

Portugal honour Diogo Jota by passing his number 21 jersey to close friend Neves **Newsire**

Lisbon: Portugal have paid tribute to Diogo Jota by passing his number 21 jersey to his close friend and former teammate Ruben Neves, following the forward’s death in a car crash last month, national team coach Roberto Martinez said. Neves, a mid

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Pakistan will forever remain in my heart: Riina Kionka Celina Ali

Islamabad: Outgoing European Union Ambassador Riina Kionka this week shared a heartfelt farewell message, marking the end of what she described as "a journey of meaningful partnerships and friendships."In a post on X, she thanked the people of Pakistan

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How Xi cements neighbourly bonds with SCO friends

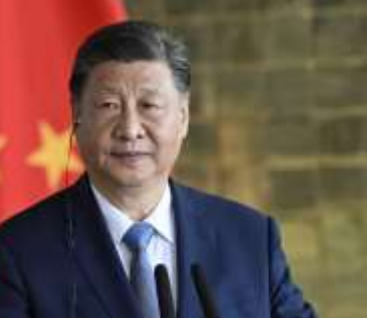
Henan Daily

Zhengzhou: Recently Chinese President Xi Jinping received top diplomats and heads of standing bodies of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) in the bright, stately Fujian Hall of the Great Hall of the People in the heart of Beijing. "China has always prioritized the SCO in its neighborhood diplomacy, and is committed to making the organization more substantive and stronger," Xi stressed at the meeting. The pledge echoes China's years-long unrelenting efforts to foster a friendly neighborhood of peace and development on the SCO stage. China's neighborhood policy, as Xi elaborated during his recent trip in June to Astana, Kazakhstan, features a firm belief in an amicable, secure and prosperous neighborhood as well as a strong dedication to amity, sincerity, mutual benefit and inclusiveness. In the coming days, Xi will host this year's SCO summit in the northern port city of Tianjin, where he and fellow organization leaders will chart strategies for promoting greater regional security and prosperity, and take solid steps toward building a closer SCO community with a shared future. Xi has made three overseas trips so far this year. Two of the destinations, Russia and Kazakhstan, are both SCO member states. Upon his arrival at the airport in Astana during the June visit for the second China-Central Asia Summit, Xi was warmly greeted by an old friend, Kazakh President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev. It was Xi's sixth visit to the neighboring country since he became Chinese president. The China-Central Asia Summit is designed to cement China's bond with its landlocked neighbors along the ancient Silk Road. "A Central Asian proverb compares harmony and unity to happiness

and wealth," Xi said at the gathering. "We always wish our neighbors well." China is one of the countries with the most neighbors in the world. For decades, fostering closer partnerships with its neighboring countries has been a ballast in the layout of Beijing's foreign policy. Xi has taken particular attention to cultivating a peaceful and friendly neighborhood. Back in 2013 when he was first elected China's head of state, Xi put forward the principle of "amity, sincerity, mutual benefit and inclusiveness" at a meeting on China's neighborhood diplomacy, the first such conference held since the founding of the People's Republic of China in 1949. At the central conference on work related to neighboring countries held in Beijing in April, Xi called for building a community with a shared future with neighboring countries. Good-neighborliness has been a constant theme in Xi's agenda on the SCO stage. During his SCO debut at the Bishkek Summit in 2013, he proposed an earnest implementation of the Treaty on Long-Term Good-Neighborliness, Friendship and Cooperation among the SCO member states. Xi has described both the treaty and the SCO Charter as two documents that "lay down the principles and give guidance to SCO member states in their work." In subsequent years, the Chinese leader proposed an action plan for 2018-2022 to implement the established SCO good-neighborliness treaty, and pushed for its adoption at the landmark Qingdao Summit in 2018, which was the first time Xi hosted an SCO summit in China. A comprehensive plan for 2023-2027 on the implementation of the Treaty was adopted in 2022 in Samarkand, Uzbekistan. The SCO was born more than two decades ago when the acute security challenges of terrorism, separatism and extremism — the

"big family," China over the years has been deepening ties with the SCO's founding members and new partners alike. Under the guidance of the Shanghai Spirit, which features mutual trust, mutual benefit, equality, consultation, respect for diversity of civilizations and pursuit of common development, the SCO has grown into a comprehensive regional organization with the most extensive geographical coverage and population in the world, encompassing 10 member states, two observer states and 14 dialogue partners. Belarus officially became the SCO's 10th member at last year's Astana Summit. In June, Xi received Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko in the Zhongnanhai compound in Beijing. Lukashenko told Xi during his visit that he has truly felt the profound friendship extended by the Chinese side. This is just one example of Xi's regular exchanges with his fellow SCO leaders. Since 2023, he has met with leaders of SCO member states dozens of times — whether on the sidelines of SCO summits, at other multilateral gatherings, or during their visits to China. These high-level interactions have not only strengthened coordination within the SCO but also helped build closer personal rapport among its leaders. "Between relatives and friends alike, with closer interaction, the affinity grows," Xi once said. The blue glass of the futuristic facade of the Palace of Independence shone in the sunlight when SCO leaders arrived in Astana in July last year for their annual gathering. In his speech delivered at the group's first-ever "SCO Plus" Meeting, Xi called for building a more beautiful home of the SCO, with building "a common home of peace and tranquility" among the five priorities. The SCO was born more than two decades ago when the acute security challenges of terrorism, separatism and extremism — the

"three evil forces" — were posing menacing threats in Central Asia and neighboring areas. Since its founding in 2001, the group has maintained safeguarding regional security as a mainstay of collaboration. "Security is a prerequisite for national development, and safety is the lifeline to happiness of the people," Xi said in Astana. For years, the Chinese leader has championed strengthening security cooperation to provide lines of defense for SCO members. At the SCO Dushanbe Summit in 2014, Xi proposed to negotiate and sign the SCO Convention on Countering Extremism. The convention was signed by member states in Astana in 2017. The Chinese leader has also been a strong advocate of the SCO's fight against drug trafficking, organized crime and cyber-terrorism, resulting in notable successes. Take drug trafficking. The group organizes anti-drug operations regularly, and has renewed its Anti-Drug Strategy for five years. In its most recent development, SCO members carried out an anti-drug operation dubbed "Web" earlier this month, with China chairing the coordination headquarters. The operation seized nearly 10 tons of



narcotic drugs and identified 1,151 crimes related to illicit narco trafficking. Apart from the SCO, the Chinese leader also seeks to advance common security in the region through other channels of cooperation, stating that a "vision of harmony and peaceful co-existence underpins China's neighborhood diplomacy." At the 2014 Shanghai Summit of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia, Xi proposed a vision of common, comprehensive, cooperative and sustainable security. At the Boao Forum for Asia Annual Conference in 2022, he presented the Global Security Initiative, which Beijing views as a public good that advances global security governance. "In enhancing security in Central Asia within the framework of the SCO, China undoubtedly plays an important and leading role," said Azamat Setov, a scholar of Uzbekistan's University of World Economy and Diplomacy. "Chinese initiatives ... contribute to strengthening stability, economic development and reducing security threats in the region," said Setov. In today's interconnected world, peace remains fragile amid regional tensions and an uncertain security environment. This year marks the 80th anniversary of the victory of the World Anti-Fascist War, or World War II. In May, Xi visited Moscow, where he attended a Red Square parade. Xi once pointed out that the painful lesson of war should never be forgotten. In 2015, the year that marked the 70th anniversary of the end of the World Anti-Fascist War, Xi noted that "all SCO member states endured the test of blood and fire of World War II and contributed to the final victory with enormous sacrifice" when addressing the SCO Ufa Summit in Russia. In a joint statement issued after the meeting, Xi and other convening leaders made a resolute call for peaceful development and progress of all nations. "Only with a peaceful environment at our front door can we develop ourselves with ease and comfort," Xi once commented. When China took over the SCO's rotating presidency from Kazakhstan last year, Xi proposed at the "SCO Plus" Meeting that 2025 be designated as the Year of Sustainable Development. Over the past few years, Xi has emphasized boosting the sustainable development of the SCO through a spectrum of initiatives and cooperative projects. He sees that "true development is development for all and good development is sustainable." At the SCO Bishkek Summit in 2019, Xi announced an initiative to establish an SCO demonstration base for agricultural technology exchange and training in China's Shaanxi Province, a concrete action to "make the SCO an example of mutually beneficial cooperation." Unveiled a year later in the county-level city of Yangling, the SCO demonstration base has become a hub for trade, talent training and



Danish leader calls for global focus on strengthening international institutions

Covert Report

Copenhagen: Christian Friis Bach, senior figure in Denmark's Liberal Party and former chairman of the Danish Parliament's Foreign Affairs Committee, this week voiced deep concern over the declining strength of global institutions, particularly the United Nations. During a meeting with Senator Irfan Siddiqui, parliamentary leader of the Pakistan Muslim League (Nawaz) in the Senate, senior Danish politician Christian Friis Bach underscored the urgent need to revitalize international cooperation and reinforce the role of the United Nations to promote a more equitable and peaceful global order. Senator Siddiqui undertook a five-day diplomatic visit to Norway, Denmark, and Sweden, aimed at strengthening bilateral relations and enhancing parliamentary engagement. Commenting on his past visits to Pakistan, Friis Bach fondly recalled his meetings with former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif and shared that he always experiences joy and warmth when visiting the country. He also expressed keen interest in exploring opportunities within Pakistan's investor-friendly environment, highlighting its potential for mutually beneficial economic partnerships. In their discussion, Senator Siddiqui expressed gratitude to Denmark for passing legislation that enforces fines and up to three years' imprisonment for acts of disrespect toward religious books and symbols. He extended a cordial invitation to Friis Bach and other members of the Danish Foreign Policy Committee to visit Pakistan, emphasizing the importance of cultural and parliamentary exchange. Senator Siddiqui highlighted the enduring friendship between Pakistan and Denmark, which spans over 75 years. He noted that Denmark was among the first countries to recognize Pakistan in 1948, just one year after its independence. Over the decades, cooperation in areas of mutual interest has helped shape a strong bilateral relationship. He further pointed out that more than 50 Danish companies are currently operating in Pakistan across sectors such as pharmaceuticals, information technology, transportation, and agricultural products. Encouraging further investment, Siddiqui invited additional Danish firms to explore opportunities in sectors aligned with their expertise. Addressing regional security concerns, Senator Siddiqui stated that Pakistan is facing a war-like situation due to India's aggressive posture. He cited the Pahalgam incident as an example of an unprovoked attack that compelled Pakistan to take defensive measures. Despite these tensions, he reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to peace — both regionally and globally. Siddiqui also briefed the Danish delegation on the status of



Afghan nationals residing in Pakistan, clarifying that registered individuals contribute peacefully to society and are treated like Pakistani citizens. Only those without official documentation are being asked to return. On the issue of terrorism, Senator Siddiqui emphasized Pakistan's unwavering resolve in combating the threat, which has claimed nearly 90,000 lives. He reiterated the government's commitment to implementing all necessary measures to eliminate terrorism. In response, Friis Bach acknowledged Pakistan's sovereign right to enhance its defense posture in the face of external challenges. During his visit, Senator Siddiqui also met with Justice Muhammad Ahsan, the first Pakistani-origin judge appointed to Denmark's Supreme Court. He congratulated Justice Ahsan on his historic achievement, calling it a proud moment for Pakistan. Justice Ahsan provided an overview of Denmark's judicial system and personally guided the senator through various departments of the Supreme Court.

Bilawal Bhutto says despite differences PPP supports federal govt



Liaquat Ali

Islamabad: Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari this week said that despite some policy differences, his party remains aligned with the federal government. Speaking at a 'Clean Larkana and Employment Scheme Program' in Naudero, Bilawal complained that Sindh had been treated like a "stepchild" in the past. He dedicated his recently awarded Nishan-e-Imtiaz to the people of Larkana. Bilawal announced that two million houses were being built across Sindh under the People's Housing Scheme, with ownership rights transferred in women's names. He termed it the world's largest housing project for women, adding that the initiative also generated up to 100,000 job opportunities. He praised local body representatives who launched the

programme using their own savings and encouraged others to improve financial management. He also urged that performance-based competition among local representatives should be promoted, with the Sindh Chief Minister rewarding high-performing officials with additional facilities. Highlighting water-related issues, Bilawal said he had directed the upgradation of the water supply system in Ratodero and the improvement of water supply and drainage in Qambar-Shahdadkot. He also lauded the Chief Ministers of Sindh and Balochistan for effectively representing their provinces at federal forums on issues such as water distribution, NFC, and canal disputes. Bilawal emphasised that the people are the real strength and asset of the party, adding that with their support, he has proudly represented Pakistan across the world.

Pakistan to allocate 1,000 acres for Chinese-led maritime industrial complex near Port Qasim

Gwadar Pro

Islamabad: In a landmark step to revive Pakistan’s maritime sector, the government is planning to allocate 1,000 acres of land to Chinese investors for the establishment of an Integrated Maritime Industrial Complex near Port Qasim, official media reported.

Jawad Akhtar, Technical Advisor at the Ministry of Maritime Affairs, said the project would consolidate multiple maritime activities - shipbuilding, shipbreaking, repair and maintenance, and recycling - into a single technology-driven hub.

“This is the first investment of this scale by a single foreign company in Pakistan’s maritime industry, and it will fundamentally transform our shipbuilding and ship recycling capabilities,” Akhtar said.

The Chinese investors plan to introduce robotic systems, large modern docks, and advanced recycling technologies that will replace Pakistan’s outdated shipbreaking practices centered in Gadani. Once operational, the



complex will also feature re-rolling mills to process ship steel directly on-site, reducing Pakistan’s reliance on imports and saving valuable foreign exchange.

Akhtar highlighted that the complex would enable Pakistan to produce vessels seven to eight times larger than current capacities, cutting production time by nearly 70 percent.

“This initiative is not just infrastructure—it’s the revival of Pakistan’s blue economy,” he said. The project is expected to elevate Pakistan into the ranks of regional

and global players in shipbuilding and maritime innovation, driven by advanced Chinese investment and technology.

'The Three-Body Problem' celebrates a decade of global impact, charts future expansion



Henan Daily

Zhengzhou: A decade after its international debut, Hugo Award-winning *The Three-Body Problem* is being hailed as a groundbreaking success for Chinese science fiction, selling 6.5 million copies in 42 languages and impacting readers worldwide. The novel's international success was celebrated at the "Cosmic Echoes -The Three-Body Problem's Overseas 10-Year Impact Release Conference" held on Aug 30 during the 15th China International Digital Publishing Expo in Zhengzhou, Henan province.

The conference drew over 400 attendees, including author Liu Cixin, experts, scholars, publishers, and avid readers from around the globe, gathered to reflect on the novel's decade-long journey and discuss the future of Chinese science fiction on the global stage. First published in English in November 2014, *The Three-Body Problem* quickly became a global phenomenon, culminating in a 2015 Hugo Award for Best Novel – a pivotal moment for Chinese science fiction. The novel's impact was underscored by the release of the "Report on the International Impact of *The Three-Body Problem* in the Overseas Decade", which revealed global sales exceeding 30 million copies and widespread availability in libraries across Europe and the United States.

"The success of *The Three-Body Problem*'s overseas publication proves that Chinese literature can speak to human concerns in a global language," stated author Liu Cixin during his address, expressing gratitude to China Educational Publications Import and Export Corporation (CEP) and Science Fiction World magazine. At the event, the National Archives of Publications and Culture

announced the upcoming launch of *The Three-Body Problem Overseas Translation Collection* (Collector's Edition), documenting the novel's impressive international reach.

American science fiction author David Brin speaks in a video tribute the "Cosmic Echoes -The Three-Body Problem's Overseas 10-Year Impact Release Conference" during the 15th China International Digital Publishing Expo in Zhengzhou, Henan province on Aug 30. [Photo provided to chinadaily.com.cn]

A video tribute, "10th Anniversary of *The Three-Body Problem*'s Cosmic Echoes: Tributes from Around the Globe", was presented by China Daily Website and CEP. It featured remarks from prominent figures such as American science fiction author David Brin, who stated that the novel had transformed the field of science fiction not just in China but around the world.

Panel discussions explored the novel's unique appeal and successful localization strategies, with insights from international publishers like Nicolas Cheetham, Head of Zeus (UK) and Marta Rossich of Nova (Spain). Science fiction writer Wu Yan noted, "The success of *The Three-Body Problem* marks the fact that Chinese narratives have become a part of the world's imagined community."

The conference concluded with a sense of

optimism, signaling a new chapter for Chinese science fiction's global expansion, evolving from simply "going out" to establishing deep cultural connections and influencing the international literary landscape. Organizers expressed the belief that, moving forward, Chinese science fiction will continue to explore universal themes through its unique cultural perspective.



Chinese delegation explores Punjab's vast agriculture investment opportunities

Gwadar Pro



Lahore: A 20-member high-level Chinese delegation, led by Yuan Jianmin and accompanied by Director General Green Pakistan Initiative Major General Shahid Nazir (ret'd), this week visited Agriculture House in Lahore on Friday to explore Punjab’s agriculture sector and evaluate investment opportunities.

Punjab Agriculture Minister Syed Ashiq Hussain Kirmani chaired the meeting, attended by Parliamentary Secretary for Agriculture Usama Khan Leghari and Punjab Agriculture Secretary Iftikhar Ali Sahoo. The delegation was briefed on the province’s immense agricultural potential and areas ripe for investment.

Minister Kirmani informed the Chinese experts that Punjab’s cultivable land covers 29.65 million acres, accounting for nearly 70 percent of Pakistan’s total agricultural output. He stressed that Punjab offered vast opportunities for investment in quality seed production, fertilizers, drone technology, high-efficiency irrigation systems, and modern farm ma-

chinery.

Highlighting the government’s focus on agricultural modernization, he said the Punjab Agriculture Department, in collaboration with the Green Pakistan Initiative (GPI), was actively working to transform the sector.

Agriculture Secretary Iftikhar Ali Sahoo praised China as a global leader in agricultural technology and emphasized that Punjab, as Pakistan’s food basket, stood to gain significantly from Chinese cooperation in farm mechanization and advanced cultivation techniques.

Director General GPI Shahid Nazir said the visiting Chinese companies possessed complete technological solutions “from sowing to harvesting” and were determined to introduce them in Pakistan. “China’s entry into Punjab’s agriculture can unlock a new era of productivity, efficiency, and sustainability,” he remarked.



Family trip to Italy, a truly beautiful EXPERIENCE



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

Newswire Rome: Italy awakens a special magnetism when explored as a family. The country offers a blend that is hard to find elsewhere: living culture, natural landscapes that seem painted, and cities steeped in history. Each stage of the journey becomes an opportunity to discover together, across generations, the essence of the peninsula. What begins as a simple getaway can turn into a

shared memory. This memory resonates strongly once back home. Sorrento and the bay that captivates everyone: Heading south and arriving in Sorrento means encountering a landscape that fascinates even the most seasoned traveler. From the top of its cliffs, the view opens onto the Gulf of Naples with Vesuvius in the background. This creates an almost theatrical setting. Walking through its narrow streets means being surrounded by citrus aromas, lively squares, and a hospitality that gives the sense of having reached a place where time flows differently. Those seeking family-friendly accommodation often look for options that combine tradition and comfort. In this sense, a luxurious villa in Sorrento by Eden House represents an appealing choice. It is a space designed to enjoy calm, surrounded by gardens and equipped with every necessary amenity. From there, exploring the Amalfi Coast becomes an easy journey, while the villa itself offers moments of tranquility after long days of excursions. And the curious thing is, there always seems to be something more to discover upon returning to the city. Lecce and the Baroque of the South: In Puglia, Lecce welcomes visitors with architecture that dazzles. Its nickname, “the Florence of the South”, is no coincidence: the baroque facades glow under the midday sun. The squares resemble small stages where everyday life intersects with historical memory. For a family, the experience becomes a living lesson. Children gaze in awe at carved stone details, while parents find corners to enjoy local wine or a plate of hand-made pasta. The sea, just a few kilometers away, offers wide beaches. Here, white sand and turquoise water contrast with the city’s intensity. What is striking is that Lecce doesn’t end with its monuments. What truly captures the visitor is the way each corner seems to suggest an unfinished tale. It is an echo of ancient stories intertwined with contemporary vitality. Acciaroli and the unexpected calm: On the Cilento coast, Acciaroli appears as a refuge where life moves at an unhurried pace. Its beaches, bathed by crystal-clear waters, attract families looking for rest far from the crowds. Here, the plan is simple: days by the sea, strolls through an old town full of winding alleys, and a sense of being in a place that still preserves its own rhythm. The fishing tradition is reflected in its cuisine, offering fresh fish and seafood prepared simply, yet with intense flavors. Children enjoy the closeness to nature. At the same time, adults appreciate the contrast between the serenity of the setting and the energy of a village that has preserved a rare authenticity. And yet, there are details that surprise when least expected. For instance, a Norman tower rising along the coast or a sunset that shifts colors by the minute. The journey as a shared experience: Italy with family goes beyond its most famous places.



Each region displays its character: from the mountains in the north to the whitewashed villages of the south. It also includes islands that

contributes to a shared feeling. Traveling together means experiencing Italy in a way that lingers long after the photos.



feel like separate worlds. What unites all these destinations is the chance to live moments that transcend daily routine. A train ride that turns into a game, a local market that sparks the curiosity of the youngest, an impromptu conversation with a neighbor offering an unexpected recommendation. Everything

And the truth is, in the end, there always remains the impression that the country holds one more secret, something waiting to be uncovered on the next journey, as if Italy were determined to remind you that it can never be fully known.



Building trust should precede talks on 'security guarantees' for Ukraine

Andrey Kortunov

Following the ongoing Western discussions around the Russia-Ukraine conflict, one cannot miss a noteworthy shift in accent that became particularly visible after US President Donald Trump met a group of European leaders and Volodymyr Zelensky in the White House on August 18.

Speculations about a likely territorial compromise between Moscow and Kiev gave way to deliberations on the post-conflict security guarantees for Ukraine.

This shift should not be particularly surprising. Currently, the prospects for an early Russia-Ukraine summit remain unclear. For European leaders, who for a long time insisted on the

unconditional "return to the borders of 1991," the question of the likely territorial concessions by Kiev becomes an uncomfortable subject to focus on.

How do they envisage the security guarantees for Ukraine in leading European capitals? The crystal-clear position of the Trump administration on keeping Ukraine outside of NATO blocks the most radical and the most attractive mechanism of security guarantees that both Kiev and European capitals have been counting on for many years. It means that in Europe, they have to consider alternative, less-than-perfect options of the security guarantees for Ukraine.

These multiple options essentially boil down to two interconnected European strategies. The first is to upgrade as much as possible the pre-

sent Ukrainian military capabilities with massive long-term supplies of sophisticated Western weapons, as well as to persistently assist the Ukrainian military-industrial complex. European taxpayers are supposed to foot all the concomitant bills. The second strategy line implies a permanent European military presence in Ukraine, the scale and format of which, so far, is not clearly defined.

These two strategies might look fine on paper, but in real life, they will inevitably encounter formidable obstacles. The most evident one is the position of the above-mentioned Trump administration.



Europeans might be ready to pay almost indefinitely for the large-scale defense-related deliveries to Ukraine, but the military hardware itself is supposed to come primarily from the US. It is yet to be seen whether Washington is willing to authorize an unrestricted flow of the most sophisticated US-made weapons to Europe, especially if the US faces mounting challenges to its security interests in other parts of the world.

Still, the crux of the matter is not in the present difficult state of transatlantic relations. Far more important is the fact that security in Europe, as in the world at large, cannot be divided. This is not a mantra of the Kremlin propaganda, but a reality of the modern world that has been reconfirmed many times.

Europe needs to understand that any attempts to ensure the safety of Ukraine without taking into

account Russia's security concerns would move Europe in the wrong direction. Moscow will inevitably try to protect itself against what it will consider to be existential challenges to its national security and even its mere existence. As a result, the post-conflict Europe will turn into a place of permanent military-political confrontation and an uncontrolled arms race, which, at worst, will, at some point, lead to a large European war. The only reasonable alternative to the mutual assured insecurity on the continent is a consistent movement in the direction of a new, inclusive and comprehensive military-political system. This movement cannot possibly start with more arms or more troops on the European ground. Instead, one should work on the restoration of broken communication lines between the East and the West, especially in the military and diplomatic spheres.

When channels of communication are back in operation, the first basic confidence-building measures may follow, allowing for the increase in the predictability of actions on both sides and even to lay the foundations of future trust. After the first stage is completed, it would be possible to consider new negotiations on arms control in Europe - both in its conventional and nuclear dimensions. The road toward a new European security system will be a long and difficult one, with many potholes along the way.

Andrey Kortunov Academic Director of the Russian International Affairs Council. Former Deputy Director of the Institute for US and Canadian Studies.

'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 inhumane 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.

The writer is a senior editor with the People's Daily and currently a senior fellow with the Chongyang Institute for Financial Studies at the Renmin University of China

Editor-in-Chief: S. Ali
Associate Editor: Afzal Butt
Email: editor@covert.com.pk
Phone/Fax : +92-51-2723419
690. Street 17 Block E Bahria Town phase 8, Islamabad, Pakistan



Ambassador Zahid Hafeez Chaudhri attends Pakistan-Indonesia Business Council Board meeting

Covert Report

Islamabad: Pakistani Ambassador to Indonesia Zahid Hafeez Chaudhri this week attended Pakistan-Indonesia Business Council Board meeting. The Ambassador appreciated the revival of this important forum to further strengthen economic ties between the two brotherly nations. He highlighted complementarities in the textile sectors of both countries and emphasized the need to expand cooperation in IT, defense, health, sports goods, food processing, tourism, and education. Ambassador Chaudhri underlined Pakistan’s immense potential for Indonesian investors, noting that Pakistan hosts the 2nd largest salt reserves, ranks 7th in global meat production, produces 20,000 IT graduates annually, and is home to a dynamic 240 million population—one of the largest English-speaking and youth-driven markets in the world. In a post on X later, the envoy said: Together, Pakistan and Indonesia can unlock new opportunities for trade, investment, and sustainable growth.” He added: Pleased to meet the Pakistan-Indonesia Business Council at @Kadin_Indonesia today. Highlighted complementarities in Pakistan and Indonesia economies & the need to expand cooperation particularly in IT, health, defense, tourism, education, & food processing for stronger ties between two nations.”



Ambassador Asim Iftikhar Ahmad calls for dialogue, diplomacy to end Ukraine war

Newswire



Islamabad: Amid the escalation of large-scale Russian attacks on Ukraine, Pakistan thids week called for an end to the conflict, now in its fourth year, through dialogue and a negotiated settlement. “We note with deep dismay the continuation in fighting, resulting in the loss of innocent civilian lives, including children,” Ambassador Asim Iftikhar Ahmad, permanent representative of Pakistan to the United Nations, said at an emergency meeting of the Security Council convened by Ukraine. Russia hit Ukraine with deadly missiles and drone strikes early on Thursday in a sweeping attack that the U.S. special envoy on Ukraine said undermined President Donald Trump’s peace efforts. At least 23 people were killed in the capital, Tymur Tkachenko, head of Kyiv’s military administration, said in a statement. Pakistan, Ambassador Asim Iftikhar Ahmad said, had repeatedly voiced its concerns on the continuing hostilities and devastating consequences of this conflict, particularly its humanitarian toll.

FFC warns of exceptionally high floods in Chenab, Sutlej and rising threat in Indus He welcomed the recent diplomatic efforts spearheaded by U.S. President Donald Trump to bring an end to this conflict, noting the leadership-level contacts between the U.S. and Russia, as well as summit-level interactions between the US and Ukraine and a group of European leaders. “We remain hopeful that the diplomatic groundwork laid down at the start of the year, including Security Council Resolution 2774, multiple rounds of negotiations between Russia and Ukraine, and the recent high-level interactions, would lead to a meaningful outcome, an early end to hostilities and an enduring peace in the region,” the Pakistani envoy said. “These efforts must not stop and should in fact be continued earnestly and followed up with more diplomacy, deeper engagement and structured and sustained talks,” he added. “Only a sincere and meaningful dialogue which addresses the security concerns of all sides, which is anchored in the principles of the UN Charter and international law, and respects the relevant multilateral agreements, can help secure peace, which is both just and enduring”.

UNDP to join construction of new water reservoirs in Kazakhstan

Covert Report

Astana: Kazakhstan and UNDP this week discussed joint work as part of the IDB-financed project “Development of Climate Resilient Water Resources”, Kazinform News Agency reported. The issue was discussed at a meeting between Minister of Water Resources and Irrigation Nurzhan Nurzhigitov and Resident Representative of the UN Development Program in Kazakhstan Katarzyna Wawiernia in Astana. The first phase of the project aims at construction of four new and reconstruction of four existing water reservoirs, as well as reconstruction of 115 canals. The sides also discussed the measures to upgrade the project’s efficiency, as well as interaction of all participating sides. Notably, in July 2025, the Kazakh Ministry together with the Islamic Development Bank took a decision to attract the UNDP as an international consultant for the project. As Minister Nurzhigitov noted, the UNDP’s participation will let raise the project to a new level. “The work financed by the Islamic Development Bank is underway to implement the Concept for the Development of the Water Resources Management System. The project’s regulatory-legal framework has been updated, all necessary institutions have been set up. We hope that our cooperation will let achieve the Concept’s target indicators,” Nurzhan Nurzhigitov said. Earlier, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Uzbekistan held intergovernmental talks to discuss irrigation water supply to southern Kazakhstan.



PPP-led Sindh govt has performed exceptionally well amid floods: Umar Rehman Malik



five days via Panjnad. “By to-night, Trimmu may touch its highest point, which will give us a clear estimate of how much water Sindh will receive,” he said. The chief minister said mapping had already been completed to identify vulnerable villages. “We know exactly which areas will be affected at different water levels — 500,000 to 700,000 cusecs, 700,000 to 900,000, or even beyond. If inflows cross 900,000 cusecs, over 200,000 people may be impacted,” he warned. He warned that Sindh’s terrain poses greater risks than Punjab’s. “In Punjab, designated breaches allow water to return quickly to the river. But Sindh lies below river level, so once water spreads, it does not recede easily,” he explained. At Guddu Barrage, Minister Irrigation Shoro and Secretary Irrigation Zareef Khoro told the chief minister that the rehabilitation and modernisation project, launched in 2017, has achieved 72.6 per cent physical and 78.6 per cent financial progress. The project, being executed by China’s



Abdullah Jan
Islamabad: Pakistan People’s Party (PPP) leader Umar Rehman Malik this week said that the PPP-led Sindh government had performed exceptionally well amid floods.

Shah has outlined Sindh’s flood strategy, focusing on three priorities: protecting lives, securing Guddu and Sukkur barrages, and reinforcing embankments at critical points,” he said in a statement. The PPP leader added: “With focused

the administration is executing a structured and strategic plan, building on the experience of previous floods when under the leadership of Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, Sindh government delivered exemplary relief and rehabilitation. May everyone remain safe, and may Pakistan face this challenge with minimal impact.” Earlier, Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah said the provincial government had made preparations to deal with the anticipated “super flood”, which could endanger lives of more than 1.63 million people. “We have devised a comprehensive strategy. First, we will save people and cattle, then ensure the safety of Guddu, Sukkur, and Kotri barrages,” he said. CM Shah explained that water levels in Ravi and Trimmu rivers were rising and were being closely monitored, as inflows from Trimmu would reach Sindh in about



New Era Development Group, is now expected to be completed by March 2026. The chief minister directed that the project must be finished within the revised timeline without compromising on quality.



“Hopefully the damages will be controlled and minimised as CM Sindh Murad Ali attention on vulnerable areas like Qadirpur and clear accountability assigned,



Bulgaria, Germany unveil \$1 billion joint defense industry projects

NewsWire

Sofia: Bulgaria and Germany are launching 1 billion pounds (\$1.1 billion) in joint defense industry projects, including new plants in the Balkan state to produce artillery shells, gunpowder, NATO-standard rounds, and long-range weapons. The cooperation is led by Bulgaria's Citizens for European Development party (GERB) and Düsseldorf-based defense contractor Rheinmetall.

Discussions began in March 2025 and intensified in April, reflecting growing collaboration and strong ties between the two countries' defense sectors. Contracts for the project are expected to be finalized within the next three weeks, with funding from Sofia secured and the European Commission informed. Plans are also underway for a separate drone manufacturing facility, according to local Bulgarian news agency BGNES.



Although no locations have been officially confirmed, Bulgaria's state-owned armaments producer in Sopot is expected to play a central role in the initiative.

GERB and Rheinmetall said the investments are intended to strengthen Bulgaria's role within NATO and Europe's overall defense capabilities. The joint venture is expected to create thousands of jobs in the Balkan

nation, boosting the local economy. Additionally, Rheinmetall aims to achieve a turnover of 1 billion euros annually, generating significant tax revenue and enhancing Bulgaria's defense industry profile.

With the investment of 'Rheinmetall', Bulgaria becomes part of the European defense ecosystem

NewsWire

Sofia: With the investment of the German defense concern "Rheinmetall" Bulgaria becomes part of the European defense ecosystem. This was stated by President Rumen Radev at a joint briefing with the company's CEO Armin Papperger during the opening of the new high-tech ammunition factory of the company in Unterlüs in the German province of Lower Saxony. "Rheinmetall" will invest together with the Bulgarian government in two factories – one for ammunition and one for gunpowder, Radev pointed out. Here, it is not just about joint production, but about further development of the long-term strategic partnership with Germany, creating new jobs, implementing new technologies, supporting the modernization of the Bulgarian army, as well as expanding the market of the Bulgarian arms industry, the head of state commented. The president expressed confidence that

these new productions in Bulgaria are just the beginning of fruitful cooperation. The planned shell factory in Bulgaria will have a capacity of 100-150,000 units per year or half the capacity of the facility in Unterlüs, Papperger said. The second project – for a gunpowder factory will be of great significance given the large needs for gunpowder in Europe, he explained. The CEO of "Rheinmetall" expressed hope that by 2035, the production capacities for gunpowder could be fully operational. The Bulgarian state and "Rheinmetall" will share the investment in the new factories in the country equally, said the chairman of the Defense Committee in the Bulgarian parliament Hristo Gadzhev. He recalled that as early as July, the government submitted a request for funding under the European security mechanism SAFE. "Bulgaria is one of the few countries that, besides buying weapons, is actually buying production and manufacturing. We will create production and it will be with a loan that will not burden the budget, Gadzhev pointed out. On August 25,



the leader of the political party GERB Boyko Borissov met in Germany with Armin Papperger to discuss the construction of two new military factories in Bulgaria. The CEO of "Rheinmetall" announced that the joint investment of the

Bulgarian government and the company in the two new factories will exceed 1 billion euros. On August 31, the chairwoman of the European Commission (EC) Ursula von der Leyen together with the Prime Minis-

ter of Bulgaria Rosen Zhelyazkov will visit the leading state enterprise in the military industry and the largest ammunition production facility in the country – "Vazovski Machine-Building Works" EAD. (28.08.2025)



Portugal honour Diogo Jota by passing his number 21 jersey to close friend Neves



NewsWire Lisbon: Portugal have paid tribute to Diogo Jota by passing his number 21 jersey to his close friend and former teammate Ruben Neves, following the forward's death in a car crash last month, national team coach Roberto Martinez said.



Neves, a midfielder at Saudi side Al-Hilal, was a pall-bearer at Jota's funeral. The Liverpool forward died aged 28 with his younger brother, Andre Silva, in northwestern Spain after their Lamborghini veered off the road and burst into flames. Neves and Jota were teammates at Premier League club Wolverhampton Wanderers. "We know what Diogo meant to each of us and the impact he had on our lives. We want to honour his memory every day. He will be with us and will be another force helping us achieve our goals. Diogo's example is a light for us. We will carry his spirit in our hearts," Martinez told reporters

on Friday. "Diogo's absence is a factor of unity, motivation and responsibility, because Diogo wanted to win the World Cup, and we are here to fight and achieve that dream. I can also announce that the number 21 jersey will go to Ruben Neves, because that way, that number will remain on the field and with all of us..." "He had a very close relationship with Diogo and is the ideal person to represent him." Tributes have continued to pour in for Jota, with Liverpool retiring the number 20 shirt he wore at the club. Brighton & Hove Albion midfielder James Milner, who was teammates with Jota at Liverpool, will also wear the number 20 jersey this season.

Pakistan welcomes Japan's interest in Reko Diq mining project

Celina Ali
Islamabad: Federal Minister for Petroleum Ali Pervaiz Malik this week welcomed the Japan Bank for International Cooperation's (JBIC) interest in Pakistan's landmark Reko Diq mining project, calling it an important step toward strengthening bilateral ties in the mining and energy sectors.

The announcement came during a meeting in Islamabad between Minister Malik and a JBIC delegation led by Taro Kato, Director General of Mining and Metals Finance. Minister Malik appreciated Japan's confidence in Pakistan's economic potential,



saying, "The mining sector has made remarkable progress, and we are committed to making it a key pillar of our economy." He assured the JBIC delegation of full support from both federal and provincial governments and emphasized that the Reko Diq project would set a benchmark for responsible and sustainable mining practices in Pakistan.

Malik also highlighted the government's broader plan to streamline the regulatory framework and attract international investment, positioning Pakistan as a prime destination for global mining and energy projects.

Taro Kato noted growing interest from Japanese investors in Pakistan and expressed JBIC's willingness to expand cooperation beyond mining into the wider energy sector.

Kenichiro Kitamura, JBIC's Chief Representative for the Middle East, said that high-level engagements like this would enhance Japanese investor confidence, build trust, and lay the foundation for mutually beneficial partnerships.

The meeting concluded with both sides reaffirming their commitment to close collaboration, aiming to leverage Japan's financial and technological expertise to unlock Pakistan's natural resource potential.

US underscores strong partnership with Pak universities



Covert Report
Lahore: Punjab University Hailey College of Commerce, under the US Department of State's Initiative "Strengthening US-Pakistan University Partnerships" organized the closing ceremony of the training program on "AI-Powered Entrepreneurship".



On this occasion, US Consul General Lahore Mr Stetson Sanders, PU VC Prof Dr Muhammad Ali, Pro VC Prof Dr Khalid Mahmood, Prof Dr Jo-Ann Rolle, Medgar Evers College, CUNY Prof Dr Byron E. Price, Dean Stillman College Prof Dr Isaac McCoy, Mrs. Raquel King-Nicodemus, Mr. William A. Campbell, Mr. Sandeep Paul, Ms. Sumayya Tariq from the U.S. Consulate, Chairman University of Sialkot Dr Faisal Manzoor, Principal HCC Prof Dr Hafiz Zafar Ahmad faculty members and students were present. In his address, Stetson Sanders underscored the longstanding partnership between United States and Pakistan. He appreciated efforts and contributions

towards the success of the program. Prof Dr Muhammad Ali commended HCC for promoting entrepreneurial initiatives and encouraging students to pursue innovative business ideas. Prof Dr Hafiz Zafar Ahmad expressed pride in the achievements of students, noting their adoption of AI tools to generate income and pursue entrepreneurship. He said that the training, delivered in collaboration with HCC, engaged 250 students in five batches. Participants collectively secured over 150 clients and generated business worth more

than Rs 2 million during the program. Many students are in the process of finalizing further deals, reflecting the program's focus on practical entrepreneurial outcomes, he added. The ceremony also featured testimonies from top-earning students, who shared their entrepreneurial journeys during the course. The event concluded with the distribution of souvenirs and certificates, followed by a musical performance by the Hailey Musical Society to include "Country Roads".

Pakistan will forever remain in my heart: Dr. Riina Kionka



Celina Ali of Pakistan for their hospitality and kindness throughout her posting. She wrote: "Though I say Khuda Hafiz," but "a piece of Pakistan will forever remain in my heart." Her departure marks the conclusion of a diplomatic chapter characterized by strengthened EU-Pakistan relations, collaborative development efforts, and cultural exchange. Over the course of her tenure, the Ambassador played a pivotal role in fostering dialogue on trade, women empowerment, climate resilience, education, and human rights.



UK, Pakistan pledge to strengthen ties in key areas of mutual interest

British High Commissioner Jane Marriott meets Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi



Deputy high commissioner of UK to Pakistan H.E. Matt Cannell

Celina Ali Islamabad: Federal Minister for Interior Mohsin Naqvi held an important meeting this week with British High Commissioner Jane Marriott at the Ministry of Interior, where both sides reaffirmed their commitment to deepening Pakistan-UK relations across multiple sectors. During the meeting, matters related to counterterrorism,

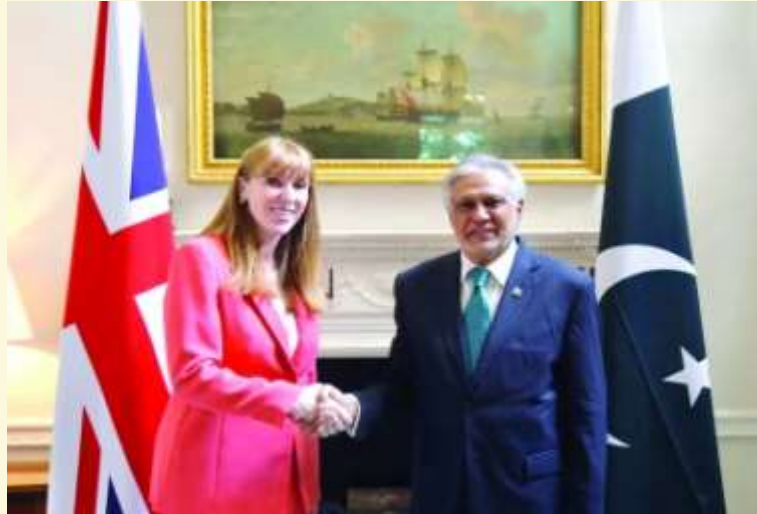
both officials agreeing to enhance joint efforts and cooperation in these critical areas. High Commissioner Jane Marriott extended her heartfelt congratulations to Minister Naqvi on receiving the prestigious Nishan-e-Imtiaz, lauding his leadership and extending her best wishes for future endeavors. She also conveyed condolences and solidarity with the people of Pakistan over the recent



the bereaved families. Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi reaffirmed Pakistan's long-standing commitment to peace and stability, stating, "Pakistan has always been an advocate of peace and strongly condemns terrorism in all its forms." Highlighting the UK's role as a key

partner, Naqvi emphasized, "Britain remains an important partner in Pakistan's journey of progress. We wish to expand bilateral cooperation with the United Kingdom in all areas of mutual interest." The meeting underscored the shared resolve of Pakistan and the

United Kingdom to broaden collaboration, not only in the domains of security and law enforcement but also in fostering stronger political, economic, and humanitarian ties.



counter-narcotics, border security, and human trafficking came under discussion, with loss of lives caused by devastating floods and heavy rains, expressing deep sympathy for



The most difficult thing is the decision to act, the rest is merely tenacity.
- Amelia Earhart

Every strike brings me closer to the next home run.
- Babe Ruth

Italy's PM Meloni claims credit for shaping talks on Ukraine security guarantees



Covert Report
Rome: Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni this week claimed Italy helped shape Western plans for security guarantees to Ukraine, casting Rome as an architect rather than a bystander in Western talks. Speaking at the Meeting of Rimini, a Catholic festival of politics and reflection, Meloni said a diplomatic breakthrough had finally been achieved after three years of deadlock with Moscow. She credited US President Donald Trump, Ukraine's "heroic resistance," and the efforts of the EU and Italy for creating that opportunity. She insisted that any settlement must be based on "robust security guarantees for Kyiv," and noted that Italy's proposal, inspired by NATO's Article 5 mutual defence clause, is now on the table. "We should be proud of this," she told the audience. Her remarks come amid debate over a US-backed plan to provide Ukraine with collective defence commitments outside NATO's framework. Trump recently raised the idea during a call with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy and European leaders, echo-

ing a formula Rome has long advocated. For Meloni, Washington's turn toward such guarantees is evidence that Italy's vision is influencing the West's approach. Meloni also addressed the conflict in Gaza, adopting a markedly different tone. "We did not hesitate for a minute to support Israel's right to defend itself after 7 October," she said. "But we cannot remain silent now, after a reaction that has gone beyond the principle of proportionality, claiming innocent lives and affecting Christian communities that have always been a factor of balance in the region." The prime minister warned that Israel's actions risk undermining prospects of a two-state solution and condemned "the unacceptable killing of civilians" and "an attack on press freedom." She reiterated Italy's call for a ceasefire and for Hamas to release hostages, while noting Italy's role as a leading non-Muslim country in facilitating medical evacuations from Gaza. Two weeks ago, Meloni for the first time described the situation in Gaza as a genocide. Her comments also came against the backdrop of a statement by nine European countries, including Germany, Italy, and the UK, earlier this month, which warned that Israel's plan to occupy Gaza put Israel "at risk" of legal consequences under international law – a softer line than the outright condemnation voiced separately by France and Canada.

France and Germany, cooperation resumes in the name of defence, including nuclear



Newswire
Brussels: United again, cooperating again, in the name of defence, particularly against Russia. Thus ends the first "joint council of ministers" between France and Germany of the Friedrich Merz era, held this week in Toulon, chaired by the Chancellor and French President Emmanuel Macron (who carefully avoided speaking in public about the profound crisis affecting the French government). The bilateral initiative, which started 25 years ago, provides for two meetings a year between the two governments. In particular, following the meeting, a joint statement was issued, outlining the twenty or so projects on which the two countries will collaborate in various fields, and announcing their intention to deepen bilateral security cooperation. This work will include a missile warning system as part of an initiative called "Jewel". In addition, the two governments agreed to intensify their efforts to develop the Main Ground Combat System (MGCS) tanks. Cooperation will go even further: the nuclear defence, described as the "cornerstone" of NATO deterrence, with France being the only EU member state with such weapons. The idea is to develop a "common strate-

gic culture" by connecting "security and defence objectives and strategies." Germany and France also pledged to support Ukraine's war effort, which "we will not abandon," by ensuring the dispatch of defensive weapons: "Despite intensive international diplomatic efforts, Russia shows no intention of ending its war of aggression against Ukraine," the joint statement said. "Together, France and Germany want to give new impetus to Europe: more competitive, more productive, and more sovereign," Macron summarised when meeting the press. According to Merz, Paris and Berlin "share the same lucid vision of the main internal and external challenges they face. Joint projects span a range of areas, including energy, trade, industry, advanced technology, competitiveness, and the single market. However, controversial issues, such as the Mercosur trade agreement, supported by Germany but strongly opposed by France, were apparently set aside. The final joint declaration limited itself to talking about the intention to work together on "safeguard measures in strategic sectors, in particular agriculture."