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Pakistan
seeks enhanced
Pak-D8
member's
trade,
economic
partnerships



Pakistan, Turkey
agree to bolster multifaceted ties

Prime Minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi & Turkish Prime Minister Binali Yildirim



South Korea invited
North Korea to
participate in the
2018 Olympics to
foster a climate of
peace and goodwill

Jinwook Kim

Chargé d'affaires of the Embassy
of the Republic of Korea



"Austria is willing to
be a proactive player
in the advancement
of Pakistan &
prepared to bring
business & trade
relationships to the
next level"

Dr. Brigitta Blaha

Ambassador of Austria



Message on the occasion of the Austrian National Day



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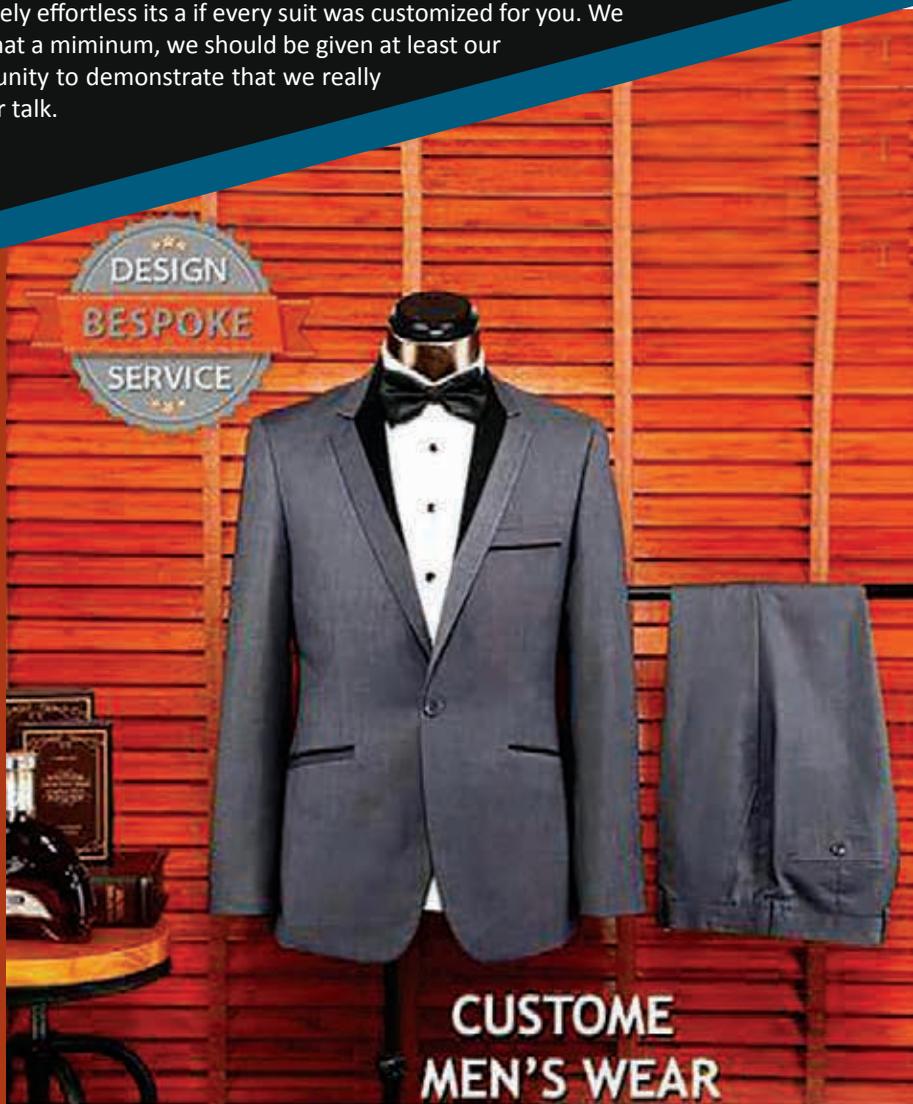
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Important Announcement

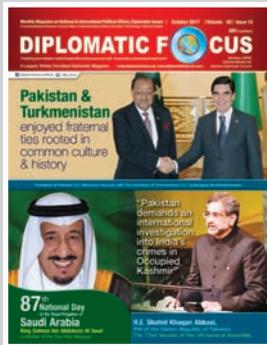


Mr. Muhammad
Muzzamilullah Mian

It has been announced for the general information that Mr. Muhammad Muzzamilullah Mian has been appointed as Bureau chief of the Monthly "Diplomatic Focus" Islamabad for the Brussels (Belgium). He is entitled to participate official /non-officials diplomatic(engagements, events, national days, social evenings/gatherings, press conferences/interviews and can be contacted for all kinds of stuff including articles, supplements and advertisements etc). It is requested to all Diplomatic missions and government high officials of Brussels (Belgium), please contact with Mr. Muhammad Muzzamilullah Mian on His mailing address RUE EMILE SERGIJSELS 17/0012BRUSSELS 1081 BELGIUM. Cell number: 0032466379427 Email: diplomaticfocus.brussels@gmail.com

Our previous issues

October 2017



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August 2017



July 2017



Mian Fazal Elahi

D-8 as the name suggests is a group of developing eight countries including Pakistan, Turkey, Bangladesh, Egypt, Iran, Malaysia, Indonesia and Nigeria. Apart from achieving desired economic goals this organization had a vision to augment its role in decision-making at international level and progress standards of living. D-8 opus stretches from South East Asia to Africa, and is considered more of regional group as its member states are from diverse zones. The Prime Minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi while addressing the summit said that, “The 20th Anniversary of the D-8 is an occasion for us to renew our commitment to the accelerated realisation of D-8’s vision and objectives. As a group, the D-8 has vast potential and resources. The Prime Minister pointed out that intra D-8 trade, after an initial increase, stagnated, adding that the target of USD 500 billion in 2018, envisaged in the 2008 Kuala Lumpur Summit Roadmap, might remain elusive. He further emphasised on the need to identify impediments that had stood in the way of achieving the organisation’s objectives and urged members to take measures to strengthen the partnership between them.

The D-8 countries include three leading oil-exporters viz. Iran, Nigeria and Indonesia. Economies of Turkey and Malaysia have performed well, whereas Pakistan and Bangladesh have big markets, due to large populations and rising economies. They export similar products, notably, oil, textiles, ready-made garments, and carpets. They are often each other’s competitor. They have settled markets mostly in the West or Far East. A major shift of trade direction is not easy. Their communication links need to be improved to provide better access to each other’s market.

Thought it was Pakistan which like on the one day internationals also sealed three match T-twenty series against the lions, yet it would not be exaggeration to state that the hearts of Pakistani cricket lovers were actually won by the Sri Lankan team members by visiting once again the Lahore Gaddafi Stadium – the site where it was attacked by terrorists about eight years ago. Despite strict security measures, the enthusiastic fans thronged the stadium supporting and cheering up for both the teams. In fact the Sri Lankan team has always supported and extended practical help for the return of international cricket to Pakistan and the visit of the team for the T-20 match is once again a clear manifestation of it- a goodwill gesture that the Pakistanis will never forget.



Mian Assad Ullah

Important Announcement

It has been announced for the general information that Mr. Mian Assad Ullah has been appointed as Editor In Chief of the Monthly “Diplomatic Focus” for the UK/EU Edition. He is entitled to participate official /non-officials diplomatic engagements, events, national days, social evenings/gatherings, press conferences/interviews and can be contacted for all kinds of stuff including articles, supplements and advertisements etc). It is requested to all Diplomatic missions and government high officials of UK, please contact with Mr. Mian Assad Ullah on His mailing address, 4 Ipswich Road, SW17 9RH, London. Cell number:+44-7961005954/ 2087694850, Email: uk.diplomaticfocus@gmail.com, assadmian1@gmail.com

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New Envoys Presented Credentials to President

Pakistan keen further strengthen its ties all friendly, brotherly countries: President



Ambassadors/ High Commissioner-Designate of Oman, Netherlands, Mauritius, France and Denmark presenting their credentials to President Mamnoon Hussain at Aiwan-e-Sadr, Islamabad.



Envoys-Designate of Nigeria, Switzerland, UAE, Bosnia Herzegovina and Egypt presenting their credentials to President Mamnoon Hussain at the Aiwan-e-Sadr, Islamabad.

By Mian Fazal Elahi

Envoys designate of Oman, Netherlands, Mauritius, France, Denmark, Nigeria, Switzerland, UAE, Bosnia & Herzegovina and Egypt presented their credentials to President Mamnoon Hussain during credentials ceremony at the Aiwan-e-Sadr.

Later, the Ambassadors/High Commissioner separately called on the President. Speaking on the occasion, the President said that Pakistan desires to further enhance bilateral relations with all friendly and brotherly countries. The President emphasized that the whole Pakistani nation is committed to eliminate the menace of terrorism and extremism from its soil and he stressed that the action against miscreants and terrorists will continue till the achievement of desired goals. The President stated that economy of Pakistan has witnessed smooth upward trend due to the prudent economic

measures taken by the incumbent Government and this fact has also been recognized by the international institutions. He underlined that today's Pakistan provides very conducive environment for great investment and business opportunities and urged the foreign investors to avail them by investing in diverse areas.

The President felicitated the newly appointed Ambassadors/High Commissioner to Pakistan and hoped that they would work for further strengthening the existing ties of their respective countries with Pakistan. The

Today's Pakistan provides very conducive environment for great investment and business opportunities: President

President also wished the newly appointed envoys a comfortable and pleasant stay in Pakistan.

The envoys who presented their credentials included Sheikh Mohammed Omar Ahmed Al Marhoon Ambassador-designate of Oman, Ms. Gerarda Adriana Cornelia Maria Stoios-Braken Ambassador-designate of Netherlands, Rashidally Soobadar High Commissioner-designate of Mauritius, Marc Baretty Ambassador-designate of France, Rolf M. Hay Pereira Holmboe Ambassador-designate of Denmark, Maj Gen (R) Ashimiyu Adebayo Olaniyi High Commissioner-designate of Nigeria, Thomas Kolly Ambassador-designate of Switzerland, Hamad Obaid Ibrahim Salem Al-Zaabi Ambassador-designate of UAE, Brig. Gen. (R) Sakib Foric Ambassador-designate of Bosnia & Herzegovina and Ahmed Fadel Yakoub Ambassador-designate of Egypt to Pakistan.

Turkey marked National Day in Islamabad

Turkish Ambassador H.E. Sadik Babur Girgin hosted a reception to mark the Turkish Republic Day in Islamabad. Chief Guest of the event was Mr. Khwaja Muhammad Asif Foreign Minister of Pakistan. The event was attended by ambassadors, politicians, civil society members and the representatives of business community.



Photo by Ramzan Mughal

62nd President of Turkey Polo Cup 2017 Islamabad

Turkish Ambassador H.E. Sadik Babur Girgin presented gifts of Turkish President to winning and finalist teams of 62nd President of Turkey Polo Cup. The 62nd President of Turkey Polo Cup was won by the President's Body Guards team. President of Turkey Polo Cup is organized by Rawalpindi Garrison Polo Club since 1955.



Algeria marked 63rd National Day in Islamabad

Algeria Ambassador H.E. Lakhel Benkelai hosted a reception to mark the national Day at Serena Hotel, Islamabad. The event was attended by ambassadors, politicians, civil society members and the representatives of business community.



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Hats off to Sun Weidong



President Mamnoon Hussain conferring the Award of Hilal-I-Pakistan on the outgoing Chinese Ambassador Sun Weidong during a special Investiture Ceremony held at the Aiwan-E-Sadr, Islamabad



outgoing Chinese Ambassador Sun Weidong paid a Farewell call on President Mamnoon Hussain along with his Wife Madame Bao Jiqing here at the Aiwan-e-Sadr, Islamabad.

By Mian Fazal Elahi

As one of the most popular Chinese Ambassadors to Pakistan Sun Weidong is paying farewell calls before winding up of his term in the country, people of Pakistan are expressing gratitude to the man who has been instrumental in taking the friendship and partnership between the two to new heights to the mutual advantage. This is reflective of the love and affection that people of Pakistan have for sincere friends like Sun Weidong and his great country.

It is because of the role that the Chinese Ambassador played in strengthening the ties in different spheres of life that President Mamnoon Hussain conferred on him the country's highest civil award 'Hilal-e-Pakistan' on Mr. Sun Weidong and Prime Minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi paid rich tributes to him for his momentous contribution in forging bilateral ties. It would not be an exaggeration to say that the outgoing Ambassador is one of the architects of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and its successful implementation. He not only played his role in getting necessary clearances from his own country but also remained in touch with Pakistani authorities and even with leaders of the opposition parties to remove their misgivings about the historic project. As the CPEC has facilitated tackling of one of the most serious problems of the country i.e. power outages, the credit would also go to the

outgoing envoy. In addition, dozens of projects in different sectors and in almost all corners of the country have been initiated with the assistance of China for which Sun Weidong played a pivotal role. Greater people-to-people interaction especially significant increase in number of scholarships for Pakistani students would help build the relationship on sound and

firm footings. Media cooperation also remained one of the top priorities of the Ambassador during his stay in Pakistan. We wish every success to Mr. Sun Weidong in his future assignments and hope he would continue to make his contribution in solidifying the bilateral relationship.



Outgoing Chinese Ambassador H.E. Sun Weidong makes a Farewell call on Prime Minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi at PM office in Islamabad.

President calls for strong ties with Bahrain in security, intelligence-sharing



President Mamnoon Hussain shaking hand with the Chairman Shura Council (Upper House) of Bahrain H.E. Ali Bin Saleh Al-Saleh here at Aiwan-E-Sadr, Islamabad.

By Mian Fazal Elahi

President Mamnoon Hussain called for strengthening bilateral cooperation in the fields of security and intelligence-sharing with Bahrain. The President stated this while

talking to Chairman Shura Council (Upper House) Kingdom of Bahrain Ali Bin Saleh Al-Saleh who along with a delegation called on him here at the Aiwan-e-Sadr. The President welcomed Bahraini investment particularly in energy and infrastructure development

sectors, where Pakistan offered an attractive investment regime.

He thanked the Bahraini delegation for appreciating the role of the Pakistanis diaspora in the development and progress of Bahrain



Chairman Shura Council (Upper House) of Bahrain H.E. Ali Bin Saleh Al-Saleh called on President Mamnoon Hussain here at Aiwan-E-Sadr, Islamabad. Chairman Senate Mian Raza Rabbani and Senator Maulana Hafiz Hamdullah are also present.



President Mamnoon Hussain in a group photo with the Chairman Shura Council (Upper House) of Bahrain H.E. Ali Bin Saleh Al-Saleh here at Aiwan-E-Sadr, Islamabad. Chairman Senate Mian Raza Rabbani and senator Maulana Hafiz Hamdullah are also present.

Both countries enjoyed close brotherly relations: Chairman Shura Council

Rabbani was committed to promote Pakistan's relations with the International Community especially with the Islamic World, which he said was commendable.

Chairman Shura Council (Upper House) Kingdom of Bahrain Ali Bin Saleh Al-Saleh conveyed best wishes to the President on behalf of the King and Crown Prince of Bahrain. He said both countries enjoyed close brotherly relations, adding that the Nursing University was a special gift for Pakistan from Bahrain.

He also expressed the desire to benefit from China Pakistan Economic Corridor and underlined that Pakistan was an important country not only for Bahrain but for the whole Muslim Ummah. Chairman Senate Mian Raza Rabbani and Senator Maulana Hafiz Hamdullah were also present on the occasion.

The President Mamnoon Hussain offered cooperation for the students and officials of Bahrain in different fields of life.

and hoped that Pakistanis in Bahrain would continue to perform their positive and useful

part in future as well.

The President also offered cooperation for the students and officials of Bahrain in different fields of life. Expressing pleasure on the exchange of high-level delegations, the President called for further enhancing these contacts so that joint ventures could be initiated in commercial and industrial sectors between the two countries.

He also expressed good wishes for the people, government and the Crown Prince of Bahrain.

The President stated that Chairman Senate Raza



Pakistan's Ambassador to Bahrain, Javed Malik with Bahraini Minister of Health, Faiga Ali Saleh



Ambassador Javed Malik, HH Sheikh Nasser Bin Hamad Al Khalif, son of King of Bahrain, Lt General Umar Farooq Durrani & others at Pakistan Pavilion Bahrain International Defence Exhibition in Bahrain.



Prime Minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi addressing the 9th D-8 Summit in Istanbul.

Pakistan seeks enhanced Pak-D8 member's trade, economic partnerships

By M.Saeed Yousafzai, Monitoring Desk, Agency

With focus on upgrading its communications, energy infrastructure, and enhancing regional connectivity under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), Pakistan sought enhanced trade and economic partnerships with D-8 member states through stronger rail, road, air and sea links, a win-win for all.

Improved security has led to economic recovery. Pakistan's economy has recorded a significant revival in the past four years. Over this time, we have focused on upgrading our communications and energy infrastructure, and enhancing regional connectivity: PM Shahid Khaqan

"Connectivity-led growth is a good example of South-South cooperation. We seek similar partnerships with D-8 member states – through road and rail routes, where possible, but also through stronger air and sea connections," Prime Minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi said while addressing the opening session of 9th D-8 Summit being hosted by Turkey in this historic city.

Pakistan, which remained the Chairman of this organization of eight developing nations since 2012, also handed over the Chair to Turkey at the Summit's opening session.

The 9th D-8 summit hosted by Turkey, with the theme Expanding Opportunities through Cooperation, was attended by Nigerian President Muhammadu Buhari, Azerbaijani leader Ilham Aliyev, Iran's first vice president Eshaq Jahangiri and the vice president of Indonesia Jusuf Kalla.

Prime Minister Abbasi said as Pakistan was celebrating seventy years of its Independence, it was confronted with many challenges over the last decade. "We faced unrelenting terrorism emanating from instability in our neighbourhood and the environment in the region and beyond."

He, however, stressed that as a result of a comprehensive strategy and unwavering resolve, Pakistan had successfully turned the tide.

"Improved security has led to economic recovery. Pakistan's economy has recorded a



Prime Minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi shaking hand with Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erodogan at D-8 Summit in Istanbul.

significant revival in the past four years. Over this time, we have focused on upgrading our communications and energy infrastructure, and enhancing regional connectivity," he added.

The Prime Minister said the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor will further put our economy on an upward trajectory of robust growth. "We are also working on energy connectivity projects. Pakistan's integration into the Eurasian Belt and Road network will provide a firm foundation for Pakistan's rapid economic development," he added.

9th D-8 SUMMIT MEETING
20 OCTOBER 2017
İSTANBUL
Expanding Opportunities Through Cooperation



9. D-8 ZİRVE TOPLANTISI
20 EKİM 2017
İSTANBUL
İsberliğıyle Firsatları Coğaltmak



Prime Minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi along with other leaders at 9th D-8 Summit in Istanbul.

He appreciated the very apt theme for the 9th D-8 Summit chosen by Turkey as “Expanding Opportunities through Cooperation” and said it was in complete harmony with the post-2017 development agenda, visualising sustainable development as one of the core elements of people-centric development.

“Indeed, shared and joint prosperity is the only form of secure and sustainable prosperity. Inclusion based on collaboration ensures that there are no losers in the development effort – all are winners.”

Prime Minister Abbasi said Pakistan assumed the Chair of D-8 Organization for Economic Cooperation in November 2012 at the eighth Summit in Islamabad, which adopted two landmark documents: the D-8 Charter and the Global Vision. These documents have provided the essential basis for our joint endeavours, he added.

The Prime Minister said as Chair, Pakistan made every effort to proactively lead the Organization towards the realization of its objectives and vision. It was a privilege for us to host the Summit Meeting, two sessions of the Council and four sessions of the D-8 Commission and a number of Sectoral meetings since November 2012, he added.

Another significant milestone achieved during

Connectivity-led growth is a good example of South-South cooperation. We seek similar partnerships with D-8 member states – through road and rail routes, where possible, but also through stronger air and sea connections:
PM Shahid Khaqan



Prime Minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi is a meeting with President of Nigeria Mr. Muhammad Bukhari in Istanbul.



Prime Minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi in a meeting with Turkey's Minister for Energy and Natural Resources Mr. Berat Albayrak in Istanbul.

this period was the Observer Status for D-8 at the United Nations, he said, adding, this status enabled the Organization to closely interact with various UN agencies and affiliated institutions for cooperative arrangements in priority areas for us.

The status has also given the D-8 an enhanced profile and standing at the international level, he remarked.

The Prime Minister said, "As we gather here to renew our collective pledge to strengthen mutually beneficial cooperation, we must also take stock of the progress made so far on trade and economic partnership goals we set for ourselves. This Summit is a good opportunity for us to identify and remove the impediments in the way of achieving the Organization's objectives."

He said twenty years ago, a shared vision motivated the leaders of our countries to establish this Organization to promote cooperation in the key areas of agriculture, industry, SMEs, trade, transportation, energy and tourism. "However, the progress achieved so far falls short of our expectations, necessitating measures to accelerate momentum for stronger partnership," he added.

The Prime Minister pointed towards the stagnation of intra D-8 trade, after an initial increase, adding, the apprehension is that the target of US \$ 500 billion in 2018, envisaged in the 2008 Kuala Lumpur Summit Roadmap, might remain elusive.

"It is, therefore, important for us to fully implement various instruments and agreements aimed at facilitating trade amongst member states, especially those related to Preferential Trade, Small and Medium Enterprises, Customs, Simplification of Visa matters and Civil Aviation. This would certainly pave the way for substantial increase intra D-8 trade," he added.

The Prime Minister said sectoral meetings at the ministerial level have already chalked out the roadmaps. Now is the time to start implementation. There may be challenges, but there are also opportunities like never before, he added.

"While it is imperative for the governments of member countries to facilitate trade and investment by adopting the necessary legal framework for investment protection and creating an enabling environment for business in their respective countries, it is the private sector that can make the best use of emerging opportunities for trade and joint ventures. It is, therefore, of utmost importance that we also actively promote entrepreneurship in our countries," he added. The Prime Minister said, "The 20th Anniversary of the D-8 is an occasion for us to renew our commitment to the accelerated realization of its vision and objectives. As a group, the D-8 has vast potential and resources."

"However, realising our combined potential and optimising our collective resources requires



Prime Minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi in a meeting with President of Guinea Mr. Alpha Conde in Istanbul.



Prime Minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi received by Deputy Governor of Istanbul Mehmet Ali Ulutas upon arrival at Istanbul.

cooperation and collaboration amongst us at every level and every field. Only then will we be able to attain the critical synergy that will bring shared, secure and sustainable prosperity to our nations," he added.

The Prime Minister said while he was certain that the Organization would continue to move steadily along the path of even more robust economic cooperation, it was also their sincere desire to see the D-8 enter the project-implementation phase with clear focus on the development, progress and prosperity of our peoples.

"We also aspire for it to have a stronger voice at the international level," he added.

The Prime Minister handed over to Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, the Chair of the D-8 Organization for Economic Cooperation.

"Mr. President, I congratulate you on assuming the Chair of the D-8 Summit. I am confident that your wisdom, sagacity, dynamism and firm commitment will bring new vigour to the D-8 Organization for Economic Cooperation," he added.

The Prime Minister said he and his delegation were deeply touched by the warm welcome and hospitality they received ever since their arrival. "I must commend the Government of Turkey for the excellent arrangements made for this Summit," he added.

The Prime Minister also expressed his profound appreciation to Secretary General Seyed Ali Mohammad Mousavi for efficiently steering the agenda of the D-8 Organization for Economic Cooperation during his tenure in office.

"On behalf of the people and government of Pakistan, I assure you of our full support and cooperation in our collective efforts to achieve tangible results. In Pakistan, you will always find a willing partner and friend," he added.

President of Turkey Recep Tayyip Erdogan also addressed the opening session of the Summit and spoke on various challenges faced by the Muslim world in general and the member states in particular in different spheres of life including the economic development.

Pakistan negotiating terms for purchase of T-129 attack helicopter from Turkey



Prime Minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi in the Test Flight of the Turkish T-29 Combat Helicopter at Istanbul.

Prime Minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi, while talking to Pakistani and Turkish media after taking test-flight of Turkish attack helicopter T-129 has said Turkish Defence production industry is one of the best in the world and second to none. According to Radio Pakistan, the PM appreciated the Turkish aircraft and termed it impressive and good machine.

He lauded the Turkish aviation industry as well as Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan for such achievements in the defence production.

Answering a question about Pakistan's plan of purchasing T-129 helicopters, Shahid Khaqan Abbasi said, our army is evaluating the helicopter, and we are negotiating the contract and terms.

Abbasi also inspected the helicopter, where he was briefed by the Turkish aviation officials about the specifications and technical parameters of the combat chopper.

President and Chief Executive Officer of Turkish Aerospace Industries, Temel Kotil said that T-129 was a light weight attack helicopter equipped with missiles and guns.

He said Pakistan and Turkey have strong ties and collaborating in the defence production area as well.



Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif Being Received by Prime Minister of Qatar H.E. Sheikh Abdullah Bin Nasir Bin Khalifa Al-Thani at Hamad International Airport, Doha.



Prime Minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi meeting with Turkish Prime Minister Binali Yildirim at Istanbul

Pakistan, Turkey agree to bolster multifaceted ties

By Agency, Monitoring Desk

Prime Minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi and his Turkish counterpart Binali Yildirim agreed to bolster bilateral relations in diverse areas with particular focus on trade and economy.

The two leaders, who met here on the sidelines of the 9th D-8 Summit discussed bilateral relations, regional situation as well as other matters of mutual interest.

Prime Minister Abbasi while addressing a joint press stakeout with his Turkish counterpart after the bilateral meeting congratulated Turkey for successfully hosting the 9th D-8 Summit and assuming the chair.

He said Pakistan and Turkey were close friends and partners and always stood by each other difficult hour. Prime Minister Abbasi said Pakistan considered Turkey's friends and enemies as its own and would never allow its soil to be used against the brotherly country.

He appreciated Turkey for supporting the people of occupied Jammu and Kashmir, who were fighting for their right to self-

determination promised under the UN resolution. He was also appreciative of Turkey for raising voice for Rohingya Muslims and Palestinians. Both of them were the victims of terrorism, he added. The Prime Minister lauded Turkey for its contribution in the socio-economic development of Pakistan.

He extended invitation to the Turkish Prime Minister to visit Pakistan and said he looked forward to the visit. Earlier the two leaders in their bilateral meeting had a frank and candid discussion on ways and means to further strengthen the multi-faceted relations between the two brotherly nations.

Pakistan considered Turkey's friends and enemies as its own and would never allow its soil to be used against the brotherly country: Pakistani Premier

Prime Minister Abbasi said Pakistan was confident that both as OIC Chair and as an influential power, Turkey would continue to maintain its just and principled position by continuing to call for sending a fact-finding mission to Indian Occupied Kashmir to investigate the gross violations of human rights.

He also appreciated Turkey's strong support for Pakistan's NSG membership and hoped that this forthright support would continue.

On its part, the Prime Minister said, Pakistan will continue to provide all possible support to Turkey on its issues of national interest, including Cyprus.

About the situation in Afghanistan, he said, Turkey has always played a very constructive role in facilitating peace through better relations between Afghanistan and Pakistan. "We look forward to Turkey's initiative of organizing the Pakistan-Afghanistan-Turkey Trilateral Summit at an early date," he added.

The Prime Minister said Pakistan looked forward to working closely with the Turkish leadership on issues of mutual and regional interest. Pakistan welcomes Turkey's diplomatic

outreach efforts to resolve the prevailing crisis between brotherly countries in the GCC, as well as the call for the resolution of all issues through dialogue and negotiations, he added.

He also acknowledged Turkey's role in finding a political situation to the conflict in Syria as well as for graciously hosting millions of refugees.

The Prime Minister appreciated Turkey's leadership in uniting the Muslim Ummah, as the Chair of the OIC, in the aftermath of the imposition of illegal restrictions by Israel around Al Haram Al Sharif and Al Aqsa mosque.

"Pakistan and Turkey both share serious concerns over rising tide of Islamophobia and demonization of Muslims. We remain committed to working with Turkey at the international fora in this regard," he added.

Prime Minister Abbasi who also discussed with his Turkish counterpart the plight of Rohingya Muslims said Pakistan stands ready to discuss and support any initiatives taken by Turkey, as the OIC Chair, to address the plight of Rohingya Muslims.

He thanked the Turkish Prime Minister for the participation of Turkey's famous Mehter Band in the 'Pakistan Day' Parade in Islamabad on March 23, 2017 and performance of Turkish Air Force Aerobatic team, Solo Turk on the Independence Day of Pakistan.

Pakistan and Turkey were close friends and partners and always stood by each other difficult hour: Turkish Prime Minister

Prime Minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi also invited the Turkish entrepreneurs, business giants and mega companies to invest in diverse areas of economy in Pakistan, especially hydel and coal power generation in energy, mining, banking and infrastructure development.

"Your groups can also explore the possibility of investing in food processing industry particularly in milk and fruit concentrate market. Export opportunities through Pakistan to our oil rich Gulf neighborhood and Central Asian Republics are unlimited," he stressed.

The prime minister expressed these views during a meeting with Foreign Economic Relations Board of Turkey (DEIK). Top leadership of major Turkish companies including Albayrak, Zorlu, STFA, Arcelik, Siyah Kalem and Cagri Makina were also present in the meeting.

Mentioning the investment in Pakistan by some Turkish companies present in the meeting



Prime Minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi meets Turkish businessmen at Istanbul.

in the areas of infrastructure, transport, beverages and electronics, he said, Pakistan would welcome more companies to invest in diverse areas.

The prime minister said joint ventures in textiles were also viable option as Pakistan had abundant cotton production coupled with a well-trained labour force.

"Pakistan is open for business. It values your investment and has an excellent record of profitability," he added.

Giving a snapshot of country's economy, the Prime Minister said Pakistan – a nation of 200 million people with a growth rate of 5% and abundant skilled and semi-skilled young labor – was one of the most liberal economies of South Asia at the crossroads of Middle East, Central Asia, South Asia and East Asia.

He also mentioned the challenges the PML-N government inherited in 2013 like large fiscal deficit, rising debt burden, unfavorable balance of payments, low foreign exchange reserves, flight of capital, weakening exchange rate and perilously declining investor confidence.

Prime Minister Khaqan Abbasi, however, maintained that with prudent economic measures taken by the present government since 2013-14, the economy has witnessed a smooth upward trend in the growth rate and the real GDP growth which was above 4% in 2013-14 had increased to 5.28% in 2016-17, the highest in ten years.

With agriculture meeting its growth target of 3.5% in 2016-17, he said, the services sector grew at 5.8% and revenue collections increased from 8.7% in fiscal year 2013 to 10.7% of GDP in fiscal year 2016.

The prime minister said Pakistan's ranking in the World Bank's Ease of Doing Business index has improved and the country has been recognized

Pakistan was confident that both as OIC Chair and as an influential power, Turkey would continue to maintain its just and principled position by continuing to call for sending a fact-finding mission to Indian Occupied Kashmir to investigate the gross violations of human rights: Pakistani Premier

as one of the top ten performers globally in the area of business regulation.

With Public Sector Development Program (PSDP) allocations going up to Rs. 800 billion in 2017 from Rs. 384.3 billion in 2013, Pakistan Stock Exchange was ranked the best in Asia and 5th best performing stock market in the world in 2016 by Bloomberg, he added.

He reassured the Turkish entrepreneurs that the government would continue to provide them with the maximum facilitation and support.

The Turkish companies expressed their keen desire to take advantage of the conducive business environment and investment friendly policies of Pakistan.

The prime minister also had a separate meeting with the top management of Zorlu Energy, Turkey. Zorlu Energy has already invested 300 MW in the Quaid-e-Azam Solar Power Park.



Chairman of Shura Council of Bahrain H.E. Ali Bin Saleh Al-Saleh calls on Prime Minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi at Islamabad.

Pakistan considers Bahrain a close friend, trusted partner: PM

By M.Saeed Yousafzai, Monitoring Desk

Prime Minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi has expressed Pakistan's keen desire to further strengthen and expand cooperation with Bahrain in areas such as energy, trade and economic fields for mutual benefit of both countries. Talking to Chairman Shura Council (Upper House) of the Kingdom of Bahrain HE Ali Bin Saleh Al-Saleh, who called on him along with a delegation, the Premier said Pakistan considers Bahrain a trusted friend and a close partner.

Pakistan and Bahrain have always enjoyed warm and mutually beneficial ties and frequent exchange of high level visits, signing of cooperation agreements in diverse fields and close coordination on regional and international fora marked the relationship between the two brotherly countries. It is to be noted that the bilateral relations have received tremendous boost ever since appointment of Javed Malik as Ambassador of Pakistan to Bahrain. Malik has been instrumental in efforts to promote bilateral trade and attract Bahraini investment to Pakistan. He successfully held Bahrain-Pakistan

Business Opportunities Conference and paved the way for establishment of a Joint Ministerial Commission. It is noteworthy that Bahrain has always extended generous assistance to Pakistan during periods of trial and tribulations especially during natural disasters. The warmth

The bilateral relations have received tremendous boost ever since appointment of Javed Malik as Ambassador of Pakistan to Bahrain

of relationship is also reflected in closer defence and security cooperation between the two countries. Pakistani personnel employed in security services of Bahrain are playing a crucial role in maintaining peace and stability in the brotherly country and are a precious source of remittances for Pakistan. It is also important that

at a time when Pakistanis are being repatriated from some other Gulf countries, more and more Pakistanis are going to Bahrain to serve in different spheres of life there. Experts say there is great scope for increasing bilateral cooperation especially in agriculture sector. Pakistan has vast agriculture land and Bahrain companies can invest in the agriculture sector and in return export the crop produce back to Bahrain to meet its food requirements. The two countries can also enhance cooperation in the fields of energy, youth and sports, social works, human resource development, education, health, cattle breeding and fish farming.

The Bahraini Shura Council delegation comprised Jameela Nasaif, Second Deputy Chairman, Khalid Mohamed Almusalam, Head of Foreign Affairs, Defense and National Security Committee, Nawar Ali Almahmood, Deputy Head of Public Services Committee and Member of Youth Affairs Committee.

Chairman Senate Mian Raza Rabbani and Mohamed Ebrahim Mohamed Abdulqader, Ambassador of Bahrain in Islamabad were also present in the meeting.



Gen Bajwa meets with Saudi crown prince

Bilateral relations reviewed

between the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and Pakistan

By Mian Fazal Elahi, Monitoring Desk

Crown Prince Mohammed bin Abdulaziz, Deputy Premier and Minister of Defense, met with Chief of Pakistani Army Staff General Qamar Javed Bajwa.

During the meeting, they reviewed bilateral relations between the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and Pakistan, particularly the military fields. They also discussed issues of common interest between the two sides. The meeting was attended by a number of officials.

Crown Prince pledges to destroy extremism, return to moderate Islam

By Monitoring Desk

Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman vowed to restore "moderate, open" Islam and destroy owners of "extremist ideas today and immediately".

"We are returning to what we were before – a country of moderate Islam that is open to all religions and to the world," he said at an economic forum in Riyadh reported by Al Arabiya English.

"We will not spend the next 30 years of our lives dealing with destructive ideas. We will

destroy them today," he added.

"We will end extremism very soon."

The crown prince's statement is the most direct attack by a top official on the Gulf country's influential conservative religious establishment.

Earlier, Riyadh announced the launch of an independent economic zone along the kingdom's northwestern coastline with up to \$500bn in investments, the official Saudi Press Agency reported.

The project, dubbed NEOM, will operate under regulations separate from those that govern the rest of Saudi Arabia.





Army chief meets UAE PM in Dubai, Discusses strategic relations

By Mian Fazal Elahi, Monitoring Desk

His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, received General Qamar Javed Bajwa, Chief of Army Staff of the Pakistan Army, at the Zabeel Palace.

In the meeting, Sheikh Mohammed and General Bajwa discussed a range of issues regarding bilateral ties of friendship and co-operation between the two countries and its people.

Sheikh Mohammed and General Bajwa also took stock of the latest regional developments.

While discussing the role of the Pakistani community in the UAE, the Dubai Ruler praised its constructive and effective role in

Sheikh Mohammed and General Bajwa discussed a range of issues regarding bilateral ties of friendship and co-operation between the two countries and its people.



the development and building of the UAE. General Bajwa thanked Sheikh Mohammed for the charitable and humanitarian assistance provided by the UAE to the Pakistani people.

He also spoke of the development projects being undertaken by UAE entities under the directives of the leadership, led by President His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan.

He also lauded the progress witnessed by the UAE in urban, economic and demographic areas led by its prudent leadership and its balanced, moderate and open policy at regional and global levels. The meeting was also attended by His Highness Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed

General Bajwa praised the development of the Gulf country in all sectors, including economy

bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Crown Prince of Dubai, Sheikh Maktoum bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Deputy Ruler of Dubai, Lt. General Hamad Mohammed Thani Al Rumaithi, Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces, among other senior government and military officials.

Arms and Security Kiev: 2017 International Specialized Exhibition for arms and security



Secretary of the National Security and Defense council of Ukrain "Mr. oleksandr Turchynov" Rana Tanveer Hussain, Federal Minister for Defence Production and other participants are inaugurating the opening ceremony of the XIV International Specialized Exhibition "Arms and Security-2017".



Rana Tanveer Hussain, Federal Minister for Defence Production held meeting with Mr. Oleg Gladkovskiy First Deputy Secretary of National Security and Defence Council of Ukraine/ Chairman Interagency Commission on Military-Technical cooperation and export control of Ukrain.

By M. Saeed Yousafzai

The Arms & Security is the most informative exhibition security professionals, military professionals and sport weapon users. The Arms and Security takes place annually and therefore for the fifteenth time previsibly in October 2018 in Kiev.

Rana Tanveer Hussain, Federal Minister for Defence Production held a meeting with Minister for Defence of Ukraine General Stepan Poltorak at Kiev (Ukraine). Rana Tanveer Hussain attend XIV International Specialised Exhibition "Arms and Security-2017". Federal Minister thanked for invitation and great hospitality extended to him and his delegation. During the meeting, they discussed to explore the new avenues to enhance bilateral relations especially in the field of defence production for joint venture with Heavy Industries Taxila and Karachi Shipyard & Engineering Works.

A number of important issues of mutual interest were discussed during the meeting. Rana Tanveer Hussain mentioned that the bilateral ties between the Defense industries of the two countries have strengthened over a period of twenty years. We would like to further enhance this collaboration. The minister also visited the stalls of different companies and showed keen interest in the defence products displayed in the exhibition.





Federal Minister for Interior, Prof. Ahsan Iqbal meeting with SCO Secretary General Rashid Alimov at SCO Headquarters in Beijing.

Pakistan looking forward for a very positive contribution to SCO

By M.Saeed Yousafzai

Federal Interior Minister, Ahsan Iqbal visited Secretariat of Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) and held a meeting with Secretary General, SCO, Rashid Alimov.

During the meeting, the interior minister said that Pakistan was excited to be part of the SCO and was looking forward for a very positive contribution to this forum.

He said that it was very important that all the SCO member states should work together to preserve peace and stability in order to harness their economic potential. Pakistan, he said, was ready to work together with China, Russia and Central Asian States for peace and security of Eurasia.

The SCO had a unique position in terms of promoting cooperation among the Asian and European countries and it could play a role of bridge. While apprising the SCO about

the development plan initiated by present government in the country, he said that although China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) was a bilateral project in nature but it could integrate three billion people of South Asia, China and Central Asia for shared development and prosperity.

Ahsan Iqbal also briefed him about the achievements Pakistan made during the ongoing war against terrorism and the sacrifices rendered by its people and armed forces.

Earlier, the secretary general warmly welcomed the distinguished upon his arrival at the SCO secretariat and briefed him about the secretariat and its functioning.

He also congratulated people and the government of Pakistan on joining the SCO.

Pakistan Ambassador to China, Masood Khalid and the senior diplomats were also present during the meeting.



Federal Minister for Interior, Prof. Ahsan Iqbal meeting SCO Secretary General Rashid Alimov at SCO Headquarters in Beijing, accompanied by Ambassador of Pakistan Masood Khalid.

Federal Minister for Interior, Prof. Ahsan Iqbal attending the 86th Interpol General Assembly in Beijing, accompanied by Ambassador of Pakistan Masood Khalid and DG FIA, Mr. Bashir Memon.





Chairman Senate of Pakistan, Mian Raza Rabbani meeting H.E. Mr. Hun Sen, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia at Peace Palace Phnom Penh. Senator Mushahid Hussain Syed, Senator Shibli Faraz and Mr. Amjed Pervez Malik, Secretary Senate also present during the meeting.

Pakistan and Cambodia to enhance parliamentary linkages, Increase trade volume

Chairman Senate of Pakistan Calls on the Prime Minister of Cambodia

By Monitoring Desk

Pakistan and Cambodia would enhance the bilateral ties to further strengthen the parliamentary linkages and increase the existing low trade volume between the two countries to its optimal potential.

This was deliberated in a meeting of Chairman Mian Raza Rabbani with Prime Minister, Hun Sen, of the Kingdom of Cambodia during his visit for the 1st Executive Council Meeting of the Asia Parliamentary Assembly.

Chairman Raza Rabbani thanked the Prime Minister, his government and people of Cambodia for the warm hospitality extended to the Pakistan delegation. Under his able leadership, there was impressive real estate development in Phnom Penh since his last visit in 2015.

Chairman Senate stated that Pakistan-Cambodia had traditionally enjoyed long friendly relations. It was heartening to know that Cambodia was availing the capacity building courses in diplomacy and professional disciplines offered by the Government of Pakistan.

Pakistan was highly grateful to Cambodia for

its unwavering to Pakistan's candidature of the ASEAN full dialogue partnership. It was equally important for our two countries to enhance economic and trade relations.

Chairman Senate reiterated that the Government of Pakistan was looking forward to the visit of the Prime Minister Hun Sen to Pakistan on a convenient date. He would also welcome him in the Senate of Pakistan. While welcoming the Chairman Senate and his delegation, Prime Minister Hun Sen stated

that it was an honour for Cambodia that Chairman Senate was paying his 3rd visit to Cambodia for the APA activity. His visits had greatly contributed to the strengthening of our bilateral relations. Prime Minister Hun Sen recalled that Pakistan-Cambodia were celebrating the 65th Anniversary of the Diplomatic Relations this year. Pakistan was one of the countries to recognize Cambodia even before its independence. It was important for the two countries to increase its low-level trade to its optimum.



Chairman Senate of Pakistan, Mian Raza Rabbani meeting with Mr. Heng Samrin, President of the National Assembly of the Kingdom of Cambodia during 1st executive meeting of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly (APA) at Phnom Penh, Cambodia.

Sri Lankan president invites Pakistanis to invest in sugar and cement industries



By Agency, Monitoring Desk

Sri Lankan President, Maithripala Sirisena emphasized the need for further expanding economic relations between Pakistan and Sri Lanka and invited Pakistani investors to invest in sugar and cement industries of his country.

According to a message received here, he made this statement when Pakistan's Foreign Secretary, Tehmina Janjua called on him at the Presidential Secretariat.

He said that Pakistan could invest in sugar and cement industries as there is a huge requirement of sugar and cement in Sri Lanka. He pointed out that currently Sri Lanka produces only 20 percent of the sugar requirement of the country.

President Sirisena recalled the long-standing bilateral relations between Sri Lanka and Pakistan and emphasized the need to further consolidate the relationship. He expressed gratitude for assistance provided by Pakistan to Sri Lanka as a true friend and a brother, during the period of conflict in the country. He also expressed special thanks for the assistance given by Pakistan to Sri Lanka in the United Nations Human Rights Council.

President Sirisena said that Sri Lanka would extend support to Pakistan to hold the next Summit of South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) and said it is important

to strengthen SAARC to ensure regional cooperation. Pakistan Foreign Secretary assured that Pakistan would continue to assist Sri Lanka. She said that Pakistan will assist to take the economic and trade relationship between the two countries to a stronger level.

Ms Janjua said she attended the UNHRC Session in Geneva in September and she was glad that she could speak in support of Sri Lanka at the forum. She said that Pakistan would assist Sri Lanka's livestock and milk production sectors and programmes have been already formulated in consultation with Sri Lankan institutions. Foreign Secretary emphasized that Pakistan

is ready to assist Sri Lanka's development activities whenever required. She has arrived in Colombo to lead the Pakistan delegation to the 5th Round of Bilateral Political Consultations between Pakistan and Sri Lanka. The 4th round of talks was held in August 2014 in Islamabad.



Pakistan Alumni Society of Sri Lanka launched

Pakistan's Foreign Secretary Ms. Tehmina Janjua launched the Pakistan Alumni Society of Sri Lanka at a gathering held in Colombo. The society will connect the universities of both countries under scholarship programmes. Through the Alumni Society, the public and private sectors as well as civil society will be able to build networks and create professional opportunities that will contribute to the development of the two countries. The alumni society will engage the members and provide them means to learn, integrate and share what they learned during their education/training for the benefit of a larger community. Addressing the gathering, the foreign secretary said that Pakistan has excelled in many fields of higher education and particularly in medicine, dentistry, pharmacy,

engineering, management and social sciences. She said that Pakistan provided a wonderful and cost-efficient opportunity for talented Sri Lankan students. Thousands of Sri Lankan students and professionals have benefitted from education and training in Pakistan over the past several decades, she added. Pakistan's High Commissioner-designate to Sri Lanka Dr Shahid Ahmad Hashmat also spoke on the occasion, saying that the alumni society will provide its members with the means to learn and to integrate and share their experiences for the benefit of a larger community. All Sri Lankan citizens who have received professional qualifications from or attended training programmes in Pakistan are eligible to join the Society.



Farewell luncheon for Chinese envoy by Dean of Diplomatic Corps in Islamabad



Dean of the Diplomatic Corps, Kazakhstan Ambassador H.E. Bakhitbek Shabarbayev hosted a farewell reception in the honor of outgoing ambassador of China H.E. Sun Weidong at Serena Hotel Islamabad. It was a well-attended event with envoys and deputies from all missions bidding their colleague farewell.



Women in Pakistan's workforce

Today I decided to touch a topic which grasped my attention when I recently visited Turkey and observed the contribution of Turkish women in the growth of their economy.

I observed both sides of the Black Sea, the one which touches Asia and the other Eastern Europe. This part of the world encompasses diverse nations bearing thousands of years of different cultures defining the role of a woman, very differently. I witnessed hard working and dedicated women valiantly contributing to the growing economy of Turkey. It made me think as to how the working women of the East/ Pakistan are facing numerous issues in comparison to the women of the West.

Allah created a pair of men and women, which are commonly known to be the two wheels of life. With the spectacular advancement of the world, the assembly and function of these two wheels have considerably transformed the society. In contrast to the past, now both the wheels must contribute not only for the growth of their family but also for the nation building. Although East and West have completely different cultures, yet with the passage of time the liberation in financial independence and emotional dependence of women is becoming a common feature.

It is not easy to be a woman in a male dominant society and there are paramount cultural and faith pressures on eastern women to care for and educate their children well. Women are expected to carry out their responsibilities of bringing up their children in a way to become disciplined and well-groomed child. In a strongly connected nuclear family system, males are considered the heads of the family responsible to cater for the needs of all members financially. Thus, culturally the burden of financial support lies on the shoulders of male members, creating an imbalance in the economic/ financial growth and development of the family in particular, and the country in general.

According to UNDP, the gender difference in Pakistan can be expressed as the inside/outside dichotomy; women are mostly exposed to inner boundaries of household and are restricted to the duties of keeping the house in order. Their contributions in raising the family and in farm affairs is considered as their cultural duty and part of their gender specific role; which remains un-paid and unappreciated as an economic contribution in nation building.

Thus this cultural behaviour creates a barrier for women to seek education and opt for

employment. The cultural disparity makes women invisible in the work force and job market. As a result, compared with other developing countries, gender expressed weak indicators of Pakistan nation building.

On the basis of the above analysis, it is appropriate to quote here, that when you educate a man, you educate one person. But when you educate a woman, you have educated a nation. If the women are culturally responsible for ethical and moral development of the family, so as a first instructor to the children her own education is not only important but necessary, because the family in turn is the first unit of the society.

It is not easy to be a woman in a male dominant society and there are paramount cultural and faith pressures on eastern women to care for and educate their children well.

Furthermore, more and more dependency of eastern women on the male members leaves effects on the psychological dynamics as well. The dependency can create insecurity in the minds of eastern women and lesser exposure makes them more fearful of the society and the undisclosed fears making them vulnerable and less effective in the society as compared to their Western counterparts who are more independent in terms of finances and decision-making.

In 2014, 46.5% of total US women were part of the workforce whereas in the same year, only 22.3% of total Pakistani women figured in the labour force, thus contributing less than men over the years. The Labour Force Survey of 1991-1992 showed that only 16% of women were part of labour force, where as their



By Senator Rehman Malik

participation indicated only 6.3% increase in over two decades. The figures for the formal sectors are even more shocking, where only 2% of women representation was observed in 1999 according to a report of Human Rights Commission of Pakistan. The major reason for this huge difference prevalence lies in the fundamental cultural values embedded in the system. In Pakistani society gender specific roles are profoundly defined than in many other cultures making males to be the head of the family and, therefore, enjoying more power over women including decision-making powers.

Another reason for the lower contribution of women in the eastern society to the economy particularly in countries like Pakistan is their relatively lower educational levels and fewer formal job skills. This limitation is the foremost barrier to the never-ending problems for the women in societies like ours. Apart from the lack of opportunity and acceptance for the women to become entrepreneurs or even to work; the lower level of formal education restricts them from acquiring jobs that are of higher level.

For Primary education, female to male ration of enrolment in 1990-1991 was 0.47; in 1999-2000 it reached 0.74 that amounts for an increase of 57% in one decade. In middle level education category, at the start of the decade the ratio was 0.42 that increased to 0.68. At college level the ratio was 0.50 at the start and 0.91 at the end. Government should join hand and encourage the organizations, which are working for improving gender equality, and are striving to provide better opportunities for women to succeed. Government level collaboration could be done with non-profit organizations, which run countryside schools, with the motive to keep a balanced ratio of gender in their campuses. Similar initiatives on government level should also be taken across all provinces, to reduce the gender parity in education.

We can only hope that through our

collective efforts gender segregation and the institutionalisation of gender disparities could be reduced and are completely overcome one day. We should work endlessly to reach a level where women who do work are not exposed to harsh working conditions of less than minimum wage, long working hours, no medical and job security, discrimination and harassment.

Furthermore with respect to the cultural conservativeness the employment and entrepreneurial opportunities that women are exposed to should be in accordance to cater for these limitations. Women who are not allowed to work outside the house could be made a part of cottage industry where she could work from home, provided her wages and earned income is raised. Initiatives should be made on governmental level where entrepreneurial opportunities are provided to women, working directly from their homes. This can be done by opening free skill training centres in every

“When you educate a man, you educate one person. But when you educate a woman, you have educated a nation”.

major location, so that women are empowered and could materialize their skills into a business, thus contributing in the wellbeing of their family and country.

Different interpretations of religion make a

very difficult scenario for the women right to be rightfully projected in a workplace. However, Islam since its advent has protected the rights of women in all ways possible. Our beloved Prophet Hazrat Muhammad (PBUH) made education compulsory for both men and women. Similarly, the wife of Prophet Muhammad (P.B.U.H), Hazrat Khadija (R.A) who was a successful entrepreneur 1400 years ago, is a role model for women of all centuries. As per today, I believe that the Islamic scholars and religious organization should also be taken into confidence by the government, to make sure that correct preaching regarding women's role in nation building is made possible, so that people could be made aware of the important role women have to play in nation building by helping their families as well as their country.

The writer is a Pakistani politician and former federal interior minister of PPPP. The article originally published in The Nation.

Managing Director Pakistan Baitul Mal Barrister Abid Waheed Sheikh inaugurating Computer Lab at Women Empowering Centre in Hyderabad.



Managing Director Pakistan Baitul Mal Barrister Abid Waheed Sheikh addressing the participants after inaugurating Computer Lab at Women Empowering Centre in Hyderabad.

Diplomatic Focus Thru Lens



Outgoing High Commioner of Malaysia Dr. Hasrul Sani bin Mujtabar paid a Farewell call on President Mamnoon Hussain at Aiwan-e-Sadr, Islamabad.



Outgoing Ambassador of Vietnam Mr. Nguyen Xuan Luu paid a Farewell call on President Mamnoon Hussain at Aiwan-e-Sadr, Islamabad.



Ambassador-Designate of Pakistan to Jordan Major General (R) Junaid Rehmat called on President Mamnoon Hussain at Aiwan-e-Sadr, Islamabad.



Ambassador of Saudi Arabia commodore Nawaf Saeed Ahmad Al Malki called on President Mamnoon Hussain at Aiwan-e-Sadr, Islamabad.



Ambassador-designate of Pakistan to Swedon Ahmad Hussain Dayo called on President Mamnoon Hussain at the Aiwan-e-Sadr, Islamabad.



High Commissioner-designate of Pakistan to Malaysia Mohammed Nafees Zakaria called on President Mamnoon Hussain at the Aiwan-e-Sadr, Islamabad.



Pakistan's High Commissioner designate to Malaysia Mr. Mohammed Nafees Zakaria called on Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq at Parliament House.



British Liberal Democrat Mr. Lord Malcolm Gray Bruce called on Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq at Parliament House.

Diplomatic Focus Thru Lens



Ambassador of Japan to Pakistan Mr. Takashi Kurai called on Prime Minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi at PM Office Islamabad.



Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran Mr. Mehdi Honardoost called on Prime Minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi at PM Office in Islamabad.



Outgoing Chinese Ambassador H.E. Sun Weidong makes a Farewell call on Prime Minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi at PM Office in Islamabad.



H.E. Ali Alizad, the Ambassador of Azerbaijan calls on Prime Minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi at PM Office in Islamabad.



Ambassador of Turkmenistan to Pakistan Mr. Atadjan Nurlyevich Movlamov called on Prime Minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi at PM Office in Islamabad.



H.E. Mr. Tarik Ahsan, High Commissioner of Bangladesh calls on Prime Minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi at PM Office in Islamabad.



Mr. Jean-Francois Cautain, Ambassador of the European Union to Pakistan called on Federal Minister for Defence, Engr. Khurram Dastgir Khan at Ministry of Defence in Rawalpindi.



Federal Minister for National Food Security Mr. Sikandar Hayat Bosan discussing agricultural opportunities with H.E. Eamonn O' Shaunesy, High Commissioner for New Zealand resident in Tehran.

Diplomatic Focus Thru Lens



Federal Minister for National Health Services Saira Afzal Tarar in a meeting with Health Minister of Somalia in Islamabad.



Chinese Ambassador H.E. Sun Weidong paid a Farewell call on Foreign Secretary Tehmina Janjua at Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Islamabad.



H.E. Gabriel Capote, Ambassador of Cuba called on Ms. Marriyum Aurangzeb Minister of State for Information, Broadcasting and National Heritage in Islamabad.



Federal Minister for Commerce and Textile, Mr. Mohammad Pervaiz Malik in a meeting Austrian Ambassador H.E. Dr. Brigitta Blaha in Islamabad.



Federal Commerce Minister, Mr. Mohammad Pervaiz Malik in a meeting with German Ambassador H.E. Martin Kobler in his office in Islamabad.



Federal Minister for Commerce and Textile, Mr. Mohammad Pervaiz Malik in a meeting with Belgium Ambassador Mr. Frederic Veheyden in Islamabad.



Federal Minister for National Health Services Saira Afzal Tarar in a meeting with Health Minister of Iran in Islamabad.



Mr. Kazuyuki Yamazaki, Senior Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan, headed the Japanese delegation for 10th Round Pak-Japan Bilateral Political Consultation while Foreign Secretary Tehmina Janjua, led the Pakistani side at M/O Foreign Affairs.

Diplomatic Focus Thru Lens



H.E. Mr. Erik Beishembiev, Ambassador of Kyrgyzstan called on Federal Minister for Defence, Engr. Khurram Dastgir Khan at Ministry of Defence in Rawalpindi.



H.E. Mehdi Honardoost, Ambassador of Iran called on Federal Minister for Defence, Engr. Khurram Dastgir Khan at Ministry of Defence in Rawalpindi.



H.E. Sun Weidong, Ambassador of China to Pakistan called on Ms. Marriyum Aurangzeb, Minister of State for IB&NH in Islamabad.



National Security Adviser, Lt. General (R) Nasser Khan Janjua meeting with Polish Ambassador Mr. Piotr a Opalinski in his office, Islamabad.



Italian Ambassador to Pakistan, H.E. Mr. Stefano Pontecorvo called on Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission, Sartaj Aziz in Islamabad.



The German Ambassador to Pakistan, Mr. Martin Kobler called on National Security Adviser Lt. Gen. (Retd) Nasser Khan Janjua in Islamabad.



Ambassador of Belarus to Pakistan, H.E. Mr. Andrei G. Ermolovich called on Federal Minister for Commerce and Textile, Mohammad Pervaiz Malik in Islamabad.



Turkish Ambassador to Pakistan, H.E. Sadik Babur Girgin called on Federal Minister for Communication, Dr. Hafiz Abdul Kareem in Islamabad.

Xi calls for decisive victory for the new era in report to CPC National Congress

By Agency

China should secure a decisive victory in building a moderately prosperous society in all respects and strive for the great success of socialism with Chinese characteristics for a new era, Xi Jinping, General Secretary of the Communist Party of China Central Committee, said in a work report delivered at the opening session of the 19th National Congress of the Communist Party of China.

Xi underlined the theme of the Congress, calling on the Party to:

Remain true to its original aspiration with its mission of “seeking happiness for the Chinese people and rejuvenation for the Chinese nation” firmly in mind

--Strive for the success of socialism with Chinese characteristics for a new era

--Work tirelessly to realize the Chinese Dream of national rejuvenation

Xi reflected on the progress made by China and the CPC over the last five years, and laid out his vision for the next five years and further into the future, with China aiming to see the basic realization of socialist modernization and develop into a great modern socialist country by 2050.

--In brief: The last five years--

Major achievements in economic development

Xi said that commitment to China’s new development philosophy had led to a constant improvement in the quality and effect of development, highlighting how GDP has increased from 54 trillion to 80 trillion yuan (around 8.2 trillion to 12.1 trillion US dollars), with China contributing more than 30 percent of global economic growth. Xi also referred to China’s advances in science and technology, including the successful launch of the Tiangong-2 space lab and the quantum science satellite Mozi.

Major breakthroughs in deepening reform

Xi described how the past five years have seen breakthroughs achieved in many areas thanks to the launch of over 1,500 reform measures, leading to deeper progress in reform and further improvement in the system of socialism with Chinese characteristics.

Major steps in developing the rule of law

Xi said that progress has been made in ensuring legislation is sound, law enforcement is strict, judicial justice is upheld and that the law is



observed by everyone.

Decisive progress in fighting poverty

The last five years have seen particular importance attached to the task of poverty alleviation and lifting the entire country out of poverty by 2020. According to Xi, decisive progress has been made in the fight against poverty, with 60 million people lifted out of poverty.

Serious energy devoted to ecological conservation

Xi underlined the marked improvements made in protecting the environment, thanks to significant strengthening of ecological and environmental governance, with China becoming a torchbearer in ecological protection.

New stage initiated in strengthening armed forces

Xi described how historic breakthroughs have been made in reforming national defense and the armed forces, highlighting the military’s role in maintaining stability, international peacekeeping and humanitarian assistance.

Remarkable outcomes in ensuring full and strict Party governance

Xi looked back on efforts over the last five years to transform lax and weak governance over the Party, with political discipline and rules tightened to ensure political responsibility for governance over the Party is fulfilled at all levels.

--The challenges ahead--

Xi said the prospects are bright but the challenges are severe, pointing to many inadequacies in the work of the CPC in areas such as:

- National security
- Poverty alleviation
- Unbalanced development
- China’s ability to innovate
- Improving the real economy
- Protecting the environment

-- What’s New?--

Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era

--Socialism with Chinese characteristics has crossed the threshold into a new era, marking a historic juncture in China’s development.

--New era set to build on past successes to secure a decisive victory on building a moderately prosperous society in all respects.

--As China enters this new era, Xi said it will see the country moving closer to center stage and making greater contributions to mankind.

Xi called on the Party to always hold itself to the highest standards, ensuring that as history progresses the Party remains always ahead of the times. Xi emphasized the importance of combining theory and practice in ushering in the new era, with the Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era

building on and further enriching Marxism-Leninism, Mao Zedong Thought, Deng Xiaoping Theory, the Theory of Three Represents and the Scientific Outlook on Development.

Xi called on everyone in the Party to develop a good grasp of the essence and rich implications of the Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era, and to fully and faithfully apply it in all of their work.

On China and the CPC's future development

--The target of building a moderately prosperous society in all respects must be achieved in next five years.

--China to embark on a new journey towards fully building a modern socialist country.

--Xi sets out 14 points to uphold and develop socialism with Chinese characteristics in the new era, including:

Ensuring Party leadership over all work

Committing to a people-centered approach

Committing to comprehensively deepening reform

Adopting a new vision for development

Seeing that the people run the country

Ensuring every dimension of governance is law-based

Upholding core socialist values

Ensuring and improving living standards through development

Ensuring harmony between human and nature

Pursuing a holistic approach to national security

Upholding absolute Party leadership over the armed forces

Upholding the principle of "one country, two systems" and promoting national reunification

Promoting the building of a community with a shared future for mankind

Exercising full and rigorous governance over the Party

To achieve China's goal of basically realizing socialist modernization, Xi laid out the following necessary steps:

Developing a modernized economy

Xi said that furthering supply-side structural reform, making China a country of innovators and making new ground in pursuing opening up on all fronts would all play key roles as China puts quality first and gives priority to economic

performance.

Developing socialist democracy

Xi underlined how upholding the unity of Party leadership, the people running the country and law-based governance would all be key to safeguarding the fundamental interest of the people and developing China's socialist democracy.

Improving people's wellbeing

Xi said that leading the people to a better life is the abiding goal of the Party, and described how giving priority to developing education, improving employment and raising incomes, defeating poverty and carrying out the Healthy China initiative would all contribute to the Chinese people having a strong sense of happiness and security.

Environmental reform

Xi said that solving prominent environmental problems, promoting green development and reforming the environmental regulation system would meet the people's ever-growing demands for a beautiful environment.

Building a community with a shared future for mankind

China will remain firm in its commitment to strengthening friendship and cooperation and forge a new form of international relations based on mutual respect, fairness, justice and win-win cooperation, said Xi. Staff members

examine a China-Europe container train at Suzhou West Railway Station in Suzhou, east China's Jiangsu Province, June 8, 2016. /Xinhua Photo

Improving the Party

Xi emphasized that the new era of socialism with Chinese characteristics means the Party must get a new look and make new accomplishments.

Xi summarized the general requirements for Party building in the new era, including:

--Upholding and strengthening overall Party leadership

--Securing a sweeping victory in the fight against corruption

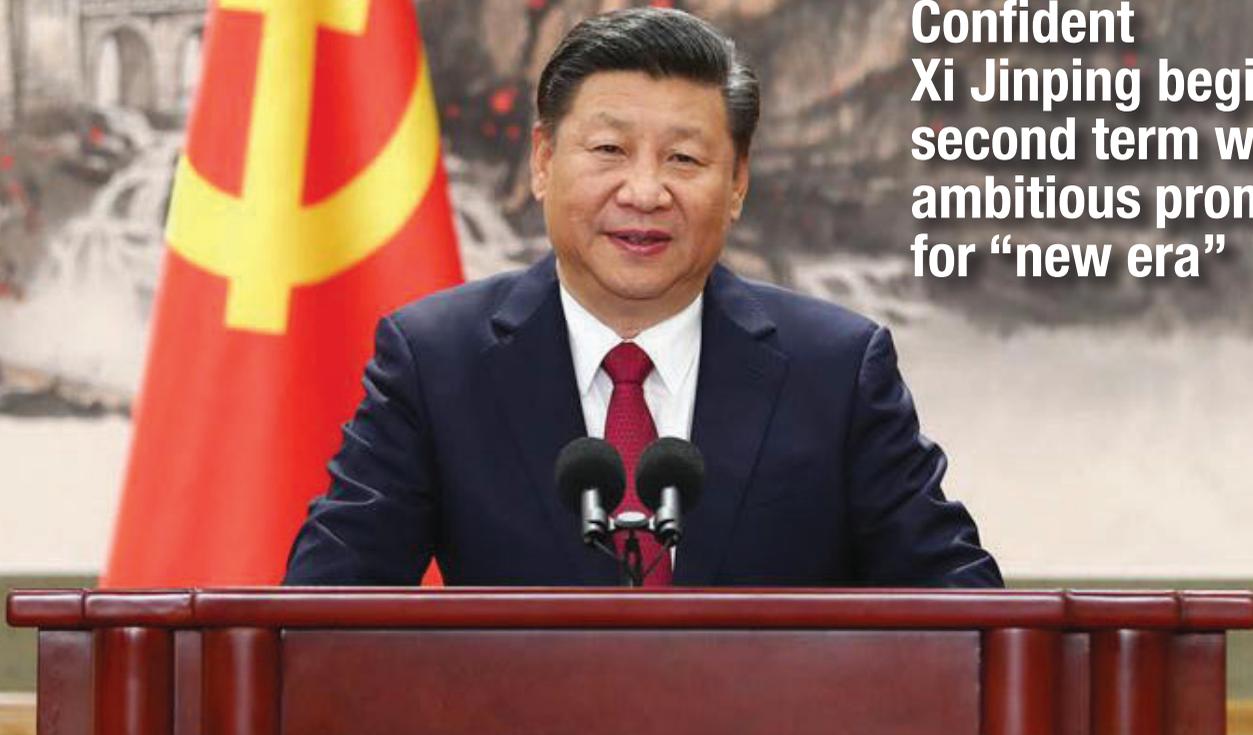
--Building the Party into a vibrant Marxist governing party.

Xi described how theory is fundamental to Party building, and laid out plans to arm the whole Party with the Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era.

Xi Jinping concluded his report by underlining the importance of China's young people, saying that the nation will only prosper when its young people thrive. With the endeavors of young people at the heart of the Chinese Dream of national rejuvenation, Xi called on the entire Party and the Chinese people to advance modernization, realize China's reunification and preserve world peace.



Confident Xi Jinping begins second term with ambitious promises for “new era”



Xi described the next five years as a period of “important junctures and signposts

Opening new chapter for new era

A dark suit, red tie and familiar air of confidence, Xi Jinping’s first public appearance in his second term as helmsman of the world’s largest political party brought back memories from five years ago when he first took over the leadership of the Party.

His ambitious roadmap and grand vision for the future, however, suggests a “new era” has dawned.

Addressing journalists shortly after the first plenary session of the 19th Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee elected the Political Bureau and its Standing Committee, Xi described the next five years as a period of “important junctures and signposts.”

“In this new context, we must get a new look and, more importantly, make new accomplishments,” said Xi who was elected general secretary of the CPC Central Committee for his second term.

He said the world’s second-largest economy would continue to deepen reform and open itself wider to the world in the next five years.

It will strive for sustainable economic growth, prosperity for all, while working with other

nations to “build a global community with a shared future” to make “new and greater contributions to the noble cause of peace and development for all humanity.”

“The CPC, meanwhile, will become a mighty and nationwide force driving China’s development and progress, and rid itself of any virus that erodes the Party’s fabric,” he said.

“We should never entertain the idea of taking a breather or halting our steps,” Xi told 1.3 billion Chinese in the televised address.

That sense of mission and resolve echoed Xi’s words in November 2012.

Five years ago when Xi strode into the Great Hall of the People as the Party’s top leader, he had inherited a slowing economy, widening wealth gap and widespread corruption.

To counter these problems, Xi promised a long list of “supply-side structural reform,” including defusing the debt bomb and phasing out obsolete industry.

He has also launched the most thorough anti-corruption campaign in Chinese history, giving sharper teeth to the Party’s discipline agency, and worked to upgrade the Party’s governance of the country.

Rare accolade puts Xi’s Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics into Communist charter

Xi Jinping has been consecrated as China’s most powerful leader since Mao Zedong after a new body of political thought carrying his name was added to the Communist party’s constitution. The symbolic move came on the final day of a week-long political summit in Beijing – the 19th party congress – at which Xi has pledged to lead the world’s second largest economy into a “new era” of international power and influence.

At a closing ceremony in the Mao-era Great Hall of the People, it was announced that Xi’s Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era had been written into the party charter.

“The congress unanimously agrees that Xi Jinping Thought ... shall constitute [one of] the guides to action of the party in the party constitution,” a party resolution stated.

Top CPC Leadership



Xi Jinping



Li Keqiang



Li Zhanshu



Wang Yang



Wang Huning



Zhao Leji



Han Zheng

Xi's unparalleled determination and resolve paid off. Between 2013 and 2016, China's GDP expanded by an average annual rate of 7.2 percent, compared to 4 percent growth in developing economies, and just 2.5 percent for the world.

The number of people living in poverty dropped to 43.35 million at the end of 2016, from nearly 100 million at the end of 2012.

Overwhelming momentum has been gained in the fight against corruption, sweeping reform launched across the military and China-led projects -- such as Belt and Road Initiative -- reflected in UN documents. These "historical changes" have led many to ask the same question. What might China achieve next with Xi at the helm?

The next five years will be a critical time for the CPC, which boasts more than 89 million members, to realize the vision of China's development that Xi has set out.

China has set 2020 as the target year to finish building a moderately prosperous society in all respects -- or Xiaokang -- just one year before the CPC celebrates its 100th anniversary.

But Xi's impact on China's future may run much further than this.

Last week, Xi declared that Chinese socialism had entered a "new era" and spelled out a

two-stage development plan for the country to become a "great modern socialist country" by the middle of the century.

China will build on the foundation created by the "moderately prosperous society" with another 15 years of hard work, to ensure that socialist modernization is "basically realized by 2035."

By the mid-21st century, China will become "a global leader in terms of composite national strength and international influence," Xi told more than 2,300 applauding delegates.

This means China has set a higher goal for about 30 years from now, and its modernization drive is picking up speed. It also means for the first time in human history, over 1 billion people will be lifted into modernity at one time.

"With decades of hard work, socialism with Chinese characteristics has entered a new era," Xi told reporters.

"The Chinese people should certainly take pride in the unprecedented progress the nation has made over the past several decades, which has raised living standards in China and in other countries as well," said Robert Daly, director of the Kissinger Institute on China and the United States at the Woodrow Wilson Center.

"China's rise fully justifies the announcement of a 'new era,' both for China and for the world," he said

Members of the newly elected Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the 19th CPC Central Committee are Xi Jinping, Li Keqiang, Li Zhanshu, Wang Yang, Wang Huning, Zhao Leji and Han Zheng.

Xi Jinping was also named chairman of the CPC Central Military Commission at the session.

Xu Qiliang and Zhang Youxia were named vice chairmen of the CMC.

Diplomatic Focus Thru Lens



H.E. Mr. Adel Elarbi, Ambassador of Tunisia called on National Security Adviser, Lt. Gen. (Retd) Nasser Khan Janjua at PM Office in Islamabad.



Ambassador of Japan to Pakistan, H.E. Takashi Kurai called on National Security Adviser, Lt. Gen. (Retd) Nasser Khan Janjua in Islamabad.



Governor Sindh Mr. Mohammad Zubair meeting with the Consul General of Russian Federation Mr. Alexander G Khozin at Governor House.



Interior Minister Professor Ahsan Iqbal in a meeting with German Ambassador Martin Kobler in Islamabad.



Ambassador of the European Union to Pakistan, H.E. Jean Francois Cautain called on Minister of State for IT and Telecom, Mrs. Anusha Rehman at Islamabad.



The Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan, H.E. Mr. Sun Weidong called on the Foreign Minister, Khawaja Muhammad Asif to Bid Farewell at Ministry of Foreign Affairs.



Mr. Cao Quoc Hung Vice Minister of Industries and Trade of Vietnam called on Federal Minister for Industries & Production, Ghulam Murtaza Khan Jatoti in Islamabad.



The Egyptian Ambassador to Pakistan, H.E. Sharif Mohamed Kamaledin Shaheen called on the Foreign Minister, Khawaja Muhammad Asif to Bid Farewell at Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Islamabad.

Diplomatic Focus Thru Lens



The Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan, Mr. Sun Weidong called on National Security Adviser, Lt. Gen. (Retd) Nasser Khan Janjua in Islamabad.



National Security Adviser Lt. General Nasser Janjua in a meeting with British Special Representative on Afghanistan and Pakistan Owen Jenkin in Islamabad. British High Commissioner is also present in the meeting.



Ambassador of Afghanistan to Pakistan, Hazrat Omar Zakhilwal called on National Security Adviser, Lt. Gen. (Retd) Nasser Khan Janjua in Islamabad.



Ambassador Republic of Bulgaria Mr. Roumen Pirontchev called on Deputy Speaker National Assembly, Murtaza Javed Abbasi at Parliament House, Islamabad.



Interior Minister Professor Ahsan Iqbal in a meeting with British High Commissioner H.E. Thomas Drew in Islamabad.



National Security Adviser Lt. General Nasser Janjua meeting with the Ambassador of Tajikistan Mr. Sherali Jononov in Islamabad.



Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Engr. Iqbal Zafar Jhagra talking to Peshawar based US Consul General Rymond Mc Grath here at Governor's House, Peshawar.



National Security Adviser Lt. General Nasser Janjua meeting with Japan's Senior Deputy Foreign Minister Mr. Kazuyuki Yamazaki in Islamabad.

Hostile statements by Trump and Ground realities



By: Mehdi Honardoost,
Ambassador of the Islamic Republic
of Iran to Pakistan

Donald Trump, President of the United States of America during his hostile speech on October 14, 2017 without mentioning a number of verifications by IAEA regarding steps taken by Iran to implement the content of JCPOA (joint comprehensive plan of action) claimed that Iran had not adhered to JCPOA. Despite his previous claims, he once again did not announce his exact strategy about regional policies and JCPOA, except requesting congress to impose more sanctions against Iran and IRGC. During his speech, he made some claims, which were mere misrepresentations and a handful of accusations against people of Iran. But claims could never be the basis of judgment but facts and performance could prove the claims to the true or false.

Since the victory of the Islamic Revolution in 1979, Iranian foreign policy has been developed and implemented based on principles of international law and international rules and conventions; respect for sovereign equality of all states and non-interference in internal affairs of others have formed the cornerstone of relations with other countries. After decades of dictatorship, dependence on foreign powers - especially the United States - and constant interference of those powers in Iran's internal affairs, the Iranian people, with their newly-established democratic government, had hoped to be able to finally build ties with neighbors based on equality and fraternity, free from political, economic and military rivalries; to form a peace-seeking nation that sought to replace enmity and bloodshed with friendship and cooperation. By contrast, the United States and its allies in the Persian Gulf region have persistently refused to accept realities of Iran and the region, and have vainly attempted to thwart the Iranian peoples' quest for democracy and self-determination.

From the very first days of the Islamic revolution, the United States adopted a hostile, interventionist and destabilizing approach towards Iran's newly-established government with the aim of overthrowing it. The United States' bleak record staging several coup attempts, harboring terrorists, openly supporting Saddam Hussein during the imposed war against Iran even his use of chemical weapons against Iranians, aiding secessionist plots, downing an Iranian passenger aeroplane, and hundreds of other conspiracies against the Islamic Republic of Iran and its people — is undeniable. Even before the Islamic Revolution, the United States sponsored a coup

against the democratically-elected government of Iran in 1953, thereby showing its constant historic enmity with democracy and its support for dictators.

Terrorist groups that have found safe haven in and plotted against the Iranian people from the United States over the past 38 years murdered 17000 Iranians in the first few years following the Islamic Revolution. The Islamic Republic of Iran, while successfully establishing the highest standards of stability and security at home, has provided its advisory services to the people and security forces of Iraq and Syria, playing an indispensable role in combating terrorism, thwarting the Takfiri campaign to take over Damascus, Baghdad and Erbil, and helping uproot these groups from Iraq and Syria. The constructive role of our armed forces in combating terrorist groups — which the current U.S. president himself cited during his campaign as having been created by the U.S. has been instrumental in eradicating this scourge. It is unfortunate that, instead of discarding terrorism as a tool and joining Iran's genuine counter-terrorism efforts, the United States continues to mislead about these constructive efforts as destabilizing.

The role of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) in the frontlines of combating terrorism in the region is irrefutable. The Corps, a branch of Iran's armed forces, has an impeccable track record of containing Takfiri terrorism, restoring gradual tranquility for the people of the region as well as safeguarding national sovereignty and territorial integrity of Iraq and Syria. The Revolutionary Guards are regarded as national heroes for their role in the defense of Iranian territory against Saddam Hussein' army. Any action by the U.S. administration or Congress against the IRGC will constitute a strategic mistake and will draw the indignation of the Iranian people and a strong and unified reciprocal reaction. The U.S. President will have to bear full responsibility for all consequences of his rogue behavior.

Trump statement regarding JCPOA is not logical. The JCPOA is a valid international document and an outstanding achievement in contemporary diplomacy. It cannot be renegotiated or altered. The nuclear deal is not a bilateral agreement that can be annulled by unilateral action, but a deal endorsed by the international community and incorporated as a part of Security Council Resolution 2231. Other JCPOA participants, as well as the rest of the international community,

should not allow the president of the United States to continue to mock and undermine the deal. The Islamic Republic of Iran will not be the first to withdraw from the deal, but if its rights and interests in the deal are not respected, it will stop implementing all its commitments and will resume its peaceful nuclear program without any restrictions.

Iran has demonstrated its good will by entering into and its conclusion of nuclear negotiations with the P5+1 to resolve a fabricated crisis, and we have proven our fulfillment of our undertakings by the good-faith implementation of our commitments in accordance with the JCPOA. In contrast, the United States fulfillment of its commitments has been lackluster and deficient from the very beginning, and in several cases—especially during the current administration—it has violated both the spirit and the letter of the JCPOA. The Islamic Republic of Iran has officially registered with the Joint Commission those violations, including failures in lifting of sanctions and policies preventing the establishment of an atmosphere necessary for normalization of trade and economic relations with Iran. The claim by the president of United States regarding Iran's non-compliance has no international relevance or credibility, since the IAEA, as the sole authority to conduct such monitoring and verification, has repeatedly confirmed Iran's full compliance with its commitments under the JCPOA. This proves once again that the United States is not a reliable negotiating partner.

Baseless assertions of US President were not limited to JCPOA rather he brought his hostility to the extent that name of Persian Gulf which had been clearly mentioned in all documents and historical books altered with ambiguous name of Arabian Gulf.

Undoubtedly, the world is watching the steps and unfounded statements of US President and will correctly judge it. That's why no world leader, even permanent member of UN Security Council has not shown readiness to support Trump.



Yao Jing appointed as new Chinese envoy to Pakistan

Mr. Yao Jing has been appointed as new Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan, an official of Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs said.

Jing—who has served as envoy to Afghanistan—will soon assume his new assignment, he said in a statement issued here. He has also served as Minister Counsellor in India from 2013-2015.

He said that China and Pakistan are all-weather strategic partners and have always been maintaining good friendly relations, adding China accords importance to its diplomatic relations with Pakistan.

He expressed confidence that two countries will further strengthen bilateral cooperation under China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) framework.

Keeping in view their mutual interests, both China and Pakistan will work together to bring about further development and prosperity for the people of two countries, he added.

Dr. Brigitta Blaha

Ambassador of Austria



on the occasion of the Austrian National Day

On the occasion of the National Day of Austria I would like to send my warmest regards to the readers of Diplomatic Focus and to the people of Pakistan. I would also like to take this opportunity to congratulate Pakistan on the 70th anniversary of its independence.

Austria is a small country located in the heart of Europe as a geographic interface between different cultures, religions and political systems. Austria is listed among the most peaceful countries in the world. Its capital Vienna has been selected as the most livable city in the world several years in a row. It is host to the United Nations and many other international institutions and organisations and has become a centre for international dialogue and multilateral diplomacy.

Austria remains strongly committed to an effective multilateralism. Global challenges like climate change, migration, security or disarmament need global solutions. In this crucial time, it is important that all countries remain committed to the targets that the international community has set for itself: the Agenda 2030 and the SDGs are only one example of how Austria is committed to collectively ensuring a just world, advance sustainable development and combat climate change.

Austria and Pakistan established bilateral relations in 1956, when Pakistan formally recognized Austria's regained sovereignty. Since then, the relations between our two countries have always been friendly. Politically, the past year has held great opportunities and challenges for both countries. For the year 2017 Austria is holding the chairmanship of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) – another Vienna-based institution - and is committed to improving security, the rule of law and human rights in 57 participating States in North America, Europe and Asia. The three most important topics for our chairmanship have been conflict-resolution, building trust in

the OSCE and counter-radicalization and youth. Austria believes that the involvement and political participation of young people is crucial in order to prevent radicalization. Austria has been able to solve some longstanding issues in the OSCE and will hand over the chairmanship to Italy at the end of this year. As part of the chairmanship-troika Austria will take over the chair in the contact group of the OSCE with its Asian partners.

Austria is prepared to take up the next challenge in the second half of 2018 - the Presidency of the Council of the European Union, from July to December 2018. Austria is strongly committed to the European idea, which is one of the most successful peace projects in history. 70 years ago, the continent was thrown into turmoil, partly due to long-standing animosities between neighboring countries. The European project shows how arch-rivals can become partners and cooperate in a friendly and effective manner – thereby ensuring peace and prosperity for a whole region.

Over the past few years Austria and Pakistan have witnessed a strengthening of bilateral relations in several areas: trade, cultural exchange and education. Pakistan is profiting from a preferential access to the markets of the European Union Member States through the GSP+ system, which mutually benefits both countries. Our bilateral trade has steadily diversified and its volume increased in recent years. It now stands at around Euro 260 million. Austrian companies are active in Pakistan in the fields of hydro-power, oil and gas production and the construction of roads and tunnels in the mountainous areas of Pakistan. Projects in the area of urban transport and development of tourism facilities are under way. Austria is willing to be a proactive player in the advancement of Pakistan and prepared to bring business and trade relationships to the next level. Agriculture and renewable energy sources are other sectors with potential for growth.

Over 500 Pakistani students have benefitted from a scholarship program to pursue their doctoral studies at Austrian universities and are now teaching at local universities around the country. Education is the key for development and the large youth population of Pakistan can make an important contribution to advancing this country. This is why Austria remains highly committed to cooperating with Pakistan in the field of education and research. The Austrian educational system is open and inclusive. The key for progress is a broad access to education and training facilities. The Austrian system for Technical and Vocational Education and Training (T-VET), a so-called dual education system, is an example that has found the interest of many countries and can certainly also be applied in Pakistan.

Austria is a cultural nation and is known all over the world, particularly for its musical heritage, but also its vibrant contemporary scene. In the past few years, the Austrian Embassy in Islamabad has organized cultural events in Islamabad, Lahore and Karachi. We bring Austrian musicians together with Pakistani artists to allow cultural exchange and interaction that may lead to new concepts. Also this year, two Austrian musicians, the duo Christopher Haritzer, clarinet and Paul Schuberth, accordion, will visit Pakistan for musical performances, which include Pakistani musicians as well and workshops with music students. Pakistani music groups regularly perform in Austria. There is also an exchange in the area of visual arts with exhibitions and teaching assignments of Pakistani contemporary artists in Austria and Austrian artists in Pakistan.

I would like to thank Pakistan and the people of this country for their interest in developing yet stronger relations between our two countries. I would like to express my hope that the future will see us benefitting even more from each other's strengths and achievements. I am confident that our relationship will intensify in the years to come, be it on a political level, in business, or cultural exchange.

Photo by Ramzan Mughal

SERENA PARK: REVIVING LOST SPACES

By M. Saeed Yousafzai

Sheikh Ansar Aziz, Mayor of Islamabad & Aziz Boolani, CEO Serena Hotels joined hands in the inauguration of the 8 acre Park, adjacent to the Hotel, in a tree plantation ceremony. With various diplomats and dignitaries in attendance, the ceremony opened the lush green space to the public.

One of the greatest challenges facing humanity is climate change and the rapid degradation of the environment. Serena Hotels have been taking steps to minimize our carbon footprint through an effective environmental management system, recycling as far as possible and championing eco-friendly practices within and outside Serena. The Hotel has undertaken to develop the large tract of land so that the residents of Islamabad can enjoy a safe and pleasant space to exercise and relax. With a newly developed jogging track, central walking path, multistage fountain, benches, park lights, flowering bushes, floral arches and shady trees, Park promises an enjoyable experience to both the lone jogger and the picnicking family alike.

The planning and development of the Park took some time as the process had to begin with land leveling and the plantation of new grass. Subsequently weeds and shrubs were removed and replaced with new trees, flower beds and a nursery. The maintenance of all the new plantation has been made possible through a new irrigation network.

The jogging track and central walking path are new while the old path alongside the road was renovated. The rockeries, fountain and benches are new while the old graves have been fenced off.

Mr. Aziz Boolani, CEO Serena Hotels, said, "We strongly believe that it is not enough – as a company and as individuals – to simply avoid harming the environment. We must all come



caretakers of the environment and its resources we believe in having a constructive effect on the ambit of our influence. Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) is reported to have said, 'Plant a tree even if it is your last deed' and through this project we want to reaffirm our conviction that we must not only preserve the earth and its resources, but also cultivate and grow them."

Ansar Aziz, Mayor of Islamabad, said, "... "

together to play an active role to protect the environment and conserve natural resources. This Park is a project close to my heart in a time when climate change is ravaging the world. The saplings we have planted in the past and the ones we plant today will become trees that will provide oxygen for our children in the future, improve air quality, conserve water, preserve the soil and create a space for birds to flourish in the heart of Islamabad." He added, "Care of our ecosystem is as much a part of responsible management as financial management. As

Serena Hotels has always prioritized conservation and protection of the environment to the extent that the Serena Business Complex (SBC) has been certified as a Green Office by WWF-Pakistan. The Green Office Initiative includes water conservation, energy conservation (via use of LEDs), enhanced waste management practices, regular tree plantations, celebration of environment days and adoption of eco-friendly purchase policies. Serena Business Complex is the first office building of its kind in Pakistan to achieve this certification.



Reinforcing rescue service Just dial 1122



By monitoring desk

With an aim to further strengthen the rescue service to provide prompt emergency aid to those in urgent need, Punjab government is all set to launch motorcycle ambulance service in nine districts of the province with the cooperation of Turkey.

The concept of motorcycle ambulance was first used during World War-I by Briton, French and Americans and now is in vogue in several developed and developing countries of the world. Everything has its pros and cons. Though concept of a motorcycle ambulance might create an impression of an uncomfortable means of helping patients, however the bright side of the idea will surely bring out an

optimistic picture. The service will not only be fuel efficient but since streets of major cities across Punjab province are quite narrow and congested; therefore such a service will greatly help in providing immediate emergency aid to the patients. According to Punjab government plan, the motorcycle ambulance will bring victims to the main road from where ambulance vans would receive and shift them to nearby hospitals. Over the years Rescue 1122 has done remarkable work in providing immediate aid to those in need and we understand the introduction of motorcycles in the service will further enhance its efficiency and response time, thus increasing the survivability and reducing mortality and morbidity rate and encourage greater uptake of medical services. Given its utility, we expect that other provincial

governments will also consider introducing the same service in their cities especially which are densely populated. The process of equipping Rescue 1122 with latest tools, gadgets and equipment must go on so that it could further improve its service as per expectations of the people and effectively, promptly deal with any emergency like situation. Along with this, provincial governments also need to give preference to improving conditions in public sector hospitals so that the poor lot could also get better medical care with dignity.



Formation of the Dolphin force for defence of CPEC projects: CM Punjab



Chief Minister Punjab Shehbaz Sharif said that the Dolphin force has been formed for safeguarding the China Pakistan Economic Corridor projects making their way in the Punjab.

While addressing the passing out ceremony of the Dolphin force, the CM stated that the idea of the force originated from Turkey. Shehbaz Sharif expressed his hope that the same level of quality service can be expected from the force. The CM Punjab continued onwards to say that the government has spent billions of rupees on the constitution of the Dolphin force and everybody has their expectations set upon it. The idea of the forces was perceived back in 2013, where it was decided that 700 policeman would be equipped to battle against street crime.

Photos by Sheikh Arif

‘Pakistan will overcome extremism, terrorism’ Rabbani

By M. Saeed Yousafzai

The Pakistani nation will overcome extremism and terrorism because it has an extraordinary capability to fight back, Senate Chairman Mian Raza Rabbani said.

Mr Rabbani was speaking at an event titled ‘70 Years of Pakistan’, organised by the Senate Defence Committee and the think tank Konrad Adenauer Stiftung at Serena hotel Islamabad.

Mr Rabbani said efforts began during Gen Ziaul Haq’s regime to promote a culture of extremism, to replace a culture of tolerance and love that is a speciality of this land of Sufism.

He added that coffee culture, student unions and trade associations give society liberal and progressive leadership with the capability to deal with issues facing the average citizen.

“We need to understand that our culture is not Arab culture. Our culture is a bouquet of the cultures of Sindh, Balochistan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Punjab.” Mr Rabbani said.

Also speaking at the event, Senator Mushahid Hussain said the biggest future challenge for Pakistan is that it does not “become like India”, where religious extremists had become part of the electoral mainstream.

Mr. Hussain said in its 70 year history, Pakistan always sided with the oppressed, such as the people of Kashmir, Palestine, Afghanistan, Algeria, South Africa, Bosnia and the Rohingya.

Historian Dr. Dushka Saiyid said despite difficulties and opposition, Pakistan came into being as a free land for Muslims and non-Muslims in the subcontinent. She said the Quaid’s vision of a forward-looking tolerant state must be translated into a living reality.



Pakistani Fashion and Culture Show in Prague



By Mian Asadullah

The Embassy of Pakistan organized a Fashion and Culture Show, the second of the series to commemorate 70th Independence anniversary of Pakistan, at prestigious neo-renaissance Zofin Palace, located on the island in Vltava River.

The Fashion show showcased Pret “named neelak’ by a young and prolific Pakistani designer Ms. Zonia Anwaar, from Lahore. The Czech models presented a catwalk adorned with couture from Ms. Zonia, presenting the true image of Pakistan. This was followed by mesmerizing Kathak dance performance by a famous student of iconic Naheed Siddiqui, Mr. Rehan Bashir. Mr. Kamiar Rokni’s (a renowned fashion designer from Lahore) bridal dresses

were presented by Czech models after Kathak dance. Scintillating and mystifying musical performance on Sitaar and Tabla performed by famous Pakistani musician Ustad Ashraf Sharif, (Pride of Performance) and Mr. Shahbaz Hussain, plunged the audience into ecstasy.

Ambassador Dr. Israr Hussain, while delivering his welcoming remarks stated that Pakistan has achieved many landmarks in the short span of 70 years. He highlighted the efforts being made by Government for development of the country, sacrifices rendered by Pakistan in war against terror, enormous opportunities being offered to friendly countries in CPEC. He drew attention of the audience towards legitimate, long standing struggle for the right of self-determination by the people of IoK and urged it quick resolution. He also alluded to

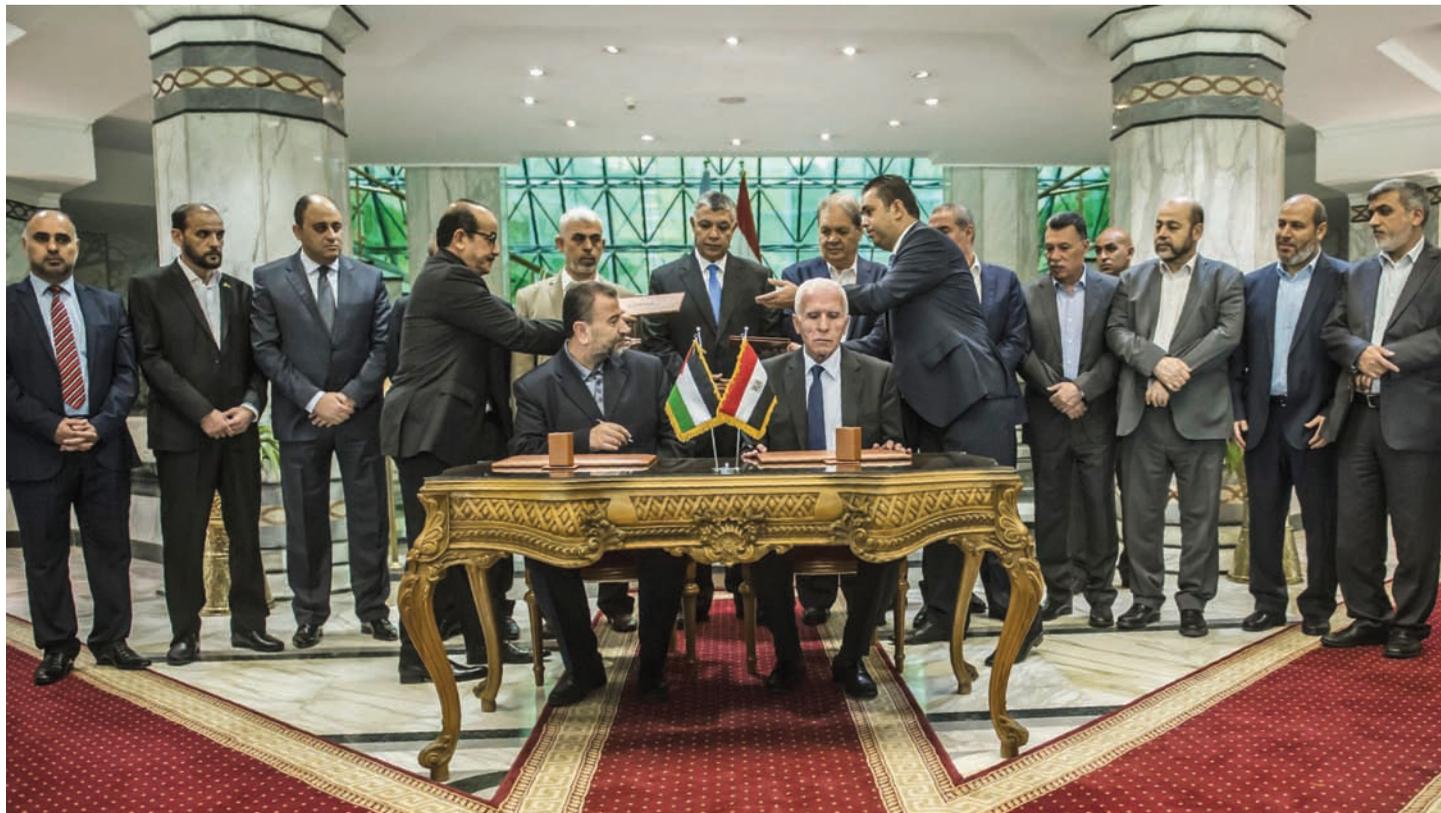


the vision 2025 for Pakistan and Czech Vision 2030. Ing. Ivo Barek, Vice-President of Senate of Czech Republic (chief guest), stated that Pakistan was an important country for Czech Republic and both the countries enjoyed strong bilateral relations. Mr. Oldrich Lomecky, Mayor of Prague-1, Mr. Tomas Kuchta, Deputy Minister for Defence and Mr. Ivan Jancarek, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs also addressed the audience and felicitated Pakistan. They pledged to work together and to further strengthen the bilateral ties. Mr. Aamir Atta Bajwa, Sr. Vice President of FPCCI also spoke on the occasion.

A large number of Czech dignitaries, business community, members of Czech and European Parliament, Ambassadors accredited to Prague, leading Czech businessmen as well as members of Pakistani community embellished the event with their presence.







Hamas and Fatah: How are the two groups different?

Hamas and Fatah are the two most dominant parties in the Palestinian political scene.

Recently, the two movements announced they had reached a deal to end a decade-long rift that brought them to an armed conflict in 2007.

Hamas has been the de facto ruler in the Gaza Strip since 2007, after defeating President Mahmoud Abbas' long dominant Fatah party in parliamentary elections.

Hamas then pushed Fatah out of Gaza when the latter refused to recognise the result of the vote. Hamas and Fatah have ruled the occupied Palestinian territories of the Gaza Strip and the West Bank respectively ever since.

While the two groups work towards the same goal of building a Palestinian state on the territories that Israel occupied in 1967, consisting of East Jerusalem, the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, there are some stark differences.

What are their ideologies?

Fatah is a reverse acronym for Harakat al-Tahrir

al-Filistiniya or Palestinian National Liberation Movement in Arabic. The word Fatah means to conquer.

The secular movement was founded in Kuwait in the late 1950s by diaspora Palestinians after the 1948 Nakba - the ethnic cleansing of Palestine by the Zionist movement aiming to create a Jewish modern state in historic Palestine.

Fatah was founded by several people, most notably the late president of the Palestinian Authority - Yasser Arafat, aides Khalil al-Wazir and Salah Khalaf, and Mahmoud Abbas, who is the current president of the Palestinian Authority.

The movement was premised on the armed struggle against Israel to liberate historic Palestine.

The main military wing of the group was al-Asifah, or the Storm. Al-Asifah fighters were based in several Arab countries as well as in the West Bank and Gaza.

The group's armed struggle against Israeli occupation began in 1965. Most of its armed operations were carried out from Jordan and



By Zena Tahhan

Lebanon.

Under Yasser Arafat, and after the 1967 Arab-Israeli War, Fatah became the dominant party in the Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO), which comprises numerous Palestinian political parties. The PLO was created in 1964 with the goal to liberate Palestine, and today acts as the representative of the Palestinian people at the

United Nations.

After being pushed out of Jordan and Lebanon in the 1970s and 1980s, the movement underwent a fundamental change, choosing to negotiate with Israel.

“The Arabs basically helped in forcing Fatah to agree on taking a diplomatic route, after it was pushed out of Beirut,” Nashat al-Aqtash, a West Bank-based political analyst, told Al Jazeera.

In the 1990s, the Fatah-led PLO officially renounced armed resistance and backed United Nations Security Council Resolution 242, which calls for building a Palestinian state on the 1967 borders (West Bank, East Jerusalem and Gaza), alongside an Israeli state.

The PLO then signed the Oslo Accords, which led to the creation of the Palestinian National Authority, or Palestinian Authority, an interim self-governing body meant to lead to an independent Palestinian State.

Hamas is an acronym for Harakat al-Muqawamah al-Islamiyya, or Islamic Resistance Movement. The word Hamas means zeal.

The Hamas movement was founded in Gaza in 1987 by imam Sheikh Ahmed Yasin and aide Abdul Aziz al-Rantissi shortly after the start of the first Intifada, or Palestinian uprising against Israel’s occupation of the Palestinian territories.

The movement started as an offshoot of the Muslim Brotherhood in Egypt and created a military wing, the Izz al-Din al-Qassam Brigades, to pursue an armed struggle against Israel with the aim of liberating historic Palestine. It also provided social welfare programmes to Palestinian victims of the Israeli occupation.

Hamas defines itself as a “Palestinian Islamic national liberation and resistance movement”, using Islam as its frame of reference.

In 2017, Hamas issued a political document effectively claiming to break ties with the Muslim Brotherhood and said it would accept a Palestinian state on the 1967 borders with the return of Palestinian refugees.

Though the move stirred fears among its loyalists that it was giving up on the Palestinian cause, Hamas added the following clause:

“Hamas rejects any alternative to the full and complete liberation of Palestine, from the river to the sea” but considers the establishment of a sovereign Palestinian state on 1967 borders “to be a formula of national consensus”.

The movement believes that the “establishment of ‘Israel’ is entirely illegal”. This sets it apart from the PLO, of which it is not a member.

Hamas entered Palestinian politics as a political party in 2005 when it engaged in local elections, and won a landslide victory in parliamentary elections in 2006, beating Fatah.

Since 2007, Israel has launched three wars against Hamas and the Strip. After Hamas won elections in that year, Israel imposed an airtight blockade.

Civilians in Gaza have borne the brunt of the fighting. In the last Israeli assault on the Strip, more than 2,200 Palestinians were killed, including 500 children, over a span of 50 days.

How do their objectives differ?

With the release of Hamas’ political document in 2017, the objectives of the two parties are effectively the same - creating a Palestinian state on the borders of 1967.

“There is no value to the clause in which Hamas says it will not give up on historic Palestine,” said al-Aqtash, the political analyst. “Hamas has accepted a political compromise and they cannot go back on this.”

“All Palestinians dream of liberating historic Palestine, but today, they are working on a realistic solution,” he added, explaining they are focusing on “what they can achieve as opposed to what they hope of achieving”.

What are their strategies?

The biggest difference between the two movements today is their attitude towards Israel.

While Hamas has clung to using armed resistance, Fatah believes in negotiating with Israel and has completely ruled out using attacks.

The Oslo Accords gave Israel full control of the Palestinian economy as well as civil and security matters in more than 60 percent of the West Bank.

Under the agreements, the PA must coordinate with the Israeli occupation over security and any armed resistance attacks planned against Israelis. This is seen as highly controversial and seen by some as the PA collaborating with the Israeli occupation.

In March, protests erupted in the West Bank when prominent Palestinian political activist Basil al-Araj was killed by Israeli forces in Ramallah, after being arrested by PA security personnel on allegations of planning an attack.

Abbas, the PA president, regularly and publicly condemns any operations of armed resistance carried out by Palestinians against Israelis.

The issue of armed resistance has cast doubt

over whether the unity agreement reached this week would succeed.

“The PA does not believe in the legitimacy of Hamas’ arms. This means that the PA wants to end the resistance in Gaza and Hamas refuses that. And if Fatah accepts the resistance, Israel will take measures against the PA,” Abdulsattar Qassem, a Nablus-based political analyst, told Al Jazeera.

“This will inevitably lead to the destruction of the potential new unity government.”

How do they rally support?

Hamas’ attraction lies in its ideology, compared with Fatah which has more international backing and is seen as more financially secure.

In terms of garnering support, the two employ very different tactics.

Hamas, like the Muslim Brotherhood, uses grassroots activism to inform people on its ideology, in places such as mosques and universities.

Fatah, on the other hand, no longer carries out such exercises, and relies more on providing financial support to gain followers, according to those on the ground.

Al-Aqtash says about half of Fatah loyalists “financially benefit from the PA and get rewards such as salaries and high positions - along with their families.

“Their livelihood is tied to the existence of the PA.”

Many still view Fatah’s Arafat as a Palestinian leader. In his time, before signing the Oslo Accords, the party supported armed resistance.

“Many of those on the street who support Fatah do so from an emotional perspective - for the slogans and the history of the movement - without really understanding what the movement’s current views are,” said al-Aqtash.

On the other hand, Hamas has a completely different loyalty base, says Ramallah-based activist Hazem Abu Helal.

“Hamas has a distinct ideology and they have people working to promote their ideas, as opposed to Fatah which uses money to secure its followers,” Abu Helal told Al Jazeera.

“Today, if you ask university students, the majority of them do not know what Fatah’s ideology is. The movement does not have clear principles.”

The writer Zena al-Tahhan is an online journalist and producer for Al Jazeera English



Spain National Day celebrated

Ambassador of Spain H.E. Carlos Morales hosted a grand reception to celebrate national day of Spain at his residence in Islamabad. Federal Commerce Minister Pervez Malik was the chief guest. The event was attended by a large number of guests from different walks of life.







By M. Saeed Yousafzai

Culinary arts festival ‘Malaysia Truly Asia’

Islamabad Serena Hotel in collaboration with the Malaysian High Commission, inaugurated the Malaysian Food Festival at Wild Rice restaurant. Visitors to the restaurant experienced the delightfully colorful and creative cuisine by the visiting chef Zaidah.



The Malay Peninsula which has traditionally been a melting pot of culture and cuisine continues to retain its own unique flavour. Traditional Southeast Asian herbs and spices met Indian, Middle Eastern and Chinese spices in Malaysian food, leading to fragrant combinations of coriander and cumin, lemongrass, kaffir lime leaves, cardamom, star anise and fenugreek. Though generally spicy, the dishes were served with a chilli-based sambal.



Zaidah binti Mohammad Noor, a Malay chef with almost 36 years of experience started her career with cooking programmes in the 1980's which gained country wide popularity and has also produced several cookbooks. She is now presenting Malaysian cuisine internationally through various collaborations.



Sahiwal Police receives UNODC Global eLearning Platform

to enhance the core capacities of officers in law enforcement functions

By M.Saeed Yousafzai

The Regional Training Centre (Police) Sahiwal has received eLearning curricula from UNODC to enhance core policing and law enforcement skills of its officers along international standards. Sahiwal Regional Training Centre was established in April 2017 to deliver on-job training and various capacity building programmes to police officers of various ranks from the Sahiwal region. In collaboration with United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), Punjab Police has established an eLearning centre to address the training needs of Sahiwal Regional Police in specialised areas such as Drugs related crimes, human trafficking & migrants smuggling, awareness and preservation of digital evidences, crime scene investigation and criminal intelligence etc.

The Regional Police Officer (RPO) Sahiwal Mr. Muhammad Tariq Chohan along with UNODC Country Representative Pakistan Mr. Cesar Guedes inaugurated the newly established eLearning centre at the Sahiwal Regional Training Centre. UNODC's Criminal Justice Programme Advisor Ms. Jouhaida Hanano and other programme staff of UNODC were also present on the occasion. Under the UNODC's Pakistan Country Programme initiative, the UNODC with support from its international partners assisted the Government of Pakistan in implementing its policy priorities in the areas of criminal justice system, drug control and border management, drug demand reduction and controlling HIV/AIDS. RPO Sahiwal Muhammad Tariq Chohan extended gratitude and appreciation to UNODC Pakistan on behalf of the Punjab Police Department, for the assistance in building the human resource and operational capacities of Sahiwal Regional Police. Mr. Chohan said that the Punjab Police had developed additional training institutions at regional level to address the training needs of field and operational force of the Police at the front line, who deal with and act as the first responder to crimes. RPO Sahiwal said "Sahiwal Regional Training Centre is being equipped with essential training facilities, utilizing modern tools and methods for on-job training of police officers in specialised crime' areas. UNODC's eLearning platform would complement the traditional training methods and mock scene exercises, as it provides a wide range of training courses related to crimes which are interactive, self-paced, more engaging and easy to comprehend".



UNODC Country Representative Pakistan Mr. Cesar Guedes in his remarks praised the Punjab Police for all the efforts to raise the competency, professionalism and the field effectiveness of its force through resourcing the training institutions. Mr. Guedes, remembering the great sacrifices offered by Pakistani law enforcement agencies to protect citizens' lives and their rights, stressed on the need to undertake more concerted and joint efforts to raise the capacity of the country's law



enforcement adequately, in order to prepare a tougher response against all forms of crimes and the terrorism. Mr. Cesar Guedes said that UNODC had significantly increased international support for Pakistan under the new UNODC's Country Programme –II (2016-2019), which would address the country's development challenges within its mandated areas of illicit trafficking; drug control and crime prevention. Mr. Guedes said that more

support in use of forensic, technological and modern methods in investigation of criminal cases were reflected in UNODC's programmes to enhance the operational capacity of the law enforcement agencies.

UNODC in Pakistan has established 55 eLearning centres within various law enforcement agencies, while for the Punjab Police it is the 9th eLearning centre in number established at Sahiwal Regional Training Centre. Talking about success and the impact of UNODC eLearning, Mr. Cesar Guedes said "the eLearning Programme has had a very staggering level of achievement as over 50,000 personnel country wide of Pakistani law enforcement agencies have completed over 270,000 hours of foundational and specialised level of training programmes". "UNODC would continue to bring what it could to Pakistan's law enforcement institutions, such as the best knowledge and technology to the extent possible, however it is up to the Pakistani institutions to absorb and incorporate the acquired knowledge and skills into their daily work for optimum results". Mr. Cesar Guedes also acknowledged the contribution of UNODC's international partners, in particular the Government of Denmark, for their gracious support Pakistan's Country Programme II (2016-19), under which the Sahiwal Regional Training centre also received eLearning curricula and equipment for training.

Photo by Ramzan Mughal

A Farewell Reception held at Chinese Embassy in the honor of the outgoing Ambassador of China His Excellency Mr. Sun Weidong. On the occasion, National Assembly Speaker Ayaz Sadiq, National Security Adviser Nasser Janjua, former minister Sherry Rehman, Air Chief Sohail Aman, Director General of Military Operations Lt General Bilal Akbar, Vice Admiral Syed Arifullah Hussaini and other political and military officials cut a cake to mark the end of the four-year term of Ambassador Sun.



“ Looking back over the past 1,500 plus days and nights during stay in Pakistan, we have done lot of meaningful things, made plenty of friends, and are generously rewarded. From the Quaid-e-Azam mausoleum in Karachi to the beautiful valley of Swat, from the spectacular castle of Lahore to the blue sea of Gwadar, I have appreciated the beautiful natural scenery of Pakistan, witnessed the diligence and courage of the people on the land and the development,”

H.E. Sun Weidong





5th FPCCI ACHIEVEMENT AWARD 2017

Business-friendly policies: energy, infrastructure see huge investment: Governor Sindh

The Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industries (FPCCI), the apex body representing Pakistan's Industry and Services, held its 5th FPCCI Achievement Awards Ceremony to recognize the services of organizations in different sectors contributing towards the progress and prosperity of Pakistan.

By M.Saeed Yousafzai, Commerce Desk

Sindh Governor Muhammad Zubair has appreciated that big investment is pouring into the country in different sectors especially in energy and infrastructure and it is the response to the PML-N government's business friendly policies.

Speaking at 5th FPCCI Achievement Awards ceremony, the Governor noted that macroeconomic indicators were very positive which showed the stability of the economy.

He listed many achievements of the government on economic and social fronts over last four years and hoped more important decisions and steps would be taken for boost to trade and industry with focus on real and fast economic growth.



Pakistan has a big economic potential which could be converted into an economy of scale. He emphasized on recognizing the contribution of government institutions including Federal Board of Revenue, and Security and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) towards the revival and strengthening of the country's economy.

By dint of FBR officials' pursuance and hard work, the revenue collection had significantly increased in the last couple of years. Similarly, SECP had played a very important role in regulating the corporate sector and the merger of the three stock exchanges into Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) was one of its big achievements. The merger became inevitable because Pakistan required to enter emerging money markets of the world. PSX was one of the fast growing exchanges of the world, he said.

He, however, said that more reforms were needed

to further improve the performance of FBR.

The Governor, responding to the concerns shown by FPCCI leadership, agreed that certain steps were needed to control the trade and current accounts deficit. He noted that overcoming the shortage of electricity, and restoring law and order was a big success of the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz government.

Soon, the load-shedding would be overcome, he showed his confidence.

Federal Minister for Commerce and Textile Industry Muhammad Pervaiz Malik appreciated the FPCCI role in promoting trade and industry focused on economic prosperity and development of the country.

FPCCI Achievement Awards was also a very good step, he said.

He highlighted the positive decisions and steps taken by the government for strengthening the

Federal Minister for Commerce and Textile Industry Muhammad Pervaiz Malik appreciated the FPCCI role in promoting trade and industry focused on economic prosperity and development of the country.

economy by perusing the vision of former prime minister and PML-N Chief Muhammad Nawaz Sharif.

He praised the government on achieving the GSP-plus status for Pakistan, which provided duty-free access to Pakistani goods to European Union's markets.

However, he urged, Pakistan's business community should take full advantages of this unique facility by complying with 27- conventions linked to it.

When his attention was drawn to Rs 180 billion PM Exporters Package, announced by Muhammad Nawaz Sharif last year, Pervaiz Malik said this package would be improved further and fully implemented to get the desired results.

Prime Minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi and former Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif were very keen to see trade and industry flourishing in the country.

"In last two months after becoming Commerce Minister, I have 20 meetings with the Prime Minister to discuss and resolve the trade and industry related issues," he said.

He assured that in next few days, the business community would see very positive steps by the government.

Macroeconomic indicators were very positive which showed the stability of the economy: Governor Sindh

In response to the demand by President FPCCI Zubair F.Tufail that free trade agreements (FTAs) should be re-visited to ensure balance in bilateral trade with the FTA signatories, the Minister said the government had shown concerns and was engaged in dialogue with Chinese and Turkish government on, how Pakistan's local industry was being affected after FTAs.

We are very active in economy diplomacy in the world, he re-affirmed.

About the sick industrial units, he said the government was trying to revive those, if viable.

He said the government had prioritized the things for the remaining seven-month tenure; with concentration on industrial growth.

Federal Commerce and Textile Industry Minister assured his full support to FPCCI's efforts for promoting trade and industry in the country.

President, Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry, Zubair F.Tufail, former president FPCCI and patron-in-Chief of United Business Group in FPCCI, S.M.Muneer and chairman UBG and former president Iftikhar Ali Malik spoke of the trade and industry issues facing the business community.

LIST OF AWARD RECIPIENTS

Energy, Electricity, Petroleum, Gas & Power Generation

- 1 MR. MUHAMMAD YAQOOB TABANI of TABANI GROUP
- 2 MR. TARIQ RIZAVI of PAK-ARAB REFINERY LIMITED (PARCO)
- 3 MR. MUHAMMAD IMRAN KHAN of PYRAMID GAS (PVT) LIMITED
- 4 MR. NASIR ALI ZIA of MASOOD TEXTILE MILLS LTD.
- 5 MR. AHSAN MEHANTI of ARIF HABIB COMMODITIES
- 6 MR. KHALIQ AHMED MINHAS of TARIQ PIPE INDUSTRIES (PVT) LIMITED

Banking, Leasing, Modaraba, Financial Services & Capital Market

- 7 MR. ARSHAD ABBAS of ORIX LEASING PAKISTAN LIMITED
- 8 MR. MUHAMMAD SHOAB of FIRST HABIB MODARABA
- 9 MR. ASIF FAROOKI of Wing and R&D of Alternate Fuel
- 10 MR. JAWED ALI GHORI of MATCO FOODS (PVT) LIMITED
- 11 MR. DANISH NAQI BARI of BARI TEXTILE MILLS (PVT) LIMITED
- 12 MR. MUHAMMAD FAROOQ CHOUDHARY of AMIR RICE EXPORT & IMPORT CO.
- 13 MRS. SADIA RASHID of HAMDARD LABORATORIES (WAF) PAKISTAN
- 14 DR. KHURRAM TARIQ of KEY & EMMS (PVT) LIMITED
- 15 MR. MUHAMMAD SALEEM OMER of BILAL TEXTILE (PVT) LIMITED

16 MR. WAQAR BAKHTAWARI of D. WATSON CHEMIST & SUPER STORE

17 MR. MUHAMMAD MUNAWAR KHALIL of JUBILEE LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY LTD.

18 MR. ALTAF GOKAL of EFU GENERAL INSURANCE LIMITED

19 MR. TAHIR AHMED Insurance (General) Of JUBILEE GENERAL INSURANCE COMPANY LTD.

20 SYED FEISAL ALI of ALLIED RENTAL MODARABA

Food & Consumer Products, Fresh Fruits, Frozen Foods & Live-Stock

21 MR. KHALIL A. SATTAR of K&N'S FOODS (PVT) LIMITED

Education, Technical & Vocational Education, Training & Development

22 CHAUDHRY WALID MUSHTAQ of ROOTS INTERNATIONAL SCHOOLS (RIS)

Freight Forwarding, Logistic Services & Custom Agents

23 MR. MUHAMMAD ARSHAD JAMAL of JAMAL ASSOCIATES

24 MR. ABDUL SHAKOOR of SHAKOOR & COMPANY LTD.

Tourism, Travel Agents & Tour Operators

25 MR. FURQAN ABDUL QADIR of UNIVERSAL BROTHERS (PVT) LIMITED

26 MR. KHALID MEHMOOD MINHAS of KHALID INDUSTRIES

72nd Armed Forces Day of the Republic of Indonesia marked in Islamabad

On the occasion of the 72nd Armed Forces Day of the Republic of Indonesia, the Indonesian Ambassador H.E. Dr. Iwan Suyudhie Amri and Defense Attaché , Colonel Putut Witjaksono Hadi hosted a reception at the local hotel in Islamabad which was attended by Defense Attachés and advisers of the Diplomatic Defense Corps; other diplomats; a number of Pakistani Armed Forces officers and many civilians from different walks of life .



Photo by Ramzan Mughal

National Day of Czech Republic celebrated in Islamabad

Ambassador of Czech Republic H.E Jan Fury hosted a reception to celebrate National Day of his country at Serena Hotel in Islamabad. Mr. Rana Tanveer Hussain was the Chief Guest. The event was attended by a large number of guests from different walks of life.



Korea National Foundation and Armed Forces Day marked in Islamabad



The Embassy of the Republic of Korea marked The National Foundation Day and Armed Forces Day reception at the official residence of the ambassador. Charge d'Affaires of the Republic Korea, Kim Jin-wook welcomed the guests. Federal Minister for States and Frontier Regions, Lieutenant General Abdul Qadir Baloch (Retd) was the chief guest at the ceremony. A large number of ministers, senior officials, dignitaries and members of diplomatic corps graced the event.





Stunning performance of Korean musicians enralls audience at PNCA

“Jeong Ga Ak Hoe” is a Seoul-based group of very young but extremely talented musicians. These internationally acclaimed musicians have used their talent to reinterpret traditional Korean music in a modern way to create stunning new compositions. Special performances by the Korean percussionist group held at Pakistan National Arts Council, Islamabad. Their music has deep roots in the Korean concept of “Johwa” meaning “harmony” and “balance.”



Inviting Pakistan to the 2018 PyeongChang Winter Olympics



By Jinwook Kim

Chargé D'Affaires of the Embassy of the Republic of Korea to Pakistan

“Other than sports, only war and catastrophe can create this sort of national unity” wrote the author Simon Kuper. This profound truth is the reason sports legends become national heroes in most countries, including Korea and Pakistan. In a few months, Korea’s friendship with all nations on Earth will be revitalized when athletes from around the world gather in PyeongChang, Korea, for the 2018 Winter Olympics in February. These will be followed by the PyeongChang Paralympics in March, 2018.

Many readers in Pakistan may not have heard much about PyeongChang but PyeongChang is not a stranger to Pakistanis. Every year, since 2004, PyeongChang has hosted the “Dream Program” which allows 11 to 15 year old youth from warmer climate countries to experience winter sports. Pakistani youth have been participating in this program every year since 2011.

Korea also hosted the 1988 Olympics in Seoul. It was here that the boxing legend Hussain Shah won the first individual Olympic medal for Pakistan. This feat was immortalized in the film “Shah”, which was released on Pakistan’s Independence Day in 2015. 30 years later, in February, 2018, Pakistan will participate in the Winter Olympic for only the third time in history and I would like to wish Pakistani Olympians the best of luck. I hope Pakistan can also achieve

its first individual Winter Olympic medal in Korea. It is in the same spirit of friendship and camaraderie that Korean President, Mr. Moon Jae-in, during his speech at the UN General Assembly on 21st September, 2017, expressed his desire for the 2018 PyeongChang Olympics to become a symbol of peace. The Republic of Korea (South Korea) invited the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea (North Korea) to participate in the 2018 Olympics, and even offered to compete as a single Korean team. This sincere gesture is aimed to foster a climate of peace and goodwill.

It is also worth noting that the PyeongChang Olympics will take place just 100 kilometers from the De-Militarized Zone (DMZ), the de facto border dividing the Koreas, one of the most heavily weaponized areas on Earth. It is our hope that the positive and peaceful spirit of the Olympics, the epitome of friendly competition and camaraderie, will help to soften hearts across the DMZ, which President Moon Jae-in referred to as the “symbol of division and confrontation on the Korean Peninsula”.

It is my sincere wish that the 2018 PyeongChang Olympics and Paralympics act as a catalyst for peace among nations, not only on the Korean Peninsula but also around the world, for all countries which have felt the pain of the absence of peace and suffered deeply from the onslaught of terrorism, violence and war.

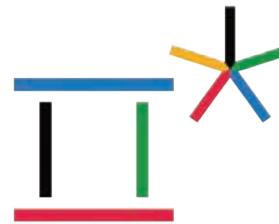
Koreans are wholeheartedly looking forward to welcoming people from all over the world with the hospitality and culture. 91,000 Koreans applied to work as volunteers at the 2018 PyeongChang Olympics. Korea hopes the 2018 Olympics will be regarded as the Peace

Olympics as well as the cultural Olympics. Korean artists are promoting the 2018 Olympics and the Paralympics through their art, especially through cultural performances. One of the groups taking part in this effort, “Jeong Ga Ak Hoe”, came all the way from Korea to Pakistan to share their magic with Pakistanis in October, 2017. These very young but talented, internationally acclaimed musicians won the hearts of audiences in Islamabad and Rawalpindi by not only reinterpreting traditional Korean music in a modern way, but also singing iconic Pakistani songs like “Ye Watan Tumhara Hai” and performing in sync with traditional Pakistani musicians.

It is the efforts of groups like these, and the performances of legends like Hussain Shah which add to the magical, enchanted aura of the Olympics. Add to this the natural beauty of PyeongChang’s mixture of modern and traditional Korean architecture blanketed in snow and you can imagine the winter wonderland of the 2018 Olympics. If you have been thinking about visiting Korea, this is the right time for you to visit Korea, experience the magic of the Olympics and support the Pakistan team.

I have faith that Korea and Pakistan can both further enhance their friendships with each other, and with the world, at the PyeongChang Olympics. I also hope the spirit of peace and cooperation of the Olympics ushers in a new era of harmony and prosperity in both our countries and around the world.

Korea-Pakistan Dosti Zindabad!



PyeongChang 2018



Embassy of Germany marked National Unity Day in Islamabad

Ambassador of Germany H.E. Martin Kobler, hosted a reception to observe the German National Unity Day at his residence in Islamabad. The Federal Minister for Commerce and Textile, Pervez Malik, was the chief guest on the occasion. The Governor of the Punjab, Malik Muhammad Rafique Rajwana, was the guest of honor. Diplomats and the civil society were present in large numbers.



PAKISTAN AMBASSADOR PRESENTS CREDENTIALS TO QUEEN OF DENMARK

By Mian Asadullah

Pakistan Ambassador to the Kingdom of Denmark Syed Zulfiqar Gardezi presented his credentials to Queen of Denmark Margrethe II in a ceremony at Fredensborg Palace. The ambassador was taken by state coach to the palace where he was received by the Lord Chamberlain. He then inspected the guard of honour. Ambassador Gardezi was accompanied by

Syed Zulfiqar Gardezi conveys best wishes of the President, PM of Pakistan to Queen and people of Denmark.

his spouse and Zain-ul-Abidin, first secretary at the Pakistan Embassy, Copenhagen on the occasion.

During audience with the Queen, Ambassador Gardezi conveyed best wishes of the president and the prime minister of Pakistan to the Queen and people of Denmark. He affirmed the desire to further strengthen political, economic and people-to-people relations with Denmark. Welcoming the ambassador, the Queen expressed warm feelings regarding Pakistan which she had visited in early 1960s and conveyed her best wishes to the president of Pakistan.

Before being appointed as ambassador to Denmark, Gardezi was serving as additional foreign secretary (Asia Pacific) in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. In his career of over 30 years, Ambassador Gardezi has dealt with multilateral as well as bilateral diplomacy; he earlier served in Pakistan Missions in the UK (twice), US and India.



Ambassador of European Union Jean Francois Cautain learning art of pottery at Lok Virsa.



Ms. Vanessa O'Brien, a British-American Mountaineer presented a flag of Pakistan to the Ambassador Aizaz Chaudhry carrying a message "From K-2: to Pakistan with love" at Embassy of Pakistan



H.E. Nguyen Xuan Luu outgoing Ambassador of Vietnam to Pakistan hosted a Goodbye reception in Islamabad. The reception was attended diplomates, diplomatic community and a large number of guests from different walks of life.



UNODC holds regional conference on migrants

By M. Saeed Yousafzai



The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crimes (UNODC) organised a regional conference on smuggling of migrants (SOM). According to the official statement issued by UNODC, the objectives of the conference were to further strengthen law enforcement cooperation in the region by bringing together officials to discuss emerging trends and patterns of human trafficking and migrant smuggling, to share and exchange information concerning best practices and emerging national trends, to present best practices for improving border security and building cooperative relationships with respect to investigations, prosecutions and protection of victims and to enable participants to network with the relevant international experts.

Photo by Ramzan Mughal

To celebrate the partnership and to mark 150 years of Canadian confederation, High Commissioner of Canada Perry Calderwood and CEO of Aga Khan Foundation Pakistan Akhtar Iqbal hosted an event at the High Commissioner's residence for members of the diplomatic community, government officials, and civil society.



In his remarks, High Commissioner Calderwood said, "Since 2000, Canada has provided over \$320 million in support of the Aga Khan Development Network's development and humanitarian assistance activities in Africa, Asia and the Middle East. We continue to value greatly our partnership in Pakistan, which has transformed health and education in local communities, empowering women and youth."

Chairman of the Aga Khan Foundation Pakistan Iqbal Walji echoed the High Commissioner's words, and added a note about applying lessons from the partners' joint experience to the future. The event also featured remarks by Aga Khan Foundation Canada CEO Khalil Shariff, as well as two young women who founded a now-flourishing flower arrangement business after winning a micro-grant from a Canadian-funded AKDN project.



Romanian Armed Forces Day celebrated in Islamabad

Romanian Ambassador Nicolae Goia hosted a reception to celebrate Armed forces day in Islamabad. Air Marshall Shahid Akkhar Alvi, Chief of Air Staff (Training) was chief guest at the occasion. Permanent personalities from almost all walks of life including political, military, diplomats, civil society members and businessmen were also attended the reception.



Group photo of Mr. Shakil Ahmad Chairman Shakil Express (Pvt) Ltd along with Diplomates at the reception hosted by him in the honor Indian High Commissioner Mr. & Mrs. Gotham Bombay Wala at his residence in Islamabad



Photo by Sheikh Arif

Hungarian National Day celebrated in Islamabad



The Ambassador of Hungary H.E. Istvan Szabo hosted a reception at the embassy to celebrate the national day of his country. The Retro Garden Party of 60's and 'Made in Hungary Exhibition' made the event more colourful and intriguing. Prominent representatives of the authorities, members of the diplomatic corps, businessmen and civilians took part in the reception and admired the decor of the event.





Austrian national day celebrated in Islamabad

The Austrian Ambassador Dr Brigitta Blaha hosted a reception to mark the national day of the country at her residence in Islamabad. The Federal Minister for Defence Production Rana Tanveer Hussain graced the occasion as the chief guest. The celebration event was attended by European ambassadors, politicians, civil society members and the representatives of business community.





Austrian musicians bring melody to celebrations at PNCA

Christopher Haritzer is well-known for his traditional Austrian folk and woodwind music. Paul Schubert is one of the best-known accordion players in Austria. With the event aimed to bring together musicians from Austria and music lovers of Pakistan closer and strengthen cultural ties between the two countries.



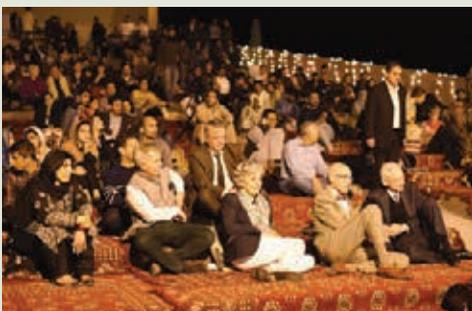
Cuban Food and Music Festival charms Islamabad

Embassy of Cuba celebrated the rich diversity of the Cuban culture, in Islamabad. Sponsored by the Turkish Airlines, the first-of- its kind festival kicked off. Reflective of the vibrant Cuban culture, the food festival offered a slice of Cuban cuisine that combines traditional flavours with a unique flair. The cultural troupe from Cuba includes 5 renowned musicians, 2 dancers, a chef and a cigar maker. Visitors to the event experienced the delightfully colorful, creative cuisines and cultural performances.



Le Concert Impromptu enthralls audience at Lok Virsa

A performance by Le Concert Impromptu, featuring music ranging from the pre-Napoleonic waltz to jazz classic and modern contemporary, was held here at Lok Virsa's Bali Jatti Rooftop theater. The concert was organized by the Embassy of France and Alliance Française d'Islamabad.



Tunisia keen to enhance bilateral trade ties with Pakistan: Envoy



By Agency, Monitoring Desk

Adel Elarbi, Ambassador of Tunisia said that Pakistan and Tunisia were negotiating for a preferential trade agreement that would hopefully be signed this year and it would unleash huge opportunities for improving bilateral trade between the two countries. He was addressing the business community during his visit to Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry. Chaouki Msolli, Deputy Head of Mission, Embassy of Tunisia was also present at the occasion. Nisar Mirza Vice President ICCL, Baser Daud, Khalid Malik, Ms. Nasira Ali, Naeem Siddiqui, Syed Adil Bilal, Khalid Chaudhry and others also spoke at the occasion. It was stressed that both countries should work for direct flights that would help in improving people-to-people contacts and trade relations.

On visit to SCCI Tunisian Ambassador to Pakistan Mr. Adel Elarbi said that his country wanted to boost bilateral trade ties with Pakistan. Addressing a meeting of exporters at Sialkot Chamber of Commerce and Industry



Leader of the House in Senate, Senator Raja Muahmmad Zafar-UI-Haq inauguration the Soft Drink Filling Plants at Murree Brewery Company Ltd.



(SCCI), he said Tunisia would remove all trade barriers from the way of promoting bilateral trade with Pakistan, besides, bridging all the communication gaps.

He said that Pakistan could get better access to the world's largest markets like Europe, North Africa and Middle East by promoting cooperation with Tunisia while Tunisia could get access to Asia by enhancing cooperation with Pakistan.

He assured that he would try to get some special treatment for Pakistani businessmen in visa cases so that they could easily visit Tunisia to explore business opportunities. Adel Eiarbi also pledged to make some strenuous efforts to remove all hurdles in the way of promotion of bilateral trade besides assuring the Sialkot exporters' easy access of international trade markets of Tunisia

and European Union (EU), African and Arab international trade markets through Tunisia. Speaking on the occasion, SCCI President Zahid Latif Malik said that both countries should encourage frequent exchange of trade delegations and organize single country exhibitions on reciprocal

basis to increase bilateral trade volume. Senior officials of the Tunisian Embassy, SCCI's SVP Abdul Waheed, Vice President Abid Ahmed Khawaja and Chairman Air SIAL Fazal Jillani were also present on the occasion.

Norwegian envoy assures Sialkot traders of help



Ambassador of Norway in Pakistan Tore Nedrebo has assured Sialkot exporters of all help in easy and hurdle-free access to the international trade markets of Norway and European Union (EU) countries.

He was talking to Sialkot-based industrialists and exporters during his visit to leading industrial units in the city. The ambassador said that his country was keen to develop strong trade ties with Pakistan and establish business-to-business contacts between the two countries. Tore Nedrebo stressed the need for increasing bilateral trade between Pakistan and Norway, saying that there was a lot of potential for increasing mutual trade volume and benefiting and availing the opportunities of launching joint ventures in different fields.

The ambassador witnessed production processes of sports goods and showed keen interest in it. He appreciated the international standard craftsmanship of Sialkot artisans. Earlier, the ambassador also visited Sialkot International Airport and discussed in details the matters of mutual interest with the management.



PAKISTAN HOTELS ASSOCIATION

Election Results of PHA for the Year 2017-18

Mr. Hamid Subhani Elected as a Vice Chairman Pakistan Hotel Association



Mr. Hamid Pervaiz Subhani
Vice Chairman



Mr. Zubair Surti
Chairman



Mr. Zubair Uddin Baweja
Senior Vice Chairman

The Executive Committee of Pakistan Hotels Association (PHA) unanimously elected Mr. Zubair Surti as Chairman, Mr. Zubair Uddin Baweja as Senior Vice Chairman and Mr. Hamid Pervaiz Subhani as Vice Chairman for the year 2017-18 as announced in their Annual General Meeting held on September 26, 2017 at Karachi Marriott Hotel.

Mr. Hamid Pervaiz Subhani – Vice Chairman, Pakistan Hotels Association: Director Operations, Islamabad Hotel Islamabad brings with him over 38 years of hospitality expertise having worked with major international hotel brands. Education includes Master of Political Science and Economics with Hotel Management Trainer certification in different fields of hotel industry. Mr. Hamid Subhani has 38 years of experience in the Hotel Industry and has held several top management positions in various

hotels like; Holiday Inn Islamabad, Metropolitan Hotel Islamabad, Envoy Continental Hotel Islamabad and Crown Plaza Hotel Islamabad. He also remained Ex-Vice Chairman of Pakistan Hotel Association (PHA- Islamabad/Rawalpindi and Northern Areas) and Ex-General Secretary for Hotels, Motels and Wedding Hall Association (HMWA). He provided his best ability and a lot of contribution to restore One-Dish Meal all over Pakistan.

Mr. Subhani elected as a **Vice-Chairman of Pakistan Hotel Association** (PHA) for period 2017-2018. He has got many Awards/Shields/Certificates for providing his best services to Hospitality & Tourism Industry.

Mr. Zubair Surti – Chairman, Pakistan Hotels Association:

Mr. Zubair Surti is currently the Director Corporate Affairs of Tourism

Promotion Services, the owners and operators of Serena Hotels in Pakistan. He has had almost forty years of experience at Serena Hotels in project planning, financing and monitoring, and legal, taxation, corporate and financial matters of the company. His association with PHA began in 1987.

Mr. Zubair Uddin Baweja – Senior Vice Chairman, Pakistan Hotels Association: The Managing Director, Pakistan Hotels Developers Limited (Owners and Operators of Regent Plaza Hotel & Convention Centre). Mr. Baweja is a prominent entrepreneur in hospitality industry with management and operational skills for more than two decades after his MBA completion. He is also involved in social welfare activities and is trustee of The Roshni Trust, a charity school for less privileged children.

HAPPY WORLD TOURISM DAY!

27th September 2017

By Hamid Pervaiz Subhani
Vice Chairman Pakistan Hotel Association

This year official world tourism day celebrations are being held in Doha, Qatar.

Sustainable Tourism- A Tool for Development is the theme for this year's day.

You can be the change you want to see in the world. You can be an Ambassador for a better future. .

- o Travel,
- o Enjoy and
- o Respect.

This world tourism day, whenever you travel, wherever you travel, Remembers to:

- Respect Nature,
- Respect Culture,
- Respect Your Host.

Today tourism is the 3rd largest export industry in the world. It brings

- ◇ Hope,
- ◇ Prosperity
- ◇ Understanding

Last year alone 1.2 billion travelers crossed international borders in one single year. By 2030, this 1.2 billion will become 1.8 billion.

To contribute to make this world a better place and to advance sustainable development in all its 5 pillars:

1. Economic
2. Social
3. Environmental
4. Cultural
5. Peace

Come together to promote the contribution of travel, and tourism as a grand 21st century human activity, to build a better future for

- People,
- Planet,
- Peace and
- Prosperity

ABSTRACT FROM

'TIPS FOR A RESPONSIBLE TRAVELLER'

- The diversity of our world unites us, and gives us the chance to explore, engage and experience the best that local culture and communities have to offer.
- Buy locally made handcrafts and products.
- Respect livelihoods of local vendors and artisans by paying a fair price.
- Respect wildlife and their natural habits.
- Reduce your environmental impact as water and energy consumption
- Experience and respect all that makes an international destination different and unique ,from its history, architecture religion, dress, and communication codes, to its music art and cuisine..
- Observe national laws and regulations
- Respect human rights and protect children from exploitation.
- Abusing children is a crime.
- Refrain from giving money to begging children. Take appropriate health and safety precautions prior and during your trip
- Chosen tourism operators with environmental policies and community projects in place.



CPNE-UNDP Best Story Prize Competition Award Ceremony

By Mian Fazal Elahi

A seminar under the title “Educational Seminar for Media Professionals and Announcement of Best Story Competition Awards” jointly organized by the CPNE and UNDP in Islamabad. Chief Guest of the eve

was Minister for Information, Broadcasting and national Heritage Ms. Marriyum Aurangzeb. She distributed awards among the best story writers. She appreciated the efforts of CPNE and UNDP for organizing the seminar and also producing a guide book for journalists regarding reporting

issues pertaining to climate change. The seminar was attended by a big number of journalists, Senior Vice President CPNE Shaheen Qureshi, Vice President Mehtab Khan, Director UNDP, editors of the newspaper and representatives of electronic and print media.



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Our facility is equipped with cutting edge CBCT 3D digital radiography and intra oral cameras which substantially reduce the amount of X-ray radiation delivered to patient.

Our level of infection control strictly adheres to the international standards and recommendations.

Dr. Shahid Mahmood

B.D.S, P. Endo and C. Implantology
(University of Texas at San Antonio)
Member American Association of Endodontist.
Former Head of Dentistry,
Shifa International Hospital

Dr. Shahid Mamood is a graduate from the University of Texas, at San Antonio, USA with specialization in Endodontics and Implantology. He has twenty years of experience to his credit. He has also had the privilege of setting up the Department of Dentistry at Shifa International Hospital and remained the head of the department for six years.



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to One of the most popular Sun Weidong



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