



# Pakistan calls for boosting Multilateral Development Banks' lending to combat economic crisis

INT. DESK

UNITED NATIONS—Highlighting the “pervasive” development crisis – famine, poverty, and inequality– Pakistan on Tuesday called for enhancing the quantity, quality, and accessibility of the Multilateral Development Bank’s lending as

part of a plan of action to deal with the situation.

“Geopolitical tensions and new protectionism are fragmenting trade networks and disrupting the world economy,” Ambassador Munir Akram, permanent representative of Pakistan to the UN, told the UN General

Assembly’s Second Committee (Economic and Financial), which began its general debate on Monday. “Sixty countries are in debt distress; climate impacts are growing and the digital divide may become a new development divide,” he said.

In this context, Ambassador

Akram said, the international community’s endeavor must be to muster the political will to achieve agreement on the plan of action for development which can be adopted at the Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development (FID-IV) which will take place in Spain

in July next year, hoping for the plan to be implemented in “good faith.”

The Pakistani envoy also proposed the revival of foreign direct investment, which fell by 26% in 2023, so as to help developing countries formulate viable and bankable projects.

## Bangladesh Honors Quaid-e-Azam Legacy Celebrating The Spirit Of Wisdom With Heart



DR. MUHAMMAD SHAHZAD ASHFAQ

Bangladesh, a country of South Asia, has rich history intertwined with legacy of Muhammad Ali Jinnah, Quaid-e-Azam meaning great leader and the creator of Pakistan that is revered for his vision, leadership, unwavering commitment to the ideals of justice and equality. Bangladesh’s acknowledgment and celebration of Quaid-e-Azam spirit exemplify a profound respect for his enduring legacy. Bangladesh honouring the legacy of founding father of Pakistan with heartfelt reverence and how this commemoration reflects the shared values and aspirations of the people of Bangladesh. Quaid-

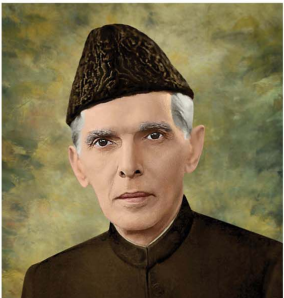
uphold these values in their own society.

Bangladesh which gained independence from Pakistan in 1971 after a bloody liberation war, Quaid is revered for his commitment to democracy and inclusivity. Despite being the leader of a Muslim-majority country, Jinnah emphasized the importance of peace, prosperity of people and equal rights for all citizens, regardless of their religion or ethnicity. This vision of progressive, tolerant society aligns with Bangladesh’s own aspirations to build a democratic and peaceful nation where every individual is treated with dignity and respect. One of the key reasons why Quaid-e-Azam continues to inspire Bangladesh is his steadfast belief in the power

with a rich history and a vibrant culture, aspires to build a democratic and peaceful nation where every individual is treated with dignity and respect. Bangladesh can pave the way towards a more harmonious and equitable future. This means regardless of their background, Bangladesh

can create a society where everyone feels valued and respected. Bangladesh Bridge divides and foster a sense of unity among its citizens. This includes the right to freedom of speech, freedom of religion and freedom from discrimination. Bangladesh ensures that everyone is able to express themselves freely and participated in public life without fear of persecution.

Bangladesh located in South Asia, is a land of diversity with a history that dates back centuries. The country has seen various civilizations including the ancient Bengal region, the Mughal Empire, British colonial rule and its eventual independence in 1971. This rich historical tapestry has shaped Bangladesh into nation with unique identity and cultural heritage. Moreover, the people of Bangladesh hold values of democracy, peace, dignity and respect in high regards. Bangladesh history is mosaic of influences from various empires and civilizations. The Bengal region was known for its advanced urban centers and thriving trade routes as early as the 4th century. The Mughal Empire left a lasting architectural



e-Azam was a towering figure in the history of the Indian subcontinent, leading the movement for an independent Pakistan. His emphasis on unity of Muslims, democracy and social justice resonates deeply with the people of Bangladesh, who have faced their own struggles for independence and self-determination. Bangladesh’s recognition of Quaid-e-Azam’s legacy is not merely a historical nod but a tribute to the enduring values that he stood for. One of the key aspects of Quaid-e-Azam’s legacy that Bangladesh honours is his unwavering commitment to the principles of democracy and peace.

Quaid-e-Azam envisioned a Pakistan where all citizens, regardless of their religion or background, would have equal rights and opportunities. Bangladesh, with its diverse population and commitment to democracy, sees Quaid-e-Azam as a beacon of hope and inspiration for upholding these fundamental values in the face of challenges. Moreover, Bangladesh celebrates Quaid’s spirit of resilience and determination in the face of adversity. His principles of democracy, equality and peace resonate deeply with the people of Bangladesh, who strive to

of democracy as a guarantor of individual liberties and collective progress. Muhammad Ali Jinnah famously said, “Our foreign policy is one of friendliness and goodwill towards all the nations of the world. Pakistan government believe in the policy of honesty and fair play in national and international dealings and are prepared to make our utmost contributions to the promotion of peace and prosperity among the nations of the world.”

Pakistan aims to foster trust and collaborations with other nations, ultimately contributing to global peace and prosperity. Transparency in governance and diplomatic affairs is crucial for maintaining public confidence and forging strong relationship with other countries. The government demonstrates its commitment to upholding ethical standards and promoting integrity in all spheres of world. Pakistan’s adherence to honesty and fair play is essential for establishing a positive image and building constructive partnership with other nations.

Progressive societies are characterized by their commitment to equality, diversity and respect for individual rights. Bangladesh a country

## No end to hell’ in besieged northern Gaza: UNRWA chief



INT. DESK

UNITED NATIONS—The prospect of all-out war in Lebanon appeared undiminished on Wednesday as the head of the UN agency for Palestine refugees, UNRWA, said that there was “no end to hell” in northern Gaza, where lifesaving relief has shut down.

The warning from Philippe Lazzarini, Commissioner-General of UNRWA, was prompted by renewed evacuation orders from the Israeli military, which “many are refusing because they know too well that no place anywhere in Gaza is safe.”

The development comes amid reports by the local authorities of intense Israeli bombardment in the north of the shattered enclave where ground operations are also underway. Jabalia refugee camp is surrounded, the Israeli Defence Forces (IDF) said at the weekend, before issuing evacuation orders on Tuesday.

Strikes have also been reported in Beit Lahia and Beit Hanoun, towns in the northeast of Gaza, with roads also closed, the UN said.

“Intensified military operations in the north are forcing us to shut down lifesaving services,” Lazzarini said on social media on Wednesday.

He added that seven of the UN agency’s schools-turned-shelters are being evacuated, while only two out of eight water wells in Jabalia camp are still operational. Some 400,000 people are believed to remain in the north of Gaza.

“Children are, as ever, the first and most to suffer,” the UNRWA chief said, adding that hunger was “spreading and deepening again” because “almost no basic supplies” were available.

According to local health authorities in Gaza, at least 45 people were killed and 130 wounded in the last 24 hours. Since Hamas-led

terror attacks in multiple Israeli sites that left some 1,250 dead and more than 250 taken hostage, the death toll in Gaza has reportedly reached at least 42,000 people. Another 97,700 have been wounded, often with life-changing injuries.

In Lebanon, meanwhile, the UN aid coordination office, OCHA, reported “relentless” and “amplifying” bombardment into previously unaffected areas, amid ongoing missile strikes on Israel by Hezbollah.

In a single day – 6 October – more than 30 airstrikes struck the Beirut southern suburbs and surrounding areas, frightening residents and forcing additional displacement from densely populated areas, including Shatila Palestine refugee camp,” OCHA said in an update published Wednesday.

Latest data from the health ministry indicate more than 2,083 collective deaths and 9,869 injuries since 8 October 2023. Most casualties in Lebanon have happened in the last two weeks, amid intense Israeli bombardment and ground operations in southern Lebanon.

According to the UN human rights office, OHCHR, 25 per cent of Lebanese territory is affected by Israeli military displacement orders. Displacement orders are issued “on a daily basis” for more than 100 villages and urban neighbourhoods across southern Lebanon, forcing people to flee and pushing many up to 30 km north.

OCHA reported that in total, some 1.2 million people are now internally displaced, with 180,700 people seeking refuge in 978 shelters, 775 of which are already at full capacity. The violence has also delayed the start of the school year, while the UN Children’s Fund, UNICEF, said that about 350,000 children have been displaced.

“Extensive civilian harm is occurring due to explosive weapons in densely populated areas and forced displacement orders,” OCHA noted. “Urgent action is necessary to shield civilians from escalating violence and ensure that humanitarian aid workers can safely deliver critical support.”

## SCO Summit marks major diplomatic success for Pakistan: Dy Chairman Senate

BT NEWS

ISLAMABAD – Deputy Chairman Senate, Syed Ahsan Ali Zaidi, hailed the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Summit in Islamabad and termed it as a significant diplomatic victory for Pakistan, crediting the relentless efforts of Prime Minister Mian Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif and Deputy Prime Minister Senator Ishaq Dar.

Speaking at Parliament House during a meeting with key business figures from Rawalpindi and Karachi, Khan emphasized that the successful hosting of the summit highlights global confidence in Pakistan’s leadership and diplomacy.

“The SCO summit is a clear reflection of the world’s trust in Pakistan. It will boost trade, attract



foreign investment, and pave the way for the nation’s prosperity,” Khan remarked.

He noted that the conference will review the regional economic and security landscape, strengthening international cooperation with Pakistan across various sectors.

Khan also celebrated the recent All Parties Conference as another triumph for Pakistan, where a unified stance was taken out to combat Israeli terrorism and human rights

violations in Lebanon, Iran, Palestine and beyond.

“The Muslim world must unite against Israel’s oppression, and formulate a strategy to end this brutality,” he added.

In his closing remarks, Khan called on all political parties to stand by the current government to ensure the nation’s continued progress and stability. “Unity is essential to steer Pakistan towards a future of growth and development,” he urged.

## Foreign media immersed in Linyi’s Confucius Temple, unveiling China’s rich cultural legacy

BT NEWS

ISLAMABAD – An international media event titled “China, an Opportunity: Linyi in Vogue” was recently held in Linyi in which journalists from various mainstream media outlets, including Russia, Spain, South Korea, and Pakistan, participated.

During the event, the journalists explored the Confucius Temple, experiencing the unique charm and cultural significance of the centuries-old structure in Linyi.

The Linyi Confucius Temple is not only a

sacred site for worshipping Confucius but also the location of ancient state and provincial academy, carrying rich educational and cultural heritage functions.

Inside the temple, foreign media reporters were attracted by two ancient ginkgo trees in the courtyard. The guide provided detailed explanations about the ecological characteristics and cultural significance of the ginkgo trees, allowing the foreign journalists to deeply appreciate the profound depth of Chinese culture.

The guide introduced the history, architectural

features, and sacrificial rituals of Dacheng Hall, giving foreign reporters a deeper understanding of Confucius’ thoughts and influence. They also visited the old photo exhibition hall and the Jiliu Tablet Pavilion, which provided them with a more intuitive and profound understanding of Linyi’s historical culture.

This interview activity not only allowed foreign media journalists to appreciate the unique charm of the Linyi Confucius Temple but also enabled them to feel the abundant deposits and ongoing development of Chinese culture.



## UN aid workers fear same ‘spiral of doom’ in Lebanon as Gaza

INT. DESK

UNITED NATIONS—UN humanitarian officials in Lebanon on Tuesday described the massive challenge of trying to reach some 1.2 million people who have fled heavy Israeli bombardment and evacuation orders, driven by the fear that what happened in Gaza may befall them, too.

“It’s impossible to meet the needs of more than a million people who have been suddenly uprooted, displaced and dispossessed without additional resources coming in,” said Matthew Hollingworth, WFP



Country Director in Lebanon (From Beirut): “This was not a country that was well prepared because of all the challenges that it’s faced over the past years. So, it’s going to be a struggle.”

One week since the UN launched

a \$426 million appeal to help those affected by the Lebanon crisis, contributions have reached just over 12 per cent, or \$51.4 million.

Aid teams are committed to helping all those in need and particularly the most vulnerable,

but Mr. Hollingworth warned that many of those uprooted by the rapid escalation in fighting had little choice but to leave their homes with nothing. “[We’ve had] horrific cases of forced evacuation notices coming out with few hours for people to prepare and depart,” Mr. Hollingworth said.

Families displaced over the past year “who had prepared themselves – are far, far better off than the much greater majority today who have left in some cases with only hours to spare before their areas have come under bombardment.”