to Israel Mike Huckabee as “true

friends of Israel as we have never had before”. The E1 plan is expected to receive final approval on August 20, capping off 20 years of bureaucratic wrangling. The planning committee on August 6 rejected all of the petitions to stop the construction filed by rights groups and activists, according to Peace Now, which tracks settlement expansion in the West Bank and filed opposition. While some bureaucratic steps remain, if the process moves quickly, infrastructure work

could begin in the next few months and construction of homes could start in around a year, according to experts. Smotrich on Thursday boasted that the construction, which is expected to get final approval later this month, could thwart Palestinian statehood plans. His announcement came as many countries, including France, Australia, Britain and Canada say they will recognise a Palestinian state in September, at the UN General Assembly.

