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# PAKISTAN'S HARBAH CRUISE MISSILE





# Interaction

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# BINDING FORCE



The people of Pakistan are skink in deep confusion about what is happening in Pakistan. Which direction Pakistan is going to? In the changing world, where does Pakistan stand? The economic conditions of Pakistan are not satisfactory and the inflation level is very high. The life of the poor people of Pakistan is becoming miserable day by day. The questions about the existing system have been raised by many people. More questions are bothering the individuals, the society, the provinces, and the institutions. They see the upset and uncertain situation of the country. The corruption is controlling the whole country. Very rare cases of honesty could be found. All signs are negative. The justice system does not seem to be working. The administration system has failed to deliver.

This situation is leading towards chaos which is very dangerous because if it happens nothing is safe; no life or property nor travelling as there is no rule. Therefore, all ancient philosophers, medieval or current, and even Muslim philosophers have advised to stop and not let it happen in any case.

In this situation, if we evaluate, the foremost binding force of Pakistan is Islam. Even after the debacle of East Pakistan, Islam has been the binding force of this Allah's given land. Pakistan's love was and is in the hearts of the people of Pakistan though this country was facing some jumps and jerks but absorbing and moving forward. Then the situation started changing. The successive governments started accepting the external pressures to change the fundamental doctrines of Pakistan and the basis on which Pakistan was established. The governments that have no mandate from the majority of the people and by the constitution were continuously making efforts to create chaos changing the fundamental and decided deals with the discipline institution which can say yes or no easily on any issue.

The foreigners indulging in the affairs right from the beginning considering Pakistan's

geopolitically important location, its very disciplined army which has destroyed and defeated the empire of the USSR in Afghanistan, and as some of Americans say that America was defeated due to Pakistan. That means Pakistan defeated two empires. Both empires considered Pakistan solely responsible for their humiliation. In the West, it is believed that Pakistan's armed forces are so formidable that could destroy the world's whole system especially South Asia and even Far Asia if they join hands with China.

Thus the Western powers seem to be interested in destabilizing Pakistan and keeping Pakistan's forces busy in the country to face a Hybrid war, which means terrorism, bad economic conditions, bad administration, questionable Judiciary system, inflation, and fury of the people of Pakistan. In the hybrid battle, the Pakistan Army is weakening its cohesion with the people. This is alarming as the second binding Force of Pakistan is in the state of losing its grip over the country

## POWER TUSSE

The power tussle between politicians and the Establishment is going after the sad demise of the Founder father of Pakistan Quaid e Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah. The qualities and abilities of the politicians were in question from the very first day of the establishment of Pakistan. The establishment considered politicians as inferior brands for the ruling of the country as they do not have the experience of ruling and some of the politicians were proud enough to consider that the armed forces should obey their command.

It was the right of the politician. But sometimes, one or some of them went beyond that to insult the Commander in Chief as Muhammad Ayub Khoro did in the last civilian government of Feroz Khan Noon to keep General Ayub Khan outside his Defense Minister office waiting for quite a long time. Other than this incident, the politicians of Punjab who were in the habit of obeying English Vice Roy or Governor were more inclined to accept the orders of the Army which consisted of Punjab and Frontier now called KPK. Speaking of the people of Pakistan, they like the army as they consider that the army can only revive the Muslim renaissance. The dream can only be fulfilled by the armed forces. After Jinnah and to some extent Liaquat Ali Khan, the people of Pakistan trusted the army.

Unfortunately, the dream of the people could not be fulfilled. On the contrary, half of Pakistan was lost. As the system of forces of Command and Control or discipline does not allow checks and balances and the army people rule through the strength of military power. This has been in question now. Though all civilian rulers were installed by the establishment, yet all civilians tried to obtain absolute power, despite lack of inability and corruption losing credibility.

In any case, and despite all ifs and buts, Pakistan needs the binding force which is now the disciplined army, which can be convinced to withdraw from the power tussle if the politicians show morality, dignity, and grace coupled with a record of patriotism. This is a much better solution than facing a chaos-like situation that is divesting all power players.

Any damage to the disciplined institution will put Pakistan in a position of compromise with the enemy or enemies' agenda. Let the Chief of Army Staff consolidate its command and let the army remain in place.

**Nusrat Mirza**  
Chief Editor

# NEWS IN BRIEF



## GENERAL SAHIR SHAMSHAD MIRZA, NI (M), CHAIRMAN JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF COMMITTEE, WHO IS ON AN OFFICIAL VISIT TO JORDAN, CALLED ON HIS MAJESTY KING ABDULLAH II IBN AL HUSSAIN

General Sahir Shamshad Mirza, NI (M), Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee, who is on an official visit to Jordan, called on His Majesty King Abdullah II Ibn Al Hussain. During the meeting, both dignitaries discussed various areas of interest including, bilateral politico-diplomatic and military cooperation and prevailing regional security situation.

Jordanian King Abdullah Ibn Al Hussain conferred the medal 'Order of the Star of Jordan' to Chairman JCSC General Sahir Shamshad Mirza in recognition of his meritorious services. CJSC also held separate meetings with Major General Yousef Ahmed Al-Hnaity, Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff, Jordanian Armed Forces (JAF) and Brigadier General Muhammad Hyasat, Commander of the Royal Jordan Air Force.

Courtesy: ISPR.

## GENERAL SYED ASIM MUNIR, NI (M), COAS ENGAGED IN A CANDID DISCOURSE WITH MEMBERS OF PROMINENT US THINK TANKS AND MEDIA

General Syed Asim Munir, NI (M), COAS engaged in a candid discourse with members of prominent US think tanks and media. COAS, during the interaction, put across Pakistan's perspective on regional security, transnational terrorism and importance of maintaining strategic stability in South Asia.

COAS said that Pakistan is a country of consequence both from geopolitical and geoeconomic perspective and wishes to develop itself as a hub of connectivity and a gateway to Central Asia and beyond, however, eschews Bloc Politics and believes in maintaining balanced relationships with all friendly countries.

COAS highlighted that Pakistan desires to broaden bilateral engagement with the U.S through long term multi domain partnership. He highlighted that his interactions during the



visit to the U.S with Political and Military leadership have been very positive and forward looking for further strengthening the relationship. COAS also highlighted that Pakistan has stood as a bulwark against transnational terrorism for decades for ensuring regional stability and global peace and security. It has made unparalleled contributions and sacrifices in its enduring fight against terrorism and will continue to fight till logical end, in line with the aspirations of people Pakistan.

COAS also stressed upon the need for resolution of Kashmir Issue as per the aspirations of the people of Kashmir and the UNSC Resolutions. He said, "Kashmir is an internationally accepted dispute and no unilateral action can alter the nature of this dispute against the wishes of millions of people of the area." COAS also emphatically highlighted the immediate need for ending the sufferings in Ghaza, provision of humanitarian assistance and implementation of two state solution for enduring peace in the region. Earlier on arrival, COAS was received by the Ambassador of Pakistan to US.

Courtesy: ISPR.

**GAZA MEDIA OFFICE SAYS 100 JOURNALISTS KILLED SINCE ISRAELI ATTACKS BEGAN**

At least 100 journalists have been killed since Israel's war on Gaza began on October 7, according to new figures released by the



government media office in Gaza. Palestinian journalist Muhammed Abu Hweidy was the latest to be killed in an Israeli air raid on his home in the east of Gaza City on Saturday, the media office said. "The number of journalists killed has risen to 100, men and women, since the start of the brutal war on the Gaza Strip, after the martyrdom of journalist Mohammed Abu Hweidy in an Israeli airstrike in the Shujaiya neighborhood," the office said on Telegram social media.

(Courtesy: Al-Jazeera).

**PAKISTAN EXTENDS DEADLINE FOR AFGHANS AWAITING THIRD-COUNTRY RESETTLEMENT**



More than 450,000 Afghans have left the country since Pakistani authorities launched a deportation drive in October. The Pakistani government has announced that undocumented Afghans awaiting paperwork to resettle to a third country will be allowed to stay in Pakistan for two more months. The extension of the deadline on Wednesday from the end of this year to February 29 comes amid Pakistan's drive to expel more than one million foreigners living in the country without paperwork.

According to the United Nations refugee agency (UNHCR), more than 450,000 people have returned to neighbouring Afghanistan

since the deportation campaign began in early October. Ninety percent of them did so “voluntarily”, according to the Pakistani government, but the UNHCR says they cited fear of arrest as the primary reason for their decision to leave. Announcing the extension, interim information minister Murtaza Solangi said anybody overstaying the new deadline would be fined \$100 monthly, with a cap set at \$800. “These measures were aimed at encouraging the Afghans residing illegally in Pakistan to obtain legal documents or finalise evacuation agreements as soon as possible in a third country,” Solangi added.

(Courtesy: Al-Jazeera).

**PAKISTAN USES ARTIFICIAL RAIN FOR THE FIRST TIME TO FIGHT POLLUTION**

Cloud seeding was used to counter the hazardous smog in the megacity of Lahore, one of the world's most polluted cities. Artificial rain has been used for the first time in Pakistan in a bid to combat hazardous levels of pollution in the megacity of Lahore, says the provincial government.

Planes equipped with cloud-seeding equipment flew on Saturday over the eastern city, often ranked one of the worst places globally for air pollution. “It drizzled in at least 10 areas of Lahore,” caretaker chief minister of Punjab, Mohsin Naqvi, told reporters, adding that the authorities were monitoring the impact of artificial rain in a radius of 15km



(nine miles).

(Courtesy: Al-Jazeera)

**RLNG PRICE RAISED AMID HIGH SYSTEM LOSSES**

With system losses touching a record 14.5 per cent, the Oil and Gas Regulatory Authority (Ogra) on Friday notified about 10pc increase in the sale price of Regasified Liquefied Natural Gas (RLNG) for two Sui gas companies SSGCL and SNGPL for the current month with effect from Dec 1 owing to higher international prices, particularly of two spot cargoes. The RLNG sale price for Karachi-based Sui Southern Gas Company Ltd has been jacked up at transmission stage by 10.1pc to \$13.264 per mmBtu from \$12.05 per unit in November and \$11.47 per mmBtu



in October. The sale price at distribution stage was raised by 10.11pc to \$15.45 per unit for December against \$14.034 per mmBtu in November and \$13.36 per mmBtu in October.

Likewise, the RLNG's sale price for Lahore-based Sui Northern Gas Pipelines Ltd has been increased by 9.74pc to \$13.68 per mmBtu at transmission stage from \$12.47 per mmBtu in November and \$11.86 in October. The sale price at distribution stage for SNGPL was jacked up by 10.77pc to \$14.8 per mmBtu, compared to \$13.49 per unit in November and \$12.84 per mmBtu in October. The overall increase in absolute terms for SSGC's transmission price amounted

to \$1.22 per mmBtu and \$1.42 per unit at distribution point. The increase in RLNG price for SNGPL at transmission stood at \$1.2 per mmBtu and \$1.32 per unit for distribution.

(Courtesy: Dawn)

**FRANCE GROUNDS PLANE CARRYING 300 INDIANS OVER 'HUMAN TRAFFICKING'**

A Nicaragua-bound plane carrying more than 300 Indian passengers has been grounded in France over suspected "human trafficking", authorities said on Friday. The plane had taken off from the United Arab Emirates and was detained after an anonymous tipoff. The aircraft carrying passengers "likely to be victims of human



trafficking" was detained on Thursday, the Paris public prosecutor's office said. The national anti-organised crime unit JUNALCO has taken over the investigation, prosecutors said.

(Courtesy: Dawn)

**TAIWAN SPOTS CHINESE WARSHIPS, AIRCRAFT NEAR ISLAND AHEAD OF ELECTIONS**

Taiwan has reported spotting Chinese warships around the island and aircraft crossing the Taiwan Strait's sensitive median line weeks before elections in the democratically governed nation. On Saturday, the Ministry of Defence said in a post on X that since 1:30pm (05:30 GMT) it had



detected J-10, J-11 and J-16 fighters as well as early warning Chinese aircraft operating in the airspace to the north, middle and southwest of Taiwan.

Ten aircraft crossed the Taiwan Strait, or areas close by, working with Chinese warships to carry out "joint combat readiness patrols", the ministry said, adding that its armed forces have taken steps to respond. The uptick in Chinese military activity in the Taiwan Strait comes just weeks before Taipei heads to the polls. Earlier this month, the defence ministry also spotted warships and a balloon near the island at night. While Beijing has been sending warplanes and vessels around Taiwan on a near-daily basis, nighttime activity by Chinese aircraft and the appearance of a balloon are rare.

(Courtesy: Al-Jazeera)





# KAAN FIGHTER JET PROJECT AND IMPLICATIONS FOR PAKISTAN



**MIRZA KASHIF  
BAIG**



With Pakistan's crucial assistance, Turkey is leading the KAAN Fighter Jet Project, an ambitious and cutting-edge military aviation initiative. This fifth-generation fighter program symbolizes a remarkable leap in aerospace technology and reflects the shifting dynamics of international defense collaborations. As of late 2023, the project stands at the forefront of military aviation innovation, promising to deliver a state-of-the-art stealth aircraft that could potentially redefine aerial combat and defense strategies for the participating nations.

The KAAN project is a testament to Turkey's growing prowess in defense technology and its aspiration to be a leader in the global defense industry. The project aims to develop a fifth-generation, multi-role stealth fighter jet capable of fulfilling a variety of combat roles while incorporating advanced stealth capabilities, superior avionics, and next-generation weaponry.

The design and development of such an

aircraft requires immense technical expertise, financial resources, and time, making it a formidable endeavor even for the most advanced military powers. Nonetheless, the potential rewards in terms of increased combat effectiveness and strategic advantage are worth the investment.

## PAKISTAN'S INVOLVEMENT

Pakistan's entry into the KAAN project marks a significant milestone in its defense and aviation history. This involvement is not just a strategic defense acquisition but a substantial collaboration in the development and production phases of the fighter jet. The partnership reflects a deepening of military and technological ties between Pakistan and Turkey, two nations that have historically maintained close diplomatic and defense relations.

- **STRATEGIC SHIFT AND DEFENSE DIVERSIFICATION:**

Pakistan's decision to join the KAAN project is indicative of its strategic shift away from its traditional reliance on Chinese military hardware. Historically, Pakistan has collaborated extensively with China in the development of various military platforms, notably the JF-17 Thunder multi-role fighter jet. The KAAN project, therefore, marks a diversification in Pakistan's defense partnerships, potentially offering access to more advanced and diversified military technology.

- **ENGINEERING AND DEVELOPMENT CONTRIBUTION:**

Approximately 200 Pakistani engineers and defense officials are involved in the KAAN project, underscoring the depth of Pakistan's participation beyond mere procurement. This involvement is expected to provide invaluable experience and skill development for Pakistani personnel, contributing significantly to the country's indigenous defense capabilities.

- **POTENTIAL IMPACT ON INDIGENOUS EFFORTS:**

Pakistan has its own aspirations to develop a next-generation fighter aircraft, as seen in its Project Azm, initiated in 2017. The involvement of the KAAN project could potentially influence these indigenous efforts, either by providing technological insights or by redirecting resources and focus.

## TECHNOLOGICAL AND ECONOMIC IMPLICATIONS

The KAAN Fighter Jet Project, involving Pakistan, carries significant technological and economic implications that extend beyond the immediate realm of military capabilities.

Pakistan stands to gain in a number of crucial areas as it participates in this cutting-edge fifth-generation fighter jet program, which Turkey is leading.

## TECHNOLOGICAL IMPLICATIONS

The collaboration with Turkey in the KAAN project allows Pakistan access to cutting-edge aerospace technologies. This includes stealth capabilities, modern avionics systems, and advanced weapon integration. Such exposure can significantly enhance Pakistan's own technological base in military aviation.

- **SKILL DEVELOPMENT AND KNOWLEDGE TRANSFER:**

Involvement in the KAAN project provides Pakistani engineers and defense personnel with opportunities for skill development in high-tech aerospace design and manufacturing. This human capital development is invaluable as it builds a foundation of knowledge and expertise that can be leveraged in future domestic projects.

- **INNOVATION IN DEFENSE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT:**

The project may stimulate innovation within Pakistan's defense research and development sector. Working on a fifth-generation fighter jet demands



Cem Doğut

solutions to complex engineering challenges, potentially driving innovation in areas like material science, propulsion systems, and electronic warfare.

- **BOOST TO INDIGENOUS DEFENSE PROJECTS:**

The experience and knowledge gained from the KAAN project could positively impact Pakistan's indigenous defense projects, including Project Azm, which aims to develop a next-generation fighter aircraft. Insights from the KAAN project might accelerate development, reduce costs, or enhance the capabilities of these indigenous efforts.

## ECONOMIC IMPLICATIONS

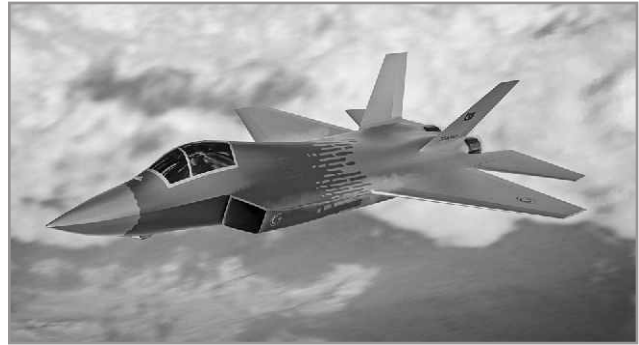
**Strengthening of the Aerospace Industry:** Pakistan's participation in the KAAN project is likely to bolster its domestic aerospace industry. Pakistan's involvement in such a high-profile international project can attract investments, improve manufacturing capabilities, and potentially lead to the development of a more robust aerospace supply chain within the country.

- **EMPLOYMENT AND ECONOMIC GROWTH:**

The project can create direct and indirect employment opportunities in Pakistan, particularly in the aerospace sector. This includes jobs in engineering, manufacturing, maintenance, and various support services, contributing to broader economic growth.

- **POTENTIAL FOR FUTURE EXPORTS:**

Success in the KAAN project could position Pakistan as a credible player in the global defense market. With enhanced capabilities and



technological know-how, Pakistan might find opportunities to export military hardware or offer maintenance and overhaul services, generating valuable foreign exchange.

- **STRATEGIC ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIPS:**

The collaboration with Turkey in the KAAN project can pave the way for further bilateral economic cooperation. Such partnerships can extend beyond defense, opening doors for investment and collaboration in other high-tech industries, trade, and infrastructure projects.

- **REDUCED DEPENDENCY ON FOREIGN SUPPLIERS:**

By participating in the development of the KAAN fighter jet, Pakistan reduces its dependency on foreign suppliers for advanced military hardware. This not only has strategic implications but also economic ones, as it could lead to cost savings and greater self-reliance in defense procurement.

## GEOPOLITICAL IMPLICATIONS

The KAAN Fighter Jet Project, involving Pakistan, has significant geopolitical implications that extend far beyond its technological and economic aspects. As Pakistan engages in this advanced aerospace venture, several key geopolitical considerations come into play:

## SHIFT IN MILITARY ALLIANCES AND PARTNERSHIPS

- **DIVERSIFICATION OF DEFENSE PARTNERSHIPS:**

Pakistan's involvement in the KAAN project represents a strategic diversification of its defense partnerships. Traditionally, Pakistan has been closely aligned with China in terms of military hardware procurement and development. The KAAN project, however, signifies a pivot towards Turkey indicating Pakistan's intent to broaden its defense alliances.

- **BALANCING RELATIONS WITH KEY POWERS:**

By aligning with Turkey for the KAAN project, Pakistan is navigating a complex geopolitical landscape, balancing its relations with China, the United States, and other regional powers. This move could be seen as an effort to maintain a degree of strategic autonomy and avoid over-reliance on any single country.

## REGIONAL SECURITY DYNAMICS

- **IMPLICATIONS FOR SOUTH ASIAN SECURITY:**

The introduction of a fifth-generation fighter jet like KAAN into Pakistan's arsenal could alter the strategic balance in South Asia, particularly with its historical rival, India. It may prompt a response in terms of similar acquisitions or developments by neighboring countries, potentially leading to an arms race in the region.

- **INFLUENCE ON INDIA-PAKISTAN RELATIONS:**

The enhancement of Pakistan's air capabilities through the KAAN project

might impact its defense posture vis-à-vis India. This could affect the dynamics of their longstanding territorial disputes and the overall military equilibrium between the two nations.

## GLOBAL DEFENSE MARKET AND INDUSTRY IMPACT

- **PAKISTAN'S ROLE IN THE GLOBAL DEFENSE INDUSTRY:**

Successful participation in the KAAN project could elevate Pakistan's status in the global defense market. It might open opportunities for Pakistan to export defense technology or collaborate on other international defense projects, thereby increasing its influence in the defense sector.

- **TURKEY'S EXPANDING DEFENSE DIPLOMACY:**

Turkey's initiative in leading the KAAN project and including countries like Pakistan and Azerbaijan reflects its expanding role in global defense diplomacy. This could have broader implications for the balance of power in defense technology and production capabilities worldwide.

## POTENTIAL IMPACT ON U.S.-PAKISTAN RELATIONS

- **COMPLEXITIES IN U.S.-PAKISTAN TIES:**

Pakistan's collaboration with Turkey, a NATO ally, on a significant defense project like KAAN could have implications for its relations with the United States. This collaboration might either be seen as a strategic alignment with a NATO member or as a move away from U.S. defense equipment, depending on broader U.S. foreign policy objectives and its relations with Turkey and Pakistan. *Continued on page 13*

# TOWARDS ENLIGHTENMENT:

## A CONVERSATION BETWEEN VISIONARIES SHAPING CONSTRUCTIVE APPROACHES



**NOREEN  
CHOUDHRY**

Pakistan's geopolitical position, marked by its intricate nature, plays a pivotal role in shaping regional dynamics. The 2600 km-long border shared with Afghanistan has consistently demanded attention, especially given Afghanistan's historical instability. Despite the assumption that relations between Pakistan and Afghanistan would improve under the Taliban government established in 2021, the reality remains challenging.

Some days ago, Nusrat Mirza, Chairman of Rabita Forum International, engaged in a constructive conversation with General (R) Naeem Khalid Lodhi, Former Federal Minister for National Security and Defense Production. The purpose was to illuminate the real situation and foster a constructive approach to address the ongoing issues.

The discussion encourages viewers and readers to reflect on key points raised during the interaction, offering valuable insights into the complex geopolitical landscape. The emphasis lies on the significance of clear policies, unity, and a diplomatic approach to international relations, urging citizens to remain informed and engaged.

General Lodhi firmly asserted on the Taliban regime, dispelling notions of secretive dealings with the United States. He underscored the sacrifices made by the Taliban in their pursuit of freedom, criticizing unfair accusations of an under-the-table settlement. According to him, the Doha accord is solely aimed at bringing peace to



Afghanistan and concluding the war that spanned from 2001 to 2021.

Addressing concerns about rising terrorism, General Lodhi acknowledged external elements affecting peace in the country. He condemned the deadly attack on security forces in Dera Ismail Khan, urging a more mature approach in framing security and foreign policies. He cautioned against baseless accusations that could harm international relations.

General Lodhi debunked the idea of Pakistan harboring terrorist groups and questioned the accountability of US foreign policies. He highlighted the repercussions of the US leaving behind modern ammunition in Afghanistan, defending Pakistan against unfounded accusations, and emphasizing that the US no longer considers Pakistan an ally.

Responding to Mr. Nusrat Mirza's critical point about the Taliban's role in deteriorating security conditions, General Lodhi contended that the Taliban government is focused on developing the country, unlike groups like TTP

serving foreign agendas.

The discussion delved into the complexities of handling Afghan refugees and the need for a comprehensive strategy. Both Mr. Nusrat Mirza and General Lodhi agreed that the Pakistani government should have involved the United Nations in resolving the expulsion issue and urged a fair, legal process for those with proper documents. General Lodhi expressed concerns over the credibility of arrangements for Afghan refugees' expulsion, hinting at potential irregularities. Additionally, he proposed China as a mediator to settle differences with Afghanistan, given its friendly neighbor status.

Referring to historical challenges faced by Pakistan, General Lodhi emphasized the importance of differentiating between friends and enemies. He warned against relying on European countries for economic growth,

asserting that their agendas could hinder Pakistan's progress. He stressed the need for national unity and the strength of a public mandate.

In conclusion, Chairman Rabita Forum, Mr. Nusrat Mirza, invited viewers and readers to reflect on the vital insights shared during the interaction. The dialogue between Mr. Mirza and General Lodhi sheds light on nuanced perspectives, contributing to a broader understanding of the complex geopolitical landscape. As we deal with these complicated challenges, the valuable insights provided by General Lodhi serve as a guiding light. His wisdom helps shape well-informed views and encourages unity among the people of the nation.

The author is a post-graduate in Mass Communication and a team member of Rabita Forum International (RFI).

*Continued from page 11*

## **KAAN FIGHTER JET PROJECT AND IMPLICATIONS FOR PAKISTAN**

### **INFLUENCE ON CHINA-PAKISTAN DEFENSE COLLABORATION**

- **IMPACT ON SINO-PAKISTANI DEFENSE RELATIONS:**

While Pakistan's involvement in the KAAAN project indicates a diversification of defense partnerships, it remains to be seen how this will affect its long-standing defense relationship with China. This could lead to adjustments in China's defense collaboration and sales strategy with Pakistan, as well as potential shifts in their geopolitical dynamics.

In conclusion, the KAAAN Fighter Jet Project is a multifaceted initiative that holds substantial significance for Pakistan. It's not

just a leap in defense technology but also a strategic maneuver in the complex chessboard of international relations and military alliances. As the project progresses, it is poised to impact Pakistan's defense capabilities, technological landscape, and geopolitical standing, thereby shaping the country's future in the realm of international defense and aviation. Furthermore, the KAAAN Fighter Jet Project has the potential to strengthen Pakistan's self-reliance in defense production and reduce its dependence on foreign suppliers. This could lead to enhanced national security and sovereignty, as well as increased economic opportunities through the export of advanced fighter jets. Additionally, the successful implementation of the project may also pave the way for greater collaboration and partnerships with other countries in the field of defense technology, fostering regional stability and cooperation.

# BIASED WESTERN MEDIA



BISMAH MIRZA

Since October 7, 2023, I have been closely monitoring Western media and their portrayal of Palestinian martyrs and Israeli casualties. A blatant double standard is evident, which is not new in Western media when it comes to Arabs and Muslims. Since childhood, we've observed the bias of CNN and BBC in their coverage of Middle East conflicts involving Israel.

Despite significantly fewer Israeli casualties compared to Palestinians, Israeli stories have consistently been given precedence. This time, Western media, claiming high morality, has stooped to a new low by not only using dehumanizing lingo for Palestinian martyrs but also indiscriminately labeling Pro-Palestinian supporters as Hamas supporters, urging them to 'condemn Hamas' based on shared faith, language, or skin color.

On one hand it vehemently condemns Hamas attacks but in the same time it very conveniently ignores Israeli atrocities. Renowned channels, networks, journalists, and anchors, instead of fact-checking Israel's claims of 40 decapitated babies, launched a media trial of Palestinian supporters. Be it



Husam Said Zomlot, Nadine Kiswani, Eid Yara or Muhammad Hijab, all have been greeted on the shows with the question, 'Do you condemn Hamas?' without giving them a fair chance to speak or a proper introduction in some cases. However, this was not the case with Pro Israeli supporters or IDF representatives. They were greeted with the sympathetic lines, what happened on October 7, was abhorrent, appalling and barbaric and Israel has the right to defend itself.

Every Palestinian representative is grilled about Hamas, despite many of them having lost their family members in the callous Israeli airstrikes. All of them have come out strong and, in some cases, called out their hosts for their unfair treatment. When answering the question of whether Hamas is a terrorist organization, Husam Zomlot, Palestinian Ambassador to the UK, asked Piers Morgan, the host of the show 'Piers Morgan Uncensored,' "What is the definition of terrorism?" Zomlot said, "Let me give you the international, United Nations definition of



terrorism. It is the unlawful use of violence against civilians to terrorize them for a political agenda.

Do we agree on the definition of terrorism?" Piers Morgan agreed to it, and then the ambassador asked, "Is Israel a terrorist organization?" to which Mr. Morgan said, "Please answer my question." Ambassador Zomlot said to Piers, "Piers, from now on, it has to be equity and symmetry; we are equal!" The heated debate continued, with Ambassador Husam Zomlot frequently interrupted while stating his point, and Piers Morgan's questions were challenged on bias by the Ambassador. Piers Morgan, replying to the questions of equity, said that he has given the Palestinian people a platform, to which the Ambassador responded, "Only when Israelis were harmed, not before."

Eid Yara, a Palestinian journalist and human rights activist, called out the Sky News anchor to use the right language after the anchor stated that 1400 Israelis have been killed and 4000 Palestinians have died. Eid Yara emphasized the importance of language to us, asserting that it is the moral responsibility of the reporter to accurately depict the events. Eid Yara further added that Palestinians don't merely die; they are killed. She has personally lost 40 family members in Israeli airstrikes post-October 7.

Nadine Kiswani is another anti-Israel activist and co-founder and leader of Within Our Lifetime-United for Palestine (WOL). She condemned the question of condemning Hamas on Piers Morgan's show a month ago, stating, "I think Palestinians are tired of this being the starting point of the conversation, constantly, when 6000 Palestinians are killed in Gaza, 33 mosques leveled, hospitals leveled. So, we are tired of this being the main goal of the conversation, not a part of it."

Muhammad Hijab, a public speaker, also



once called out Piers Morgan for labeling him controversial in his interview. Piers Morgan introduced Hijab with the following words: "the controversial pro-Palestine influencer with nearly a million YouTube subscribers."

Conversations like these are thought-provoking to hear, especially from the perspectives of victims who face and advocate an end to genocide. Not only are they asked to condemn a banned outfit with which they are not affiliated, but they also have to defend themselves from being labeled as supporters of terrorists, which is the underlying tone of the questions. Their grief, anger, and energies are labeled as passion, and they are told to speak respectfully while answering all accusing questions.

It wasn't until Bassem Youssef, an Egyptian heart surgeon turned comedian, appeared on Piers Morgan's show and highlighted the plight of the Palestinian people through sarcasm that the tables turned. Hosts and anchors became more sensitive to Palestinian guests, if not empathetic. This particular show garnered millions of views and altered the impression of Arabs, showing their ability to defend themselves civilly.

**Piers asked Bassem, "What do you think happened on October 7?"**

Bassem responded, "It is terrible; we get our news second hand. My wife's family lives in



Gaza, her uncles and cousins live in Gaza. We have not been able to contact them, so we don't know how they are doing. But we are used to that! It is repetitive; we are used to being bombed and we move from one place to another. Palestinians are very dramatic; Israelis are killing us. But they never die; they always come back. They are very difficult to kill, very difficult. Ah, I know because I am married to one; I tried many times but could not kill."

Piers Morgan said, "Ah, there is dark humor there, and I understand why!" To which Bassem quickly added, "No, there is no dark humor there. I tried to get to her, but every time she uses our kids as human shields, so I can never take her out." Mr. Piers Morgan had no response to that. He later admitted to Bassem, "I was taken aback by your response. Honestly speaking, you cannot really blame Mr. Morgan because Muslims are so tired of appealing to the common sense of the Western media that they do not know how they can get their message across while being genuine and accurate."

In response to Piers Morgan's question, "As to what is a proportionate response?" Bassam replied sarcastically that, "The exchange rate keeps changing; in 2014, 88 Israelis to 2329

Palestinians were killed. The ratio is 1 Israeli to 27 Palestinians. So what has this disproportioned response achieved till date?" To which the host had no answer. Bassem also pointed out that the IDF is the only military in the world that warns civilians before attacking them. If that is the case, he said, "then we are good with Putin." Bassem further added that if Hamas is the issue, let's imagine a world without Hamas, and let's call it the West Bank. If that is the case, why has Israel killed 37 children pre-October 7? Again, Mr. Morgan had no answer. Mr. Bassem Youssef, in his own style, called out to all the Western mainstream anchors. He was praised and appreciated globally for effectively fighting for the Palestinian cause, especially by Muslims tired of Western media's deliberate naivety and dual standards.

The courageous and thought-provoking instances presented above not only demonstrate the Palestinians' resilience, dedication, and solidarity but also impart a valuable lesson for all of us. Fellow countrymen, let's draw inspiration from the Palestinians and recognize the significance of freedom, committing to its preservation. We mustn't forget the sacrifices of our forefathers who fought against slavery and genocide in an era devoid of social media to document and share their struggles with the world. Even today, survivors of partition carry the pain in their hearts, stories on their lips, and images in their minds. Preserving our freedom is essential, acknowledging that it may not be ideal, and striving for improvement in a civil manner. It's crucial that we collectively become the voice for the voiceless Palestinian people, not allowing our personal concerns to render us silent when standing before our Creator on the Day of Judgment.

The author is Executive Editor of the *Monthly Interaction*.



**A VERSATILE NAVAL ASSET**

# PAKISTAN'S HARBAH CRUISE MISSILE



## SPECIFICATION

<b>RANGE</b>	<b>: 280 KM</b>
<b>SPEED</b>	<b>: 0.6 - 0.8 MACH</b>
<b>GROSS WEIGHT</b>	<b>: 1350 TONNES</b>
<b>DIAMETER</b>	<b>: 0.5 METERS</b>
<b>LENGTH</b>	<b>: 6.8 METERS</b>
<b>FUEL</b>	<b>: LIQUID AVIATION FUEL JP-8</b>
<b>SEEKERS</b>	<b>: RADAR &amp; IIR</b>
<b>SINGLE SHOT HIT PROBABILITY</b>	<b>: 90%</b>

# PAKISTAN'S HARBAH CRUISE MISSILE: A VERSATILE NAVAL ASSET

**INTERACTION  
TEAM**

The Harbah cruise missile was developed by Pakistan's Global Industrial & Defense Solutions (GIDS). This medium-range subsonic cruise missile is uniquely designed to excel in both land attack and anti-ship missions, showcasing innovative features and adaptability that have captured significant attention. It is also believed that the Harbah missile is derived from the Babur family of cruise missiles.

## **TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS:**

The Harbah cruise missile features remarkable technical characteristics including a length of 6.8 meters and a diameter of 0.5 meters. Powered by a liquid-fuel engine that utilizes JP-8, a kerosene-based fuel, the missile has a substantial gross weight of 1.3 tonnes. The Harbah missile has been verified to cover a range of 280 kilometers, showcasing its effectiveness over considerable distances. Notably, it attains speeds ranging from 0.6 to 0.8 Mach (Mach represents the ratio of the speed of an object to the speed of sound in the surrounding medium.), highlighting its swift and dynamic



performance.

## **VERSATILITY IN DESIGN:**

Harbah's versatility lies in its modular design, allowing for the integration of various warheads, including fragmentation and anti-ship options, as well as different guidance systems. The missile employs inertial navigation technologies coupled with GPS (Global Positioning System) and GLONASS (Global Navigation Satellite System), ensuring precise targeting in "all-weather operations".

## **GUIDANCE SYSTEMS AND CAPABILITIES:**

The Harbah missile is equipped with advanced guidance systems, including a DSMAC (Digital Scene Matching Area Correlator) camera, imaging infrared seeker, and radar seeker. According to Asad Kamal, the CEO of GIDS, the unique capabilities of the Harbah allow it to effectively navigate through intricate terrains and structures.

Its programmable trajectory utilizes the



seeker to execute a sophisticated relationship-matching process, ensuring precise targeting with zigzag patterns. This sophisticated approach prevents easy anticipation by adversaries. When the missile reaches its target, it undergoes acquisition and engagement processes to fulfill its mission.

**OPERATIONAL SUCCESS:**

On January 3, 2018, the Pakistan Navy marked a significant achievement by successfully test-firing the Harbah cruise missile. The test, carried out from the Azmat-class fast-attack craft PNS Himmat, demonstrated the missile's effectiveness in both anti-ship and land-attack scenarios.

During the test, the then naval chief, Admiral Zafar Mahmood Abbasi, observed the proceedings from aboard the Perry-class frigate Alamgir. He stressed the importance of leveraging indigenous defense capabilities and reducing reliance on foreign countries. Admiral Abbasi also reiterated the Pakistan Navy's determination to ensure the seaward defense of Pakistan and protect national maritime interests at all costs.

**STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS:**

Analysts predict that the Harbah cruise missile is poised to become the Pakistan Navy's standard anti-ship missile. Brian Cloughley, an author, analyst, and former Australian defense attaché to Islamabad, points out that its deployment could bolster

Pakistan's influence in the Arabian Sea, specifically countering worries about India's naval expansion. According to Malcolm Davis, a senior analyst, the Harbah represents a significant leap forward for the Pakistan Navy. "It offers both anti-ship and land-attack. If it's based on the Babur, then it has a range of up to 700 kilometers, which, whilst not very long range, is sufficient to be militarily useful and certainly better than older systems such as Harpoon and C-802," he said.

**CONCLUSION:**

The Harbah cruise missile emerges as a sophisticated and adaptable naval asset, showcasing Pakistan's prowess in defense technology. With its successful tests and potential integration into future naval platforms, the Harbah stands as a symbol of self-reliance and innovation in Pakistan's defense industry. As geopolitical dynamics continue to evolve, the Harbah's role in bolstering the Pakistan Navy's capabilities remains a topic of strategic interest.



# INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON PAKISTAN - RUSSIA RELATIONS AMID TRANSFORMING GLOBAL ORDER AT STRATEGIC VISION INSTITUTE (SVI)

**INTERACTION  
TEAM**

## KEYNOTE ADDRESS BY LT. GEN. KHALID AHMAD KIDWAI NI, HI, HI(M) ON 21ST NOVEMBER, 2023

Dr. Naeem Ahmad Salik, Executive Director Strategic Vision Institute (SVI), respected guests and academics from Russia, ladies and gentlemen, Assalam Alaikum and good morning. At the outset I would like to extend a very warm welcome to our Russian guests for being with us this morning. We are grateful that you found the time from your very busy schedules to be in Pakistan. We are honoured by your presence.

I hope that besides the serious business of participating in the two-day conference, SVI will give you ample opportunity to see and enjoy some parts of Pakistan, a bit of Pakistani culture, a touch of life in Pakistan, and lots and lots of Pakistani hospitality and our cuisine. I am sure that you will carry with you happy memories of your stay in Pakistan. You are welcome to come again and again.

I would also like to extend my sincere appreciation and felicitations to the Strategic Vision Institute for organizing this important conference in collaboration with four highly rated Russian Think Tanks. Under the brilliant leadership of Dr Naeem Ahmad Salik, the SVI has come a long way in establishing itself as one of Pakistan's leading think tanks.

Joint events and conferences like this one involving experts and scholars from both



countries augur well for the relationship between the two countries and will promote better understanding of each other's view point and world view on a variety of issues of mutual concern and interest. I sincerely wish that this interaction between the academics and intellectuals of Pakistan and Russia will lead to more frequent exchange of visits by both sides.

The theme of the Conference "Pakistan-Russia Relations Amid Transforming Global Order" has been well selected keeping in view the rapidly transforming, rapidly evolving global order. Major global events like the ongoing wars in Ukraine and Palestine, the emergence of important forums like the SCO, BRICS, Quad and AUKUS, the deDollarization drive, the recent meeting of President Xi Jin



Ping and President Biden with some melting of ice, to name just a few, are becoming agents of transformation in the emerging global order.

Our part of the world, South Asia, is invariably affected by these developments especially ever since President Obama's policy of 'Pivot to Asia' took root and started to generate strategic effects in our region. Earlier the US policies of exceptionalism of giving India a free pass or exemption on trade with the Nuclear Suppliers Group exacerbated Pakistan's security concerns and continues to exert pressure on Pakistan's strategic response options.

It is in this larger picture of a transforming global order that Pakistan-Russia relations need to be seen and understood. In the past our relations have seen cycles of ups and downs though I can say with confidence that as of now and for some years the relationship has matured and is on a steady growth trajectory with a positive curve.

While this relationship started on a positive note but then somewhere along the way, it unfortunately dipped downwards due to the vagaries of the then prevailing geo-political and security environments, and sometime misunderstandings. However, a relatively high point came in 1965 when the then USSR

oversaw peace parleys between India and Pakistan in the aftermath of the 1965 war which resulted in a peace agreement of sorts between India and Pakistan at Tashkent.

This led to the warming up of relations for the next few years until they experienced strong head winds during and preceding the India-Pakistan war in 1971. However, in 1972 the Pakistani government revived the relationship once again. This period was symbolized by the construction of the Pakistan Steel Mill at Karachi by the Soviet Union, and there was co-operation in other areas including defence as well. I recall the professional excitement when I was a young captain in 1973, recently repatriated after being a prisoner of war for 2 years in India, and my medium regiment artillery was equipped with the Russian 130 mm gun.

It was Pakistan's longest shooting artillery gun at the time with a maximum range of around 30 kms, and the regiment took much pride in that fact. Also added to the gun were the massive Kraz gun towers and the Gaz jeeps. In the civil sector, the Skoda car became fairly popular. All of these are pleasant memories of a positive Pakistan-Russia relationship even though the USSR had backed India in the 1971 war.

These positive trends were once again disrupted by the decade long war in Afghanistan from 1979 to 1989. The after effects of the Afghan War lingered on not only due to internal instability in Russia and the Central Asian States following the break-up of the Soviet Union, but also in Pakistan with spillover effects of the influx of Afghan refugees, drugs and weapons. Pakistan continues to grapple with these issues even today.

The Pakistan-Russia relationship once again took a positive turn in the beginning of

this century and this has been by far the longest period of upturn of bilateral relations. It now appears that there is a genuine desire in both countries to continue moving on this positive curve. Much credit for this certainly goes to President Vladimir Putin for his personal interest and contribution towards the improvement of Pakistan-Russia relations. It was on President Putin's watch that Pakistan became a member of the SCO with Russian and Chinese support.

It was also on his watch that Pakistan has received prompt Russian response whenever it needed to import wheat in periods of food insecurity. More recently Pakistan has received two shipments of oil from Russia and agreements for more such shipments are underway. The next critical agreement likely to be finalized in the near future would be for the procurement of LPG from Russia.

The co-operation between the two militaries is also growing with soldiers from both sides visiting each other's country for undertaking joint training exercises. In 2021 alone, 1600 Pakistani military personnel visited Russia to participate in various joint exercises. An evidence of the growing goodwill for Russia can be judged from the fact that the otherwise boisterous Pakistani media does not run any stories which might project Russia in a negative light.

Since the start of the Russia-Ukraine conflict Pakistan has not voted in favour of any UN Resolution against Russia despite international pressure that it has had to endure. The record of the UN voting patterns also shows that Pakistan is among the top countries that have voted in sync with Russia on various international issues showing the convergence in thinking and policies between the two countries.

The bilateral consultative process between

the two countries is firmly in place with regular high level meetings. Similar conversations are also regularly held between the two militaries. Pakistan is conscious of the fact that Russia underwrites security and stability in Central Asia which is Pakistan's close neighbourhood, and stability in Central Asia also impacts positively on the broader regional stability. There is also a congruence of policies between Russia, Pakistan and China on the critical issue of peace and stability in Afghanistan.

In view of the implementation of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), vast opportunities exist for greater connectivity between the Eurasian region linking Pakistan with Russia through road and rail networks. This will boost trade and economic development in the whole region given the potential of the Eurasian region to become a vibrant economic hub for international economic growth. At the global level, Pakistanis deeply appreciate President Putin's strong stand against Islamophobia and the incidents of desecration of the Holy Quran in some Scandinavian countries.

Having said that, there still are some areas which have not received due attention and need a focused approach to include, among others, education and exchange of students. I am happy to note that this is being given



requisite importance in this conference as is evident from the fact that a dedicated panel has been reserved for discussion on this issue.

It is also imperative that the frequency of interactions like this conference, providing greater exchange of ideas, promoting collaborative research projects and discussions between scholars and experts is enhanced, in order to provide intellectual support to greater mutual understanding, which in turn, will contribute positively towards further strengthening of bilateral ties.

The growing strategic affinity between Russia and Pakistan's closest strategic partner China also generate positive vibes in Pakistan. I am happy to note that Russia respects Pakistan's sovereignty and strategic autonomy. By the same token Pakistan does not particularly grudge Russia's long standing strategic relationships with some countries in our neighbourhood. However, we do hope that while providing high end military hardware to those countries Russia would very carefully consider the likely repercussions on Pakistan's security and regional stability.

I am also glad to note that there are two dedicated sessions in this Conference, scheduled one each for today and tomorrow, on the broader aspects of nuclear energy and nuclear risks. One is titled 'Nuclear Energy and Sustainable Development Russian and Pakistani Experience' and the other one is 'Reducing Nuclear Risks at the Time of Conflict Escalation'. Since I have been associated with Pakistan's broader nuclear programme, I would like to say a few words on each, perhaps, as pre-cursor to the panel discussions.

What are the emerging challenges for Pakistan especially in the context of its national security interests measured whether in economic terms including the contribution of

nuclear energy for peaceful purposes, or in military terms including its capability as a nuclear weapons power as a tool of strategic deterrence.

The two givens of Pakistan's strategic environments are: one, that Pakistan enjoys a relatively advantageous position because of its geostrategic location as a potential trade and security corridor and two, Pakistan is a responsible nuclear weapons power with the additional desire, capabilities and a visionary nuclear energy programme to further its objectives in the field of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes. While debating the various possibilities of a nation's nuclear capabilities, I



would like to say with confidence that for Pakistan, whether in economic terms or in security terms, acquisition of the nuclear capability as the 7<sup>th</sup> nuclear power in the world has been a major strategic advantage and has worked well to ameliorate many of Pakistan's concerns in both these areas civil and military.

In military terms Pakistan's nuclear capability has proven beyond doubt to be a viable strategic solution in providing security through deterrence and satisfactorily addressing Pakistan's longstanding dilemma of relative conventional forces asymmetry viz its adversary.

**Continued on page 34**



# IoBM STUDENTS ENGAGE IN ENLIGHTENING DISCOURSE ON STRATEGIC AFFAIRS & NUCLEAR SECURITY AT RFI

**SYED  
ZAIN UL  
ABIDEEN**

**NUSRAT MIRZA, CHAIRMAN, RABITA FORUM INTERNATIONAL, IMPARTS INVALUABLE INSIGHTS TO DIVERSE STUDENT DELEGATIONS**

■ This month, students from the Institute of Business Management (IoBM) had a delightful experience exploring global affairs and security dynamics at the Rabita Forum International (RFI) office. Ambassador (R) Syed Hassan Habib, a Senior Fellow at IoBM, guided students specializing in fields like International Relations, Economics, Law, and more.

■ During the tour of RFI's office, Nusrat Mirza engaged the students in a session covering strategic affairs, conflict resolution, and security dynamics, followed by a question-and-answer session.

■ Notable attendees included Iqra Kanwal, S. Fatima, Suresh, Dureshahwar, Laiba Khan, Hammad, Noor-us-Sehar, M. Umar, Alishba, Diya Aiman, Kabir, Fazal Rabi, Huda, Nida,

Ummah, Mahnoor, Fatima, Huzaifa, Anas, Moiz, Hazik, Zohaib, Azeem, Sheikh Zain, and Yahya.

■ Mirza emphasized the significant role of Pakistani youth in global affairs, highlighting the nation's strong presence on the world stage. Ambassador Habib commended RFI for its admirable efforts in educating Pakistan's youth across various fields, stressing the importance of such institutions in shaping informed perspectives.

■ The students, excited about their first visit to a think tank and media organization, expressed their enthusiasm. The exposure to professionals and discussions on global affairs left a lasting impression, fueling their commitment to understanding and engaging with strategic issues.



# RFI AND FUUAST FORGE PARTNERSHIP TO ENRICH ACADEMIC AND RESEARCH INITIATIVES

**SYEDA  
BUSHRA  
BATOOL**



Rabita Forum International (RFI) and the Federal Urdu University of Arts, Science and Technology (FUUAST) formalized a collaboration through the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on December 8, 2023.

The ceremony, held at FUUAST's Gulshan campus, saw the signing of the MOU by Mr. Nusrat Mirza, Chairman RFI, and Dr. Rubina Mushtaq, Vice Chancellor FUUAST. Ms. Bushra Batool, Research Officer, Zain-ul-Abideen, Media Director, Ahmed Sabir, Social



Media Manager from RFI, along with Dr. Amir Farooqui, Dr. Faisal Javed, and Dr. Arif, teaching faculty from FUUAST, were present at the occasion.

Mr. Nusrat Mirza highlighted the collaboration's potential to enhance FUUAST students' understanding of Pakistan's strategic affairs. He emphasized the value of RFI's training programs, workshops, and conferences in contributing to the overall development of society. Dr. Rubina Mushtaq, Vice Chancellor of FUUAST, acknowledged RFI's contributions to research on national security, strategic studies, and nuclear programs.

She expressed that this collaboration provides FUUAST students, especially post-graduate students, an opportunity to conduct research and establish connections with an organization that can refine their research skills and expose them to a professional work environment.



## DEAN OF SOCIAL SCIENCES AND EDUCATION, SZABIST, VISITS THE RFI OFFICE

**SYED  
ZAIN UL  
ABIDEEN**



Dean of Social Sciences and Education at Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto Institute of Science and Technology (SZABIST), Dr. Riaz Ahmed Sheikh, paid a visit to RFI on Tuesday day (5<sup>th</sup> December 2023), where he had a meeting with Nusrat Mirza, chairman RFI. During the visit, discussions took place regarding mutual interests.

Dr. Sheikh commended RFI's achievements, particularly in research and media, and expressed his keen interest in establishing a collaborative arrangement between the two organizations and their associates. Mr. Mirza, in turn, extended gratitude to Dr. Sheikh for his visit and reiterated the commitment to future

collaboration.

He toured the office and showed special interest in RFI media activities especially regional languages that have superseded Pakistan Television (PTV).



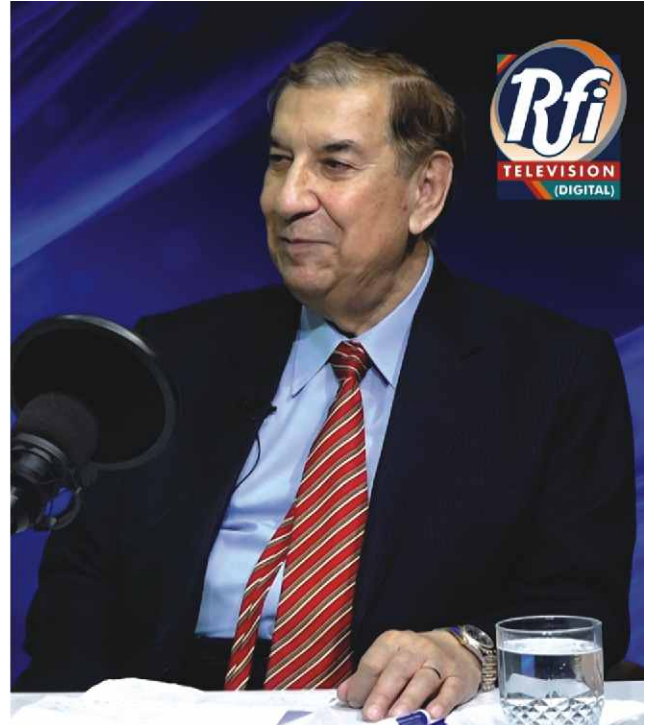
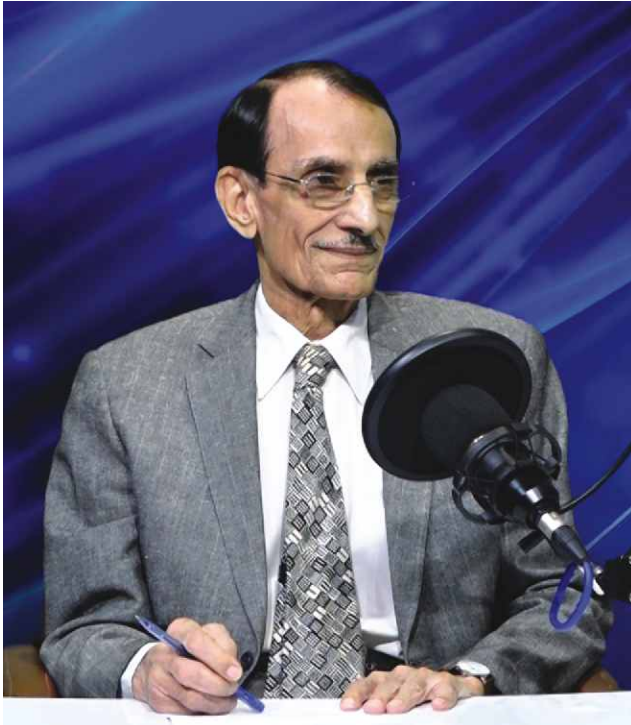
# INTERVIEW: PART-II

**GUEST: BRIG. AGHA AHMAD GUL (R)**

**Muhammad  
Sabeeh**

**HOST : NUSRAT MIRZA**

CHIEF EDITOR OF THE MONTHLY INTERACTION



**Q: Brig. Gul, I believe our readers would find your in-depth and intriguing exploration of the region's history quite engaging. I would thus request you to please, continue.**

Ans: Certainly. The British historians investigate the rationale behind naming this area British Balochistan. As at that time, there were no Baloch inhabitants; it was predominantly populated by Pathans. Considering the occupation of the Pathan territory in South Afghanistan, it seems logical to assume they could have assigned a name other than British Balochistan.

In 1843, Lord Kitchener and General

Kitchener successfully conquered Sindh, extending their influence up to Jacobabad. They acquired an additional area, eight miles beyond Jacobabad, previously a site of Jhatpat, and incorporated parts of Qalati Balochistan.

The Mari-Bugti region, entrusted to Mir Nasir's command 250 years ago during Ahmad Shah Abdali's era, was essentially a hilly expanse. The Khan of Qalat lacked the resources to administer it. Both Murree and Bugti regions were initially part of Afghanistan during Ahmad Shah Abdali's reign but eventually gained autonomy.

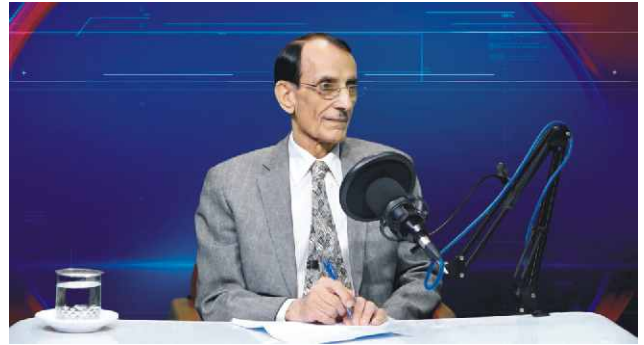
Robert Sandman peacefully negotiated the

acquisition of the Murree and Bugti areas without resorting to military force. These regions demonstrated unwavering loyalty to the British, exemplified by a Marri delegation traveling to Zhob to negotiate with the Pathans. Robert Sandeman, then Deputy Commissioner of Dera Ghazi Khan, followed without military reinforcement. The Marri delegation praised the British as advocates of peace, health improvement, and conflict resolution. Persuaded by their sincerity, the Pathans in Zhob peacefully aligned with the British cause. Consequently, in November 1893, British Balochistan was officially established after King Abdul Rahman, Robert Sandman, and local representatives signed the agreement.

We have discussed two distinct regions named Balochistan, one being British Balochistan and the other Qalati Balochistan. Let's delve into the context of Pakistan's establishment in 1947. At that pivotal moment, the Khan of Qalat, intimately familiar with Quaid-e-Azam and having served as his legal advisor for about 20-25 years an association known for its closeness expressed joy over Pakistan's creation but advocated for Qalati Balochistan's independence.

Quaid-e-Azam responded by pointing out that the British considered Qalat as part of their domain. Despite Khan Sahib's persistent efforts, including attempts at forming a confederation, Quaid-e-Azam remained unyielding. Consequently, on March 28, 1948, the Khan signed the Instrument of Accession. Quaid-e-Azam suggested renaming it to the Balochistan States Union, ensuring that Khan would retain his title since Pakistan lacked a constitution at that time.

Regarding British Balochistan, Quaid-e-Azam affirmed its continued existence and



suggested a slight name change. He acknowledged that the constitution would dictate the final nomenclature. Unbeknownst to him, the constitutional process took eight years, commencing in late 1955. Qalat Division and Quetta Division were established, while West Pakistan emerged as a province with Lahore as its capital.

To those who contend that Qalati Balochistan was forcefully taken, I remind my Baloch friends that Quaid-e-Azam offered the Khan to remain in his position. Additionally, subsequent governors-general, five in total, continued this practice. The Khan reported to them with their approval, and none removed him after Quaid-e-Azam's tenure. This contradicts claims of military aggression, as neither Quaid-e-Azam nor subsequent governors-general would have permitted such actions.

Thus, this amalgamation forms the third Balochistan. Of the four Balochistan regions, only three have historical ties to us. When discussing Baluchistan, it is crucial to specify the context identifying the particular region, the political era, and the corresponding year.

Turning our attention to the inception of Pakistan's first constitution on March 23, 1956, coinciding with the anniversary of Pakistan's resolution, a challenge arose due to the lack of shared experience among its diverse provinces.

**Continued on page 36**

# NUCLEAR INSTITUTE FOR AGRICULTURE AND BIOLOGY (NIAB)

**INTERACTION  
TEAM**

This series is dedicated to showcasing the remarkable achievements and vital contributions of the Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission (PAEC) and its affiliated institutions. It aims to provide readers with insights into Pakistan's nuclear advancements, including nuclear science, energy production, healthcare breakthroughs, agricultural innovations, and environmental conservation, all driven by PAEC's pioneering efforts. The series draws extensively from the insightful book "Johari Nishtar e Tehqeeq," the first-ever Urdu book on the topic, authored by the Chief Editor of the monthly Interaction, Nusrat Mirza. It offers a unique perspective on untold stories, significant milestones, and the unwavering commitment of PAEC and its dedicated scientists and researchers.



The Nuclear Institute for Agriculture and Biology (NIAB) in Faisalabad is a prominent research and development center operating under the jurisdiction of the Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission (PAEC). Established in 1967, NIAB officially commenced its research activities in 1970 and was inaugurated on April 6, 1972. Since its inception, NIAB has dedicated itself to the creation and preservation of new genetic material, with a primary focus on supporting sustainable agricultural development.

This commitment is realized through the institute's emphasis on addressing applied

problems in the fields of agriculture and biology, employing nuclear and related techniques.

At the core of NIAB's operations is the utilization of ionizing radiations and radioisotopes, providing a distinctive advantage over conventional methods in agricultural and biological investigations. The institute is equipped with state-of-the-art facilities and a team of experts who leverage nuclear and modern techniques to tackle challenges in crop production and conservation.

NIAB's laboratories house a diverse range of instruments, including Cobalt-60 irradiation sources, radiation measuring instruments, amino acid analyzers, HPLC, gas chromatographs, PCR, Photo-documentation systems, capillary electrophoresis, DNA sequencers, colorimeters, atomic absorption, ultraviolet and infrared spectrophotometers, ICP, high-speed electrophoresis, N-15 analyzers, and more.

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**PILLARS OF GLORY**

# **GREEK CIVILIZATION**



# PILLARS OF GLORY EXPLORING THE RICHES OF GREEK CIVILIZATION

INTERACTION  
TEAM



Greece, often hailed as the cradle of Western civilization, unfolds a captivating tale of history, culture, and intellectual brilliance. Embarking on a journey through the rich history of Greece is like stepping into a time machine that transports us through the fascinating tapestry of ancient civilizations.

This article explores the various epochs of Greek civilization, highlighting the influential factors that shaped the nation's destiny and made a lasting impact on human history. Greece, positioned at the crossroads of Europe, Asia, and Africa, boasts a rich history spanning millennia, significantly influencing

the cultural, political, and philosophical underpinnings of Western civilization.

## **MINOAN CIVILIZATION** (2700-1100 BCE):

The journey of the civilization commences with the Minoans, dwellers of the captivating island of Crete. Renowned for their advanced art, sophisticated architecture, and prowess in maritime trade, the Minoans have left us with the mesmerizing remnants of the Knossos palace complex, providing a glimpse into their refined culture.

Sir Arthur Evans, a distinguished British archaeologist, in his great work "The Palace of





Minos," provides valuable insights into Minoan civilization, including their religious practices, social structures, and artistic achievements.

### **MYCENAEAN CIVILIZATION (1600-1100 BCE):**

Following the Minoans, we come across the Mycenaeans, a warrior culture on the Greek mainland. The city of Mycenae, boasting an impressive citadel and the iconic Lion Gate, stands as a testament to their military might. The epic poems of Homer, including the Iliad and the Odyssey, offer valuable insights into Mycenaean society and adventures.

### **THE DARK AGES (1100-800 BCE):**

Entering a period of decline and cultural regression known as the Dark Ages, Greece witnessed a loss of writing and centralized



authority. This era, although challenging, lays the groundwork for the emergence of the Greek city-states, setting the stage for a new chapter in Greek history.

### **ARCHAIC PERIOD (800-480 BCE):**

The Archaic period saw the rise of powerful city-states, with Athens and Sparta taking center stage. Athens, a hub of democratic experiments and cultural achievements, became a beacon for philosophy, drama, and art. Meanwhile, Sparta, with its renowned military discipline, played a fundamental role in the conflicts of the Persian Wars.

### **THE PERSIAN WARS (499-449 BCE):**

During the Persian Wars, Greece confronted external threats through pivotal battles like Marathon (490 BCE), Thermopylae (480 BCE), and Salamis. These conflicts promoted unity among Greek city-states



against a shared adversary, establishing the foundation for the renowned Golden Age of Athens. Thucydides' "History of the Peloponnesian War" delves into the geopolitical dynamics, providing valuable insights into the origins and outcomes of these conflicts.

### **GOLDEN AGE OF ATHENS** (480-404 BCE):

Under the visionary leadership of statesmen like Pericles, Athens experienced a cultural and political renaissance. This golden era witnessed unparalleled achievements in philosophy, with luminaries like Socrates, Plato, and Aristotle, as well as in drama and architecture, exemplified by the Parthenon on



the Acropolis.

During 431-404 BCE, the rivalry between Athens and Sparta reached its climax in the Peloponnesian War, leading to the eventual decline of both city-states. This conflict marks the end of the Golden Age and paves the way for the ascendancy of Macedon.

### **MACEDONIAN EMPIRE** (359-323 BCE):

Under the strategic leadership of Philip II and the extraordinary conquests of Alexander the Great, Macedon became a dominant force, conquering vast territories and spreading Greek culture, known as Hellenistic, across the Mediterranean, Asia,

and Africa.

### **HELLENISTIC PERIOD (323-31 BCE):**

The Hellenistic period observed a fusion of Greek and Eastern cultures. Magnificent Hellenistic cities, such as Alexandria in Egypt, emerged as vibrant centers of learning and commerce, contributing to the rich cultural tapestry of the ancient world.

### **ROMAN AND BYZANTINE PERIODS** (146 BCE-1453 CE):

Greece fell under Roman rule in the 2nd century BCE, later becoming part of the Byzantine Empire after the fall of the Western Roman Empire. This period saw the spread of Christianity throughout the region, shaping the cultural landscape for centuries to come.



### **OTTOMAN RULE (1453-1821 CE):**

In 1453, the Ottoman Empire conquered Greece, marking a period of Ottoman rule. However, the Greek War of Independence in 1821 ultimately led to the establishment of the Modern Greek state in 1830, signaling a new chapter in Greek history.

In short, exploring the rich history of Greece is a captivating journey that unveils the layers of ancient civilizations, from the vibrant Minoans to the influential Hellenistic era. The legacy of Greece resonates in our understanding of politics, philosophy, art, and culture in the modern world, serving as a timeless source of inspiration and knowledge.

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**INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON PAKISTAN - RUSSIA RELATIONS AMID TRANSFORMING GLOBAL ORDER AT STRATEGIC VISION INSTITUTE (SVI)**



Because of a robust nuclear weapons capability articulated through the policy of Full Spectrum Deterrence, Pakistan is secure from possible aggression by its larger neighbour. I have said this on a number of occasions and would like to repeat for emphasis that Pakistan's nuclear capability, as the great equalizer, has proved to be an instrument of peace enforcement in South Asia. Pakistan's nuclear weapons can therefore be regarded as weapons of peace.

However, as will be discussed in tomorrow's session on Reducing Nuclear Risks at the time of Conflict Escalation, the nuclear capabilities in South Asia, in the absence of conflict resolution to long standing disputes, do not come without the risks of miscalculation, misunderstandings or miscommunication in a conflict situation.

The two escalatory episodes of February 2019 and March 2022 both undertaken by India as high risk irresponsible adventures highlight the need for a mature and

responsible risk reduction mechanism to be put in place between Pakistan and India. The earlier the better. On this account Pakistan has never been found wanting in making any number of nuclear risk reduction proposals including the well-conceived and well-articulated long standing Strategic Restraint Regime. I shall leave it that.

In economic terms, Pakistan's civil nuclear energy programme is in a potentially take off stage with its Nuclear Energy Vision-2050, which stands duly approved by Pakistan's National Command Authority as far back as 2011. The Nuclear Energy Vision-2050 envisages the provision of 42000 MWs, the equivalent of almost 10 Kalabagh Dams, of clean, safe and relatively cheap energy to Pakistan's economic needs through the sequential installation of a series of nuclear power plants across the country well balanced in all four provinces.

A salient feature of Nuclear Energy Vision-2050 is that very early on after the installation of the first few pairs of nuclear power plants the programme has the potential to earn for itself and become self-financing so as not to place any financial burden on limited government resources.

Pakistan's seven nuclear power plants including four at Chashma and three at Karachi are a pioneering part of the Nuclear Energy Vision-2050 and have gone a long way in proving Pakistan's capability of safe, clean and efficient operations. Chashma-5 is next in line and given adequate governmental support, the Programme can go a long way in ameliorating Pakistan's energy needs.

The global politics of embargoes and restrictions inhibited Pakistan's ventures into this area for many years to KANUPP-I only until China became Pakistan's reliable partner in the development of nuclear power. A 325 MW

Pressurized Water Reactor (PWR) Chashma-1 was set up at Chashma in collaboration with China. Chashma-2, Chashma-3, Chashma-4, KANUPP-2 and KANUPP-3 followed making it a total of 3600 MW. K-2 and K-3 are modern Generation III plants. As I said, Chashma 5 is next in line.

The burning issue of climate change and the threat of rise in global temperature has now come to the rescue of nuclear energy which for some decades was being perceived as a high risk technology due to three major accidents at The Three Miles Island (1979), Chernobyl (1986) and Fukushima (2011). Pakistan's experience and clean record in running its nuclear power plants with professional expertise, strictly in line with IAEA guidelines allows one to dream on that

Pakistan will succeed in establishing nuclear energy for peaceful purposes as its main effort. In this context it is now internationally well recognized that Pakistan has taken stringent measures to put in place a professionally strong state of the art nuclear safety and security regime.

In the light of what I have said I think that the topics chosen for the two sessions on nuclear aspects for today and tomorrow are most pertinent, relevant and ought to generate much interest while discussing the experiences of both Russia and Pakistan in these areas.

My best wishes for the eminent participants and for the success of this SVI sponsored important conference. And once again a very warm welcome to our guests from Russia.

I thank you ladies and gentlemen.

**Continued from page 29**

## NUCLEAR INSTITUTE FOR AGRICULTURE AND BIOLOGY NIAB

These advanced tools empower researchers to conduct precise and sophisticated experiments. In addition to cutting-edge equipment, NIAB boasts experimental facilities such as plant growth chambers, greenhouses, cold rooms, and well-equipped Integrated Pest Management (IMP) Labs.

These facilities cater to the specific needs of microorganisms, plants, insects, and animals by providing controlled temperature and humidity environments. The institute's commitment to innovation extends to its well-staffed workshop, featuring electronics, air conditioning, electricity, glass-blowing, carpentry, and metalwork shops.

Beyond maintenance and repair duties, the workshop actively engages in fabricating instruments to meet the evolving research



needs of the institute.

With its rich history dating back to 1972, the NIAB stands as a beacon of innovation, addressing critical challenges in agriculture and biology through the application of nuclear and modern techniques. NIAB continues to play a significant role in advancing sustainable agricultural practices through pioneering research and development.

*Continued from page 28*

## INTERVIEW: BRIG AGHA AHMAD GUL (R) PART - II

Bengal, having been divided, posed an additional complication. The inhabitants of these regions had not coexisted, and the unfamiliarity extended to governance. In 1958, two years later, a tragic incident unfolded on October 6th when the Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly in Dhaka was fatally assaulted. Responding to this upheaval, President Sikander Mirza declared martial law on October 8th. Subsequently, Ayub Khan formulated a new constitution in 1962, retaining most provinces with some modifications.

Criticism emerged against the concept of a unified state, particularly voiced by Balochistan residents, who faced challenges traveling to Lahore for routine tasks and felt marginalized. The consensus was clear: they rejected the one-unit system, advocating for the autonomy that British Balochistan and Qalati Balochistan had enjoyed, functioning peacefully.

In 1970, Balochistan attained provincial status as Yahya Khan dismantled the one-unit structure. However, it is essential to note that Qalati Balochistan, historically a tribal monarchy, had a distinctive governance structure. Despite being impoverished, it



operated independently, answering to either the British or Afghanistan.

Upon becoming a province, the neglect of Balochistan's development became apparent. With poverty prevailing, the area lagged behind in all sectors including education and industry. It wasn't until General Zia-ul-Haq that attention was given to uplifting Balochistan. During his era, significant strides were made, including the establishment of major electricity transmission lines.

The major electricity transmission lines were installed during the era of Zia ul Haq. Governor Gen. Rahimuddin Khan was the sole visitor before me. Following Rahimuddin Khan, I served as a uniformed soldier, ensuring the connectivity of the lines. People would often refer to me as Rahimuddin Khan, the one who visited. Our civilian counterparts did not contribute to this effort, leading to the emergence of the third Balochistan. Now, when you mention the unrest in Balochistan, I inquire: Which Balochistan are you referring to? Northern Balochistan remains peaceful, with sporadic incidents involving TTP members who come, commit a few acts of violence, and retreat.

Although they may not always retreat and are sometimes eliminated on the spot, Southern Balochistan is also relatively calm. Have you witnessed any issues in Lasbela? Have there been massacres from Sibi to Jacobabad? The unequivocal answer is no.

Only southwestern Balochistan, the poorest region, is affected by militancy. During a conversation with a wise man, I suggested that if we were to provide individuals in that area with 25,000 rupees to stay at home and cease fighting, they would likely comply. This way, we wouldn't have to allocate more than half of the funds currently invested in security. Consequently, the troublemakers would find contentment.

Consider this scenario: a person without enough to eat is approached by someone offering money in exchange for harming soldiers or placing a bomb. In order to survive, the individual would likely agree to such a proposition. In such cases, the question of whether these people are a part of Pakistan becomes irrelevant. What matters is that the more impoverished someone is, the more susceptible they are to exploitation

**Q: Brig. Gul, let me inquire about another aspect that unfolded during the tenures of Pervez Musharraf and Kiyani; many Baloch individuals were enlisted in the army. Even during our interview with Bugti, he expressed concern about the situation in Gwadar, advocating for the recruitment of our fellow Balochis. Back then, a significant portion of the local population lacked formal education. However, the efforts initiated during the tenure of Pervez Musharraf elevated the educational level of the Baloch people, enabling them to assume leadership roles within their respective teams. Do you concur that these endeavors had a substantial impact?**

Ans: Certainly, there was a considerable impact. Mr. Pervez Musharraf, along with others from the staff college, including teachers and students, were extensively briefed about the entire country. They physically visited each region. I was present during the inauguration of Gwadar by Mr. Pervez Musharraf, still in service at that time. People raised concerns with Musharraf about the impact of building the seaport on the local populace. Pervez Musharraf assured them that efforts would be made to educate and support them, acknowledging that it would take some time. Presently, despite Pervez Musharraf being absent for an extended period, Gwadar

boasts one university, Turbat has another, and Panjgur hosts a third. While the distance between them is less than 200 miles, becoming a graduate is not an overnight accomplishment. It requires time, and the student's interest is crucial. Unfortunately, we still grapple with a tribal culture that urges the passing of students with minimal marks. Despite a High Court mandate requiring 75 percent attendance, people approach me to pass students with low attendance. The persistence of this colonial system is disheartening.

General Musharraf implemented various reforms, extending the age limit for CSS and PCS exams. Previously, the age limit was lower,



but now it stands at 38. This change allows individuals to complete their graduation by the age of 38, even if their educational journey is gradual, and then take the exam. Travelling through Balochistan today, you will find local Pathans, and Baloch individuals in every department. The army has even relaxed standards to facilitate their recruitment.

**Q: In 2016, I visited Turbat and had the opportunity to meet a Balochi commodore, which was a source of great satisfaction for me. They introduced several Baloch officers, showcasing the Navy's advanced capabilities. Could you elaborate on the significance of Turbat concerning**



### joining the Navy?

A: The primary reason for joining the Navy for individuals from Turbat and Makrans is the geographical convenience. It is much easier for them to come to Karachi than to go to Quetta, which is a more challenging journey. Traveling to Quetta takes two days, while reaching Karachi takes one and a half days. Additionally, considering the option of traveling by boat adds more time to the journey. The people of Turbat are known for their high level of education.

Regarding recruitment practices, Mr. Pervez Musharraf mentioned that individuals failing in the Inter-Services Selection Board were given three months of training, and those who passed after the training were recruited. Currently, there is a Brigadier from Balochistan, specifically from Nushki, in the army. In the military, officers from Balochistan, whether Baloch or Pathan, are recognized as being from Balochistan.

It's worth noting the historical issue with the name "Balochistan." The British originally named the area "British Balochistan," causing confusion. In 1970, the Khan of Qalat, who later served as the governor of Balochistan for five years, advocated for renaming the entire area as Balochistan. The settlers who founded North Balochistan are regrettably treated in a manner that undermines their identity. There are also 12 lakh Hazara people. How can we

neglect them all? In fact, the Khan of Qalat intentionally did so, being aware of the facts. After him, General Yahya and others either did not know or failed to realize the consequences of their actions. Now, when they assert that Balochistan seeks freedom, even this Pathan (indicating the research officer of RFI) is standing. Ask him if he would be willing to work under Baloch leadership.

**Q. Here, the problem arises regarding whether you constitute 40 percent or 60 percent. This uncertainty stems from occasional misinformation.**

Ans: I assert that, at present, 60 percent of the population in Balochistan comprises Pathans. Take Lasbela, for instance; it is inhabited by Jamots. Regarding the Brahvis, you may be familiar with the name AK Brahvi. Until 1960, Brahvis proudly identified themselves with their surname, Brahvi. At that time, Baloch individuals expressed concerns that if Brahvis continued to identify as such, it would fracture their vote bank. Brahvis are, indeed, Baloch. Consequently, they started adopting the Baloch identity in their names. Originally, Brahvis hail from Central Asia a fact supported by the era of DNA. In this age, a simple DNA test can trace the geographical locations of one's past 50 ancestors. Scientific research on Brahvis indicates their Central Asian origins.

Balochs, exemplified by figures like Nawab Akbar Khan Bugti, embody the quintessential Baloch identity. Bugti serves as a perfect example, with his beautiful face, thin nose, and representation of the typical Baloch appearance. Balochs trace their roots to Arabistan within Balochistan. Mir Hasil Bizenjo, may Allah grant him a place in Jannah, on the other hand, possessed a thick nose and shorter stature, characteristic of a typical Brahvi. While there may be some variations, Bizenjo epitomized the Brahvi

identity. During our interactions in various seminars, disagreements arose when I stated that Brahvis belong to a distinct stock. Bizenjo would take five to ten minutes to refute my statement, insisting that I was mistaken and that they are, indeed, Baloch.

**Q: Connecting to the previous question, I would like to request an explanation regarding the origin of the separatists' slogan.**

A: It becomes intriguing when Khan of Qalat Sahib became a part of Pakistan and signed the agreement. His brother, Abdul Kareem, referred to himself as a Prince, a title that doesn't accurately apply to the son or brother of a Khan he should have been called a Khanzada. Nevertheless, he insisted on being addressed as a Prince.

For the initial four months after assuming the role of Khan of Qalat, Prince Abdul Kareem deliberated on his course of action. After this period, he publicly declared his intention to rebel against Pakistan. His plan involved traveling to Afghanistan, rallying the Baloch people, and engaging in a struggle against Pakistan to reclaim Balochistan.

Remaining in Afghanistan for approximately two years, he eventually returned while his elder brother, Rehmat Yar Khan, still held the position of Khan of Qalat. Some of our Baloch brethren assert that this marked the onset of the first insurgency. However, I argue that Prince Abdul Karim's move to Afghanistan does not fit the definition of insurgency.

Upon his return after three years, Prince Abdul Kareem faded into obscurity, leaving no lasting impact on history. The individuals advocating for separation at the time were exclusively the nominated ministers of the Khan of Qalat. Their motivation stemmed from the belief that their government had come to an end, and no one else but them

championed this demand.

Examining the historical context, in 1945, at the conclusion of World War II, the United States endeavored to establish itself as the preeminent global power. Possessing the atomic bomb, a capability unique to them, they took measures to impede others from advancing, encircling Russia. Subsequently, an American, motivated not by financial gain but by the desire to maintain global equilibrium, approached Russia, urging them to develop an atomic bomb. This marked the genesis of NATO, initially comprising 21 countries and later expanding to 29, strategically encircling the Soviet Union.

Simultaneously, the U.S. established CENTO, involving Turkey, Iran, and Pakistan, with an agreement that in the event of an attack on America, these nations would provide assistance, but if attacked, the U.S. would turn a blind eye. Additionally, the creation of SEATO (South East Asian Treaty Organization) further tightened the ring around the Soviet Union. In response, the KGB orchestrated the London Conference in 1970, devising a plan to exploit ethnic tensions in Turkey and incite the Kurds to demand separation.

Sistan Balochistan and Qalati Balochistan Division, Qalat had achieved division status but had not yet attained provincial status. Following the 1970 elections, a province was established, with prominent figures like





Attaullah Mengal, the father of Akhtar Mengal, and Khair Bakhsh Marri participating. Notably, Bugti did not attend, but Ahmed Rasheed did.

It's worth noting that the formation of the Communist Party was restricted in Pakistan by the Americans, but an underground party persisted. Communist representatives from Sistan-Baluchistan attended a meeting in London, expressing a desire for separation. Initially, the call for separation came from Southern Balochistan, aiming to join Sistan Balochistan and form Greater Balochistan.

The first slogan of separation came from Southern Balochistan, expressing their intention to join Sistan Balochistan and name



the merged region Greater Balochistan. In the 1970 election, the party advocating for separation came to power. However, once in power, they faced the challenge of governance and resorted to expelling Punjabis and teachers. Mr. Attaullah Mengal and the police in A and B areas initiated a purge, resulting in the dismissal of 3,200 policemen and 3,500 teachers, comprising 80 to 85 percent of the teaching staff.

Furthermore, they appointed individuals with only a fifth-grade education as teachers. In February 1973, an attack on the Jamots shifted the focus from creating Greater Balochistan to internal conflicts. Balochistan had already expanded significantly,

incorporating Southern Balochistan and British Balochistan.

During this period, the media reported daily on the unrest. The federal government was urged to intervene as the situation worsened. Prime Minister Bhutto eventually dismissed the government of Attaullah Mengal, leading to protests and resignations from key figures like Ghaws Bakhsh Bizenjo and Wali Khan.

Starting the rebellion in the first attack, they killed 8 FC soldiers in Sibbi while on normal patrol along the railway line. There are two types of Mengals; one is called Ziger Mengal in Nushki. After killing them, they began shooting at every passing civilian vehicle near Mustang. Subsequently, they targeted the drivers of the railway line in Bolan Pass. The army grew angry. In 1973, when the Shimla Agreement was signed with Indira Gandhi, I returned from the front line. The entire army was deployed, and 60 Brigade was the first sent to Kolu, taking about a year and a half. General Numan Sahib was the Corps Commander. When separatists were apprehended, it was discovered they were fewer in number. Fazal Haq Sahib, a Brigadier at the time, stated that they had it under control, and there was no need for an operation. After becoming a Lieutenant General, he later became a governor. There was no need for a major operation in the South, and it concluded within one and a half years. The Commander and Chief of the Southern Force, a classmate of my younger brother, visited me after everything was over. He revealed they were about 325 people in total in the South and 1500 in the North. Khair Bakhsh Mari sent him to Moscow, and all his education was completed there. Sher Muhammad Murri, who called himself the Lion of Murri, was also acquainted with us. The demand for separation lost its effectiveness.

From 1973 onwards, the rebellion was eradicated by 1975, bringing complete peace to Balochistan. From 1975 to 2006, a period of 30 years, there was absolute peace with no demands for separation. However, things changed after 2006.

The Soviet Union collapsed in 1989 and completely in 1990. The Americans, known as Newcons, sought to prevent any potential rival after the Soviet Union's rivalry. They orchestrated something akin to Pearl Harbor to garner global sympathy for their cause. This plan, known as the Project for a New American Century (PNAC), was led by Wolfowitz. The events of 9/11 unfolded, and the United States turned its attention to perceived enemy countries, with China topping the list. They were also intended to exploit the oil and gas resources of Central Asia to contain Russia. Simultaneously, they incited an uprising in Iran to thwart its nuclear ambitions.

They attacked Afghanistan on October 7, and there was no one in Afghanistan with whom they could fight. How could they combat with their Kalashnikovs against the Daisy Cutter bomb, which was the size of a car? Although I didn't witness it, I read its description. It possessed the most explosive power after the atom bomb.

In reality, they came here for China because they had decided to contain China. Simultaneously, they were eyeing the oil and gas resources of Central Asia to contain Russia as well. On the other hand, they initiated an uprising in Iran to eliminate the nuclear program that was underway there. Netanyahu consistently claims that their biggest enemy is Pakistan. After 9/11, they exerted immense pressure on Pervez Musharraf to allow them to deploy troops. When Musharraf was unwilling to agree, they eventually orchestrated an agitation and removed him.



A nuclear weapon of Pakistan is so powerful that it stands on one side while the entire armed forces of Pakistan stand on the other. This creates such a significant disparity that only a military mind can comprehend it fully. Our entire armed forces, numbering about 850,000, cannot attack or destroy New York, but one of your nuclear weapons can obliterate New York.

**Q. What do you think in the case of Gaza? Has it been a surprise? Has all their intelligence, including the CIA, failed? And where does Pakistan stand now?**

Ans. Mirza Sahib, I don't agree with you. Nothing has failed. They created Hamas themselves. No one is going to tell Hamas, "Are you so powerful that you can teach them a lesson?" What happened is the second 9/11. Tell me, these poor people have a few bombs left or sticks; two aircraft carriers have arrived, what are they doing in the Mediterranean? They actually want to wipe out Iran and also Pakistan because we are in the cross wires.

**Q: Brig. Gul, I would also like to inquire about the economic status of Balochistan.**

A: Today, in the entire Balochistan region, only Northern Balochistan, formerly known as British Balochistan, receives relatively more rainfall. During the monsoon season, areas like Zhob, Ziarat, and Quetta experience rain. Additionally, in winter, westerly fronts bring

heavy rain and snow to Northern Balochistan, covering the mountains of Kakar Khorasan with snow.

The subsurface water level is slightly recharged here, unlike Southern Balochistan, which lacks such replenishment. The absence of rivers, water reservoirs, and lakes in both Northern and Southern Balochistan poses a challenge for agriculture. Prosperity is closely tied to agriculture, as seen in ancient civilizations like Mohenjo-Daro, Harappa, and Mesopotamia, which thrived along riverbanks. Without water, achieving prosperity becomes a formidable task, especially given the challenges of water reservation, requiring suitable terrain for dam construction.

**Q: I read a Pakistan Atomic Commission Research Paper, and it was mentioned that when it is very humid, there's a layer of four to five feet below the ground. The layer doesn't let the water in. You're supposed to break the layer and drill into the layer and do whatever it takes to let the water down? It can work in Balochistan's case because it has been happening for two years that Balochistan is sinking due to over rain.**

A: Quetta was isolated in the rains that occurred on August 22 last year, and similar rains occurred in 1986 when I was visiting Quetta. I was sitting in Sibbi because the road



at Bolan Pass was washed away, and there was no way. After 1986, there were such rains last year. If you talk about Balochistan's budget for this year so it is Rs 750 billion, of which 80 percent is to be taken from the federal government. The government of Pakistan has also kept a deficit of five trillion. Where will the deficit amount come from? Five trillion means five thousand billions; where will it come from?

Last federal government and the provincial government have also given the gifts to Pakistan during the last stage of their tenure. The revenue generation of the provincial government that they can use is not above 20 percent. Last year i.e. 2021-22, the revenue that was given to the federal government was 1.6 percent of all the four five provinces of Pakistan. This year, which is 1.4 percent in 2022-23, is even lower than last year.

**Q: You wrote that some of their support comes from smuggling. Many of your institutions are also involved in trafficking?**

A: Many people try to get advantage doesn't matter how it comes. I don't understand; where would you get honest people from? See, when I took over Wapda in Balochistan, the revenue was Rs 1.8 billion. When I left after three and a half years, the revenue was 12.4 billion. There is no comparison where 1.8 billion and where 12.4



billion. I used to tell people that corruption starts from the line superintendent if he asks bribes, inform me.

I will give you free, and I really did it. Member Finance said that Brigadier you were sent to increase the revenue but you are waiving. I said that the person who has a room gets a bill of two lakhs rupees. How can WAPDA give them a two lakh rupees bill? And my line superintendent will take 50 rupees from him and give him electricity every month. What I had done is that I made a team that asks how much money can they give? When a person said I am poor, I can give you two thousand. We say no, you should raise it a little, than he offers four thousand but it in installments. We accepted that. One lakh 96 thousand written off in the name of Pakistan, and since we were not dishonest, our revenue started coming. Chairman Wapda told Member finance that I was doing the right thing. We did it with good intentions, and the company which was not even at number 15 or 16. It became the number one company within my two years in percentage recovery. I went to Bugti Sahib when I took over KESCO when I reached, Bugti sahib despite knowing that I was coming rudely said by his people that I will not go by car. We got down from the car and started walking. FC guards were with me his people said the guard will not go. We said Okay and we went without guards. There was a Katcha house. Inside, Bugti Sahib and Saleem, his elder son, both have died now, May Allah grant them Jannah.

I used to call Bugti Sahib Uncle as a child when he used to meet my father. When I was ADC of Corps Commander in 73 when he became Governor, I used to call him Sir. Now when I went that time I called him Nawab Sahib. After taking tea, I said, Nawab sahib, I have come to you with 2 requests, one is that there should be no theft in your area and the



other is that these people should pay their bills. Nawab Sahib stroked his mustache for a while and said 'OK'. He mostly talked in English. When I reached the rest house of FC, my SE said that Nawab Sahib's Mukhtiarkar came and asking to regularize all their connections.

I had said throughout the province that you should apply for regularization, we will regularize, no questions will be asked, and no arrears will be taken. I ordered to regularize all the connections of Nawab Sahib. And then he gave the message that now the electric authority and military should communicate each other. I have nothing to do with it. I was very thankful to Nawab Sahib that the electricity theft was ended in Dera Bugti, and revenue started generating.



**(At the conclusion of the interview, Nusrat Mirza, the host, conveyed his heartfelt appreciation to the brigadier. He expressed gratitude for the brigadier's valuable time and the insightful interview, emphasizing that the shared information and discussed experiences were genuinely priceless.)**

# GLOBAL CONSENSUS ON NUCLEAR ENERGY: INSIGHTS FROM COP28



**SYED SAMIULLAH**



The recently concluded COP28, the 2023 United Nations Climate Change Conference, held in Dubai from November 30 to December 13, witnessed a significant paradigm shift in addressing climate change globally. Amidst the ongoing discussions about reducing fossil fuel emissions and promoting renewable energy, a remarkable proposal gained prominence—an increased focus on nuclear energy.

Climate change, driven by global warming and its profound impacts on the planet, has become an urgent concern. The escalation of global temperatures, primarily attributed to human activities like burning fossil fuels, deforestation, and certain industrial practices, has resulted in detrimental consequences such as heatwaves, wildfires, and environmental disruptions.

In the quest for a sustainable solution to combat climate change, the spotlight has shifted towards nuclear energy. Unlike fossil fuels, nuclear power is a zero-carbon energy source, producing no carbon during its

operational phase. The move towards making the energy system carbon-neutral aligns with the global goal of limiting the rise in environmental temperature to 1.5 degrees Celsius.

Though controversy surrounded the initial propositions at COP28, with some countries advocating for a threefold increase in nuclear power capacity by 2050, while others pushed for a similar boost in renewable energy but, However, it is essential to recognize that these approaches may complement each other, as the overall energy demand might accommodate both strategies.

Nuclear power, once mired in controversies related to safety, proliferation, and accidents like Three Mile Island, Fukushima, and Chernobyl, staged a surprising comeback in the COP28. The uncertainties surrounding renewable energy's ability to meet the world's energy needs, both in terms of quality and quantity, have rekindled interest in nuclear power.

"Nuclear energy's inclusion in the Global Stocktake is nothing short of a historic milestone and a reflection of how much perspectives have changed," said IAEA Director General Rafael Mariano Grossi. "It demonstrates there is now a global consensus on the need to scale up this clean and reliable technology to achieve our vital goals on climate change and sustainable development." Grossi added.

As part of the COP28 proceedings, the

International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and the COP28 Presidency jointly announced the IAEA Statement on Nuclear Power. Supported by over 50 nuclear-operating and newcomer countries, this statement underscores the critical role of nuclear energy in the net-zero transition.

The IAEA's annual nuclear power outlook projects a doubling of installed nuclear capacity by 2050, emphasizing the substantial growth potential of nuclear energy. A separate declaration at COP28 saw more than 22 countries committing to tripling nuclear power capacity by 2050, signaling a collective effort to advance nuclear energy as a clean and sustainable source. As of 2022, there were 440 nuclear power plants worldwide, contributing 10% to the global electricity supply.

Despite this positive momentum, challenges persist, including financial and policy hurdles. The IAEA and global leaders call for collaboration between public and private sectors to expedite nuclear energy development. The introduction of the World Fusion Energy Group (WFEG) aims to foster discussions and enhance global collaboration on fusion energy.

"The IAEA has a very important role to play in bringing fusion energy to the world," remarked Christofer Mowry, Former CEO of General Fusion Inc. He stressed the need for the IAEA's experience and capability in critical areas like regulation, complementing other COP28 initiatives.

Belgian Prime Minister Alexander De Croo, French President Emmanuel Macron, and IAEA Director General Rafael Mariano Grossi announced the Nuclear Energy Summit scheduled for Brussels in March 2024. This summit aims to gather around 30 countries, industry leaders, experts, and civil society



representatives to build on the global momentum behind nuclear power.

The summit is also expected to feature the IAEA's Atom4NetZero initiative, offering comprehensive, data-driven energy scenario modeling, including nuclear power's potential contribution to net-zero emissions. "Today we celebrate the real progress that nuclear power has made in the global climate and energy debate," stated the IAEA Director General. "But we must tackle several challenges if we are to succeed. The Nuclear Energy Summit is the next major event where the world will come together to discuss how we can forge real solutions."

In Pakistan's context, the Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission (PAEC) outlines determined goals, stating, "The aim is to generate 8,800 MW of electricity by 2030 and a staggering 40,000 MW by 2050." This signals a significant step towards diminishing dependence on fossil fuels. The landscape of nuclear energy evolves with the introduction of Gen-IV reactors and Small Modular Reactors (SMRs), ushering in a new era. Gen-IV reactors stand out for their enhanced safety features, decreased nuclear waste, and a more sustainable energy yield. Meanwhile, SMRs, boasting capacities ranging from 10-300MW, emerge as a flexible and efficient alternative to their larger counterparts.

**Continued on page 48**

# REAL AXIS OF EVIL

## IT IS TIME FOR THIS DUPLICITY TO BE EXPOSED AND THIS AXIS OF EVIL RECOGNISED FOR WHAT IT IS



ZAMIR AKRAM

In 2002, American President George Bush labeled Iran, Iraq and North Korea as the “Axis of Evil”, accusing them of threatening international security, promoting terrorism, violating human rights among other “crimes”. But reality is very different when not viewed through the American lens. Even a cursory study of modern history shows that the real axis of evil includes the US and its close allies Israel and India.

America has the dubious distinction of enforcing the genocide of Native Americans while simultaneously enslaving people of African descent, who are still subjected to discrimination. Yet the American constitution claims that “all men are created equal” with “certain unalienable rights”. The reality, however, was and remains quite different characterised by cynical hypocrisy. When the European colonialists spread like a pestilence around the world, as documented by Jared Diamond in his book, *Guns, Germs and Steel*, they committed the genocide of 100 million

natives in the Americas alone. In the US, over 50 million were killed by the start of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, through direct genocide (killing of the people) and indirect genocide (destroying crops, killing animals and confiscating land).

Indeed, even after the decimated native tribes were sent to “reservations”, starvation was imposed by restricting amounts of food available or outright denial, such as meat. Worse has been the hypocrisy of American colonialism celebrating Thanksgiving even today as a shared feast with the natives, yet in truth with whom they had systematically and willfully massacred. In his book, *American Holocaust*, DE Stannard maintains that “The destruction of the Indians of the Americas was, far and away, the most massive act of genocide in the history of the world.”

The African slaves fared no better. Treated worse than animals, they were held in captivity, branded to denote ownership, frequently tortured, mutilated and whipped to instill discipline, and sexually exploited for sport. From 1619 to 1865 it is estimated that there were 179 million slaves in the US especially in the South. Even after abolishing slavery and despite the Civil Rights movement in the 1960s, African-Americans have continued to face racial discrimination. Forced to live in ghettos, riddled by drugs and crime, denied equal opportunities for education and employment and subjected repeatedly to police brutality, most of them have been forced into criminal activities, constituting the



largest number of prisoners in American jails. The Black Lives Matter movement and a black president have hardly made any difference.

Beyond America's borders, the US has spread death and destruction from South America to the Middle-East to South-East Asia, most recently in Afghanistan, Iraq, Libya and Syria, under the guise of fighting communism or terrorism or promoting democracy. According to Brown University's Cost of War Project, since 9/11 alone the US has killed over 930 thousand people while spending over 8 trillion dollars in these wars. The latest American outrage is the unqualified support for the Israeli genocide against the Palestinians, especially the current carnage in Gaza. With full American military support, over 12,000 Gazans have been indiscriminately killed, most of them women and children, a form of collective punishment in which not even hospitals have been spared.

The Zionist genocide against the Palestinians started after the infamous 1917 Balfour declaration, settling European Jews in British-controlled Palestine and leading to the Nakba, the forced expulsion of indigenous Palestinians, after the creation of Israel in 1948. Palestinians were forced to become refugees in neighbouring countries or live under Israeli apartheid. Following the Nazi policy of "Lebensraum" seeking territorial space for Jews, Israeli also imposed "Kibbutz" settler communities on occupied Palestinian or Arab lands, which still continues. The ongoing massacre in Gaza is the continuation of this policy to expel the remaining Palestinians from Gaza and eventually the West Bank and thereby kill the two-state solution. Biden, the self-professed Zionist, and his henchmen are fully complicit in this outrage.

Another Zionist tout is the fascist Indian Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, who has fully



supported the Israelis as he is himself implementing the same evil enterprise of ethnic cleansing and genocide against Indian Muslims and especially the Muslims in Indian occupied Kashmir. Modi's abrogation of Articles 370 and especially 35A of the Indian constitution to deprive the Kashmiris of their legitimate right to self-determination and the imposition of new citizenship rules for Indian Muslims are clear examples of his policy to change the Muslim majority demography in occupied Kashmir while also enforcing discrimination against Indian Muslims.

This shared Indo-Israeli-American agenda underscores the growing trilateral strategic partnership, which began after the end of the Cold War, gaining further momentum under Modi. In the military sphere, India purchases over 2 billion dollars' worth of weapons from Israel, making India the largest customer for Israeli's defence industry. The three countries have also colluded to demonise Muslims as terrorists and jihadists which enables them to target opposing countries. Ironically, these countries operate behind the cynical facade of freedom and democracy. In reality, however, their policies are totally contrary.

America assassinated leaders like Lumumba of Congo and Allende of Chile; Israeli Prime Minister Shamir led the Stern



terrorist gang that assassinated UN mediator Count Bernadotte; and Modi was responsible for the Gujarat massacre of Muslims. These countries are also gross violators of the UN charter, repeatedly flouting UN resolutions, aggressively undermining the international



rules based order. It is time for this duplicity to be exposed and this axis of evil recognised for what it is – the source of genocide, ethnic cleansing, war crimes and crimes against humanity, which continue to pursue their nefarious designs with impunity. The continuing outrage in Gaza has served as an eye-opener for the international community, resulting in massive demonstrations around the world, even in the US itself.

Such a global response cannot be ignored any longer by these countries. The time has come to hold them to account, beginning with the rejection of their self-proclaimed virtues about freedom and democracy. They must be exposed for what they actually are – the real axis of evil.

Courtesy: The Express Tribune.

*Continued from page 45*

## GLOBAL CONSENSUS ON NUCLEAR ENERGY: INSIGHTS FROM COP28

The global pursuit of a sustainable, low-carbon future finds resonance in the adoption of nuclear power, particularly with Gen-IV and SMRs. The international community witnesses countries like China taking the lead in implementing cutting-edge nuclear technologies. This shift is highlighted by the resolution at COP28, marking a pivotal moment for the nuclear industry.

For Pakistan, strategic collaboration with China in SMR development emerges as a potentially beneficial move. SMRs, designed for rapid deployment and scalability, open a promising avenue for the future. Nevertheless, regulatory bodies must swiftly adapt to these technological advancements and explore the potential of nuclear exports.

As the nuclear market undergoes

expansion post-COP28, nations such as the UAE and Saudi Arabia are already channeling investments into nuclear power projects. To leverage this momentum, Pakistan must adopt a proactive stance, particularly in realms like training, testing, and fabrication. Aligning with China, a frontrunner in nuclear technology, can pave the way for mutually beneficial ventures.

In summary, the emphasis placed on tripling nuclear power capacity at COP28 reflects a global acknowledgment of nuclear energy's pivotal role in addressing climate change. As nations navigate the transition towards sustainable energy, nuclear power stands poised to play a crucial role in shaping a cleaner, greener future.

**(The author is Research Officer at Rabita Forum International and the associate Editor of the Monthly Interaction)**

# CALENDAR

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Happy  
New Year

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## RABITA FORUM INTERNATIONAL

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