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DIPLOMATIC FOCUS

"To be published soon from UAE, London & Schengen States"



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Man of Success



**Mr. and Mrs. Dr. Mirza Ikhtiar Baig, Noreen Baig, (Hon. Consul of Jamaica)
Hon. Consul General The Republic of Yemen, Dean Consular Corps-Sindh Karachi,
Director, World Federation of Consuls (FICCA)**

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Mian Fazal Elahi

Editorial

The decision by Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif to choose China as the first destination for his foreign visits to China, Germany and UK, has successfully expanded the scope of Pakistan's strategic partnership with one of its most trusted allies. Mr. Sharif had meetings with Chinese Prime Minister and President during which issues of mutual interest, regional stability and bilateral relations came under discussion. Leaders from both the countries also vowed to complete Economic Corridor and other joint projects. It is often said that Pakistan's relationship with China is "higher than the Himalayas" and this visit has in many ways manifested these words into a tangible form in the shape of several bilateral agreements and MoUs worth \$35 to \$40 billion that both countries have signed. The premier also attends host-partners dialogue during Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Informal Leaders' meeting in Beijing. The visit of Mr. Nawaz took place at the time when 20 countries signed an agreement under the leadership of China to establish a new development bank for Asia and USA opposed it. The Premier also visited to Germany. The German Chancellor assured that Germany is looking to increase its investments in Pakistan, especially in the energy sector, provided the conditions are right. In London, Prime Minister Sharif inaugurated the Pakistan-UK Energy and Investment Conference and UK high officials met with him discussed the issues of mutual interest and bilateral relations. PM Nawaz during his visit advocated the importance of regional connectivity for accelerated economic growth and prosperity of the people across national boundaries. In this regard the visit of Afghan President Mr. Ghani and his statements are also very important. During his stay, Ghani vowed to bridge trust deficit and open a new chapter in bilateral relations. These visits have very important role when world is going through new transitional phase in which new blocks are established on the base of security and economy.

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Congratulations on the Korean National Day & Korean Week

**Seminar: The Journey to Peace & Co-Prosperty:
The United Nations, Pakistan & The Republic of Korea in
collaboration with ISSI**

Time & Venue: 6 Nov 08:30 at ISSI auditorium

**'Nanta (Non-verbal Korean Traditional Drum Beat)
Cultural Performance'**

Time & Venue: 6 Nov 18:30 at Serena Hotel

**'To donate funds for IDPs & victims of Floods
in collaboration with Serena Hotel & World Vision in
Pakistan'**

(Only for Ticket Holders)

Conference to promote Pak-Korea Trade Relations

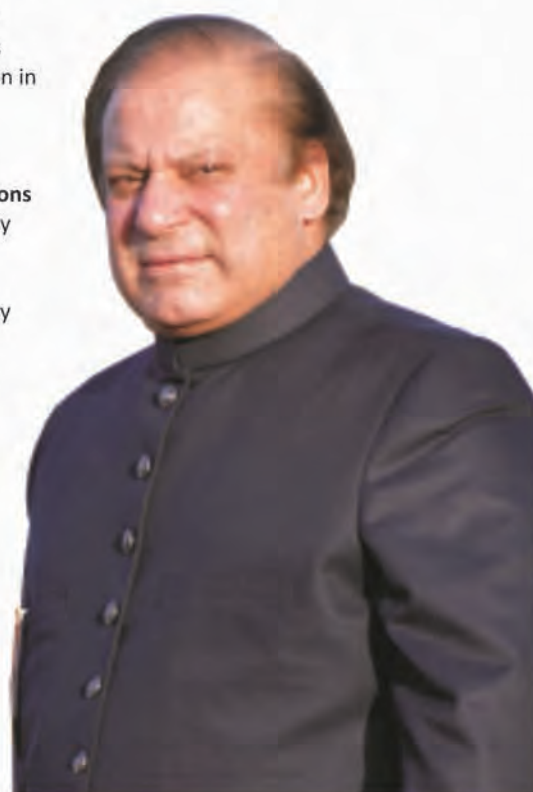
Time & Venue: 7 Nov 15:00 at Korean Embassy

National Day Reception

Time & Venue: 7 Nov 18:30 at Korean Embassy

Korean Traditional Cultural Performance

Time & Venue: 10 Nov 18:30 at PNCA



Journey to Peace and Co-Prosperity: The United Nations, Pakistan and the Republic of Korea



Welcome Remarks by H.E. Dr. Song Jong-hwan At Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI)



international co-operation" and "to be a center for harmonizing the actions of nations".

Keeping with this spirit, which is espoused within the UN Charter, it is my hope that this seminar will highlight examples and rewards of international cooperation at the bilateral and multilateral level, as well as discussing the need and the benefits of continuing such positive trends.

In light of our discussion on harmony, unity and cooperation, we will also discuss a roadmap for the future unification of the Korean peninsula, for which all Koreans are anxiously waiting. As President Park Geun-hye mentioned on January 6, 2014, unification will bring a bonanza to Korea and make unified Korea a big player on the world stage, giving it the opportunity to contribute more for world peace and prosperity.

I would not like to take too much time because like you, I am eager to hear from our distinguished panelists.

Thank you!

Excellency, Shamshad Ahmad, Former Foreign Secretary,

Chairman, Senate Defense Committee, His Excellency, Senator Mushahid Hussain,

Chairman ISSI, His Excellency, Ambassador Khalid Mehmood,

Dr. Chung Min Lee, Professor of International Relations at the Graduate School of International Studies, Yonsei University and Ambassador for National Security Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs Distinguished Chairpersons,

Panelists and Guests; Ladies & Gentlemen,

Thank you all for being with us today. I appreciate your interest and I look forward to learning from your comments and discussion.

Being an academic and an Ambassador, and having served at the Korean mission to the United Nations, today's seminar is of special importance to me. More so, it is closely related to one of my core philosophies regarding humanity, cooperation and the reasons for our existence. In my opinion, one raison

d'être of mankind is to help each other, or to prove our humanity. In fact, I wrote in detail on this concept in an article "Two Wings of Genuine Success" which was published in the Express Tribune on 29th January, 2014.

The extension of the same concept is seen in the Charter of the United Nations, which states that the purpose of the UN, among others, is to "maintain international peace and security", "to develop friendly relations among nations", "to achieve



"THE JOURNEY TO PEACE AND CO-PROSPERITY: THE UNITED NATIONS, PAKISTAN & THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA"

Conference organized by the ISSI in collaboration with the Embassy of Republic of Korea

Message of

H.E Mr. Ban Ki-Moon,
Secretary-General of The United Nations



It is a great pleasure to convey my greetings and best wishes to all those who have gathered for this timely seminar on the shared efforts of the United Nations, Pakistan and the Republic of Korea towards a world of peace, prosperity and dignity for all.

I was very happy to hear from my longtime friend, Dr. Song Jong-hwan, Ambassador of the Republic of Korea to Pakistan, that the Institute of Strategic Studies and the Embassy of the Republic of Korea are working together so profitably. I am sure that this seminar will provide an opportunity for the two countries to exchange knowledge, ideas and experiences. It is also a good opportunity to raise awareness about the activities of the United Nations. I am sure that Mr. TimoPakkala, the UN Resident Coordinator

in Pakistan, will provide an insightful presentation.

Pakistan and Korea both have a growing importance in the world today. Their past and present interactions with the United Nations are also significant in many ways. Pakistan is one of the Organization's leading contributors to peacekeeping.

I have had the pleasure to visit Pakistan three times as Secretary-General, including during the 2010 floods, the worst the country has ever seen. Most recently, I met with His Excellency Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif during this year's session of the General Assembly. The United Nations continues to support Pakistan in its efforts to reach the Millennium Development Goals, to build resilience, to fight extremism and promote tolerance, understanding and respect for all people.

The world faces multiple crises, from armed conflicts to the outbreak of Ebola and the growing impacts of climate change. Too many people continue to face exploitation -- from factories to farms, from bonded labour to sexual slavery. The United Nations is addressing today's emergencies. At the same time, we are striving to seize tomorrow's opportunities and shape a bold post-2015 development agenda.

Building a world of dignity for all demands ever greater levels of partnership and cooperation.

I thank all of you for your commitment to improving your bilateral relations, and for supporting the global mission of the United Nations. Please accept my best wishes for a rewarding seminar.

Message of
H.E. Yun Byung-se,
Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Korea



I wish to commend the Korean embassy in Pakistan, the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) and the UN for organizing today's seminar under the title : "The Journey to Peace and Co-prosperity – the United Nations, Pakistan and the Republic of Korea."

The ties between Korea and Pakistan stretch back over the millennia, since the Korean monk Hyecho visited the region of Pakistan in the 8th century. More recently, Pakistan sent relief materials when Korea was suffering the ravages of war; Korea supported Pakistan when it was badly hit with natural disasters. Indeed, our two countries are friends who have offered each other help in times of need.

Moreover, we are becoming partners for the future. It was in 1983 that we established diplomatic ties, and over the three decades, our trade has grown ten-fold. Many Korean companies are in Pakistan, working on hydraulic dams, ports and roads, and contributing to Pakistan's development. The M-2 Motorway, connecting Islamabad and

Lahore, built by a Korean company, is already a great symbol of Korea-Pakistan collaboration. So not only do our peoples share friendship, but we have a good record of cooperation.

Korea now stands ready to work even more closely together with Pakistan. The visits of the Korean Speaker of the National Assembly and the Prime Minister earlier this year clearly show the Korean government's commitment for even better ties with Pakistan.

In various fields, Korea is the perfect partner for a "strong economy, strong Pakistan." In the economic field, Korea's own "Miracle on the Han River" would have been impossible without the know-how, experience and dedication of Korean corporations. They have the capabilities to build up Pakistan's infrastructure and fulfill its huge potential for success.

Furthermore, Korea is keen to work with Pakistan multilaterally, in the UN and through regional cooperation. Pakistan is one of the largest contributors to UN

peacekeeping operations. Korea is currently a member of the UN Security Council, the Human Rights Council and ECOSOC. It is actively backing the UN's ideals of international peace and security, sustainable development and human rights. For the United Nations, next year is the 70th anniversary of its creation. Likewise, next year marks 70 years of the division of the Korean Peninsula. The Korean government is making efforts for reunification, with the support and blessing of friends in the international community.

In this regard, I hope that this seminar will bolster Pakistan's understanding of Korean reunification and Korea's efforts for peace and cooperation in Asia. I also have high hopes it will cement the ties between Korea and Pakistan, at the bilateral and multilateral levels; as well as come up with insights and wisdom to explore a "blue ocean" in our economic ties.

On closing, I send my best wishes for the health and happiness of all present today. Shukria. Thank you.

Concluding Remarks and Bonanza of Unified Korea by H.E. Dr. Song Jong-hwan

Ladies and Gentlemen, First of all, I think we should give a warm round of applause to our presenters, commenters and session chairs for their insightful input. We have learned much from you and for that we are grateful.

I would like to add a little about the 'unification bonanza' I mentioned earlier. First, a united Korea's population would be full of nationalistic pride at having achieved reunification after decades of national separation. The lower level of security threats would provide psychological reassurance and lower defense expenditure which would provide an economic boost and increase foreign investment in a united Korea. Unified Korea would be able to foster new economic and investment opportunities by developing the infrastructure in North Korea.

The united Korea would not only benefit Koreans, but also the world. The absence

of North-South tension would allow a united Korea to focus its energies on playing a greater global role like united Germany. Korea could utilize the diplomatic and military resources currently invested in the North-South tensions towards more productive purposes. For example, Korea could increase its contribution of personnel and funding to UN peace keeping operations. Korea could play a bigger role in arbitration. Funding that is re-directed from defense expenditure to research and development would increase Korea contributions to science and innovations. United Korea would also invest more in the uplift of developing countries around the world and enhance its role in multilateral bodies like the UNDP, UNESCO, WFP and WHO etc. A united Korea would play a big role in achieving global peace and co-prosperity. The same peace and co-prosperity which is the main objective of the United Nations, and the main theme of today's seminar

Before I finish, I would like to appreciate my friend, the UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon and the Foreign Minister of Korea, Mr. Yun Byung-se, for their messages of encouragement and appreciation. I would like to thank Chairman ISSI, Ambassador Khalid Mahmood and the staff of ISSI for their cooperation in making today's seminar possible, and for doing a great job in organizing it. I would like to thank our Chief Guest, Mr. Shamshad Ahmad and our distinguished panel of presenters, commenters and session chairs for taking time out to be with us today.

And while all our experts are equally dear to us, I would like to say a special thanks to Dr. Lee, who has come all the way from Korea only to participate in today's seminar, and to Senator Mushahid Hussain, who is with us despite an extremely hectic schedule.

Thank You.



Minister of Information, Broadcasting and National Heritage Mr. Pervaiz Rashid, Minister of Commerce: (Mr.) Engineer Khurram Dastgir Khan Foreign Secretary: Mr. Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry, Chairman ISSI: (Mr.) Ambassador Khalid Mahmood (Retired)



Nanta Cultural Performance in collaboration with Serena and World Vision to raise funds for IDPs and Flood Victims

Speech by Dr. Song Jong-hwan

Excellency, Sartaj Aziz, Adviser to the Prime Minister on National Security and Foreign Affairs,

Excellency, Rana Tanveer, Minister for Defense Production,

Excellency, Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry, Secretary Foreign Affairs,

Excellency, Sikandar Hayat Khan Bosan, Minister for Food Security and Research,

Excellency, Ambassador Khalid Mahmood, Chairman Board of Governors, Institute of Strategic Studies, Islamabad,

Excellency, Ambassador Rodolfo Martin-Saravia, Dean of the Diplomatic Corps, and





my other colleagues from the Diplomatic Corps,

Distinguished Guests, Korean Businessmen,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good evening & As-Salaam-o-Alaikum

Today we are gathered to celebrate growing links between Pakistan and Korea as part of Korea Week from November 6th to 10th. I am happy to say that in the 31 years of since diplomatic relations were established, our bonds have never been stronger. This week we are also celebrating Korea's National Foundation Day and the Armed Forces Day of the

Republic of Korea.

Korea's Foundation Day commemorates the establishment of the first ancient Korean Kingdom 4347 years ago. The founder of the first Korean Kingdom gave us his founding philosophy, 'Hongik ingan', which means "Live and Work for the Benefit of All Mankind". This philosophy teaches us about helping each other, unity, and peaceful coexistence. In light of this rich history and culture, and the message of our founding philosophy, we have arranged a very special show for you tonight.

The Nanta cultural performance is a uniquely Korean art and I am sure that it

will amaze you. Today's event has been arranged to raise funds for Pakistan's flood victims and the internally displaced persons who are suffering due to Pakistan's brave fight against terrorism. The artists have come especially to Pakistan all the way from Korea only for today's performance and I think we should all welcome them with a round of applause.

I don't want to make a long speech as I would also like to watch the Nanta performance but before I go, I would like to thank a few special people. First of all, I really appreciate all those people who bought tickets for this event. In particular, Korean businessmen in Pakistan, my colleagues at the Korean embassy, my friends from the Diplomatic Corps and my Pakistani friends; all of you have contributed to make this event a success. I would also like to voice my appreciation for the staff of the Korean Embassy. I am proud of your work and effort, which has brought us success.

Finally, I would like to say special thanks to the CEO of Serena Islamabad, Mr. Aziz Boolani and World Vision Pakistan for their cooperation in making tonight's event possible.

Pakistan Korea Dosti Zindabad! Thank You!



H.E Dr. Song Jong-hwan Ambassador of the Republic of Korea to Pakistan hosted a Reception on the Occasion of Korea National Foundation and Armed Forces Day. Chief Guest was Mr. Mian Riaz Hussain Pirzada, Federal Minister for Inter-Provincial Coordination.



Speech by Dr. Song Jong-hwan

Excellency, Mr. Mian Riaz Hussain Pirzada, Federal Minister for Inter-Provincial Coordination,
Dean of the Diplomatic corps,
Excellency, Ambassador Rodolfo

Martin-Saravia, and other Colleagues from the Diplomatic Corps,
Senior officials, dear friends, Ladies and Gentlemen,



As-Salaam-o-Alaikum,

Today we are gathered to celebrate the National Foundation Day and the Armed Forces Day of the Republic of Korea. Korea's Foundation Day commemorates the establishment of the first ancient Korean Kingdom 4347 years ago. For Korean people, this day refreshes our appreciation of our nation, our memory of the achievements and sacrifices of our ancestors over thousands of years, and our sense of purpose for the future. The founder of the first Korean Kingdom gave us his founding philosophy, 'Hongik ingan', which means "Live and Work for the Benefit of All Mankind". This philosophy teaches us about helping each other, unity, and peaceful coexistence.

Even though Korea and Pakistan are far away geographically, there are many similarities between our countries and the attitudes of our people. We both give importance to hospitality and respect for elders. We also associate white clothes with honor. The Korean language and Urdu share similar grammar, sentence structure and many common words like "Abu-ji", "Amma" and "Ammi".

Diplomatic relations between our friendly countries date to 1983. The level of cooperation between Pakistan and Korea has been increasing steadily in many fields. 2014 is an especially important year. The Speaker of the Korean National Assembly visited Pakistan in January and the Prime Minister of Korea, Chung Hongwon in April. These were the first visits to Pakistan of such senior Korean officials and these high profile visits laid the foundations for the beginning of a new stage in our ties which promises greater friendship.

Cooperation and coordination between Korea and Pakistan is not only bilateral, but also very strong at international arena like United Nations where our two countries often support each other's stances on many issues.

Increasing Korean investment in Pakistan is bringing more and more Koreans to Pakistan every year and now we see that Lotte, Samsung, LG, Daewoo, Sambu, Hyundai and Daelim are becoming household names in Pakistan.

To increase the interaction and understanding between our people even more we are celebrating Korea Week from November 6th-10th. In fact, in our event last night, the Nanta Cultural Performance, we raised a substantial amount for IDPs and flood





victims and I would like to thank the generous people who made yesterday's fund raising event a success.

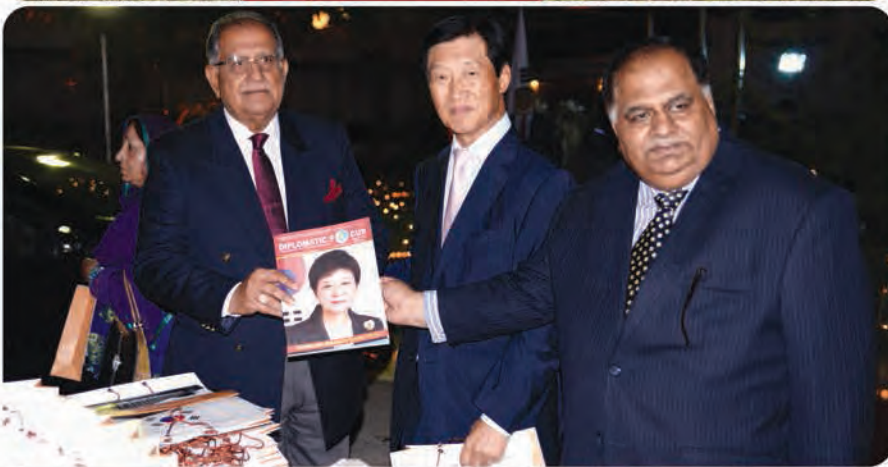
The Nanta cultural performance is a uniquely Korean art and I am sure that it will amaze you also, as we have arranged for a sample show a little later. The artists have come specially to Pakistan all the way from Korea to help Pakistan's flood victims and IDP so I hope you will welcome them warmly and appreciate them.

Also, I would like to appreciate Ms. Amna Aurangzeb. Amna is the young lady who has provided the Korean themed furniture for today's function. Her work is a great example of Pakistan-Korea fusion as it is inspired by traditional Korea and produced in Pakistan.

I am very grateful for the hospitality and the respect that I have received in Pakistan and I am very happy to be here, in my adopted home. It is my sincere wish that together we overcome all our challenges and that our friendship always grows stronger, helping each other in the spirit of 'Hongik ingan' initiated by the founder of the first Korean kingdom.

I have contributed many articles to Korean and Pakistani newspapers. The main theme of these articles is to highlight the great potential of Pakistan. I will continue to serve to the best of my abilities as the bridge between our great nations. Let's work together to improve the world! Pakistan Korea Dosti Zindabad! Thank You!







Traditional Cultural Performance

Speech by Dr. Song Jong-hwan on 2014.11.10 at PNCA

Excellencies,

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,
Good evening & As-Salaam-o-Alaikum,
I would like to thank you for joining us

Korean Foreign Minister Yun Byung-se.
On Friday, the 7th of November, we hosted the National Foundation Day and Armed Forces Day reception. At all these events, I was honored by the presence of many envoys of the diplomatic corps and senior Pakistani officials, including Excellencies:

8. Senator Talha Mahmood,
9. Senator Saeeda Iqbal,
10. Senator Tariq Azim,
11. Foreign Secretary Aizaz Ahmed Chaudhry and
12. Former PM of AJK, Barrister Sultan Mahmood,

In light of the rich history and culture of Korea, and the message of our founding philosophy 'Hongik ingan', which means "Live and Work for the Benefit of All Mankind", we arranged a very special show, the Nanta cultural performance.

This was greatly appreciated by the lively audience and in the spirit of helping other as taught to us by 'Hongik ingan', we raised 25 million rupees for flood victims and internally displaced people in Pakistan and donated it through World Vision in Pakistan. The CEO of Serena Hotel informed the audience that it was the first time that the tickets were sold out 3 days before the event,

To round off Korea week we have a very special traditional cultural performance for you. I hope you will appreciate the artists have especially come to Pakistan all the way from Korea for today's performance. Korea's traditional cultural performances are unique and special and in recent years there has been a lot of international interest in them. I am hopeful that you will enjoy this mesmerizing performance. Pakistan Korea Dosti Zindabad! Thank You!



today. Tonight is the final event of "Korea Week" to celebrate the growing links between Pakistan and Korea. I am happy to say Korea Week has been a great success. On the first day of Korea Week, the 6th of November, we held a seminar at Institute of Strategic Studies, Islamabad called "The Journey to Peace & Co-Prosperity: The United Nations, Pakistan and the Republic of Korea", a lunch for our special Pakistani friends and a Nanta performance. At the seminar we were delighted to receive encouragement messages from UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon and

1. Sartaj Aziz, Advisor to Prime Minister on Foreign Affairs,
2. Pervez Rashid, Minister for Information,
3. Rana Tanveer, Minister for Defense Production
4. Khurram Dastgir Khan, Minister for Commerce,
5. Riaz Hussain Pirzada, Minister for Interprovincial Coordination,
6. Mr. Sikandar Hayat Khan Bosan, Minister for National Food Security and Research
7. Senator Mushahid Hussain,



Yemen Awards Prestigious Distinctions To Dr. Ikhtiar Baig



Excellency Abd Rabbuh Mansur Hadi, President of Yemen. The prestigious national distinctions were awarded during an official ceremony in Karachi.

The festive event in Karachi was attended by Federal Minister for Textile Industry Senator, Sr. Minister for Education Sindh, Ambassador of Philippines, Consuls General of UK, Germany, Bahrain, Iran, Saudi Arabia, Thailand, Indonesia, Hon. Consul General of Morocco Ishtiaq Baig, Hon. Consul of Poland Omair Baig, President FPCCI and large number of Diplomats, Dignitaries, Parliamentarians, Yemeni students studying in Pakistan.

The Ambassador of Yemen conferred the award to Dr. Baig on behalf of the President and the Government of Republic of Yemen and acknowledge outstanding services of Dr. Baig rendered as Hon. Consul General of Yemen in Sindh enhancing the relationship in trade, investment, culture and education.

His Excellency Abdo Ali Abdul Rehman, Ambassador of Republic of Yemen in the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, officially conferred to Dr. Mirza Ikhtiar Baig, Honorary Consul General of Republic of Yemen in Karachi with prestigious National Award of Yemen "Order of Merit" in recognition of his outstanding services to the Republic of Yemen, as sign of appreciation of His

Dr. Baig thanked the President H.E. Abd Rabbuh Mansur Hadi, Prime Minister of Yemen Mohammed Basindawa, Foreign Minister Abu-Bakr Al Qirbi & Ambassador of Yemen for their confidence on him and recognizing his services with this prestigious award which is indeed a great honor for him, his family and Pakistan. Mr. Baig said that "I am truly thankful to the Ambassador of Yemen H.E. Abdo Ali Abdul



Rehman for coming from Islamabad to make the ceremony more meaningful.

Secondly I am thankful to Allah Almighty and then the President of Republic of Yemen His Excellency Mr. Abdo Rabo Mansoor Al-Hadi and Govt. of Yemen for honouring me with this prestigious Award. Indeed it's a great honour for me and my family. I am truly touched with the kind words expressed by His Excellency Ambassador of Yemen about me and my contribution. Indeed it is His Excellency's guidance and support that we achieve such impressive results. I am very happy to share with you that since my taking over as Honorary Consul General of Yemen in Sindh, the trade between Pakistan and Yemen has been doubled.

Pakistan Oil & Gas companies are investing in Yemen including OGDCL and PPL who acquired some blocks in Yemen for oil exploration.

On behalf of the people of Pakistan, I extend our heartfelt felicitation to the President of Republic of Yemen H.E. Abd Rabbuh Mansur Al-Hadi, Prime Minister H.E. Mohammed Basindawa, Foreign Minister H.E. Dr. Abu Baker Abdulla Al-Qirbi on this joyous occasion and pray Allah Almighty that the country to further prosper under their dynamic leadership.

Pakistan Yemen friendship Zindabad.....!



Man of Success: Dr. Mirza Ikhtiar Baig

Hon. Consul General The Republic of Yemen, Dean Consular Corps-Sindh Karachi, Director, World Federation of Consuls (FICCA)

Dr. Mirza Ikhtiar Baig, Chairman & C.E.O. Baig Group of Industries, a

multinational conglomerate engaged in diversified industrial and commercial activities in

Pakistan, U.A.E. and Morocco. Baig Group has total work force of 3,000 people and the group's annual turnover in Pakistan is over US\$ 50 million. Mr. Baig did his MBA in Corporate Finance and Marketing and Doctorate in Business Administration from USA. His empirical thesis "Revival of Sick Industry can Catapult the Economic Growth of Pakistan"

has been accepted as an official document by the Government of Pakistan. He is a businessman par-excellence represents a rich background of international exposure to the realms of Finance and Marketing. As a high profile industrialist in Pakistan and abroad, he has rendered invaluable contribution in attracting foreign investment



Dr. Mirza Ikhtiar Baig receiving Special Merit Export Award-2013 from the Prime Minister of Pakistan Muhammad Nawaz Sharif



Dr. Mirza Ikhtiar Baig receiving Special Merit Export Award-1998-99 from the Prime Minister of Pakistan Muhammad Nawaz Sharif



Dr. Mirza Ikhtiar Baig receiving Gold Medal-2007 from the Federation of Pakistan Chamber of Commerce & Industry (FPCCI) conferred by the Prime Minister of Pakistan, Syed Yousuf Raza Gillani, for contributing to the National Economy



Prime Minister of Pakistan Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani launching Shih Rug Part II written By Dr. Mirza Ikhtiar Baig on 16th Nov. 2008



Dr. Mirza Ikhtiar Baig receiving SITE Association Award-1994 on foreign investment and revival of sick industry in Pakistan by Prime Minister of Pakistan Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto



Dr. Mirza Ikhtiar Baig receiving Businessman of the Year Gold Medal-2006 from the Federation of Pakistan Chamber of Commerce & Industry Conferred by the President of Pakistan, Gen. Pervez Musharraf, on meritorious Services in the field of Banking and Finance



Dr. Mirza Ikhtiar Baig receiving Special Merit Export Award- 1999-2000 from the President of Pakistan Gen. Pervez Musharraf.



Dr. Mirza Ikhtiar Baig receiving Special Merit Export Award- 2010-11 from the President of Pakistan Asif Ali Zardari



and in revival of sick industries in Pakistan. In recognition of his intrinsic worth, he was conferred prestigious awards by the Prime Ministers and the Presidents of Pakistan. Dr. Baig was awarded gold medal from the President of Pakistan Gen Pervaiz Musharraf in recognition of his meritorious services in the field of banking and Finance. On his contribution to national economy, the President of Pakistan has conferred him Civil Award Tamgha-e-Imtiaz 2008. He has been appointed Advisor to Government of Pakistan, Ministry of Textile Industries, Islamabad.

On the request of Government of Yemen the Prime Minister and the President of Pakistan have appointed Dr. Ikhtiar Baig the Honorary Consul General of Republic of Yemen in Sindh, Pakistan. Dr. Baig has been recently elected Dean Consular Corp Sindh, Karachi at the World Federation of

Consuls meeting in Accra, Ghana. He headed as Chairman SITE Association of Industry, the largest and oldest industrial estate of Pakistan. Dr. Baig is life and MC member FPCCI and Chairman Standing Committee on Banking, Credit and Finance and Direct Taxes. He is also group head Budget Committee of FPCCI. He has been elected Chairman Pak-UAE Business Council FPCCI for 2008-09.

He has been elected as Chairman Commonwealth Society of Pakistan affiliated with Royal Commonwealth Society U.K. He is also Chairman Think Tank of 21st Century Business & Economic Club. He is a Rotarian and the Charter President of Rotary Club of Karachi Universal. Dr. Baig as Chairman & CEO Pak Denim received Special Merit Trophy Award consecutively for the last nine years from the heads of the state of Pakistan on best Export Performance of Denim. Dr. Baig has been nominated by Prime Minister of Pakistan on the Board of Directors, Pakistan Textile City Ltd., Karachi.

Dr. Baig is an eminent Economist and an author of books 'Shah Rag-I & II' on the current national and international economic issues, launched by the honourable Prime Minister of Pakistan, Dr. Baig regularly writes articles in magazines and Dailies of Pakistan. He has been awarded prestigious Certificate of Achievement by the international



Dr. Mirza Ikhtiar Baig, President Consular Corps Sindh with H.H Crown Prince Alexander and H.H Princess Katherine at the Royal Palace, Belgrade Serbia.



Dr. Mirza Ikhtiar Baig, Federal Advisor Textile, Government of Pakistan and Director World Federation of Consuls with H.E. Benigno S. Aquino III< President of the Republic of Philippine after his meeting at Malacan Palace, Manila.



Dr. Mirza Ikhtiar Baig receiving Special Merit Export Award- 2011-12 from the President of Pakistan Asif Ali Zardari



Governor Punjab Ch. Muhammad Sarwar at the Launch of Dr. Baig's forth book "Pakistan Aur Muashi Haqqaiq" also seen Chief Secretary Sindh Sajjad Hotiana and Consul General of USA Michael Dodman

renowned magazine, 'The Economics' on account of "Forms opinions and voices them, gives advice and takes it, answers questions and questions answers, makes decisions and follows them". Dr. Baig was selected to participate in National Security Workshop 7 at National Defence University Islamabad from 15th August to 23rd September 2006 and as Shadow Minister for Finance & Economic Affairs presented 'Economic Policy' & 'Crisis Report on Flood Situation in Pakistan'. Dr. Baig is life and MC member FPCCI for the year 20078-08 and Chairman Standing Committee on Banking, Credit and Finance. He is also Group Head Budget Committee FPCCI. His wife Ms. Noreen Baig is the Hon. Consul of Jamaica. She is a dynamic personality woman. She is the former member of Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry Standing Committee on Women entrepreneur. She specialized in organizing international trade fairs, exhibitions and exchange of delegation between host country and other countries. Ms. Noreen Baig received Special Merit Award from Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry on Highest export of Denim. She also received Businesswoman of the year by Pak-Dubai Business Council. Along with business activities, she involved herself in social work and she is the Coordinator Make-A-Wish Foundation Pakistan. She has a long list of achievements which may not possible to give in a thru. His brother Mirza Ishtiaq Baig is the Hon. Consol of Morocco and his son Mr. Mirza Omair Baig is also the Hon. Consul of Republic of Poland. Mr. Mirza Omair Baig is the CEO of Lucky Cotton Mills Ltd and Executive Director of Baig Group. Mr. Omair is a young professional with an international academic background from renowned foreign institutions. Mr. Omair Baig is the Vice Chairman of FPCCI Standing Committee on Diplomatic Affaires. These achievements show that Baig Family is the symbol of success.



Dr. Mirza Ikhtiar Baig receiving SITE Association Award 2005, from Prime Minister of Pakistan Shaukat Aziz on outstanding performance as Business Leader.



Dr. Mirza Ikhtiar Baig Chairman Baig Group receiving 100 Performing CEOs and Leaders of Pakistan Award from Sajjad Saleem Hotiana, Chief Secretary Sindh Organized by 21st Century Business & Economic Club.



Profile of **DR. MIRZA IKHTIAR BAIG,** T.I. & Order of Merit

Dr. Mirza Ikhtiar Baig is a renowned industrialist and Chairman of Baig Group, a multinational conglomerate operating in diversified fields in Pakistan, UAE and Morocco for the last 30 years. He has done his Masters in Marketing and Doctorate in Business Administration from USA. He is a businessman par-excellence and represents rich background of international exposure to the realms of banking and finance.

Dr. Baig is the author of many books; 'Sheh Rug-Part I', Part II, 'Muashi Haqqaiq Aur Pakistan' 'Pakistan Aur Muaishat' and 'Pakistan Ko Darpesh Muashi Challenges' on the current national, international economic issues. He regularly writes economic columns in the leading newspapers and appears on TV channels as Panelist, his expert views are given importance by the policy makers. Dr. Baig has been awarded the 'Certificate of Achievement' by the international renowned magazine, 'Economist'.

The President of Pakistan has conferred Dr. Baig the prestigious Civil Award 'Tamgha-e-Imtiaz' in recognition of his contribution to the national economy.

Dr. Ikhtiar Baig is also a diplomat being Honorary Consul General of Republic of Yemen, and President Hon. Consular Corps, Sindh Karachi. He has been elected on the Board of World Federation of Consuls (FICAC). The President of Yemen has recently awarded the prestigious Civil Award 'Order of Merit' to Dr. Baig in recognition of his contribution to enhance bilateral trade and investment between Yemen and Pakistan. He is also the Hon. Secretary General of Make-A-Wish Foundation Pakistan, an NGO granting wishes of the terminally ill children.

Dr. Baig was appointed Advisor to the Prime Minister on Textile, Government of Pakistan and was instrumental for the formulation of 1st National Textile Policy 2009-14. He presented revised criteria to EU to get GSP Plus duty free status for Pakistan. He has been nominated on the Prime Minister Business Persons Council (BPC), a think-tank on national economic policies. Dr. Baig is also heading think tank of 21st Century, Business and Economic Club. He is the current Chairman of Pakistan Textile City project.

Dr. Baig is the recipient of various awards including gold medals from the President of Pakistan in recognition of his meritorious services in the field of banking and finance. He is also the proud recipient of FPCCI Special Export Merit Trophy Award from President and Prime Minister of Pakistan for the last 16th consecutive years. Dr. Baig has been awarded 100 Business Leaders Entrepreneurs & Difference Makers of Pakistan by the CEO Club Pakistan for the last three consecutive years.



Two successful Business partners, true friends and real brothers, Mirza Ikhtiar Baig and Mirza Ishtiaq Baig

A young business Tycoon

Mr. Mirza Omair Baig, Hon. Consul Gen. of Republic of Poland to Karachi



Mr. Mirza Omair Baig, Honorary Consul of Poland in Karachi was in close contact with Mr. Zulfikar, Commercial Consular of Pakistani Embassy in Warsaw and helped facilitate and gave full VIP protocol to the visiting delegation of Polish Businessmen upon the visit of President of Polish Chamber of Commerce to Karachi during EXPO 2013. This was the largest Polish Delegation to ever visit Pakistan. Hon Consul catered to the visiting delegation during their trip to Karachi, during which an MOU was signed with FPCCI (Federation of Pakistan Chamber of Commerce and Industry) to enhance bilateral trade between the two countries and also KCCI (Karachi Chamber of Commerce and Industry). During the visit, a dinner was also hosted by Governor of Sindh which was attended by many senior Federal and Provincial Ministers along with the business community.

In follow up to the Polish Businessmen Delegation to Pakistan, Mr. Baig, Hon. Consul, encouraged FPCCI to take a high powered business delegation to Poland to meet Polish Businessmen upon their visit to Europe for a B2B conference in May 2014. Upon constant follow up with the President & Members of Managing Committee of FPCCI (Federation of Pakistan Chamber of Commerce and Industry) a large Pakistani business delegation will be visiting Poland and meetings have been lined up with Polish Chamber of Commerce. Mr Baig, Hon Consul has been invited to come on the delegation with as Hon. Consul of Poland in Karachi and also as a businessman.

Mr. Baig, Hon. Consul of Poland to Karachi was awarded 'Medal of Honor', by the President of World Federation of Consuls (FICAC) Honorable Arnold Foote, in recognition to his services in the diplomatic field at FICAC Regional Conference in Bali, Indonesia 2013.





Mr. Mian Fazal Elahi, CEO RBI Media Mind

(Print & Electronic Production house), Editor/Publisher of "Diplomatic Focus" hosted a Dinner Reception in the honor of Mr. Sarmad Ali (Jang Group) Secretary General of APNS, Member of executive committee of APNS

Mr. Lee Chang-hee, Consul General Karachi office the Republic of Korea, Germany and Thailand, Dr. Mirza Ikhtiar Baig, Chairman & C.E.O, of Baig Group of Industries, Hon. Consul General The Republic of Yemen, Dean Consular Corps-Sindh Karachi, Director, World Federation of Consuls (FICCA), renowned Citizens from Karachi also attend the auspicious reception at Marriott Hotel Karachi



**Mr. Mian Fazal Elahi, CEO RBI Media Mind
(Print & Electronic Production house), Editor/Publisher of "Diplomatic Focus"
hosted a Dinner Reception in the honor of Mr. Sarmad Ali (Jang Group)
Secretary General of APNS, Member of executive committee of APNS**





President Mamnoon Hussain and Afghan President Dr. Mohammad Ashraf Ghani exchanging views during their meeting at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

Ashraf Ghani Pakistan's visit: A new chapter in Pak-Afghan relations

Afghanistan's newly-elected President Ashraf Ghani visited Pakistan on 14th of November to discuss bilateral ties and the security situation.

He was received at the Nur Khan Airbase by Prime Minister's Adviser on National Security and Foreign Affairs, Sartaj Aziz

A thirty member delegation including

cabinet ministers, high-ranking officials and business representatives accompanied President Ghani during his two-day visit.

President Ghani met with the Pakistani President Manoon Hussain, Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif and Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Raheel Sharif during his visit.

Various issues relating to the border security, economics, trade and Afghan-Pakistani co-operation on peace efforts and defeating terrorism came under discussion during the meetings with the top leadership.

It was Ghani's first Pakistan's visit after recent high-level trips by Pakistani officials to Kabul, including Pakistan national security and foreign affairs adviser Sartaj Aziz, Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Raheel Sharif and the new head of the Inter-Services Intelligence agency, Lt Gen Rizwan Akhtar.

Relations between Islamabad and Kabul warmed when Afghanistan and Pakistan agreed November 15 to push their ties in to a comprehensive political, security and economic partnership.

During the visit, Afghan president seemed pursuing peace and re-construction



President of Afghanistan Dr. Mohammad Ashraf Ghani Ahmadzai addressing Pak-Afghan Trade-Investment Forum in Islamabad. Commerce Minister Khurram Dastgir, Finance Minister Mohammad Ishaq Dar, Advisor to the Prime Minister on National Security & Foreign Affairs Mr. Sartaj Aziz and Afghan Finance Mustafa Zakhilwal are seen on the stage.



Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif shaking hands with President of Afghanistan Ashraf Ghani at the PM's House, Islamabad.



Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif in a meeting with President of Afghanistan Ashraf Ghani at the PM's House, Islamabad.

agenda.

On the first day of his two-day tour of Pakistan, Ghani met President Mamnoon Hussain at Aiwan-e-Sadar. Mamnoon Hussain, during the meeting, reiterated Pakistan's support for a peaceful, stable and prosperous Afghanistan, and said that they fully support the new Afghan leadership's vision for a prosperous Afghanistan.

According to the president's press secretary Saba Mohsin Raza, the meeting was held in a very cordial atmosphere and the two presidents discussed multiple issues ranging from the common challenges to further strengthening economic, trade and people to people contacts for the mutual benefit of the people of the two countries.

Hussain reiterated Pakistan's commitment to providing assistance in training and capacity building of the Afghan security forces, adding that peace and stability in Afghanistan were in Pakistan's interest.

Ghani said that his government and the people of Afghanistan desire to further strengthen bilateral relations with Pakistan in all areas of mutual interest.

Later, President Hussain also hosted dinner

in honour of his Afghan counterpart at Aiwan-e-Sadr which was attended by federal ministers, services chiefs, parliamentarians, ambassadors, business representatives and senior government officials.

On arrival at the GHQ, Gen Raheel received Ghani. A smartly turned out contingent of Pakistan Army also presented him with a guard of honour. Ghani also laid a floral wreath at the Shuhada Monument and offered Fateha.



The highlight of the trip was Ghani's visit to General Head Quarters (GHQ), where he pledged that his country would extend all possible co-operations to curb terrorism.

A visit to the Pakistani army headquarters by a head of state is rare, symbolizing the importance both countries put on security co-operation. During the visit, Pakistani military leaders and security officials



Afghan President Dr. Mohammad Ashraf Ghani Ahmadzai being presented flower bouquet upon his arrival at Islamabad Airport.



Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif and President of Afghanistan Ashraf Ghani taking salute at the PM's House, Islamabad.



President of Afghanistan Mr. Ashraf Ghani reviewing Guard of Honour at the PM's House, Islamabad.



Finance Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar and Advisor to the Prime Minister on National Security and Foreign Affairs Mr. Sartaj Aziz in a meeting with President of Afghanistan Dr. Mohammad Ashraf Ghani Ahmadzai in Islamabad.

briefed Ghani on the security situation along the Afghan-Pakistani border, according to Inter Services Public Relations.

Ghani, at the briefing, said that Afghanistan wanted to bolster security and defence ties with Pakistan, including co-operation in training and border management. He also lauded Pakistan's efforts to fight terrorism and hailed sacrifices rendered by the nation.

Attendees included Sartaj Aziz, the adviser to the prime minister on national security and foreign affairs; Foreign Secretary Aizaz Ahmed Chaudhry; Army Chief Gen. Raheel Sharif; Defence Secretary Lt. Gen. (ret.) Alam Khattak; and Lt. Gen. Rizwan Akhtar, director general of Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI).

Afghan Defence Minister Gen Bismillah Muhammadi, Afghan Chief of General Staff General Sher Muhammad were among those representing Afghanistan.

President Ghani, at the second day of his visit, held meeting with Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif at PM House. Looking to overcome years of mistrust and acrimony between their countries, Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif and Afghan President Ashraf Ghani vowed to jointly tackle terrorism and begin a new era of economic cooperation.

Ghani, at a joint press conference with Pakistani Prime Minister Mian Muhammad Nawaz Sharif after the talks, said that the adaption of practical steps would improve the bilateral relations of the two countries. He also described his country's partnership with Pakistan as a pillar of Afghanistan's foreign policy and added that the historical occasion would mend ties.

He further said that the two countries were on the same page for elimination of poverty and underdevelopment, as people

of both countries desire peace, stability and security.

Nawaz Sharif, on the occasion, agreed and said the two countries had difficult challenges, including terrorism, which could be resolved only through collective co-operation. Nawaz Sharif added that Pakistan's leading priority was to build a peaceful neighborhood. He highlighted Pakistan's support for the Afghan reconciliation process, which should be fully Afghan-led and Afghan owned.

He also reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to upgrading co-operation in border security, defence and Afghan reconstruction, declaring Pakistan "a



second home" for Ghani.

The prime minister said a peaceful, stable, united and prosperous Afghanistan was in Pakistan's vital national interest. "I also reaffirm Pakistan's support for an intra-Afghan reconciliation process that the new government is initiating. This process, we agreed, must be fully Afghan led and Afghan owned".

Ghani also interacted with Pakistani business leaders and shared his vision for a mutual economic dependence.

During trade talks, the two countries decided to increase bilateral trade volume

to US \$5 billion (290 trillion AFN) from the current \$2.5 billion (145 trillion AFN) by 2018.

Ghani, while talking to the businessmen, said that the mutual co-operation could lead to a higher rate of economic growth, which would lift thousands of people out of poverty, adding that "alone they can strive, but together they can thrive".

Another interesting and pleasant thing that occurred, on the occasion of Ghani's visit, was a cricket match between Pakistan and Afghanistan 'A' teams. As we know that Afghan people are diehard fans of cricket and their team has also made great achievements in the fields despite a young in terms of time since playing. Besides, the Afghan national cricket team have got zeal, sporting spirit and passion for the game. They have won against teams older than them in the field of cricket. Their cricket team could get fast progress if play more matches in the international circuit. Therefore, the cricket diplomacy is very good and successful.

During the match, players of both the teams looked charged and the atmosphere was joyful with the DJ system playing Pashtu and Urdu songs. The atmosphere at the ground was also pleasant and warm with the presence of Chief Guest Ashraf Ghani and Host Nawaz Sharif. Among others present at the stadium were delegation with President Ghani, members of Nawaz Sharif's cabinet and other Pakistani officials.

Overall, the visit was a success and had gone very well. Both the countries have got an important and precious opportunity by having a very pleasant atmosphere. Now, the need is to cash it by confidence building by both sides.

It is good to proceed without keeping security upfront and integrated with other facets of the relations but it is equally important to ensure that steps are taken to enhance security in order for the rest to become more meaningful.

Analysts have said that this is the opportunity where Ghani's visit can mark new chapter in Afghan-Pakistan relations.

If the both the countries bury the hatchet, the chances of increased stability in the region would increase dramatically.

It has been a long time since Pakistan's diplomats and politicians have truly looked forward to a visit from the president of Afghanistan. So the visit of Ashraf Ghani is a sign of optimism.

Most of the analysts are of the view that this is the opportunity where both the countries can forget the hatchet and move forward in the best interest of their nations.

Moreover, Pakistan and Afghanistan are

both faced with a fundamental new reality as the US withdraws troops from the region. Islamabad and Kabul now realize that regional countries will have to largely fend for themselves.

The peaceful transition to the unity government in Afghanistan after the elections this year has provided the two countries a unique opportunity to move forward leaving behind the legacy of mutual distrust.

Pakistan took the first steps to rebuild the frayed ties by sending President Mamnoon Hussain to the oath-taking ceremony of President Ghani. This was followed by visits by Adviser on Foreign Affairs and National Security Sartaj Aziz and Army Chief Gen Raheel Sharif.

Besides, Pakistan and Afghanistan have agreed to promote bilateral cooperation in economic and trade relations for the benefit of the two countries.

The agreement came during a meeting between Ghani and Finance Minister Ishaq Dar and Adviser to Prime Minister on National Security and Foreign Affairs Sartaj Aziz in Islamabad.

Speaking on the occasion, Aziz said Pakistan accords great significance to its relations with Afghanistan. No doubt, the economic prosperity can be a major factor in changing the fate of the region.

Officials on both sides have also expressed their hope that this visit will provide a fresh start.

Both the countries should pay more and more attention to the economic and trade relations. Good, brotherly and positive relations are a key not only to the prosperity of both the neighboring countries but for the entire region.



Finance Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar and Adviser to the Prime Minister on National Security and Foreign Affairs Mr. Sartaj Aziz in a meeting with President of Afghanistan Dr. Mohammad Ashraf Ghani Ahmadzai in Islamabad.



Finance Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar and Adviser to the Prime Minister on National Security and Foreign Affairs Mr. Sartaj Aziz in a meeting with President of Afghanistan Dr. Mohammad Ashraf Ghani Ahmadzai in Islamabad.



A group photo of Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif and President of Afghanistan, Mr. Ashraf Ghani with players after an exhibition cricket match between the A team of Pakistan and Afghanistan in Islamabad.

President of Pakistan H.E.Mamnoon Hussain

meeting with Dean of the Diplomatic Corps (Ambassador of Argentina) H.E. Mr. Rodolfo Martin Saravia, and Regional Deans H.E Mr. Bakhitbek Shabarbayeu Ambassador of Kazakhstan , H.E Mr. Mohamed Ebrahim Mohamed Abdul Qader Ambassador Bahrain, Dean of Arab Countries, H.E Mr. Petros Mavroidis Regional Dean of European Countries & Ambassador of Greece, H.E Mr. Air Chief Marshal, Jyalath Weerakkody High Commissioner of Sri Lanka , Peter Heyward High Commissioner of Australia, H.E Mr. Tomwit Johnson Ambassador of Thailand, and Secretary General of Karachi Council on Foreign Relations Mr. Ahsan Mukhtar Zubairi also present.



Muslim Ummah



Should Work In Unison:

By M. Saeed Yousafzai

President Mamnoon Hussain

A lunch hosted by International Islamic University (IIU) in the honour of ambassadors of Islamic countries in Pakistan

President Mamnoon Hussain emphasized that the Muslim Ummah should work in unison by undertaking concerted initiatives for advancing universal modern science and technical education in their respective countries for human resource development and to excel in the affairs of the world. The President stated that the Muslim countries are endowed with rich natural resources which can be best utilized by a skilled human force to the

benefits of the people of Muslim countries. The President said this during a lunch hosted by International Islamic University (IIU) in the honour of ambassadors of Islamic countries in Pakistan at Aiwan-e-Sadr. The President appreciated the educational contributions of International Islamic University in advancing the Ummah's ideological, moral, intellectual and economic development in accordance with the values and norms of Islam. The President also lauded the role of

the University in imparting quality education not only in the varied Islamic subjects but also in the modern disciplines. Baleegh-ur-Rehman, Minister of State for Federal Education and Professional Training, Ambassadors of Islamic countries, Members of the Board of Trustees and Board of Governors, International Islamic University, and senior officials of President Secretariat were also present on the occasion.





NAB

is committed for

Corruption Free Pakistan



By Muhammad Daud Khan

The National Accountability Bureau is Pakistan's apex anti-corruption organization. It is charged with the responsibility of elimination of corruption through a holistic approach of awareness, prevention and enforcement. It operates under the National Accountability Ordinance-1999. NAB has its headquarter at Islamabad. NAB takes cognizance of all offences falling within the National Accountability Ordinance (NAO). According to sources, Chairman NAB Mr. Qamar Zaman Chaudhry has stressed upon the officers of NAB (KPK) to actively pursue important corruption cases adding that beside enforcement, our main focus is on awareness and prevention aspects of NAB strategy to control corruption with help of civil society.

The performance of National Accountability Bureau (NAB) during the last one year from October 2013 to October 2014 was very impressive. NAB has recovered Rs 4 billion during the last one year, this scribe has learnt.

According to the sources, during the last one year from October 2013 to October 2014, NAB under the leadership its dynamic Chairman Qamar Zaman Chaudhry has recovered 3.93 billion rupees, received 19,816 complaints, authorized 767 inquiries, 276 cases were converted into investigations and 152 references were filed in the Accountability Court. The figures of complaints, inquiries and investigations are almost double as



Chairman, National Accountability Bureau(NAB), Mr. Qamar Zaman Chaudhry presents annual performance report of NAB for the years 2013 to President Mamnoon Hussain at the Aiwan-e-Sadr.

compared to the same period of October 2012 to September 2013 with 10,414 complaints, 276 inquiries, 84 investigations and 138 references respectively.

The comparative figures for the latest two years are indicative of the hard work being put in by all ranks of NAB staff in an atmosphere of renewed energy and

dynamism, where fight against corruption is being taken as a national duty. Increase in the number of complaints also reflects enhanced public trusted in the NAB. The PILDAT report for the last year also supports the position stated above as 42% people trusted NAB against 30 % for police and 29 % for government officials.



NAB has been rejuvenated in the past year and efforts are going in to make it a more credible and efficient anti-corruption organization. The Enforcement efforts in the shape of complaint verifications (CVs), inquiries and investigations have shown a marked improvement. The concept of Combined Investigation Teams (CITs) comprising of at least two IOs, a legal consultant and a Case Officer (Additional Director) along-with other experts from the relevant required field, has been strengthened. This helps in a team work concept and leaves no room for discretion. The HQs Operations Division analysis monitors the Regional CIT reports before presenting the same to the Executive Board Meeting (EBM).

The Prosecution Division has been allocated additional manpower in the shape of hiring competent law officers, based on market salaries and a fair and transparent hiring process. The conviction rate target has been increased from 65% to 75%. Regional DGs and Deputy Prosecutor Generals Accountability (DPGAs) have been given clear directions in the matter.

The methodology, approved in the 19th DGs conference, is based upon the principles of Prevention, Enforcement and Prosecution (PEP). The Awareness and Prevention (A&P) Division of NAB has been strengthened to deal with the menace of corruption in a holistic manner. A&P Division has been beefed up at the Headquarters and Regional levels. Over 4000 Character Building Societies (CBSs) have been established in the country in universities, colleges and schools during the last one year to create awareness against corruption. Youths are considered a vanguard in this fight.

To improve institutional working in the NAB and to employ uniform working practices throughout the Regions,

Standard Operating Procedures (SoPs) have been prepared after a comprehensive consultative process. Chairman NAB had directed to prepare these SoPs in order to fill in knowledge gaps, bring uniformity and standardization in NABs work across the country and to improve self discipline and better planning and management.

The incumbent NAB leadership has resolved to do across the board accountability in an objective and impartial manner. Inquiries and investigations have been initiated against all those against whom credible and corroborative evidence

is available without any political or personal malice. A number of high profile cases involving personalities, the political, bureaucratic and business fields have been instituted in the Courts. Appeals haven been filed in cases where NAB prosecution opined to pursue these at higher forums without any distinction of rank and status.

The NAB is committed to carry out its cause and mandate of rooting out corruption and corrupt practices from the country without any influence, stress or pressure.

By Diplomatic Focus



US

Reaction on Ghani Visit

Time ripe for Pakistan, Afghanistan to reset ties: US ambassador

By: Monitoring Desk



Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif greeting President of Afghanistan Ashraf Ghani at the PM's House, Islamabad.

Speaking ahead of newly-elected Afghan President Ashraf Ghani's first official visit to Islamabad, Richard Olson praised confidence building measures by both sides, including Operation Zarb-e-Azb. "I think there is quite genuinely a basis for a new relationship between Afghanistan and Pakistan. Both sides are aware of this historical moment and making efforts to seize it," he said in a speech at the National University of Sciences and Technology in Islamabad. "Also I would say the actions of the Pakistan Army in clearing the North Waziristan agency is a very important step in all of this," he added, referring to the military offensive which began in June. Pakistan was one of three countries to recognise the hardline

Taliban regime that ruled Kabul from 1996 until 2001 when it was deposed by a US-led international military coalition. The government of former Afghan president Hamid Karzai routinely accused Pakistan of continuing to aid the Taliban in their insurgency in order to destabilise his country, a charge Islamabad denies. Tensions are also often stoked by cross-border shelling, but Olson praised Pakistan's recent "restraint" and its efforts to secure the border during the Afghan elections.

In an interview with AFP in April, Ghani said rapprochement with Pakistan — along the lines of France and Germany after World War II — would be key to ending instability in his conflict-torn nation. Ghani was sworn into office in September while his main rival Abdullah Abdullah became the country's CEO, ending a protracted election process marred by fraud allegations.

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif won power in last year's general elections that marked the country's first ever democratic transition, but has since seen his mandate challenged by opposition groups who allege vote rigging. A protest movement started by the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf outside Parliament that began in August triggered fears the military could intervene as it has in the past, a move Olson said the US would not back. "We're supporters of the rule of law, democracy and the constitution and oppose any kind of extra-constitutional action," he said.

Courtesy: The Express Tribune

Pakistan and Afghanistan have a historic opportunity to reset long-fraught ties following the election of democratic governments in both countries, the United States' Richard Olson US Ambassador



Telephonic talk: PM Nawaz, President Obama discuss Pak-US ties

President of the United States, Barack Obama telephoned Prime Minister Mian Muhammad Nawaz Sharif and exchanged views on the regional situation. Both the dignitaries also discussed matters of the mutual interest. Obama said that the US wanted to see Pak-

India relations as cordial and prosperous. President Obama said the Pakistan government was pursuing right economic path and successfully overcoming the challenges. PM Nawaz, while talking to President Obama, who telephoned the prime minister to inform him of his forthcoming visit to India, urged President Barack Obama to take up the cause of Kashmir with the Indian leadership during his forthcoming New Delhi tour. The prime minister said a solution to Kashmir issue would bring enduring peace, stability and economic cooperation to Asia. PM Sharif referred to his visit to India earlier this year, which was aimed at taking Pakistan-India relations forward. He said subsequent unfortunate steps on India's part, including cancellation of Foreign Secretary-level talks and unprovoked firing across the Line of Control and Working Boundary, indicated that India was averse to normalisation of relations with Pakistan.

The prime minister said while Pakistan remains open to resumption of bilateral dialogue, the onus lies on India to create conducive environment. President Obama expressed his understanding of Pakistan's position. The Prime Minister expressed satisfaction at the direction of Pakistan-US relations, which are on an upward trajectory. President Obama noted that Pakistan-US relations are strong and robust. He was pleased to see that Pakistan Government is pursuing right economic path and successfully overcoming the challenges. President Obama also assured that he would undertake a visit to Pakistan at an early date. Discussing the regional situation, the prime minister referred to the improvement of Pakistan-Afghanistan relations, as manifested in President Ashraf Ghani's recent visit to Islamabad. The two leaders agreed to stay engaged to further strengthen Pakistan-US relations in their common desire to promote peace and prosperity in South Asia.

President Obama assured that he would undertake a visit to Pakistan at an early date.

A solution to Kashmir issue would bring enduring peace, stability and economic cooperation to Asia. PM

By Mian Fazal Elahi



Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif being received by Chinese President Xi Jinping at the Dialogue on Strengthening Connectivity Partnership in Beijing.

PM Nawaz Much Needed & Fruitful Visit To China

That was generally a bad news for Pakistan when it was officially announced by Pakistan and China that both the countries had agreed to postpone the Chinese President H.E. Xi Jinping's visit, scheduled to Pakistan during the month of September this year, because of political situation in the country. But it does not mean that there was any difference of opinion as it was very clear that both Pakistan and China are time tested friends. Obviously the visit of Chinese President would be rescheduled as Chinese officials signaled. According to a statement, the foreign ministry spokesperson Qin Gang had said that in view of the current political situation in Pakistan, both the governments had mutually agreed to postpone the visit. Gang had added that China and Pakistan had been maintaining communication for some time on President Xi Jinping's state visit to Pakistan in mid-September and had



Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif shaking hand with Chinese Premier Li Ke Qiang at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, China.



Chief Minister Punjab Muhammad Shahbaz Sharif shaking hands with Chinese President Xi Jinping at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, China.



Chief Minister Punjab Muhammad Shahbaz Sharif shaking hands with Chinese Premier Li Ke Qiang at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, China.

made productive preparations for the visit. The statement had further stated that new dates for President Xi Jinping's visit to Pakistan, at an early date, were being finalized through diplomatic channels. The government, obviously, was very upset with the postponement of the visit and

Chief Minister Shahbaz Sharif, Federal Ministers Khawaja Muhammad Asif, Shahid Khaqan Abbasi and Ahsan Iqbal, and Prime Minister's Special Assistant on Foreign Affairs Tariq Fatemi etc. Prior the visit, the analysts had termed the PM's visit to China as vital. Most of the analysts had said that the two countries would sign agreements for cooperation in various fields that could be helpful in the economic uplift of the country. Professor, National Defense University Dr. Muhammad Khan had said that the bilateral relationship of Pakistan and China had great significance. He had said that several agreements including fourteen energy projects that both the countries were going to sign were very important for the development and prosperity of Pakistan. DR Muhammad Khan had also added that the economic corridor was very important for Pakistan and it was the greatest opportunity to enhance trade. Advisor to Prime Minister on Foreign Affairs Sartaj Aziz had said that the PM's visit to China was very important. He had also said that there was a chance of seeking more investment from the countries participating in Asia-Pacific Conference adding that the national economy was on right track and these agreements would be helpful for the

country's development.

Analyst Dr. Huma Baqai had said that the visit of Prime Minister was very important adding that the PM was also attending the Asia-Pacific Conference as head of observer country. The agreements with China will give confidence to the



Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif being presented a bouquet upon his arrival at the Beijing International Airport, China.

held the protestors responsible for all this. Some of the federal ministers took on the protestors and blamed them for the postponement of the much awaited and important visit of the Chinese President. Federal Minister for Planning and Development Ahsan Iqbal had said that the prevailing political crisis that has engulfed the nation's capital since August 14 has made Pakistan "a laughing stock". However, protest leaders Tahirul Qadri and Imran Khan had laid the blame for the postponement on the government. However, as it is said that each night has its dawn and every winter is followed by spring. So, the opportunity came and Prime Minister cashed it by visiting China where he represented Pakistan at Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Forum as observer and signed MoUs of billions of dollars and further strengthened the bilateral relations with the best friend in the neighborhood. Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif had left for China on a three-day official visit. The PM was accompanied by ministers and official including Punjab



Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif being seen off at Beijing International Airport in Beijing, China.

international investors to invest in Pakistan, she had mentioned. As everyone knows that these days Pakistan is suffering with the energy problems. In such circumstances, agreements in energy



Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif upon his arrival at the Beijing International Airport, China.



A group photo of Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif and Chinese President Xi Jinping with other dignitaries at the Dialogue on Strengthening Connectivity Partnership in Beijing, China.

sectors were like oxygen to the economy of the country. The good and encouraging factor of the visit is that most of the agreements that were signed during the visit are energy related. As it had been, during the visit, said by Minister for Planning, Development and Reform Ahsan Iqbal in Beijing that out of \$45b agreements thirty-four billion dollars will be spent on energy related projects and eleven billion dollars will be spent on infrastructure development. Minister for Water and Power Khawaja Muhammad Asif said most of the agreements to be signed during the visit of Prime Minister are energy related however, both the countries will also sign a number of projects on construction of roads and railways. The agreements will help promote cooperation between the two countries in the fields of energy and infrastructure under the Economic Corridor Project, and other sectors. These include agreements on solar power production at Quaid-e Azam Solar Park, easy loan for laying optic fiber between the two countries, mining of 65,00,000 metric tons of coal in Block-2 of Thar, 870 MW Suki Kinari Hydropower project, 1320 MW coal power project in Sahiwal, and an MoU for 100 MW Jhimpir wind power project. An agreement was signed to establish an Industrial Park in Faisalabad. The two countries also inked agreement for economic and technical cooperation. Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, during the visit, held talks with Chinese President Xi Jinping in Beijing on the entire gamut of bilateral relations. Both the leaders discussed bilateral relations and other matters of mutual interest and agreed to further bolster their relations in diverse fields particularly economy. A meeting between Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif and his Chinese counterpart Li Keqiang was also held in Beijing. Both the leaders discussed bilateral relations and regional situation. Implementation on Economic

Corridor Project and energy and infrastructure development projects in Pakistan also featured during the meeting. Punjab Chief Minister Shahbaz Sharif, Federal Ministers Khawaja Muhammad Asif, Shahid Khaqan Abbasi and Ahsan

meeting with his Chinese counterpart the PM Nawaz Sharif expressed the confidence that his visit to China will help resolve energy crisis in the country. He said the government was committed to address the energy shortage permanently. He pointed



Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif and Chinese President Xi Jinping holding a meeting at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing.

Iqbal, and Prime Minister's Special Assistant on Foreign Affairs Tariq Fatemi were also present on the occasion. The Chinese Prime Minister was being assisted by Vice Chairman of National Development and Reforms Commission, and other officials. Talking to newsmen after having a

out that solution to the energy problem will bring progress and prosperity to the country. Nawaz Sharif said the Pakistan-China Economic Corridor Project will prove a game changer in the region. He hoped the projects will infuse a spirit into the slow pace of development projects, caused



Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif addressing the Dialogue on Strengthening Connectivity Partnership, being presided over by Chinese President Xi Jinping, in Beijing, China.



Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif and Chinese Premier Li Ke Qiang witnessing the signing of an MoU on Coal Power Plant in Port Qasim at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing.

by the sit-ins. Nawaz Sharif had also stressed deeper regional connectivity. He had said that CASA-1000 power project will alleviate Pakistan's energy shortfall. Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif has also stressed enhanced connectivity between Asian countries to create economic opportunities for billions of people and address the issues of poverty and wealth inequality. In a statement at the dialogue on 'Strengthening Connectivity Partnership' in Beijing today, he said a massive technological and physical infrastructure creation within the Asian countries needs adequate spending. The Prime Minister said collective vision and leadership is required to pursue the task. He said CASA-1000 power project between Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Afghanistan and Pakistan will alleviate country's energy shortfall to some extent. He said that the TAPI and Iran-Pakistan gas pipeline projects are also being fast-tracked. He was accorded a guard of honour by a contingent of the People's Liberation Army at the Beijing Airport. Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif was hopeful that power crises would be resolved soon. "If we get electricity, then it means we have got everything," he was quoted by media as saying. While talking to media on arriving home, the PM had termed the China visit as a 'game changer' and said that the Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) signed with China will help compensate for the loss allegedly incurred due to the sit-in protests in Islamabad. After completion of

the visit, the analysts termed PM's China visit historic and successful. Participants of Radio Pakistan's Nuqta-e-Nazar program, while talking over the visit, said Prime Minister's visit will boost confidence of foreign investors on Pakistan. Former Ambassador B.A. Malik, in Nuqta-e-Nazar said, that economic policies of China were exemplary. China will become a leading power in the coming days. China's President and Prime Minister will soon visit Pakistan. China is a real friend of Pakistan and it always helps Pakistan without any concern for the government in the country. The other benefit of PM's visit to China is that he participated in APEC summit. All the political parties should unite for the progress of the country rather than criticizing the government. There should be a constructive criticism, he added. Analyst Dr. Rasool Bakhsh Rais said that China was the only country that signed such big investment agreements with Pakistan, when the economy of the country is in crisis, and it is the best proof of our friendship. After implementation of various agreements, Pakistan will succeed in overcoming energy crisis and improving economic situation in the country. This vision of economic progress for Pakistan and China is for next 20 to 25 years. Due to partnership of Pakistan and China, their bilateral trade will reach to manifold. He further said that Germany has approved textile trade with Pakistan, adding Pakistan should benefit from modern knowledge and technology. Analyst Dr. Rashid Ahmad

Khan said: "Pak-China bilateral relations will bring prosperity in the region. The 16 agreements signed between Pakistan and China will help overcome energy crisis in the country. China's investment agreements have increased the confidence of other countries on Pakistan to invest here. During the PM's visit, Pakistan has highlighted Kashmir issue and ceasefire violation by India at Line of Control. Pakistan also made it clear that China's interest will be safeguarded in Afghanistan and Islamabad would also extend help in this regard. Improved relations between Kabul and Beijing will decrease the influence of India in Afghanistan. The pace of progress in Asian countries is faster than other countries and the coming era is of Asia." Analyst Zafar Sheikh, during the said program, said that there has been less foreign direct investment in Pakistan from the last many years, which slowed down the economic progress of the country. China's announcement for investment of US\$40 billion has the confidence of other countries in Pakistan. It will pave way for foreign direct investment in the country, which will bring progress and prosperity in Pakistan.

As per the general view, the agreements would be helpful in boosting the economy and thus overcoming the problems of Pakistan including energy crisis, joblessness and development of infrastructure.

Visit of COAS to USA & Bilateral Security Cooperation

Indian violation of ceasefire along the Line of Control and working boundary is undermining Pakistan's efforts to eliminate terrorists; Chief of Army Staff General Raheel Sharif has been quoted as saying by an official in Washington. According to a BBC Urdu report which quotes an anonymous source, the COAS told US officials that India's aggressive position on the border is negatively affecting Pakistan Army's efforts, which is fighting militants in North Waziristan.

Merit medal

COAS Raheel Sharif, who is in US on his maiden visit, was conferred with US Legion of Merit Medal for his brave leadership; ISPR Director General Major General Asim Bajwa tweeted. Accompanied by US army chief, General Raheel also witnessed a guard of honour ceremony and gun salute presented by US soldiers.

Committing to an enduring partnership

The COAS further met Chairperson Joint Chief Staff General Martin Dempsey, Deputy Secretary of Defence Robert Work and Commander US Marines General Joseph Dunford. The leaders discussed regional security issues and their commitment to an enduring partnership, the Pentagon Press Secretary Navy Rear Adm. John Kirby said in a statement. "They also emphasized the importance of sustained and substantive dialogue as we continue to develop the bilateral military-to-military relationship," he added. Army chief General Raheel Sharif said the ongoing operation Zarb-e-Azb in North



Waziristan was targeting all militants without any discrimination and was aimed at defeating militancy squarely. Gen Raheel's statement comes a few days after prime minister's senior aide Sartaj Aziz – in an interview – questioned why Pakistan should target militant groups that do not pose a threat to its security. Addressing a reception hosted in his honour, General Raheel said the operation was against militants of all hues and colors. "It is without any discrimination, whether it is Haqqani network, TTP or any other group," The army chief affirmed. Hosted by Pakistan's Ambassador to the United States Jalil Abbas Jilani for the visiting military delegation, the reception was attended by senior American officials from

the state and defense departments, including US Special Representative for Pakistan and Afghanistan Dan Feldman.

The army chief further said the military operation against militants was launched with great commitment and sincerity, after consultations with the government and support of the entire nation. "Zarb-e-Azb is not just a military offensive but is a concept to defeat terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. The anti-terror campaign is not restricted to Waziristan and Khyber tribal areas but covers the whole country," he said. General Raheel also expressed confidence in progress towards establishing peace and stability in the region under the administration of new Afghan President Ashraf Ghani. Commenting on the growing concerns in relation to the militant group Islamic State (IS), the army chief said the phenomenon of IS will not be allowed in Pakistan and Afghanistan. IS fighters have captured swathes of Iraq and Syria in a drive to set up a self-declared caliphate. He also expressed satisfaction over his visit to the United States and said he had positive meetings with his counterparts on military-to-military relationship. Further speaking at the occasion, Ambassador Jilani affirmed Pakistan's determination to combat terrorism and improve relations with Afghanistan as Nato troops prepare to pull out. He pointed out these developments require closer Pakistan-US



cooperation. "On the one hand, things are looking up but new challenges are also emerging which require good cooperation between our two countries." The ambassador added the defense relations are an important component of the wide-ranging Pakistan-US relationship.

Army chief meets US National Security Adviser

General Raheel also met with National Security Advisor (NSA) Susan Rice at the White House, according to Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR). General Raheel and Rice held in-depth discussions on the ongoing Pakistan-US security issues and expressed satisfaction on the overall positive trajectory in the bilateral relationship. Both sides reaffirmed their mutual desire and commitment to strengthen their relationship. The army chief thanked Ambassador Rice for understanding Pakistan's perspective on regional security and counter terrorism efforts. He also briefed Rice on the current situation in the region, including violation of ceasefire and shelling by India on Line of Control and the working boundary. "Both sides acknowledged the importance of reinforcing stability in Afghanistan. In this regard, NSA Rice appreciated the high level exchanges between Pakistan and Afghanistan following the inauguration of the new unity government led by Dr Ashraf Ghani. Both sides also recognised the continued need for close coordination and cooperation for ensuring peace and stability in Afghanistan," the statement added.

Meetings with members of Senate committees

During his tour of the US, Gen Raheel also held meetings with members of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, Senate Armed Services Committee and the Select Committee on Intelligence. Member of Foreign Relations and the Armed Services Committees, Senator John McCain was also present at the meeting. According to ISPR, the committees lauded the successful



operations of the security forces and destruction of militants' command and control infrastructure in North Waziristan. During the meeting, US senators were also briefed on Pakistan's plans to rehabilitate the displaced people of Waziristan as soon as possible. Earlier, Chair of the Select Intelligence Committee, Senator Dianne



Feinstein along with other key members also met Gen Raheel and his delegation. Both sides discussed a range of issues related to bilateral security cooperation and expressed a strong desire to continue and intensify this partnership in the coming months. "The leaders discussed

regional security issues and their commitment to an enduring partnership," Pentagon Spokesperson Rear Adm John Kirby said, after Deputy Secretary of Defense Bob Work and Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Gen Martin Dempsey met with army chief Gen Raheel Sharif. "They also emphasised the importance of sustained and substantive dialogue as we continue to develop bilateral military-to-military relationship," Kirby added in a statement following the Pentagon talks

Visit to Fort Irwin National Training Center, training centre of US troops

Chief of the Army Staff General Raheel Sharif visited Fort Irwin National Training Center, training centre of US troops. The army chief was briefed about the professional training of troops and use of advanced equipment of warfare. Gen Sharif arrived at the National Training Center in California on Thursday and called on US trainers other officials. General Raheel Sharif is in Washington for his first official visit to the United States on the invitation of the US Army Chief.

Agencies



The COAS offered the 'full range' of training courses to Afghanistan



Pakistan has offered to train Afghanistan's security forces in the latest push to improve cooperation with its key neighbour, with whom its relationship has often been marred by a deepening trust deficit. The offer was made by Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Raheel Sharif who travelled to Kabul to discuss a host of issues, including the post-2014 scenario, with new Afghan leadership. The army chief, who was accompanied by other senior military officials, held separate talks with Afghan President Ashraf Ghani and Chief Executive Officer Dr Abdullah Abdullah during what was his maiden visit to the country. During the series of meetings, Gen Raheel offered the 'full range' of training courses and facilities in Pakistan's training institutions to Afghan security forces. "The COAS also offered the capacity enhancement of an infantry brigade, including provision of equipment," the ISPR statement said. This is not the first time Pakistan has made such an offer. Previous Pakistani offers were rejected by Afghanistan. Afghanistan's reluctance to accept Pakistan's offer of military training for its forces stems from the fear that the country's security establishment was still supporting certain Afghan insurgent groups. Pakistan, however, has always denied the charge and insisted that its ongoing operation in North Waziristan Agency is a clear manifestation of its resolve to act against all terrorist groups

without any discrimination. A senior military official told that there was a 'visible change' in Afghanistan's attitude towards Pakistan following the formation of the new unity government. "There is a huge basis for being positive. We had very constructive and fruitful discussions with the new Afghan leadership," said the official, who asked to remain anonymous because he was not authorised to speak to the media. During the meeting with Afghan President, ISPR said Gen Raheel congratulated Ashraf Ghani and expressed the hope that the election of the new government in Afghanistan would prove to be a historic opportunity to transform Pak-Afghan relations into a 'warm and mutually beneficial' relationship. He reiterated that peaceful and stable Afghanistan was in Pakistan's best interest and the only way to ensure regional security was to treat terrorism 'as our common enemy'. Afghan President Ashraf Ghani told the army chief that good relations with Pakistan are in line with Afghanistan's strategic interests. "Pakistan and Afghanistan should sincerely and jointly act against the common enemy and cooperate for the establishment of peace and stability in both countries and bilateral economic cooperation," the presidential palace quoted Ghani as saying in the meeting with the army chief. "Both countries should strengthen at the government-to-government level and also between the institutions," he said. General

Raheel Sharif, who the presidential statement said visited Kabul as the representative of the state, said Pakistan wants to "open a new chapter" in relations with Afghanistan. Gen Raheel was also briefed by Afghan military officials about the latest security situation in Afghanistan. The transfer of security responsibility to the Afghan National Security Forces in the wake of US and ISAF drawdown and enhanced bilateralism between Pakistan-Afghanistan with particular emphasis on Pak-Afghan border coordination mechanism, intelligence sharing and transparency were deliberated upon. The army chief raised the issue of alleged terrorist sanctuaries of Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) in Kunar and Nuristan provinces. Pakistan military recently expressed its disappointment over lack of cooperation from Afghan authorities to deal with militant groups following Operation Zarb-e-Azb in North Waziristan. A tweet by ISPR Director General Maj-Gen Asim Saleem Bajwa said Gen Raheel's meeting with the Afghan president concluded with a "great deal of goodwill and positivity." The Afghan Defence Minister Bismillah Mohammadi, while referring to a proposal for joint military exercises, said a decision is likely to be taken. He said officials of the two sides are likely to reach an agreement on joint exercises.

Monitoring Desk



ISI Chief Visit to Kabul

Newly appointed Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) chief Lt Gen Rizwan Akhtar held talks with Afghan officials on security issues. Gen Akhtar visited Kabul where he met officials of the Afghan National Unity Government. However, there is no official confirmation of the ISI chief's visit to Kabul by Pakistan or Afghanistan. The ISI chief was the third official from Pakistan to visit Afghanistan since the founding of the unity government in late September. Adviser to the Prime Minister on National Security and Foreign Affairs Sartaj Aziz and Chief of Army Staff Gen Raheel Sharif also recently visited Afghanistan and met with Afghan officials to discuss security-related issues, war against insurgency and relations between both countries. Sources say both sides are working on a 'roadmap' for future cooperation in various fields including security. Pakistan's cooperation is viewed as important in post-Nato Afghanistan. Both countries are likely to discuss the proposed roadmap during the visit of the Afghan president. **Agencies**



Diplomatic Focus thru lens



President Mamnoon Hussain in a group photo with a delegation of Karachi Council on Foreign Relations (KCFR) At Aiwan-e-Sadr



President Mamnoon Hussain and Afghan President Dr. Mohammad Ashraf Ghani exchanging views during their meetint at Aiwan-e-Sadr, Islamabad.



Ambassador of Austria Mr. Axel Wech paid a farewell call on President Mamnoon Hussain at Aiwan-e-Sadr, Islamabad.



Outgoing Ambassador of Greece Mr. Petros Mavroidis paid farewell call on President Mamnoon Hussain at Aiwan-e-Sadr, Islamabad.



President Mamnoon Hussain in a meeting with a delegation of Azerbaijan led by Defence Minister Colonel General Zakir Hasanov at Aiwan-e-Sadr, Islamabad.



President Mamnoon Hussain in a meeting with a delegation on Sudan led by Special Envoy to President of Sudan Dr. Mustafa Osman Ismail at Aiwan-e-Sadr, Islamabad.

Diplomatic Focus thru lens



Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif shaking hands with President of Afghan Ashraf Ghani at the Pm's House Islamabad.



Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif shaking hands with British Foreign Secretary Philip Hammond in London.



Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif shaking hand with Chinese Premier Li Ke Qiang at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing.



Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif shaking hands with Chinese President Xi Jinping at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing.



Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif talking to ex-foreign secretary of the United Kingdom Mr. David Miliband at the Pm's House Islamabad.



Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif meeting with Defence Minister of Russian Federation, General Sergey Kuzhugotov at the Pm's House Islamabad.



Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif shaking hand with German Chancellor Ms. Angela Merkel in Berlin.



Pakistan and German collaboration... Highly expectations

Prime minister Pakistan Nawaz sharief back to back visits to China, Germany included United Kingdom which shows that Pakistan have great importance to international relations and co-operation . Germany is looking to increase its investments in Pakistan, especially in the energy sector, provided the conditions are right, Chancellor Angela Merkel said on during visit by Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif. Merkel said Germany's KfW state development bank was already involved in projects in Pakistan including hydro power plants, but added that the security situation was sometimes

a deterrent. "We can look at intensifying these (investments), as long as the conditions are right," Merkel told a joint news conference with Sharif. Addressing a press conference on Tuesday in Berlin, Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif said Germany companies had shown plenty of interest in his country's energy sector. He went on to add that Germany and Pakistan would combat terrorism in Pakistan together. "We will overcome terrorism at all costs," Nawaz said, while addressing a gathering at the Chancellor's office in Berlin. Echoing Nawaz's statement for German support to combat terrorism, Merkel said Germany is

willing to help Pakistan over a range of projects. "A stable Afghanistan is in the best interest of Pakistan," the German chancellor also affirmed. Shifting focus to economic and trade cooperation, PM Nawaz said Germany is fourth biggest trade partner of Pakistan the two countries enjoy cordial relations. Nawaz claimed that the two countries agreed in principle over numerous projects and deals to improve the country's economy. "Issue of energy crisis will be resolved soon," he assured. Responding to a question regarding the protection of minority rights and the recent lynching of a Christian couple in Kot



Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif inspecting the guard of honor with German Chancellor Ms. Angela Merkel in Berlin.



Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif shaking hands with German Chancellor Ms. Angela Merkel in Berlin.



Radha Kishan over alleged blasphemy, the premier said, "It is shameful and we have condemned it in the strongest possible terms." "My government has ordered a judicial inquiry with instructions that those responsible be given exemplary punishment," he added. The premier also spoke about Pakistan's second Nobel Prize winner, Malala Yousafzai, saying the teenager has not been regarded as a hero in Pakistan but she is very popular and has rendered great service in the field of education. Commenting on talks with the premier, the German chancellor said, "We had useful talks with Nawaz Sharif and will endeavor to further strengthen Pakistan German relations." The premier extended an invitation to Merkel to visit Pakistan. On the arrival of Mr. Nawaz Sharif the Chancellor's Office, the prime minister was warmly greeted by a smartly turned out contingent of German Armed Forces who presented a guard of honour to him. "Germany has a lot of potential, they export worldwide. Relations between Germany and Pakistan will be beneficial — especially for Pakistan," the premier said, while talking to the media after landing. "We are going to try to open other avenues so that both countries can have closer ties, increase economic cooperation and have German companies invest in Pakistan," said Nawaz. Prior to his visit to Germany, the prime minister had visited

China to sign several MoUs. "There is great scope for investment in agriculture, livestock and forestry in Pakistan. Germany can prove to be an important partner in these sectors," Nawaz said. Reiterating Pakistan's resolve for peace in the region,

the prime minister said, "Pakistan wants peace in the region and for this purpose the country is extending maximum possible cooperation to ensure stability in Afghanistan."



Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif talking to German Chancellor Ms. Angela Merkel in Berlin.



Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif in a meeting with German Chancellor Ms. Angela Merkel in Berlin.



An agreement is being signed between Army Welfare Trust, Board of Investment and GATE-Pakistan, Germany for cooperation towards establishment of Special Economic Zone in Pakistan with collaboration of German partners.



Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif in a meeting with British Foreign Secretary Philip Hammond in London.

Energy Development Key To Sustainability And Good Relations: PM Nawaz

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif left for United Kingdom for a two-day official visit in November. He was received by Representative of the British Government Mr Nicholas Jarrold and H.E. Syed Ibne Abbas, Pakistan High Commissioner to the UK along with the officials of the High Commission.

Before arrival to UK, The prime minister spend two days in Berlin on the invitation of the German Chancellor Angela Merkel and discussed regional and global issues besides matters related to bilateral relationship. . During his visit, the prime minister inaugurated the Pakistan-UK Energy Dialogue and Investment Conference in London.

The energy conference focused on assisting Pakistan in seeking investments in addressing its energy needs through sharing expertise and best practices.

The conference attended by CEOs and leading figures of the energy sector.

In addition, the prime minister also meet the British ministers and senior officials and experts in the energy sector.

Addressing the Pakistan-Britain Energy Dialogue and Investment Conference in London, the premier said, "The primary discussion of today is for the formulation of an optimal energy sector in Pakistan, and to develop a competitive energy industry."

"If the energy crisis is resolved it will benefit politicians along with citizens," the premier.

The premier thanked the UK government for organizing the conference and guidance in achieving important energy sufficiency goals for Pakistan.

"The UK government over the years has been supportive of Pakistan in all its endeavors," said Nawaz, adding that he

was confident of the agreements and the direction in which he is taking the energy sector of the country.

He said Pakistan also aims at development one of the largest coal deposits in the world at Thar as future energy capital of the country. The vast reserves of Thar are enough to meet energy needs of many countries of the regions for tens of decades to come. The government is committed to provide complete support



Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif being received at the Luton Airport, London by Mr Nicholas Jarrold, Representative of the British Government and H.E. Syed Ibne Abbas and wife of High Commissioner Mrs Sadaf Abbas.



Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif addressing Pakistan-UK roundtable conference on Energy in London.

for successful and early exploration of these reserves.

"My vision is to develop a competitive energy market in Pakistan. With this in view, I have tasked my team to attract investment from all over the world in generation, exploration, distribution and transmission of both power and gas sectors. We are prepared to transfer management control for improving service delivery, while retaining majority shares in these companies. I fully realize that this turnaround will require our complete commitment and support," the premier said.

Nawaz also took time to explain how recent agreements signed with China would not only lead to development in both countries, but also enhance relations between the neighbouring countries.

He further spoke of projects such, as the Turkmenistan, Afghanistan, Pakistan and India (TAPI) pipeline — which would also increase regional cooperation.

"Energy and communication infrastructure form the backbone of progress in a society," Nawaz said.

Challenges after taking office

"We inherited a challenging macroeconomic situation when we took office," he said, adding that there needed to be improvements in the revenues, fiscal deficit, and development portfolio — all of which the premier claimed to have increased or improved.

"We reduced the budget deficit, increased GDP growth. Further, our stock market has been one of the best performing stock markets in the world."

Nawaz said the government continues to be confronted with massive energy shortages, to which he said the solution would "require a fundamental change in policy and governance."

Responding to a question regarding the

ongoing Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf sit-in, Nawaz while talking to Express News said, "They should know that their attempts to destroy Pakistan have failed and should work with us for the betterment of the country."

"The protests were not to derail our government but to derail Pakistan," the premier continued.

"They [protesters] should think positively and not negatively because if we are successful in our projects, the governments to come will benefit."

Peace in the region linked with energy security

Appreciating the initiatives taken by Pakistan to work with its neighbours for regional peace and stability, British Foreign Secretary Philip said peace in the region is linked with energy security and hoped for enhanced economic collaboration between regional countries.

He called on Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif on the sidelines of Pakistan-UK Energy Conference in London. During the meeting the two sides discussed a wide range of issues of mutual interest particularly energy crisis in Pakistan and security situation in the region.

Hammond said the British government is of the view that the military operation in North Waziristan should be followed by a political dialogue for long lasting peace and stability.

Sharing his government's reform agenda with the British foreign secretary, the premier said during last 17 months, Pakistan's economy had shown improvement, with GDP growth rate reaching 4.1 per cent.

Nawaz also highlighted the government's energy strategy to produce cheap electricity by improving fuel mix and actively implementing its plan to reduce line losses and power theft.

Highlighting the success of military operation Zarb-e-Azb, the prime minister said in order to prevent regrouping of terrorists in Afghanistan, the government was in contact with Afghan President Ashraf Ghani and both countries were working together to promote peace and stability in the region.

Special Assistant to the Prime Minister Syed Tariq Fatemi and Pakistan High Commissioner to the UK Syed Ibne Abbas were also present at the meeting.

Courtesy: The Express Tribune



H.E. Syed Ibne Abbas, Pakistan High Commissioner to the UK seeing off Prime Minister of Pakistan Muhammad Nawaz Sharif at the airport in London.

"Shaping the Future Through Asia-Pacific Partnership"



APEC Beijing meeting set to reboot Asia-Pacific growth

APEC is back in China once again after 13 years. In a time when the shadow of the global financial crisis is still lingering, the APEC (Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation) meeting in Beijing is expected to reboot a lackluster economy in the region. Like economies elsewhere, the Asia-Pacific region has seen tepid growth due to bottlenecks in domestic economic reforms and restructuring, weak external demand and dampened investor confidence. Regional stability has been the foundation for sustained economic growth. However, complicated geopolitics, emerging disputes and tensions in the Asia-Pacific may undermine economic development. The best answer is to foster inclusive partnerships. Summed up by the theme of this year's APEC -- "Shaping the Future Through Asia-Pacific Partnership" -- inclusive partnerships may be the greatest common ground APEC members can find. The meeting, prioritizing three topics -- "Advancing regional economic integration", "Promoting innovative development, economic reform and growth" and "Strengthening comprehensive development in infrastructure and connectivity", will provide new engines to reboot growth. As a cooperation mechanism focusing on economy and trade, APEC has put promoting regional economic integration top on the agenda of its meetings. APEC members are expected to begin the process of creating the Free Trade Area of the Asia-Pacific (FTAAP) and take a step forward in economic integration. Through coordination and cooperation with APEC members, an important consensus will be

reached on the launch of the FTAAP process during the meeting in Beijing, thus sending out a clear signal of enhancing regional integration and turning this long-standing vision into concrete actions, said China's Foreign Minister Wang Yi last week. Establishing the FTAAP is an idea proposed by all 21 APEC members and "there are no blockages or conflicts" that would prevent its creation, Wang Shouwen, assistant minister of commerce, told reporters at a briefing. China seeks to implement the APEC FTA information exchange mechanism to increase transparency and facilitate interaction between the the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) and Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP), Wang Shouwen added. The economic growth

engine is also rooted in innovation and reform. The APEC meeting in Beijing will feature in-depth discussions on topics including economic reform, new economy, innovative growth, inclusive support and urbanization. Internet economy, maritime "blue economy" and "green economy," technological cooperation, innovation and entrepreneurship, food safety, anti-corruption are among topics of the APEC meeting, outlining fields and methods for future cooperation among APEC members. Developed economies can lend experience for emerging ones as they pursue advanced industry, prevent financial risks and promote urbanization, while developing members can share experiences of reform and economic transformation, and, importantly, how to





avoid the middle-income trap. It is expected to be published after the meeting, which will involve the required infrastructure, namely the construction of roads, railways and shipping lanes, and regulations, including rules, mechanisms and procedures, as well as people-to-people exchanges. A lack of new economic growth has left many Asia-Pacific economies pinning high expectation on connectivity, and the blueprint will be a document ready to be implemented, said Tang Guoqiang, chairman of the China National Committee for Pacific Economic Cooperation Council. The blueprint is expected to include target, ideas, financing, supervision and evaluation mechanisms, and others. Other key topics to be discussed at the APEC meeting include China's initiatives of the Silk Road Economic Belt, the 21st Century Maritime Silk Road and establishing the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank. These initiatives are completely open and inclusive. The primary cooperation partners of these initiatives are Asia-Pacific members. They are also ones that will benefit the most. The Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC), a platform that groups the world's largest and fast-growing economies, should play a pivotal role in regional sustained growth as the shadow of world economic slowdown lingers on. It is time for the organization to take initiatives to reshape its framework and release more energy of regional economies. Looking back, as the European countries in the 1990s were aiming for a highly integrated community, say, the European Union, the Pacific Rim economies could but set up a loosely-organized forum to push for regional integration. The APEC, in the eyes of some people, is but a forum with a basket of non-obligatory declarations, initiatives and roadmaps, and it is a regional arrangement born to be a compromise for economically unequal Pacific Rim members. This is because the organization is a mix of both the richest countries and the poorest ones; of both the most populous continent and

the sparsely populated islands; and of both the countries on the wheels and the tribes on the trees. The incredibly unbalanced economic structure resulted in a seemingly makeshift arrangement rather than a strict trade arrangement like the EU. Now, as the financially mired European Union is striving to mend its system, the Asia Pacific's wisdom has begun to pay off. Recovery in the wake of economic slowdown is picking up in the Pacific Rim, though not that solid yet. However, a gradual, flexible way in regional integration is not tantamount to a "talk only" tactics or even playing the closed-door "club politics." Since the Doha Round has stalled, a variety of bilateral or multilateral trade arrangements propped up. Compared with a unified regional cooperative agenda, however, they're rather fragmented. Some economies even tend to turn the open dialogue on free trade into a club that requires "access card" to better fit their own calculations, which is harmful to the regional sustained growth, especially for developing economies. Now, China has proposed the study of establishing the Free Trade Area for Asia Pacific (FTAAP), a centerpiece among the APEC's initiatives to create a broadly representative cooperative mechanism. The proposal is a promise for the shared prosperity for all the APEC members, and the path to it remains the open, pragmatic and inclusive approach by which the organization has made headway over the past 25 years. Also, an innovative cooperation concept shall be translated into the APEC framework to keep it in pace with the change of the world industry landscape. A new mechanism is in need to sharpen the region's competitive edge by lifting its profit-making ability in global industry chain. A traditional trade theory says a country that sells more gains more benefit, but now it's time to think twice. Think when you hold an iPhone. The iOS system is developed in America but the screen and cells manufactured in South Korea, and chips probably in Japan. It is Chinese workers that assemble them with home-

grown phone shells, data links and protective films. Over 80 percent of Chinese mobile phones are exported and all those belong to China's export share. It is estimated that China earns only several dollars for an iPhone that sells 200 to 300 dollars at factory price. However, most trade policies are applied only on the borders, either by tariff or non-tariff measures. China's initiative on global value chains (GVCs) is expected to provide APEC members the capacity to monitor each links of the value chain to enlarge and improve them. China has taken actions along the complicated GVCs. Now, a South Korean mobile phone manufacturer in China would meet no quota limitations if it imports parts from its own country. The APEC platform is not a closed club with one-for-all criteria. Under its framework, less developed economies need encouragement and incentives to catch up. China's large economic size and robust growth can serve as a source of confidence for APEC members. Its reform pledge and on-going economic restructuring will change its position in the value chain, while the resulting vigor and efficiency will help drive other APEC economies that are closely linked with China in the chain. In fact, only when the development gap among APEC members narrows, the APEC goal for deeper trade facilitation becomes practicable. China is willing to build more infrastructures in order to lay a physical foundation for regional prosperity. The infrastructure investment is a priority in the "one belt and one road" plan China launched in 2013 to promote cooperation among Asian economies. Plus, China's latest effort to improve the regional infrastructure and connectivity is the advocacy of building the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB). The bank is widely welcomed by economies in the APEC areas. It is reasonable to believe the Beijing meetings a landmark in APEC history that will reshape the group's framework and bring sustained prosperity for the region. **By Monitoring Desk**

Diplomatic Focus thru lens



Advisor to the Prime Minister on National Security & Foreign Affairs, Sartaj Aziz in a meeting with the US Ambassador Richard G Olson in Islamabad.



Advisor to the PM on National Security and Foreign Affairs, Sartaj Aziz in a meeting with the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Belarus Valentin Rybakov in Islamabad.



Advisor to the PM on National Security & Foreign Affairs, Sartaj Aziz in a meeting with the Foreign Minister of Tajikistan, Sirajidin Aslov in Islamabad.



Advisor to the PM on National Security and Foreign Affairs, Sartaj Aziz in a meeting with the Special Envoy of the President of the Republic of Sudan H.E. Dr. Mustafa Osman Ismail in Islamabad.



Advisor to the Prime Minister on National Security and Foreign Affairs, Sartaj Aziz in a meeting with the Ambassador of Qatar H.E. Sayar Bin Abdul Rahman Al-Mawadah in Islamabad.



Federal Minister for Interior & Narcotics Control, Chaudhry Nisar Ali Khan in a meeting with Ambassador of Japan to Pakistan, Hiroshi Inomata in Islamabad.



Ambassador of Tajikistan to Pakistan, Sherali S. Jononoy called on Federal Minister for Water & Power & Defence, Khawaja Muhammad Asif in Islamabad.



Ambassador of the United States of America, Richard Olson called on Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq at Parliament House, Islamabad.

Diplomatic Focus thru lens



Federal Minister for Information, Broadcasting & National Heritage, Senator pervaiz Rashid and Federal Minister for Commerce, Engr. Khurram Dastagir Khan in a group photo with Dr. Song Jong-Hwan the Ambassador of Korean, On the eve of celebration of Korean week in Islamabad.



German Ambassador H.E. Cyrill Nunn called on Federal Minister for Petroleum & Natural Resources, Shahid Khaqan Abbasi in Islamabad.



Federal Minister for planning, development and reform Prof. Ahsan Iqbal meeting with Mr. David Milliband former British Secretary in the Planning Commission, Islamabad.



H.E. Syed Ibne Abbas, Pakistan High Commissioner to the UK with Baroness Nosheena Mobarik, Chairperson Pakistan Britain Trade and Investment Forum at Pakistan High Commission London.



Ambassador of Turkmenistan H.E. Atadjan Movlamov called on Federal Minister for Petroleum and Natural Resources, Shahid Khaqan Abbasi in Islamabad.



Foreign Secretary Aziz Ahmad Chaudhary in a meeting with Eci executive director Ambassador Mohammad Reza Haji Karim Jabbar in Islamabad.



Federal Minister for Interior Chaudhry Nisar Ali Khan in a meeting with UK Pm's Counter Terrorism Capability Envoy, Mr. Clovis Meath-Baker in Islamabad.



Foreign Minister of Tajikistan Mr. Aslov Sirodjidin Muhridinovich called on President Mamnoon Hussain at the Aiwan-e-Sadr.

By Mian Fazal Elahi

Pakistan attaches great importance to its ties with Tajikistan: PM Nawaz

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif has said that Pakistan attaches great importance to its relations with Tajikistan and emphasized the need for improving trade relations between Pakistan and Tajikistan. He was talking to Foreign Minister of Tajikistan Aslov Sirodjidin Muhridinovich in Islamabad. The Prime Minister said the two countries should take measures to encourage travel and tourism, including regular exchange of cultural troupes. He said we need to encourage people-to-people contact by facilitating travel and tourism. Nawaz Sharif said Pakistan attaches great importance to timely completion of CASA-1000 project. Projects like CASA-1000 and TAPI Gas Pipeline could become a game changer in regional geopolitics and economic integration. Meanwhile, Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif has directed that the decision to provide subsidy worth five thousand rupees per acre to growers of Basmati Rice as compensation be properly implemented. He said the government accords top priority to the agriculture sector as it is backbone of country's economy and a significant contributor to

the GDP. The farmer community has appreciated the decision. Fifty percent of the expenses incurred on provision of subsidy will be borne by the provinces that would also be responsible to ensure transparency in its distribution. President Mamnoon Hussain, during his meeting with the Foreign Minister of Tajikistan, Aslov Sirodjidin Muhridinovich in Islamabad said that Pakistan greatly values

its friendship with Tajikistan and is keen to further strengthen the existing relationship. Talking to Tajik Foreign Minister Aslov Sirodjidin Muhridinovich, who called on him in Islamabad on Friday, November 21, president said there existed a vast potential to further cement bilateral relations in the areas of trade, investments, energy, defence, security, education and people-to-people contacts.



Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif in a meeting with the Foreign Minister of Tajikistan, Mr. Sirodjidin Aslov at PM's House, Islamabad.



Federal Minister for Commerce, Engr. Khurram Dastgir Khan meeting with the Foreign Minister of Tajikista, Sirodjidi Aslov in Islamabad.

Mamnoon Hussain said the existing volume of bilateral trade does not correspond with the true potential of the two countries in this important area. He observed that concerted efforts including further strengthening institutional frameworks would help significantly enhancing trade interactions and trade volume. The President also underscored the need for enhanced connectivity between the two countries through air, road and rail link in order to facilitate travel, transit, transportation and tourism. Discussing projects of mutual benefit, Mamnoon Hussain said that CASA-1000 is a centre-piece of our collaboration in the energy sector, which would help strengthen Pakistan's energy security. The President said that early realization of the project is important. The Tajik Foreign Minister also reaffirmed his country's keen desire to further intensifying bilateral cooperation with Pakistan in all possible areas for the mutual benefit of the people of the two countries.

On the same day, Advisor to Prime Minister on National Security and Foreign Affairs, Sartaj Aziz and Tajik Foreign Minister Sirodjidin Aslov, during their meeting, also discussed bilateral relations. Sartaj Aziz, while talking to Aslov, emphasized the importance of high-level political exchanges, enhanced interaction among businessmen, and deeper collaboration in the energy sector between Pakistan and Tajikistan. Aziz further had added that Pakistan attached great importance to its fraternal and cooperative ties with Tajikistan. He also highlighted the crucial role of road and air connectivity in giving a spur to bilateral trade and economic interaction and people-to-people exchanges. Tajik Foreign Minister Sirodjidin Aslov expressed keen desire for further intensifying bilateral cooperation in all fields, terming Pakistan as a key partner in the region. The two sides agreed that bilateral security and defence cooperation

**Prime Minister
Nawaz Sharif
has emphasized
the need for
improving trade
relations
between
Pakistan and
Tajikistan.**

was developing satisfactorily. The two sides also noted the progress on CASA-1000 project and agreed on fast tracking its implementation. Meanwhile, during a meeting between Minister for Commerce Khurram Dastgir Khan and Tajikistan Minister of Foreign Affairs Sirodjidin Aslov in Islamabad, both the countries agreed to start negotiations on Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA) that will pave way for a Free Trade Agreement between Pakistan and Tajikistan. Khurram Dastgir proposed formation of Pakistan-Tajikistan Joint Business Council so that direct contacts among businessmen could be established. Tajikistan Foreign Minister proposed the establishment of rail and road network which would link Tajikistan with the southern ports of Pakistan and help their land-locked country to trade with the world through sea. To ensure food security of Tajikistan, Aslov sought to increase agricultural imports from Pakistan as only 7 percent of the land of Tajikistan is available for crop cultivation.



Advisor to the PM on National Security & Foreign Affairs, Sartaj Aziz in a meeting with the Foreign Minister of Tajikistan, Sirodjidin Aslov in Islamabad.



Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif meeting Defence Minister of Russian Federation, General Sergey Kuzhugetovich Shoygu at the PM's House, Islamabad.

Pakistan keen to enhance ties with Russia: PM Nawaz

P rime Minister Nawaz Sharif has said Pakistan is keen to enhance its multi-dimensional relations including defence with Russia. Talking to Russian Defence Minister Sergei Shoigu, he said it is inspiring to see that relations between Pakistan and Russian federation have grown in the past few years. The Prime Minister said current 542 million dollars bilateral trade does not correspond to trade potential of the two countries and there is a need to take steps to enhance the trade. He invited Russian companies to invest in Pakistan's energy sector and benefit from its business friendly policies. The Prime Minister also lauded Russian support to Pakistan to become a full member of Shanghai Cooperation Organization. He said Pakistan was ready to further enhance cooperation with other countries of the region through SCO forum to counter terrorism and drug trafficking. Pakistan and Russia have also signed defence cooperation agreement. The agreement came at a meeting between the Defence Ministers of Pakistan and Russian Federation in Rawalpindi. Both sides stressed the need for continuation of momentum gained during Moscow

conference and expressed satisfaction over convergence of views on most of international and cross regional issues. Defence Minister of Pakistan Khawaja Muhammad Asif termed the agreement as a milestone between the two countries. He said strong ties between Pakistan and Russia will help promote regional stability and prosperity. The Russian Defence Minister Sergei Shoigu appreciated Pakistan armed forces and people, in war against terrorism. Later, talking to media, Defence Minister Khawaja Muhammad Asif said that visit of Russian Defence Minister

is taking place at very critical juncture. He said apart from promoting bilateral defence relations; visit will enable both countries to join hands for peace and stability in the region. He said Russia was a very important country of the region and we look forward to strengthen bilateral relations with it in different fields. The Russian Defence Minister said our next step will be signing of a MoU to promote cooperation between Navies of two countries. He said Russia wants peaceful solution of crisis in the region.

By Web Desk



Federal Minister for Defence, Khawaj Muhammad Asif meeting with Defence Minister of the Russian Federation General Sergei Shoigu along with delegation in Islamabad.



"Beijing Declaration" on Afghanistan reconstruction efforts

China has pledged 1.5 billion yuan in aid to Afghanistan

The 4th Foreign Ministerial Conference of the Istanbul Process on Afghanistan has ended in Beijing. Co-chaired by China and Afghanistan, delegates from about 30 nations and regional organizations attended the conference. The conference ended with the Beijing Declaration. It is China's maiden show as a host of a major international meeting on Afghanistan. The 4th Foreign Ministerial Conference of the Istanbul Process on Afghanistan opens Friday in the Chinese capital city. Co-chaired by foreign ministers of China and Afghanistan, the meeting announces Beijing declaration. China has pledged 1.5 billion yuan in aid to Afghanistan over the next three years, and will help train 3,000 professionals in various fields in the next five years. Meanwhile, Li called on Afghans to put aside their differences and work towards reconciliation. He said the international community should also provide assistance to Afghanistan on the basis of mutual respect. Meanwhile,

President GHANI stressed that further deepening Afghanistan-China strategic cooperative partnership serves as the core principle of their diplomatic policy. Ghani said Peace is Kabul's priority, and the country invites the political opposition, particularly the Taliban, to join intra-Afghan dialogue. Beside the multilateral talks on the meeting, the bilateral talk between China and Afghanistan is where the political spectators are closely watching. And biz talk is where the conversation lands in Beijing. China is looking to further tap into Afghan resources, while the southern Asian country is banking on Chinese investment to revive its post-war economy. The bright side for Afghanistan is that its president is already highly familiar with Beijing from his days as a World Bank official working in the country. Some politics watchers speculate that if 2014 marks an end-point for western policy in Afghanistan, it could be a starting point for China to get involved with the war-torn country.



Pakistan-Afghan Border Security A Major Challenge:

Sartaj Aziz

The majority of Afghans are worried about security, a nationwide survey by the Asia Foundation has found.

It says 65% of the Afghans who took part in the survey fear for their safety and that of their families. Along with security, the country's poor economy, unemployment and corruption are major concerns for Afghans. The challenge for both nations is militant and criminal activity on the porous border. In his recent visit to Pakistan - his first since taking office in September - Afghan President Ashraf Ghani discussed security and the economy. He held talks with Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif and members of Pakistan's security forces in an attempt to improve economic ties, secure the porous border and tackle terrorism. None of these are easy tasks given recent acrimonious relations between the two countries. And despite Mr Ghani's sounding a positive note after talks with the Pakistani prime minister, there are big stumbling blocks. The complicated cross-border insurgency is at the top of the list. The two countries have long accused each other of harbouring militants. Former Afghan president Hamid Karzai, routinely criticised Pakistan for sheltering militant groups. Pakistan has always rejected such complaints and accused Afghanistan of failing to stop cross-border attacks.

Border control

In an interview with the BBC, Sartaj Aziz, Pakistan's national security and foreign affairs adviser to the prime minister, said that neither territory should be used against the other and that both countries needed to co-operate more on border control on the intelligence and operational levels. "Nobody is suggesting this is an easy task but we have laid out a roadmap and we'll gradually be able to overcome these challenges," Mr Aziz said. He added that another challenge for cross-border control is criminal activity. "The entire border has been criminalised," he told. "There are drug smugglers, timber smugglers - they indulge in a lot of cross-border fighting." Effective co-operation and dialogue between Kabul and Islamabad could not be more crucial as Nato's US-led force withdraws from the fight against the Taliban. Pakistan could play a vital role in bringing about peace talks between the Afghan government and the Taliban. During his visit the Afghan president tweeted that Pakistan's security lay in the security of

Afghanistan and vice-versa. Officials on both sides hoped this visit would provide a fresh start in relations between the two neighbours. Pakistan says its current military offensive in the tribal region of North Waziristan is evidence of its commitment to destroy militant sanctuaries but for the task to be successful, Pakistan will need its neighbour to co-operate. "The North Waziristan operation has achieved one important objective; the sanctuaries and the infrastructure of extremist groups have been eliminated," Sartaj Aziz said. He added that many militants had been killed but others had managed to escape, some to different parts of Pakistan and others to neighbouring Afghanistan, and that intelligence co-operation between the two countries on tracing them was important. Mr Aziz also said that the blow-back from the operation was not as intense as expected but that some groups could still carry out attacks. "A suicide bombing only needs one person," he said.

IS threat

Another potential threat for both countries is that of the Islamic State (IS - formerly known as ISIS or ISIL) militants, who have gained substantial chunks of territory in Iraq and Syria. Earlier this year there were

reports of pro-IS pamphlets being distributed in Peshawar as well as slogans supporting the group being seen on the walls. There have also been recent reports of a meeting in Baluchistan province between delegates of IS and a splinter group from the TTP calling itself Jundullah (the army of God). Local government officials in Baluchistan downplayed the presence of Islamic State in the province but Sartaj Aziz said the group could be a potential threat. "I think ISIS is too deeply involved in Iraq and Syria right now, but the potential is there in the sense that for the first time a group that has captured territory and has resources - and so for other extremist groups it is very attractive to work under that umbrella." So this is a danger the whole world has to face and if they are weakened within the place they are operating right now then the dangers will become less. "But God forbid if that doesn't succeed and they become stronger, and if Afghanistan is unable to handle the insurgency within... then the danger will increase." Mr Aziz added that the threat of IS should not be taken lightly but that it was not a threat right now. "The immediate worry is to deal with the situation at the border."

Courtesy: BBC World Service



Afghan President Dr. Mohammad Ashraf Ghani Ahmadzai being received by Advisor to the Prime Minister on National Security & Foreign Affairs, Sartaj Aziz at Islamabad.



Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank & Asia

Asian countries signed \$100 billion Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB). Memorandum of understanding were signed with 21 Asian countries in Beijing. Australia, Indonesia and South Korea were absent following hidden pressure from Washington. The development bank was proposed a year ago by Chinese President Xi Jinping, and is to offer financing for infrastructure projects in underdeveloped Asian countries. Headquartered in Beijing, former chairman of the China International Capital Corp investment bank Jim Liqun, is expected to take a leading role. The bank will initially be capitalized with \$50 billion, most of it contributed by China. The country is planning to increase authorized capital to \$100 billion. With that amount the AIIB would be two-thirds the size of the \$175 billion Asian Development Bank. India will be the second largest bank shareholder though Kuwait, Qatar, Mongolia, Kazakhstan, Pakistan, Nepal, Oman, and all the countries of the Association of Southeast Asia, except Indonesia are involved. Australia, Indonesia and South Korea did not participate following US claims of 'concerns' about a rival to Western-dominated multilateral lenders. Japan, China's main rival in Asia, which dominates the Asian Development Bank along with the United States, did not attend but had not been expected to do so. Indonesia refused to participate claiming it needs time to discuss China's proposal. South Korea, one of America's closest allies in Asia, is also prevaricating. Its finance ministry said it spoke with China to request more time to consider details such as the AIIB's governance and operational principles. US officials have said they do not want to support an initiative Washington thinks is unlikely to promote good environmental, procurement and human rights standards in the way the World Bank and ADB are required to do. But Chinese officials are convinced the American opposition is an attempt to contain the global rise of China and its ambition to remain the dominant power in Asia. **By Agencies**



The opening of the Belarus Embassy Is A Welcome Step

For Strengthening Bilateral Relations Between The Two Countries

Deputy Minister of Belarus, Mr. Valentín Rybakov visited to Pakistan. During his visit, the Deputy Foreign Minister called on Mr. Sartaj Aziz, Adviser to the Prime Minister on National Security and Foreign Affairs and discussed bilateral, regional and global issues of mutual interest.

Mr. Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry, Foreign Secretary, inaugurated the Embassy of

Belarus in Islamabad in a simple but dignified ceremony. The opening of the Embassy is a welcome step for strengthening bilateral relations between the two countries.

The visiting Deputy Minister of Belarus held delegation level talks with Pakistan. The Pakistan side was led by Mr. Nadeem Riyaz, Additional Secretary (Europe). The consultations focused on political,

economic, parliamentary, cultural and educational exchanges. The two sides agreed to explore possibilities of further strengthening relations in diverse areas, including the energy sector. The visit of the Deputy Foreign Minister of Belarus provided an opportunity for a comprehensive exchange of views with both sides sharing their resolve to enhance existing ties. The next round of consultations will be held in Minsk in 2015.



Foreign Secretary Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry and Deputy Foreign Minister of the Republic of Belarus H.E Valentín Rybakov in a group photo during the inauguration of the Embassy of Republic of Belarus, Islamabad.

Ambassador Of A Decade – A Friend Forever

Mr Syed Naveed Zafar – Director Huawei Technologies Pakistan (Pvt) Ltd arranged a reception in honor of H.E Rodolfo Martin Saravia, Dean of Diplomatic Corp & Ambassador Of Argentina in Pakistan for completing his first 10 Years in Pakistan successfully. This reception was well attended by many Ambassadors in Islamabad with their families & other dignitaries of town.





Dynamic High Commissioner of Pakistan: H.E. Naela Chohan

Prior to her present appointment Naela Chohan was serving at the Ministry of Foreign affairs Islamabad as a Additional Secretary. The High Commissioner Her Excellency Naela Chohan presented her credentials to the Governor General of Australia.

H.E. Life and Career at Glance:

Naela Chohan was born on 6th May 1958 in Rawalpindi. She is a diplomat and feminist artist. She has been a member of the Board of Governors of the Pakistan Film Censor Board, and of the Board of Directors of the Overseas Employment Corporation of Pakistan, and Inter State Gas System (Pvt). Naela Chohan is also committed to the prohibition of global Chemical Weapons, being the first civilian and woman to head the National Authority on the Implementation of the Convention on the Prohibition of Chemical weapons in Pakistan. Until end of 2013, Naela Chohan was serving as the Ambassador of Pakistan to Argentina, Uruguay, Peru and Ecuador. She has been a vocal proponent of stronger ties between Pakistan and Latin America. At present she is Additional Secretary Ministry of Foreign Affairs Islamabad and she is arriving soon from Pakistan to Australia. Naela Chohan holds a Masters Degree in International Relations from Quaid-e-Azam University, and a PhD session certificate in International



Relations from Centre d'Etudes Diplomatiques et Stratégiques in Paris. She also received training at École nationale supérieure des Beaux-Arts and the École du Louvre in Paris. Naela Chohan also undertook the Executive Development Program (EDP) from the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University. As a hyperpolyglot, she has demonstrated fluency in English, French, Bengali, Punjabi, Urdu, Persian (acquired at age 35), and Spanish (acquired at age 51).

Naela Chohan's diplomatic assignments have included the High Commission of Pakistan in Ottawa, the Pakistan delegation to United Nations General Assembly 41st (1987) Session and 42nd (1988) Session, and the Embassy of Pakistan in Tehran (1989–1993), and Kuala Lumpur (1997–2001). Until end of 2013, she was serving as the Ambassador of Pakistan to Argentina, Uruguay, Peru and Ecuador. Naela Chohan is also committed to the prohibition of global Chemical Weapons, being the first civilian and woman to head the National Authority on the Implementation of the Convention on the Prohibition of Chemical weapons in Pakistan. In addition to her service as a career diplomat, she has been a member of the Board of Directors of the Overseas Employment Corporation of Pakistan and the Inter State Gas System Limited (Pvt); and a member of the Central Board of Film Censors. She was also unanimously elected Chairperson of the Asia Pacific Development Center (APDC), Kuala Lumpur (1998–2000). In April 2011, The Pakistani embassy in Argentina unearthed a plan allegedly prepared by the United States and some other countries to arrest Pakistani immigrants and transfer them to the US. In a report submitted to the government, Pakistan's Ambassador to Argentina Naela Chohan said that it seemed to be an effort to malign Pakistanis. According to the investigation carried out by the Embassy, the arrested Pakistanis were legal settlers living in Ecuador for decades. The investigation found that the arrested Pakistanis were maltreated, beaten and forced to sign some documents, agreeing to "voluntarily return" to their country. In her report, the Pakistani ambassador referred to a meeting with US Ambassador to Argentina and Special Agent of the Homeland at which she raised the issue of 32 Pakistanis detained during a joint operation conducted by the US government and Ecuador.

The Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan Naela Chohan joined on 19 May, as observer, the Committee of Representatives of the Latin American Integration Association, ALADI. Pakistan, after China (1994), Korea (2004) and Japan (2004), is the fourth Asian country to be incorporated as an observer to the ALADI.



Return of Geopolitics



By Dr. Maleeha Lodhi

A dominant theme at the recent World Economic Forum summit was that the return of geopolitics, turbulence and volatility were combining to shape today's fraught strategic environment. As the eruption of crisis and tensions in the Middle East, Ukraine and East Asia have demonstrated, 2014 has been characterised by political and economic turmoil and instability, with uncertainty casting a shadow over the opportunities offered by the world. Intensifying competition between the major powers seems to mark a revival of older patterns of behavior even as it has assumed newer forms. This is being accentuated by a surge in nationalist sentiment across the world. At WEF's annual meeting on the Global Agenda in Dubai, a senior minister from the host country pointed out that the summit was taking place at a particularly crucial time, when extremism was raising its head in new forms and a number of global challenges – from scarcity of resources and climate change to the outbreak of Ebola – presented not just looming threats but grim present realities. Billed as the world's largest brainstorming event, which gathers over a thousand experts from 80 countries, this year's WEF summit took up a range of diverse and pressing issues. The aim, as WEF's founder Klaus Schwab put it, was to

shape the future by an innovative spirit to find solutions, especially as the world remained bogged down in crisis management. In many sessions participants

**Western states
unwilling to
cede or share
power in global
institutions with
the rising
powers**

agreed that 2014 had been an unprecedented year because of the confluence of challenges at a time when the institutions of global governance were at their weakest. In previous times, pockets of instability did not seem to impede the world's march to progress. But today an array of urgent challenges seems to be

holding the world back. The discussions during the conference and on its sidelines identified three or four factors that made the present era an extraordinary one in world affairs. The first was the increasing globalisation of crises. This made the scale and dimensions of today's crises fundamentally different from those in the past. Two, these crises have come at a juncture when systems have been disintegrating or are in a fragile state. Three, crises are assuming a long-term and protracted nature. And four, they are not easy to fix, and often involve a good deal of time and much patience and ingenuity. The session on the challenges of geo-economics produced a lively debate, which highlighted the theme of the return of geopolitics. According to one speaker, geopolitics was increasingly "interfering with and unraveling" the globalisation of the economy and producing a retreat to nationalism. This reinforced a key point made by Outlook on the Global Agenda 2015, WEF's flagship annual publication. In assessing the state of global geopolitics, this underscored that nationalist ideologies, opposed to globalisation, were creating "new flash points and uncertainty in long dormant ones", as the recent experience of the European Union also testified. Economic interdependence, said another speaker, was supposed to yield

cooperation and defuse geopolitical tensions. Instead, economic warfare is becoming more pronounced while conflict between the major powers is also assuming economic forms. Great power competition has in fact taken on a multidimensional character.

Geo-economics, it was argued during the session was now dividing not uniting the world. Fierce competition between regional multilateral projects was, for example, at the root of the crisis over Ukraine. Even the internet was fragmenting the world community and its discourse rather than providing a common public space to promote integration. Although geo-economics interdependence

The summit was taking place at a particularly crucial time, when extremism was raising its head in new forms and a number of global challenges – from scarcity of resources and climate change to the outbreak of Ebola – presented not just looming threats but grim present realities

was still a reality, economic competition and the intense battle for markets were playing a role that garrisons once played in geopolitical power plays. Participants in this session and elsewhere identified a number of global trends or traits which might be useful to summarise here.

The international geopolitical environment is much more strained now than at any point in the post-cold war period.

Multipolarity has altered the landscape, but in the absence of effective global institutions or leadership, this is a source of confusion and disorder.

The world is moving from globalisation to 'glocalisation' – with local issues becoming global in their impact.

Old approaches are still being applied to a complex new interconnected world, which are proving inadequate.

Global challenges are being magnified by the intersection of risks – as for example extreme weather or outbreaks of disease in fragile states.

Nationalist sentiment and separatist forces are growing. This is in part a reaction to the disruptive economic and social effects of globalisation.

Globalisation is increasingly becoming a 'gated' phenomenon as nations relapse into protectionism. This may lead to more de-globalisation.

Competition for resources is overshadowing cooperation and also exposing nations to becoming 'new colonies' for states able to exploit them.

Asian powers are also 'pivoting' to Asia, as indicated, for example, by growing Sino-Russian cooperation, cemented by the latest energy deal.

The decline of Bretton Woods institutions (IMF and the World Bank) is being accompanied by the emergence of new institutions backed by the rising economic powers. A prime example is the plan for a New Development Bank to finance infrastructure projects and provide an emergency reserve fund.

Emerging powers are contributing to a new kind of great power politics. What seems to straddle many of these trends and other key characteristics of the international landscape is the absence of global leadership at a time of rising geostrategic competition. In fact, these two trends are identified among the top ten trends for 2015 by the WEF report. The annual report relies on a survey that polls WEF members and also factors in the views of the network's 'young global leaders'. The survey found that 86 percent of those polled felt the world today is facing a leadership crisis. Respondents also cited the 'weakening of representative democracy' as among the world's top five global trends. This lack of confidence in leaders is expressed both at the national and international level and this has grown in recent years. The WEF report states, "As

citizens lose faith in democratic institutions and geopolitical conflicts proliferate, it is clear that a lack of leadership in the world today is contributing overall to a leadership crisis." At the international level, the inadequacy of global governance institutions to cope with the complexity and profusion of challenges has long been the subject of international debate. Obviously the shifts in power from the West to the Rest and the global nature of challenges urge the need for international organisations to adapt to and reflect these changes. This has not yet happened. Meanwhile, the weakness of existing institutions sharply constrains the ability to address a range of international issues, from conflict and poverty to financial

The international geopolitical environment is much more strained now than at any point in the post-cold war period

imbalances and public health threats. Not surprisingly, the survey on the Global Agenda found an overwhelming majority calling for new structures for global governance. As one writer points out in the report: "the hegemon that in the past could be relied upon to maintain order is now thought to be receding, leaving emerging countries to make a play for strategic assets". Moreover, with Western states unwilling to cede or share power in global institutions with the rising powers, the report urges the need for major powers – old and new – to "learn to be partners in this new, more decentralised world". This of course is prudent counsel at an unsettled juncture in world politics. But until the strategic adjustments underway in several regions of the world – some violent, others not so – play themselves out, it is hard to see how such partnerships will be built or fostered. Without such cooperative endeavours, a new global governance architecture is unlikely to emerge to cope with the imposing challenges of our times. Indeed, if existing global institutional arrangements are too slow – or resistant – to embrace change, this will expose the world to even greater disarray than has been witnessed of late.

Courtesy: The News, Twitter: @LodhiMaleeha, The writer is special adviser to the Jang Group/Geo and a former envoy to the US and the UK

H.E. Mr. Rodolfo J. Martin Saravia, Ambassador of the Argentine Republic/ Dean of Diplomatic Corps hosts a Solo Exhibition of the Recent Works of Maria Martha Pichel at Embassy.



The Embassy of the Argentine Republic in Islamabad inaugurated another Exhibition of Argentine painting in Pakistan, where Argentine artist exposed more than 40 paintings. The previous painting exhibitions were hosted with a spectacular success by the Argentine Ambassador to Pakistan, H.E. Rodolfo J. Martin-Saravia, in 2007, 2009 and 2010 in Islamabad, Lahore and Karachi.

The Argentine Ambassador together with the Argentinean Artist: Maria Martha Pichel invited an important number of guests, members of the Diplomatic Corps and from the social spectrum of Pakistani: politicians, businessmen, journalists and other people of various fields including people from the world of art and culture.

From her beginnings the human figure predominates in all its forms in her works, with visible expressionist features. She debuts with her first exhibition in 1982 at the Soudan Gallery, the following year she starts working as a draftswoman at the Favaloro Foundation, illustrating for anatomy and cardiovascular surgery books; she then is granted a scholarship to study at the Center of Visual Arts of Buenos Aires. She assisted to the classes of maestros Hermenegildo Sabat, Eduardo Stupia, Carlos Herzberg and Raul Mazzoni; she finished her studies in Paris, at Francois Bouillon's Studio.

Since 1993 she lives and works in Europe and Argentina, displaying many of her exhibitions in Berlin, Bayreuth, Amsterdam, New York, Washington, Paris (where she received 2 important international painting prizes), and Buenos



Aires. She participated in Four exhibitions in Pakistan: Islamabad 2007, Lahore at the Shakir Ali Museum April 2007, in Islamabad Argentine Embassy in October 2009 and in Lahore at the Alhamra Art Gallery in October 2009 and in Karachi Avari Hotel in December 2010.

Nowadays, some of her pieces can be found in many art collections of Germany, New York, Buenos Aires and Pakistan. To make this exhibition successful, the Embassy of Argentina received the generous support and sponsorship from Parthenon General Contractors.

A pleasant ambience had been created on the lawn with lights, seating arrangements and canopied stalls at which refreshments were available, affording the guests an opportunity to relax and interact with each other after viewing the paintings.





UNODC assures support to Pakistan

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in Pakistan organised a National Conference on e-Learning for Pakistan's Law Enforcement. This event was mobilized jointly with Narcotics Control Division; and the National Police Bureau Pakistan, Government of Pakistan. Commemorating the 100,000 hours of training milestone, the conference highlighted the role of e-Learning platform in broadening the knowledge and field effectiveness of law enforcement personnel of Pakistan. It also emphasized on the need for further expansion of the programme and all-encompassing ownership for long-term sustainability. In a video presentation screened on the occasion, it was highlighted that with 92 e-Learning courses offered by UNODC and delivered across 40 e-Learning centers in

**"UNODC e-Learning programme is exactly the initiative that addresses such challenges, by focusing on capacity building of Pakistan's law enforcement personnel".
Ahsan Iqbal**

the training establishments of law enforcement, UNODC's e-Learning platform has delivered training to more than 15,000 law enforcement personnel in Pakistan. This amounts to more than 100 thousand hours of training on core law enforcement functions including: searches and interdiction techniques, evidence collection and preservation, detecting and investigating transnational organized crimes, criminal intelligence, and crime scene investigations. In this endeavour, twenty Pakistani law enforcement agencies partnered with UNODC for training of their personnel. Speaking on the occasion UNODC Representative Mr. Cesar Guedes said that United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime is committed to support Government of Pakistan in achieving security and justice for its people and the



region; by providing comprehensive assistance in combating drugs and crime. "UNODC e-Learning programme is exactly the initiative that addresses such challenges, by focusing on capacity building of Pakistan's law enforcement personnel". The Chief Guest Prof. Ahsan Iqbal, Minister for Planning, Development & Reform addressing on the occasion said that the Government of Pakistan, in line with the vision of Prime Minister, has given a futuristic roadmap for Pakistan in the shape of Vision 2025, which is going to be a strategic instrument in steering Pakistan towards growth & development. Mr. Iqbal said 'whilst without an environment of peace and security, economic development can neither be meaningful nor sustainable; there is an urgent need to integrate peace-building assessments into the development discourse'. In the current security context and challenges to Pakistan, the Federal Minister Mr. Ahsan

Iqbal said that particularly after 9/11 wars, extremism and terrorism have caused enormous loss to Pakistan's economy, society and the national image. "This situation calls for a consensus-based national vision and comprehensive strategy to not only combat these challenges, but also proactively embrace the future with peace, prosperity and dignity", Mr. Iqbal stressed. Welcoming the UNODC's initiative of e-Learning for Pakistan's law enforcement, the Federal Minister Mr. Ahsan Iqbal reaffirmed the Government of Pakistan's support to strengthen such efforts and to build partnership with all the stakeholders and the International community to help overcome the challenges Pakistan faces. The Conference was attended by the senior representatives, heads/deputies of law enforcement agencies, and their respective training establishments along with members of the Government of

Pakistan Ministries, Diplomatic Missions, UN Agencies, International NGOs, and experts from the academia. Shields were also distributed to the e-Learning Programme's recipient agencies, in recognition to their contribution in achieving the landmark of 100 thousand hours of e-Learning training, which include: National Police Academy, Federal Investigation Agency, Pakistan Rangers, Pakistan Customs, Anti Narcotics Force, Airports Security Force, Pakistan Coast Guards, Pakistan Maritime Security Agency, Frontier Corps Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Frontier Corps Balochistan, Frontier Constabulary, Balochistan Constabulary, Punjab Police, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Police, Islamabad Capital Territory Police, Balochistan Police, Sindh Police, Gilgit-Baltistan Police and Azad Jammu & Kashmir Police.

Diplomatic Focus Correspondent



Bid Farewell to H.E. Ambassador of the Hellenic Republic of Greece Mr. Petros Mavroidis & Madam by H.E. Mr. Rodolfo J. Martin Saravia Ambassador of Argentina at his residence, Islamabad

Guests:

H.E. Mr. Petros Mavroidis and Mrs. Virginia Theologitou
Ambassador of the Hellenic Republic of Greece
H.E. Mr. Moin-ul-Haque and Mrs. Farah Moin
Chief of Protocol
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
H.E. Mr. Emilian Ion
Ambassador of Romania
H.E. Mr. Andrzej Ananicz and Mrs. Zofia Ananicz
Ambassador of the Republic of Poland
H.E. Mr. Said Mohammed Hindam
Ambassador of the Arab Republic of Egypt
H.E. Mr. Janan Mosazai and Mrs. Zangah Mosazai
Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan
H.E. Senator Mushahid Hussain and Dr. Dushka H. Saiyid
President Defense Committee of Senate
Secretary General PML-Q
Nawabzada Malik Amad Khan and Mrs. Aliya Malik
Ex- State Minister for Foreign Affairs
Lt. Gen (R) Mr. Talat Masood and Mrs. Tasneem Masood
Defence Analyst
Mr. Abid Hasan and Mrs. Fareeha Hasan
Ex- Director World Bank
Mr. Aziz Boolani and Mrs. Wiqar-un-Nisa
Chief Executive
Mr. Hartmut Noack and Mrs. Hulya Noack
General Manager
Marriott Hotel Islamabad
Mr. Ali Afridi and Mrs. Gillo Afridi
Ms. Fatima Bhutto
Mr. Sohail Sethi
Mr. Oubay Atassi
Chairman Board of Directors
ICONDOR Telecom (Pvt) Ltd.
Dr. Maria Sultan
Director General
South Asia Strategic Stability Institute (SASSI)
Mr. Walid Mushtaq and Mrs. Sara Walid
Executive Director
Roots International Schools Pakistan.







By: Sajid Takar / Monitoring Desk

An overview of the US Midterm Elections, 2014

Elections in the United States held throughout 2014, and the general elections were held on November 4, 2014. During this midterm election year, all 435 seats in the United States House of Representatives and 36 of the 100 seats in the United States Senate were contested; along with 38 state and territorial governorships, 46 state legislatures (except Louisiana, Mississippi, New Jersey and Virginia), four territorial legislatures and numerous state and local races. The federal mid-term election became the most expensive in history, with total spending reaching \$3.7 billion, including

spending by outside entities. The elections saw sweeping gains by the Republican Party in the Senate, House, and in many gubernatorial elections, as well as state and local races. The Republicans gained control of the Senate for the first time since 2006, and increased their majority in the House. The Republicans also gained several seats in governors' races, defeating one incumbent Democrat and picking up three seats vacated by retiring Democrats.

Issues:

If we talk about the issue been raised during the campaign; there were few.

Unlike certain other elections, the 2014 election lacked a "dominant national theme", with no one issue standing above the others. Some of the major issues of the election included income inequality, net neutrality, the effects of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (commonly referred to as "Obamacare"), and immigration. The environment was also a major issue in the election. Although it generated much debate in early 2014, the Keystone Pipeline ultimately received little attention in the election, with environmentalists instead focused on fighting global warming and supporting the

EPA's proposed regulations on greenhouse gas emissions.

According to political commentator Stuart Rothenberg prior to the election, foreign policy crises in the Middle East, Ukraine, and Russia were likely to hurt the Democratic Party's chances in 2014.

Numerous elections held:

If we give a look to the elections in particular areas; it sums up so:

Senate elections:All 33 seats in Senate Class II were up for election. Additionally, three special elections were held to fill vacancies in Class III.

House of Representatives elections:All 435 voting seats in the United States House of Representatives were up for election. Elections were held to select the delegates for the District of Columbia and four of the five U.S. territories. The only seat in the House not up for election was the Resident Commissioner of Puerto Rico, who serves a four-year term.

Gubernatorial elections:Elections were held for the governorships of 36 of the 50 U.S. states and three U.S. territories.

State legislative elections:Elections to state legislatures were held in 46 states, with a total of 6049 seats up for election (82 percent of the total number of state legislative seats in the United States). Republicans won control of several legislative chambers, including both chambers of the Nevada Legislature, the West Virginia House of Representatives,

New Hampshire House of Representatives, the Minnesota House of Representatives, the New York Senate, the Maine Senate, the Colorado Senate, the Washington Senate, and the New Mexico House of Representatives. The election left Democrats controlling the smallest number of state legislatures in the party's history since the Civil War.

Local elections:Numerous elections were held for officeholders in numerous cities, counties, school boards, special districts and others around the country.

Mayoral elections:Major cities which held mayoral elections in 2014, include:

Louisville, Kentucky, Newark, San Diego, San Jose and Washington, D.C.

Milestones set:

These elections were also special in terms of setting various milestones. A series of milestones were set for African-Americans and women, among others, in the U.S. Congress and American politics in general. These include: Republican Saira Blair, elected to the West Virginia House of Delegates, became the youngest elected official to statewide office in American history, at age 18. Republican Terry Branstad, the governor of Iowa, was reelected to his sixth full four-year term as governor, thus becoming the longest-serving governor in U.S. history (surpassing George Clinton of New York). Republican George P. Bush, the son of former Florida governor Jeb Bush, was elected Commissioner of the Texas General Land

Office, becoming the first member of the Bush family to win his very first race for elected office. Republican Shelley Moore Capito, elected to the Senate from West Virginia, became the first female senator in West Virginia's history. Republican Joni Ernst, elected to the Senate from Iowa, became the first female combat veteran elected to the U.S. Congress, the first woman ever elected on a statewide level in Iowa, and the first woman ever elected to the U.S. Congress from Iowa. Republican Mia Love, elected to the House from Utah, was the first African-American woman elected to Congress as a Republican, and the first Haitian-American person elected to the U.S. Congress. Republican Elise Stefanik, elected to the House from New York, is the youngest woman elected to Congress at age 30. She beat the previous record-holder and fellow New Yorker, Elizabeth Holtzman, who was elected at age 31 in 1972. Tim Scott, South Carolina Republican candidate defeats two challengers to become only the fifth black US senator and the first in the south since the 19th century.

Impacts on Obama:

The elections, as expected, have resulted in bringing some impacts on President Obama. After the historical win in the US midterm elections, Senate Republican leader Mitch McConnell, during a news conference, challenged President Barack Obama to find common ground with Congress. Senate Republican leader held a news conference on the day after the Grand Old Party(GOP) gained enough seats



to control the Senate. The jubilant McConnell warned Obama not to “poison the well” by pushing forward with unilateral action on immigration reform, and promised to introduce legislation that would permit the long-delayed Keystone XL pipeline, bitterly opposed by environmentalists. Obama, meanwhile, conceded that the electorate had sent the Democrats a message, inflicting a rout on the party that was far worse than expected. Obama, however, acknowledged that Republicans had a “good night” after the elections, and sounded a conciliatory note. “I have a unique responsibility to try to make this town work,” said the president. “To everyone who voted: I hear you.” Obama could still veto Keystone as incompatible with his climate change agenda. Even with their electoral gains and support from conservative Democrats, the Republicans do not have the votes to override a presidential veto. Soon after the elections, both political parties began to assess the impact of a far-reaching Republican sweep in the midterm elections, with GOP leaders expected to start laying out their plans and the White House contemplating a final two years in office with a Republican-led Congress. In his first comments about his party’s across-the-board losses, President Barack Obama said at a news conference at the White House that he hoped to work constructively with Republicans in Congress, highlighting areas for immediate action as well as longer-term areas where he hoped to strike deals with lawmakers. President Barack Obama said Washington hears the American people and knows they expect politicians to get the job done. Big wins for Republican governors offered a road map for the new GOP majority in Congress. Mr. Obama enters the last two years of his time in office substantially weakened, having suffered two midterm defeats that rank among the worst for any president in modern times. The central question now is how both sides react to one another after years of gridlock and antagonism, and whether the changed dynamics open new opportunities for compromise on issues including energy, immigration and corporate taxes. A GOP-led Senate will have sway over approving Mr. Obama’s appointments to cabinet posts, including his next attorney general, and vacant judicial appointments. The 2014 midterm campaigns were defined by voters’ long-simmering frustration with the ability of elected officials in Washington to move the country forward. The economy was the top voter concern, with an overwhelming majority describing economic conditions as poor or “not so good.” Health care was second on the list. Before the elections, it was said that the elections were likely to result in shifting the president course. When President Obama swept into office six years ago, Democrats had firm control



of almost every level of government and a broad mandate for change. However, Obama confronted a painful message from voters: They wanted a different kind of change. Republicans won control of the Senate and expanded their grip on the House, likely forcing him to shuffle his staff and recalibrate his attempts to work with Republicans. Obama’s window of power is also now closing, with the political class in Washington already turning its attention to 2016 and who will replace him. A longtime Democratic strategist, Tad Devine, after the elections, said that it was critically important for the president to recognize the political terrain had changed dramatically, adding that if Republicans have control of the House and the Senate, it’s a whole new ballgame. He’s going to need to make serious adjustments in the ways he deals with the opposition. A Republican majority in the Senate will make it even harder for him to win confirmations, particularly if there is a Supreme Court vacancy. It will complicate efforts at far-reaching legislation, such as immigration or tax policy reform. Obama’s best hope may be that Republicans will recalibrate their strategy for the 2016 elections, in which they have to appeal to a broader national electorate and become more amenable to cutting deals, particularly on immigration. But analysts view that possibility as remote. Julian Zelizer, a political historian at Princeton University said that idea that there was going to be room for compromise was a nice idea, but it was not likely. Republicans are going to feel emboldened and they’re going to push the president much further than he wants to go on domestic policy. Obama is likely to do what many presidents do in their last two years: turn to the foreign stage, where they may have more leverage to effect change. But even there, Obama faces difficult challenges. Relations are thorny with both historic foes such as Russia as well as historic allies such as Israel; conflict in Iraq and Syria has become a mess; and Ebola continues to

have a hold in parts of West Africa. One possible breakthrough could come with a nuclear agreement with Iran, but Republicans will likely be skeptical.

Global impact

As the results of the elections have impacted Obama at home, it has also impacts on him globally. He will have no shortage of foreign crises to turn to, including Russian advances in Ukraine, the disintegrating order in the Middle East and the threat of a spreading Ebola virus.

Most of the observers are of the view that the bruising defeats suffered by Obama’s Democratic allies will probably leave him with less clout to navigate global troubles — and could add to a leadership void that Republicans seized on to help gain advantage with voters. According to Jeff Kingston, director of Asian studies at Temple University’s campus in Tokyo, Obama has very much weakened by the midterm results, and that’s going to decrease his role in his foreign policy in Europe, where Obama remains considerably more popular than he is at home, leaders long ago gave up on the idea that he could fundamentally reorient America’s global role. But the defeat confirmed that there will continue to be a vacuum in the final two years of what many Europeans once hoped would be a transformational presidency. The election results also could embolden American adversaries to further prod the limits of U.S. power. While Obama and congressional Republicans have broadly agreed on the need to adopt a tough line on Russia, a potential clash looms over the handling of another key antagonist, Iran. A Republican-controlled Congress is expected to be more supportive of the Trans-Pacific Partnership, a free-trade deal linking 12 countries. Beyond trying to manage crises, among the few foreign policy areas where Obama might expect to make progress in his final two years, analysts said, is trade.

H.E. Mr. Ali Santel, Ambassador of Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus hosted a reception to celebrate the 31st anniversary of proclamation of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus at Islamabad. Federal Minister Anusha Rehman was the chief guest at the reception. A large number of guests, diplomats as well as prominent Pakistanis from various segments of the society graced the reception.





H.E. Mr. Babur Girgin

Ambassador of the Republic of Turkey

hosts a President of Turkey Polo Cup match at Islamabad Polo Club.





Photo by Ramzan Mughal

H.E. Mr. Waleed Issa Ali Al Zadjali, Charge d' affairs of Oman hosted a reception on the 44th National Day of Oman. Chief Guest was Mr. Abdul Qadir Baloch Federal Minister for States and Frontier Regions. PML (Q) leader Ch. Shujaat Hussain, Ministers Baleegh ur Rehman and Sardar Muhammad Yousaf were also part of the celebrations. Politicians, parliamentarians, ambassadors, especially from Arab land, businessmen, media men, social workers and friends of Oman were part of the celebrations.





Pak-Cuban Interactions

Speaker National Assembly Mr. Ayaz Sadiq visit to Havana

Speaker National Assembly Mr. Ayaz Sadiq proceeded to Havana on an official visit to Cuba. The Speaker National Assembly is undertaking this visit on the invitations of his Cuban counterpart. The Speaker accompanied by parliamentary delegation to Cuba. The delegation accompanying Speaker National Assembly during his visit to Cuba comprises MNAs; Mr. Aijaz Hussain Jakhrani and Sardar Awais Ahmed Khan Leghari. During his stay in Havana (Cuba), the Speaker apart from meeting his Cuban counterpart also met leaders of the political hierarchy and parliamentarians and discussed ways and means to strengthen bilateral parliamentary and economic cooperation. The Speaker and his delegations also made interactions with Pakistani expatriates and local business community for further enhancing bilateral relation and cooperation in trade, educational, cultural and investment sectors between the Pakistan, Cuba.

By Agencies



Speaker National Assembly, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq laying floral wreath on the monument of Cuban National Hero Jose Marti in Havana, Cuba.



A group photo of parliamentary delegation headed by Speaker National Assembly, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq along with Speaker of National Assembly of Cuba in Havana, Cuba.

Belgian



Food Festival



Marriott Hotel in collaboration with the Royal Embassy of Belgium organized a 2 day Belgian Food Festival. Everybody was

invited to take a culinary trip to Belgium with renowned Chef Matthias Vanacker. Using high quality ingredients and cutting edge culinary techniques Chef Matthias

Vanacker created an innovative yet delicious menu varying from lighter options to the wonderfully indulgent. The result was an intriguing journey into discovering the highlights of Belgian cuisine. Furthermore to create a winning combination with excellent food renowned saxophonist, John Snauwaert, from Belgium also performed at the food festival- which was great news for jazz lovers. Official carrier for the event was Qatar Airways. Belgian Ambassador H.E Peter Claes, RGM Marriott Hotels Pakistan Mr. Hartmut Noack, GM Karachi Marriott Mr Jan Verduyn, Eric de Wagenaere, GM Restaurant Coeur d' Artichaut, Petit CoeurAll at Ghent Marriott Hotel, Chef Matthias Vanacker and renowned saxophonist, John Snauwaert addressed at the occasion.

Diplomatic Focus Correspondent



A lecture Mr. Alper Yurдеми The renowned Turkish archaeologist on Ottoman embroideries and culture at Lok Virsa Complex under the title
"Ottoman Embroideries: Meeting Point of Ottoman Palace and Popular Culture"
was organized by the Lok Virsa in collaboration with the Embassy of the Republic of Turkey in Islamabad.







Polio Eradication Through 2015

Japan's grant reinforces children's health in Pakistan US\$ 5.4 million contribution to bolster polio eradication through 2015

For the eradication of Polio, the Government of Japan, Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) signed agreements to make sure children are vaccinated in Pakistan, one of the last polio virus strongholds in the world. Mr. Amir Sheikh, Joint Secretary, MoNHSRC witnessed the ceremony on behalf of the Government of Pakistan. The USD 5.4 million (562 million Japanese Yen) worth grant will contribute to supporting UNICEF's commitment towards polio eradication effort during the period December 2014-November 2015. Japan's donation will make it possible for UNICEF to procure 15 million doses of the Oral Polio Vaccine (OPV) for mop-up campaigns, 1.3 million doses of the Inactivated Polio Vaccine (IPV) for children in high risk areas of the Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA) and Karachi, 100 solar ice-lined refrigerators (ILRs) for districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KPK) and FATA, backup generators and temperature monitoring systems for strengthening the cold chain at Federal, KPK, Balochistan and FATA vaccine stores. The grant will also strengthen the vaccine management through provision of

cold chain and logistic personnel at Federal, FATA and four provinces. H.E. Hiroshi Inomata, Ambassador of Japan to Pakistan reaffirmed Japan's commitment to help Pakistan to get rid of this preventable disease. He recalled that the Government of Japan has supported the Polio Eradication Initiative in Pakistan since 1996. Japan's assistance amounts to approximately USD149 million (JPY 15.5 billion, Rs. 15.2 billion). Given a large increase in the number of polio cases this year, Ambassador Inomata called on the Government of Pakistan and its partners to redouble their efforts to address the existing complex challenge in the fight against polio. He welcomed the commitment of the Government of Pakistan shown in the National Task Force Meeting chaired by Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif on 5 November. He reiterated Japan's commitment to working together until the day of its complete eradication. Mr. Mitsuyoshi Kawasaki, Chief Representative of Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) Pakistan, emphasized urgent needs of fully organized service delivery system of immunization programme. "This grant

addresses urgent needs of current polio situation in Pakistan and will enable children to acquire rapid immunization among children influx from FATA who have had zero dose since June 2012 and children who hardly get immunity with OPV. Provision of ILRs and human resource for vaccine management will contribute to make immunization activities further effective. We are hopeful that this grant will serve as a drive for the final phase of Pakistan's fight against polio virus". Angela Kearney, UNICEF Representative in Pakistan added "this latest contribution by the Government of Japan comes at a critical time when the number of children paralyzed by polio and the risk of transmission to other countries is the highest in a decade". Pakistan is at cross roads on polio eradication. The number of polio cases has been on the rise, and concerted efforts are necessary to reverse this trend and achieve the goal of a world free of polio. Eradicating polio will not only benefit children in Pakistan, but will ensure that no child, anywhere, will ever suffer from this disease again.



Brazilian National Day celebrations

To celebrate the National Day of Brazil, the ambassador of Brazil H.E. Mr. Alfredo Leoni hosted a grand reception at the Marquee recently. The event was well attended by a large number of guests from the diplomatic community and Pakistanis from many walks of life. The

guests of honor were the Federal Minister for National Food Security and Research, Mr. Sikandar Hayat Bosan, and the Minister of State for Petroleum and Natural Resources, Mr. Jam Kamal Khan. More than 500 guests witnessed a live performance of Capoeira, the traditional wrestling

sports of Brazil, and enjoyed specialties of the Brazilian cuisine especially prepared for the occasion. The guests of honour along with the hosts cut the cake after the national anthems of the two countries were played.





Understanding Digital Politics

I practice, research and teach media and can understand that populism clouds the process of democracy. I see populism in the movement of Imran Khan and that the exclusivism prevailing in the corridors of power is feeding this populism. Khan's movement relies on projection of simplified and generalised complexities of a system that has been under attack since its inception. Not by coincidence does his approach strike a chord with the media; and so Khan continues to carry his message on sound bites and mercury lights. It seems that the social mobility experts of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) owe a lot to India's Anna Hazare for making their jalsa star-studded and full of oomph. This, definitely, is about lifestyle – the lifestyle of the new generation that is eager to become the engine of 'change'. Nobel Laureate Joseph E Stiglitz in his book 'Making Globalization Work' pressed on acquiring "an engaged and educated citizenry" if we look for "another world". The media has taken on the job of keeping the citizenry 'engaged' while politics is about keeping them 'educated'. Frank Esser of the University of Zurich and Stig Hjarvard of the University of Stockholm have identified these functions of media and politics as media logic and political logic, respectively. The problem arises when politicians, in most cases under the 'influence of presumed

media influence', begin adopting media logic. Instead of reforming the system with hard work, they launch drives to transform the system shouting catchy slogans and resorting to hyperbole. They resort to the adoption of media logic, which calls for simplification/generalisation of complex matters – for example, measuring rigging in elections or output of parliamentary proceedings. This ultimately leads to conflict and controversy. The total submission to media logic by politicians is a phased process, identified as mediatisation of politics. This process is seen as a threat to democracy in Europe. Some conservatives also equate mediatisation with Americanisation of politics. What we see at D-Chowk is the manifestation of mediatisation of politics. We see that Imran Khan tells his supporters on live camera that the system is rotten, missing the point that people of this country had sent him to parliament to remove the rot. He tells them that a few political families are to blame for the decaying quality of democracy in Pakistan, missing the fact that unparliamentary powers have been active to weaken parliament all along. He issues a sweeping statement that the polls were rigged, missing the point that the devil lies in the details. He says he managed the World Cup success, missing the point that there was also a team with him in this effort. I do not

say that Imran is unclear about the point he misses or any other conspiracy theory. I, rather, admit that his message is unstoppable. He repeats this message daily and the media relays this repetition many times a day. Hence, its impact is magnified to cosmic proportions. Nobody cares any more about parliamentary process or the missing points. What Khan says is the reality and he has society mobilisers, who further simplify and generalise his message in the form of songs and other means of expression. It becomes so popular that even a media researcher who does not get carried away by populism could not but enjoy hearing his minor stammer, 'Go Nawaz Go'. The media researcher becomes a sort of outcast in his own living room if he tries to explain to his family and friends how the positioning of mercury lights and placement of cameras serve to magnify the crowds in Lahore on our TV screens. It is because nobody is interested in understanding these things when they watch these images live. I teach students that society has gone digital, and has in fact become a networked society and we should learn to live with it. A student once asked what the cure to digital insecurity or media manipulations was – I said the cure is understanding it.

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The Dean of the Diplomatic Corps

H.E. Mr. Rodolfo Martin Saravia bids Farewell to the outgoing ambassador of Qatar Mr. Sayar Abdul Rahman Al-Mawdah



From LEFT: Ambassador of Qatar Mr. Sayar Abdul Rahman Al-Mawdah, President of Jammu and Kashmir Sardar Yaqoob Khan , Ambassador of Argentina Mr. Rodolfo Martin Saravia, Ambassador of Bahrain Mr. Mohamed Ebrahim Mohamed Abdulkader and Deans of Arab Region.



Reception to bid farewell to Greece and Austria Ambassador and also to welcome new ambassador of France and Vietnam

Dean of Diplomatic corps, Ambassador Mr. Rodolfo Martin Saravia hosted a reception at the embassy of Argentina to bid farewell to Ambassador of Greece H.E. Mr. PetrosMavroidis and Austria H.E. Mr. Axel Wech in Islamabad, on completion of their assignment in Pakistan. A large number of ambassadors and senior diplomats attended the reception. Deputy Chief of Protocol from Ministry of Foreign Affairs Muhammad Saleem also attended the reception. In his address, Ambassador Rodolfo Martin

Saravia paid prosperous tributes to Ambassador Petros and Ambassador Axel their commitment to their diplomatic assignment in Pakistan. He said both ambassadors always worked to promote friendly relations between Pakistan and their country. They also worked to promote good relations among all the countries accredited to Pakistan. The outgoing ambassadors thanked Ambassador Rodolfo Martin Saravia for arranging a warm farewell in their honour. Both Ambassadors also thanked their colleagues and other diplomats who joined

the dean of diplomatic corps in bidding their farewell.

As a tradition, Dean of Diplomatic Corps Ambassador Rodolfo Martin Saravia presented a souvenir to both outgoing ambassadors and flowers to Mrs. PetrosMavroidis. Dean also took the opportunity of introducing new ambassadors of France and Vietnam. The dean of diplomatic corps welcomed the new ambassadors. He assured the new ambassadors of all cooperation to them by the diplomatic corps in Islamabad.





French Ambassador H.E. Mrs. Martine DORANCE, Dean of the Diplomatic Corps H.E. Mr. Rodolfo J. Martin-Saravia, Greece Ambassador H.E. Mr. Petros Mavroidis & Madam, Austria Ambassador H.E. Mr. Axel Wech, VIETNAM H.E. Mr. Nguyen Xuan Luu, Deputy Chief of Protocol Muhammad Saleem



Dean of the Diplomatic Corps H.E. Mr. Rodolfo J. Martin-Saravia, Ambassador of Greece H.E. Mr. Petros Mavroidis & Madam, Ambassador of Austria H.E. Mr. Axel Wech



H.E. Dr. Andrezej Ananicz, ambassador of the Republic of Poland along with his wife Ms. Zofia hosted a reception On the occasion of the Independence Day and the Armed Forces Day of the Republic of Poland at the Marriott Hotel, Islamabad. The guest of honour was Minister for Commerce Khurram Dastagir, while Dean of the Diplomatic Corps; the ambassadors of Hungary, the Czech Republic, the European Union and a couple of senior officers of the Pakistan Armed Forces were also on the stage.





International Foreign Mission Badminton Tournament 2014

1. The Sports Club High Commission of Malaysia in collaboration with Islamabad Club recently hosted the event on 27 and 28 Sept 2014. Participation from 18 countries such as Afghanistan, Denmark, China, Canada, Indonesia, Brunei, Thailand and Philippines and Malaysia sent representatives to participate for the very first time event organised by a Foreign Mission. As the Host, H.E. Dato' Dr Hasrul Sani Mujtabar,

High Commissioner of Malaysia welcomes all who participate and encourage such events to be on a regular basis amongst foreign missions.

2. There were four categories in the event with a total number of 60 players participating in the tournament. The categories are Ambassadors Doubles Categories, Men's Doubles Category, Mixed Doubles Category and Ladies Doubles Category. The game format was on

a 21 points per games; of 3 games, with deuce up to 18 points. It was worth mentioning that the participation from Ambassadors are very encouraging. Malaysia High Commissioner was represented by H.E. Dato' Dr Hasrul Sani Mujtabar, High Commissioner of Malaysia pairing with H.E. Tomsit Jarnson emerged Runners Up in the Ambassadors categories which was won by the combination of Afghanistan and Danish pair.

3. Results of the Matches were as follows:

CATEGORY	Champions	Runners Up
Amb Mens Doubles	▪ H.E Janan Mosazai (Afghan)	▪ H.E Dato Dr' Hasrul Sani Mujtabar (Malaysia)
Men's Double	▪ H.E Jesper Moller Soreman ((Denmark)	▪ H.E Tonwit Jarson (Thailand)
Mixed Doubles	▪ Col Mohd Azhar Zainal (Msia)	▪ Mr. Fakhorazi (Indonesia)
Ladies Double	▪ Mr Loenchai Jantarasombat (Thailand)	▪ Mr. Andy Tobing (Indonesia)
Mixed Double	▪ Mr. Chen Jia Lin (China)	▪ Mr. Loenchai Jantarasombat (Thailand)
Won by China	▪ Mdm Li Yu (China)	▪ Mdm. Dajan Jansombat (Thailand)
—	▪ Mdm Bao Jiqing (China)	▪ Mdm. Kiran Malla (Nepal)
0 2 (7-15, 9-15)	▪ Mdm Du Jieuhui (China)	▪ Mdm Aisyia Adam ((Maldives)
	▪ Mr. Aiyub (Malaysia)	▪ Mr. Chen Jialin
	▪ Mrs. Hasniza (Malaysia)	▪ Ms. Li Yu



1. During the presentation of prizes and Closing remarks, H.E. Dato Hasrul Sani Muhtar express his wishes that more of similar activities and events will take place in the near future as this would be the best

platforms of having more interactions and to foster better relationships among members of the diplomatic corps. HE Dato Hasrul also records appreciation to those who contributes of making this

tournament a success in particular to the officials, umpires and linesmen and also to the organisers.





Pakistan opposes increase in permanent UNSC seats

Pakistan has urged the UN General Assembly not to allow the creation of new permanent seats in the Security Council as part of the reform

“Council reform should reflect the aspirations and interests of all; not the ambitions of a few,” Ambassador Masood Khan

process, while underscoring the need for strengthening the role of the 193-member Assembly. Any expansion in the Council's permanent member category would be a negation of the General Assembly's “democratic character”, Ambassador Masood Khan, Pakistan's permanent representative, told the General Assembly. “General Assembly should pursue the principle of the greatest good of the greatest number by ensuring that all member states — small, medium-sized and large — that make up the family of the United Nations, are adequately and appropriately represented in the reformed Council,” he said in a discussion on the revitalisation of the Assembly. India, Brazil, Germany and Japan — known as the Group of Four — have been pushing for permanent seats in an expanded council.

Pakistan, along with other members of the Uniting for Consensus (UfC), opposes any additional permanent members in the expanded Security Council. They support the Italy-Columbia proposal that would create a new category of members — not

permanent members — with longer duration and a possibility to get re-elected. The Security Council is currently composed of five permanent members — Britain, China, France, Russia and the United States — and 10 non-permanent members that are elected in groups of five to two-year terms on the Council.

“Council reform should reflect the aspirations and interests of all; not the ambitions of a few,” the Pakistani envoy said. The reform process, he said, should not be a partial and lopsided, focusing only on increase in the membership, especially permanent seats. Reform had to focus on increasing representation as well as other equally important matters — the veto, size and working methods, regional representation and relationship between the General Assembly and the Security Council. Masood Khan said faithful implementation of General Assembly resolutions and decisions required two essential conditions — critical political will of member states and adequate resources. “Appropriate measures should be taken to avoid selective implementation of resolutions, by design or by default.” As the Assembly moved towards the selection of the Secretary-General in 2016, he said it would be a major challenge to meet

expectations for transparency and inclusiveness. The Ad Hoc Group on the matter should make that an important part of its agenda.

“Appropriate measures should be taken to avoid selective implementation of resolutions, by design or by default.” Ambassador Masood Khan

“Revitalisation of the UNGA and faithful implementation of its decisions would act as force multiplier in empowering the UN to resolve difficult issues of peace and security, development and human rights.”

By Agencies



"Turkey-Pakistan Cultural Year 2014"

Prof. Dr. Dariusz Kolodziejczyk delivered a lecture on the topic,

'Khan, Caliph, Tsar and Imperator: The multiple identities of the Ottoman Sultan.'

Held at the auditorium of the Turkish embassy, the event was attended by Pakistani and expatriate guests who are interested in the fascinating history of the Ottoman Empire, reputed as the largest empire ever.



H.E Dr. Ahmed Benflis, Ambassador of Algeria Hosted a reception to Celebrate 60th Anniversary of Launching of Armed Struggle for the Restoration of National Independence of Algeria, at Islamabad. Mr. Pervez Rashid, the Minister of Information, Mass-media Broadcasting, and National Heritage was the Chief Guest.





H.E. Mr. Nedim Makarevic,

Ambassador of Bosnia and Herzegovina Hosted Birth Day Reception of his Son at Embassy. Diplomats, Diplomatic Community and guests from different walks of life enjoyed the event.



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Hon. Consul of Republic of Poland