

CONFERENCE ON

**ON-GOING SINO-US
CONTESTATION & FUTURE
TREJECTORY OF PAK-US RELATION**

Dec 27, 2021



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR WORDS

Islamabad Institute of Conflict Resolution aims to draw strategically comprehensive analysis on the contemporary conflicts. Moreover we not only aims to draw analysis but also to present foreseeable way-forward to the peaceful end of the conflicts.

I personally believe that it is that time when our country need think-tanks to play actively the role they are destined to. It is time that nation works collectively to overcome national and international hurdles. Yet there is a marathon to run in this regard

Sincerely,

Ms. Sabah Aslam

Founder/Executive Director IICR

IICR



TABLE OF CONTENTS

02 ABOUT IICR

03 CONCEPT NOTE

04 SUMMARY

05 SPEAKERS PROFILE

08 CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS

26 RECOMMENDATIONS

28 MEDIA GALLERY

30 PRESS COVERAGE

ABOUT IICR



Islamabad Institute of Conflict Resolution (IICR) is an autonomous, independent research based think tank which believes in ethics of research. Regular research is conducted with the aim of a deep and insight based analysis in order to resolve various issues associated with peace and conflict at the domestic, regional and international level. IICR has a vibrant team of experts, researchers and scholars who have immersed themselves to make the purpose a success.

Mission

Apart IICR believes in conducting in-depth research keeping research ethics into consideration. Our mission is to conduct an independent and unbiased research to propose sound solutions and policy recommendations to deal with humanitarian and security challenges of Pakistan and the region. In addition, we are closely monitoring China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), its progress and its implications for not only Pakistan but for the whole region.

Goals

- a) To conduct in-depth research on issues concerning Pakistan.
- b) To identify key areas of cooperation especially in the field of security.
- c) To document, disseminate and strengthen peace and conflict resolution efforts through analytical discourse.
- d) To identify, articulate and evaluate conflict issues through research and other academic pillars i.e. round-tables, workshops, seminars, and conferences.
- e) To promote post-conflict rehabilitation while initiating and contributing to local, national, and regional peace and conflict transformation initiatives.
- f) To remain committed to promote core social values, as well as public awareness and practice of constructive conflict resolution.
- g) To enhance socio-economic and security environment through informed dialogue, and debate on key issues.
- h) To critically analyse Pakistan's political, socio-economic and foreign policy challenges and to support efforts to integrate the country.
- i) To integrate youth in research work particularly to conflict resolution and making peace efforts.
- j) To secure friendly and cooperative international system, &
- k) To present actual positive image of Pakistan.

Publications

Monographs, Annual Reports, Monthly Briefs, Special Reports, and Weekly Rundown

Beijing rise in the modern geo-political order is inevitable now. It has taken decades to become what it is today. A decade ago, famous international expert Kenneth Waltz outlined that “China will emerge as a great power even without trying very hard so long as it remains politically united and competent”. After a decade the inference which was drawn is proving to be true. The last two decades saw massive alteration in global hegemonic design. China rose significantly in international arena which caused serious concerns to Washington. What it caused? A serious cold confrontation between Beijing and Washington. Both the parties never let any opportunity go to take a diplomatic jibe at each other, it did nothing but bringing them into a close room. However, it is quite evident that this cold confrontation won't be leading to any further hot escalation in near future. But it sure is putting Pakistan in a perplexed diplomatic situation.

Given its geographic location Pakistan is at juncture of this contestation between Washington and Beijing. While Islamabad enjoys brotherly relations with Beijing, it shares strained with Washington. As this rivalry advances the future trajectory of Pakistan's relations with Washington seems uncertain given the new regional dynamics. To explore and examine the future trajectory of Pak-US relations amid Sino-US rivalry Islamabad Institute of Conflict Resolution (IICR) is organized a national conference titled ***“Ongoing Sino-US Contestation and Future Trajectory of US-Pak Relations”*** on December 27, 2021.





Summary

The conference was scheduled to start at 1000 hrs PST. Ms. Sabah Aslam, founder Islamabad Institute of Conflict Resolution (IICR) welcomed all the guests and eminent speakers. Hereafter, senator Mushahid Hussain gave his opening remarks and moderated the session.

150

Event Audience

343

Media outreach

Speakers' Profile

Sr. No.	Panellists	Picture
1.	<p>Mushahid Hussain Syed is a journalist, geo-strategist, politician, an avid writer and reader. As a specialist on international, political, and strategic issues, he has lectured widely and his articles have been published in various national and international publications including The New York Times, The Washington Post, International Herald Tribune, and Middle East International. He has also authored three books. He is a Member of the Board of Governors of Islamabad Policy Research Institute (IPRI), a leading think tank.</p> <p>He was Pakistan's Representative to the Commission of Eminent Persons, set up by the Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC) for its reform in 2004-05. He is also the Vice President of the Centrist Democrat International (CDI) Asia – Pacific Chapter. On January 27, 2006, he was awarded the Congressional Medal of Achievement by the House of Representatives of the Republic of the Philippines. Currently he is serving as the senator, on a Pakistan Muslim League (N) platform, to Senate of Pakistan.</p>	
2.	<p>Prof. Dr. Rifaat Hussain is a professor, analyst, former anchor and radio personality who served at Quaid-i-Azam University for 36 years. He is currently a professor and Chairman in the Department of Government Policy and Public Administration at Pakistan's National University of Sciences and Technology. From 2003–2005, he served at National Defense University, Islamabad. He also served as the executive director at Regional Centre for Strategic Studies (RCSS) from 2005–2008 in Colombo, Sri Lanka. In addition, Rifaat Hussain had been serving as a visiting professor at the Center for Intl. Security and Cooperation at Stanford University. He was a visiting professor at CISAC, Stanford University for the 2012–</p>	

	<p>2013 academic year. He also served as a visiting professor at the Foreign Service Academy.</p>	
<p>3.</p>	<p>Ambassador (Retd) Syed Hasan Javed, Director, Chinese Studies Centre at the NUST School of Social Sciences & Humanities (S3H), has been selected by China's National Special Book Award Committee (SBAC) for conferment of Chinese Special Book Award. Ambassador Javed has written overall seven books, six of which are on various China-specific subjects, including Chinese Made Easy (a bestseller in Pakistan); Chinese English Urdu Dictionary; Chinese Soft Power Code; Rise of China and the Asian Century; China's Model of Development; and China, West and the Islamic World. These books have also been translated in the Chinese language and are a great value addition to better understand China and facilitate close Pakistan-China friendship and cooperation.</p> <p>It merits mention that Mr Javed is the first Pakistani scholar to have earned the prestigious Chinese Special Book Award. Launched in 2005, the award has been conferred upon over 108 distinguished individuals from 44 countries, for either writing books on China or translating Chinese works. Due to Covid-19, the Annual Award ceremony could not be held in 2020. This year again, due to Corona related travel restrictions, Pakistan's Ambassador to China Mr Moin Ul Haque was invited by the SBAC Organisers to receive the Award on behalf of Ambassador Syed Hasan Javed on September 14, 2021. The award carries a sum of Yuan 100,000.</p> <p>Pakistan and China are all-weather friends. This year, the two countries are celebrating 70 years of the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and Pakistan.</p>	

<p>4.</p>	<p>Mr. Faheem Sardar is a corporate and government executive, author, corporate trainer and entrepreneur. He appears regularly on media to talk about economics, markets, geo politics, geo-economics and more. He actively mentors the youth and young professionals, and is active in social aspects.</p>	
<p>5.</p>	<p>Mr. Qamar Cheema has been a faculty member at the Department of International Relations in the National University of Modern Languages Islamabad since 2010. He has also taught at Quaid e Azam University, Islamabad, National University of Science and Technology (NUST) Islamabad, Szabist, and International Islamic University Islamabad as visiting faculty member. Mr. Cheema has done his M.Phil research in “FMCT and Nuclear Nonproliferation in South Asia” and PhD Research on Transnational Character of Political Islam: Repercussion for Pakistan.</p> <p>Mr. Cheema appears on National and International media as a Strategic and Political Analyst. He also writes articles related to Foreign Policy, National Security, and domestic politics in the Daily Times newspaper.</p>	

Conference Proceedings

Opening Remarks by Sen. Mushaid Hussain Syed:

In 2016, the Asia Pacific name was changed to Indo Pacific. I went to Washington in November 2019, before COVID, I said to some of the senior officials there, I don't understand the Indian Ocean is different the Pacific Ocean is different where does this Indo-pacific come from? The answer was "look this is to appease India so that we can rope in India against China". It is clear that there are strategic reasons for that. If you read the NATO document "*NATO in 2030*", it states that our biggest challenge or threats are China and Russia. I asked NATO ambassadors, "I see NATO is North Atlantic Treaty and to the best of my knowledge, China is not part of North Atlantic, China's part of Asia. But how come in NATO's sights, China is also seen as a threat?" So this is where the world is forwarding.

Pakistan's interests are very clear, people ask what is going to be our policy, I think we are very clear on that. Every country preserves, promotes and protects national interests. I think the core of that was enunciated by President Field Marshal Ayyub Khan when he went to Washington in November of 1965, after the September 1965, War. President Johnson was there. He was very angry with President Ayyub. He said "you are flirting with China" don't forget, China also was confronted by the Soviet Union at that time. Let me give some context here, In March 1963 Ayyub Khan first signed the boundary agreement through his foreign minister, Mr Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto, with Beijing, then in the 1965 war, China supported us while the US-backed off and put sanctions on Pakistan. So, Ayyub Khan said look here, Mr President, if we have a problem with the US and we break from the US we will damage our economy. But if we have a problem with China and break with China, we will damage our national interests or core interests and we cannot do that. So that is the bottom line. With the US we have a tactical relationship, which is linked with a geopolitical situation when there's a Cold War, they need us, they need us for the opening to China and 1971 they need us for Afghan jihad, they need us for the war on terror. When that geopolitical situation ends, the relationship is also whether the way or we have sanctions. Whenever we have had American sanctions, it's been good for Pakistan. We have in progress more. After the 1965 war, we had sanctions. We developed an indigenous defence

production capability. We built our own weaponry. When we had American sanctions after the Afghan jihad, Pressler amendment 1990. We built the nuclear bomb. When we had the Salalah episode in 2010-11, and they again, were angry with us, we built CPEC.

So, I think whenever we are on our own, we have the sanctions, it's been good for us. I think in that regard, the China relationship is strategic while the US relationship is tactical. One other thing, after 5th August 2019, the situation has changed when Modi annexed Kashmir and Amit Shah and Rajnath Singh their defence minister and Home Minister respectively announced in the Lok Sabha that next time now we will occupy Gilgit Baltistan, Azad, Kashmir, Aksai, chin. China said that this is the red line for us. China today is a de facto party to the Kashmir dispute, because of India's policies, and you can see what has happened. Twice the Indians have tried to provoke the Chinese and they got a thrashing twice, in May 2020 and in January 2021. When we went to the UN Security Council, it was through China on the Kashmir issue. So, our relationship is very, very clear that we would like to have a very broad-based relationship. Afghanistan has nothing to do with Pakistan. Americans know that Afghan policy failure was not because of Pakistan, their own policy was wrong. The whole of the Afghan war was based on a lie. Please read the Washington Post papers of November 2019. Please read the report of the Special Inspector General on Afghan Reconstruction, SIGAR 17th of August 2021 That report is there and putting the American documents they lied. The US said the Afghan National Army is of 350,000 people, actually, it was 50,000. The other was a Ghost Army. American contractors or Afghan generals were made. In Vietnam, also the Americans lost. But five South Vietnamese generals committed suicide. They said we will not surrender to the communists. They committed suicide when the Vietcong in the North came, nobody committed suicide in Afghanistan from the army or the Afghan government, they all fled with the money. When we come to this issue, I think Pakistan should be very clear. I see sometimes in the Pakistani system, whether it's the civilians of the military, they start getting perplexed. We should have strategic clarity about our interests. We should be very clear on our core interests. We should learn to take decisions. Learn from the Father of the Nation, Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, who created Pakistan, he had no army, no atom bomb, no British establishment, no big money. He had character leadership and support of the people and a party called All India Muslim league. He was opposed by British imperialism by the Congress by even some Muslims. But Pakistan came into reality, has the right of self-determination. He was the one who wrote to President Truman on

Palestine. He was the one who spoke about Kashmir as the jugular vein of Pakistan. So, our role model is the Jinnah. With all strategic clarity, what are our core interests? What are our red lines? Yes, we want to have very good relations with all countries, including the United States, including India. But those relationships should be based on equality, reciprocity, and protection of our core interests. This is what a bottom line should be. I thank you for that.

Mr. Faheem Sardar:

Thank you, so much for having me. I'm going to try to explain the power of economics in a slightly different way we all talk about money is important but I've seen with my own eyes the linkage between conflict and economy. Economic interdependence, and conflict, I'm going to be talking about that, for me, at least, these are extremely big subjects. My brief discussion is based on two parts, one is a bit of background, a description of what I think the issues are, and secondly, what Pakistan needs to do. Economic interdependence is a natural phenomenon because economics is a natural phenomenon. Whenever I sell something, and someone buys, you just became economically interdependent. As time grows, we become comfortable. Why do you import something because it's cheaper than to make it? it's very simple and you tend to get comfortable. As you become comfortable, you start developing a deep relationship with that country. That turns into something good for you, good for them. But there is another side to it, which is where your conflicts can come up? When I was running a brokerage house, people used to say to me, I used to do a security analysis of let's say, one is a very short analysis when people used to ask me, in the brokerage business, why on earth? Are you concerned about what's happening in Afghanistan? So, all I could say to them was, it's our neighbour. We should know what's happening. I mean, how can we talk about economics if we don't talk about war or conflict? So, the problem is, we take economics generally, people take economics as part of life. It's an offshoot, it's a byproduct of life. They don't, at times, see the strategic impact of economics. Economics is best understood when you sort of brings it up when you sort of look at the mechanisms of economics. Then we can talk about conflict. Economics is going to lead to trade and business, which is going to lead to interdependence. But that will invariably at some point draw a conflict with someone else's interests, if it's in my interest to raise Pakistan's GDP it would be not lucrative for someone else interests. A lot of violence was perpetrated on Pakistan

in specific areas, which caused our GDP to sort of decrease. our GDP right now should be \$450 billion dollars and right now it's standing at 290 billion. That's like 100 billion per year. So, you just do the math, that's the amount of loss that we're facing because of a certain conflict.

Economics has another side, conflict will only happen when it's economically feasible. Conflicts happen when they're economically feasible and sensible to do. When Rome attacked Carthage. There was an economic background to it. There was a military background to it as well as there was an economic background to it. Wars end when they become economically non-feasible. We have to bring economics into this foray as well. It is extremely important for us to identify. And I'm saying this as an insider, that many times wars are designed by corporates because it's economically feasible for them. It makes sense to sell stuff to sell things. So you have to sort of distill, you have to disaggregate what exactly you're talking about, what kind of a conflict is it? Is it ideological? Is it economic, usually economic? Whenever there's conflict is because there is some kind of divergence somewhere of strategic objectives. That turns into a war. Clausewitz said that war is an extension of policy, but it's the truth. It is an extension of policy. Conflicts happen when a certain threshold I call the tolerance threshold, is breached. Below that red line, you're trading you're fighting, but you're still not getting into an open conflict. Now, just to give you a few examples, and purposely I've tried to keep these examples nonsystematic. So we have World wars in Europe and they were trading shortly afterwards. They were still trading. There was a war and then suddenly, there's trade. So, do you sort of segregate the two conflicts and economics? No, they're not mutually exclusive. But there is a strange balance. When you look at the relationship of US and Germany, in World War Two, they were at each other's throats just before the war, prior to the ban that the US had imposed, the United States was a very big investor in Germany, banks, Wall Street was financing Germany. After the war, they were again financing Germany. There was a nuclear attack, there are two nuclear attacks on Japan. And a few years later, Japan was selling auto cars to America. I don't know how many of us have actually studied Japanese cases about how they penetrated the US market, it is strategic came, study, how did Honda become what it is? how did Toyota become what it is? Sony become what it is, and vice versa as well.

Now coming to Pakistan, when we, for example, analyze us in relation to let's say, India, I think in 1947 70% of our trade was roundabout with India. Now, both sides, if you take the percentage

of the trade with other countries as divided by your total trades, it's negligible. But the conflict is very severe. Recap this in bond with the United States of America, the largest trading partner that we have, there is no direct conflict that we have. There is no direct conflict by conflict, we mean active engagement. That's how I define it. With Europe it is the same thing, one of the largest trading partners of Pakistan, there is no direct conflict, yet we're trading with India, there's marginal trade. These are just non-exhaustive examples of just trying to interpolate and present in front of you that it's not easy to just segregate conflict and economics. With India, we have marginal trade, but we have a severe conflict. We need to understand that wars are economic. So, we need to factor that in one way or another.

Coming to this second part that what should Pakistan do, is understand a few things which are described and then diversify. So, these are two things that we need to do. Firstly, understanding that conflict is inevitable. Machiavelli, I believe once said that I'm so sad that you can delay war to the advantage of the other. So, I initially didn't understand that when I was young, but now I get it, you have to keep yourself prepared, at least mentally for any kind of conflict. You just have to look at history, look at the fiercest, most devastating conflicts. So it's not because it just happened all of a sudden because conflict is inevitable, something will give somewhere, all wars especially hybrid wars are economic in nature.

We need strategic clarity. Pakistan needs to be very clear. Do we want interdependence? Or do we want something else? There's another thing called economic dependence, creating economic dependence, so we just need to balance that out. I know the answer, but I'm not going to get into it. Economics and Trade remain the best relationship builder. It remains a softener, how many of us travel in let's see Japanese cars. And how many of us can even speak Japanese, we don't. There's a reason I'm giving this wrap seemingly random example. Economics creates a pathway very easily for interaction for growth, for mutual benefit. It even softens your conflict. But there's a limit to it, there will be something that's going to give way, but conflict cannot be avoided, so it's best to plan for it. This brings me to the last point, when it comes to the understanding portion, you will need to understand conflicts we need to predict them simulate them, even with countries that we're friendly with. Because it can happen, might as well be prepared. Given a corporate example, I'm doing this on purpose. There was a CEO of Intel, who built Intel to one at that time, they were the new heights of Intel. And he always used to say only

the Paranoid Survive. People didn't like that statement. But that's the truth. You have to be paranoid to structure your own life. So that point is diversification. The best thing Pakistanis can do right now is to diversify trade and to diversify conflicts. You cannot have the same story being said again, and again, we cannot have the same trade mechanism, trade composition, and we have to start changing things, you must also diversify our conflicts. How do we do that? That's a separate debate. But there are certain mechanisms that need to be put in certain kinds of mindsets that we need to start exploring. Start changing our conflicts. The ability to control your conflict is going to be critical.

Thank you once again for having me.

Remarks by Senator Mushaid Hussain

Thank you very much. Your point is well taken. It was President Eisenhower, in his last speech, as president of the US on 17th January 1961, said that the biggest threat to America is going to be the military-industrial problems. So, you can see that these wars have been driven by the corporate and they have been the ones who have been profitable. And regarding trade, there are 193 or 195 members of the UN. Out of those 193 countries, please note 130 countries have more trade with China than they have with the US. So that again is very important. Thank you very much. And now I'll humbly request Ambassador Hassan Javed Sahab: Congratulations on your new book sir and I wish it to become a best seller. And I would also recommend that those who read this book China's number one, please also read the book by another very good Asian intellectual from Singapore. His name is Sean Barney. His book came out last year it says, Has China won? So I think that also shows which way the trend is there.

Amb. Javed Hassan:

The time is short, but I will just limit myself to a few observations. The subject is that of a strategic brawl, I think there is no brawl. You can call it may be Cold War or maybe cold peace, maybe you can call it 5000-year Chinese characteristics versus American exceptionalism of 300 years. Some scholars feel that there is no contestation or any brawl, a contest has already been decided and China is the victim, you know, the earthquake has already taken place, in the next 10 years or maybe 20 years, we will be witnessing the seismic after effects and that Seismic after effects make this period from now 2020 to 2040, maybe 2030 Particularly as the transition zone or maybe the twilight zone of power, great power shape, which has already taken place, but there are still some scholars who say that the US will remain a superpower for some time, while the few scholars feel that America might have a comeback. So, we have all these diverse viewpoints.

The US intelligentsia, US universities, think tanks have really made a great failure in assessing the rise of China. In 2004 there were many Nobel Prize winners in a meeting in Los Angeles. They thought China will overtake the US in 50 years' time and in 2004 actually, China did it on the basis of purchasing power parity in 2014, just 10 years after. So, with such a margin of error, you cannot really justify any intelligentsia or think tanks cannot justify that what happened. So I will just be limited to what is the US dilemma and in the Chinese dilemma and in the Pakistani dilemma and the recommendation just briefly.

The fact that America is in a deep crisis is no more being debated, it is certain that Americans are desperate. America is a great global power that has committed great blunders. America has now lost the battle of ideas and narratives. I have visited America twice at once at the invitation of the State Department, and the second I have visited at the invitation of the Pentagon. So, history now is taking a turn and some people say it has already taken a turn. But you know that what happens every 100 or 200 or 400 years, America is in disarray. America cannot find the world like no power ever could do in history. America has lost its credibility and its social capital. What a tragedy that America is at war with itself with the largest homicides. These are some of the observations of US media, the US think tanks and not mine. America has become its own worst enemy. American soft power is at its lowest in the world. The Cold War too is an old narrative as us and them, it is irrelevant. The US is a superpower in decline, with the recognition gap, being the most prominent thing. It is, however, for Americans to reflect on their country's

problems and solutions and not for foreigners to make judgments. And these are not my judgments. These are American judgments. Americans horrible love judging other societies. 24/7 President Joe Biden has a choice. He can become Deng Xiaoping, or he can become General MacArthur. If he chooses to become MacArthur, America does not have the US economy of the 1950s. If he chooses to become China's Deng Xiaoping like the reformer, he does not have that time. President Joe Biden, who has long years of working with the American deep establishment is best placed to revive America. The only difficulty is that China's Deng Xiaoping had 30 years of ideological baggage. The 20th century was the American century. So President Joe Biden has to deal with 100 years of the ideological baggage of manifest destiny, Americans should have celebrated China's rise as it contributed to its rights in a major way. Also, the Chinese harnessed the American corporate market economy, management and best practices and hybridize this with their own socialist governance and Chinese characteristics. No other country has done bigger.

Now what is the Chinese dilemma, China does not seek strategic competition. China does not want Cold War. China wants sanctity of one China principle, which the US has agreed as part of three communities for normalizing relations with China. China is against forming alliances and coalition's China is against nuclearization, militarization by the US of its allies in Asia. China is against foreign interference in its internal matters. China wants to reform global economic governance. China wants democracy in the global system. China is against rocking the boat in which it has been there and rising. China is against using trade, Culture, Sports and technology and weapons of the new Cold War. China believes in dialogue to resolve complex global issues such as arms control, trade and climate change. These are Chinese, China's own scholars giving you the Chinese positions. Now, what's Pakistan's dilemma and the economic viability in my view, Pakistan cannot be dictated and denied economic takeoff indefinitely. Before Pakistan did not have viable economic options. It does not have all kinds of viable options. If Cuba, North Korea, Iran, Afghanistan and Venezuela, and we just had American pressures. Pakistan is many times stronger than all those countries combined. The US has used FATF to destroy Pakistan economy to its hitmen, who are sitting in our top policymaking positions of Pakistan. But Pakistan will not bow down. This is not in our DNA. So, the Americans do not read history. India is a big joke in my view. Only the West takes it seriously. The Americans must know that whoever has sided with India, such as British Empire or the Soviet Union became history. Whoever engaged in conflict with the Muslim world became history. So, the choice is for

America to decide and not for Pakistan. The 21st century belongs to China and Pakistan is the key. This is what the Chinese scholars say that the future is China, Pakistan is the key. Pakistan is on the right side of history, as was demonstrated in the 20th century when we started with a free world for the most part of the Cold War, and Pakistan's economics. In my concluding remarks, I say that Pakistan's economic relations with the US and China are not a question of comparative arithmetic. For example, which is the largest export destination, which is the source of the largest source of foreign direct investment, which is the largest source of remittance, or resource of remittance or source of technology or source of education, destination, etc. No doubt these are important, but more important is the quality of relations, particularly trust.

In this, China Pakistan relations win by a big margin. While Pakistan's landscape is dotted with China aided projects, the US and its allies and the IMFs have only added to the miseries of Pakistani people by helping our elite capture and not letting the reforms happen in this country. Now, what are my recommendations Pakistan is at crossroads, Pakistan needs to prepare the leadership to navigate the future Pakistan's Achilles heel is the pro-Western elite, which refused to change. Fortunately, Pakistan is among the best-blessed nations for the future. The USA has however made its choice clear that you have heard. The western world will never allow Pakistan to rise to challenge India. Pakistan will never accept India's domination. My recommendations are Pakistan should come out of the IMF program say no to the 33rd program. Pakistan should reinforce the strategic relations with China, Russia, Eurasia Xian, Middle East Africa and Latin America. You heard about diversification, Pakistan should undertake comprehensive policy reforms for nation-building, the revival of institutions economic takeoff and soft power revival and Renaissance. All stakeholders in Pakistan need to seriously follow the agenda for curbing all this, you know, our learning from best practices. Sanctions have been a blessing in disguise for Pakistan for many, many reasons. So, we shouldn't be scared, we should have strategic clarity. If Pakistan can not only sustain its economic viability but prosper, too. And I, for one, have met Xi Jinping six times and have written eight books on China. One of my latest books, the last book last year was China's model of development lessons for Pakistan. Here discuss 126 lessons and how decisions which we can make some of them in accordance with our national conditions. So, you see the CPEC has to be revived again. So CPEC will restore Pakistan's economic sovereignty. There is no realization in America and the Western powers that we wore off Pakistan rather too prematurely. They are sending us some positive vibes. But some of these

vibes are fake. And some of these vibes are real. So I will just leave with you. I can answer the questions if you have any. Thank you very much.

Remarks by Senator Mushahid Hussain:

Thank you very much. And normally, people say that people from the foreign ministry, are a bit timid and sometimes very too much scared but Hassan Javed sahab is not like that. I remember you had that distinguished foreign service people like Agha Shahi Sahab who served Pakistan the distinction, and who knew how to preserve, promote and protect Pakistan. I think foreign offices produce some of the best and the brightest. I was recently in a seminar organized by China development forum on 20th of March 2021. And I was representing Pakistan. And this was to celebrate 50 years of Dr. Henry Kissinger, his visit to China, which went via Islamabad and PIA plane. Their journey was on 8th July 1971. And Dr. Kissinger personally appeared that and he thanked Pakistan, and he appreciated. And in my speech, I mentioned that from Pakistan side, there were only three people who were handling this China initiative, which changed the course of history in the 20th century, the balance apart. I said three or four. One was President Yahya Khan personally, Foreign Secretary Sultan Mohammed Khan. And our ambassador in Washington Agha Hilaly. Just three people, nobody else, no ISI no IB, no army, nothing. So it was very clearly and it was very successful, so Foreign Service is doing a great job. And I'm glad that we have a thinking diplomat like Hassan Javed. And now I head over to Mr. Qamar Cheema Sahab. Over to you.

Mr. Qammar Cheema:

Thank you very much. So first of all, with little clarity, I will speak about Indo Pacific. I will speak about quad; I will speak about what Americans and Chinese are doing in Indo Pacific and what we have to do. So, five points. Indo Pacific, you know, as a geopolitical nomenclature, this has come as a geographic and strategic reference to the region. By replacing the word the Asia Pacific, we do not have control over the nomenclatures, then how it moved away from the Asia Pacific to Indo Pacific, but since this is a dominant construct came up with the Western think tanks. So, the majority of the people who do not know understand Indo Pacific, Indo Pacific

starts from the Horn of Africa and goes to the west coast of the USA till Americas, North America and South America. So, whatever comes in between these is Indo Pacific, so and above all the other countries who are coming up with so many definitions, so there are countries which have strategies about Indo Pacific and each country among those is having a different definition, this is the broadest definition, which I'm explaining. So, for more than 10 years, this term is being coined in official documents, including national security strategies, defence white papers, think tanks, and people who have been writing. Now, this Indo Pacific region is known as a critical engine of global growth and economy. 60% of the world population is here. 1/3 of the global trade happens here, more than \$5 trillion straight passes through the communication lines in this Indo Pacific and this part of the world. This region is obviously the largest greenhouse gas emitter and making a case for industrial growth, that is why the world is putting a lot of attention. So, with this, there are obviously environmental, territorial, economic, political challenges for the region as well. So this region is definitely being seen as a lens of the Sino American strategic competition. But the most important thing is that all the countries France, Holland, Germany, America, and many other countries, they're coming up with their own doctrines for this Indo Pacific, which obviously, I cannot explain, but this has so much importance that has value for assessment. So as far as this QUAD is concerned, forget QUAD there is a QUAD II as well. QUAD was basically the traditional and nontraditional security threats shaped by the new global alliances. This is a quadrilateral security dialogue having four countries America from America, Australia, Japan, and India. So, this QUAD was envisioned back in 2003, but it remained dominant initially, it was for the non-traditional security threats. But in 2007, when the Asian tsunami came in, the nations got together and started working there, how we have to work together, and particularly this is Japan, India, Australia, and the Americans came up. So the first time in 2007, former Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, spoke at the Indian parliament in New Delhi, that the Indian Ocean and the Pacific Ocean are one common space. So that's where it all started, and the nation started talking about it. Whereas in 2011, the Americans came up with this concept of Indo Pacific, and it just started explaining this policy and they call that pivot to Asia. So, this was what Hillary Clinton wrote in the Foreign Policy magazine back in 2011. I think that is an excellent article to read that the way America moved and achieve what Hillary Clinton wrote was that the American future will not be decided in the mountains of Afghanistan, or in the streets of Iraq, it will be decided in Asia, and America will

be the centre of the action. That's where they move towards Indo Pacific and call it Pivot to Asia, then the Australians and the other countries came up with their own plans and doctrines. This was something that is important to understand. And above all, this QUAD or QSD, as I mentioned, is the quadrilateral security dialogue, but this is Quad II, which is not part of the discussion. But Israel, UAE, Americans and Indians are there. So how India is being mainstreamed by the Americans, and I remember when I think Senator Blinken came up last time in the region, he said that our allies must mainstream India, they must give preferential treatment to India. So, this is consistent policy coming from the Americans.

Now, the important point here is what are the four factors on which all countries agree on this Indo Pacific framework? The first one is, the priority in the region is called contributing regional security through security and military cooperation. All folk, all countries in the region, be it France, Holland, Germany, Americans, Australians.

The second priority is preserving free and open access to the maritime lines of communication. The third priority is to contribute to the strategic stability in the Indo Pacific by the multilateral actions to strengthen regimes like nuclear non-Proliferation, so keeping in mind North Korea, the fourth and the last priority which is being shared by all these stakeholders in the region is to deal with their catastrophic climatic events, as nature is involved in geopolitics now as well. So, these are the four factors that are being shared by everyone in the region.

Now, what the Americans are doing, or what happened to America, and particularly to the Biden administration, under the previous administration, Americans are going for the strategic rebalancing and repositioning. So new institutional frameworks are coming like QUAD and AUKUS, Australia, US and UK and remember, Quad didn't become a security arm, because Indians were keeping this strategic autonomy in the region. So, they said that Quad is not going to be, you know, a military alliance. So that is why the Americans, British and the Australians came up with this office. And remember, this time, the budget of the American Defense Department budget has increased to \$788 billion. And in this, some \$7.1 billion, they have put for the Pacific deterrence initiative, and some \$5 billion they have put for the administration. So, this is something huge coming. So rebalancing repositioning matters a lot. The second important thing is what the Americans are talking about, the United States has built a comprehensive and institutionalized transatlantic network after World War Two. So, what they are saying is that we

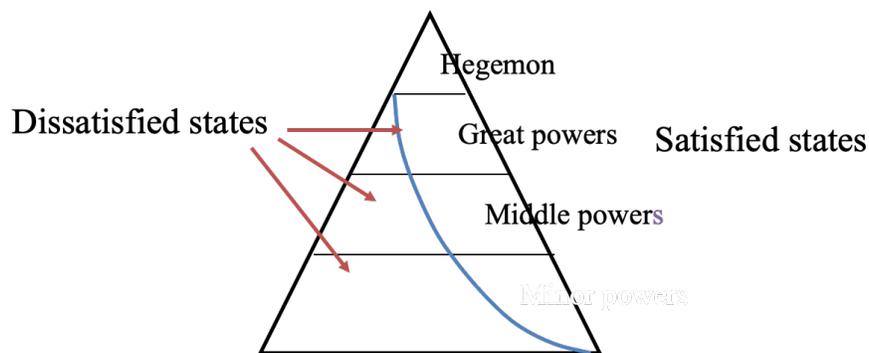
are going to repeat what happened in Europe. So, this is a new institutional hegemony coming in the Indo Pacific. And this is where, and they believe that Asia is a pivot. So, what happened in Europe, in terms of the European Union, in terms of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, they are trying to reshape and give a new life to that institutional framework they're establishing. And remember, Hillary Clinton said that she coined the term forward-deployed diplomacy, forward-deployed diplomacy, dispatching all assets, which they can dispatch to the Asia Pacific because they believe that America is an Atlantic power, and America is a Pacific Power because of its geography. Then, a very important point, the challenge for America and opportunity, as for example, the Americans believe that China believes in multilateralism, which means that China is coming up with a solution for the region. And China does not have the solution for these complex problems. For example, they believe that this bottom-up approach coming by the Chinese, this state-centric approach, state central order coming up in the Indo Pacific, and disaggregated, you know, challenge. So, they believe that this mini lateralism that no one nation can come up with and explain what is going to be Indo Pacific, the French has come up because, by the way, remember, the French are the only country from the euro, which has overseas territories in the Indian Ocean and the Pacific Ocean. And so, they believe that we are a part of the Indo Pacific so they believe that we must not be treated. And this is why the French came up with this Indo Pacific doctrine. That is very important because America moved away from an ideational leadership, the ideational leadership that believed in terms of ideas, for instance of liberalism, that rose with the presence of Donald Trump, economic protectionism, talking about how we have to revise the tariffs, then targeting media, then ignoring allies. So that is why Biden had to say that America is back. And this is what you know what he said when he was in Europe. So, this ideational leadership created a gap for the Chinese, they enjoyed it. In this vacuum, the Allies, American allies went to the Indo Pacific, the last point, which obviously, the Americans believe, and they want to avoid being in this region. In a virtual summit with Xi Jinping, Joe Biden said that there is a competition, and there is cooperation. So, the cooperation is the \$600 billion bilateral trade but the competition is they are not going to be in the Winter Olympics. And then what we call Build Back Better award, the G7 came up with this idea that we have to come up with the institutionalized growth model like BRI, where they're coming up with this \$40 trillion business, although it's all in the pipeline, nobody has clarity, and then the Europeans are coming up with a Global Gateway. That is a 300-billion-euro project. So that is just to counter

BRI. So, there's a lot that is happening in the Pacific. And if you look at what the Chinese are doing, they are coming in with a new thing. For example, when Americans speak about shared values, that is democracy, freedom of speech, human rights, the Chinese speak of multilateralism and a shared future. There is a clear dichotomy in the ideational behaviour of both Washington and Beijing. This leaves Pakistan at a very critical juncture with few options at hand. Pakistan needs to be cautious and at the same time preserve what is needed for itself. With this, I thank all the participants and especially IICR.

Prof. Dr Riffat Hussain:

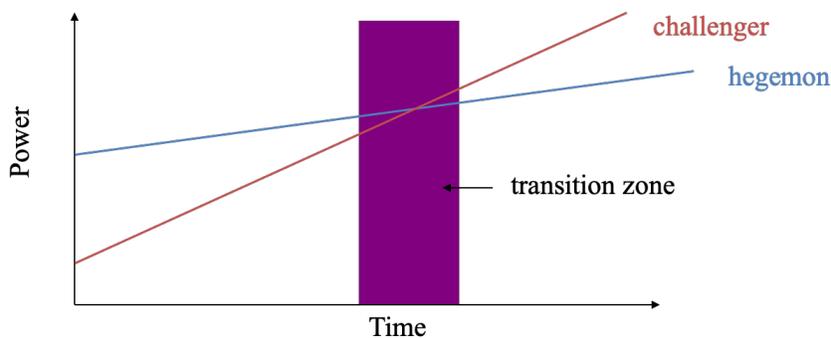
Thank you very much, it indeed is a pleasure to be here and talk on this pertinent issue of global importance. First of all, we need to understand the nature of the confrontation between the USA and China. The nature of contestation between both the powers is about influence building devoid of military confrontation. It also needs to be remembered that the metaphor of “rising power” (China) versus “Declining power” (USA) is misleading, as it ignores the current realities of power, Taiwan is an exception to this rule. China is a “peer competitor” but is not the ideological “enemy” of the West led by the United States.

When we look at it through the lens of Power Transition Theory, Power transition theory argues that a major war requires both opportunity and willingness. The probability of war is thus highest when power parity is reached between the system’s hegemon and a dissatisfied challenger. Opportunity comes from power parity between the challenger and hegemon, or dominant state. Willingness comes from the challenger’s dissatisfaction with the status quo the hegemon has created.



Pyramid of Power

- States that benefit from the status quo are in the satisfied coalition. States that do not are **dissatisfied**.
 - Satisfied states make up a smaller percentage of each tier as one moves down the pyramid of power.



Risk of War

- The hegemon's power grows slowly; the challengers grows more rapidly (from industrialization or other sources). War is most likely in the **transition zone** when the challenger nears or reaches the point of parity.

There are a few questions we need to address first. In order to understand these concepts, we need to understand what American power is all about? First thing first It shapes context and choice. Susan Strange rightly argues that while American power as defined by material resources might be in decline, the United States is the epicentre of a transnational empire that gives it the

ability to shape security, financial, productive, and knowledge structures, which, in turn, operate to U.S. advantage and foreclose opportunities to other countries. Secondly, Why Unipolarity is ending? It is because “The United States has tumbled from its dominant position and that a fundamental, system-altering power shift away from unipolarity is occurring. “Unipolarity is ending, has ended, or will soon end,” goes the gist of much commentary, “and the system is reverting to multipolarity or bipolarity or apolarity” or whatever neologism the analyst wishes to propound.”

Why is US not declining? We find that the United States will long remain the world’s sole superpower, but that China’s economic ascent is a major change that deserves the intense focus it has attracted. It has put China in a class by itself, one that the polarity concept cannot capture: greater than other major powers such as Germany, Japan, and Russia but nowhere near a peer of the United States. There are three reasons why,

- First, unlike past rising powers, China is at a much lower technological level than the leading state.
- Second, the distance China must travel is extraordinarily large because the size of the U.S. military advantage is much bigger than the analogous gaps in previous eras.
- Third, the very nature of power has changed: the greatly enhanced difficulty of converting economic capacity into military capacity makes the transition from a great power to a superpower much harder now than it was in the past.

Now let’s peek into what the future holds for us given the current contestation among US and China. US’s hegemonic power is in decline and there is an apparent global shift in North America/Europe towards the Asia-Pacific region. Also, it needs to be made clear that whatever the US say or does BRI is directly posing a challenge to US entrenched power. In such a scenario the US can respond to this Chinese challenge in two ways soft balancing versus hard balancing. However, NSA 2017 and Pentagon document 2019 spell out what the US intends to do.

The logic behind the US pivot to Asia is important in this aspect. The U.S. goal of preventing the emergence of regional hegemonies in Eurasia, though long-standing, is not written in stone—it is a policy choice reflecting two judgments: (1) that given the number of people, resources, and economic activity in Eurasia, a regional hegemon in Eurasia would represent a concentration of

power large enough to be able to threaten vital U.S. interests; and (2) that Eurasia is not dependably self-regulating in terms of preventing the emergence of regional hegemons, meaning that the countries of Eurasia cannot be counted on to be able to prevent, through their own actions, the emergence of regional hegemons, and may need assistance from one or more countries outside Eurasia to be able to do this dependably.

In order to fully implement and execute its objectives over Asia Pacific policy or Indo-Pacific policy, US and allied capabilities in Indo-Pacific region needs to be understood. The emergence of great power competition with China has led to a major U.S. defense-planning focus on strengthening U.S. military capabilities in the Indo-Pacific region. The discussion in the December 2017 NSS of regions of interest to the United States began with a section on the Indo-Pacific,³¹ and the unclassified summary of the January 2018 NDS mentioned the Indo-Pacific at several points.³² Strengthening U.S. military capabilities in the Indo-Pacific was a key component of the Free and Open Indo-Pacific (FOIP), which the Trump Administration's overarching policy construct for that region. The Biden Administration's March 2021 Interim National Security Strategic Guidance states that "our vital national interests compel the deepest connection to the Indo-Pacific, Europe, and the Western Hemisphere," and that "as we position ourselves to deter our adversaries and defend our interests, working alongside our partners, our presence will be most robust in the Indo-Pacific and Europe."

Given the emerging stats it appears that US hegemony is declining. US Growth rate has fallen by ½ since the beginning of the century due to debt and deficit and energy dependent. Contrary to this China's share of global product has grown by 144 per cent and that is before the launch of BRI. China has been able to pull 650 million out of the poverty trap. India is growing at 5% per year before outbreak of Covid 19 in which 40 million have died. Amid these US is shifting its priorities. These anxieties have been compounded during the Trump Administration. Trump's South Asia strategy of 2017 and his NSS accord a strategic role of India. The Pentagon document IPSR "Indo-Pacific Strategy Report 2019" does not even mention Pakistan as a country that is relevant to US security interests in the Asian region. The document devoted several paragraphs to India's vital role as a strategic partner of India.

Now, what are the implications for Pakistan. Ideally, Islamabad should maintain a policy of equidistance in the emerging security competition between China and the United States. But

given the fact that India has become a preferred US partner Pakistan will have to choose between China and America. Of course, Pakistan will choose Beijing should the push come to shove. Islamabad because of the CPEC project would like to cultivate friendly ties with Russia and Central Asian states. The Taliban controlled Afghanistan in this context is a game-changer for Pakistan. It remains to be seen how the developments inside Afghanistan unfold Pakistan should try to avoid totally antagonizing the US. And try to pursue its issued based cooperation in areas of counter-terrorism, fighting violent extremism and seeking greater economic benefits. Pakistan should seek multilateral economic assistance to find a way out of its difficult economic situation. Islamabad should urge Washington to stay engaged with Pakistan and do its best to transform its transactional relations with Washington into a partnership.

In all this equation, Afghanistan shall not be left out. A country rich in mineral wealth is estimated to be worth three trillion US dollars. Beijing has already invested 3 billion dollars in copper mines in Afghanistan. Beijing has never declared the Taliban as a terrorist entity. It views them as a political group and is supportive of them. Taliban are relying heavily on Beijing to not only bail them out of their economic difficulties but also offer them support for Afghanistan's economic renewal and rejuvenation. During the July 28, 2021 meeting the Taliban delegation held out assurances to Beijing that Afghanistan will not support ETIM in Xinjiang.

But for most what is necessary for Pakistan is to preserve its interests. I thank the organizers and special thanks to Ms Sabah Aslam for organizing such a timely conference. Thank you so much.

Recommendations:

1. Pakistan needs to have strategic clarity for its foreign policy execution. All concerned departments need to be on one page and under one understanding to pursue national interests.
2. Ideally Islamabad should maintain a policy of equi-distance in the emerging security competition between China and the United States. Pakistan shall not take sides rather its own.
3. However, given the current regional environment where India is backed by US, Pakistan is left with no option but to side with China. Keeping this in view Pakistan shall preserve its interests by making the relations with China purely based on self-interests.
4. Given CPEC at hand Islamabad shall seek enhancing its relations with Russia and Central Asia. Pakistan brand CPEC, own CPEC and use CPEC.
5. It remains to be seen that how the developments inside Afghanistan unfold Pakistan should try to avoid totally antagonizing the US. And try to pursue its issued based cooperation in areas of counter-terrorism, fighting violent extremism and seek greater economic benefits.
6. Pakistan should seek multilateral economic assistance to find a way out of its difficult economic situation. Islamabad should urge Washington to stay engaged with Pakistan and do its best to transform its transactional relations with Washington into a partnership.
7. Pakistan should come out of IMF program say no to 33rd program and enhance transactional relations with multiple countries specially China to overcome that burden.
8. Pakistan should undertake comprehensive policy reforms for nation building, revival of institutions economic takeoff and soft power revival and Renaissance.
9. Sanctions have been a blessing for Pakistan. Specially in 21st century sanctions are hidden opportunities in multipolar world. Pakistan shall not hesitate to take bold decisions, there are opportunities ahead.

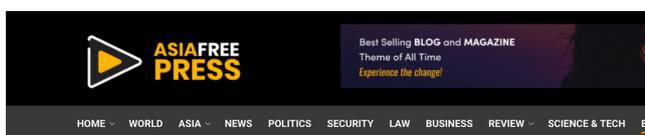
10. Pakistan needs to work on forging relation on economic basis. Economics and trade remain best relation builder. There are a lot of economic opportunities in Pakistan which are waiting to be explored.
11. Pakistan shall look into the concept of economic dependence, where it should export things to the countries and make them depended upon itself.
12. Pakistan needs to craft itself as an economic power, steer its infrastructure and potential to start becoming self-sufficient.
13. Obsolete minds cannot solve modern problems, its 21st century and Pakistan face problems with regards to the modernity and technological in nature. Whereas minds of the people in power reigns are not equipped to solve the issues. With modernity there is modernity in economics as well and Pakistan needs to adapt.

Media Gallery





Media Coverage



Pakistan strategically aligned with China, relationship with US is tactical; experts assert during national conference on Sino-US Contestation

by Asia Free Press — December 27, 2021 in Asia, China, Latest, Pakistan



current trends indicate China has strength to exceed US : Mushahid Hussain

December 27, 2021



Pakistan is strategically aligned with China, whereas its



NEWswire International
Past • Present • Future

Home World Sports Business Politics women Tourism 中国 Contact Covid-19 اردو

Search ... Search

Archives
Select Month

Headlines

- Pakistani agriculturists should learn from China to boost production: Imran Khan
Gwadar Pro Islamabad: Prime Minister Imran Khan has said that Pakistani agriculturists should learn from...
- CPEC to further elevate Pakistan-China friendship: FM Qureshi Islamabad Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi has said that the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) would...
- China appreciates PM Khan's role for promoting bilateral relations, trade
Beijing: China on Tuesday appreciated Prime Minister Imran Khan and his government for attaching importance...

Politics

- Pakistani agriculturists should learn from China to boost production: Imran Khan
Gwadar Pro Islamabad: Prime Minister Imran Khan has said that ...
- CPEC to further elevate Pakistan-China friendship: FM Qureshi Islamabad

Pakistan strategically aligned with China: Conference
1 week ago Newswire International

VOM
News of Morning

World Politics Global Issues Economy & Finance Editor's View Glamour News Update More Today's Paper Urdu News Contacts

Defence News, Islamabad

Pakistan needs to develop a broad-based relationship with China, Senator Mushahid

6:49 PM - December 27, 2021 (Monday) By melange.editor47

Latest Articles

- **NCOC update**
10:40 AM - January 5, 2022 (Wednesday)
- **Weather Update**
10:35 AM - January 5, 2022 (Wednesday)
- **ISPR**
8:50 AM - January 5, 2022 (Wednesday)
- **Kashmir**
8:43 AM - January 5, 2022 (Wednesday)
- **Kashmir**
8:39 AM - January 5, 2022 (Wednesday)
- **Kashmir**
8:33 AM - January 5, 2022 (Wednesday)
- **China Sports Culture**
8:27 AM - January 5, 2022 (Wednesday)
- **Business Community**
5:56 PM - January 4, 2022 (Tuesday)
- **Embassy of Turkmenistan**
3:45 PM - January 4, 2022 (Tuesday)
- **President House**
3:24 PM - January 4, 2022 (Tuesday)

THE NATION

First Smart City Of Pakistan

E-PAPER TODAY'S PAPER EDITOR'S PICKS OPINION NEWS MULTIMEDIA BLOGS CONNECT WITH US

LATEST ion will benefit entire nation: PM Imran

Pakistan strategically aligned with China, ties with US tactical: Speakers

IICR organises national conference on 'Ongoing Sino-US contestation and future trajectory of US-Pak relations'

Share: Like 15K Share Tweet LinkedIn Share WhatsApp

SHAFQAT ALI
December 28, 2021

Private Internet ACCESS
World's Most Trusted VPN
Get PIA VPN



Pakistan is strategically aligned with China, whereas its relationship with the US is tactical: Multidisciplinary experts assert during a national conference titled "Ongoing Sino-US Contestation and Future Trajectory of US-Pak Relations"

Search ...

Recent Posts

Pakistan is strategically aligned with China, whereas its relationship with the US is tactical: Multidisciplinary experts assert during a national conference titled "Ongoing Sino-US Contestation and Future Trajectory of US-Pak Relations"

"Annual Sports Day at Pak-Turk Maarif international schools and colleges Rawalpindi Campus"

would be launched from the Lahore division from January and the facility would be extended to Rawalpindi, Faisalabad, Multan, Bahawalpur, Gujranwala and Sargodha divisions by March 31. Around 400 billion rupees would be spent on universal health insurance program in the next three years, he counted. It is a historic initiative to provide Naya Pakistan Health Card to every citizen in the province which would provide the annual free medical facility of one million rupees to each family, he stated and repeated that improving healthcare

Chairman Senate congratulated Mir Behrose Reki Baloch on his nomination as Ambassador.

Staff Reporter

Islamabad: Pakistan's Ambassador-designate to Sudan, Mir Behrose Reki Baloch called on Chairman Senate Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani at the Parliament House on Monday. Bilateral relations between Pakistan and Sudan were discussed during the meeting. The Chairman Senate congratulated Mir Behrose Reki Baloch on his nomination as Ambassador. Chairman Senate Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani expressed the hope that the Ambassador-designate would do his utmost to further strengthen the bilateral economic relations between Pakistan and Sudan. The Chairman Senate said that Pakistan values its relations with Sudan and expressed the need to further strengthen the relations between the two

countries. The need for a high level delegation to Sudan, he said, would enhance trade relations between the two countries. Pakistani Ambassador-designate to Sudan, Mir Behrose Reki Baloch, expressed his confidence to strengthen the bilateral economic relations between Pakistan and Sudan. The Chairman Senate said that Pakistan values its relations with Sudan and expressed the need to further strengthen the relations between the two

Conference on 'Ongoing Sino-US Contestation and Future Trajectory of US-Pak Relations' held

Pakistan is strategically aligned with China, whereas its relationship with the US is tactical: experts

By Nasir Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: A national conference titled "Ongoing Sino-US Contestation and Future Trajectory of US-Pak Relations" was organised under the banner of Islamabad Institute of Conflict Resolution (IICR), an Islamabad-based think tank. The panelists included Mushahid Hussain Syed, Senator PML(N); Prof. Dr Rifaat Hussain, Head Department of Government Policy and Public Administration at Pakistan's National University of Sciences and Technology; Ambassador (Retd) Syed Hasan Javed, Director, Chinese Studies Centre at the NUST School of Social Sciences & Humanities; Iqbal Khan, Senior Policy Specialist, SPPC, NSD Pakistan; Mr Qamar Cheema, a faculty member at the Department of International Relations in the National University of Modern Languages Islamabad; Ms. Sahah Aslam, Executive Director, IICR. IICR gave her opening remarks and welcomed guests and panelists whereas Senator Hussain moderated the working session. In his opening address, Mushahid Hussain, Senator PML (N), announced



on the other hand, China avoided walking on the same path and steered its foreign policy towards economic excellence and mutual development. He further said that there is a need to develop a broad-based relationship with China. "Pakistan must develop strategic clarity first and then draw clear red lines. The relation must be based on equality, reciprocity and protection of core interests," said Mushahid Hussain. While speaking to the forum Mr Faleem Sardar, Senior Policy Specialist, SPPC, NSD Pakistan, emphasised that conflict and competition are not bad and all

although conflicts are inevitable and they have a direct linkage with economic interdependence, a balance must be drawn as that the threshold of the red line is not crossed. Pakistan as a rising nation needs clarity whether we want economic interdependence or something else. "Economics and trade remain the best relationship builder and softener. Economics creates a pathway for trust, growth and mutual benefit. Pakistan can co-exist with trade and conflict with countries China and India are at each other's throats over certain borders but a few 100 billions that are trading in billions,"

the panel was Hasan Javed, renowned that the contest has China is the dilemma, he stated that US vs. The world may not now a hard battle of Joe Biden's."



Experts discuss future trajectory of Pak-US ties

Pakistan is strategically aligned with China, whereas its relationship with the US is tactical: Multidisciplinary experts assert

DNA

Islamabad

ISLAMABAD: A national conference titled "Ongoing Sino-US Contestation and Future Trajectory of US-Pak Relations" was organised under the banner of Islamabad Institute of Conflict Resolution (IICR), an Islamabad based think tank. The panelists included Mr Mushahid Hussain Syed, Senator PML(N); Prof. Dr Rifaat Hussain, Head Department of Government Policy and Public Administration at Pakistan's National University of Sciences and Technology; Ambassador (Retd) Syed Hasan Javed, Director, Chinese Studies Centre at the NUST School of Social Sciences & Humanities; Mr Faleem Sardar, Senior Pol-

icy Specialist, SPPC, NSD Pakistan; Mr Qamar Cheema, a faculty member at the Department of International Relations in the National University of Modern Languages Islamabad; Ms. Sahah Aslam, Executive Director IICR gave her opening remarks and welcomed guests and panelists whereas Senator Hussain moderated the working session. In his opening address Mr Mushahid Hussain, Senator PML (N), remarked that current trends indicate that China has the strength, skill, and ambition to exceed the United States in Artificial Intelligence within the next ten years. While citing Ash Center report on China published in July 2020, he said that 85 per cent of Chinese respondents were satisfied with

the system in place in China under the communist party of China (CPC). While discussing the dichotomy between the global political behaviour of both Washington and Beijing, he remarked that US foreign policy has been indulged

in waging war on terror whereas on the other hand, China avoided walking on the same path and steered its foreign policy towards economic excellence and mutual development. He further said that there is a need to develop a

broad-based relationship with China. "Pakistan must develop strategic clarity first and then draw clear red lines. The relation must be based on equality, reciprocity and protection of core interests," said Mushahid Hussain.



Vertical text on the right edge of the page, partially cut off.

