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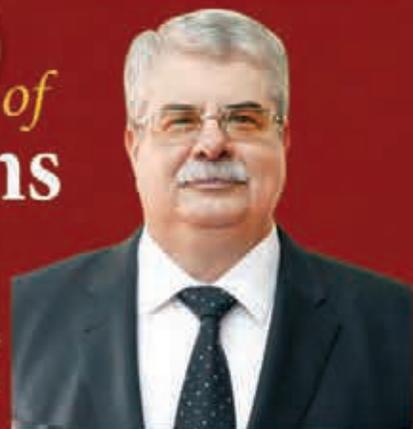
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70 Years of Bilateral Diplomatic Relations

"Our countries are bound by strong ties of friendship based on mutual respect and partnership, desire for multi-faceted and equal cooperation"

H.E. Alexey Dedov
Ambassador of the Russian Federation to Pakistan



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10



22



30



34

10 President of Sri Lanka to play his role for early convening of the SAARC Summit in Islamabad

His Excellency Maithripala Sirisena, President of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka visited Pakistan on the occasion of Pakistan Day. He was the guest of honour at the Pakistan Day parade on 23rd March 2018.

22 Economic Cooperation between Russia & Pakistan Achievements and Challenges

On May 1, 2018 Russia and Pakistan are celebrating the 70th anniversary of establishing bilateral diplomatic relations. Our countries are bound by strong ties of friendship based on mutual respect and partnership, desire for multi-faceted and equal cooperation.

30 Peace with India is possible only after Resolving Kashmir issue: DG ISPR

Pakistan has eliminated sanctuaries of all terrorists groups including the Haqqani Network from its soil through a wellthought-out military campaign, said a top military official.

34 Pakistanis a land of Progress & Opportunities...

While Pakistan is exploring and expediting various avenues of development growth, it has been receiving consistent support from United Nations.

42 78th Pakistan Resolution Day Celebrated

The National Day of Pakistan is celebrated every year on the 23rd March to commemorate the outstanding achievement of the Muslims of Sub-Continent who passed the historic "Pakistan Resolution" on this day at Lahore in 1940 which culminated in creation of Pakistan after 7 years.



42

Contents



RBI Mediaminds
Group of Publications
Electronic & Print Media Production House

- 09 New Envoys Presented Credentials to President Mamnoon Hussain
- 10 President of Sri Lanka to play his role for early convening of the SAARC Summit in Islamabad
- 13 His Excellency Maithripala Sirisena, President of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka Visited Pakistan on the occasion of Pakistan Day
- 16 The 78th Pakistan Day Marked with National Zeal & Enthusiasm
- 20 Relations between Pakistan & Saudi Arabia are not just at Diplomatic level but also enjoy a relationship of faith: Imam of Kaaba
- 21 President Mamnoon Hussain graced the dinner in honour of Ambassadors & Foreign Diplomats organised by RCCI
- 22 Economic Cooperation between Russia & Pakistan Achievements and Challenges
- 26 PM Abbasi emphasized increasing people-to-people contacts & parliamentary exchanges between Pakistan, Nepal
- 28 PM reaffirmed Pakistan's desire to enhance mutually beneficial economic cooperation with Iran
- 30 Peace with India is possible only after Resolving Kashmir Issue, DG ISPR says
- 32 Pakistan naval chief conferred 'king abdul aziz medal of excellence' award
- 33 Admiral Valter Girardelli highly appreciated role & contributions of Pakistan Navy in maintaining Peace & Stability in the region
- 34 Pakistan is a land of Progress & Opportunities...
- 36 Seminar Concluded in Islamabad Pakistan: A Land of Opportunities for Central Asian Republics
- 38 MOAWIN FOUNDATION A humble effort in nation building
- 40 Australia celebrates 70 years of Relations with Pakistan
- 42 78th Pakistan Day Marked in Abroad
- 43 High Commission of Canada Launched of "The Journey of Pakistani Women"
- 58 Tunisia marked 62nd National Day in Islamabad
- 60 Mauritius Marked 50th Anniversary of Independence Day in Islamabad
- 62 Lithuanian National Day celebrated in Islamabad
- 64 Bulgaria marked National Day in Islamabad
- 66 Women artists' work goes on display at Satrang Gallery, Islamabad
- 67 Riding Club Inaugurated at Diplomatic Enclave, Islamabad
- 68 The Government of Japan Awards MEXT Research and Undergraduate Scholarships to Pakistani Students
- 69 Artwork showcasing Pak-Hungary natural beauty with 'water at core' and National Day of Hungary Marked
- 70 A memorable Spanish Cultural Performance in Islamabad
- 72 Govt. has taken legislative measures for Economic Empowerment of Women :Marriyum Aurangzeb
- 73 47th anniversary of the Independence and National Day of Bangladesh Marked
- 74 THE ART OF Azulejo
- 75 Bosnia appoints an honorary counsel general in KP to boost Business Ties
- 76 Women's Day Celebrations at Serena Hotels

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Mian Fazal Elahi

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The dreadful and inhumane face of Indian state terrorism was at its peak in occupied Kashmir on the weekend when occupying forces in a senseless killing spree gunned down 17 innocent Kashmiri youth during clashes and search operations in southern part of the held Valley. According to Pakistani Foreign office “Pakistan has unequivocally condemned, in the strongest possible terms, the brutal and indiscriminate use of force by the Indian occupation forces. This mindless killing spree exposes, yet again, the ugly, inhuman face of the state-terrorism that India has been perpetrating against the Kashmiris for decades”. This year in fact has seen an increased violence in the occupied territory with over fifty people already killed. In the aftermath of this massive killing spree and deliberate targeting of Kashmiri youth by India, Pakistan expressed its full solidarity with the people of Jammu & Kashmir.

The way Modi committed massacre of the Muslims in Gujarat as the Chief Minister and the way he is going ahead with persecution campaign against Kashmiri people and minorities besides playing proxy war against Pakistan from Afghanistan, he indeed deserves to be labelled as the terrorist. It is however regrettable those countries like the US are quick to point finger on Pakistan but have turned their back towards the evil acts of a state and its chief executive for their own vested interests. It is unfortunate and regrettable that the so-called champions of human rights and democracy are observing criminal silence on these acts. Though with such brute use of force, India has never succeeded or will succeed in future to suppress the voice of Kashmiri people for their right to self-determination, yet the double standard on the part of international community are bound to make this region more volatile and insecure. In fact, the so-called flag bearers of human rights also chose to remain tight-lipped when the Indian troops unleashed a wave of terror in the Valley after the martyrdom of Burhan Wani by openly targeting youth and school children with pellet guns which made thousands of people blind. Given the extremist nature of Modi junta, we have no doubt in saying that the situation will further worsen not only in the loK but also on the border with Pakistan in the days to come and turning the back to it may entail disastrous consequences for peace and stability of the whole region. In fact today the people of Pakistan seek answer from the international community and the UN that why do not they consider and take punitive action against India and its intelligence agency RAW for fanning terrorism beyond its boundaries. The question is why an application is not being moved now to place the country on the FATF black list or a case is registered against Modi at the international court of justice. The fact of the matter is that Modi is not only spilling the blood of Muslims but also Christians and believers of other faiths. Time has come that expeditious steps are taken by the UN for resolution of the festering dispute in accordance with the UNSC resolutions.



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 Mamnoon Hussain

By Mian Fazal Elahi

Envoys designate of Kazakhstan, Lebanon, Zambia, Equatorial Guinea, Mongolia, Botswana, Ecuador and Finland presented their credentials to President Mamnoon Hussain during credentials ceremony at the Aiwan-e-Sadr. Later, the Ambassadors separately called on the President. Speaking on the occasion, the President said that Pakistan desires to further enhance diplomatic and economic relations with all countries including those from Africa, South America and Europe. The President underscored that Pakistan is a responsible member of International community and is working in close cooperation

with the other countries in all multilateral and international and forums. He underlined that economic indicators of Pakistan have improved due to the policies adopted by the incumbent Government which has also been recognized by the international economic institutions. The President emphasized 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 to Pakistan and hoped that they would work for further strengthening

the existing ties of their respective countries with Pakistan. The envoys who presented their credentials included Ambassador-designate of Botswana Mr. Mothusi Bruce Rabasha PALAI, Ambassador-designate of Ecuador Mr. German Alejandro Ortega Almeida and Ambassador-designate of Finland Mr. Harri Kamarainen. Earlier, each envoy-designate arrived at the main gate of the Aiwan-e-Sadr in a horse driven carriage. On the occasion, the National Anthem of Pakistan and their respective countries were played and the envoys designate were also presented Guard of Honour.





President of Sri Lanka to play his role for early convening of the

SAARC Summit in Islamabad

By Mian Fazal Elahi, Monitoring

His Excellency Maithripala Sirisena, President of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka visited Pakistan on the occasion of Pakistan Day. He was the guest of honour at the Pakistan Day parade on 23rd March 2018.

During the visit, Sri Lankan President held a meeting with the President of Pakistan, in which the entire spectrum of bilateral relations was discussed in detail. The President thanked the Sri Lankan President for accepting his invitation to visit Pakistan.

“It was agreed to further diversify and enhance relations especially in the realm of trade and people to people contacts”

PM Shahid Khaqan Abbasi

He stated that Maithripala Sirisena’s participation in celebration of 23rd March reflects the importance that both countries attached to Pakistan - Sri Lanka relations.

Earlier, President Sirisena was warmly received by the Pakistani President when he arrived at the President’s Official Residence in Islamabad.

At the discussions, the Leaders of Sri Lanka and Pakistan pledged to move forward joining hands



“Leaders of Sri Lanka and Pakistan pledged to move forward joining hands in brotherhood in achieving economic prosperity while further strengthening the long-standing bilateral relations between Sri Lanka and Pakistan”

in brotherhood in achieving economic prosperity while further strengthening the long-standing bilateral relations between Sri Lanka and Pakistan. The official bilateral meeting between President Sirisena and the Pakistani Prime Minister was held at the Prime Minister’s Official Residence in Islamabad.

The two leaders held a lengthy discussion on strengthening economic and trade relations as well as defense training programs between the two countries. The President took this opportunity to thank the Pakistan Prime Minister for his quick response to a recent phone call made by him regarding the fertilizer issue in Sri Lanka.

The Prime Minister briefed the Sri Lankan President on issues of regional and international importance. It was agreed to further diversify and enhance relations especially in the realm of trade and people to people contacts. Sri Lankan President appreciated the support and assistance extended by Pakistan to his country during the difficult times. Prime Minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi stated that Pakistan is



in brotherhood in achieving economic prosperity while further strengthening the long-standing bilateral relations between Sri Lanka and Pakistan. President Mamnoon Hussain accepted the request made by President Sirisena to increase the scholarships and training opportunities given to Sri Lanka and promised to fulfill this request in the future. President Mamnoon Hussain took this opportunity to thank the government of Sri Lanka for sending the Sri Lankan cricket team to Pakistan in 2017 even after the Sri Lankan cricket team



“Three MoUs were signed during the visit to further strengthen bilateral cooperation for capacity building of diplomats, Public Policy research and training of civil servants”



committed to the SAARC process and urged the President of Sri Lanka to play his role for early convening of the SAARC Summit in Islamabad.

Prime Minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi briefed the President about the continuing atrocities being committed by the Indian Army in Indian Occupied Jammu and Kashmir against innocent Kashmiris. The Sri Lankan President presented 20 corneas (10 corneas each) to the President and Prime Minister of Pakistan who appreciated the generous donation for the people of Pakistan.

Three MoUs were signed during the visit to further strengthen bilateral cooperation for capacity building of diplomats, Public Policy research and training of civil servants.

President Maithripala Sirisena's visit further cemented the good will between the two countries and provided renewed impetus to strength bilateral cooperation.





His Excellency Maithripala Sirisena,
 President of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka
 Visited Pakistan on the occasion of Pakistan Day and graced the event as

The Guest of Honour

At the Pakistan Day parade on 23rd March 2018.



President Mamnoon Hussain and Prime Minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi along with Guest of Honor, President of Sri Lanka H.E. Maithripala Sirisena taking salute on the occasion of Pakistan Day Parade in Islamabad on March 23, 2018. Defence Minister, Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee and Services Chiefs are also present.

Diplomatic Focus Thru Lens



Ambassador of Jordan, Nawaf Khalifa Saraireh paid a farewell call on President Mamnoon Hussain at the Aiwan-e-Sadr, Islamabad



High Commissioner of Sri Lanka Major General (R) L.K. Jayanayh C. Perera called on Prime Minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi at PM office in Islamabad



Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan H.E Mr. Yao Jing presents a souvenir to Prime Minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi after inauguration of 1st unit of Tarbela-IV Hydro Power Project at Tarbela



Prime Minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi Witnessing signing of MOU between NADRA, Government of Pakistan and Government of Somalia Provision of NADRA Services to Government of Somalia at PM office in Islamabad



Ambassador of Turkey to Pakistan, H.E Mustafa Yurdakul called on Federal Minister for Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony Sardar Muhammad Yousaf in Islamabad



Federal Minister for Defence Engr. Khurram Dastagir Khan Presenting a Shield to DR. Ali Yassin Mohammed Karim, Ambassador of Iraq at Ministry of Defence in Rawalpindi



H.E Mr. Saqr Bin Mubarak Al-Mansouri, Ambassador of the State of Qatar called on Federal Minister for Defence Production, Rana Tanveer Hussain in Rawalpindi



H.E Dr. Ali Yassin Mohammed Karim, Ambassador of Iraq called on Secretary of Defence, Lt.Gen. (R) Zameer Ul Hassan Shah at Ministry of Defence in Rawalpindi

Diplomatic Focus Thru Lens



Secretary Commerce, Mohammad Younus Dagha meeting H.E. Mr. Julius Kibet Bitok, Kenyan High Commissioner in Islamabad



H.E Mr. Sakib Foric, Ambassador of Bosnia & Herzegovina called on Federal Minister for Defence Production Rana Tanveer Hussain at his office in Islamabad



H.E Mustafa Yardaku, Ambassador of Turkey called on Advisor to the Prime Minister on National History and Literary Heritage, Irfan Siddiqui at National History and Literary Heritage Division, Islamabad



Secretary Commerce, Mohammad Younus Dagha meeting with Ambassador of Tajikistan to Pakistan H.E Mr. Jononov Sheral in Islamabad



Advisor to Prime Minister on National History and Literary Heritage Irfan Siddiqui Exchanging views with Ambassador of France to Pakistan, H.E. Marc Beryt at National History and Literary Heritage Division in Islamabad



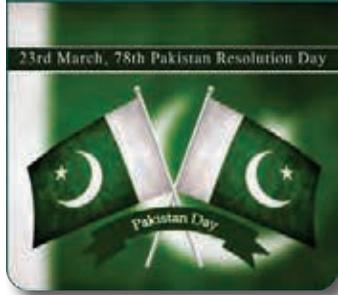
Federal Minister for Power Division Sardar Awais ahmed Khan Laghari in a meeting with French Ambassador to Pakistan H.E. Mr. Marc Beryt in Islamabad



Italian Ambassador Stefano Pontecorvo Call on Adviser to Prime Minister on Finance, Miftah Ismail in Islamabad



Chairman Senate, Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani exchanging views with Mr. Hammad Obaid Ibrahim Salem Al-Zaabi, Ambassador of UAE at Parliament House Islamabad



Marked with

The 78th Pakistan Day National Zeal & Enthusiasm

By Mian Fazal Elahi



The 78th Pakistan Day celebrated with traditional zeal and enthusiasm to mark the passage of the Lahore Resolution that led to the creation of a separate homeland for the Muslims of South Asia in 1947. The historic resolution, known as the Pakistan Resolution, was approved on March 23, 1940.

The day was dawned with 31-gun salute in the federal capital and 21-gun salute in provincial capitals. Special prayers were offered in mosques after Fajr prayers for the progress and development of the country. National flag was hoisted on major government buildings.

The main feature of the day was spectacular military parade at the Shakarparian Ground,

Islamabad, where the armed forces conducted march past and the fighter jets' aerobatic maneuvers. Floats depicting the culture of different regions also displayed on the occasion.

Mechanised columns of various prestigious services of the country exhibited inventory of highly

sophisticated and modern weaponry and arsenal. Pakistani armed forces displayed tanks, jets, drones and other weapon systems in the parade. President Mamnoon Hussain witnessed the occasion.

The parade was held in the presence of Prime Minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi, Chairman

“Contingents from friendly countries including China, Turkey and UAE participated in the parade at the official ceremony. This year, it is the first time that a contingent from the UAE military also paraded along with Pakistan armed forces.”





Joint Chiefs Of Staff Committee General Zubair Mahmood Hayat, Chief of Army Staff Gen Qamar Javed Bajwa, Chief of Naval Staff Admiral Zafar Mahmood Abbasi and Air Chief Mujahid Anwar Khan. The special feature of this year's parade is Sri Lanka's President Maithripala Sirisena's participation, who was the guest of honour of the event. The participation of Sri Lankan president in the parade is a demonstration of close friendly ties between the two countries.

A ceremony was held at Aiwan-e-Sadar where President Mamnoon Hussain conferred awards and medals to personalities for their outstanding contribution in different fields.

This year a total of one hundred and forty one Pakistanis as well as foreign nationals conferred upon civil awards. Former Cuban President, Dr. Fidel Castro honoured with posthumous Nishan-e-Pakistan while late human rights champion Asma Jahangir awarded a posthumous Nishan-e-Imtiaz for her undying services for the citizens of the country.



Diplomatic Focus Thru Lens



Ambassador of UAE in Pakistan H.E Hammad Obaid Ibrahim Salam Al-Zaabi called on the Federal Minister for Commerce and Textile Muhammad Pervaiz Malik in Islamabad



Chairman Senate, Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani exchanging views with Mr. Abdullaziz Al Neyadi, Deputy Head of Mission, Embassy of UAE at Parliament House, Islamabad



Secretary Commerce, Mohammad Younus Dagha in meeting with H.E Mr. Yao Jing Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan in Islamabad



Chairman Senate, Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani exchanging views with Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan, Mr. Yao Jing at Parliament House Islamabad



Afghan Ambassador, Dr Omar Zakhilwal in a meeting with National security Adviser, Lt. General (R) Naseer Khan Janjua in his office, Islamabad



Chinese Ambassador Yao Jing calling on Adviser to Prime Minister on Finance, Miftah Ismail in Islamabad



Federal Minister for Defence, Engr. Khurram Dastagir Khan, presenting a Shield to Hammad Obaid Ibrahim Salem Al Zaabi, Ambassador of UAE in Ministry of Defence



National Security Adviser Lt. General (R) Naseer Khan Janjua is meeting with Chinese Ambassador Mr. Yao Jing in Islamabad

Diplomatic Focus Thru Lens



Chairman Senate, Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani exchanging views with Mr. Muhammad Karmoune, Ambassador of Morocco at Parliament House Islamabad



Federal Minister for Commerce Mr. Mohammad Pervaiz Malik meeting with H.E Mr. Sakib Forice, Ambassador of Bosnia and Herzegovina to Pakistan in Islamabad



Chairman Senate, Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani exchanging views with Saudi Ambassador to Pakistan, Nawaf Bin Said Al-Malki at Parliament House Islamabad



Advisor to Prime Minister on Aviation, Sardar Mehtab Ahmad Khan in a meeting with the Ambassador of the State of Kuwait, Nassar Abdulrahman Al-Mutari in Islamabad



The European Union Ambassador to Pakistan, H.E Mr. Jean Francois Cautain Meeting with National Security Adviser, Lt. General (R) Naseer Khan Janjua in Islamabad



A Russian Delegation LED by Mr. Sergey Dy. Director General Russia and Mr. Velery Molostov, Chief Counselor of Presidential Administration Meeting with National Security Adviser, Lt. General (R) Naseer Khan Janjua in Islamabad



H.E Mr. Balal Mohamed Cusman, Foreign Policy Adviser to the President of Somalia Accompanied by the Ambassador of Somalia H.E Khadija Mohammad Al-Makhdoomi meeting with National Security Adviser, Lt. General (R) Naseer Khan Janjua in Islamabad



National Security Adviser, Lt. General (R) Naseer Khan Janjua in a meeting with French Ambassador to Pakistan, H.E Mr. Marc Barety in Islamabad

Relations between Pakistan & Saudi Arabia are not just at Diplomatic level but also enjoy a relationship of faith: Imam of Kaaba

By Mian Fazal Elahi

Imam of Kaaba Dr Saleh bin Muhammad Al-Talib met President Mamnoon Hussain, Prime Minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi and Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq. During meeting with them, he exchanged views on different issues related to Muslims, security, terrorism and interfaith harmony.

During the meeting President Mamnoon Hussain said that both Pakistan and Saudi Arabia keep same ideology on Regional and International issues and both countries support each other at International Forums. President on behalf of People of Pakistan thanked Saudi Government for outstanding arrangements made for Hajj and Umerah Every Year. President Mamnoon proposed to set up a system to help and rehabilitate Muslim Ummah suffering from insecurity and instability. Speaking on the occasion Imam Ka'bah said that relations between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia are not just at Diplomatic level but also enjoy a relationship of faith.

Prime Minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi also received Imam-e-Ka'aba Al-Sheikh Dr. Saleh bin Muhammad bin Talib at Prime Minister's Office. Imam-e-Ka'aba was accompanied by Ambassador of Saudi Arabia Mr. Nawaf Saeed Al-Maliky and other Saudi dignitaries. Minister for Communications Hafiz Abdul Kareem, Minister for Religious Affairs Sardar Muhammad Yousuf, Senator Professor Sajid Mir and senior officials were also present during the meeting. Welcoming Iman-e-



Ka'aba Al-Sheikh Dr. Saleh bin Muhammad bin Talib to Pakistan, the Prime Minister said that the people of Pakistan have great respect for him and consider his visit as a matter of honor. The Prime Minister said that his visit would further strengthen the existing close and brotherly ties between the people of the two countries. The Prime Minister said that Pakistan greatly values its ties with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, which draw its strength from religious affinities, historic bonds and mutual respect. Imam-e-Ka'aba in his remarks thanked the Prime Minister and the government for the warm welcome and observed that the entire Muslim world considers Pakistan as its strength and takes pride in its accomplishments. Discussing

the regional situation and the challenges faced by the Muslim Ummah, Imam-e-Ka'aba appreciated the efforts of Pakistan for promoting peace in the region. He appreciated the efforts and the steps taken by the government towards overcoming the menace of terrorism. He expressed his best wishes for the government and the people of Pakistan. The Prime Minister conveyed warm wishes, on his own behalf and on behalf of the people of Pakistan, for Khadim Al-Haramain Al-Sharifain His Majesty King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, the Crown Prince His Royal Highness Mohammad bin Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, the Saudi government and the brotherly people of Saudi Arabia.



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ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF PAKISTAN
AMBASSADORS & FOREIGN DIPLOMATS



President
Mamnoon Hussain
graced the dinner
in honour of
**Ambassadors &
Foreign Diplomats**
organised by **RCCI**



IWCCI hold festival to promote women owned Businesses

By M.Saeed Yousafzai | Photos By Ramzan Mughal

Islamabad Women Chamber of Commerce and Industry (IWCCI), female participants put up a great show to promote women entrepreneurs in Business festival WIBFEST at Lok Virsa.

IWCCI President Reem Abbasi said that our efforts to celebrate women in business as an International Women's Day activity this year, is encouraging entrepreneurship in women that will bring about the change that is required and events like these pave way for more women to come forward.



Economic Cooperation between **Russia & Pakistan** Achievements and Challenges



By Alexey Dedov

Ambassador of the Russian Federation to the Islamic Republic of Pakistan

On May 1, 2018 Russia and Pakistan are celebrating the 70th anniversary of establishing bilateral diplomatic relations. Our countries are bound by strong ties of friendship based on mutual respect and partnership, desire for multi-faceted and equal cooperation. Russia attaches great importance to its relations with Pakistan, particularly taking into account the latter's influence in the Muslim World as well as in South and South-Western Asia, which directly border southern frontiers of the CIS.

Trade and economic relations between Pakistan and the USSR were established in the early 1950s, with signing of the Agreement on Economic and Technical Cooperation. But its real development began in 1961 when the Soviet Union provided a considerable loan to Pakistan which helped to start development of the country's oil and gas fields. In 1981



the thermal power plant "Guddu" was commissioned with the participation of Soviet specialists. A successful construction of the Pakistan Steel Mills (PSM) in Karachi in 1985 with a capacity of 1.1 mln tons of steel per year became a milestone in the successful bilateral relations.

The further impetus to economic cooperation between the two countries was given in 1990s. Three units of the Muzaffargarh Thermal Power Plant were constructed and commissioned

with the help of the Soviet company "Technopromexport" in 1993, 1994 and 1995 respectively. During the visit of the Prime Minister of Pakistan Nawaz Sharif to Russia in April 1999 the Intergovernmental Agreement on Trade and Economic Cooperation was signed.

One of the main result of the signed agreement was establishment of the effective institutional mechanism of our bilateral interaction on March 30, 2000 – the Intergovernmental Commission on Trade, Economic, Scientific and Technical Cooperation (IGC). Its 4th session held in Islamabad on November 18-20, 2015 was very important in terms of further development of Russia-Pakistan trade and economic ties. The Ministry of Science of Russia and the Ministry of Science and Technology of Pakistan signed a Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation in Science and Technology.

Besides, within the IGC framework the First Pakistan Russia Investment Forum was held in which over 80 Russian businessmen, officials and experts from various sectors participated. As a result the prospects of widening the scope of bilateral trade became much more distinct. A significant achievement of the IGC 4th session



“

The trade between Russia and Pakistan started developing rapidly – its volume has grown by 33.6% and reached USD 541 million in 2017 mainly due to increase of the Russian export to Pakistan by 96.3% (USD 261 million). Pakistani export to Russia has grown by 2.9% - USD 280 million.”



5th session the Russia-Pakistan Joint Working Group on Energy (November 29).

Energy is the most promising sphere of our cooperation. The Intergovernmental Agreement on construction of the “North – South” Gas Pipeline from Karachi to Lahore was signed on October 16, 2015 in Islamabad by the Minister of Energy of Russia A.V.Novak and the Minister of Petroleum and Natural Resources of Pakistan Shahid Khaqan Abbasi. The pipeline with a length of 1100 km and a capacity of up to 12.4 billion cubic meters of gas will connect the terminals in Karachi and Lahore for receiving liquefied natural gas. The project assumes the maximum use of technologies, materials and equipment produced in Russia, involvement of Russian research, design and construction organizations. This is going to be a big step towards Pakistan’s self-sufficiency in energy.

The legal basis of our bilateral economic cooperation was further strengthened in 2017 by conclusion of the Intergovernmental

is also initiation of the Draft Agreement on Settlement of Mutual Financial Claims and Obligations on operations of the former USSR.

The IGC 5th plenary session in Moscow held on November 30, 2017 and chaired by the Minister of Industry and Trade of Russia D.V.Manturov

“Russia attaches great importance to its relations with Pakistan, particularly taking into account the latter’s influence in the Muslim World as well as in South and South-Western Asia”

and the Federal Minister for Defence of Pakistan Khurram Dastagir Khan has added pace to dynamic development of our economic relations.

The meetings of the following bilateral bodies were held successfully in Moscow in 2017: the 1st session of the Joint Working Group on Trade and Investment (November 28-29), the





Agreement on Cooperation in the Sphere of Liquefied Natural Gas Supplies on October 13. Besides, the Russian company "Gazprom EP International B. V." and the Pakistani "Oil and Gas Development Company LTD" have signed Memorandum of Understanding on July 4 in Saint-Petersburg.

Pursuing further investment opportunities in Pakistan the Russian consortium of companies

We intend to diversify trade and investment contacts, improve the legal framework of our relations.

"Himmash Apparat" and "Orpheus Energy" signed an agreement on January 27, 2018 with the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Oil and Gas Company Limited for establishing an oil refinery in Kohat with capacity to purify 200,000 barrels oil per day.

According to the prior signed contract the Russian company "Russian Helicopters" has supplied the governments of Punjab and Balochistan with one helicopter Mi-171 each in 2017.

On January 15, 2018 the Central Bank of the Russian Federation and the State Bank





of Pakistan have signed in Moscow the Memorandum of Understanding on Bilateral Banking Cooperation.

Interaction between the regions of Russia and Pakistan has also gained momentum in 2015-2017. A visit of the delegation of the Trade Development Authority of Pakistan to Moscow and Saint Petersburg in September 2015 discovered new exciting opportunities for business links with Russian counterparts. A follow-up trip of a group of Pakistani businessmen to Tatarstan and Bashkortostan, two industrially developed regions of Russia, in 2016 promises to open new vistas for bilateral trade cooperation between the regions of our countries.

Inter-regional cooperation was facilitated by the visit of the President of the Republic of Tatarstan R.N.Minnikhanov to Lahore

The untapped potential of our economic cooperation is huge and has yet to be fulfilled.

and Islamabad (March 17-19, 2017). His Lahore visit was marked by the 1st Tatarstan-Punjab Business-Forum, during which the following important documents were signed: Agreement on Cooperation between the Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the Chamber of Commerce of the Republic of Tatarstan, as well as Memorandum of Understanding between the State Autonomous Institution IT Park, Kazan and the Center of Entrepreneurship «PlanX» of the Lahore University of Information Technologies in the Sphere of High Technologies.

Interaction on the level of the Russian and Pakistani regions was enhanced by the Agreement between the Government of Saint-Petersburg and the Government of Sind on Cooperation in the Trade, Economic, Scientific, Technical and Cultural Fields signed on October 23, 2017. The Saint-Petersburg – Sind Business Forum was also held on the basis of the Saint-Petersburg Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

The trade between Russia and Pakistan started developing rapidly – its volume has grown by 33.6% and reached USD 541 million in 2017 mainly due to increase of the Russian export to Pakistan by 96.3%



(USD 261 million). Pakistani export to Russia has grown by 2.9% - USD 280 million.

Our economic relations are facing huge challenges. Definitely, a trade amount of USD 541 million does not correspond to potential of cooperation between Russia and Pakistan. Various objective factors have been affecting our links, including geographical distance and existing financial counterclaims between our countries related to the Soviet period.

However, we see a lot of promising opportunities in the economic field. We intend to diversify trade and investment contacts, improve the legal framework of our relations. Russian business circles are ready to implement mutually beneficial projects in energy, railways, telecommunications and IT. Russia has put forward a number of proposals to enhance cooperation in construction of offshore gas pipeline, power and refining plants, crude oil and oil products supply, geological exploration, steel industry, advanced optical and

aeronavigation systems, digital TV, promotion of aircrafts, railcars, trucks, medical and agriculture equipment, water and sanitation facilities, advanced IT and pharmaceutical products to the Pakistani market.

The untapped potential of our economic cooperation is huge and has yet to be fulfilled. We are sure that the combined efforts of Russia and Pakistan will result in a new impetus to development of our multi-dimensional economic interaction.





PM Abbasi emphasized increasing people-to-people contacts & **parliamentary exchanges** between **Pakistan, Nepal**

By M.Saeed Yousafzai, Monitoring

Prime Minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi's visit to Nepal has not only provided an opportunity for the leadership of two countries to discuss bilateral matters but to also share views on issues of global and regional importance including CPEC and SAARC. In a meeting between Prime Minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi and his Nepalese counterpart Khadga Prasad Sharma Oli, particular focus was laid on China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC)

and China's One Belt-One Road (OBOR) project, which was joined by Nepal in 2016. Prime Minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi mentioned that CPEC was the visible and significant part of OBOR and had resulted in materializing of several development projects in the country including motorways, Gwadar airport, economic free zones and energy generation projects. He said CPEC would ensure connectivity of regional countries with China and all Central Asian

states. Prime Minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi said Pakistan was ready to share experience and knowledge with Nepal on the matters related to CPEC. On Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India gas pipeline, Prime Minister said the project was not confined to the gas supply only but was a flagship venture which included, railways lines and laying of fiber optic. The visit also highlighted the importance of continuation of democracy and Prime Minister Abbasi



emphasized increasing people-to-people contacts and parliamentary exchanges between Pakistan and Nepal. He said parliament was an ideal and appropriate forum as the democracy had been strengthened in Pakistan and was gaining roots in Nepal as well. He mentioned

Pakistan had successfully eliminated terrorism where other countries failed to do so as in Afghanistan

that the incumbent parliament in Pakistan was the second one in the country's history which was going to complete its five-year term. Both the leaders shared similarity of views on eradication of terrorism. Prime Minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi said Pakistan was not only a partner with countries fighting terrorism but a leader in waging war against this menace. He mentioned that Pakistan had successfully eliminated terrorism where other countries failed to

Pakistan was ready to share experience and knowledge with Nepal on the matters related to CPEC

do so as in Afghanistan. The Prime Minister called for enhancing trade and cooperation on tourism between the two countries and the need to energize Pakistan-Nepal Business



Council. He also invited the Nepalese investors to invest in Pakistan's diverse sectors. On South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC), the two prime ministers discussed ways to reinvigorate the forum for the benefit of all member states. Prime Minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi said Pakistan was ready to hold SAARC summit scheduled in November 2016, which was postponed. He stressed that the potential of

SAARC was not being exploited up to the mark and hence there was a need to hold the next summit on priority basis. Prime Minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi emphasized that through dialogue, the countries in the region could achieve the fruits of progress, development and prosperity. The leaders also discussed the Kashmir issue and the ongoing human rights violations in Indian occupied Jammu and Kashmir.





PM reaffirmed Pakistan's desire to enhance mutually beneficial economic cooperation with Iran

By M.Saeed Yousafzai, Monitoring

Dr. Javad Zarif, Foreign Minister of Iran called on the Prime Minister. They discussed efforts for strengthening of bilateral relations and issues related to peace and security in the region. Prime Minister reaffirmed Pakistan's desire to enhance mutually beneficial economic cooperation with Iran including bilateral trade, investments and commercial interaction. He added that in order to meet the bilateral trade target of \$ 5 billion by 2021, the two sides should work together in all earnest. The Prime Minister emphasized the need to deepen connectivity to harness benefits from regional economic integration. He expressed his commitment to work to resolve the issues in implementation of Iran-Pakistan Gas Pipeline Project including the financing of pipeline infrastructure and the scope of snap back clause. The Prime Minister said that Pakistan was working towards realizing

our vision of a peaceful and inter-connected region for shared progress and prosperity. We believe that a peaceful and stable Afghanistan is vital for economic progress of the region and Pakistan and Iran as the two neighbouring countries can make important contribution for achieving this objective. He also thanked the

“To facilitate movement of people and goods across the border, it was agreed to expedite operationalization of two new border crossings.”

Iranian leadership for their steadfast support to the principled struggle of Kashmiris. The Iranian Foreign Minister appreciated the increasing high level interaction between the two countries. He said the mutual efforts of the two countries have resulted into enhanced economic and people-to-people interaction, which should be further strengthened. Dr. Javad Zarif also appreciated Pakistan's efforts for strengthening border management to prevent illegal cross border activities.

Dr. Javad Zarif, Foreign Minister of Iran also held consultations on bilateral relations and regional peace and security with Khawaja Muhammad Asif, Foreign Minister of Pakistan at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The two sides agreed to continue engagement for enhancing economic cooperation including

bilateral trade, investments and commercial interaction to promote shared prosperity. They reiterated their resolve to achieve the target of \$ 5 billion by 2021 through regular

“Dr. Javed Zarif appreciated bilateral security engagements during the recent months and measures initiated by both sides to improve Pak-Iran border security”

exchange of trade delegations, establishing banking channels, holding trade exhibitions and addressing tariff and non-tariff barriers. They further resolved to conclude the FTA on priority.

The Foreign Ministers underlined that as two brotherly neighbouring countries Iran and Pakistan would deepen connectivity between the two sister ports of Gwadar and Chahbahar to benefit from their complementarities.

“COAS said that regional peace is dependent upon wider cooperation within West Asia”

Pakistan and Iran strongly condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and appreciated increased cooperation in border security. To facilitate movement of people and goods across the border, it was agreed to expedite operationalization of two new border crossings.

The two Foreign Ministers also exchanged views on important developments on regional and international peace and security. They supported political resolution of the Afghan conflict for durable peace and stability in Afghanistan, and the region.

Expressing concerns about growing presence of Daesh in Afghanistan and its implications for regional security, the two sides underlined the need for further cooperation against transnational terrorist groups.

Pakistan and Iran reiterated support for the peaceful struggle of the peoples of Palestine and Kashmir for their right to self-determination. The two countries also emphasized the need for honouring of the JCPOA commitments by all parties.

To commemorate the 70 years of establishment of diplomatic relations between Iran and



Pakistan, Foreign Minister Javad Zarif delivered a talk at the Institute of Strategic Studies, Islamabad this afternoon.

During visit, Mr. Javad Zarif, Foreign Minister of Iran called on General Qamar Javed Bajwa, Chief of Army Staff (COAS) at GHQ.

During the meeting, matters of mutual interest, regional security and Pak-Iran relations came under discussion. The visiting dignitary appreciated bilateral security engagements during the recent months and measures initiated by both sides to improve Pak-Iran border security.

COAS said that regional peace is dependent upon wider cooperation within West Asia. We all need to cooperate to root out transnational security/ crimes threat.

Iran’s Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif also hold a meeting with Iranians living in Pakistan in Islamabad, during which he said that Iran was the first country that recognized Pakistan’s independence, adding that during the all these 70 years of bilateral relations, the two countries have stood alongside each other. Later in his speech, Zarif said

“over the past two years, we have witnessed a dramatic increase in bilateral relations in the fields of political as well as military-security relations, particularly in the economic field,” adding that the visit made by the Pakistani army commander to Tehran as well as the exchange of visits by the two countries’ high-ranking officials indicate the close relations between military officials.”





Pakistan says it hasn't spared any Terror Group

Peace with India is possible only after Resolving Kashmir issue, DG ISPR says

By Monitoring Desk

Pakistan has eliminated sanctuaries of all terrorists groups including the Haqqani Network from its soil through a well-thought-out military campaign, said a top military official.

“But all this has come with a huge price. Besides cost in blood of over 75,000 Pakistanis, there has been loss of more than \$123 billion to the national exchequer,” said Major General Asif Ghafoor, Director General of the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) — the media wing of the Pakistan Armed Forces.

On the possibility of peace between India and Pakistan, Major General Ghafoor said he believed that all issues between the two nuclear-armed countries, including the core issue of Kashmir, need to be resolved to normalise the bilateral relationship.

During an exclusive interview with Gulf News, Major General Ghafoor talked about Pakistan's success in the war against terrorism, Pakistan-India relations and the possibility of peace between the two countries. He also discussed

Pakistan's relations with the UAE and the much publicised \$54-billion China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) project, which will link Pakistan's Gwadar Port with China.

Following are excerpts from the interview:

Q: What measures are being taken to eliminate terrorism from Pakistan? Would you share what has been done so far and what is planned?

Pakistan has fought a successful war against terrorism — a war which entered Pakistan through the 2,611-km scantily manned Pak-Afghan border when US-led coalition forces started military operations in Afghanistan against AQ [Al Qaida]. Whereas there are no more organised sanctuaries, for elimination of remaining disorganised scanty residual presence of militants, Operation Raddul Fasaad, a largely intelligence-based operation is in progress.

Effects of operation have visibly reduced the level of violence throughout Pakistan. This

residual presence also takes advantage of 2.7 millions Afghan refugees inside Pakistan by morphing into peaceful refugees. There is a need to undertake their respectable repatriation to their country.

Presently there are over 200,000 Pakistani troops deployed in FATA [Federally Administered Tribal Areas] along Pak-Afghan border. This deployment is to continue despite successes inside Pakistan as threat continues to reside inside Afghanistan not due to lack of will but lack of capacity of the Afghan forces.

To safeguard own success, Pakistan has started to fence entire 2,611-km length of Pak-Afghan border and construction of new forts/posts along the border to deny free cross-border movement of terrorists.

Besides kinetic operations, Pakistan has undertaken major socio-economic development projects in cleared areas. This is aimed at carrying forward relative stability to enduring peace.

Q: Pakistan is sending a military force to Saudi Arabia. Is it for the war in Yemen?

Pakistan's contingent is part of the ongoing Pak-Saudi bilateral security cooperation since 1982. It is neither part of Islamic Force nor it shall be deployed outside KSA borders. The role of Pakistani troops is training and advice.

Pakistan has similar bilateral security arrangements with other GCC and regional countries.

Q: What measures are being taken after the US suspended aid to Pakistan amid allegations that Pakistan is not doing enough to tackle terrorists and eliminate safe havens?

Main US concern is alleged inaction against Haqqani Network. Pakistan has operated against terrorists of all hue and colour including the Haqqani Network. Earlier, till 2014, Pakistan focused on operations against Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan [TTP] and targeted Haqqani Network during Operation Zerb-e-Azb, [from] 2014 onwards. This was due to lack of capacity and not lack of will. There are no organised terrorists sanctuaries inside Pakistan anymore.

Pakistan has repeatedly conveyed the above stance to US authorities. Present violence inside Afghanistan should not be linked to Pakistan. Pakistan shall do anything to support achievement of peace in Afghanistan but can neither fight inside Afghanistan nor will do it again inside Pakistan.

To ensure achieving peace in Afghanistan, ungoverned spaces inside Afghanistan would have to be cleared by Afghan and RSM [Resolute Support Mission] Forces. A better Pak-Afghan border security arrangement are quintessential towards this end. Pakistan has long been pursuing this with Afghanistan.

Q: How do you see UAE-Pakistan relations?

Pakistan maintains excellent brotherly relationship with UAE. UAE has assisted Pakistan phenomenally for socio-economic development projects during our counter-terrorism effort in FATA.

We don't foresee any deterioration in our relationship and look forward to continued strong relationship. UAE Army contingent is participating in a Pakistan National Day Parade this month.

Pakistan is blamed whenever there is a terrorist attack in Afghanistan? Why?

Various independent international surveys report that more than 50 per cent of Afghan areas are not under effective control of Afghan

forces. There is scanty presence of Afghan forces along Pak-Afghan border. Lack of effectiveness inside Afghanistan cannot be done away with by throwing blame on Pakistan.

If Afghanistan still believes that there is a support to TTA from Pakistani soil, they must come up with actionable intelligence.

No country other than a Pakistan is more keen to see a peaceful Afghanistan as we are the immediate neighbours. Peace in Afghanistan is important for peace in Pakistan.

Q: What is the biggest threat to Pakistan currently? Is Pakistan Army still 'India focused' or more focused on handling issue of terrorism?

Threat from India is perpetual. India is not only



challenging Pakistan conventionally along our eastern borders, but is busy in fomenting unrest through terrorism using Afghan soil. And this is not mere rhetoric. Pakistan has arrested a serving Indian naval officer, Kulbhushan Jadhav working as RAW [Research and Analysis Wing, India's primary foreign intelligence agency] agent in Pakistan. So we are not having any let-up in safeguarding against Indian threat.

We have successfully fought against threat of terrorism and now consolidating it for enduring peace and stability. While threat remains from India, both in conventional and sub-conventional domain, our biggest challenge

is to maintain this stability with threat still residing inside Afghanistan coupled with economic difficulties.

Having said that, Pakistan has a strong and combat-hardened professional standing armed forces ready to thwart and defeat any threat. We are a responsible nuclear power with over 200 millions resilient Pakistanis. No threat can deter our national resolve.

Q: Is there any chance of normalising relations between Pakistan and India?

Pakistan is a peaceful country and doesn't want conflict with anyone. However, our desire for peace should never be mistaken as our weakness. For normalised Indo-Pak relationship, all issues including the core issue of Kashmir between the two nuclear countries need to be resolved. India needs to behave like a responsible country, stop atrocities on both sides of the LOC [Line of Control] and also discontinue interference inside Pakistan through state-sponsored terrorism.

Q: How is the army making sure of continuity of the CPEC after the next general elections?

Continuity of China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is not linked to elections or any other event. China is our time-tested friend and CPEC is a nation-to-nation project.

We know enemies of peace and of Pakistan are trying to scuttle CPEC, but Pakistan shall never let them succeed. Pakistan Army has the responsibility for security of the project, which is engine of progress not only for Pakistan but for the region. For this special security, a division has been raised.

Q: Do you think it is the right time to invest in Pakistan? Is it safe for foreign investment?

Pakistan has been successful in war against terrorism. Peace has gradually returned to Pakistan. We are moving towards enduring stability. CPEC is progressing well. All this is affording economic investment opportunities in Pakistan. There are no threats anymore and environment is conducive for investment.

Peace and prosperity is our destination and we expect the world to contribute in promoting peace and economy not only in Pakistan but in the region as well.

Courtesy to Gulf News and you can find the original 1st appearance of this interview from below link:

<http://m.gulfnews.com/news/asia/pakistan/pakistan-says-it-hasn-t-spared-any-terror-group-1.2190019>

PAKISTAN NAVAL CHIEF CONFERRED 'KING ABDUL AZIZ MEDAL OF EXCELLENCE' AWARD

By M.Saeed Yousafzai

Chief of the Naval Staff, Admiral Zafar Mahmood Abbasi, is on an official visit to Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA) on the invitation of Commander Royal Saudi Naval Forces. During the visit, the Naval Chief was conferred with "KING ABDULAZIZ MEDAL OF EXCELLENCE" by Chief of General Staff Royal Saudi Armed Forces, at Riyadh, KSA. Chief of the Naval Staff called on Chief of General Staff Royal Saudi Armed Forces, General Fayyad Al Ruwaili. During the meeting professional matters of mutual interest and bilateral defence ties were discussed. General Fayyad Al Ruwaili acknowledged warm and brotherly relations between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia, based on strong defence foundations and historical ties

and highly appreciated the role and contribution of Pakistan in spearheading various initiatives for maintaining peace and stability in the region. The meeting was followed by a ceremony to confer "King Abdulaziz Medal of Excellence" upon CNS which is the highest Military award of Royal Saudi Armed Forces. Later, Admiral Zafar Mahmood Abbasi visited Royal Saudi Naval Forces Headquarter, Riyadh, where he was received by Commander Royal Saudi Naval Forces. A smartly turned out contingent of RSNF presented him Guard of Honour. Thereafter, Chief of the Naval Staff called on Commander Royal Saudi Naval Forces in his office. During the meeting, the Naval Chief discussed matters of mutual interest including bilateral naval collaboration and

security environment in Indian Ocean Region. Commander RSNF, Vice Admiral Fahad Abdullah Al Ghofaily appreciated the professionalism of Pakistan Navy personnel and active role being played by Pakistan Navy for maritime security and stability in the region. He acknowledged the valuable training support being provided to RSNF by Pakistan Navy and applauded the successful conduct of Exercise Naseem-al-Bahr by the two navies in Gulf waters. Both the dignitaries agreed to further enhance the interaction between both navies in diverse fields of training, mutual visits and defence collaboration. The visit is expected to greatly augment the bilateral cooperation between both the countries in general and Navies in particular.





Admiral Valter Girardelli highly appreciated role & contributions of **Pakistan Navy** in maintaining **Peace & Stability** in the region

By M.Saeed Yousafzai

Chief of Italian Navy, Admiral Valter Girardelli visited Naval Headquarters Islamabad and called on Chief of the Naval Staff, Admiral Zafar Mahmood Abbasi. Upon arrival at Naval Headquarters, the dignitary was received by Chief of the Naval Staff. A smartly turned out contingent of Pakistan Navy clad in ceremonial dress presented Guard of Honour. The visiting dignitary was then introduced to Principal Staff Officers at NHQ.

During the Call on between the two Naval Chiefs, discussions on professional matters of mutual interest and bilateral naval collaboration were dilated upon. Various avenues of cooperation between the two Navies were also focused. Chief of the Naval Staff, Admiral Zafar Mahmood Abbasi highlighted Pakistan's commitment and contributions in fight against terrorism including participation of Pakistan Navy in Coalition Task Force against piracy and maritime terrorism.

Admiral Valter Girardelli highly appreciated role and contributions of Pakistan Navy in maintaining peace and stability in the region.

The call was followed by a brief given to the visiting dignitary on Pakistan Navy's perspective on regional issues and PN contributions towards

peace and stability in the Indian Ocean. Later, Chief of Italian Navy also laid floral wreath at Shuhada Monument at Naval Headquarters. The visit of Chief of Italian Navy is expected to strengthen the bilateral collaboration between the two Navies.



Pakistan

is a land of
Progress &
Opportunities...

UN is building
relationship
to promote
Development
Goals in Pakistan

Neil Buhne

Resident Coordinator of
United Nations Pakistan

Report by M.Saeed Yousafzai



While Pakistan is exploring and expediting various avenues of development growth, it has been receiving consistent support from United Nations.

Neil Buhne took up his position in Pakistan in

Pakistan is one of the
“vulnerable country in
the world regarding its
environmental issues:
country must adopt the
climate change policy as
soon as possible
Neil Buhne”

September 2015. As UN Resident Coordinator, his responsibility is to coordinate and

lead the UN team’s work in Pakistan. As Humanitarian Coordinator he leads the work of the humanitarian community working to meet needs in Pakistan in support of national



efforts. As UNDP Resident Representative, he has overall responsibility for the work of UNDP, working with the UNDP Country Director and UNDP staff. As Designated Official he has responsibility of behalf of the Secretary-General for the Safety and Security of UN Staff in Pakistan.

Before coming to Pakistan he served in Geneva as the Director of the UNDP Geneva office in 2014 and 2015, and from 2011 to 2013 as Director of the Geneva office of UNDP’s Bureau for Crisis Prevention and Recovery (BCPR).

He has served with the United Nations as Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative in three countries for 12 years, since joining the United Nations 30 years ago.

“Pakistan is facing a
long-drawn problem
of hosting Afghan
refugees: Neil Buhne”



He holds an M.A. from the Norman Paterson School of International Affairs, Carleton University Ottawa, Canada.

On question about his visit to various urban and rural areas of Pakistan, UN Resident Coordinator Neil Buhne shared that he has observed a strong sense of cultural prevalence in Pakistan. He expressed gratitude towards the welcoming nature of people, hospitality and respect he experienced in his visits across the Pakistan.



United Nation has a reasonable presence in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) and Federally Administrated Tribal Areas (FATA) as it has a range of rehabilitation packages and programs for the locals. UN is trying to provide food; basic health and shelter opportunities to people so they can come up and be a part of the general socio-economic environment.

FATA, where the huge influx of internally displaced people of Pakistan are residing; has many United Nations interventions going on. Additionally, recently, under "Pakistan Humanitarian Pool Fund", the United Nations has rebuilt many schools, health care centres in the dispute hit north-western areas of the country.

Despite many other issues, Pakistan is facing a long-drawn problem of hosting Afghan refugees as well as the recent phenomenon of holding Temporarily Displaced Persons (TDP's) at various places is of deep concerns for the government. United Nations Resident Coordinator Neil Buhne shared that Pakistan is hosting the highest number of refugee population in the world and tried to facilitate presence of refugees while they stayed in Pakistan or at the present repatriation. United Nations is also facilitating the dignified repatriation of the Afghan refugees. Furthermore, it was shared that the incumbent government is working on a policy to lay down series of workable steps to ensure safe and dignified repatriation. Various UN



“Under “Pakistan Humanitarian Pool Fund”, the United Nations has rebuilt many schools, health care centres in the dispute hit north-western areas of the country... : Neil Buhne”



agencies are assisting Pakistan government for safe repatriation of Afghan refugees. Running through the discussion, it was highlighted that UN is supporting and promoting the KP government's educational and health reforms in the province. Moreover, consistent advocacy is exercised to resolve the environmental issues in collaboration with the provincial government. There is also support to the government in strengthening rule of Law institutions. UN is striving to bring equal access and education opportunities for the native people to bring peace, prosperity and further growth in the area.

Furthermore, UN Representative expressed his appreciation towards the increasingly progressive attitude in FATA during past two years. He quoted the example of his visit to one of the community in Miranshah in 2017, where he saw Primary girls' schools being operational and encouraging number of girls present in class rooms. When asked about the basic challenges, Mr. Neil shared that like every developing country; in Pakistan, access



to better education and basic health facilities is comparatively difficult and United Nations; under its Sustainable Development Goals 2030, will work extensively to improve the situation. There are good examples of education reforms in Punjab to build on.

Mr. Buhne applauded the youth of Pakistan for the talent and progressive attitude they possess. Furthermore, he shared that recently a Pakistani youth won the global competition of innovation and technology, which was an initiative by United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO).

During the discussion, he highlighted that although poverty is one of the major challenges in Pakistan, however strong family ties and community resilience helps individuals to strive for better livelihood. UN Resident Coordinator in Pakistan Neil Buhne has also pointed out the fact that Pakistan is one of the vulnerable country in the world regarding its environmental issues. Hence, the country must adopt the climate change policy as soon as possible to avoid environmental hazard. Similarly, the water management system in the country is facing problems. No doubt, there are enough water resources in the country even for its agricultural needs but due to lack of basic water management, even privileged areas of the country are water dependent. Irony is, Pakistan has remained food surplus country but this has not translated into adequak needs for all.

In his message to Pakistan, Neil Buhne was very optimistic and hopeful for Pakistan's progressive future. Moreover, he reiterated that a resilient and confident nation can help themselves to support this country for its betterment. In this regard, Pakistan must keep on pushing innovation and opportunities in terms of educating people and jobs so that it would be a prosperous country in coming years.





Report by M.Saeed Yousafzai

Seminar Concluded in Islamabad

Pakistan: A Land of Opportunities

for Central Asian Republics

The National Security Division in collaboration with Center for Global & Strategic Studies (CGSS) organized a seminar on “Pakistan: A Land of Opportunities for Central Asian Republics”.

The aim and focus of the conference was to facilitate the collective exploration of various opportunities and commonalities that can become the foundation for multilateral regional initiatives, which in turn will lead to strong connectivity and diplomatic relations as well as security and economic stability in the region.

In his inaugural address on the occasion, Minister of Planning, Development and Reform Ahsan Iqbal presented on China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC): A Futuristic Success. He stated that Pakistan and Central Asia share a very common cultural and political history. In the present time the bond with the central Asian countries is becoming stronger. He said we are living in the age of connectivity and network. This is the age where we need to explore the opportunity for connectivity and progress. In our region we have a lot of investment prospects and opportunities. In the 21st century, Asia will contribute 52 percent of GDP of the global world.

This will create opportunities for global economy for growth and investment. Pakistan is uniquely located at the intersection of three regions i.e. South Asia, China and Central Asia. He said 21st century is the century if geo-economics and Pakistan's vision 2025,

seeks to place the country in the orbit of geo-economics of the Asian region. Pakistan now tends to move towards the geo-economics for connectivity.

Ahsan Iqbal said what matters in the future is the per capita income and the GDP of any country for the growth, development, and prosperity. Pakistan is working hard to become one of the 25 biggest economy of the world.

Presenting his speech on “Building Regional Synergies to Achieve Peace, Security and Development”, Dr. Khudoberdi Kholiqnazar, Director, Center for Strategic Studies under the President of Tajikistan, Republic of Tajikistan stated that it is important to take into account the interaction of challenges to the

development of countries and the challenges of developing regional economic cooperation. He further stated that for the Republic of Tajikistan, security is a priority and it is also important to intensify foreign economic cooperation.

Foreign Secretary Ms. Tehmina Janjua spoke on “Addressing Geo-Political Challenges to Enhance Regional Integration”. She stated that the Afghan War had negative impacts on the entire region as apart from bringing drugs and weapons, it also fueled extremism and terrorism. Pakistan faced the brunt of instability in Afghanistan; therefore, it wanted a peaceful Afghanistan. The Foreign Secretary said Pakistan was land of opportunity for Central Asia and other adjoining regions. She



said new era of regional integration had begun, adding having 25-year old diplomatic relations, Pakistan and the Central Asian Countries shared common culture and history. She termed China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) a hope for the region.

The seminar was also addressed by Mr. Ikramov Adkham Ilkhamovich, Former Vice Prime Minister and presently Chairman of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of the Republic of Uzbekistan, Mr. Sarmad Ali, President All Pakistan Newspaper Society (APNS), Ms. Irina Chernykh, Chief Research Fellow, Kazakhstan Institute for Strategic Studies under the President of Republic of Kazakhstan, Mr. Baidoletov Nuradil Esenbekovich, Deputy Director, National Institute of Strategic Studies of the Kyrgyz Republic, former Finance Minister and Presently Advisor to the Chairman, Silk Bank Shaukat Tarin,

Mr. Merdan Bayramdurdyev, Deputy Minister of Finance and Economy of Turkmenistan, Mr. Mustafayev Bakhtiyor Rasulovich, Director, Institute of Strategic And Interregional Researches Under The President Of The Republic Of Uzbekistan, Mr. Syed Iftikhar Hussain Babar Secretary National Security Division and Lieutenant General Nasser Khan Janjua National Security Advisor.





MOAWIN FOUNDATION

A humble effort in nation building

Background

Pakistan is currently faced with violence, extremism and terrorism. The prevailing situation of literacy, education and employment opportunities is a source of major social issues and problems in the society. Moawin Foundation plans to contribute towards helping the Government of Pakistan improve the situation by imparting quality education and technical training to less privileged and vulnerable people of Pakistan to make them useful citizens of the society, without any discrimination to gender, ethnicity or religion.

The aim of Moawin Foundation is to bring about a positive change in Pakistan by removing disparities between the poor and those who are economically better-off by improving the standard of education in the public sector schools and giving them technical training to provide them opportunities to compete for better careers and employment. Therefore, the motto of Moawin Foundation is **Educate, Train and Empower**

Strategy

Moawin Foundation (MF) aims to provide education up to a minimum level of secondary school. This level is considered suitable for a student to learn to read and write, understand simple financial transactions and adopt ethical practices in her/ his dealings to become a useful member of the society.

The data of schools from primary to secondary education shows that majority of students are in public sector schools. Infrastructure for education is available but needs improvement, along with supervision and management to improve the quality of education that is given in these schools. The Foundation believes that if we support public sector rather than compete with it by raising a parallel school systems, it will be a worthwhile contribution to bring quality



improvement in education system in Pakistan. Moreover, MF will be able to reach maximum number of deserving students and bring out of school children to these schools. Government has the resources to establish and maintain the infrastructure for educational institutions, what is lacking is the capacity to ensure quality. This is the gap that Moawin Foundation aims to fill, as Moawin (helpers) of the government.

Pilot Project

Moawin Foundation initially took a start from the province of Punjab. A memorandum of understanding has been signed with the District administration Sheikhupura to adopt two schools in village Mahmunwali, District Shiekhupura. Understanding has also been reached with Government of Punjab through Punjab Vocational Training Council (PVTCT) to work together.

ACHIEVEMENTS

Year to year improvements

Year	Enrollment		Class V Results		Class VIII Results	
	OGES	GHS	OGES	GHS	OGES	GHS
Jun'15	140	180	4/6 67%	0/9 0%	4/7 57%	3/9 33%
Apr'16	332 137%	311 73%	12/12 100%	29/31 93%	7/7 100%	17/17 100%
Apr'17	352 6%	391 20%	30/30 100%	9/9 100%	31/31 100%	23/23 100%

Expansion

After successful completion of Pilot Project and encouraging results achieved in one year in two adopted schools, Moawin Foundation adopted five more schools in Union council 64 of District sheikhupura. The two schools adopted for pilot project also fall within the same Union council.

As pointed out above, vocational training is a vital part of our strategy to enable individuals to be productive and capable of being gainful employment. The idea behind this expansion strategy is to develop a cluster of schools around a VTI as feeders.

SUPPORT FROM DIPLOMATIC COMMUNITY

a. The High Commission of Australia provided funds to the tune of Rs. 6.538 million for installation of 7 solar systems in schools / VTIs. The High Commissioner personally visited twice to inaugurate the systems. We are grateful for the funding & the visits.

b. The Consulate General of Peoples' Republic of China, Lahore, provided funds to the tune



of Rs. 4.500 million. The funds were utilized for construction of additional classrooms, provision of equipment for computer lab, furniture and washrooms etc. The Consul General visited the project and inaugurated the Pak-China Friendship Block.

Vocational Training

In coordination with the Punjab Vocational Training Council (PVTCT), skill training is also being imparted to boys & girls.



Achievements

Moawin Foundation has facilitated training as shown under.

Gender	Trade	Disc 18
Boys	Electrician	216
Boys	Motorcycle Mechanic	168
Boys	Tunnel Farming	31
Boys & Girls	Computers	303
Girls	Hairstylian	166
Girls	Dress making	242
Girls	Embroidery	28
Total		954

Transparency

Transparency is the hallmark of Moawin Foundation. External audits are conducted every year and audit reports are duly submitted



to SECP, FBR and partners. These are also posted on website & FaceBook page of Moawin Foundation.

Sustainability

Moawin Foundation does not build infrastructure and bulk of teachers are provided by the Government. Instead Moawin Foundation fills only the gaps and shortfalls. Therefore:

- need for investment is minimal
- Impact per \$ invested is maximized.

We have sustained our project for last three years successfully and due to the positive response received from the institutions,



organizations and individuals, Moawin Foundation is now planning to scale up the project activities so that we can contribute towards building an educated society.

Supporters of MF

- 1)The Prime Minister approved Rs. 50/- Million as seed money.
- 2)The Chief Minister of Punjab sanctioned Rs. 50/- Million for construction & establishment of VTI. The building has been completed & VTI functioning.
- 3)Govt. of Punjab upgraded boys school from elementary to high & girls school from primary to elementary respectively.
- 4)Consulate General of China, Lahore
- 5)High Commission of Australia, Islamabad,
- 6)Bank Al Habib Ltd provided 8 filtration plants & water coolers.
- 7)Kestral provided 1 solar system.
- 8)Nestle (Pakistan) for Nestle Healthy Kids programme.
- 9)Akhwat for interest free loans
- 10)Aahung for Life Skills Based Education
- 11)Sabaq Foundation
- 12)FNF (Germany) provided funds for sewing machines, desks & furniture.
- 13)Our main focus is Teachers' Training. Regular Teachers' Training is being arranged with the help of Ali Institute of Education (AIE) Lahore & Bahria Institute of Teachers' Training (BITT) Karachi.



14)PVTC

15)The i-Care Foundation

OUR TEAM

Policy guidelines and strategic vision is provided by the board of Directors comprising policy makers, professionals, experts and academia.

Board of Directors:

- Former Chief Naval Staff Admiral M. Asif Sandila (Retd.)
- Chairman and Chief Executive**
- Former Rector Baharia University Vice Admiral Shahid Iqbal (Retd.)
- Director**
- Former Federal Secretary Education Mr. Hamid Ali Khan
- Director**
- Commodore SM Obaidullah (Retd.)
- Director**
- Air Commodore Naser A Hamdani
- Company Secretary and Director**
- Dr. Farrukh Hasnain

Member Lahore Chapter Advisors:

- Umbreen Arif
- Education Management Expert**
- Zulfiqar Ahmad Human Resource Development and Finance expert



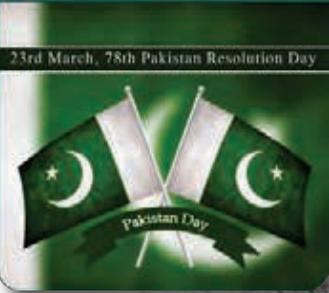


Australia celebrates 70 years of Relations with Pakistan

Australia's High Commissioner H.E. Margaret Adamson, here on Monday launched an exhibition marking the 70th anniversary of the opening of Australia's resident diplomatic mission in Pakistan. The images are drawn from a wide range of Australia-Pakistan engagement spanning development cooperation and humanitarian assistance, defence, education, sport, trade and cultural ties, as well as our people-to-people linkages. Chief Guest of the event was Mr. Khurram Dastgir Khan Federal Minister for Defence. The event was attended by several ambassadors, diplomatic community members, politicians and prominent faces of society.



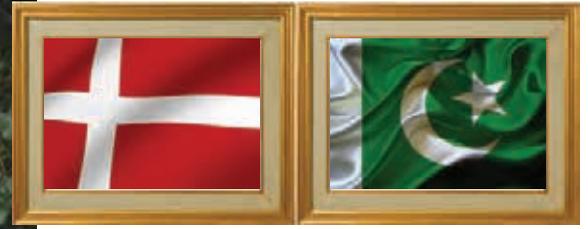
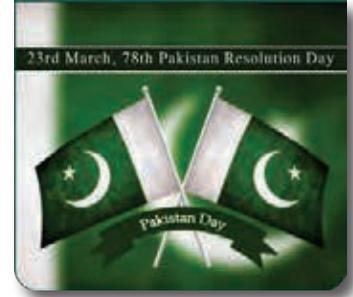




78th Pakistan Day

Marked in **Ottawa** (Canada)

High Commissioner of Pakistan to Ottawa, Tariq Azim Khan hoisted the national flag at a simple but impressive ceremony held at the High Commission of Pakistan, in Ottawa, Canada. The ceremony began with the recitation from the Holy Quran. National Anthem was also played on the occasion, says a press release received from Ottawa. Pakistani-Canadian community celebrated Pakistan Day with traditional enthusiasm while remembering the arduous struggle and sacrifices rendered by its founding fathers in establishing Pakistan as an independent and sovereign state. The community members renewed their pledge to project Pakistan as a strong, forward looking and progressive country in Canada. Pakistan Day messages of President Mamnoon Hussain and Prime Minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi were read out at the Ceremony.



78th Pakistan Day Marked in Denmark

approval of Dual Nationality facility, establishment of Bilateral Consultative mechanism between the Foreign Ministries of the two countries, improved consular services, outreach to young Pakistani professionals, cultural events etc. National songs and poetry recitation were followed by prayers for the progress and prosperity of Pakistan. Light refreshment was served to the attendees.

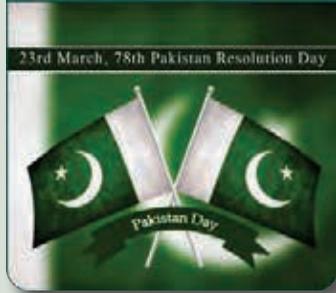
In his remarks at the diplomatic Reception, Ambassador Gardezi highlighted the historical significance of 23rd March, the democratic, economic and social progress of Pakistan and the tangible improvement in the law and order situation following robust action by law enforcement agencies. The Ambassador also spoke of the progress in Pakistan-Denmark relations. Showcasing of Pakistan's rich cultural heritage particularly costumes, cuisine, and music were well-received by the guests.



Pakistan Day was celebrated with great fervor in Denmark. The flag-hoisting ceremony held at the Pakistan Embassy in the morning was attended by a large gathering of Pakistani community. It was followed by a Reception at a local hotel in the afternoon at which Danish officials, members of the Diplomatic Corps, international organizations, academicians, media, and prominent Pakistani expatriates were present. Display of Pakistani art and culture and national songs were prominent features of the two well-attended events.

At the flag-hoisting ceremony, Pakistan Day messages of the President and the Prime Minister of Pakistan were read out by Ambassador Syed Zulfiqar Gardezi and First Secretary Zain ul Abidin. In his remarks on the occasion, Ambassador Gardezi highlighted Pakistan's democratic progress and the greatly improved law and order situation following robust action by the law enforcement agencies. This had also opened up space for economic and social progress of the country. Highlighting the Embassy's recent initiatives, Ambassador Gardezi noted the





78th Pakistan Day Marked in Paris

By Muzamil Khan

A Flag Hoisting ceremony was held at the Embassy of Pakistan in France, Paris to commemorate Pakistan Day with zeal and fervor. The ceremony was attended by members of the Pakistani community, officers of the missions and their families and media persons in large number. The ceremony started with recitation from the Holy Quran. Moin ul Haque, Ambassador of Pakistan to France performed the flag hoisting ceremony. The messages by the President and the Prime Minister on the National Day were read out at this occasion. Addressing the ceremony, the



Ambassador congratulated the members of the Pakistani community on the National Day. He paid rich tributes to Father of the Nation and other national leaders of the Pakistan Movement, who with their untiring efforts and immense sacrifices carved a separate homeland for the Muslims of the sub-continent. The Ambassador said that today Pakistan stands amongst the community of nations as an important country with strong democratic institutions, a fast growing economy, independent judiciary, and free media. The Ambassador thanked the Pakistani community

in France for their constructive role in projecting Pakistan's positive image in France. He said that while our forefathers gave sacrifices to attain a homeland for us, it is our collective responsibility to make Pakistan a strong, peace loving and prosperous country for our future generations. Later in the evening, the Ambassador hosted a diplomatic reception to mark the Pakistan Day. French members of the parliament, high ranking civil and military officials, intellectuals, scholars and foreign diplomats in France attended the reception in large number.



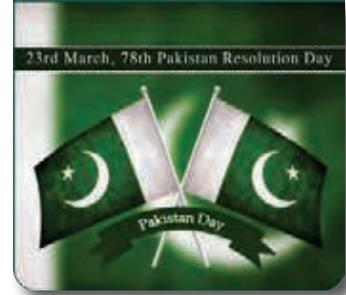
78th Pakistan Day Marked in Brussels

To mark Pakistan Day flag hoisting ceremony took place at the Embassy of Pakistan Brussels, Pakistan's Ambassador to Belgium, the European Union and Luxembourg Mrs. Naghmana Alamgir Hashmi raised the flag of Pakistan with national anthem playing in the background. The ceremony was attended by Pakistani community in large number living in Belgium and Luxembourg with great zeal and fervour, says a press release



received here today from Brussels. In her address Ambassador Hashmi appreciated the role of Pakistani diaspora. She said that while we celebrate Pakistan Day in Belgium the fervour of Pakistani community proves the love of diaspora for their country, even if they were away from their mother land. She said that now Pakistan was emerging as growing economy, it was important that overseas Pakistanis make investments in

Pakistan rather than investing in other countries. The messages of President and Prime Minister were read by Minister Economic Mr. Omar Hameed and Deputy Head of Mission Mr. Asif Hussain Memon respectively. The ceremony was conducted by head of Chancery Mr Giyan Chand. Students from Ghent Miss. Saba Kazmi, Miss. Rida Kazmi and Miss. Nida Kazmi presented national songs on the occasion



78th Pakistan Day Marked in Canberra

By Amjad Butt

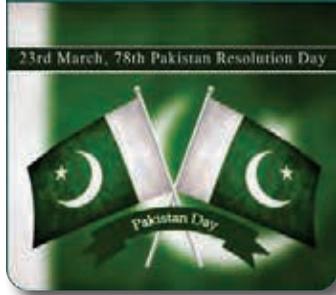


The Pakistan Day was celebrated in Canberra with national zeal and fervour. A reception was hosted at the Pakistan High commission, Canberra. Her Excellency, Lyndall Sachs, the Chief of Protocol of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade was the chief guest at the reception, says a press release received from Canberra. It was a very well attended event in which a large number of members of diplomatic corps, local intelligentsia, media representatives, high ranking Australian government officials

and Pakistani community from Canberra, Sydney, Melbourne and participated. The guests were received by Pakistani children attired in regional dresses. The High Commissioner, Naela Chohan, while emphasising the importance of Pakistan-Australia bilateral relations elucidated on the significance of Pakistan Day. She highlighted the fast-economic progress in the country under the democratically elected government. She reiterated that Pakistan was poised to become a regional economic power and underscored the growing cooperation between Pakistan and

Australia in diverse fields. The High Commissioner expresses satisfaction that the bilateral relations were close and cordial. The Australian military band played the national anthems of the two countries. Traditional Pakistani food was deeply appreciated by the guests. The reception was preceded by a dignified early morning ceremony in which the High Commissioner, Naela Chohan hoisted the flag and offered dua-e-khair for the progress and prosperity of Pakistan. The messages of the Prime Minister and the President of Pakistan were read out on the occasion.





78th Pakistan Day

Marked in London

By Mian Asadullah

The Pakistan Day was marked with flag hoisting ceremony at the Pakistan High Commission London. A large number of people including Mayors, Councillors, community leaders, members of Pakistani diaspora, officials from the Foreign & Commonwealth Office (FCO), British friends of Pakistan, a delegation of Pakistan Peace Collective, students and representatives of media attended the ceremony, says a press release received from London here today. H.E. Syed Ibne Abbas, Pakistan High Commissioner to the UK, hoisted the national flag and the messages of the President and the Prime Minister of Pakistan were read out.

The High Commissioner, in his address to the community, shed light on the importance of Pakistan Day as the turning point in our national history. He paid glowing tributes to the Quaid-i-Azam and other founding fathers, who, through their unwavering resolve and visionary leadership brought the Muslims of the sub-continent at one platform and created a separate homeland for them. Giving an overview of Pakistan, the High Commissioner said: "Despite challenges, Pakistan is moving forward and narrative of Pakistan is changing fast. Due to the economic reforms agenda of the government, the economy is growing at the rate of 5.6%, which is likely to touch the figure of 6% next year. The foreign

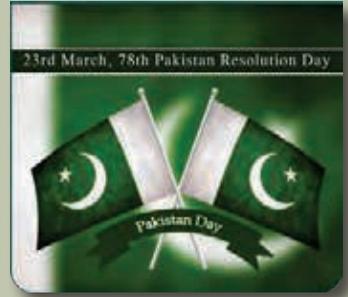
investors are showing keen interest in Pakistan. China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), is a game changer with \$62 billion investment portfolio, that would not only benefit Pakistan but would bring about regional economic integration. "Security of Pakistan has significantly improved, and I pay tribute to our government, civil and armed law enforcement agencies, and the resilient people of Pakistan to successfully face the challenge of terrorism."

On Pakistan-UK relations, the High Commissioner underscored the importance of deep rooted bilateral ties, and informed that constant stream of high level visits from UK to Pakistan is another manifestation of our mutually beneficial relations. However, the High Commissioner said that despite our excellent bilateral relations the UK sponsored the recent move to put Pakistan on the Grey List Financial Action Task Force (FATF). This is a matter of a grave concern for Pakistan, he added. The High Commissioner called upon the diaspora to connect with their local MPs and effectively put across Pakistan's point of view on important issues. On this occasion, the High Commissioner thanked the community for their unified stance over anti-Pakistan campaign on London Taxis and digital billboards last year.

The High Commissioner also shared the details of the last year's celebrations for the 70th Independence Anniversary of Pakistan organised by the Mission and thanked the community for their full participation in the celebrations. The High Commissioner also commended the role of the community in development and progress of Pakistan and the UK.

Another challenge for Pakistan, the High Commissioner said, is ceasefire violations by India across Line of Control (LoC) and working Boundary, due to which a large number of innocent lives have been lost. He said: "During 2017, India violated the ceasefire 1970 times while in less than three months of this year these violations have already been 400." The High Commissioner stated the Indian provocations could jeopardise the peace of the entire region. Therefore, he suggested both countries to resolve the outstanding issues including the Kashmir dispute through dialogue. He reiterated Pakistan's continuous political, diplomatic and moral support for the just cause of the Kashmiri people. On this occasion, local singers Durdana Ansari OBE and Sarah Peters presented the popular national songs and thrilled the audience. Shakeel Khan's new national song was also launched during the ceremony and was received with huge applause. The guests were served with traditional Pakistani brunch. Similar events were held at other four Consulates of Pakistan in Birmingham, Bradford, Glasgow and Manchester.





78th Pakistan Day Marked in Mexico

Pakistan Day was celebrated with great fervor in Mexico. The flag-hoisting ceremony held at the Pakistan Embassy in the morning was attended by a large gathering of Pakistani community, officials, members of the Diplomatic Corps were present.

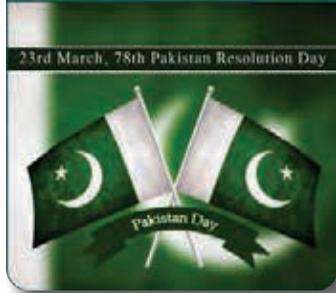
At the flag-hoisting ceremony, Pakistan Day messages of the President and the Prime Minister of Pakistan were read out by Ambassador Tasawar Khan. In his remarks, Ambassador Tasawar Khan highlighted the historical significance of 23rd March, the democratic, economic and social progress of Pakistan.



78th Pakistan Day Marked in United Nations

Pakistan Day was celebrated with fervor and enthusiasm at Pakistan House with the hoisting of the national flag by the Permanent Representative of Pakistan to the UN, Ambassador Maleeha Lodhi as the national anthem was played. The ceremony began with recitation from the Holy Quraan. Ambassador Lodhi read out the Pakistan Day message of President Mamnoon Hussain and Raja Ali Ejaz, Consul General, New York read out the message of Prime Minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi. Speaking on the occasion, Ambassador Maleeha Lodhi highlighted the importance of Pakistan Resolution and paid tributes to Quaid-e-Azam Mohammad Ali Jinnah and the sacrifices made by the Muslims of the sub-continent for the creation of Pakistan. She said that this is another milestone in Pakistan's journey to

greater prosperity and greater progress. Pakistan, she said, has come a long way since our founding fathers established an independent and sovereign state for the Muslims of South Asia. "We are determined to translate our Quaid's vision into reality and ensure that people get justice and are able to enjoy the fruits of development", she added. The Consul General recalled the services and sacrifices rendered by the founding fathers for the creation of a separate homeland for the Muslims of India. The ceremony concluded by a 'dua' for the prosperity and progress of Pakistan. All officers and staff of the Mission, the Consulate General and Pakistanis working at the United Nations attended the ceremony. Members of Pakistan's armed forces serving as UN peacekeepers also joined the ceremony.



78th Pakistan Day Marked in New Delhi

A grand reception was hosted in the evening of 23rd March at the Pakistan High Commission, New Delhi, as part of "Pakistan Day" celebrations. The reception was attended by around a thousand guests including political figures, dignitaries, members of the diplomatic corps, businessmen, media and civil society representatives, and Pakistani nationals in India.

High Commissioner Sohail Mahmood and Mrs. Mahwish Sohail received the honourable guests for the National Day reception at the Chancery lawns. Union Minister of State for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Mr. Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, was the

Chief Guest. The High Commissioner and the Minister stood on the stage as the national anthems of India and Pakistan were played. Speaking on the occasion, High Commissioner Sohail Mahmood highlighted the historic significance of 23rd March, the emergence of Pakistan after the 7-year movement under the visionary and inspiring leadership of Quaid-e-Azam Mohammad Ali Jinnah, and the continuous efforts being made to transform Pakistan in accordance with the Quaid's vision. The High Commissioner noted that the 23rd March coincided with the completion of 70 years of Pakistan and India as free nations (since independence in 1947) and stressed the importance of changing the past pattern of the bilateral relationship. He said: "I do hope that at this pivotal moment, with India and Pakistan at 70, there would be hard reflection on the time lost, and the opportunities missed."

"Building a future different from the past remains indispensable. We owe it to our next generations. We must give them a future of hope and opportunities. I hope we can prove equal to the task and work purposefully to advance the worthy goals of honourable peace, equal security, and shared prosperity," the High Commissioner said. As per practice, the High Commissioner also had a brief meeting with Minister of State Shekhawat on the occasion.

The guests were served with delicious Pakistani cuisine and enchanting music in a welcoming ambiance, elegantly decorated in the lush green Chancery lawns with light works and floral arrangements. A slide show depicting Pakistan's natural beauty and achievements in diverse fields over the past 70 years remained on display throughout the reception.



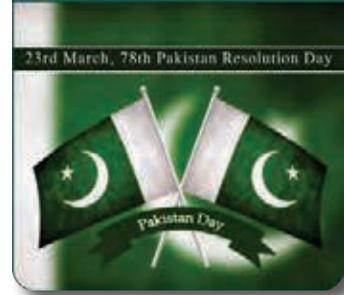
78th Pakistan Day Marked in Dhaka

To mark the 78th National Day of Pakistan, a flag hoisting ceremony was held in the Pakistan High Commission in Dhaka on 23rd March, 2018. National Anthem was played while the Charge d' Affaires, Shah Faisal Kakar, hoisted the national flag. The messages of the President and Prime Minister of Pakistan were read out, says a press release received here today from Dhaka. Charge d' Affaires Mr.



Shah Faisal Kakar, in his speech, greeted and felicitated the Pakistani community members on the auspicious occasion of the Pakistan Day. He emphasized the need for following the golden principles of "Faith, Unity and Discipline" as laid down by the Father of the Nation, Quaid e Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah. He remarked that 23rd March is a day of retrospection and rejuvenation of our

resolve to serve our beloved country. He also highlighted the achievements of the current government, especially mentioning about the ongoing CPEC flagship project which will not only be a game-changer but also a fate-changer for the region and beyond. The Charge d' Affaires hosted the Pakistan Day Reception which was attended by Head of Missions, diplomats, local dignitaries.



78th Pakistan Day Marked in Riyadh

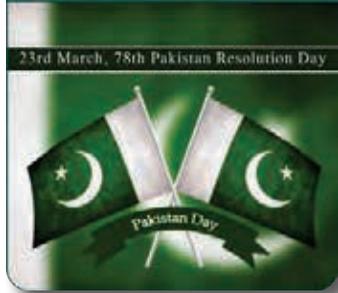
The Embassy of Pakistan, Riyadh, celebrated Pakistan Day with a flag hoisting ceremony. Ambassador of Pakistan, Khan Hasham bin Saddique raised the flag with the national anthem tune being played by armed forces band and the Pakistan military officers saluting the flag. The ambassador commended the Pakistani community in bringing honour to

the country and realising the dreams of the founding fathers to attain glory for Pakistan. He also praised Pakistani people and military for successfully defeating terrorism. Message of President Mamnoon Husain was read out which said, "We should always work hard to make the nation proud. We need to reiterate our strong resolve to always uphold the values

of determination and dedication for Pakistan". Message of the Prime Minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi was read out, which said, "Pakistan is a great nation and people should remember the sacrifices of the martyrs". A large number of people from the Pakistani community attended the ceremony expressing their love for their country.

78th Pakistan Day Marked in **Jeddah**

The Consulate General of Pakistan and the Pakistani community based in Jeddah celebrated the 78th National Day of Pakistan with traditional fervour and resolve to make Pakistan a strong, vibrant, progressive and democratic welfare state. The National Day of Pakistan is celebrated every year on the 23rd March to commemorate the outstanding achievement of the Muslims of Sub-Continent who passed the historic "Pakistan Resolution" on this day at Lahore in 1940 which culminated in creation of Pakistan after 7 years. The Consul General Mr. Shehryar Akbar Khan hoisted the national flag of Pakistan in presence of smartly turned out contingent of Pakistan army and Pakistan Navy, held at the residence of the Consul General in Jeddah. Later, the Ms Fouzia Fayyaz, Consul read out the message of President and Deputy Consul General Mr. Shaiq Bhutto read out the message of Prime Minister to the audience. Pakistan Consulate Jeddah also organized a reception in Jeddah to celebrate the Pakistan Day. Director General Saudi Foreign Ministry, Mecca Region Jamal Bakar al-Balkhoyor was the Chief Guest at the occasion. Pakistan's Ambassador to Saudi Arabia Khan Hasham bin Saddique and Consul General Pakistan in Jeddah Shehryar Akbar Khan also attended the ceremony. There was a large number of embassies, Saudi officials and Pakistani communities on this occasion.



78th Pakistan Day Marked in **SRI LANKA**

The High Commission of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and the Pakistani community based in Sri Lanka celebrated the 78th National Day of Pakistan with traditional fervour and resolve to make Pakistan a strong, vibrant, progressive and democratic welfare state. The Acting High Commissioner of Pakistan hoisted the national flag of Pakistan in a colourful ceremony, held at the Pakistan High Commission this morning. Later, the messages of the President and the Prime Minister of Pakistan were read out to



the audience. The Acting High Commissioner, on the occasion, said that Pakistan greatly values its relations with Sri Lanka which are based on mutual trust and understanding. It is a matter of great satisfaction that these mutually beneficial relations, rooted in history, have become truly multi-dimensional, covering fields of politics, economy, defence and security, culture, education and people-to-people contacts, he added. The Acting High Commissioner also extended sincere greetings

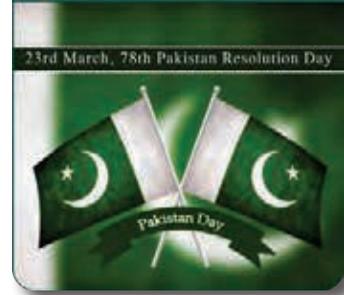
and best wishes on behalf of the Government and people of Pakistan to the Government and people of Sri Lanka for the continued progress, peace, national unity, reconciliation and harmony in the years ahead. The ceremony was attended by a large number of participants from various walks of life including members of the Sri Lanka Pakistan Friendship, Trade and Investment Association, Sri Lanka-Pakistan Business Council and the Pakistani community based in Sri Lanka.



78th Pakistan Day Marked in **Bangkok**



Senator, Mushahidullah Khan, Federal Minister for Climate Change addressed the audience at Pakistan Embassy, Bangkok, Thailand on the occasion of National Day of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan. In his address repeated the movement of creation of Pakistan and particularly highlighted the sacrifices rendered by the people during the movement of Pakistan. He said that now we should built the Pakistan as per dreams of Quaid-e-Azam father of nation. He also appreciated the efforts of Ambassador Mr. Asim Iftikhar Ahmed at Bangkok Thailand for excellent celebrations of National Day in Thailand. A large number of Pakistani community residing in Thailand participated in the celebrations.



78th Pakistan Day Marked in Tehran

An impressive ceremony was held at Pakistan House to commemorate the Pakistan National Day. The ceremony was held with national fervor and enthusiasm and was attended by a large number of Pakistani community. Ambassador Asif Durrani hoisted the national flag to mark the occasion accompanied by National Anthem sung by Pakistani students from Pakistan Embassy Intentional School & College, Tehran. Messages of the President and the Prime Minister were read out on the occasion. In his address, Ambassador Durrani paid rich tributes to the father of the nation Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah

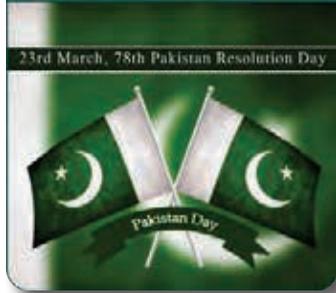
and the leaders of the Pakistan movement. He recalled the efforts and sacrifices of the founding fathers for achieving a separate homeland for the Muslims of South Asia. Calling upon the Pakistani community to remain committed to serving the country, Ambassador Durrani reiterated the need for forging national unity to overcome the challenges being faced by the country. The Ambassador also highlighted policies of the Government aimed at eliminating extremism and terrorism from the country and achieving the economic goals and uplifting the standards of living of the people. Expressing

satisfaction over the growing bilateral relations between Pakistan and Iran, the Ambassador said he hoped that the trade between the two countries would be enhanced to the level of US \$ 5 billion in the coming three years. Students from Pakistan Embassy International School and College, Tehran in their presentations paid homage to the father of the nation and leaders of the freedom movement. Pakistani students in the Iranian educational institutions also participated in large number. A group of Pakistani students presented national songs on the occasion.

78th Pakistan Day Marked in Cairo



To mark the National Day Celebrations of Pakistan at Cairo, a flag Hoisting ceremony was held at Embassy premises. Pakistani community resident in Egypt and representatives of local print and electronic media also participated in the event, says a press release received here today from Cairo. Messages of President and the Prime Minister of Pakistan, on the occasion, were read out to the audience. Addressing the gathering, Ambassador of Pakistan H.E. Mushtaq Ali Shah highlighted the significance of Lahore Resolution in the Independence of Pakistan. The Ambassador also appreciated the role being played by the Pakistani community in Egypt in promoting mutual trust and understanding between the peoples of our two countries. He also highlighted the strong bonds of fraternity and mutually beneficial cooperation existing between the two peoples and countries. Children of Pakistan International School Cairo (PISC) presented Milli Naghma on the occasion. Madame Ambassador distributed gifts among the children of Pakistan International School and Community. Leading Newspapers 'Daily Egyptian Gazette' and 'Daily Al-Gamhouria' carried special supplements on the occasion. The ceremony ended with the customary light refreshments for the participants. In the evening, a reception was held at a local hotel which was attended by the local dignitaries, senior officials and members of diplomatic corps.

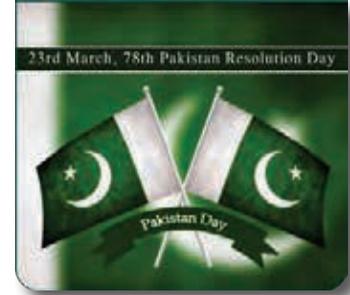


78th Pakistan Day Marked in **Ankara**



The National Day of Pakistan was celebrated in Ankara at an impressive ceremony at Pakistan Embassy in Ankara. The Ambassador of Pakistan to Turkey, Mr. Muhammad Syrus Sajjad Qazi, raised the Pakistan flag to the tune of the National Anthem in presence of the Pakistani community, Pakistani students studying in Turkish Universities and Embassy officials and their families. The messages of the President and Prime Minister of Pakistan were read out on the occasion. Students of Pakistan Embassy School (PEISG) in Ankara presented national songs. Flanked by Pakistan children, Ambassador Syrus Qazi and his spouse Mrs. Shaza Syrus cut a cake to mark Pakistan Day. Similarly, all the bridges of Istanbul on the Bosphorus linking Asia with Europe would be illuminated in Pakistan flag colours this evening. Meanwhile, President of Pakistan has conferred Pakistan's prestigious civil award "Tamgha-e-Imtiaz" upon Prof. Dr. Oya Akgöncü, a noted Turkish academician and former parliamentarian, in recognition of her services for further promoting Pakistan-Turkey relations.



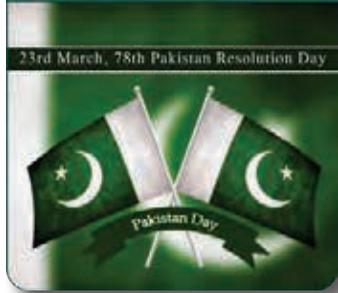


78th Pakistan Day Marked in

Abu Dhabi & Dubai

On March 23, Pakistan's National Day, flag hoisting ceremony held at the Pakistan Embassy in Abu Dhabi and the Pakistan Consulate General in Dubai. H.E. Moazzam Ahmad Khan, Ambassador of Pakistan to the United Arab Emirates in Abu Dhabi followed by a flag hoisting ceremony in Dubai done by Syed Javed Hassan, Pakistan Consul General of Dubai. Large number of Pakistani Diaspora attend the events.





78th Pakistan Day Marked in Washington D.C

An elegant flag hoisting ceremony was held at the Embassy of Pakistan Washington D.C. this morning to commence Pakistan Day celebrations. Ambassador Aizaz Ahmed Chaudhry raised the Pakistan flag at the Embassy courtyard with the National Anthem playing in the background. In his remarks, the Ambassador congratulated Pakistanis all over the world, particularly in the United States of America on the 78th Pakistan Day. He said Pakistan was a resilient nation with a proud history



and had tremendous potential to rise in future. The principles of the Pakistan Resolution served as a guiding light for the current generation to overcome the challenges faced by the country today. He shared that in the last few years, Pakistan had taken great strides in achieving macro-economic stability, improved law and order situation and ensuring continuity of democracy. Ambassador Chaudhry particularly commended the patriotic zeal and fervor of the Pakistani American community. He

urged the diaspora to continue to play its role as a bridge between Pakistan and the United States. Earlier, senior officials of the Embassy read out aloud the special messages of President Mamnoon Hussain and Prime Minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi congratulating the entire nation on this historic day. Officers and officials of the Embassy along with their families participated in the flag hoisting ceremony. A group of officers from the US Foreign Service also witnessed the flag hoisting ceremony.



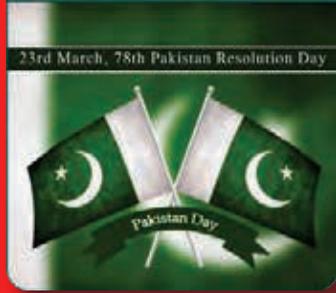
78th Pakistan Day Marked in Tokyo

An impressive ceremony was held at the Embassy of Pakistan Tokyo to commemorate the 78th anniversary of National Day of Pakistan. Ambassador Asad M. Khan hoisted the National Flag whilst the audience recited the National Anthem of Pakistan. The Ambassador read the messages of the President and Prime Minister of Pakistan. The messages urged the countrymen to follow the teachings and principles laid down by the founding fathers so as to make Pakistan a lively and determined nation for the stability and supremacy of the homeland. It further emphasized upon making

a firm commitment to adhere to our national objectives and goals besides promoting love and harmony to secure the future of the nation. The Ambassador in his speech stressed that the spirit of unity, harmony and sacrifice showed during the Pakistan movement need to be continued with the same zeal so that Pakistan progresses on the path of prosperity and development. Ambassador Khan was appreciative of the efforts of the Pakistani Community who is significantly contributing towards the progress of both Japan and Pakistan. He added that the Embassy with



the collaboration of the Pakistani Community would work together to further strengthen the bilateral relations between Japan and Pakistan in all areas and fields. The Ambassador also thanked the community for its active participation in the National Day Reception.



78th Pakistan Day Marked in Beijing

The National Day of Pakistan was celebrated with national spirit and great fervor at Embassy of Pakistan, Beijing in a ceremony to mark the passing of Pakistan Resolution on 23rd March, 1940. The Pakistan Day ceremony commenced with the recitation of verses from Holy Quran. Ambassador of Pakistan Masood Khalid raised the national flag and gradually hoisted it to the mast's summit, with the invigorating tune of the national anthem. Ambassador Masood Khalid read out messages of the President of Pakistan and Prime Minister of Pakistan. He urged the Pakistani community to unite in order to achieve the national milestones. He urged Pakistani community to bring honour to the country and realize the dreams of the founding fathers to attain glory for Pakistan. Ambassador highlighted the importance of Pakistan-China friendship and said that both countries share the dream of development, peace and security in the region. He said that the bond of friendship between Pakistan and China has withstood the test of time through mutual trust and support. Students from Pakistan Embassy College, Beijing presented national songs. The ceremony was attended by Pakistani community in China. Similar flag hoisting ceremonies were also held at Pakistani Consulates in Chengdu, Guangzhou, Hong Kong and Shanghai. In order to celebrate the occasion, a Grand National Day Reception will also be held by the Embassy later in the evening at a local hotel.



78th Pakistan Day Marked in SINGAPORE



The National Day, 23rd March 2018, was celebrated in Singapore with traditional fervor and national spirit. The day began with the hoisting of the flag by the High Commissioner, Nasrullah Khan. The officers and officials of the High Commission, as well as a cross section of Pakistani community/diaspora attended the ceremony. The messages of the President and Prime

Minister were read out. The High Commissioner, in his address, highlighted the importance of the day and the progress that Pakistan has made in every field of life. He also underlined the achievements that the government of Pakistan made through its sound political and socio-economic policies. The High Commissioner also complimented the contributions of the Pakistani

community to project a positive image of Pakistan in Singapore. The National Day reception was held at a local hotel. A large number of resident Pakistanis, Singaporean dignitaries, members of the host country's Parliament and diplomatic core attended the event. Mr. Heng Chee How, Singapore's Minister of State in the Prime Minister Office was the chief guest on the occasion.



High Commission of **Canada** Launched of “The Journey of Pakistani Women”

The High Commission of Canada continued the celebrating the International Women’s Day with the launch of its new documentary “The Journey of Pakistani Women”.

This retrospective documentary highlights the history of the Pakistani women’s movement and Canada’s support over the last three decades. A 17-minute film produced by Islamabad’s White Rice Communications, shares insights from several key Pakistani leaders including Hina Jilani, Farida Shaheed, Khawar Mumtaz and Harris Khalique. Organizations such as the Kashif Foundation, Strengthening Participatory Organization (SPO Pakistan), the Aurat Foundation, South Asia Partnership Pakistan and the International Labour Organization (ILO) share their thoughts on how best to help empower women and girls. Audience members will be delighted to hear directly from women entrepreneurs and politicians who have benefited directly from Canadian support.

In keeping with the documentary’s message that the journey continues for the women of

Pakistan, the High Commission was pleased to convene a youth panel discussion. Canada remains committed to creating opportunities for Pakistani women to raise their voices as full members of society.

Founder & Chief Executive Officer of the Agahi

“Canadian High Commissioner H.E. Perry Calderwood noted that Canada is building upon its 30 years of support for the empowerment and inclusion of women in Pakistan.”

Foundation, Panelist Puruesh Chaudhary said, “Social media is increasingly becoming a bridge between girls that are being educated and the ones contributing their talent in the digital space along with workforce in a traditional environment, fueling growth and development of the communities, cities and countries.”

Mome Saleem, Program Coordinator for Resource Equity, Energy Innovation and Climate Change at Heinrich Böll Stiftung Pakistan, said “Countries like Pakistan have come far in achieving many of the targets however the gender policy needs to be made central pillar of the fragile and infant democracy, and the legal system of the country. Women have diversified their roles however men also need to be taken on board for a balancing act through creative strategies at policy level and also at the grass roots. Cross sectoral approach is a must when it comes to policy formulation.”

Lawyer and activist Benazir Jatoti stated that “The greatest obstacle for Pakistan’s women is that the legal frameworks that have been established over the years have not been

translated into de facto enforceable rights. Despite the law telling us that we enjoy fundamental rights, free of violence and are guaranteed equality, and over all human dignity, the social and institutional framework in which these laws operate do not allow for such rights to be enforced by those they seek to protect.”

High Commissioner of Canada, Perry Calderwood noted that Canada is building on 30 years of support for the empowerment and inclusion of women in Pakistan. “Empowerment is having the opportunity to make better choices through education, financial independence and the exercise of democratic rights. I am proud to say that Canada is committed to promoting gender equality not only as a human right, but also as an essential element of sustainable development. With the adoption of our Feminist International Assistance Policy, Canada supports the women’s movement around the world in its work to overcome the economic and political marginalization of women. The High Commission looks forward to continuing our collaboration with the women’s movement in Pakistan and its supporters,” he said.





Photo by Ramzan Mughal

Tunisia Marked 62nd National Day in Islamabad

H.E. Adel Elarbi Ambassador of Tunisia hosted a reception to celebrate the 62nd national day of his country and 60 Years of Diplomatic Relations with Pakistan in Islamabad. The venue of the reception was tastefully decorated, reflecting the culture of Tunisia. Minister for Federal Education and Training Mr. Baligh-ur-Rehman was the chief guest on the occasion. A large number of guests attended the function including diplomats, officials and prominent people from various segments of society.







Mauritius Marked 50th Anniversary of Independence Day in Islamabad

H.E. Soobadar Rashidally High Commissionaire of Mauritius hosted a reception to mark 50th Anniversary of Independence Day of his country at Serena Hotel, Islamabad. Chief Guest of the Eve was Mr. Abdul Qadir Baloch Federal Minister for States and Frontier Regions. The reception was well attended as the government dignitaries, diplomats, businesspersons, politicians and representatives from across the civil society.







Lithuanian National Day

celebrated in Islamabad

Honorary Consul General H.E. Masud Khan and his better half Ms. Asmara Masud hosted a reception on the occasion of the 100 years Anniversary of the restoration of Independence of Lithuania at Islamabad.

The reception was well attended as the government dignitaries, diplomats, businesspersons, politicians and representatives from across the civil society graced the event.







Bulgaria marked National Day in Islamabad

H.E. Roumen Pirontchev Ambassador of Bulgaria hosted a reception at the embassy to celebrate the Bulgarian national day in Islamabad. The chief guest on the occasion was Mr. Tariq Fazal Chaudhry Minister of State for Capital Administration and Development.

The reception was well attended as the government dignitaries, diplomats, businesspersons, politicians and representatives from across the civil society graced it.







Women artists' work goes on display at Satrang Gallery, Islamabad

In connection with the International Women's Day, Satrang Gallery inaugurated an exhibition "As I see it" featuring works of four women artists. Amra Khan, Azanat Mansoor, Naira Mushtaq and Sahyr Sayed. Asma Rashid Khan, the founder director of Satrang Gallery, said, "Today we showcase the works of four young, strong female artists. This exhibition is an amalgamation of their thoughts and

expressions as they move through their lives... We, Satrang Gallery and Serena Hotels, are thrilled to have these talented artists here." visitors from the twin cities enjoyed the exhibition.



Riding Club **Inaugurated** at **Diplomatic Enclave**, Islamabad

Interior Minister Ahsan Iqbal inaugurated Riding club and State of Art Gym at Diplomatic Enclave, Islamabad. It has been established by the security division Islamabad. Interior Minister Ahsan Iqbal, on occasion, said that Pakistan has registered unmatched successes in the war on terror despite limited resources. Chief Commissioner Islamabad Zulfiqar Haider, Inspector General of Police Dr Sultan Azam Temuri, DIG (Security)

Waqar Ahmed Chohan, SSP (Operations) Najeeb ur Rehman Bugvi, SSP (Security) Jameel Hashmi, SP Zeeshan Haider, SSP Headquarters Hassan Iqbal, SP Headquarter Sumaira Azam, diplomats from various countries including Korea, Saudi Arabia, Palestine, Azerbaijan, Tajikistan, Turkey, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Britain and members of business community attended the ceremony.



The Government of Japan has awarded MEXT (Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology of Japan) Research & Undergraduate Scholarships for Masters/Doctorate and bachelor's degrees for the year of 2018 to eleven (11) students of Pakistan aiming to provide them with an opportunity to pursue higher studies in their respective fields at the leading public sector universities in Japan.

The Embassy of Japan organized a pre-departure orientation for the scholarship grantees who will shortly leave for Japan to undertake their higher studies. Pakistani alumni of the Japanese universities were also invited at the orientation who shared their knowledge and experience of studying and living in Japan with the young scholarship grantees.

Mr. Takashi Harada, Charge d'Affaires ad interim of Japan to Pakistan, later in the evening hosted a reception to bid farewell to the scholarship grantees. Mr. Harada congratulated the scholarship recipients and expressed his hope that they would come back to Pakistan to utilize the knowledge and expertise acquired in Japan for future development of Pakistan. Mr. Harada hoped that these students would become bridges of friendship between Pakistan and Japan.

Japan's MEXT Research Scholarships was launched in 1954 while MEXT Undergraduate Scholarships were introduced in 1958 in Pakistan.

Since the first Pakistani student went to Japan on scholarship in 1963, up till now a large number of Pakistani students have successfully returned to Pakistan after obtaining their PhD/



The Government of **Japan** Awards MEXT Research and Undergraduate Scholarships to Pakistani Students

By M.Saeed Yousafzai, Monitoring

Master's degrees in Japan. They are actively working in the academia, public and private sectors and have made significant contributions to the development of Pakistan in various fields as well as in strengthening friendly relationship between Pakistan and Japan. Japan awards graduate and post graduate fully funded

participated in the two-day conference. A Japanese language speech contest was also held in which participants from Pakistan, Nepal, and Sri Lanka took part. Mr. Harada awarded certificates to the participants and also invited SAFJUAA delegates, and Japanese speech participants to the reception.

scholarships to Pakistani students every year besides offering many short-term scholarships and training courses round the year.

South Asia Federation of Japanese Universities Alumni Associations (SAFJUAA) was hosted by MEXT Alumni Association of Pakistan (MAAP) this year, where delegates from Nepal and Sri Lanka



Photo by Ramzan Mughal

Artwork showcasing Pak-Hungary natural beauty with 'water at core' and National Day of Hungary Marked



A coffee-table book titled 'Reflection of Reality' or 'Aks-e-Haqeeqat' (in Urdu), showcasing landscape, people and communities of Pakistan particularly those living by lake, river and sea in Pakistan and Hungary was unveiled at the Embassy of Hungary during a photo exhibition. The event also marked the National Day of the country. Ambassador of Hungary H.E. István Szabó, hosted the event. He also introduced Zulfikar Ali and his Hungarian photographer friend Gergely Szatmari whose works are featured in the coffee table book and at the photo exhibition.





A memorable

Spanish Cultural Performance in Islamabad



An amazing performance titled 'Giralda' (festival) was arranged by the embassy of Spain at the Serena Hotel and attended by a large number of invitees who were thrilled to be part of the invited audience and gave the performers a standing ovation after the very enjoyable show was over. Welcoming his guests, ambassador of Spain, H.E. Carlos Morales said he was pleased to host this performance by a group who had already performed in Karachi and Lahore. H.E. thanked the sponsors Shelozon; Tyspa; Metal; Sabiha Anees; Turkish Airlines and Serena. Flamenco is a genuine Southern Spanish art. In 2010 UNESCO declared flamenco as an intangible heritage of humanity.







Govt. has taken legislative measures for
Economic Empowerment of Women :Marriyum Aurangzeb

Report by M.Saeed Yousafzai

The Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry organized a ceremony to mark the International Women's Day. Ms. Marriyum Aurangzeb, Minister of State for Information Broadcasting, National History and Literary Heritage was the Chief Guest at the occasion. Foreign female diplomats, spouses of various diplomats, female students of local universities and many other women attended the event.

Speaking as Chief Guest, Ms. Marriyum Aurangzeb said that women accounted for fifty percent of our total population and it was very important to give them more space in national life for better development of the country. She said instead of dedicating one particular day to highlight role of women, we should take measures every day for women empowerment. He said that the current government has taken many initiatives for the empowerment of women including passing anti-honor killing and anti-rape laws. She said Punjab Government also passed an important law for women protection. She said government was trying to empower vulnerable women through BISP and PM Youth Loans scheme. She said for the better empowerment of women, it was necessary that every home should empower women so that they could play effective role in nation building. Ms. Marriyum Aurangzeb said it was the collective responsibility of the society to

protect vulnerable and weak segments and ensure protection of their fundamental rights. She requested all political parties to avoid doing politics on women and children as it was not a healthy trend for the society. She lauded the efforts of ICCI for entrepreneurship development in women and said that government would keep taking initiatives for create more conducive environment for women in the country.

In his welcome address, Sheikh Amir Waheed, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry said that no nation could achieve better economic progress without significant participation of women. He said it was essential that government should take policy measures to create an enabling environment for women entrepreneurs. He said government should provide easy credit facility to aspiring women entrepreneurs in the coming budget and announce for them attractive microfinance schemes to facilitate them in business startups. He said ICCI was going to launch a Women Business Growth Centre to facilitate women in business promotion pursuits.

Spouse of Tunisian diplomat and others also highlighted the initiatives being taken in their respective countries for women empowerment.



47th anniversary of the Independence and National Day of Bangladesh Marked

H.E. Tarik Ahsan Bangladesh High Commissioner to Pakistan hosted a reception to celebrate 47th anniversary of the Independence and National Day of Bangladesh at the Serena Hotel, Islamabad. The reception was attended by diplomats, including those from SAARC member countries; Pakistani officials; business men and others. The mayor of Islamabad Sheikh Anser Aziz; Minister for Mines and Minerals of Punjab Province, Sher Ali Khan; Senator Mushahid Hussain Syed; Senator (r) Farhatullah Babar and Additional Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Intiaz Ahmad were also present.



THE ART OF AZULEJO



Globalised Art of Portuguese Showcased of Posters Exhibition held at “The City School PAF Chapter Karachi “about the rich history of Portuguese/Brazilian tin-glazed ceramic tile work. It was inaugurated by H.E. Joao Paulo Marques Sabido Costa Ambassador of Portugal to Pakistan.

The Azulejo is one of the most expressive forms of Culture in Portugal and one of the most original contributions that the genius of the Portuguese has made to Universal Culture.



H.E Sultan Bin Saeed Al Mansoori-UAE Minister for Economy, along with Consul General of Pakistan Syed Javed Hassan, Watching thematic Photographic exhibition “ Sheikh zayed and Pakistan” in 78th Pakistan National Day reception in Dubai



Ambassador of Pakistan to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia Khan Hasham Bin Saddique in a group photo with the participants of 11th Pakistan Day Golf Cup 2018 organized by the Embassy of Pakistan in Riyadh as part of Pakistan’s Day celebrations

Bosnia

appoints an honorary
counsel general in
KP to boost
Business Ties

By M.Saeed Yousafzai

A young industrialist, Asad Saleem, has been appointed Bosnia and Herzegovina counsel general for Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. A simple but prestigious event was organized in the context of referring Asad Saleem appointment for Bosnia and Herzegovina Ambassador H.E. Sakib Foric Participated.

In a ceremony organised in Mardan, the second largest city in KP; Bosnia and Herzegovina's ambassador to Pakistan Sakib Foric described **“Strong ties between Pakistan and Bosnia have been established, the consulate in Peshawar will be able to promote economic cooperation between the two countries: Ambassador of Bosnia and Herzegovina”**

the relations between Pakistan and Bosnia as a complementary partners for regional balance, growth and partnership for wellbeing.

Speaking to the function, H.E. Sakib foric said that strong ties between Pakistan and Bosnia have been established, the consulate



in Peshawar will be able to promote economic cooperation between the two countries. He agreed to strengthen ties in the field of trade, agriculture, sports and textiles.

He said that in the independence of Bosnia, Pakistan played an important role in which our nation is well-versed. The Counsel General Asad Saleem will play a full role in supporting this relationship.

He said that the beginning of a new chapter of renewed diplomatic relations between the two countries will help the peoples.

Pakistan and Bosnia are looking at each other as complementary partners for regional balance, growth and partnership for wellbeing of the respective people. He also wished that the Honorary Consulate may prove helpful in promoting educational and business opportunities for the people of the both countries. The event was attended by Senior Minister for Health KPK Shahram Khan Taraki, FPCCI OIC Chairman Haji Naseem ur Rehman, KPK Board of Investment Chairman Faisal Saleem Rehman, Senator Dilawar Khan, MPA Tufail Anjum, DIG Mardan Region Muhammad Alam Shinwari, Tehsil Nazim Muhammad Ayub

Khan, Tehsil Naib Nazim Mushtaq Seemab, Industrialist Masood ur Rehman, Mujeeb ur Rehman, Omar Masood, Haider Naseem, President Mardan small chamber Anwar Hussain, Former President Mardan Chamber Zahir Shah, President Women Chamber Huma Mayar, Business community, local leaders and others. At Last FPCCI OIC Chairman Haji Naseem ur Rehman, KPK Board of Investment Chairman Faisal Saleem Rehman, President Mardan small chamber Anwar Hussain, Former President Mardan Chamber Zahir Shah, present shields and other traditional gifts to Ambassador Sakib Foric, Deputy High Commissioner Vejsil Godinjak and his wives Nezira foric and Azra Godinjak and Secretary Muhammad Wali.

In the independence of Bosnia, Pakistan played an important role in which our nation is well-versed: Ambassador of Bosnia and Herzegovina



Women's Day

Celebrations at Serena Hotels

Serena Hotels hosted a breakfast to celebrate International Women's Day and honour the women associated with and present in Serena. All the women guest, associates, Serena Business Complex partners, Ambassadors and representatives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs attend the event.



Supreme Court in its SUO MOTO case has ordered to publish the following guidelines for suggestions if any from the public may be filed in the Court

PROPOSED GUIDELINES FOR CONTENT REGULATION OF GOVERNMENT ADVERTISEMENTS IN PRINT AND ELECTRONIC MEDIA

1. Guiding principles for dissemination of information

1.1 Constitutional freedom of speech and right to information guaranteed under Articles 19 and 19A of the Constitution include freedom of press. The executive ought not use its discretionary authority in a manner aimed at encouraging censorship or influencing editorial policy of media outlets in favour of the political party in power.

2. Definitions of Classified Advertisement and Government Advertisement

2.1 Classified Advertisements include public notices, tenders, recruitment notices and statutory notifications etc.

2.2 Government advertisements include dissemination of information to members of the public about a government program, policy or initiative, or about any public health, safety or other matter, that is funded by or on behalf of a government, government agency or statutory body, but does not include classified advertisements.

3. Scope and Object of the Guidelines for Government Advertisements

3.1 There shall be no arbitrary use of public funds for Government advertisements aimed at projecting political leaders, political parties, partisan agendas or governments without any attendant public purpose.

4. Purpose of Government Advertising

4.1 The following includes categories of permissible Government Advertisements:

- i. To inform citizens about their rights, obligations, entitlements and responsibilities, about government policies, programmes, services or initiatives.
- ii. To inform citizens regarding the policies, programs, services, initiatives and decisions of the Government in compliance with the principles of parliamentary democracy and responsible governance. The public has a right to such information.
- iii. To encourage public involvement in government decision-making.
- iv. To educate and inform the public about community interests and dangers or risks to public health, safety or the environment etc.
- v. To use publicity to encourage behaviour that is in the public interest (for example crime prevention or road safety etc.)
- vi. To achieve public policy goals.
- vii. To provide information regarding the performance of the Government, including information regarding milestones achieved and new projects and public interest programs, thereby facilitating public accountability.
- viii. To ensure that institutions of the Government are visible, accessible and accountable to the public they serve.
- ix. To communicate and explain changes in the law that affect individuals or businesses.
- x. To commemorate national heroes not linked to a political party.

5. Content Regulation

5.1 Prohibitions:

The following forms of Government Advertisements shall be prohibited:

- i. Including material that gives prominence to the voice or image of the head of an institution or individual, including, inter alia, a past or incumbent Prime Minister, Chief Minister, Minister, member of Parliament or candidate for an election to Parliament or portraying or promoting the said public office holder in a manner regarded as excessive or gratuitous, except in a limited case of Government Advertisements involving a public awareness campaigns in pursuit of legitimate state purpose where such voice or image is essential to such information, message or campaign.
- ii. Seeking to influence public support for an electoral candidate for election to Parliament or a Provincial Assembly or local body.
- iii. Including material with the name, logo or slogan of a political party.
- iv. Including links to the websites of a political party, a candidate for election to Parliament, Provincial Assembly or local body.
- v. Disparaging, ridiculing, attacking the opposition parties, political party leaders, state institutions or the government of a federating unit.

6. Government Advertisement during the election period:

6.1 Government Advertisements shall exclude the category of advertisements referred to in Clause 4.1(vii) above during the election period until the new government is formed after the notification of election results. For purposes of determining the election period reference is made to following provisions of the Elections Act, 2017:

"180. Regulation of publicity.—(1) No political party shall run a publicity campaign in print and electronic media at the cost of public exchequer."

"181. Prohibition of announcement of development schemes.— No Government functionary or elected representative including a local government functionary or elected representative, shall announce any development scheme for a constituency after the announcement of the Election Programme of that constituency."



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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.



Timing:
10-6 p.m Monday to Friday

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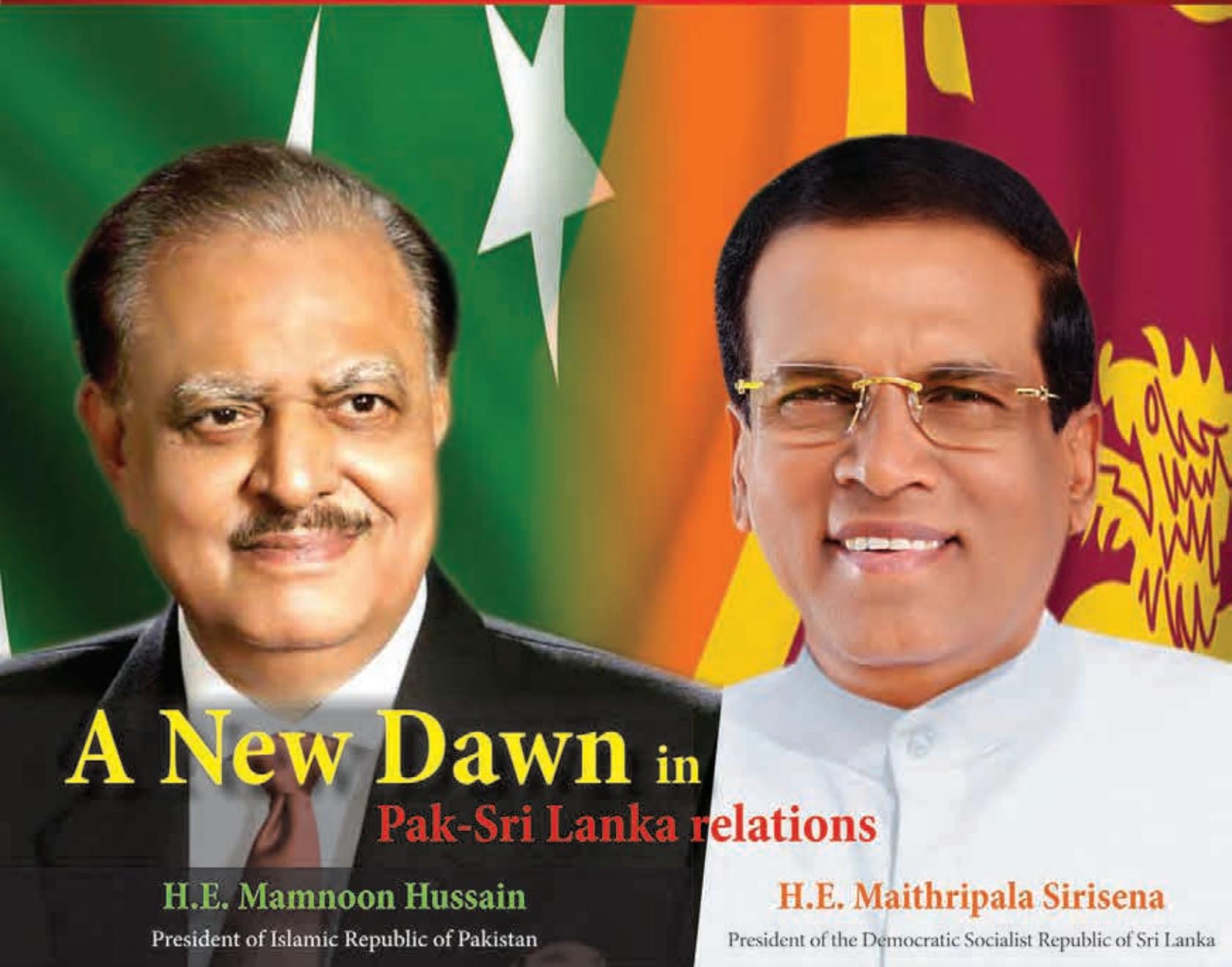


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A New Dawn in Pak-Sri Lanka relations

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President of Islamic Republic of Pakistan

H.E. Maithripala Sirisena

President of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka

Congratulations

78th

Pakistan Resolution Day
23rd March

1940

