



Interaction

ISSUE-07

VOLUME-18

MC-1326

Rs.500/-

210

ABC CERTIFIED

FEBRUARY 2025



PAKISTAN'S FIRST INDIGENOUS ELECTRO-OPTICAL SATELLITE EO-1



www.instagram.com/rfi.pakistan/



www.facebook.com/rfipakistan



www.rfipakistan.com

LETTER OF APPRECIATION

BY BRIGADIER AGHA AHMAD GUL (R),
FOUNDER CONSULTANT BTTN, QUETTA

Dear Sir,

Thank you for sharing the December 2024 edition of INTERACTION.

The feature on Pakistan's successful test-fire of the SMASH, a ship-launched ballistic missile, highlights an incredible milestone in our country's defense and technological advancements. It is a matter of great pride and a testament to our nation's growing capabilities in ensuring maritime security.

Additionally, the other articles in this edition are equally insightful and worth mentioning. The diverse topics covered provide valuable perspectives on national achievements, strategic developments, and thought-provoking analyses. Your effort in curating and sharing such impactful content is greatly appreciated.

Thank you once again for keeping us informed and inspired.

Warm regards,

BRIGADIER AGHA AHMAD GUL (R),
FOUNDER CONSULTANT BTTN, QUETTA



Interaction

February 2025

Contents

CHIEF EDITOR
Nusrat Mirza

EXECUTIVE EDITOR
Bismah Mirza

EDITOR
Mirza Kashif Baig

ASSOCIATE EDITOR
Syed Samiullah

MANAGING EDITOR
Yusuf Rahi

PRODUCTION MANAGER
M. H. Khan

LAYOUT DESIGNER
Malik Zia Muhammad

● **CONTRIBUTORS**

Dr. Bushra Batool
Wajeeha Najam

● **BUREAU CHIEF & DIRECTOR MARKETING**
Islamabad

Prof. Dr. M. Attaullah Khan

● **REPRESENTATIVES**

UK (London)

Tahir Shah

Bangladesh

Abdul Rahim Khan

Printed by
NUSRAT MIRZA

From Al-Asif Printers, Karachi

Published from
71/C, 1st Floor, 24th Commercial Street,
Tauheed Commercial Area, Phase-V, DHA.,
Karachi, Pakistan.

Mailing Address

Plot No.71/C, 1st Floor, 24th Commercial Street,
Tauheed Commercial Area, Phase-V, DHA.,
Karachi, Pakistan.

Tel : +92 21 358 619 35 -36
Email : rfi@rfipakistan.com

1	Global Realignments: A critical juncture for Pakistan	Editorial	02
2	DHA Suffa university hosts its 5th annual career fair		05
3	Address By AD NCA Lt. Gen. Khalid Ahmed Kidwai NI, HI, HI(M) (R) at PIIA Seminar on "Nuclear developments - regional and global impact"		06
4	The myth of Trump's anti-establishment Persona	Nusrat Mirza	16
5	India's strategic vision	Brig Agha Ahmad Gul, (Retd)	19
6	Pakistan's First Indigenous Electro-Optical Satellite EO-1	Syed Samiullah	25
7	Pakistan - Bangladesh relations: rapprochement or need of the time	Dr. Uzma Shujaat	28
8	Navigating global realignments: Trump 2.0 and its implications for key players	Mirza Kashif Baig	31
9	Either be brothers or perish	Khursheed Alam	33
10	Post-independence History of Pakistan (1961 To 1964)	Interaction Team	36
11	China-Taiwan cross -strait relations and the US' strategic ambiguity	Dr. S. Bushra Batool	38
12	Bangladesh -second revolution-dangers Ahead	Brig Tariq Khalil (Retd)	41
13	Addressing Climate Change Challenges	Wajeeha Najam	44
14	The evolution of power politics: American strategy under a new Presidency	Kanwar Khalid Ali Khan	46

One Copy Rs. 500/-
One Year Rs. 6000/-

EDITORIAL

GLOBAL REALIGNMENTS

A CRITICAL JUNCTURE FOR PAKISTAN

The world is undergoing a profound transformation. A complex web of alliances, shifting power dynamics, and strategic realignments reshape the global order. This period offers unparalleled opportunities for countries with strategic foresight and robust domestic policies.

However, it poses existential challenges for nations burdened by internal inefficiencies and lack of direction. Historically a pivotal player in global politics, Pakistan now finds itself at a crossroads. While the opportunities abound, its diminishing significance on the international stage is a stark reminder of the urgent need for internal reform.

The rise of the China-Russia bloc as a counterweight to the Western-led global order is perhaps the most defining feature of today's strategic landscape. China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and Russia's resurgence as a military power challenge the dominance of the

United States and its allies. Meanwhile, the United States is strengthening its partnerships in the Indo-Pacific through the Quad, AUKUS, and increased engagement with India. These alliances aim to counter China's trade, technology, and security influence. Amid this rivalry, smaller nations have become arenas for geopolitical contests.

The Ukraine war exemplifies this, as the West and Russia vie for dominance in Eastern Europe. Similarly, the Middle East, South Asia, and Africa are battlegrounds for influence, with global powers investing in infrastructure, military alliances, and economic ties to secure their foothold.

Amid these global upheavals, Pakistan has a unique geographical and strategic advantage. Sitting at the crossroads of South Asia, Central Asia, and the Middle East, Pakistan holds immense potential as a trade and energy corridor. Projects like the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), a flagship initiative of the BRI, underscore this potential. If managed effectively, Pakistan could become a critical hub connecting China, Central Asia, and the Arabian Sea. Moreover, the shift towards multipolarity creates opportunities for Pakistan to diversify its alliances.

Strengthening ties with regional players like Turkey, Saudi Arabia, and Iran can enhance its strategic clout. Additionally, the growing interest in energy security and renewable resources places Pakistan in a position to capitalize on its untapped natural



The Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) shown in a world map basis



further weaken Pakistan's standing. Frequent leadership changes, a lack of long-term policy planning, and rampant corruption undermine investor confidence and create an image of unreliability. Strong governance is a prerequisite for leveraging opportunities presented by global shifts, and Pakistan must address this deficit urgently.

While Pakistan has made significant strides in combating terrorism, residual security challenges continue to tarnish its image. Instability along its borders, particularly with Afghanistan, and unresolved tensions with India over Kashmir divert attention from developmental priorities. Furthermore, Pakistan's association with extremist elements, whether accurate or not, hampers its ability to attract allies and investment.

Pakistan's large, youthful population is a double-edged sword. While it has the potential to be an engine for growth, inadequate investment in education, healthcare, and skills development has rendered this demographic dividend underutilized. Nations like China and India have demonstrated how human capital can transform economies; Pakistan must follow suit to remain relevant.

To reclaim its strategic importance, Pakistan must address these challenges head-on. Revitalizing the economy should be Pakistan's foremost priority. This requires structural reforms to broaden the tax base, encourage entrepreneurship, and attract foreign direct investment. Creating a stable, business-friendly environment will be key to integrating into global value chains and capitalizing on projects like CPEC.

Pakistan's institutions must be depoliticized and empowered to function transparently and effectively. Strengthening governance frameworks from the judiciary to the

resources, including solar, wind, and hydroelectric potential. Despite these opportunities, Pakistan's diminishing importance in global affairs is a reality that cannot be ignored.

This decline is primarily self-inflicted, stemming from domestic challenges that erode its credibility and ability to act as a reliable partner on the international stage. Pakistan's chronic economic woes, characterized by mounting debt, dwindling foreign reserves, and sluggish growth, are a significant hindrance.

While nations like India have positioned themselves as economic powerhouses, attracting foreign investment and leveraging technological innovation, Pakistan remains trapped in a cycle of IMF bailouts and fiscal mismanagement. Pakistan's capacity to project power or attract strategic partnerships is limited without a stable economy.

Political instability and poor governance

bureaucracy is essential for fostering stability and long-term development. Pakistan must prioritize education and skills development to create a workforce capable of driving innovation and economic growth. Partnerships with countries excelling in education and technology, such as China and Germany, can help modernize its education sector and vocational training programs. Pakistan's foreign policy must shift from reactive to proactive.

This involves diversifying alliances beyond traditional partners like China and the Gulf states. Improved relations with the United States and Europe, alongside engagement with emerging powers like Turkey and Central Asian republics, can enhance its global standing.

Moreover, addressing concerns over terrorism and fostering regional cooperation will be essential to rebuilding trust. Pakistan's location is a strategic asset, but its potential remains unrealized. By enhancing infrastructure, ensuring political stability, and adopting investor-friendly policies, Pakistan can position itself as a critical node in global trade and energy supply chains.

Time is of the essence. The global order is evolving rapidly, and nations that fail to adapt risk being sidelined. Pakistan's strategic importance, once a cornerstone of its foreign policy, diminishes as other nations fill the vacuum. For instance, India's growing influence in the Indo-Pacific contrasts starkly with Pakistan's inability to fully leverage its geographical advantages.

The Quad's focus on India as a key partner, including the Gulf Cooperation Council in economic frameworks like I2U2 (India-Israel-UAE-U.S.), and Pakistan's exclusion from significant financial and security discussions highlight the consequences of neglecting



(L to R) Brett McGurk, Dy Assistant to the US President and White House coordinator for the ME and NA, Jose W. Fernandez, US Under Secretary of State for economic growth, Ronen Levi, DG Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Dammu Ravi, Secretary (ER) at the Indian Ministry of External Affairs and Ahmed AlSayegh, UAE Ministry of State. FILE PHOTO

domestic reform. To avoid further marginalization, Pakistan must act decisively and urgently.

The current era of global strategic changes offers Pakistan a unique opportunity to redefine its role on the world stage. However, this requires more than rhetoric; it demands bold reforms, strategic vision, and unwavering commitment to national development. The world is not waiting for Pakistan. The question is: Will Pakistan seize this moment, or will it continue its descent into irrelevance? The answer lies not in external factors but in Pakistan's leadership and people's choices today.



DHA SUFFA UNIVERSITY HOSTS ITS 5TH ANNUAL CAREER FAIR

DHA Suffa University (DSU) once again proved its commitment to excellence by hosting the 5th Annual Career Fair, a vibrant event designed to connect students with industry leaders. The fair was inaugurated by Chancellor Lieutenant General Baber Iftikhar (HI), Commander V Corps, Karachi, alongside Brig. Shahzad Shafi, Administrator DHA Karachi, and other distinguished guests.

With participation from over 100 national and international companies, the event offered an impressive array of opportunities in fields like Artificial Intelligence, Business, Engineering, Social Sciences, and more. Students had the chance to engage with top professionals and explore exciting career pathways.

Prominent figures from the business, media, and IT sectors attended, adding prestige to the occasion. Rabita Forum International (RFI) actively covered the event, with its chairman applauding the efforts of Vice-Chancellor Dr. Ahmed Saeed Minhas and Dr. Samreen, Head of the International Relations Department, for their outstanding organization.

Lieutenant General Baber Iftikhar commended the university's initiative, highlighting its impact on career development and the meticulous planning behind the event. Students and guests also praised the fair for its excellent execution and potential to shape futures, further cementing DSU's position as a trailblazer in higher education.



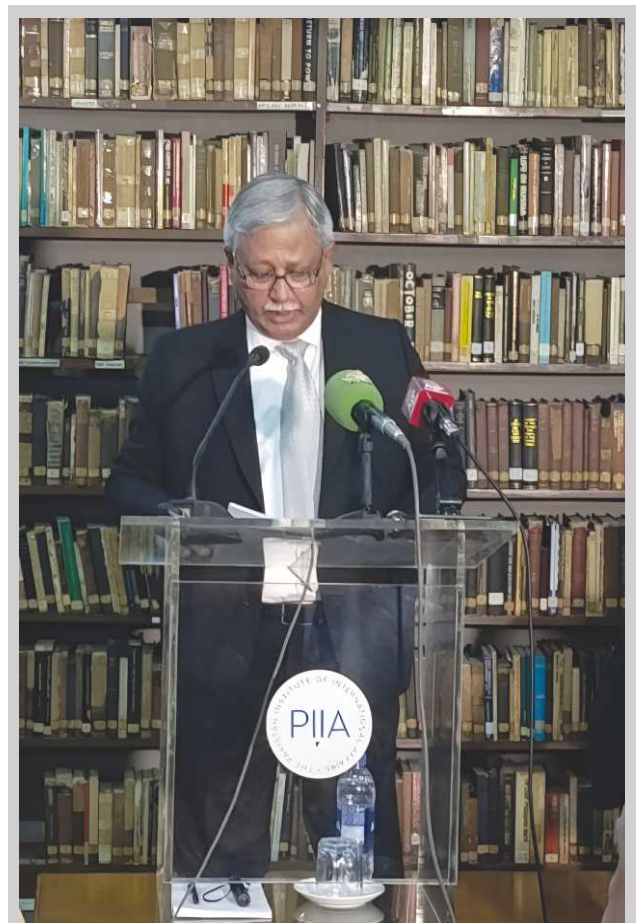
ADDRESS BY

**AD NCA, LT. GEN. KHALID AHMED KIDWAI NI, HI, HI(M) (R)
AT PIIA, SEMINAR ON**

"NUCLEAR DEVELOPMENTS - REGIONAL AND GLOBAL IMPACT"

NOTE: Lt. Gen. Khalid Ahmed Kidwai NI, HI, HI(M) (R), Advisor Development National Command Authority (AD NCA), delivered an insightful keynote address at the Pakistan Institute of International Affairs (PIIA) seminar titled "2024 in Retrospective" on Saturday, January 25, 2025. His address centered on the topic, "Nuclear Developments - Regional and Global Impact," offering an in-depth analysis of the consequences of nuclear advancements on both regional stability and international security. Team Interaction is pleased to publish this significant address, recognizing its strategic importance and relevance to our readers.

1. Dr Masuma Hasan, Ambassador Syed Hasan Habib, ladies and gentlemen. Assalam Alaikum and good evening. I am very happy to have been invited to speak on a subject that is critical to peace and war not only in our crisis-prone South Asia but also in the larger region around us, and perhaps in the world at large. When we look at the year 2024 in retrospect with particular reference to nuclear developments during the year and their regional and global impact, it will be relevant in the interest of perspective and continuity to make these assessments keeping in view the broader background to these developments so as to link the year 2024 logically with the past.
2. While Pakistan's nuclear deterrence capability has always been a cornerstone of Pakistan's national security for the past many decades, it has, of late, assumed even greater significance in the challenging geo-political and strategic environment that has emerged rapidly in Pakistan's neighborhood in the last 6



**AD NCA, Lt. Gen. Khalid Ahmed Kidwai,
addresses the attendees**

years particularly. Pakistan has been riding a geo-political roller coaster of sorts.

3. Therefore, before reviewing nuclear developments in the year 2024, for their regional and global impact, I would first like to take a broader overview of the emerging strategic environments in and around Pakistan to keep things in perspective. In this context, we may not go too far back but we must consider the following 6 events in the last 6 years in and around Pakistan's neighborhood in order to get a feel of the challenges that Pakistan faces.
 - a. First, the Balakot-Rajauri exchange of strategic air strikes on 26th and 27th February 2019 between the Indian Air Force and the Pakistan Air Force, consequent to India's aggressive politico-military posture just before the Indian elections in May 2019. The two-day skirmish did not turn out too well for India. While the IAF failed to achieve its objective of striking the alleged terrorist camps at Balakot in mainland Pakistan, the skirmish resulted in the downing of two IAF aircraft by the PAF, a MIG-21 Bison and an SU-30, and the capture of an IAF pilot Wing Commander Abhinandan. A well-timed meeting of Pakistan's National Command Authority at the Strategic Plans Division (SPD), which is responsible for the command and control of Pakistan's nuclear weapons, sent strong signals of deterrence to India and the world and helped in restricting further spiral in hostilities. While Pakistan's nuclear deterrence worked, India's irresponsible conduct as a nuclear power nevertheless stood exposed before the world. The major departure in the skirmish was that for the first time since 1971, India crossed the international air space and attacked mainland Pakistan as against the established norm of land or air skirmishes on the Kashmiri LOC.
 - b. Second, the aggressive Indian politico-military posture against Pakistan was soon balanced strategically in the summer of 2020 by India's somewhat forgotten military fiascos against China in Galwan, Ladakh, and Arunachal Pradesh creating a dilemma of a two-front war for India. At the strategic and military levels the development carries serious security and operational ramifications for not only India's northern front against China but also for India's western front with Pakistan, the LOC in Kashmir, and Siachen. China cut India and its humiliated military to size in the full glare of international publicity - without firing a bullet. The Indian military, being built up by the West to become a net security provider in the region, was humiliated by China with pre-historic war-fighting tools: sticks, hammers, swords, and stones. The US and the West simply watched. They made no attempt whatsoever to come to India's help. India was let down not only by its military but also by its so-called international friends. India felt compelled to restore the ceasefire on the LOC with Pakistan in order to offset the possibility of a two-front war scenario. In my opinion, strategic stability between the two nuclear powers of South Asia was well served with an advantage to Pakistan.
 - c. Third, the US withdrawal from Afghanistan in 2021 led to fair

expectations in Pakistan of improved security environments on the western borders. Unfortunately, that was not to be. The Afghan Taliban soon turned on their benefactor of over four decades resulting in a deteriorating internal and external security situation on Pakistan's western borders and in the western provinces. The Afghan Taliban's perfidy with Pakistan has resulted in serious policy and physical clashes. India has fully exploited the bad blood situation between Pakistan and Afghanistan by funding and arming the TTP as well as the Balochistan militancy. This in some ways is a consequence of Pakistan's robust nuclear capability having seriously curtailed India's offensive military options on Pakistan's eastern borders.

d. Fourth, India's unwarranted attack on Pakistani territory by a nuclear-capable Brahmos missile in March 2022 to which Pakistan did not retaliate in kind but preferred to handle it politically and diplomatically. Notwithstanding India's false claim that it was an accidental launch, the attack remains yet another

demonstrated milestone in India's irresponsible conduct as a nuclear power. At the very least, the incident reflects alarmingly on India's system of command and control of its nuclear arsenal.

e. Fifth, Iran's missile strikes on Pakistani territory near Panjgur in Balochistan in January 2024 were rather perplexing. Iran, a non-nuclear power, long enjoying supposedly friendly relations with brotherly Pakistan, violated nuclear-armed Pakistan's territorial integrity without any worthwhile provocation. Pakistan was left with little choice but to retaliate with appropriate counterstrikes inside Iran in order to restore the superior deterrence value of Pakistan's conventional and strategic forces. Pakistan could not have afforded to buckle under and accept the dilution of its deterrence. The in-built message of Pakistan's counter strikes on Iran brought Iran's foreign minister rushing to Islamabad within a week to calm down the tensions, and back off. However, when we see the incident in the context of Iran's continued conduct of allowing India's RAW to freely operate unhindered from Chahbahar against Pakistan, as in the arrest of the Indian Navy's Commander Kulbhushan Jadhav, and the continued freedom and sanctuaries for the Baloch militants to operate from Irani territory against Balochistan, one seriously wonders as to what to make of Iran's policies.

f. Sixth, while the foregoing events on Pakistan's eastern and western borders are disconcerting and a reflection of the challenging strategic and geo-political environments, a positive development is



(L to R) AD NCA, Lt. Gen. Khalid Ahmed Kidwai,
Dr. Masuma Hasan &
Ambassador Hasan Habib

the emerging Pakistan-Bangladesh rapprochement in the works, with inherent possibilities of mutual strategic, political, and economic benefits. The development certainly has India worried.

4. In addition to the foregoing developments in our immediate eastern and western neighborhoods, there are important lessons to be drawn for a nuclear power like Pakistan from the two ongoing high-attrition wars in Ukraine, the Middle East, and West Asia to include the genocidal war in Gaza and Palestine, Syria, Lebanon, and Iran.
5. The Ukraine War. The fundamental lesson for Pakistan coming out of the Ukraine War is the criticality of the retention of a strong nuclear capability as a strategic deterrence for Pakistan's national security and survival. When the former USSR collapsed, Ukraine, in a moment of strategic insanity, gave up almost 2000 nuclear weapons and the consequences are there for everyone to see. Lesson: Pakistan must continue to preserve and strengthen its nuclear capabilities against all potential threats, withstand and rebuff all international pressures, and never ever allow the slightest doubt to creep into its national and strategic determination about the centrality and criticality of its nuclear program for national security and survival. Pakistan has had that strategic clarity for 52 years through successive governments irrespective of the politics of the day, and must continue to retain that clarity forever.
6. The Wars in the Middle East and West Asia. The rapidly emerging political and military developments in West Asia have now assumed special significance for Pakistan when read in conjunction with some of the recent US actions and statements against Pakistan's nuclear and missile program. These need to be taken and monitored with the utmost seriousness. Pakistan needs to watch very carefully the strategic developments taking place rapidly in West Asia where many of the presumed buffer states are seemingly in a state of political and military disarray and meltdown, creating strategic vacuums. The emerging strategic vacuums will then leave Pakistan's security exposed to inimical forces in West Asia, in addition to the existing situation with India in the East.
7. China. In the geopolitical milieu of today's global order, or disorder, it is China as the emerging superpower which poses multiple challenges to the US in the political, economic, military, and technological spheres. More than a kinetic military war, China is now preparing itself for a trade war which might be resumed by President Trump from where he left it in 2020. A trade war between the two superpowers will have strategic and economic consequences for South Asia for both India and Pakistan.
8. Pakistanis should thank our elders of many, many, decades ago who took the strategic decision of befriending China. The vision of that stroke of genius bears fruit today and Pakistan, in my opinion, will find itself on the right side of history in the coming years and decades even though much more needs to be done by Pakistan today to cash in on the historic advantage that it has inherited.
9. What are the emerging challenges for Pakistan especially because of Pakistan's

traditional and strong strategic relationship with China on the one hand as well as a long history of transactional relationship with the US on the other hand? Is a balancing act possible that would work to serve Pakistan's national interests? How should Pakistan in the context of its security interests view and respond to the clear strategic choice that the US has made in over two decades by now, of propping up India as a counterweight to China?

10. South Asia. In the context of South Asia, we need to understand and register the strategic reality of the vital strategic balance that Pakistan is compelled to maintain in the nuclear equation viz India as THE determinant of the state of strategic stability in South Asia, particularly given the asymmetry in conventional forces. For the last many decades, it has become a Pakistani responsibility, by default, not to allow the South Asian strategic balance to be disturbed to Pakistan's disadvantage despite India's persistent efforts to undo it at every opportunity.

Pakistan's policy of maintaining and strengthening the policy of Full Spectrum Deterrence in the nuclear field is, therefore, central to the retention of strategic balance in South Asia. The criticality of adhering to that policy is reinforced by the eight major geopolitical developments in and around Pakistan that I have just highlighted, some of these directly on Pakistani soil or on Pakistan's eastern and western borders. The policy of Full Spectrum Deterrence has enforced peace on our eastern borders, howsoever fragile it might seem.

11. After taking a comprehensive review of the emerging strategic environments in and around Pakistan over the last 6 odd years, without going too far back, we can now connect the dots with the year 2024 as we look at it in retrospect. I shall highlight the nuclear developments that took place in 2024, with particular reference to Pakistan, as also assess their regional and global impact.
12. With reference to Pakistan, there are six events of 2024 that need to be recapped. Of these, three are good news stories, and three are not so good stories. First, the good news stories:
- First, Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission in 2024 continued to successfully and continuously operate Pakistan's six civil nuclear power plants, all installed with the assistance of our ever-reliable friend China. All were completed on an average of 6 months ahead of time, and all were operated entirely by Pakistani nuclear engineers. These include the four nuclear power plants at Chashma near Mianwali with a total capacity of 1330 MWs, and the two newly commissioned KANUPP-2 and KANUPP-3 power plants at Paradise Point Karachi with a total capacity of 2200 MWs. All together in 2024, the six nuclear power plants provided the national grid with 3530 MWs of clean, reliable, safe, and relatively cheap electricity. I would count this national achievement as a silent but major Pakistani success story of 2024.
 - Second, still with the civil nuclear energy program and good news, the year 2024 saw the commencement of construction of a new nuclear power plant Chashma 5 with a capacity of 1200 MW. This too is

in collaboration with China. It will be completed InshaAllah in 2030. The successive nuclear power plants are being constructed within the scope of a programme called Nuclear Energy Vision 2050, which was conceived by the Strategic Plans Division in 2011, and was developed by the Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission for implementation. Nuclear Energy Vision 2050, which is self-financing and self-sustaining, visualizes the production of 42000 MW of electricity by the year 2050, through the installation of 29 nuclear power plants spread across the four provinces. The Vision was approved by Pakistan's National Command Authority in 2011. To put the target of 42000 MWs of electricity in perspective, while Pakistanis have agonized over the construction of the 3600 MWs Kalabagh Dam for nearly 70 years, in contrast, Nuclear Energy Vision 2050 will InshaAllah deliver in the next 25 years, 42000 MWs, which is the equivalent of nearly 11 Kalabagh Dams. I think there is life beyond Kalabagh Dam and Pakistan needs to stay the course with Nuclear Energy Vision 2050.

c. Third, still staying with good stories, Pakistan's space program, which has strong strategic linkages with the nuclear program in addition to critical uses for civil purposes, attained a take-off stage in 2024. After years of dedicated and sustained efforts by the SPD and SUPARCO, Pakistan has been successful, with Chinese assistance, to place a number of satellites in space in the last two decades. These include Communications Satellites, Earth Observation satellites with 0.5-meter resolution for imagery purposes, and a

few others. You might have read about the indigenously built EO-1 satellite launched by Pakistan earlier this month. Unfortunately, the pre-SPD story of the space program and SUPARCO is abysmal. It was only after the SPD brought SUPARCO under its wings in 2001 from the Cabinet Division that the space program got winds in its sails and started to deliver. Today, the space programme follows yet another visionary programme called Pakistan's Space Vision 2047 which too was approved by the National Command Authority in 2011.

d. Now talking about the regional and global impact of the two foregoing visions for nuclear energy and for space. The greatest impact that we have been able to generate on certain regional and international powers that would like to isolate Pakistan strategically, is to demonstrate to them Pakistan's strategic will to attain and retain strategic autonomy when it comes to national security. By staying the course, brushing off pressures, and forging ahead on both the critical national programs, we have further demonstrated that Pakistan has a valued strategic partner in China which will not allow Pakistan to be isolated.

This demonstration was particularly necessary when in 2008, the US mainstreamed India in the international nuclear order by rushing through an exemption or waiver for India by the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG) while denying the same to Pakistan. This unequal and discriminatory treatment was balanced by Pakistan through the determined Pakistan-China cooperation in the nuclear energy and space

programs. The result has been that over time, the attempts to isolate Pakistan in these two areas have been managed well by Pakistan and the international efforts have by and large lost steam.

- e. I shall now move on to a few negative events that occurred in 2024 with which Pakistan has had to grapple, and will InshaAllah continue to grapple successfully. These negative events, in a series of five sub-events as part of one larger and linked plot, targeted Pakistan's strategic missiles program in the usual discriminatory manner that Pakistan has got so used to ever since Pakistan embarked on the nuclear program in 1972.

The international plot remains oblivious and insensitive to Pakistan's genuine security concerns viz India, and of course, generously ignores India's much larger missile and space program. Perhaps some of you may have followed these developments of 2024 in the media. Briefly, the five sub-events of the broader anti-Pakistan push, were as follows:

- (1) First, on 12 September 2024, the US imposed sanctions on a Chinese research institute and several Chinese companies it said have been involved in supplying Pakistan's ballistic missile program, especially the long-range Shaheen-3 (range 2750 km) and the 2000 km Ababeel MIRV systems. MIRV stands for Multiple Independently Targeting Re-Entry Vehicle, meaning that one Ababeel missile carries multiple nuclear warheads. Pakistan strongly rejected the charge of being the recipient of the so-called supplies.
- (2) Second, on 18 December 2024, the US

sanctioned one government and three private sector Pakistani entities for being allegedly involved in the development of weapons of mass destruction. This absurd allegation too was rejected by Pakistan as perplexing. Pakistan has been a declared nuclear weapons power since May 1998, as indeed is India.

Both countries are not signatories to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT). Pakistan has a robust and vibrant indigenous nuclear and missile programme which is well known to the world. Why then suddenly Pakistani entities needed to be sanctioned for being involved in the development of so-called weapons of mass destruction defies logic and can be placed in the category of a mala fide act.

- (3) Third, interestingly, in an act of blatant discrimination as well as stretching favoritism and absurdity to its extreme, the US on 15th of January 2025, almost simultaneously, actually removed three Indian nuclear entities from the sanctions list. These included Indian Rare Earths, Indira Gandhi Atomic Research Center, and Bhabha Atomic Research Center, all three involved in the development of weapons of mass destruction. But then such are the ways of the world.
- (4) Fourth, in a similar vein, one can recall the frequent incidents that continue to occur in India regarding a string of thefts and smuggling of uranium for sale on the international black market by organized cartels, as well as individuals. These are most benignly ignored by the US and other Western governments despite the strong potential for the stolen uranium to fall into terrorist hands for the purpose of making dirty bombs.

AlHamdoLillah, due to Pakistan's strong nuclear security measures, not a single story of a similar activity has ever emerged from Pakistan. One can imagine the hell that would break loose internationally if such an incident were to happen in Pakistan. Pakistan's chief concern ought to be to highlight to the international community the possibility of a dirty bomb incident, based on India's smuggled uranium, being sponsored by inimical forces as a false flag operation and then pinning the blame on Pakistan.

- (5) Fifth, on 19 December 2024, and this one takes the cake, a new debate was sparked in Washington with regard to Pakistan's intentions about its ballistic missiles program when Jon Finer, the outgoing US Deputy National Security Advisor gave a talk at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. Finer said: "Pakistan has pursued increasingly sophisticated missile technology, from long-range ballistic missile systems to equipment that would enable the testing of significantly larger rocket motors...If those trends continue, Pakistan will have the capability to strike targets well beyond South Asia, including in the United States.

The number of nuclear-armed states with missiles that can reach the U.S. homeland is very small and they tend to be adversarial," he continued, naming Russia, North Korea, and China. "So candidly, it's hard for us to see Pakistan's actions as anything other than an emerging threat to the United States," said Finer.

- f. Now, when we link the five sub-events, that is, the sequential sanctions against the Chinese and Pakistani entities, along

with the almost simultaneous removal of similar sanctions against Indian entities directly involved in the production of so-called "weapons of mass destruction", followed a day later by the loaded but absurd allegation of Pakistan's long-range missiles becoming a direct threat to the US, the whole package as a sinister plot paints a clear picture of blatant discrimination and bias by the US against Pakistan's nuclear and missile program while fully cooperating in the development of India's nuclear program. In this regard, I would like to say that for over five decades, since 1974, Pakistan has learned to live with US and Western sanctions generally and against its nuclear program specifically. There is nothing new in it; it's a straightforward case of chronic indigestion that refuses to go away. The good news is that in practical terms, on the ground, the sanctions are worthless, and meaningless because Pakistan never has, and till today, does not depend on US or Western suppliers for technology or equipment. Pakistan's nuclear and missile program has AlHamdoLillah matured over five decades to the point that today it is indigenous and that is its inherent strength.

- g. What is new however and, once again if I may use the words perplexing and absurd, is the US insinuation that Pakistan's missile program is in pursuit of long ranges that may target the US itself. The insinuation is mind-boggling. Why on earth would Pakistan, in all its sanity, want to commit national suicide by bringing the sole superpower of the world, the United States of America in its cross-hair defies all bounds of logic? The

US is 12000 km from Pakistan. I am lost for words as to which of Pakistan's modest range missile systems, which barely cover India, Mr. Finer had in mind before going public with such a profound charge. The only conclusion that I can possibly draw is that the Indian lobby in the US, which has not only attained a very strong voice in the US but has also penetrated and acquired important placements in the US industry, bureaucracy, and government, is now in a position to influence and shape US policies, to its advantage at least in South Asia. It has likely sponsored this new bogey of Pakistan's nuclear and missile program becoming a threat to the US itself in the dying days of the Biden Administration basically to flag the allegation as a future agenda point for follow-up by the incoming Trump Administration, which now consists of, as already announced, some key senior office holders who are on record as being strongly pro-India. Pakistan's leadership and diplomacy have their work cut out and will have to face the challenges squarely.

13. Before I end, I shall briefly mention three nuclear developments on the international scene in 2024 not linked to Pakistan or South Asia. One pertains to the war in Ukraine, while two pertain to the Middle East.
14. First, in the Ukraine war, in May and June 2024, in an effort to discourage the West from ramping up support for Ukraine, Russia, and Belarus conducted tactical nuclear weapons drills as a message to the West that in extreme situations, Russia could resort to the use of tactical nukes. Russia had been warning about

the possibility since 2022 but then upped the ante in 2024 to further impose caution. The West however did not take the message seriously and continued arming Ukraine.

15. Earlier in November 2023, Russia had announced that it was withdrawing its ratification of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT). It was a signal to the West that Russia would be free to conduct nuclear tests of a variety of nuclear weapons as it deemed fit. The withdrawal of the CTBT ratification also brought Russia's position at par with the USA which has signed but not ratified the CTBT. This first step by Russia in the nuclear realm in 2023 had apparently not impressed the West, and so in conjunction with Belarus, Russia took the next step on the escalatory ladder of signaling the use of tactical nuclear weapons.

Thereafter, however, as the US November elections approached, Russia probably decided to go slow on nuclear signaling in anticipation or hope of a Trump victory. As it turned out, the Russian gamble in exercising nuclear restraint paid off with a Trump victory. President Trump of course is committed to ending the Ukraine war soonest, as indeed he has ended the Israeli war of genocide in Gaza even before his formal inauguration by a simple threat to both Hamas and Israel.

16. Second, in the Middle East, in continuation of its war against Hamas and Hezbollah all through 2024, Israel toyed seriously with launching air strikes to destroy Iran's nuclear facilities. When Iran twice launched missile and drone strikes against Israel, Israel retaliated

with conventional air strikes against Iran's military infrastructure, especially against Iran's air defenses as a possible prelude to air strikes against Iran's nuclear facilities. For some days and weeks, the possibility seemed like a touch-and-go affair but Israel stopped just short of such strikes possibly on the advice of the US.

17. Third, again in the Middle East, I shall mention only in passing yet another nuclear development of 2024 on the nuclear front, this is a positive one, in the realm of nuclear energy for civilian use. For some years now, there has been an encouraging trend in the Middle East to diversify energy sources beyond oil. The UAE pioneered the trend in 2009 by signing a contract with South Korea for 4 nuclear reactors of 1400 MWs each making a total of 5600 Mws.

Accurate cost estimates are not available and vary from USD 20 billion to USD 32 billion. Three out of the four plants, all under IAEA safeguards, and located at Barakah in Abu Dhabi, were sequentially commissioned in 2021, 2022, and 2023. The fourth one was commissioned last year in September 2024. A point of interest that I would like to highlight on a comparative basis between Pakistan and the UAE is the importance and value of decision-making and availability of funds.

I stated earlier with much pride that Pakistan today produces 3530 MWs of nuclear energy from 6 power plants at Chashma and Karachi. These six plants were constructed over 30 years from 1992 to 2022 and generated 3530 MW. And here is the UAE, awash with cash and quick decision-making, producing

5600 MWs from 4 nuclear power plants constructed over 14 years from 2009 to 2024.

18. Also in the Middle East, Saudi Arabia, taking a cue from the UAE, is now seriously considering nuclear energy as an additional diversified energy source. In fact, one of the pre-conditions that the Saudis have placed in the Abraham Accords for recognition of Israel is the provision of nuclear power plants. It remains to be seen if the Saudis will be allowed to move on that path.
19. To conclude, ladies and gentlemen, I would like to recap a few points that I have made:
- a. Pakistan's security environments have always been under variable pressure for the most part of our existence and Pakistan's strategic planners have responded to these in their wisdom from time to time. If there is one aspect that stands out it is that having established a robust nuclear capability articulated through the policy of Full Spectrum Deterrence, Pakistan has closed the doors to large-scale wars with India perhaps forever, if I may. This is central to Pakistan's national security and a huge achievement that Pakistan, despite relative asymmetry in the conventional force equation, has literally enforced and compelled peace in South Asia; this success has deflected India into low-cost warfare on our western borders and western provinces is something that Pakistani planners must seriously worry about and develop more coherent response options in the socio-politico-military fields in order to restore true overall peace and stability.

Continued on page 30

THE MYTH OF TRUMP'S ANTI-ESTABLISHMENT PERSONA

NUSRAT MIRZA

The portrayal of US President Donald Trump as an anti-establishment leader has been central to his political brand. His campaign slogan, "Make America Great Again" (MAGA), resonates with those disillusioned by the political status quo, promising a revival of America's past glory. However, a closer examination reveals that many of Trump's strategies align with those traditionally attributed to the establishment or the "deep state" Or Elites of America.

This alignment becomes evident in a carefully orchestrated four-pronged approach, which includes the UK's departure from the European Union, stringent immigration policies, economic maneuvers resulting in inflation, and the looming threat of global conflict. This writer has highlighted the USA's agenda in his writings. Far from dismantling the establishment, Trump's actions reflect continuity with longstanding strategic objectives of preserving U.S. dominance over the world.

BREXIT: WEAKENING EUROPEAN UNITY

The United Kingdom's decision to leave the European Union, widely known as Brexit, represents the first prong of this approach. Trump was a vocal supporter of Brexit, viewing it as an act of reclaiming sovereignty and rejecting the influence of a supranational entity. His public endorsements and interactions with key Brexit leaders, such as



Donald Trump while running his presidential election campaign

Nigel Farage, underscored his ideological alignment with the movement.

Brexit, however, is more than just a question of sovereignty. It serves a larger strategic purpose. A unified Europe under the EU poses a potential rival power bloc to the United States. By supporting Britain's exit, the Trump administration implicitly supported the weakening of collective European power. This divide-and-conquer strategy aligns with a longstanding U.S. approach to ensure that no European entity grows strong enough to challenge American dominance. By breaking away from the EU, Britain became more reliant on its "special relationship" with the U.S., solidifying Washington's influence over London while undermining Brussels.

This tactic is hardly anti-establishment. It

mirrors traditional deep-state strategies of realigning global alliances to favor American interests. In this sense, Brexit is less about sovereignty and more about tilting the balance of power to benefit the U.S., reinforcing the idea that Trump's presidency, despite its populist veneer, adhered to conventional geopolitical goals.

IMMIGRATION POLICIES: A CONTROLLED DEMOGRAPHIC SHIFT

The second prong of this strategy revolves around immigration. Trump's administration implemented some of the most stringent immigration policies in recent U.S. history. From the infamous travel bans targeting predominantly Muslim countries to the separation of families at the border, his presidency prioritized reducing the influx of immigrants. These actions, framed as protecting American jobs and ensuring national security, resonated with his base but also had broader implications.

One of the core objectives of these policies appears to be a reversal of demographic trends in the United States. By promoting the idea of "mass migration" back to immigrants' home countries, Trump aligned himself with a philosophy that seeks to preserve a specific cultural and economic status quo. This

philosophy is not new; it echoes historical efforts to control labor markets and maintain cultural homogeneity in the face of globalization.

What makes this approach striking is its alignment with establishment interests. Controlling demographic shifts has long been a strategy to address economic and social challenges, particularly in periods of political upheaval. By framing immigration as a threat and promoting policies that force immigrants out, Trump's administration effectively reinforced traditional power structures. Far from dismantling the establishment, these actions perpetuated its goals under the guise of populist rhetoric.

ECONOMIC MANEUVERS: THE INFLATIONARY STRATEGY

The third prong of this strategy involves the manipulation of economic systems, particularly through policies that contribute to global inflation. Trump's trade wars, particularly with China, are a prime example. By imposing tariffs on Chinese goods and pressuring allies to follow suit, his administration disrupted global supply chains. While these measures were framed as efforts to protect American industries, their broader impact was to increase the cost of goods and services, both domestically and internationally.

Global inflation, driven in part by these policies, serves as a tool to consolidate economic power. Inflation disproportionately affects developing nations, widening the gap between the Global North and South. For the United States, this means maintaining its position at the top of the global economic hierarchy while limiting the ability of emerging economies to challenge its dominance. This is not an anti-establishment move; it is a classic establishment strategy of economic



Donald Trump's supporters protest outside the Luxe Hotel in Brentwood - FILE PHOTO

hegemony.

Moreover, the inflationary pressures created by such policies provide justification for austerity measures and increased control over financial systems. By engineering a scenario in which global markets are destabilized, the establishment or in this case, the Trump administration acting in alignment with its goals ensures that power remains centralized within a few key economies. The impact on everyday Americans, who bear the brunt of higher prices, is framed as collateral damage in the pursuit of larger national interests.

THE LOOMING THREAT OF GLOBAL CONFLICT

The final prong of this approach is perhaps the most consequential: the prospect of a global war. While Trump is often credited with avoiding new large-scale military conflicts during his first term, his administration's actions laid the groundwork for increased global tensions. By withdrawing from international agreements, escalating trade wars, and taking a hardline stance against nations like Iran and North Korea, Trump's foreign policy contributed to an atmosphere of uncertainty and mistrust.

The realignment of military alliances further underscores this point. Trump's emphasis on strengthening NATO, despite his criticism of member contributions, and his increased military spending reflect a preparation for potential conflicts. The Quad alliance, involving the U.S., India, Japan, and Australia, emerged as a counterweight to China's growing influence in the Indo-Pacific. These actions suggest a strategy of containment, which, historically, has often preceded military engagement.

The potential for a global war, whether through direct confrontation or proxy conflicts,



NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg and US President Donald Trump - FILE PHOTO

serves a dual purpose. It consolidates power within the hands of the military-industrial complex and reasserts the United States' role as the world's leading superpower. Far from being a departure from the establishment, this approach aligns with its most traditional objectives.

CHALLENGING THE ANTI-ESTABLISHMENT NARRATIVE

When viewed through this lens, the idea that Trump is anti-establishment begins to crumble. His actions, far from dismantling the deep state, appear to support its underlying philosophy. The four-pronged approach Brexit, immigration policies, inflationary economic measures, and the preparation for potential global conflict reflects a continuity with historical strategies designed to preserve U.S. dominance. What sets Trump apart is not his deviation from the establishment but his ability to rebrand these strategies as populist. By appealing to the frustrations of ordinary Americans and framing himself as an outsider, he has successfully sold establishment goals as revolutionary. This duality—anti-establishment rhetoric coupled with pro-establishment actions—is perhaps the defining feature of Trump's political legacy.

Continued on page 27

INDIA'S STRATEGIC VISION



BRIG AGHA AHMAD GUL, (RETD)

A nation state needs a military system. Military system is meant to counter the perceived external threats and also to manage internal socio-political upheavals to preserve and achieve national interests, aims and objectives. Military system starts from the lowest levels of recruitments, all the way upward to tactical, operational and strategic levels. It develops concepts of war fighting for each service, then the joint-war, suggesting the weapon systems, doctrines, training and then application of this join-force when needed against a perceived or actual threat.

India's military threat perception and strategic vision often appears wonky. Mostly it's against Pakistan and when it suits them for the consumption of the US, the threat perception shifts against China. They frequently threaten Pakistan that they will capture Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) and Gilgat Baltistan(GB). Once in a while some of

the politicians also talk of capturing entire Pakistan to create 'Akhand Bharat', a mythical megalomania from which some in India periodically suffer. The so called 'Akhand Bharat' has never existed in history. Even the present political map which India has, was hammered out by the colonial British Raj which very unwisely, they had named India. While there are 17 separatist movements in progress in India, Indian Occupied Kashmir (IOK), Mao, Eastern states and Khalistan to name a few.

Rather than manage these powerful fissiparous movements, India illegally goes on occupying Jammu and Kashmir, retaining a few hundred square kilometers of Arabian Sea by contesting Sir Creek of Pakistan, and 'peacefully grapple' with China in the north to assert its 'sovereign right' over a stretch of Himalaya's barren high mountains which the Colonial British had arbitrarily marked as 'their territory'. India cannot control IOK despite having dumped some 700,000 troops there for the last nearly 4 decades. Abrogating Article 370 in 2019 which deprived IOK of the special status as a disputed erstwhile princely state, has not helped either. Indeed, the socio-political situation has further deteriorated. Indian Army clamping frequent curfews and killings of young Kashmiri freedom fighters has become a routine.

How would it control more warlike population in GB and AJK? And what about



Thousands protest in the Occupied Kashmir against Modi's brutal regime



Pakistan? Assuming they 'capture Pakistan', will they be able to assimilate and control this heavily armed nation? Not only heavily armed, but willing to fight India till the last drop of blood. India seems to have forgotten how a handful of soldiers fought back even when surrounded in erstwhile East Pakistan and later at Kargil. They fought without fear and without hope. This is the highest tribute any soldier can display in battle. Pakistan's armed forces are imbued by this attribute. And what has just happened in Bangladesh should be taken as a proof that India cannot indefinitely rule over Muslim majority states, ingloriously left by the British vulnerable or under control of India.

India's strategic vision appears to be that of a regional-super power. It tries to pursue that vision but is frequently found lacking. It wants to have a blue water navy and strategically offensive army and air force. Blue water Navy for what purpose? Fighting China or blockading Pakistan? Too inadequate for both the aims. What is the Indian purpose of having a strategically offensive army and air force?

To capture AJK and GB, it's an over kill and unsuitably burdened by mechanized forces

which cannot move in mountainous terrain and in the Punjab during monsoons. The IAF was put to shame when PAF knocked off its' two fighter aircrafts and deliberately spared many more in the crosshairs of its Jet-fighters during February 2019, displaying a strategic restraint.

India did not hesitate to award the highest military award to Abi-nandan for having been shot down, for shooting down an imaginary F-16 of PAF. The picture of the PAF pilot, supposedly shot down, was that of an unharmed dashing fighter pilot still in service. After losing to China some 2,000 sq km area around Galwan Valley in January 2021, Modi denied it with a poker face. The Indians accepted it, but the ground realities are different.

Against China, India's military system is neither equipped, oriented, nor trained. Interestingly, the disputed barren high plateaus of Himalayas actually have no commercial or social value for India. Exactly as Siachen has no commercial or social value for India. Trying to retain the British drawn McMahan Line arbitrarily in 1914, is historically untenable, futile and strategically foolish, not being a vital ground for India.

Offensive demands movement and firepower. Defense needs to kill that mobility



Indian Air Force (IAF) pilot Abhinandan Varthaman, captured, along with the wreckage of his destroyed MiG-21-FILE PHOTO

using ground friction and of course firepower. Indian offensive against Pakistan will be grossly impeded by the terrain, mountains, network of canals, soggy grounds and defender's comfort of successfully fighting back attacks even with 1 to 7 ratios of strength. PAF is highly trained and battle-hardened. The Pakistani public, heavily armed and endlessly threatened by India, with over 4 m retired/reservist soldiers mostly battle worthy, will fight back, even when isolated.

India's national military aims are not clear even to their generals. Politicians, of course have no idea of military system and operational strategy. Indian politico-military leadership is living in the mythical Mahabharata era and apparently their military system is only geared towards that.

In 77 years, they have developed the military system in fits and starts, more driven by the respective service chiefs' aspirations and size of kickbacks available than to dovetail in a joint strategic combined force capable of unleashing an integrated offensive for an achievable strategic vision and objective. Creation of Theater Commands recently, just goes to prove that Indian military is still not sure how and with what to fight its two major neighbours. Joining QUAD was appreciated by the Indians as a force multiplier but being left out in AUKUS made them realize their true value as an ally of the US. How could a non-Caucasian be included in AUKUS? The allies are not likely to stay allies for long.

India's nuclear capability is yet another example of mythical perceptions and unrealistic beliefs of self-assumed grandeur of the ancient centuries. Indian politicians are confidently stating that rubbing cow-dung over one's body will fully protect them from nuclear radiation of Pakistani nuclear bombs. The importance being accorded to drinking



Indian paramilitary soldiers stand guard during curfew in Srinagar in Indian Occupied Kashmir

cow-urine in this day is perplexing to say the least. This is where politicians' knowledge seems to be foggy. Surprisingly, even the Indian generals seem to be strategically rather naive as they keep rattling nuclear weapons and often talk of attacking Pakistan while 'staying under the nuclear threshold'! What do they know about 'Pakistan's Nuclear Threshold'? This is self-delusion at best and gross incompetence at worst.

Indian generals' lack of knowledge pertaining to nuclear war-fighting is amazing but they often betray it by their megalomaniac intentions, frequently aired while addressing demoralized Indian Army in IOK. It is perhaps the most alarming component of the Indian strategic vision. The world has not experienced nuclear war-fighting. But Indian politicians and professionals together openly threaten a 'short-nuclear-war'! Or a war against Pakistan under 'nuclear umbrella'! Either they don't understand what they are suggesting or it is for public consumption.

Either way, it is dangerous for them. To a professional soldier it means a total war with Mutually Assured Destruction, MAD. Given the geographical proximity, if a nuclear weapons'

exchange between Pakistan and India occurs, it will escalate in far quicker time, than the war gaming of the erstwhile NATO-Warsaw Pact forces used to be. In matter of days if not hours, the nuclear exchange will end, the lucky ones would die quickly.

The electro-magnetic pulse would kill all engines, electricity, electronic systems, communications and motors. The survivors will be trying to limp away from various grounds zero, searching for uncontaminated water, food, protection from the continuous radiation from nuclear fallout and medical aid to somehow survive. They have no idea what they are suggesting and its uncontrollable dynamics and retaliations which no amount of cow-dung, not even Indian-cows' dung and urine, will be able to protect against deadly nuclear radiation.

India detonated a 'peaceful nuclear' device in Pokhran in 1974 giving it disrespectfully the name of Bhudda, 'Smiling-Bhudda'. It was in very bad taste and disrespectful to that great man Buddha! Then for years they had no nuclear doctrine. The ministers of India often talk of 'not-ruling-out-the First-Strike' against Pakistan. This implies that even if they launch a few non-nuclear missiles at Pakistan which will obviously be detected by radars, Pakistan will assume they are nuclear and should counter attack with nuclear weapons.



India's First Nuclear Test at Pokhran in 1974

The so called limited-nuclear-war will indeed be limited as it will end in a limited time of a few hours of nuclear exchanges. First Strike as decapitating strategy of the enemy is always catered for. First Strike will be responded as an inbuilt, system retaliation. But the devastation it will wreck on a billion or more people, will linger on for decades. Even the Indian generals seem to have no idea, or perhaps do not wish to correct the politicians.

There have been wild ideas of operational strategy from the Indian generals. In 1984 India occupied an undefended area, Siachen Glacier in the northeastern Pakistan, including its tributaries, ranging in height from 15,000-22,000 feet under permafrost. Pakistan Army reacted and ever since both armies are facing each other incapable of ejecting the other due to extreme low temperatures, low oxygen and very little even foot mobility. For the past 40 years, both armies are paying the price of this adventure by an expansionist India having unsound strategic vision. The casualties on both sides are primarily weather-related rather than enemy action.

Soon thereafter, in 1986-7 General Sunderji planned an exercise Operation Brass-tacks. It was to be an offensive against Pakistan, penetrating from Jaisalmer area with three corps heading for Faisalabad as the strategic objective, on the maps. He demanded all reserves at brigade, division and corps levels to be launched simultaneously rather than sequentially, presumably to maintain a General Guderian style blitzkrieg speed of offensive. While the Exercise was still in initial stages, the reactive manoeuvres of Pakistan Army, threatened Indian north which was left undefended. Sunderji was forced to halt the Exercise and in panic rushed troops to the north to restore defensive balance in the undefended areas of Indian-north. The exercise whimpered to a



Lt. General K Sundarji (Centre), General A.S. Vaidya (Right), Major General K.S. Brar (Left) after Operation Bluestar

halt during the first phase only.

Then came yet another Indian operational idea of Cold-Start to overrun at least border areas of Pakistan without announcing mobilization and declaring a war. In a haste Integrated Battle Groups (IBGs) having mechanized troops were organised accordingly. Indian cantonments and airfields were moved further close to Pakistan's eastern border. Although this idea has been milling around since 35 some years, Indians are not sure of its success. 'Indian Strike Corps,' and IBG to the extent of their designations, sound impressive. But what are their capabilities in terms of manoeuvres, giving a battle, manoeuvring for another objective and another battle?

This has yet to be tried out. There are no vast uninhabited open spaces in Pakistan like the North Africa during the WWII and there will be no free run. Every manoeuvre, every bridgehead and every battle will be contested ferociously, even with artillery and rocket-fired low yield nuclear weapons, the likes of whose effect, Indian generals cannot seem to imagine.

Indian art of war is in shambles because of lack of sound strategic vision, threat perceptions, incompatible operational and tactical doctrines, logistic issues and stamina, perhaps most important, the will. Rather than grapple with these massive issues, would it not be easier, cost effective and simpler to grossly reduce the aggressive designs against Pakistan and China, and resolve the lingering on conflicts peacefully?

Indian threat perception can be grossly reduced if it follows, in all honesty, the Partition Agenda passed by the British Parliament in the Act of Indian Independence on 27 Feb 1947, where Muslim majority areas were to be part of Pakistan. It should handover Kashmir to Pakistan upholding the spirit of the Partition. The British drawn border along the northern areas of India, was completely one sided. India should accept that it needs to be settled. It will be far more cost effective to let China take what is rightfully hers. Strategically, India will not suffer. Indeed, Indian defence spending will save trillions which it can then spend on starving millions of Indians living below poverty level.

India is a very big country, having very long Eastern and Western seaboard but landlocked by Pakistan in the west and China in the north. No economic setbacks will take place if India behaves with wisdom, indeed, there will be massive economic dividends. East-West corridor through Pakistan can open access to Middle East, Central Asia and Europe. India will also live in history as a sagacious, peaceful country who handled the conflicts with far sight and did not hesitate to modify its socio-political positions. History will remember India kindly.

The author is the Founder Consultant of Balochistan Think Tank Network (BTTN), Quetta.

PAKISTAN'S FIRST INDIGENOUS ELECTRO-OPTICAL SATELLITE EO-1



PAKISTAN'S FIRST INDIGENOUS ELECTRO- OPTICAL SATELLITE EO-1



SYED SAMIULLAH

On January 17, 2025, Pakistan achieved a monumental milestone in its journey towards self-reliance and technological excellence by successfully launching its first indigenous observation satellite, PRSC-EO1 (Pakistan Remote Sensing Satellite - Earth Observation 1). The launch took place at the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Centre in northern China aboard a Long March-2D carrier rocket. The Space and Upper Atmosphere Research Commission (SUPARCO) spearheaded the project, highlighting Pakistan's growing expertise in space science and technology. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif congratulated the nation, including the scientists and engineers, on the satellite's successful launch. "Congratulations to our scientists and engineers for their dedication and great team effort!" he said. The prime minister also commended SUPARCO's efforts, emphasizing that the successful launch demonstrated



PRSC-EO1 while moving to its destination

Pakistan's advancing capabilities in space science and technology.

SIGNIFICANCE OF PRSC-EO1

PRSC-EO1 represents a significant step forward in Pakistan's aspirations to leverage space technology for national progress and sustainable development. The satellite is equipped with electro-optical sensors designed to capture high-resolution data and images of the Earth's surface by detecting and measuring reflected sunlight or emitted radiation. This data plays a crucial role in applications such as agriculture, urban planning, disaster management, and natural resource monitoring. The satellite also enhances Pakistan's strategic and scientific standing within the global space community. The Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) described it as a "momentous milestone."

"Today's achievement positions advanced



**Pakistan successfully launches indigenous
Electro-Optical Satellite EO-1**

space technology capabilities at the forefront of Pakistan's national progress and development, in alignment with the objectives of the National Space Policy," stated Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar.

APPLICATIONS OF EO-1

The PRSC-EO1 satellite is a game-changer for various sectors in Pakistan. Its applications are diverse and promise to drive significant socio-economic benefits:

A. AGRICULTURE

EO-1 plays a pivotal role in agriculture by enabling precision farming through precise monitoring of crop health and identifying areas needing attention, such as irrigation or pest control. Its advanced imaging capabilities assist in optimizing water use by analyzing soil moisture levels, thereby enhancing irrigation management. Additionally, the satellite facilitates accurate crop yield predictions, aiding in effective food security planning and minimizing wastage.

B. URBAN PLANNING

In the realm of urban planning, the satellite plays a vital role by enabling the monitoring of infrastructure growth and urban expansion, providing policymakers with essential data to track and manage development effectively. Additionally, it aids in controlling unplanned urban sprawl by delivering updated geographical information, ensuring better planning and sustainable urban growth.

C. DISASTER MANAGEMENT

EO-1 plays a crucial role in disaster management by providing timely updates during floods to improve response times and minimize losses, assisting in identifying affected areas during earthquakes and landslides for efficient rescue operations, and monitoring deforestation trends and land

degradation to support environmental conservation efforts.

D. ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING

The satellite also plays a pivotal role in environmental and resource management by tracking glacier recession, which is vital for safeguarding Pakistan's water resources, providing detailed imaging to support efficient management of rivers, lakes, and reservoirs, and aiding in the exploration and conservation of minerals, oil, and gas reserves.

TECHNICAL ASPECTS OF EO-1

PRSC-EO1 is a state-of-the-art satellite built using advanced electro-optical technology. Its imaging sensors are capable of detecting radiation in both visible and infrared spectra, allowing it to capture high-resolution images of the Earth's surface. These images are crucial for:

- Geospatial analysis
- Environmental impact assessments
- Infrastructure mapping

COLLABORATION WITH CHINA

Pakistan's longstanding space collaboration with China has been pivotal to the success of its space program. The Long March-2D carrier rocket that launched PRSC-EO1 also carried two other Chinese satellites Tianlu-1 and Blue Carbon 1 into orbit. This mission highlights the robust technological partnership between Islamabad and Beijing, often described as being "higher



Pakistan's Electro-Optical Satellite EO- 1



Pakistan's flag can be seen clearly on the EO-1

than the Himalayas and deeper than the oceans." China's contribution to Pakistan's space drives includes previous launches of communication satellites like PakSat-MM1 and lunar exploration projects such as ICUBE-Qamar, a joint venture between SUPARCO and Shanghai Jiao Tong University. These collaborations reflect the growing aerospace ties between the two nations.

ECONOMIC IMPACT

The Earth observation satellite market, currently valued at \$5 billion, is one of the fastest-growing sectors in the space industry. Analysts predict this market will surpass \$8 billion by 2033. With the launch of PRSC-EO1, Pakistan positions itself to leverage this

Continued from page 18

THE MYTH OF TRUMP'S ANTI-ESTABLISHMENT PERSONA

CONCLUSION

The notion that Donald Trump is an anti-establishment leader is, at best, a carefully crafted illusion. His presidency, and the strategies it employed, align closely with traditional deep-state objectives. The four-pronged approach discussed facilitating Brexit, enforcing mass migration policies, manipulating economic conditions to induce inflation, and laying the groundwork for global conflict reflects a continuation of the

booming market for both economic and technological gains.

E-GOVERNANCE

EO-1 will enhance the efficiency of government services through improved data collection and analysis.

E-COMMERCE AND BROADBAND

Coupled with satellites like PakSat-MM1, EO-1 contributes to the digital transformation of Pakistan, improving connectivity and promoting economic activities.

CONCLUSION

As global powers like the US, China, and India expand their satellite networks, Pakistan's launch of PRSC-EO1 marks its entry into the competitive space arena. By leveraging this technology, Pakistan aims to narrow the gap with leading nations and achieve self-reliance in critical areas. The EO-1 satellite highlights Pakistan's commitment to space exploration and showcases the role of science and technology in driving national progress while inspiring future generations.

The author is the Head of Research Department at RFI and the Associate Editor of Monthly Interaction.

status quo, albeit under the guise of a populist movement. "Make America Great Again" may resonate as a call for change, but its underlying philosophy is deeply entrenched in establishment thinking. For those who seek to understand the dynamics of power in the modern world, Trump's presidency offers a case study in how establishment strategies can be repackaged to appeal to an anti-establishment sentiment. The question remains: how long can this illusion endure before the contradictions become too glaring to ignore?

The author is the Chief Editor of Monthly Interaction.

PAKISTAN-BANGLADESH RELATIONS:



RAPPROCHEMENT OR NEED OF THE TIME

DR UZMA SHUJAAT

Politics is full of surprises; it's always on a moving trajectory of challenges, hopes, relationship and changing policies. This very time for emerging Pakistan-Bangladesh relations after an unprecedented ouster of Sheikh Hasina Wazed a symbol of tyranny and revenge since the swearing in of Dr. Yunus as the chief of interim government in August 2024, the relationship between Pakistan and Bangladesh is moving towards cordial relations.

The history of the two, if we see into retrospect touched new lows in Sheikh Hasina government long 15 years rule. Pakistan never enjoyed trustworthy relations with Bangladesh. The one major reason was her close proximity to India that always swerved the relations most.

The Geopolitics is full of unpredictable manoeuvring now Bangladesh is passing



Sheikh Hasina weeps while she visits a metro station in Mirpur vandalized by students during the anti-quota protests at July 25, 2024 - FILE PHOTO



Dr. Muhammad Yunus takes Oath as the Chief Adviser of the interim government of Bangladesh on Aug 08, 2024 - FILE PHOTO

through "India out" campaign, and it is a huge geopolitical set back for India, losing one of trusted partner in South Asia is just indigestible.

According to Tim Marshall state are prisoners of the geography, they cannot change their neighbour and place. In the context, Michael Kugelman, director for the Wilson Center for South Asia, India has suffered a major geopolitical blow in Bangladesh. It's dealing with something that close to a nightmare scenario, as for India Sheikh Hasina was the only viable option while considering any alternative unfavourable to is regional interests. India will try its level best not to compromise on the shared border, water resource collaboration and strong trade relations. India by all means will continue to manoeuvre a strategically important role for Dhaka



Bangladesh's 'no foe' diplomacy grows ties with Pakistan

Geopolitics concerned basically with the study of the state in the context of global phenomena in an attempt to understand both the basics of state power, and the nature of state interaction with each other. Saul B. Cohen a prominent geostrategic considered the entire world as being divided into geostrategic regions. He suggested the dynamic balance that characterized relations among states.

According to Cohen, the world is organized politically in rational, not random fashion. He rejected the notion that sphere of influence are obsolete. He maintained that sphere of influence are essential to the preservation of national and regional expression.

If we can analyse the politics in South Asia, we can better understand the geostrategic suggested by Cohen. His GSR geostrategic regions are essentially the sphere of influence of USA, Europe, former Soviet Union now Russia and China. He classified South Asia as an independent area and identified Middle East and South Asia as shatterbelt.

The term shatterbelt has been applied to a region of chronic instability in which states appear, disappear and reappear with frequently changing names and boundaries. There is not a strategic unity of space but

rather there are separate arenas in a fundamentally divided world. This illustration of Cohen have closely identified the situation in the South Asian region.

The emerging future trajectory of Pakistan-Bangladesh relations emphasises on the need to strengthen the bilateral ties. It is an opportunity to reset the compass at all levels. Since the inception of Dr. Yunus, as Chief Adviser of the country, they are demonstrating a shift in its foreign policy, which is suggestive of a fact that both the countries can re-start with the new beginning, re-imagination of the new pathways and shedding the excess baggage.

The new dimension for now, Bangladesh appears to be moving away from is reliance on New Delhi, as for a larger part of history of relationship between the two have remained a function of the larger regional geopolitical contestations. The Chief Advisor of the interim government has a vocal critic of the Bangla-India centric era under Sheikh Hasina. The anti-Indian sentiments in Dhaka are illustrative of the fact that Pakistan can use this space for foreign policy gain, the opportunity we can exploit for the favour of both the countries.

In this context, efficient and productive



Pakistan is eager to boost trade and economic ties with Bangladesh with the resumption of direct flights and establishing maritime connectivity

framework for political and economic collaboration is necessary, joint economic forum serve, bilateral trade on preferential basis can be an appropriate option. Dawn News reported that Dr. Younus stated that increasing trade and investment between the two countries must be a top priority to move forward.

He is quite eager to improve relations with Pakistan, which have been less than satisfactory over the past decade. The demography of Bangladesh with 180 million represents a significant consumer market that Pakistan has the potential to tap and we can capitalize on it. If we see around despite growing regional cooperation globally, South Asia still face challenges which require collective efforts to overcome them. The data between two-way trades amounted to \$718 million during the fiscal year 2023-24,

according to Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI) on January 11, 2025. One positive move from the interim government is it has simplified the visa process for Pakistan to further strengthening and improving the trade and economic ties.

Another dimension of cooperation between South Asian countries is revitalizing the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) to enhance regional trade and cooperation. The lesson to learn from the past is division shapes politics at every level, local, national and international. It is essential to be aware of what has divided us, and what continues to do so, in order to understand what is going on in the world today.

The author is the Acting Director of the Area Study Centre for Europe, University of Karachi.

Continued from page 15

PIIA SEMINAR

B. I have highlighted both good and not so good stories of 2024 in the domain of nuclear Pakistan.

The future, as always, will remain challenging which is the outcome, in part of Pakistan's strategic and central geographic location as a trade and strategic corridor to Central Asia, in part because of Pakistan's robust relationship with China whose rise is unfortunately seen as a threat by the US and, in part because of Pakistan's determination not to compromise ever on its nuclear program.

Pakistan has its work cut out to work in all sincerity, wisdom, and energy to enhance the critical elements of its national power potential including the economy and healthy national cohesion.

c. In my assessment, the year 2024 in retrospect has by and large been a fairly normal regulation year. This I say strictly from the point of view of the topic given to me, that is, nuclear developments and their regional, and global impact.

While this informed audience is very familiar with the history of Pakistan's strategic and geo-political environments over the many decades of Pakistan's existence, I have linked only the preceding period of the last 6 years with the year 2024 in order to frame the events within the context of the immediate geo-political background.

It is in that context that I describe 2024 as a normal regulation year. If some of the events that I have highlighted had not taken place I think the year would probably have been quite boring.

20. I thank you.

NAVIGATING GLOBAL REALIGNMENTS:



TRUMP 2.0 AND ITS IMPLICATIONS FOR KEY PLAYERS

MIRZA KASHIF BAIG

As President Donald Trump embarks on his second term, the international community is keenly observing the administration's foreign policy directions, mainly concerning key global players such as Russia, China, India, and Pakistan and the ongoing conflict in Ukraine.

The early diplomatic engagements, notably the prominence given to India's External Affairs Minister during the inauguration and the subsequent Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (Quad) meeting, offer insights into the administration's strategic priorities.

ENGAGEMENT WITH INDIA AND THE QUAD'S STRATEGIC SIGNIFICANCE

The attendance of India's External Affairs Minister, Dr. S. Jaishankar, at President Trump's inauguration underscores the administration's importance on U.S.-India relations. Following the inauguration, a Quad meeting was convened, involving the foreign ministers of India, Japan, Australia, and the newly appointed U.S. Secretary of State, Marco Rubio.

This gathering in Washington D.C. was among the administration's first major diplomatic engagements, signaling a renewed commitment to the Indo-Pacific region. In a press conference, Dr. Jaishankar highlighted the productive nature of his discussions with Secretary Rubio and National Security Adviser Mike Waltz.

He emphasized the shared vision of both nations, stating, "I think we have an extreme degree of trust today between India and the United States, a very high level of convergence of our interests." This sentiment reflects a mutual desire to strengthen bilateral ties and collaborate on regional and global issues.

The Quad meeting culminated in a communique reaffirming the member nations' commitment to a "free and open Indo-Pacific." The statement emphasized enhancing the region's maritime, economic, and technological security, aiming to counterbalance China's growing influence. The Quad's role as a strategic forum has been pivotal in addressing regional challenges, and



Donald Trump meets S Jaishankar, Minister External Affairs of India

its revitalization under the current administration indicates a concerted effort to bolster alliances in the Indo-Pacific.

APPROACH TO RUSSIA AND THE UKRAINE CONFLICT

President Trump's approach to the ongoing conflict in Ukraine has been a focal point of his foreign policy. During his campaign, he asserted that he could swiftly negotiate an end to the war. However, in his inaugural address, he acknowledged the complexities involved, suggesting that achieving peace would require several months due to the entrenched positions of both Ukraine and Russia.

The administration's strategy appears to center on applying economic pressure on Russia. Plans include leveraging diplomacy and targeting Russia's oil revenue by collaborating with Saudi Arabia and OPEC to lower global oil prices, reducing Russia's financial capacity to sustain the war. Additionally, the U.S. may continue supplying arms to Ukraine, financed by seizing Russian assets. This multifaceted approach aims to bring Russia to the negotiating table while bolstering Ukraine's defense capabilities.

RELATIONS WITH CHINA: BALANCING COMPETITION AND COOPERATION

The Trump administration's stance toward China is characterized by competition and cautious engagement. Despite previous threats, the administration has deferred imposing new tariffs on China, opting to re-evaluate the economic relationship and continue negotiations. President Trump has emphasized cooperation with China in ending the Ukraine war and addressing issues like the fentanyl crisis. This approach reflects a recognition of China's significant role in global affairs and the necessity of collaboration on shared challenges.

However, the administration remains vigilant regarding China's trade, climate, and security actions. By balancing criticism and diplomatic overtures, the U.S. aims to keep China uncertain about future actions, thereby preserving strategic leverage. This nuanced strategy seeks to manage the competitive aspects of the U.S.-China relationship while exploring avenues for cooperation where interests align.

ENGAGEMENT WITH PAKISTAN: A PRAGMATIC APPROACH

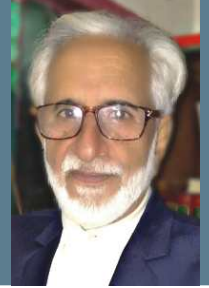
In South Asia, the administration's policy toward Pakistan is expected to be pragmatic, focusing on specific areas of mutual interest. While the U.S. may not prioritize extensive engagement with Pakistan, it will likely consider Islamabad's relationship with Beijing when formulating its regional strategy. This approach acknowledges the complex dynamics of South Asian geopolitics and the importance of Pakistan's role in the broader context of U.S.-China relations.

CONCLUSION

President Trump's second term's early actions and diplomatic engagements indicate a foreign policy that seeks to reinforce alliances, apply economic leverage to address conflicts, and balance competition with cooperation in key bilateral relationships. The prominence given to India's External Affairs Minister during the inauguration and the subsequent Quad meeting highlights the administration's focus on the Indo-Pacific region and its commitment to strengthening partnerships with like-minded nations. As the administration's policies unfold, the global community will closely monitor how these strategies impact international stability and the balance of power.

The author is the Editor of *Monthly Interaction*.

EITHER BE BROTHERS OR PERISH



KHURSHEED ALAM

Pakistan and Afghanistan, as brotherly nations, share deep-rooted connections and mutual interests. However, certain challenges persist not due to their inherent complexity but because of insufficient attention and lack of constructive dialogue. One such issue is the Pak-Afghan border dispute, particularly concerning the Durand Line. This matter is deeply intertwined with geopolitical dynamics and is influenced by the strategic interests of global and regional players, including the United States, Israel, and India. In this analysis, I aim to explore the historical, socio-economic, and political dimensions of this dispute, examining how the two neighboring countries are likely to navigate their relationship under the influence of the US, the reigning superpower; Israel, the flag bearer of the David Dynasty; and India, a shared rival to both Pakistan and China.

● **1: THE PAK-AFGHAN BORDER ISSUE**

- A: Historically, the Durand Line treaty was declared in 1893 by the British Indian government through its secretary, Sir Henry Mortimer Durand, and Afghan ruler Ameer Abdulrahman Khan to hand over the eastern belt from Torkham in the north and Chamon in the south to the British Indian Empire.
- B: Was it a periodical treaty or a permanent one with no limit? Was it until a fixed date? It is not clear, as the Afghanistan government has no

witness who could prove it periodically, from this date to that.

- C: This treaty was later confirmed by King Habibullah Khan in 1905, in 1919 at Rawalpindi, and in 1921 by another Afghan ruler, Ghazi Amanullah Khan in Kabul.
- D: In 1947 the Afghan government didn't mention it before the British Indian Viceroy or British King George VI as what would be the future of the Durand Treaty.
- E: The Afghan government canceled the Durand Line Treaty unilaterally in 1947, with no favor from the British Empire.

● **2: THE GEOPOLITICAL SITUATION BACKGROUND**

- A: Under the Capitalist selfish viewpoint it is a complex and seriously complicated situation for both countries.



Pakistani and Taliban flags flutter on their respective sides of the Pak-Afghanistan border at a key crossing in Chaman, Pakistan

Traditionally, they cannot give up the claim of ownership.

B: Capitalist-minded people believe in the rules of "Might is Right." According to this mind set, they will have to deal with this issue in three possible ways; to fight for their claims, leave it intact, or unite the two states into a new one; but impossible under the contemporary outlook.

● 3: ROLE OF GLOBAL PLAYERS

A: The US, Israel, and India would like to collide the two states, as they will support Afghanistan strategically through India and Israel, while Pakistan will be lulled through hollow pledges as experienced in Bengal during the 1971 war.

B: In the early stage, Pakistan might be stirred up through Baloch, Pushtoon, Kashmiri, and Baltistani nationalism. Sindh nationalists will stand at the end if separatists manage to weaken Pakistani unity.

C: The US, Israel, and India also have a strong desire to deprive Pakistan of its Nuclear and Missile capabilities through global propaganda of Mass destruction, terrorism, etc.

D: On the other hand, they also wish Afghanistan to be broken into four different areas; Pushtoon, Uzbek, Tajik, and Hazara.

E: If the mentioned conspiracies work Afghanistan and Pakistan might not exist in the current form on the global map and the same or worse will be the future of Syria and Iran, split down into lingual and religious zones.

● 4: THE QUESTION NOW IS HOW TO RESOLVE THIS ISSUE AND ENSURE THAT THESE TWO NEIGHBORING

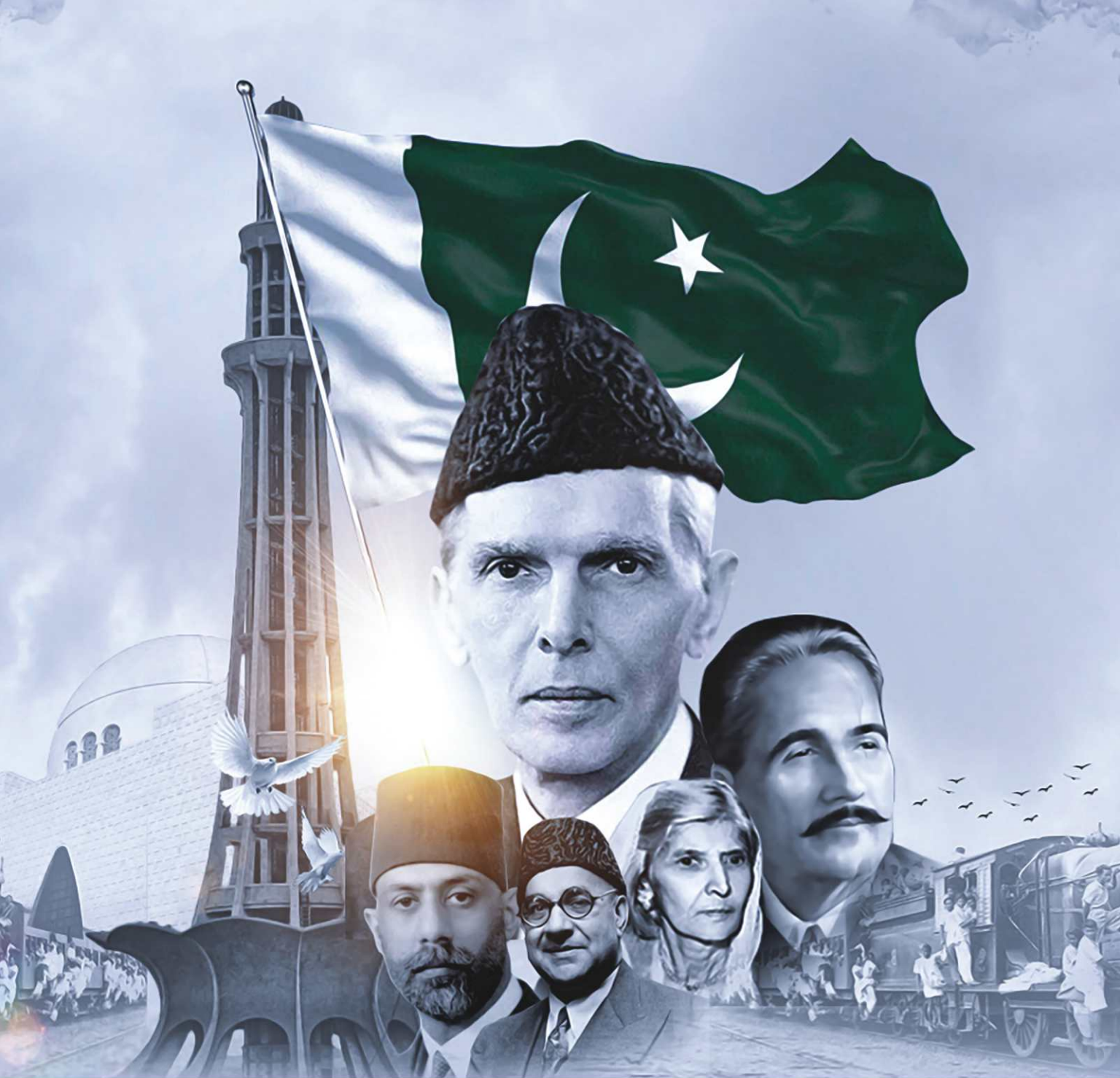
AND BROTHERLY STATES REMAIN SAFE AND SYMBIOTIC.

A: First and foremost, Pakistan and Afghanistan must recognize that war is not the solution. The only way to counter internal and external conspiracies is to rise above personal and individual ambitions and work towards establishing an environment reminiscent of Darussalama place of peace and harmony where people live as brothers. However, this vision cannot materialize under the prevailing systems of feudalism or capitalism, as both inherently perpetuate inequality and unrest. Whether it is the issue of global instability or local conflicts, peace and prosperity can only be achieved through equitable sharing of resources and a commitment to collective well-being.

B: Wars, battles, and street skirmishes have long been tools of opportunists seeking to exploit others for their gain. Both nations must avoid such destructive paths and instead prioritize dialogue, consensus, and diplomacy to resolve their differences. This, however, does not imply disregarding the importance of defense. A strong defense is crucial for protecting against exploiters, as evident in the cases of Iraq, Libya, and Syria, where nations with good intentions but insufficient defensive strategies fell victim to ambitious local and global powers.

The downfall of the USSR's Communist regime, as well as the collapse of Saddam Hussein's and Muammar Gaddafi's reigns, exemplify the destructive impact of nepotism and selfish governance.

Continued on page 43



PAKISTAN CORNER

Welcome to "Pakistan Corner," a dedicated section in our magazine where we explore the rich tapestry of Pakistan's history, culture, and legacy before and after its independence. This series aims to illuminate the diverse heritages, local languages, various cultures, and unsung heroes of the nation, offering our readers an in-depth look into the different facets that shape today's Pakistan.

POST-INDEPENDENCE HISTORY OF PAKISTAN

(1961 TO 1964)

INTERACTION TEAM

The following year, in 1961, political reforms and foreign diplomacy continued to shape Pakistan's trajectory. A Constitution Commission was appointed to analyze the failures of the parliamentary system, paving the way for the 1962 Constitution. On the international front, Ayub Khan's visit to the United States solidified Pakistan's role as a key ally in the Cold War. His relationship with President John F. Kennedy resulted in increased economic and military aid, further strengthening ties with the Western bloc. Domestically, the administration's focus remained on development, as part of the Second Five-Year Plan, which prioritized industrialization, irrigation, and foreign investment.

By 1962, Pakistan underwent significant political restructuring with the promulgation of the new Constitution. This document established a presidential system, granting extensive powers to the President while abolishing the parliamentary framework. The Basic Democracies system was formalized, and Ayub Khan was elected President under this new system. The Constitution also provided equal representation for East and West Pakistan in the legislature, despite population disparities, and declared Pakistan an Islamic Republic, aligning governance with Islamic principles. Critics, however, highlighted the authoritarian nature of the system and its emphasis on centralized



President John F. Kennedy meets with President Mohammad Ayub Khan of Pakistan

control, which limited provincial autonomy and democratic freedoms.

Elections for the National and provincial assemblies were held in April 1962, marking a step toward institutionalizing the new system. Shortly thereafter, the National Assembly passed the Political Parties Act, legalizing political organizations. Despite these reforms, political opposition remained muted due to strict controls on political activities. Meanwhile, Ayub's government continued to focus on economic development, with substantial progress in agriculture, infrastructure, and industrialization.

In 1963, Pakistan made significant strides in both regional and international diplomacy. The most notable achievement was the Pakistan-China Border Agreement signed on March 2, 1963. This agreement not only resolved territorial disputes between the two countries but also laid the foundation for a strategic partnership between Pakistan and



Miss Fatima Jinnah during her election campaign in late 1964

China. Given Pakistan's existing alliance with the United States, this move showcased its ability to balance relationships amid Cold War rivalries. At the same time, relations with India remained tense. Despite diplomatic engagements, disputes over Kashmir continued to strain bilateral ties, fostering an environment of military preparedness and regional uncertainty.

Domestically, Ayub Khan's centralized governance faced opposition. Balochistan witnessed renewed unrest, with some tribal leaders demanding a share of the revenue from the Sui gas fields and opposing the One Unit Scheme, which aimed to consolidate administrative regions. Similarly, tensions in East Pakistan grew as economic policies disproportionately favored West Pakistan, deepening the sense of political and economic marginalization among Bengalis. These grievances foreshadowed future discord between the two wings of the country.

On January 2, 1964, the Presidential Elections took place, with Fatima Jinnah, the sister of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, running as the opposition candidate against Ayub Khan. Despite her strong appeal, particularly in East Pakistan, Ayub Khan secured a second term amid allegations

of election rigging and manipulation. His victory reinforced the centralized control of his administration but also intensified opposition movements against his rule.

On strategic grounds, Pakistan took a significant step in military modernization by acquiring its first submarine, the PNS Ghazi, from the United States on June 1, 1964. This acquisition marked a milestone in Pakistan's naval defense capabilities. On July 22, 1964, a major diplomatic achievement was the formation of the Regional Cooperation for Development (RCD), a trilateral agreement between Pakistan, Iran, and Turkey. The leaders of the three countries issued a joint communique from Istanbul, emphasizing economic and trade cooperation. This alliance was aimed at fostering regional stability and countering communist influences in the region.

Another significant development in Pakistan's modernization was the launch of its first television station in Lahore on November 26, 1964. The pilot project, operated by Nippon Electric Company (NEC), marked the introduction of television broadcasting in Pakistan. This initiative played a crucial role in shaping media and communication in the country, paving the way for state-controlled news and entertainment programming.

Continue.....



Nov 26, 1964, Pakistan's first major televised media broadcasting network was launched

CHINA-TAIWAN CROSS - STRAIT RELATIONS AND THE US' STRATEGIC AMBIGUITY



DR. S. BUSHRA BATOOL

The Taiwan Strait, a narrow body of water separating Taiwan from mainland China, has long been a flashpoint for geopolitical tension. Taiwan, officially known as the Republic of China (ROC), maintains a democratically elected government and a population of roughly 23 million people. On the other hand, mainland China, officially the People's Republic of China (PRC), operates under the rule of the Chinese Communist Party (CCP), which asserts that Taiwan is an integral part of its territory, despite never having governed the island.

For decades, Beijing has viewed Taiwan as a renegade province, promising to eventually reunite the island with the mainland, through peaceful means if possible, or by force if necessary. Tensions between the two have escalated in recent years, particularly as

China has modernized its military and ramped up its presence in the region. Meanwhile, Taiwan's political landscape has shifted, with more recent leaders hailing from parties that strongly oppose the notion of unification under Chinese rule.

These rising tensions have far-reaching implications, particularly for the United States (US). The US has long maintained an unofficial but vital relationship with Taiwan, and there are growing concerns that a conflict over Taiwan could draw the US into a large-scale, costly war with China. The situation has become even more complicated with the recent election of Taiwan's new president, Lai Ching-te, and the changing dynamics within the broader US-China relationship.

◆ HISTORICAL CONTEXT AND THE "ONE CHINA" DEBATE

The roots of the current dispute can be traced back to the Chinese Civil War, which raged in the first half of the 20th century. After the Nationalist government, led by Chiang Kai-shek, was defeated by Mao Zedong's Communist forces in 1949, Chiang and his supporters retreated to Taiwan, where they continued to claim legitimacy as the government of all of China. Meanwhile, the PRC, led by the CCP, took control of mainland China.

For several decades, Taiwan and the PRC operated under two separate governments, both of which claimed to be the legitimate



The United States has sailed a massive warship through the Taiwan Strait, in their latest display of power towards China.

authority over China. Throughout this period, the US backed Taiwan, viewing it as an important ally in the region, particularly during the Cold War. However, in the 1970s, the US shifted its policy toward China, culminating in the normalization of diplomatic relations in 1979. This shift led to the establishment of the Taiwan Relations Act (TRA), which allows the US to maintain an unofficial relationship with Taiwan and provide defense support, but it also acknowledges the Chinese stance that Taiwan is part of China.

Central to Beijing's position is the "One China" policy, which asserts that there is only one China, and Taiwan is a part of it. This policy has been a cornerstone of PRC diplomacy, and under President Xi Jinping, Beijing has made clear its intent to reunify Taiwan with the mainland. In 1992, the PRC and Taiwan agreed to the "1992 Consensus," a framework that was meant to serve as the basis for cross-strait relations. However, the consensus has remained contentious, with both sides interpreting it differently. For Beijing, it reflects an agreement that both sides belong to one China and must work toward reunification. In contrast, Taiwan's opposition parties, particularly the Nationalist Party (KMT), have claimed it simply means "one China, with different interpretations." In essence, Taiwan has not fully embraced the notion that it is part of China under any circumstances.

◆ **DIVERGING POLITICAL VIEWS IN TAIWAN**

Within Taiwan, there is a significant debate regarding the island's relationship with China. The KMT, which once ruled Taiwan, maintains that Taiwan should remain part of China under "one country, two systems" arrangement, similar to the one that was

proposed for Hong Kong. However, this model has lost favor in Taiwan, especially after China's increasing crackdown on Hong Kong's freedoms, which has made the idea of reunification under such terms deeply unpopular. The Democratic Progressive Party (DPP), the current ruling party in Taiwan, rejects the notion that Taiwan is part of China. This stance has been championed by former President Tsai Ing-wen, who during her presidency, emphasized Taiwan's sovereignty and independence. While Tsai sought to maintain a workable relationship with China, she strongly opposed the "one country, two systems" framework, citing Beijing's actions in Hong Kong as evidence of its inability to respect Taiwanese autonomy.

The election of Lai Ching-te in 2024 has brought further polarization to cross-strait relations. Although Lai has called for dialogue with China and a "status quo" approach to cross-strait relations, Beijing has accused him of advocating for Taiwan's independence. In a recent National Day address, Lai reiterated that the PRC has no right to represent Taiwan, while emphasizing the need for "healthy dialogue" between the two sides. Beijing quickly condemned his remarks, viewing them as a provocation.

◆ **THE US ROLE IN CROSS-STRAIT RELATIONS**

The United States plays a crucial role in the on-going Taiwan-China conflict. While not officially recognizing Taiwan as a sovereign state, the US has long provided military aid and political support to the island. The US follows a policy known as "strategic ambiguity," which is intended to deter both Beijing from attacking Taiwan and Taiwan from declaring independence unilaterally.

The US relationship with Taiwan is governed by the Taiwan Relations Act (TRA),

passed in 1979, which mandates that the US maintain a robust unofficial relationship with Taiwan, including selling arms for self-defense. While the US acknowledges China's claim over Taiwan, it does not recognize Beijing's sovereignty over the island. The US policy has allowed for a significant arms trade with Taiwan and continues to participate in military training and strategic maneuvers in the region.

Despite the policy of strategic ambiguity, US officials have increasingly made statements suggesting a commitment to defending Taiwan in the event of an attack. President Joe Biden has stated on multiple occasions that the US would come to Taiwan's defense, although his administration has walked back these statements to maintain the policy's ambiguity. Under President Donald Trump's previous government, US-Taiwan relations were strengthened, with the sale of billions of dollars in arms and increased diplomatic exchanges. The Biden administration has also deepened military support for Taiwan, including measures to increase arms sales and provide greater military aid.

◆ **ECONOMIC AND MILITARY CONSIDERATIONS**

Despite the political tensions, China remains the top trade partner of Taiwan. The economic relationship between China and Taiwan remains deeply intertwined, despite the political tensions. Taiwan's economy, the 22nd largest in the world, relies heavily on trade with China, its largest trading partner. However, there is growing concern in Taiwan about over reliance on Chinese markets, particularly given the increasing pressure from Beijing.

In response, Taiwan has sought to diversify its economic relationships, with investments in

the US rising in recent years. For the US, Taiwan's semiconductor industry is a critical concern. Taiwan manufactures the world's most advanced microchips, which are essential for a wide range of industries. The US has been working to strengthen its domestic chip production capabilities to reduce its dependence on Taiwan, especially in light of China's growing assertiveness in the region.

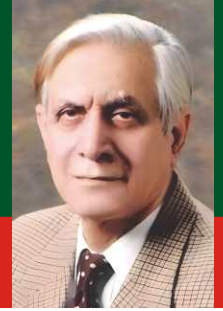
◆ **THE ROAD AHEAD**

The future of Taiwan and its relationship with China remains uncertain. Experts have a divided view on when, or even if, China will attempt to reunify with Taiwan through military force. Some analysts predict an invasion within the next decade, while others believe that the timeline is further off. The year 2049, marking the 100th anniversary of the PRC's founding, has been seen as a potential deadline for unification, with President Xi Jinping making it clear that Taiwan's integration into China is crucial to his vision of the "Chinese Dream." The situation is further complicated by global events, such as Russia's invasion of Ukraine in 2022.

Some analysts argue that the conflict in Ukraine could embolden Beijing to take similar action against Taiwan, while others believe it may have a cautionary effect, given the challenges Russia has faced. In conclusion, cross-strait relations are not only a critical issue for China and Taiwan but also a key area of concern for the United States. The US must navigate its policy toward Taiwan carefully, balancing its commitments to Taiwan's defense with its diplomatic and economic ties to China. The outcome of this geopolitical standoff will have far-reaching consequences for the stability of the Asia-Pacific region and beyond.

The author is a Research Officer at Rabita Forum International (RFI).

BANGLADESH



SECOND REVOLUTION-DANGERS AHEAD

BRIG (R) TARIQ KHALIL



Students mark one month since the ouster of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, in Dhaka on September 4, 2024. FILE PHOTO

Bangladesh endured the second revolution this year, where it was emancipated from the Indian hold. clamped on Bangladesh in the last 15 years. Virtually Bangladesh became an Indian colony since everything it was being controlled, from the judiciary to the economy. Bangladesh was not allowed to conduct its foreign policy outside the realm Dehi dictates and the contours given by the Indian Foreign Office. It was a question being asked both inside and outside of Bangladesh where the country is heading; the fact is what happened in 1971 was the manipulation by India against Pakistan.

Mujib Ur Rehman did not contest the election based on a separate country. The issue was provincial autonomy and the rights of the eastern wing. Since 1968, Indra Gandhi directed its intelligence agencies to penetrate East Pakistan. They succeeded in gaining

access to the judiciary, education, bureaucracy, and even defense forces. The basis was the inequality and that West Pakistan was trampling on the rights of East Pakistan. Factually, the facts and figures were totally wrong, but the theme was sold to public perception. The public goes with perception, not the logic

India is making efforts to undo the existing setup of Bangla Desh. Pressure is being built up economically., politically, socially, and militarily. Indian intelligence agencies are creating a law and order situation within Bangladesh. The borders along Bangladesh are being heated up on false flag operations. 1971 refugee influx into India is being trumpeted up the world over. A vicious campaign is being run by the Indians both in the media and social media that the present government is indulging in mass killing. It is the same scenario being repeated under the Indian government's patronage as was done in 1971.

Every social media platform is crying foul demanding the Indian Government do something to stop Bangladesh killings, especially of Hindus. Every effort is being made to thwart Bangladesh from becoming a truly independent state. The electricity being supplied to Bangladesh has been cut on the plea that around USD 2 billion are unpaid to Indian companies. In various segments of Bangladesh's economy and Indian pressure is

being built up to bend down Bangladeshis again. Diplomatically every effort is being made to portray Mr. Yunis is incompetent to run the government. Bangladesh is going to be a hotbed of terrorism against India and Pakistan is trying to pump in arms and ammunition through Trade.

It is the same scenario as was built in 1971 through a hoax Hijacking drama created to stop the overflying a Pakistan Airlines over India. The hawkish critics are trying to make a case to ensure that the chicken neck area in the eastern side of India Bangladesh is a strategic threat and Bangladesh may resort to aggression. India should capture this territory, expand to ensure the safety of the Indian connectivity with the Eastern States.

The turbulence and the movements of Independence which are running deep in 7 sister states are being blamed on Pakistan. Boogie of Islamism is being created to gather Western countries' support against Bangladesh. Any endeavor by Pakistan to reconnect with Bangladesh is being criticized. That proves India is not getting reconciled with the setback. It suffered after this second revolution. The basis of the second revolution lay, in what happened in 1971. Then, a situation was created to make brothers fight against each brother. Mujib Ur Rehman had no mandate for the separate country. He did not agree to any suggestion to form the government with the Peoples Party on the plea Awami League have the majority.

Principally he was right but politically he failed to see in to future ramifications whereas during March 1971 parlays government was willing to concede to almost five and a half points out of the 6 points, even Mr Brohi was summoned to Dhaka to draft a Presidential Ordinance to hand over power but the hawkish elements in the Awami League had a

different agenda, they reportedly were in touch with Indians and stalemate resulted in civil disobedience. The province plunged into a civil war detrimental to each side, East and West Pakistan. Pakistan movement started from Dhaka in 1906 when the Muslim League was formed to achieve the rights of Muslims in India. It was the first time a platform for political activity was created. The East Bengal leadership championed the cause of Pakistan, having seen the attitude of the Hindu superior bureaucracy, political pressures and the economic hold. British Government resiled, and the partition of Bengal was undone in 1912. When the Viceroy presided over a Congregation in Calcutta, the song of Bande Matrem was recited in gratitude before the Viceroy. It was to become the national song of India till 1947 and thereafter, along with another song, Mana Gana. It eventually became part of India's national anthem. Bande Matrem did not have public support initially, but when Tagore translated it into English, it became popular. In 1935 Then the Congress. Was allowed to form governments in. Central Indian Bihar and Bengal provinces. This song created hatred amongst Muslims and Hindus, resulting in massive Hindu-Muslim riots.

The sentiments in March 1971 reached a



Students carry out processions in Dhaka, the capital of Bangladesh

degree where the people of East Pakistan truly believed the Amami League was a liberator. Still, when things moved on towards supremacy of India in every field, the bulk of the population started realizing they were not only becoming the colony of India but were all being converted to a colony within the Indian subcontinent.

The tight control by India was the main reason for disenchantment. India is now making all efforts to squeeze Bangladesh; the electric supply is disconnected, trade orders of cotton have been canceled, the Telecom agreement has been annulled, and the situation on the borders is heated up. It is

reported that a splinter group of the Arakan tribe, around 40000, in Chittagong Hills is being paid and equipped to create trouble in the Chittagong Division and split the country.

Pakistan needs to extend support socially, economically, diplomatically, and militarily. As a first step, it should open up a visa on arrival for business, academia, and relatives' people-to-people contacts. It is suggested that a joint commission be formed between the two countries to discuss bilateral issues.

The author is a Researcher, analyst and a decorated Brigadier retired with 32 years of combat service, and 30 years as MD/COO in the corporate sector.

Continued from page 34

EITHER BE BROTHERS OR PERISH

Leaders such as Gorbachev, Yeltsin, Saddam Hussein, and Saif al-Islam Gaddafi prioritized the luxury of their families, relatives, and close associates, amassing hidden wealth at the expense of their nations. This greed and corruption ultimately paved the way for systemic collapse and fostered unrest among the masses.

● A PRAGMATIC APPROACH TO UNITY

- A: The factors that could foster unity between the two states are as follows:
- a. Both are Muslims.
 - b. Both suffered under British colonial rule before 1947 and continue to face the challenges of terrorism, which hinder their economic development.
 - c. Both share a legacy of unjust economic systems imposed by the British, including feudalism and capitalism.
 - d. Both are geographically positioned near powerful neighbors.
 - e. There is an urgent need to protect both nations from the influence of global and regional powers seeking to

dominate them economically and politically.

● 6: THE PATH TO LIBERATION THROUGH UNITY

The only viable solution to safeguard both nations from oppression, what I believe in, lies in fostering a well-structured and equitable unity under the concept of Darussalam. The steps to achieve this include:

- a. Eliminating the remnants of the British-imposed feudal system and the usury-based capitalist economy, while drawing lessons from the economic models of socially prosperous nations.
- B. Recognizing that opposing feudal and capitalist systems will provoke strong reactions both internally and externally. These challenges must be addressed with wise and carefully calculated measures.

● 7: A CHOICE TO MAKE

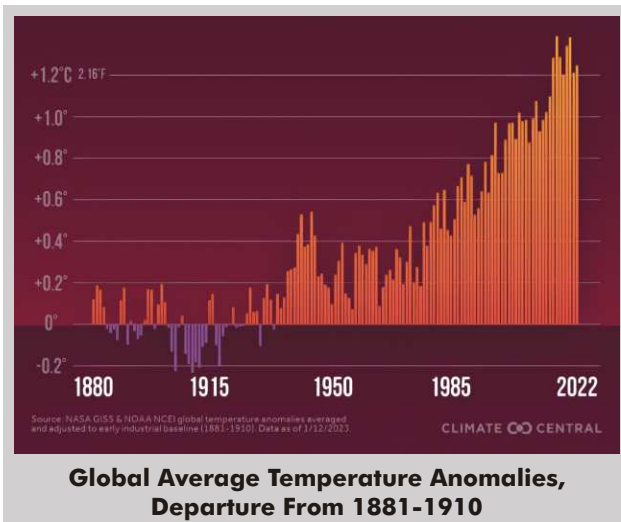
"Either be brothers or perish" a choice that both states must deliberate on and decide for the sake of their nations' future.

The author is a freelance writer with expertise in social sciences, history, strategic affairs, and ethnic studies.

ADDRESSING CLIMATE CHANGE CHALLENGES



WAJEEHA NAJAM



Climate change is one of the most pressing challenges facing humanity today, with far-reaching implications for ecosystems, economies, and societies. The scientific community has reached a consensus that climate change is driven primarily by human activities, particularly the emission of greenhouse gases (GHGs). As governments and institutions worldwide strive to tackle this crisis, the effectiveness of climate policies and their practical implications remain subjects of intense debate.

The Earth is experiencing unprecedented warming, with global temperatures rising faster than anticipated. According to NASA, the average global temperature in 2023 was 1.2 degrees Celsius higher than the average between 1951 and 1980. The consequences are already visible in the form of shrinking

Arctic and Antarctic ice, more frequent heatwaves, and extreme weather events. The challenge now lies in limiting temperature rise to below 1.5 degrees Celsius by 2100, a target set by the 2015 Paris Agreement.

Despite numerous global efforts, greenhouse gas emissions continue to rise, reaching a record 57.4 gigatons in 2022. Many industrialized nations, including Germany, the United Kingdom, the United States, Japan, and Norway, have made progress in reducing emissions, with Germany achieving a 40% reduction compared to 1990 levels, and the United Kingdom reducing emissions by nearly 50% within the same period. The United States has also managed a 3% reduction since its peak in 2007. However, developing countries face difficulties due to economic constraints and dependence on fossil fuels. Financial assistance to help these countries transition to cleaner energy remains insufficient; estimates suggest they will require around \$1.8 trillion annually by 2030 to meet climate targets.

International agreements such as the Kyoto Protocol and the Paris Agreement have played crucial roles in setting climate action goals. However, the effectiveness of these agreements often falls short due to several shortcomings, including the lack of stringent enforcement mechanisms, insufficient financial commitments from developed nations, and the absence of legally binding

targets for emission reductions. The recent UN Climate Conference (COP29), held in Baku, Azerbaijan, aimed to address these shortcomings by focusing on enhancing climate finance, strengthening adaptation measures, and ensuring that commitments made by countries are more transparent and enforceable.

Key outcomes of COP29 included increased pledges for climate adaptation funding, a renewed commitment to reducing fossil fuel subsidies, and stronger measures to monitor and report emissions reductions. The mobilization of climate financing and technology transfer from developed to developing nations remains a critical aspect that requires urgent attention.

The European Union's Green Deal aims to achieve climate neutrality by 2050. It includes ambitious targets such as a 55% reduction in emissions by 2030 and significant investments in renewable energy and sustainability. However, critics argue that the Green Deal places excessive financial burdens on industries and consumers while making the EU economically vulnerable to external dependencies, such as China's dominance in rare earth materials essential for renewable technologies. Additionally, the transition may strain traditional energy sectors, leading to potential job losses and economic disruptions.

One of the most promising aspects of climate action is the rapid advancement of clean energy technologies. Solar and wind energy have become more affordable and efficient, with costs declining significantly over the past decade. Countries like China have made substantial progress in deploying renewable energy, aiming to achieve their net-zero goals ahead of schedule. Innovations in battery storage, hydrogen fuel, and carbon capture technologies offer hope for a sustainable energy transition.



Pakistan has also committed to addressing greenhouse gas emissions through various initiatives and policies. The country has pledged to reduce its emissions by 20% by 2030 under its Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) as part of the Paris Agreement. Pakistan's policies focus on enhancing renewable energy capacity, with ambitious targets to increase the share of clean energy in its energy mix to 60% by 2030. The government has launched multiple projects in solar, wind, and hydropower sectors, including the Quaid-i-Azam Solar Park, Jhimpir Wind Corridor, and Neelum-Jhelum Hydropower Project. Additionally, afforestation efforts under initiatives such as the Ten Billion Tree Tsunami project aim to offset carbon emissions. However, Pakistan faces significant financial and technological challenges in achieving its climate goals, necessitating increased international support and investment.

To effectively combat climate change, governments and stakeholders must adopt a multifaceted approach. Enhanced international cooperation with stronger enforcement of climate agreements and transparent reporting mechanisms is necessary to hold countries accountable. Increased climate financing through mobilization of both public and private sectors is crucial to meet the financial needs of developing nations. Investment in innovation should be encouraged to facilitate a smooth transition to green technologies.

Continued on page 48

THE EVOLUTION OF POWER POLITICS



AMERICAN STRATEGY UNDER A NEW PRESIDENCY

KANWAR KHALID ALI KHAN

When President Donald Trump took the oath of office in January 2025, his inaugural address reverberated with a bold promise to recalibrate America's place in the global order. For years, the United States has wielded its power through strategic threats, rhetoric, and decisive interventions. Yet, in a world of rising multipolarity, where nations like China and Russia steadily chip away at American dominance, the question arises: Are these strategies still as potent, or is the American empire grappling with a diminishing grip on its supremacy? In the instant article, we explore the enduring dynamics of American threats, their evolving impact on allies and adversaries, and the seismic shifts triggered by the Trump administration's bold new policies.

THE LEGACY OF POWER POLITICS

For decades, the U.S. has perfected the art of leveraging rhetoric as a tool of dominance. From its claim of "weapons of mass destruction" in Iraq to the prolonged war in Afghanistan, American threats have been more than just words they've been weapons of psychological warfare. These strategies are rooted in the nation's overarching goal: maintaining unchallenged hegemony. However, as the geopolitical landscape evolves, the limitations of this approach have become increasingly apparent. Today, the U.S. faces challenges on multiple fronts, with emerging powers like China and Russia not just resisting its influence but creating

alternative centers of power.

TRUMP'S VISION: A NEW AMERICAN PLAYBOOK OR A BROADER CHESSBOARD?

President Trump's inaugural speech underscored a shift in tone and policy direction. His rhetoric was a blend of defiance, nationalism, and pragmatism, signaling a departure from multilateral commitments to a strategy firmly rooted in unilateralism and "America First."

Key Announcements from the Inaugural Address.

1. IMMIGRATION AND BORDER SECURITY

Trump declared a national emergency at the southern border, vowing to end birthright citizenship and enforce stricter immigration policies. This move reflects an inward turn,



Donald Trump takes the Oath of office as his wife Melania and children look on at the US Capital on January 20, 2025.

prioritizing domestic stability over global engagement.

2. ENERGY INDEPENDENCE

By announcing a return to aggressive drilling and resource extraction, Trump reinforced America's reliance on traditional energy sectors. This decision could reshape global energy markets and strain relationships with environmentally-conscious allies like Canada.

3. WITHDRAWAL FROM CLIMATE AGREEMENTS

The immediate exit from the Paris Climate Accord was a clear signal: America will not be bound by international norms that, in Trump's view, hinder economic growth.

4. FOREIGN POLICY REDIRECTION

Trump articulated plans to reclaim strategic assets like the Panama Canal and de-escalate conflicts in Ukraine and the Middle East. While this may reduce direct military engagements, it also hints at a resurgence of Cold War-style power plays.

THE AMERICAN THREAT REVISITED PROPAGANDA OR REALITY?

Under Trump, the U.S. appears poised to double down on its historical playbook of strong rhetoric, but with a sharper focus on domestic priorities. This raises critical questions about the efficacy and authenticity of American threats in today's world.

PSYCHOLOGICAL TOOLS IN POWER POLITICS PUBLIC SUPPORT

Trump's rhetoric serves to reassure the American populace of their nation's supremacy. His bold declarations aim to project strength and resolve, even when action is limited.

PRESSURE TACTICS

By issuing threats, the U.S. seeks to bring



The Southern Border between the United States and Mexico is the second largest border in the world, spanning about 2,000 miles long

adversaries to the negotiating table, leveraging its economic and military might.

INTIMIDATION

Psychological warfare remains a cornerstone of American strategy, aiming to weaken opponents before actual confrontation.

However, in a multipolar world, where alliances between nations like China, Russia, and even regional powers such as Saudi Arabia and Iran grow stronger, the effectiveness of these tactics is increasingly questioned.

RIPPLE EFFECTS ON CANADA A NEIGHBOR IN THE CROSSFIRE

As the U.S.'s closest ally and largest trading partner, Canada often finds itself navigating the complexities of its powerful neighbor's policies. Trump's new initiatives are no exception, with far-reaching implications for Canada's economy, environment, and foreign policy.

1. TRADE CHALLENGES

States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA) has already placed economic constraints on Canada. Trump's emphasis on energy independence and "fair trade" could exacerbate these pressures.

2. ENVIRONMENTAL POLICIES

Canada's leadership in climate action is at odds with Trump's decision to withdraw from

international agreements. This divergence could create friction in bilateral relations and undermine global climate efforts.

3. BORDER DYNAMICS

Stricter U.S. immigration policies may lead to a refugee influx into Canada, complicating its own border security and immigration systems.

GLOBAL REACTIONS A NEW ERA OF RESISTANCE

The Trump administration's approach has not gone unnoticed. Major global players are responding with strategies of their own:

CHINA

Through its Belt and Road Initiative, China continues to challenge U.S. dominance, creating a web of economic and diplomatic alliances across Asia, Africa, and Europe.

RUSSIA

Strengthening ties with China and maintaining its foothold in conflicts like Ukraine, Russia remains a thorn in America's side.

MIDDLE EAST

Trump's unwavering support for Israel, coupled with arms deals under the Abraham Accords, has further complicated the region's delicate balance.

THE END OF UNILATERALISM?

Trump's presidency may well mark a

turning point in global politics. As the U.S. retreats from multilateral commitments and focuses on an aggressive, inward-looking strategy, the world inches closer to a new order. Countries like Canada must now reconsider their alignment, balancing the benefits of U.S. partnership with the risks of being drawn into its conflicts. Similarly, rising powers must navigate the complexities of a world where American threats are as much about perception as they are about action.

A WORLD AT CROSSROADS

The Trump administration's policies reflect a recalibration of American power one that prioritizes domestic interests but risks alienating allies and emboldening adversaries. In this shifting landscape, the question remains: Is the era of American dominance truly ending, or is it merely adapting to a new reality? For nations like Canada, the challenge lies in asserting their sovereignty while managing the pressures of an unpredictable and powerful neighbor. As the world watches the unfolding drama of American threats and strategies, one thing is clear: the age of unchecked dominance is giving way to a new era of contested power, where rhetoric alone may no longer suffice to dictate the course of history.

The author is a freelance researcher and writer

Continued from page 45

ADDRESSING CLIMATE CHANGE CHALLENGES

Public engagement must be fostered to raise awareness and promote sustainable lifestyles among individuals and communities. Adaptation strategies should be implemented to strengthen resilience against climate impacts, particularly in vulnerable regions. While climate change presents a daunting challenge, there are reasons for optimism.

Advances in technology, growing public awareness, and evolving policy frameworks indicate that meaningful progress is possible. However, success will depend on sustained global cooperation, adequate financing, and a collective commitment to implementing effective solutions. Every effort made today to curb emissions and transition to sustainable practices will contribute to securing a livable future for generations to come.

The author is a Research Officer at Rabita Forum International (RFI).



KASHMIR SOLIDARITY DAY



Interaction



ماہنامہ
زاویہ نگاہ
کراچی

RABITA FORUM INTERNATIONAL

📍 Plot No.F8/3, Block-4, Old Clifton, Karachi, Pakistan.

☎ +92 21 358 619 35 - 36 ✉ rfi@rfipakistan.com 🌐 www.facebook.com/rfipakistan

🌐 www.rfipakistan.com

YouTube Channel

<http://www.youtube.com/@rabitaforuminternational>