

# Trump's Middle East envoy meets Netanyahu on Saturday amid ceasefire push

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JERUSALEM/CAIRO — US President-elect Donald Trump's Middle East envoy Steve Witkoff met Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Saturday amid a push to secure a ceasefire in Gaza, Netanyahu's office said.

After the meeting, Netanyahu

dispatched a high-level delegation which included the head of the Israeli Mossad intelligence agency to Qatar in order to 'advance' talks to return hostages being held by Hamas in Gaza, a statement from Netanyahu's office said.

Earlier on Saturday, an Israeli official said some progress had been made in the indirect talks

between Israel and Palestinian group Hamas, mediated by Egypt, Qatar and the United States, to reach a deal in Gaza.

The mediators are making renewed efforts to reach a deal to halt the fighting in the enclave and free the remaining Israeli hostages held there before Trump takes office on Jan. 20. A deal would

also involve the release of some Palestinian prisoners held in Israeli jails. Families of Israeli hostages welcomed Netanyahu's decision to dispatch the officials, with the Hostages and Missing Families Forum Headquarters describing it as a "historic opportunity."

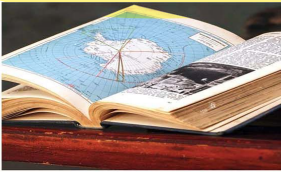
Witkoff arrived in Doha on Friday and met the Qatari Prime

Minister Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani, Qatar's foreign ministry said.

Egyptian and Qatari mediators received reassurances from Witkoff that the US would continue to work towards a fair deal to end the war soon, Egyptian security sources said, though he did not give any details.



## 2025 Vision for the Future, Dynamic Fusion of Education and Economic Development



DR. MUHAMMAD SHAHZAD ASHFAQ

**E**ntering the future of 2025, the integration of education and economic development plays a critical role in shaping a prosperous and sustainable society. The dynamic fusion of these two pillars can pave the way for innovation, growth, and progress. The potential vision for the year 2025 where education and economic development are link to drive positive change and foster a thriving global community. Education has always been a fundamental component of societal advancement.

In the year 2025, the landscape of education is expected to undergo significant transformations. With the rapid evolution of technology, personalized learning experiences, and the emphasis on developing skills for the future, education systems are likely to become more flexible, inclusive, and diverse. The focus will shift from traditional rote learning to fostering creativity, critical thinking, and problem-solving abilities among students. In this dynamic educational environment, collaboration between educational institutions, industries, and governments will be crucial. Strong partnerships, educational institutions can align their curricula with the needs of the job market, ensuring that students are equipped with the skills and knowledge required to thrive in a rapidly changing economy. This collaboration can also facilitate research and innovation, driving technological advancements and creating opportunities for economic growth. Furthermore, the integration of vocational training and lifelong learning programs will become increasingly important in 2025. As the

nature of work evolves and new industries emerge, continuous upskilling and reskilling will be essential for individuals to remain competitive in the job market.

Educational initiatives that offer flexible, accessible, and practical training opportunities will empower individuals to adapt to changing economic demands and pursue rewarding careers. On the economic development front, the year 2025 is expected to witness a paradigm shift towards sustainable and inclusive growth. Governments, businesses, and communities will collaborate to create a supportive ecosystem that fosters innovations.

The concept of the knowledge economy will be central to driving economic progress. One of the key reasons why the knowledge economy is central to driving economic progress lies in its potential to spur innovation and creativity. Knowledge-based industries such as information technology, biotechnology, and renewable energy will flourish, creating new job opportunities and driving productivity gains. A knowledge economy promotes human capital development and skill enhancement, which are critical factors in achieving sustainable economic growth. As highlighted by the World Bank (2007), investments in education, training, and lifelong learning can significantly enhance productivity and competitiveness, ultimately boosting economic growth.

Countries that prioritize education, research, and technology transfer will be at the forefront of this economic transformation, attracting investment, creating jobs, and innovation. Moreover, the year 2025 will see a greater emphasis

on sustainability and environmental stewardship in economic development strategies. With the looming threats of climate change and resource depletion, businesses and governments will need to adopt green practices, reduce carbon emissions, and promote circular economies. Sustainable practices into economic policies, countries can mitigate climate risks, protect natural resources, and promote long-term economic resilience.

The vision for the future of 2025 envisions a dynamic fusion of education and economic development that drives innovation, growth, and prosperity. Embracing technology, collaboration, and sustainability, societies can create a more inclusive, resilient, and prosperous future for all. Education will be the cornerstone of this vision, equipping individuals with the skills and knowledge to thrive in a rapidly changing world, while economic development will provide the opportunities and resources for sustainable growth.

In Pakistan, working together to integrate education and economic development, we can build a brighter future for generations to come. Education is the cornerstone of progress, providing individuals with the knowledge, skills, and mindset essential for navigating the complexities of modern work environments. Moreover, the fusion of education and economic development in 2025 will characterize by a strong emphasis on collaboration between academia, industry, and government. This three-way partnership will facilitate knowledge transfer, technology diffusion, and innovation ecosystems that drive economic competitiveness and propel sustainable growth. Establishing robust linkages between educational institutions, businesses, and policy-makers, countries can foster a culture of innovation, entrepreneurship, and continuous improvement across all sectors.

## China discovers major uranium deposit in Ordos Basin



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BEIJING—China has discovered a substantial uranium deposit in the Jingchuan area of the Ordos Basin in the northwestern region of the country, the China Geological Survey under the Ministry of Natural Resources announced in a press release sent to the Global Times.

The discovery will significantly increase the country's uranium resources and effectively enhance the security of uranium resources in the country, according to the press release.

The discovery represents the first ultra-large uranium deposit found in a region dominated by aeolian sandstone in the world. Such landforms

are also prevalent in other petroliferous areas in China, such as the Tarim, Junggar and Songliao basins.

It is also a major step forward in the exploration of new types of uranium mines since the implementation of the country's new round of strategic actions for mineral exploration breakthroughs, the China Geological Survey said. The China Geological Survey, in collaboration with provincial, regional and municipal geological exploration departments and mining enterprises, is also exploring new lithium mines nationwide.

It announced on Wednesday that China's progress in lithium exploration has boosted its global share of lithium reserves from 6 to 16.5 percent, raising its ranking from sixth to second.

## UN chief's special representative on Cyprus meets Pakistani Amb. Munir Akram



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NEW YORK—United Nations Secretary-General's Special Representative on Cyprus, Collins Stewart, met Pakistani Ambassador Munir Akram Friday to brief him on the activities of UN Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP) which keeps peace between the

Greek-Cypriot and Turkish-Cypriot communities on the island.

Collins extended his felicitations on Pakistan's assumption of its seat as an elected member of the Security Council, according to a press release issued by the Pakistani Mission to the UN. During the meeting, he highlighted various challenges confronted by UNFICYP personnel in the fulfillment of their mandate.

Ambassador Akram assured Collins of Pakistan's constructive role in the Council on all issues, including Cyprus.

UNFICYP was established in 1964 to prevent further fighting between the Greek-Cypriot and Turkish-Cypriot communities, who have historically failed to share political power on the ethnically divided island of Cyprus.

## CRIME CORNER BY: AGHA SAAD BIN TAHIR

### IGP Islamabad visits Safe City

According to detail, Inspector General of Police (IGP) Islamabad, Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi visited various departments of Safe City Islamabad to review their performance, a public relations officer said.

He said that the IGP Islamabad inquired with the Director Technical at Safe City Islamabad about the performance of surveillance cameras, the command and control center and other departments. He issued directives to further improve the performance of Safe City Islamabad.

IGP Islamabad also emphasized that he intends to make Safe City Islamabad



the best model of its kind. He said that this project should incorporate the latest systems to ensure the safety of Islamabad.

Additionally, the number of surveillance cameras in the federal capital is increasing, ensuring that

no area in Islamabad will be beyond the reach of the cameras.

He also mentioned that software development teams have been established at Safe City Islamabad to update existing software and create new ones.

### Funeral prayer of Shaheed Constable Zubair Hussain Bukhari offered at Police Lines Headquarters

According to details, the funeral prayer for Shaheed Constable Zubair Hussain Bukhari of Islamabad Police was offered at the Police Lines Headquarters in Islamabad, a public relations officer said.

He said that Inspector General of Police (IGP) Islamabad, Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi, senior police officers, district administration officials, other law enforcement officers and a large number of police

personnel attended the funeral prayer.

A smartly turned-out contingent of police officers presented a guard of honor. The IGP Islamabad and other senior police officers draped the coffin with flower wreaths and recited Fatha. Police officers carried the coffin, and the body was later taken for burial at the H-II graveyard.

IGP Islamabad expressed his condolences to the family of the deceased and assured them that the accused would be brought to justice. He reaffirmed that Islamabad Police stand with the bereaved family and will support them in every possible way.

Additionally, the IGP Islamabad issued directives to senior police officers to provide full support to the deceased's family, stating that every officer of the police force is a valuable asset, and their families will be cared for in every way.



### Lady thief gang busted; stolen goods recovered

Islamabad Police Women's Police Station arrested a lady thief gang involved in theft activities and recovered stolen goods from their possession, a public relations officer said.

He said that the Women's police station team used technical and human resources to successfully apprehend the lady thief gang and recovered stolen

goods worth 600,000 rupees from their possession.

Case was registered against the gang and further investigation is underway.

DIG Islamabad said that the Islamabad Police is actively working to ensure the safety of citizens' lives and property in the federal capital, emphasizing that no elements will be allowed to disrupt the peace of the citizens.

He added that protecting the lives, property, and dignity of citizens is the top priority of the Islamabad Police. Citizens are encouraged to report any suspicious activities to the relevant police station or the emergency helpline "Pukar-15" and to use the app, in order to help make the city crime-free through cooperation between the police and the public.



## Israel continues denying 'vital aid' to reach Gaza amid harrowing living conditions: UN

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UNITED NATIONS—Israeli authorities continue to deny UN-led efforts to reach North Gaza with lifesaving aid, including the most recent attempt on Friday, as Palestinians languish without basic needs, according to the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA).

On Thursday, only 10 out of 21 planned humanitarian



movements were facilitated by the Israeli authorities. Seven were denied outright, three were impeded and one was cancelled due to security and logistical challenges, UN

Spokesperson SA@phane Dujarric, told the regular news briefing at UN Headquarters in New York.

OCHA is also deeply concerned about the

impact that dwindling fuel supplies are having on essential services rendering the situation in Gaza critical. Palestinian telecommunication providers are now warning that their services may start to shut down on Saturday due to fuel shortages.

The World Health Organization (WHO) reported on Friday that Al Awda Hospital – the last partially functioning hospital in North Gaza governorate –

is critically low on fuel and essential medical supplies.

Parts of the region, namely Beit Lahya, Beit Hanoun and Jabalya refugee camps, have been besieged for more than three months now and Al Awda has been overwhelmed with patients.

Conditions have only deteriorated following the forced closure of the Kamal Adwan and Indonesian hospitals in the north, due to repeated attacks, raids and forced evacuations.