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Special Edition



Prince Muqrin bin Abdulaziz
Crown Prince



Prince Mohammad bin Nayef,
Deputy Crown Prince

King Salman bin Abdul Aziz Al Saud
Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques

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Mian Fazal Elahi

Editorial

King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz of Saudi Arabia death is An irreparable loss to the Muslim Ummah. A number of world leaders also attended the funeral of the Saudi leader, which shows his popularity in the world. Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif represented Pakistan along with Punjab Chief Minister Mian Shahbaz Sharif and Prime Minister's Special Assistant on Foreign Affairs Tariq Fatemi. King Abdullah was hailed as a "reformer". Some steps were taken to help the Kingdom reach up to the social standard expected of an economically stable country in the 21st century. Women were allowed to vote – 2015 may be the first time Saudi women get to exercise this right. King Abdullah had deep attachment with Pakistan. He was known as Abdullah Pakistani, which shows his love and affection for Pakistan. Saudi Arabia always played an important role in progress and development of Pakistan. Pakistan cannot forget valuable assistance and cooperation rendered by the Kingdom following imposition of sanctions on the country in the wake of nuclear explosions. He pointed out that Saudi Arabia provided oil facility to Pakistan during this period to help overcome its financial constraints.

Prince Salman bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud is now officially the new Saudi King. In a televised speech, the new King said, the country would never deviate from its constitution, the Holy book and Islamic teachings. He also announced appointment of Muqrin bin Abdulaziz as Crown Prince and Mohammed bin Nayef as Deputy Crown Prince. Pak-Saudi relations would continue to scale new heights during tenure of the new King. He said the two brotherly countries would forge their relations in different spheres of life. Diplomatic focus feel grief and sorrow on this great loss and express deep condolence with Royal family of Saudi Arabia, people of Saudi Arabia and with diplomatic mission in Pakistan. May Allah lay his Soul rest in peace, Amin

"To God we belong and indeed to him we shall return,"

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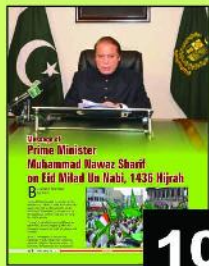
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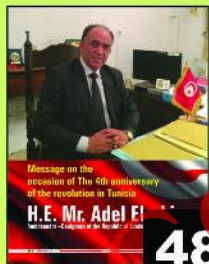
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Message of Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif on Eid Milad Un Nabi, 1436 Hijrah

Bismillahir Rahmanir Raheem,

I extend felicitations to the nation on the revered day of Eid Milad un Nabi (Peace be upon Him). We are fortunate to be the Ummah of the Prophet who was sent by the Creator of the Universe as a blessing for all the worlds.

Through Prophet Muhammad (Peace be upon Him), Allah Almighty guided the humanity towards the path of success and triumph.

Islam is the religion of nature and blessings. It is the religion of tolerance, patience, religious harmony, respect for humanity, forbearance and compassion.



Allah Almighty is the Creator of human nature and disposition. For the betterment of His creation, He bestowed them with the religion Islam, which is very close and compatible to the human nature. This is the best gift for the mankind.

The personality of Prophet Muhammad (Peace be upon Him) is the true reflection of the religion of nature. The virtues of excellence that are required for the realization of humanity, have not only been taught by Prophet Muhammad (Peace be upon Him) but also been implemented by Him in his own life. Hundreds of instances came in the life of Prophet Muhammad (Peace be upon Him), when He instead of taking revenge, used the policy of patience, forgiveness, pardon, reconciliation and dialogue.

The basic requisite to express love and respect for Prophet Muhammad (Peace be upon Him) is to follow His Sunnah and teachings. The Prophet (Peace be upon Him) never commanded about a single thing which he never implemented in his own life. The society will grow into an exemplary society right from the day we start practically implementing the teachings of



Prophet Muhammad (Peace be upon Him) in our lives.

The present government has embarked upon the journey of prosperity and success. Insha'Allah, we will soon be successful in achieving the goals of development. It is my request to the country fellows

to inculcate in themselves the qualities of unity, tolerance, fraternity, harmony, and the spirit of sacrifice and reconciliation, as with these teachings of Prophet Muhammad (Peace be upon Him), they can fight all kinds of extremist beliefs.

I pray that may Allah Almighty forgive our shortcomings and weaknesses and bless us with the benediction of Prophet Muhammad (Peace be upon Him) and make Pakistan a place of peace and harmony. Ameen.

Pakistan paidnabad.



Federal Minister for Finance, Senator, Muhammad Ishaq Dar attending the Mehfil-e-Milad organized by the OGDCL in Islamabad



Pakistan, Saudi Arabia

agree to strengthen ties in diverse sectors

By Mian Fazal Elahi

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif visited Saudi Arabia on a two-day visit during the mid of the last month to inquire after the health of King Abdullah bin Abdul Aziz.

The prime minister also met Crown Prince Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud and Deputy Crown Prince Muqrin bin Abdulaziz Al Saud. They exchanged views for further enhancing brotherly relations between the two countries in all areas of mutual interest, including economic relations, defence and security cooperation, export of manpower from Pakistan to Saudi Arabia and regional and international issues.

PM Nawaz Sharif said both countries were tied in close bonds of common faith and values.

Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif and Saudi Crown Prince Salman Bin Abdul Aziz agreed to bring the two countries closer in various fields.

The agreement came during a meeting in Riyadh.

The Saudi Crown Prince said the Kingdom is second home to Pakistanis.

During the meeting, bilateral relations, situation in the Middle East and issues facing the Muslim world came under discussion.

The premier took the Saudi crown prince into confidence about measures being



Prime Minister Mian Muhammad Nawaz Sharif shaking hands with King Abdullah bin Abdul Aziz

taken to tackle terrorism and militancy in Pakistan.

PM Nawaz, who arrived in Saudi Arabia on a two-day visit, was welcomed by Riyadh Governor Prince Turki bin Abdullah bin Abdulaziz.

During the meeting they emphasized on the importance of close bilateral relations between the two countries and ways of enhancing them in various fields. They also discussed the latest developments at regional and international levels.

Trade and economic ties between the two countries also came under discussion in the meeting.

PM Nawaz was also reassured about the health of the custodian of two Holy mosques King Abdullah bin Abdul Aziz Al Saud and wished him good health. The Saudi King has been in poor health.

During the meeting, the two underscored the need of close bilateral relations between the two countries and ways of enhancing them in various fields and discussed the latest developments in regional and international arenas.

The meeting was also attended by Prince Muqrin bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, Deputy Crown Prince, Second Deputy Premier, Advisor and Special Envoy of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, Prince Khalid bin Bandar bin Abdulaziz, Chief of General Intelligence, Prince Miteb bin Abdullah bin Abdulaziz, Minister of National Guard Prince Turki bin Abdullah bin Abdulaziz, Governor of Riyadh Region Prince Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdulaziz, Minister of State, Cabinet's Member and



Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif meeting Saudi Crown Prince Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, Deputy Premier and Minister of Defense at Al-Yamamah Palace, Riyadh.



Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif meeting Governor Riyadh HRH Prince Turki bin Abdullah bin Abdul Aziz upon his arrival in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

Chief of the Crown Prince's Court and Special Advisor and Minister of State and Cabinet's Member Dr. Musa'ed bin Mohammed Al-Aiban.

The prime minister also performed Umra and paid his respects at Roza-e-Rasool (SAW) in Madina. Prime Minister pays respects at Roza-e-Rasool.

He offered Isha Prayers and Nawafil in Masjid-e-Nabvi and prayed for solidarity and prosperity of Pakistan and the Muslim Ummah.

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif also called on Saudi King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz in Riyadh.

The Prime Minister remained with him for some time and inquired about his health. He prayed for his good health, recovery and long life.

He expressed concern over the health of the ailing King and prayed for his early recovery.

He said Pakistan nation is praying for his speedy recovery and long life of the King.

Pakistan's delegation comprised Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Tariq Fatemi and Pakistan's Ambassador to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia Manzoor Al-Haq.

Prime Minister Nawaz's visit to Saudi Arabia is the third high-level contact between the two countries in less than a year.

In his pre-departure statement the Prime Minister said Pakistan and Saudi Arabia were tied in close bonds of shared faith and values. He said being the custodians of two holy mosques; the Saudi leadership has a special place in the heart of every Pakistani.



Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif being received by Governor Riyadh HRH Prince Turki bin Abdullah bin Abdul Aziz upon his arrival in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.



Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif Paying homage at the Roza of the Holy Prophet (Peace be upon him) in Madinah Munawwarah.



Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif with Deputy Governor Madinah Munawwarah Regional Abdul Mohsin and Ambassador Manzoor ul Haq at Royal Terminla of Madinah Airport before departing for Pakistan.



Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif talking to the King of Bahrain His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa at Sakhir Palace in Manama, Bahrain.

By Mian Fazal Elahi

Pakistan

is keen to improve bilateral economic ties and volume of trade with

Bahrain:

PM Nawaz

At the invitation of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, King of the Kingdom of Bahrain, His Excellency Mr. Muhammad Nawaz Sharif, Prime Minister of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, paid an official visit to the Kingdom of Bahrain January 2015. The Prime Minister was accompanied by Begum Kalsoom Nawaz and a high-level delegation.

His Royal Highness Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa, the Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Bahrain, very warmly welcomed H.E. the Prime Minister of Pakistan on arrival at the airport.

His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa received H.E. the Prime Minister of Pakistan, in the presence of His Royal Highness Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa, the Prime Minister and His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince, at Sakhir Palace. His Majesty the King conferred on the Prime Minister Shaikh Isa bin Salman Al Khalifa First Class Medal in recognition of his contribution

towards further strengthening relationship between the two countries. His Majesty the King also hosted a banquet in honour of the Prime Minister.

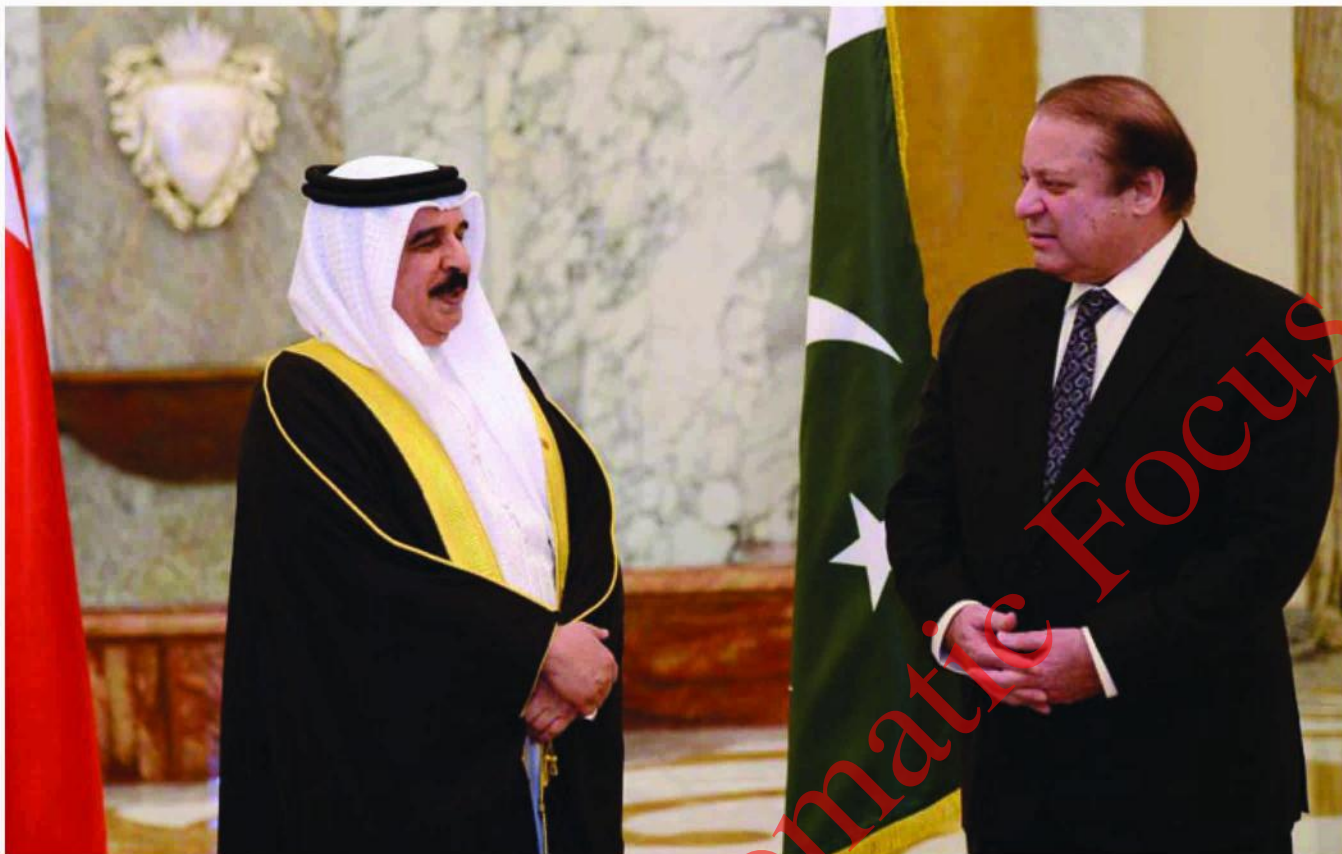
The Prime Ministers of the two countries held high-level talks. His Royal Highness the Prime Minister hosted luncheon in honour of the Prime Minister and the accompanying delegation.

Pakistan and Bahrain have signed several agreements and MoUs (Memorandum of Understanding) for promotion of existing bilateral relations.

These MoUs include promotion of education, establishing links between Bahrain and Quaid-e-Azam universities, arts and culture, promotion of small and medium scale businesses and visa exemptions for diplomatic and special passport holders.

Both the countries also signed an agreement to declare Islamabad and Bahraini capital Manama as twin cities.

During the ceremony, the Prime Minister of Pakistan handed over to His Royal Highness the



Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif with King of Bahrain His Majesty King Hamad Bin Isa Al Khalifa at Sakhir Palace in Manama, Bahrain.



Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif with the Prime Minister of Bahrain His Royal Highness Shaikh Khalifa bin Salman Al-Khalifa at Musharraq Airport in Manama, Bahrain.

Prime Minister of Bahrain the Instrument of Ratification (IoR) of the Agreement for the Promotion and Protection of Investments.

Earlier, the premier invited investors of Bahrain to invest in Pakistan, particularly in the energy sector.

The remarks came during delegation-level talks with Bahrain Prime Minister Shaikh Khalifa bin Salman Al-Khalifa in Manama.

PM Nawaz said Pakistan is keen to work with Bahrain to improve economic relations.

"Pakistan and Bahrain share common perceptions on many regional and international issues," he said.

Earlier, the two premiers also held a one-on-one meeting.

In his comments written in the visitor's book, PM Nawaz noted that Pakistan and Bahrain are brothers in faith and have shared values and culture. He said that increased bilateral interaction between the two countries would bring their peoples closer to each other.

In his pre-departure statement the premier said that relations between the two countries are rooted deep in shared history, faith, values, and culture and are based on mutual trust and understanding.



Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif receiving Guard of Honour along with Commander in Chief of Bahrain Defence Force, Field Marshal Shaikh Khalifa bin Ahmed Al Khalifa upon his arrival at the headquarters of Bahrain.

Shaikh Khalifa bin Salman Al-Khalifa said that people of Bahrain and Pakistan are bound together by shared faith and values and exchanges of delegations would bring them closer to each other.

He expressed the confidence that his visit will open new vistas of cooperation between the two countries particularly in the field of energy helping Pakistan overcome acute shortage of the commodity.

PM Nawaz further said Pakistan is keen to improve bilateral economic ties and volume of trade with Bahrain which currently stands at 200 million dollars.

In light of the existing close

of mutual interest to further broaden and deepen bilateral engagement in all mutually beneficial fields. The leaders underscored the importance of this approach to provide impetus for promoting political and economic relations, tourism and people-to-people contacts.

The two sides expressed their satisfaction at the regular exchange of high-level visits during the recent years and

Bahrain hosts over 100,000 Pakistanis, who are contributing to the development of the Kingdom and are a bridge between the peoples of two countries.

bilateral ties between the two countries, wide-ranging discussions were held in a sincere, friendly and candid atmosphere. The discussions were focused on bilateral, regional and multilateral issues

recalled the substantive outcome of the successful State Visit of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, to the Islamic Republic of Pakistan on 18-20 March 2014, and agreed to follow up on the

The following documents were signed during the visit:

- 1) Agreement on exemption from Short Stay Visa for Diplomatic and Special Passport holders (Bahrain) and Diplomatic and Official Passport holders (Pakistan)
- 2) MOU on Twinning of Islamabad, Capital of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and Manama, Capital of the Kingdom of Bahrain
- 3) MOU in the Field of Education and Higher Education
- 4) MOU between the University of Bahrain and Quaid-i-Azam University
- 5) MOU on Cooperation in the field of Culture and Arts
- 6) MOU on Co-operation in the field of Small and Medium Enterprises development



Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif meeting the Prime Minister of Bahrain His Royal Highness Shaikh Khalifa bin Salman Al-Khalifa in Manama, Bahrain.



Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif meeting Commander of Bahrain National Guard, Lt. General Shaikh Mohammad bin Isa bin Salman Al-Khalifa in Manama, Bahrain.



Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif meeting Bahrain's Minister for Energy Dr. Abdul Hussain bin Ali Mirza in Manama, Bahrain.



Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif talking to the Labour Minister of Bahrain Mr. Jamel bin Mohammad Humaidan in Manama, Bahrain.

implementation of the agreements and the Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) signed during the visit.

Bahrain and Pakistan agreed on the need to encourage the private sector to participate in the establishment of a Pakistan Energy Fund. The Prime Minister of Pakistan conveyed deep appreciation on behalf of the people of Pakistan for the Royal gesture to establish King Hamad University Hospital in Pakistan.

Both sides underscored the importance of continuing regular consultations through the existing institutional mechanisms and agreed to hold the inaugural meeting of the Bahrain-Pakistan Joint Ministerial Commission in Islamabad in 2015.

His Majesty the King conferred on the Prime Minister Shaikh Isa bin Salman Al Khalifa First Class Medal in recognition of PM Nawaz contribution towards further strengthening relationship between the two countries.

Recognising the need to hold regular Foreign Ministry Consultations, both sides decided that the first round of consultations would be held in 2015, in accordance with the Memorandum of Understanding on Bilateral Consultations signed between the two Foreign Ministers on 20 December 2006.

The two sides stressed the importance of increasing defense and security cooperation between the two countries, and reiterated their desire to hold security dialogue annually between the two countries. They decided to increase sharing of information, intelligence and assessments.

Both sides denounced terrorism in all its



Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif in a meeting with the King of Bahrain His Majesty King bin Isa Al Khalifa at Sakhir Palace in Manama, Bahrain.



Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif and Prime Minister of Bahrain His Highness Shaikh Khalifa bin Salman Al-Khalifa witnessing signing an Agreement between the two countries on Exemption from Short Stay Visa for holders of Diplomatic and official passport holders in Manama, Bahrain.

forms and manifestations and reaffirmed their desire to strengthen their cooperation, at both the bilateral and multilateral levels, in combating terrorism and financing of terrorism. Pakistan reaffirmed its support for measures taken by the Government of the Kingdom of Bahrain in order to combat terrorism and maintain security and stability.

The leaders of Bahrain reiterated strong condemnation of the horrible terrorist attack, which targeted a school in Peshawar, Pakistan, and claimed the lives of 145 innocent school children and teachers. Bahrain affirmed full support to Pakistan in confronting and defeating terrorist groups, and offered condolences to the Government and the people of

Pakistan and to the relatives of the victims of this barbaric incident, emphasising that such acts are alien to all religions and in total contradiction to human values. The Prime Minister of Pakistan thanked the Bahraini leadership for the expression of sympathy and solidarity on behalf of the people of Pakistan.

The Government of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan congratulated the Government of the Kingdom of Bahrain for successful holding of free and fair general elections on 22 and 29 November 2014; stressing that the participation of the people of Bahrain in large numbers demonstrated their faith in the political system and confidence in the leadership of Bahrain.

Expressing satisfaction over improving economic cooperation between the two brotherly countries, both sides recognized the potential for greater trade and commercial exchanges, and agreed to take all steps necessary to provide a greater impetus to bilateral trade turnover.

Realising the significant role played by investors, both sides agreed to provide favourable environment for investors from both countries and emphasized the need for regular and timely exchange of information on available investment opportunities. Recognizing the enormous growth potential of their economies, Pakistan side encouraged Bahraini investors to take advantage of favourable environment for investment and to



Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif in a meeting with the Commander in Chief of Bahrain Defence Force, Field Marshal Shaikh Khalifa bin Al Khalifa at the headquarters of Bahrain Defence Force.



Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif being received by the Prime Minister of Bahrain His Highness Shaikh Khalifa bin Salman Al-Khalifa at Musharraq Airport in Manama, Bahrain.



Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif being received by Commander in Chief of Bahrain Defence Force, Field Marshal Shaikh Khalifa bin Ahmed Al Khalifa upon his arrival at the headquarters of Bahrain Defence Force.

consider investing in areas of high rate of return in Pakistan and shared information about their infrastructure development plans in near future. The Pakistani side recognized Bahrain as an ideal gateway to the GCC markets.

The leaders agreed on the importance of peaceful resolution of all issues, regional as well as global, through dialogue.

Furthermore, the leaders agreed on enhancing cooperation in the fields of energy, youth and sports, advancement of women, social works and human resource development, agriculture, marine resources, cattle breeding, poultry and

fish-farming.

Alongside extensive discussions on bilateral relations, views were exchanged on regional and international issues of mutual interest, including the situation in the Middle East and the situation in West Asia and South Asia. The leaders agreed on the importance of peaceful resolution of all issues, regional as well as global, through dialogue.

Bahrain and Pakistan called upon the international community to work towards reaching a peaceful solution for the Palestinian-Israeli conflict based on the two-state solution in accordance with relevant UN resolutions, and the Arab Peace Initiative. The two sides also reaffirmed their determination to provide the necessary support to reach a solution that leads to the establishment of an independent sovereign Palestinian state on the basis of the 1967 borders with Al-Quds Al-Shareef as its capital, and solve all final status issues, which will lead to regional peace and security. They reiterated that Israeli settlements on the Occupied Palestinian Territories are not only illegal under international law but also undermine prospects for achieving comprehensive long-standing peace.

Acknowledging the immense existing commercial potential between Pakistan and the GCC countries, Bahrain reiterated its support and commitment to further strengthen cooperation, through early finalization of the Pakistan-GCC Free Trade Agreement.

His Excellency Mr. Muhammad Nawaz Sharif, Prime Minister of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, thanked His Majesty the King, His Royal Highness the Prime Minister and His Royal Highness the Crown Prince for the warm welcome and

generous hospitality extended to him and his delegation. The Prime Minister of Pakistan extended invitations to His Majesty the King, His Royal Highness the Prime Minister and His Royal Highness the Crown Prince to visit the Islamic Republic

Pakistan and Bahrain are brothers in faith and have shared values and culture. He said that increased bilateral interaction between the two countries would bring their peoples closer to each other:
Comments written by PM Nawaz in the visitor's book

of Pakistan, at their earliest convenience, which were gladly accepted.

Bahrain hosts over 100,000 Pakistanis, who are contributing to the development of the Kingdom and are a bridge between the peoples of two countries.



Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif shaking hands with US Secretary of State, John Kerry at the PM's House, Islamabad.

As John Kerry visits Pakistan, hopes rise for counterterrorism cooperation

By Mian Fazal Elahi

The relationship with the United States is a vital component of Pakistan's foreign policy:
PM Nawaz Sharif

The 71-year John Kerry, Secretary of State arrived in Islamabad and participated in the US-Pakistan strategic dialogue and meet the country's military and political leadership.

The strategic dialogue was scheduled to for a complete review of bilateral relations between the two countries. The Pak-US Strategic Dialogue currently covered five areas of bilateral cooperation which were discussed through working groups. The areas are: energy; security, strategic stability and non-proliferation; the defence consultative group; law-enforcement and counter-terrorism; and economy and finance.

Kerry was accompanied by Gen. Lloyd



Advisor to the PM on National Security and Foreign Affairs, Sartaz Aziz and US Secretary of State, John Kerry during the joint press conference at Foreign Office, Islamabad.

Austin III, chief of US Central Command, underscoring the security focus of a visit that is also expected to touch on economic issues.

The United States identified Pakistan as a key partner in its war against terror following the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks and spent billions of dollars on military aid to help the country fight insurgents. Kerry said, however, Washington would provide an additional \$250 million in food, shelter and other assistance to help people displaced by conflict in tribal areas.

Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif received US Secretary of the State Mr. John Kerry at the PM's House on Kerry's 2nd day visit.

Talking to him the Prime Minister said that the relationship with the United States is a vital component of Pakistan's foreign policy. He appreciated President Barack Obama's message of friendship and cooperation in the aftermath of Peshawar attack on 16th December.

The Prime Minister noted that his October 2013 state visit to the US was very productive as the two countries agreed to build relations on strong footing with focus

on Pakistan's priorities in the energy sector, bilateral trade, market access, investment, infrastructure development and counter-terrorism.

He appreciated that all the five working groups have made substantial progress particularly the working groups on Energy and Defence.

The Prime Minister highlighted Pakistan's focus on greater market access for Pakistani products and US investment in Pakistan for creating job opportunities and expressed the hope that next Business Opportunities Conference to be held in Islamabad in March 2015 will receive good response from US investors. He also appreciated US support for Dasu and Diamer-Bhasha dam projects.

The Prime Minister said that in order to counter terrorism and extremism in the country government has evolved a comprehensive National Action Plan, which is being implemented to completely eradicate all terrorists and extremists from Pakistani soil.

Mr. John Kerry extended condolences of the US government and people on the tragic Peshawar incident and said that all

terrorists are the common enemy of the two countries. Underlining the importance that the US attaches to the relationship, Kerry said the US would continue to support Pakistan in effectively combating terrorism and also in addressing various other challenges.

Pakistan Adviser to the Prime Minister on National Security and Foreign Affairs Sartaz Aziz and U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry met in Islamabad for the fifth Ministerial level Pakistan-U.S. Strategic Dialogue. The last Ministerial level session of the Strategic Dialogue was held in Washington on 27 January 2014.

"We expect our defence forces to remain engaged in counterterrorism operations for some time in the foreseeable future," said Pakistani foreign affairs adviser Sartaz Aziz.

"Continuation of coalition support fund reimbursements are therefore a valuable support that must continue in the interests of both countries."

He reassured his counterpart that "action will be taken without discrimination against all groups".



Advisor to the PM on National Security and Foreign Affairs, Sartaz Aziz and US Secretary of State John Kerry, during the first round of discussion under Pakistan-United States Strategic Dialogue in Islamabad.



Advisor to the PM on National Security and Foreign Affairs, Sartaj Aziz and US Secretary of State, John Kerry during the Pakistan-United States Strategic Dialogue, Special Assistant to the PM Syed Tariq Fatemi and Foreign Secretary Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry are also present in the meeting.

The Adviser welcomed Secretary Kerry to Islamabad as an old friend of Pakistan. The two leaders reviewed progress made in bilateral relations in the past year, and held wide-ranging discussions on sustaining and further building the momentum in bilateral cooperation. Secretary Kerry conveyed that a strong, prosperous and democratic Pakistan is an essential partner for the United States in advancing the shared goal of a stable and peaceful region. Both sides reiterated their commitment to an enduring partnership between Pakistan and the United States, which is vital for regional security and stability. The two leaders reaffirmed the importance of the Pakistan-U.S. Strategic Dialogue for providing vision and direction for a strong and cooperative partnership between the two countries.

Secretary Kerry conveyed condolences on the tragic loss of lives in the terrorist attack on Army Public School in Peshawar on 16th December 2014. He expressed solidarity with the people of Pakistan and appreciation for Pakistan's efforts to fight terrorism.

Secretary Kerry expressed appreciation for the sacrifices of Pakistan's military personnel and civilians in the fight against terrorism and extremism, and he commended Pakistan's resolve and the steps being taken to tackle terrorism in a comprehensive and robust manner. He welcomed assurances of Pakistan's intent to dismantle all militant safe havens for terrorist and criminal networks. Building on the concrete results being achieved by operation Zarb-e-Azb, the two leaders discussed Pakistan's efforts to strengthen governance, expand development, and facilitate the return and rehabilitation of temporarily displaced persons in the tribal areas. Secretary Kerry pledged to continue U.S. support for these efforts and has committed approximately \$250 million to assist in the relief, return and rehabilitation of TDPs, and will continue discussions as needs emerge.

US will do whatever it can to re-engage Pakistan, India: John Kerry

The two leaders expressed satisfaction that the Working Groups constituted under the rubric of the Strategic Dialogue contribute to strengthening bilateral cooperation and advancing shared interests, including in Pakistan's economic growth, increased

trade and energy cooperation, regional stability, and countering extremism and terrorism. Both sides reviewed the progress made by the Working Groups on (1) Economic and Finance; (2) Defence; (3) Law Enforcement and Counterterrorism; (4) Security, Strategic Stability, and Nonproliferation; and (5) Energy. The two leaders affirmed their commitment to convene the inaugural session of the Working Group on Education, Science and Technology in 2015. They also acknowledged the importance of ongoing cooperation through assistance authorized under legislation known as the "Kerry-Lugar-Berman" act. Finally, they decided that the Working Groups are to continue meeting according to a mutually determined schedule.

Fostering Economic Growth

Adviser Aziz and Secretary Kerry reaffirmed their shared commitment to expanding and deepening bilateral economic, trade and investment cooperation. The Economic and Finance Working Group reviewed the progress made in promoting bilateral economic relations in October 2014 in Washington. The United States acknowledged the progress made by Pakistan in steadying its economy and advancing the reform agenda defined by Prime Minister Sharif and his government in close cooperation with the International Monetary Fund and other multilateral institutions. Secretary Kerry welcomed Pakistan's efforts to improve its anti-money laundering and counterterrorism financing framework in cooperation with the Financial Action Task Force (FATF).

Both sides acknowledged the importance of expanded trade and investment ties as the key to a sustainable, balanced and enduring partnership. Recalling the deliberations of the Trade and Investment Framework Agreement (TIFA) Council meeting in May 2014 in Washington, the two sides committed to work towards smooth and effective

"Continuation of Coalition Support Fund reimbursements are therefore a valuable support that must continue in the interests of both countries." Sartaj Aziz

implementation of the Joint Action Plan launched at the TIFA meeting. In this regard, Pakistan, while renewing its desire to seek a relationship based on trade and investment, not solely aid, underscored its desire for greater market access for its products through all means available.

The two sides also renewed their support for the third U.S.-Pakistan Business Opportunities Conference and the Pakistan-U.S. Economic Partnership Week to be organized in Islamabad to encourage increased bilateral trade and investment.

Both sides expressed satisfaction with the activities of the U.S.-Pakistan Women's Council and welcomed the forthcoming launch of the Women's Entrepreneurship Center in Islamabad. In addition, both sides committed to a particular focus on women's issues in the next meeting of the Economic and Finance Working Group. They also affirmed their commitment to expand the participation of women in the economy under the Memorandum of Understanding on Joint Efforts to Empower Women and Promote Women's Entrepreneurship.

Secretary Kerry renewed the U.S. commitment to supporting private sector-led growth in Pakistan. Both leaders also welcomed the completion of the cooperative agreements of the Pakistan Private Investment Initiative (PPII) to leverage private equity for small and medium enterprises, and expressed hope that the financial closure of the projects will begin in 2015. The two leaders also welcomed the launch by USAID of four new partnerships with private-sector banks in Pakistan to improve access to finance for small businesses.

Support for Energy Sector

The two sides reviewed the progress of the Energy Working Group since it last met in Washington in November 2013. Pakistan thanked the United States for the invaluable assistance in supporting Pakistan's efforts to resolve its energy crisis. In this regard, Pakistan also thanked the United States for its support for financing of Dasu Hydropower Project by the World Bank and for funding renewable energy projects through USAID and the Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC).

Both countries expressed their satisfaction over the convening of the Diamer Bhasha Dam Project Business Opportunities conference by USAID and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce on October 8, 2014, in Washington. The United States reaffirmed its support for exploring the potential of the Diamer Bhasha Project to meet Pakistan's critical energy and water needs. Pakistan looked forward to the completion of the feasibility study of the Diamer Bhasha Project being

conducted by USAID.

Pakistan and the United States also underscored the importance of intensifying efforts to facilitate regional energy connectivity and continuing to upgrade Pakistan's transmission infrastructure. Pakistan appreciated the facilitative role of the United States for the Central Asia – South Asia electricity transmission project (CASA-1000).

Both sides expressed support for cooperation in expanding power generation capacity, including hydroelectric and renewable resources to bring additional capacity to the grid while minimizing the energy sector's contribution to global climate change; promoting the efficient use of energy resources; fostering development of



Advisor to the PM on National Security and Foreign Affairs Sartaj Aziz and US Secretary of State John Kerry at Foreign Office in Islamabad.

Pakistan's gas resources and their efficient utilization; and continuing reforms to the energy sector to ensure its financial sustainability and to attract private sector investment.

Education Sector Cooperation

The two leaders recalled the shared intent expressed by President Obama and Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif in October 2013 to further promote educational and research opportunities, and they welcomed the creation of the Working Group on Education, Science and Technology. They noted that the Working Group is intended to facilitate greater academic linkages and promote scientific and technological research collaboration between educational and research institutions of the two countries to foster

economic growth. They looked forward to the early convening of the Working Group meeting.

Both sides expressed satisfaction at the increase in U.S.-Pakistan university partnerships in a range of fields, as well as the wide range of educational exchange programs including the Fulbright Program, to further promote educational and research opportunities for Pakistani students, especially women and girls. Both sides committed to continue working together to increase access and improve the quality of basic education throughout Pakistan.

Defence and Security Cooperation

The two leaders discussed Pakistan's continuing efforts to defeat terrorism. Secretary Kerry expressed support for the Pakistan military's on-going operations in the tribal areas and the progress achieved so far. Secretary Kerry and Adviser Aziz agreed that U.S. security assistance has been effective and well deployed to assist Pakistan in its counterterrorism efforts.

Both sides expressed satisfaction on the outcome of the 23rd round of the Defence Consultative Group (DCG) held in Washington December 2014 and committed to areas for future defence cooperation. They noted that the DCG Working Group played a role in strengthening cooperation to support both countries' security interests. Both sides renewed their mutual commitment to a strong defence relationship.

Both the Adviser and Secretary Kerry condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. The Adviser shared his perspective on effective counterterrorism cooperation and stressed that there is no distinction between good and bad militants. Secretary Kerry emphasized the need for effective action against all violent extremists that threaten regional security. The two Leaders emphasized that no country's territory should be used to destabilize its neighbors. The United States and Pakistan renewed their common resolve to promote peace, stability, and transparency throughout the region and to eliminate the threats posed by extremism and terrorism. Both sides pledged to coordinate and cooperate on UN designations for terrorists.

Both sides expressed satisfaction at the outcome of the Law Enforcement and Counterterrorism (LECT) working group held in Islamabad on January 12. The Adviser appreciated U.S. support to bolster Pakistan's counterterrorism (CT) and law-enforcement capacity. Both sides discussed steps to reinforce counterterrorism cooperation, share best practices towards developing a counter-narrative to militancy and violent extremism, enhance the overall rule of law, ensure ongoing

cooperation to counter improvised explosives devices, and continue support for Pakistan's efforts to stabilize the border areas and improve border management.

Pakistan and the United States attach high importance to preventing the proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) and their means of delivery to states as well as non-state actors. The US and Pakistan stand together in achieving the objectives of United Nations Security Council (UNSC) Resolution 1540, and both have consistently supported and implemented relevant United Nations Security Council Resolutions.

"We expect our defence forces to remain engaged in counterterrorism operations for some time in the foreseeable future," said Pakistani foreign affairs adviser Sartaj Aziz

The United States welcomes Pakistan's ongoing efforts to harmonize its strategic trade controls with those of the multilateral export control regimes. Furthermore, the United States has full confidence in nuclear security in Pakistan and appreciates Pakistan's proactive engagement with the international community including through its hosting of IAEA training activities at its Nuclear Security Center of Excellence and its active participation in the Nuclear Security Summits.

In this context, the two sides look forward to continuing the bilateral dialogue on Security, Strategic Stability and Non-Proliferation (SSS&NP). Both sides

recognize their shared interest in strategic stability and emphasize their commitment to meaningful progress in the future.

Regional Cooperation

Secretary Kerry and the Adviser noted that a peaceful, stable, independent, united and prosperous Afghanistan is vital for peace and stability in the region. Secretary Kerry welcomed the renewed and intensified engagement between Pakistan and Afghanistan, including President Ashraf Ghani's visit to Pakistan. Secretary Kerry encouraged continued dialogue and cooperation between both sides, recognizing the importance of cooperation to the stability of Afghanistan, Pakistan, and the broader region.

The two sides recognized that terrorism represents a common challenge to the region that requires common endeavors. They shared their mutual conviction that a stable, well-managed and peaceful Pakistan-Afghanistan border is vital for the success of counterterrorism, counterinsurgency, and counter-IED efforts, with complementary coordinated counterterrorism efforts against militants conducted on both sides of the border. Both sides welcomed the steps being taken to strengthen Pakistan-Afghanistan bilateral mechanisms for enhanced security cooperation, including measures for effective border management and controls.

Both delegations recognized that an inclusive Afghan-led and Afghan-owned peace and reconciliation process is vital for achieving long-term peace, stability and progress in Afghanistan and the region. They welcomed the call by the new Afghan government to the Afghan Taliban and all armed opposition groups to resolve differences through political means. The Foreign Affairs Adviser reaffirmed that Pakistan would continue to facilitate the efforts of the Afghan government for peace and reconciliation.

The two sides also concurred that regional economic cooperation is crucial to reinforcing Afghanistan's national efforts for economic development and deeper regional integration. Secretary Kerry welcomed Pakistan hosting the 5th Ministerial Meeting of the Heart of Asia-Istanbul Process in 2015 and congratulated Pakistan on hosting productive Afghanistan-Pakistan Transit Trade Coordination Authority meetings earlier this month.

The Adviser and Secretary Kerry stressed that improvement in Pakistan-India bilateral relations would greatly enhance prospects for lasting regional peace, stability, and prosperity, as it would significantly benefit the lives of citizens on both sides of the border.

Enduring Partnership

The Foreign Affairs Adviser and Secretary Kerry affirmed their commitment to a long-term and strong partnership between Pakistan and the United States anchored in the enduring friendship between their two peoples, which is not only in the interest of the two countries but also vital for the peace, stability and prosperity of the region. Affirming that both the United States and Pakistan are committed to democracy, human rights, freedom, and respect for international law, the two leaders reiterated their commitment to deepen and enhance the relationship between the peoples of the United States and Pakistan. The two sides committed to meet again for the

Secretary Kerry pledged to continue U.S. support for these efforts and has committed approximately \$250 million to assist in the relief, return and rehabilitation of TDPs, and will continue discussions as needs emerge

Ministerial-level Strategic Dialogue in 2016.

During the visit US Secretary of State John Kerry held a meeting with Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Raheel Sharif at General Headquarters in Rawalpindi.

According to ISPR, both the leaders discussed regional situation, defense cooperation and Pakistan-US ties.

Earlier, John Kerry laid floral wreath at the Shuhada Monument and paid rich tribute to Pakistan's martyrs.



US Secretary of State John Kerry visits GHQ: lays wreath on Shuhada Monument

By Monitoring Desk

US Secretary of State John Kerry visited General Headquarters (GHQ) in Rawalpindi and met with Pakistan's Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Raheel Sharif.

According to an ISPR press release, John Kerry laid wreath at Shuhada Monument and paid rich tributes to Pakistan's martyrs.

On his arrival, the distinguished guest was presented a guard of honor and later laid a floral wreath at the memorial of martyrs.

During the meeting COAS General Sharif and John Kerry discussed Pak-US relations along with the overall security situation and stability in the region including Afghanistan.

The US Secretary of State paid rich tributes to Pakistani martyrs who sacrificed their lives in the war against terrorism. John



Kerry also lauded Pakistan's commitment to fighting terrorism and appreciated

Pakistan Army's achievements in Operation Zarb-e-Azb.

Diplomatic Focus thru lens



Outgoing Ambassador of Algeria Dr. Ahmed Benflis called on President Mamnoon Hussain at Aiwan-e-Sadr, Islamabad.



Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif meeting US Ambassador to Pakistan, Mr. Richard Olson at the PM House, Islamabad.



Federal Minister for commerce, Engr. Khurram Dastgir Khan in a meeting with Tajik Minister of State for reserve/ Director of Agency, Mr. Noor Muhammad Akmedov in Islamabad.



Special Assistant to the Prime Minister Syed Tariq Fatemi in a meeting with the Minister of State Material reserves of the Republic of Tajikistan Mr. Noor Muhammad Akhmedov in Islamabad.



Chairman Senate, Syed Nayyer Hussain Bokhari exchanging views with Mr. Peter Claes, Ambassador of Belgium in Pakistan at Parliament House, Islamabad.



Federal Minister for State and Frontier Regions, Lt. Ge. (Retd) Abdul Qadir Baloch meeting with Janan Mosazio, Ambassador Extraordinary of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan in Islamabad.



British Acting High Commissioner to Pakistan, Patrick Moody and Deputy High Commissioner John Tucknott exchanging views with former President Asif Ali Zardari, Sherry Rehman also present.

UK Acting High Commissioner & Deputy High Commissioner call on Former President Asif Ali Zardari

British Acting High Commissioner to Pakistan, Patrick Moody and Deputy High Commissioner John Tucknott called on Co-Chairman of Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) and former president, Asif Ali Zardari. Sherry Rehman was also present in the meeting held at the Bilawal House, said a press release. Both the dignitaries discussed different matters of mutual interest.

I can say things & it will make a difference across the world: Khan

By: Saeed Yousafzai



Khan was deeply distressed by the atrocity in Peshawar, where 141 people, mainly children, were killed at an army school in what has been described as the TTP's deadliest attack to date. Khan, whose parents are from Pakistan said he wanted to pay his respects to those who had lost their lives, and help encourage scared children return to school,

"The main reason I came to Pakistan was to visit Peshawar and see the parents of the victims," "Children must be scared to go back to school and the onus is on us to instill confidence in them, and also help to improve the country's security situation," Khan said.

Khan expressed hope that the joint efforts of the armed forces and the citizens of Pakistan would help in ending terrorism.

Before visiting the Army Public School, Khan also met with Chief of Army Staff (COAS) Gen Raheel Sharif at the General Headquarters in Rawalpindi. He commended the army for its efforts to fight terrorism in the

country. During the meeting, Gen Raheel praised Khan's services for the people of Pakistan.

According to a tweet by Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) spokesman Major General Asim Bajwa, Khan also expressed solidarity with the families of the Peshawar school attack victims as well as the country's armed forces.

Khan is proud of his Pakistani heritage and often chooses to

have his training gear and clothing designed in the distinctive shade of green associated with the nation. Khan, whose parents are from Pakistan and whose brother and fellow boxer Haroon represented the country at the Commonwealth Games, is one of the biggest sporting icons in Asia and visits the subcontinent regularly. Khan won a silver medal for Britain at the 2004 Olympics in Athens as a lightweight, aged just 17, and

his subsequent professional career has kept him in the public spotlight.

During his visit the school, he prayed at the site of the attack and talked to young survivors - who he encouraged to return to school. He donated to the school the pair of shorts - worth £30,000 with a waistband made from 24-carat gold threading - he wore in his recent victory against American Devon Alexander.

The former world light welterweight champion and Olympic silver medal list, who is of Pakistani heritage, has promised to do all he can to help rebuild the school. Khan told to media "I have come here to help and show my support. I want to help rebuild the school and strengthen security around the area.

"I also want to give people hope in Pakistan, give them support in education and in sport.

"Children must be scared to go back to school. The onus is on us to instill confidence in them.

"It's very upsetting to see so





During Khan's visit, he called on Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif.

many children's pictures up on the walls that were killed. These are innocent children who haven't done anything to anybody.

"Talking about this stuff could be threatening for me, but I just want to speak the truth and tell people what is happening is wrong.

"I think it will send a statement to a lot of people that Amir Khan has come here to make a difference. For now, all we can do is pray for the victims' families and hope terrorist attacks do not happen again."

The Bolton favourite also announced he is set to build a boxing academy in Lahore.

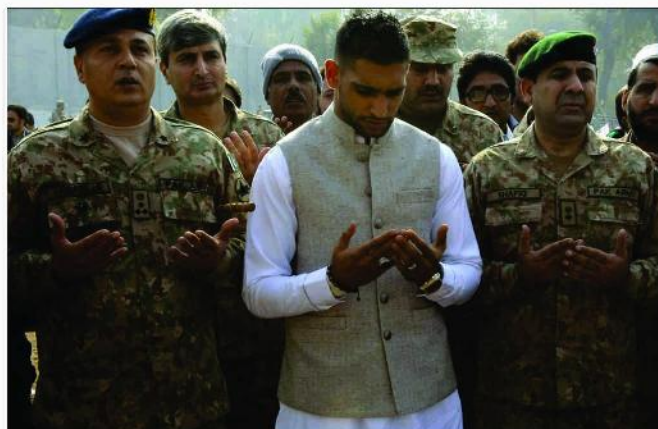
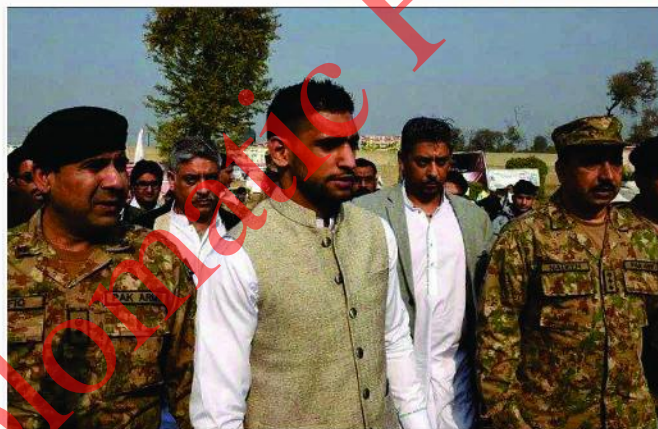
He tweeted: "Big announcement — the 1st Amir Khan Academy will be in Lahore Pakistan. It will be ready in July 2015."

During the meeting, the prime minister told Amir Khan that Operation Zarb-e-Azb has been producing good results in curbing terrorism, adding that terrorism would soon be eliminated from the country.

Nawaz Sharif also discussed ways to promote boxing in the country. "Pakistan is proud of Amir Khan's achievements in the sport," he said.

On the occasion, Amir Khan extended condolences over the loss of lives in the Peshawar incident and condemned the terrorists attack in strongest terms. He apprised the prime minister of his plan to set up a boxing academy in Pakistan.

Khan's wife Faryal has said she aims to teach her husband Urdu ready for his next visit to Pakistan.





Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif addressing the All Parties Conference at the PM House Islamabad.

The civil, military leadership vows to fight terror at any cost

NA passes 21st Constitutional Amendment, Army Act Amendment

By Sajid Takar

After the tragic and barbaric incident of terrorists' attack on Army Public School in Peshawar, Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif convened the All Parties Conference (APC) to devise a mechanism and strategy to fight the menace of terrorism. During the first session, on the very next day of the inhuman incident, the leadership agreed upon that time had come to take decisive actions against all the terrorist groups indiscriminately. PM Nawaz, on the occasion, said that there was no more difference between the 'good' and 'bad'. The Prime Minister also lifted ban on the executions in terrorism

cases. And it was after a span of six years that the capital punishment for those who had been already sentenced to death in terrorism cases allowed. During the conference, National Action Plan (NAP) was also devised to counter terrorism. The second conference, in this regard, was convened after a week where the leadership was agreed upon a 20-point national agenda in which the military courts or Speedy Trial Courts (STC) was also agreed upon. The research was made by the selected committee in this regard and the third session of the APC was once again gathered at the Prime Minister





Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif chairing a follow up meeting reviewing progress on the implementation of National Action Plan against terrorism and extremism at the PM House Islamabad.

House in Islamabad which was presided over by PM Nawaz Sharif.

The third session of APC was important for two things i.e. for to make consensus on the national agenda and the second was to remove the reservations of some parties and parliamentary leaders regarding the National Action Plan. It is worth mentioning here that the leaders of the parliamentary parties had agreed on the national action plan, however, after that some parties and party heads had come up with some of their reservations regarding the formation of the military courts and making an amendment in the constitution. For about more than five hours, the leaders sat together that resulted in a unanimous consensus on the formation of military courts and making amendments in the constitution for giving legal protection to the special courts.

During his speech at the session, the prime minister said that a lot has been said on the National Action Plan and there was no more need to discussion over it. He added that it was a time for making clear and solid decisions. The PM said that if they failed to make bold and brave decisions then the nation would never forgive them. Nawaz Sharif also said that he wanted to see the action plan in 'action', adding that making a delay would result in harm for Pakistan.

Chief of Army Staff, General Raheel Sharif while addressing the conference said that the military courts were not a wish of the army but the need of the hour. He added that Pakistan was at critical juncture at the moment and therefore, the consensus made in the last session of the APC should be sustained and acted upon. He said that it was a time for making big and bold decisions, adding that today's decisions

should be given practical shape. The army chief further said that the support shown by the national political leadership was their strength.

The conference was attended by former president Asif Ali Zardari, Chief of Army Staff, General Raheel Sharif, Pakistan Tehrik-e-Insaf Chief Imran Khan, Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (Fazl) Chief Maulana Fazal-ur-Rahman, leaders of the parliamentary parties, chief ministers of all the four provinces, DG ISI and DG ISPR.

The conference concluded in the firm commitment of the leadership to give practical shape to the consensus made, during the second session of the conference back on December 24, on the 20-points including the formation of military courts and to speed up the process.

To enact the NAP, the amendment in the



Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif addressing the All Parties Conference at the PM's House Islamabad.



Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif addressing the All Parties Conference at the PM's House Islamabad.

Army Act was also approved. It was also said that these courts were only for a period of two years.

Federal Minister for Information, Pervez Rashid while talking to media after the conference said that hence the trial against the attackers on civil, military places, killers of innocent children and Pakistanis and those with the blood of the Jawans of Pakistan Army on their hands was not possible in the general courts and therefore, mutual and national consensus was made on the military courts.

The bill was then moved to the national assembly by Pervez Rashid which was unanimously passed by the house. A number of 247 votes were there in favor of the bill while some parties including PTI, JI, and JUI (F) etc did not participate in the voting. Thus the bill, the 21st constitutional amendment was passed by

the parliament of Pakistan and the army courts covered with legal protection.

Federal Minister for Interior Affairs, Chaudhry Nisar Ali Khan has said that the army courts were only for the trial of hardcore terrorists, adding that the courts would never be used against the civilians.

The interior minister said that banned organizations will not be allowed to resurface with new names.

He has also said that a strong mechanism was being established for enforcement of National Counter-Terrorism Action Plan to stamp out terrorism.

Chaudhry Nisar said action will be taken against only those seminaries which are facilitating terrorists in any way.

President Mamnoon Hussain signed the 21st Constitutional Amendment bill into

law.

Both the houses of the Parliament had passed the amendment.

The amendment is aimed at speedy trial of terrorists through special courts headed by military officers.

Most of the analysts consider the step as vital and in the larger interest of Pakistan. Some consider it as the step to get rid of Pakistan from the bloody claws of terrorism and extremism.

Thus the bill has been passed by the national leadership keeping in view the extraordinary scenario Pakistan is facing; therefore, now the government should take further necessary steps to look in to the results of the courts and make it more functional and running so that Pakistan could get rid of the menace of terror and extremism forever.



Federal Minister for Interior and Narcotics Control, Chaudhry Nisar Ali Khan chairing a progress review meeting of National Action Plan in Ministry of Interior, Islamabad.

Diplomatic Focus thru lens



Minister of State for Water and Power, Ch. Abid Sher Ali meeting with British High Commissioner, Phillip Barten, at his residence in Faisalabad.



Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor, Sardar Mahtab Ahmad Khan talking to the Ambassador of the Kingdom of the Netherlands at Islamabad, Mr. Marcel De Vink who called on him at Governor's House, Peshawar.



Chairman Senate, Nayer Hussain Bokhari exchanging views with Mr. Janan Musazai, Ambassador of Afghanistan, at Parliament House, Islamabad.



General Lloyd Austin, CENTCON Commander, called on Secretary Defence, Lt General (Retd) Muhammad Alam Khattak, in Ministry of Defence, Rawalpindi.



H.E. Alireza Haghighiain, the Ambassador of Islamic Republic of Iran in Islamabad on the Federal Minister for Science & Technology and Defense Production, Rana Tanveer Hussain in Islamabad.



Ambassador of Republic of Belarus, Andrei Ermolovich called on Federal Minister for National Food Security & Research, Sikandar Hayat Khan Bosan in Islamabad.



Federal Minister for Petroleum and Natural Resources, Shahid Khaqan Abbasi in a meeting with a visiting Tajikistan delegation led by Mr. Noor Muhammad Akmedov, Tajik Minister of State for reserve/director of Agency in Islamabad.



Army Chief vows to eliminate all terrorists

By Sajid Takar

Following the terrorists' attack on Army Public School in Peshawar in which scores of people, including 133 children martyred, Pakistan Army Chief General Raheel Sharif vowed to continue the fight against the militants until they are completely eliminated from the country.

In one of Gen. Raheel tweets, short after the tragic incident took place, he said that it was a cowardice act and this clearly shows that they are not only enemies of Pakistan but they are enemies of humanity as well.

General Sharif further stated that terrorists have hit at the heart of the nation.

He also said that the terrorists would be chased to their hideouts.

Raheel Sharif also signed death warrants for six convicts hours after the ban on capital punishment was lifted. Two were hanged in Punjab's Faisalabad jail last month.

Pakistan hanged four al-Qaeda-linked militants in the eastern Punjab province as Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif pledged a decisive war against terror following last week's massacre of children at army-run school.

The men were convicted by military courts for various attacks, including the 2003 failed assassination attempt on former

President Pervez Musharraf.

At a meeting to review counter terror plans, Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif said that the government would not differentiate between the terrorists and those protecting them. He further said that



Army Chief Gen. Raheel Sharif vowed to eliminate all terrorists operating in Pakistan after the tragic Peshawar incident. Among many statements, Nawaz Sharif also came with this positive statement that while the army is fighting a war against insurgents in tribal regions along the Afghan border, another fight will begin in cities to chase the terrorists.

After the brutal Peshawar attack, Pakistan airstrikes targeted the hideouts of the

militants in Khyber Agency that has resulted in killing of dozens of terrorists in insurgents. General Raheel, in one of his statements, said that more than 2100 terrorists have been killed in operation Zarb-e-Azb and about 190 soldiers of Pakistan Army embraced martyrdom. He added that the army will fight until the complete eradication of terrorisms from the soil of Pakistan.

While briefing the parliamentary committee in Islamabad about war on terrorism, General Raheel said that operation Zarb e Azb and Operation 'Khyber One' were giving required results. He said that both operations were proceeding successfully and Army leadership is satisfied on the operations. Army Chief determinedly said that war against terrorism will continue until the complete eradication of terrorism from the state.

During the meeting of Provincial Apex Committee held in Peshawar, Chief of Army Staff, General Raheel Sharif said that the nation has alienated terrorists and the entire nation stands united after the Peshawar attack. The meeting reviewed the implementation of the National Action Plan (NAP).

General Raheel, during the meeting, paid tribute to the sacrifices of the people of Khyber Pukhtunkhwa and Fata. He said that the morale of the people was high and the brave tribal people stand with the army in the fight against militants.

He said that the entire nation stands united and this struggle will continue until elimination of last terrorist on our soil.

General Sharif also announced to provide the Frontier Corps (FC) with 4000 Kalashnikovs.

The meeting was attended by Governor Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa Sardar Mehtab Ahmed Khan, Chief Minister Pervaiz Khattak, Chief of Army Staff General

Raheel Sharif, Director General ISPR Major General Asim Bajwa and Corps Commander Hidayat-ur-Rehman.

General Raheel, during the meeting, said that army with political government and FATA administration will ensure comprehensive resettlement of displaced persons.

This was decided in Apex Committee meeting held in Peshawar on Sunday.

According to ISPR, Army with political government and FATA administration will ensure TDPs (Temporary Displaced Persons) return and comprehensive resettlement.

Addressing the meeting, Army Chief General Raheel Sharif said Army would join hands with political government and FATA administration to expedite the return of TDPs, and ensure their comprehensive resettlement.

He said Peshawar tragedy united the entire nation in fight against terrorism and extremism. He paid rich tributes to the resilience and sacrifices of the people of FATA and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

The army chief assured Army's full support for judicious and speedy implementation of National Action Plan to eliminate the terrorists, their abettors, facilitators and sympathizers from entire province and FATA.

Chief of Army Staff General Raheel Sharif, during the third All Pakistan Conference (APC) convened for to decide about the implementation of the National Action Plan (NAP) described the war against terrorism a 'national war' that would have to be won at any cost. He said support extended by the political leadership of the country was their strength.

He also said that the decisions made during the last two session of the conference should be implemented.

Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Raheel Sharif also visited the Army Public School that reopened 26 days after a deadly attack by militants in which around 150 people including 133 innocent children were martyred.

The vacations, in schools across the country, were extended for 12 days in the aftermath of the Taliban attack on Army Public School (APS).

The COAS, along with his wife, met the schoolchildren and their parents at the entrance of the army-run school.

Accompanied by the Corps Commander Peshawar, General Raheel Sharif welcomed the students, who came back to the school in large numbers to resume studies.

On the occasion, Gen Raheel Sharif along with children sang national anthem and Dr Alama Iqbal's famous prayer poem 'Lab Pe Aati Hai Dua Ban Ke Tamanna Meri'.

Gen. Raheel said the poem 'Lab Pe Aati Hai Dua' solidifies our souls. He also met the parents and said this nation is unbeatable. Everyone was in high spirit on the occasion.

The COAS highly commended the courage of students and their parents.

The students expressed immense happiness after seeing the General among them on the first day of re-opening of school and raised full throated slogans of 'Pakistan Zindabad' and 'Pak Army Zindabad'.

APS was renovated by the administration following the terrorists attack on December 16 and security arrangements



were further enhanced.

This is important to mention here that the National Assembly of Pakistan has passed the 21st Constitution Amendment for the trial of terrorists through Special Courts headed by army officers. 247 members cast their votes in favor of the Bill to set up constitutionally protected military courts.

The analysts see and find the role of General Raheel Sharif as very much encouraging and a word of appreciation could be seen every where for him for his bold decisions.

It is also worth to mention here that during the month of December last year, short after the Peshawar tragic incident, Chief of Army Staff, General Raheel Sharif visited Afghanistan and provided evidences to Afghan President Ashraf Ghani and ISAF

commander about the involvement of Mullah Fazalullah in school attack who is hiding in Afghanistan. In response Afghan President Ashraf Ghani ordered his forces and intelligence to arrest mullah Fazalullah





Enforcement Strategy of NAB

An Effective Approach to Curb Corruption

The National Accountability Bureau (NAB) was established in November 16, 1999. NAB has its Headquarter in Islamabad while it also has Seven Regional Offices, i.e. Regional NAB Karachi, Regional NAB Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Regional NAB Lahore, Regional NAB Rawalpindi, Regional NAB Balochistan, Regional NAB Multan and Regional NAB Sukkur.

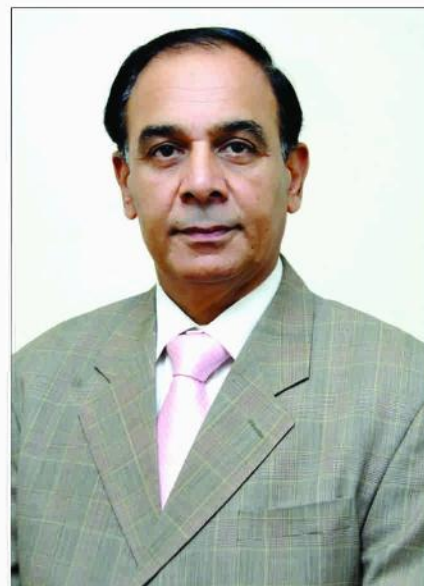
NAB is Pakistan's apex anti-corruption organization. It is charged with the responsibility of elimination of corruption through a holistic approach of awareness, prevention and enforcement. It operates under the National Accountability Ordinance-1999.

The Chairman NAB Mr. Qamar Zaman Chaudhry after assuming the charge of his office has stressed upon all ranks of officers of NAB to actively pursue corruption cases without any fear and favour adding that beside awareness and prevention, Enforcement is also very

important aspect of NAB's strategy to control corruption and corrupt practices.

Pakistan's in the last 20 years has achieved its best Corruption Perception Index (CPI) issued by the Transparency International. Besides, Pakistan is facing the governance issues mainly the greed for ill gotten wealth is a result of manipulating the system where discretions provide opportunities. In order to fulfill the desires, corruption spreads as an epidemic disease with rampant weakening institutions.

The disastrous impacts of unending greed led to the promulgation of National Accountability Ordinance (NAO) in November 1999. NAB derives its legal mandate from NAO-1999 which is extended to whole of Pakistan including FATA and Gilgit Baltistan. NAO mandated the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) to adopt a three pronged strategy for curbing corruption from the country. Besides, Awareness and Prevention, the



Mr. Qamar Zaman Chaudhry,
Chairman NAB

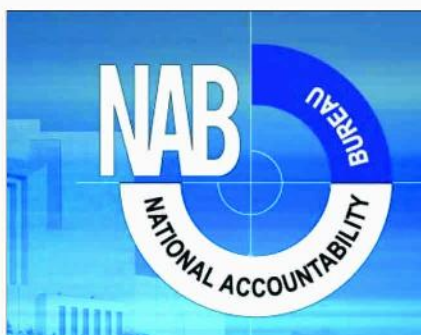
Enforcement Strategy is given emphasis to create deterrence among the functionaries to check indulgence in the acts of corruption. NAO with its overriding effect has been effective application in handling the corrupt elements and recovery of crime proceeds. Therefore, NAO in its entirety has been ranked the best anti-corruption law and is being replicated in other countries of similar nature.

Enforcement Operations

Under the leadership of its dynamic Chairman NAB, Mr. Qamar Zaman Chaudhry, NAB's Enforcement operations start functioning on receipt of a written complaint or information by NAB about an alleged act of corruption & corrupt practices as defined under section 9. The process initiated with verification of the contents of the information received and the applicability of the provisions of law. This process is called Complaint Verification (CV) wherein the complainant is called for confirming the status and evidence available with him. Once it is determined that the alleged offence falls under NAO and available material justifies for further process, the same is processed for subsequent action. In the second step, inquiry under section 18 of the NAO is authorized to confirm the committal of offence and collection of evidence to identify the alleged person(s) involved. The record / evidence collection process is supplemented with recording of statements of witnesses and accused persons. The alleged person has the option of Voluntary Return (VR) at this stage to return the illegal gain and to avoid any fallout on his/her position in the form of conviction or any disqualification for holding public office. This whole process is completed after due deliberations at each level by giving consideration to the role of Combined Investigation Teams (CITs) and in the Regional Executive Board Meetings (RBMs).

Once a criminal case is established and the accused is unable to return the ill gotten / pecuniary resources, inquiry is converted into investigation under section 18 (C) to finalize the collection of evidence for filing of reference / Challan in the respective Accountability Court and to prosecute him with the objective of conviction and confiscation of proceeds of crime. During the investigation, the accused is provided opportunity to confront with the evidence collected. The accused has the option of Plea Bargain (PB) at this stage to return the illegal gain to avoid trials and imprisonment. In any case the disposal of this stage is referred to the Court for final approval.

The enforcement Strategy of NAB starts with soft initiative of fact finding without blaming any person for an alleged act of



corruption. The process moves with simple explanations from the complainant to clarify the charges against accused and to confirm his position with material evidence if any. On the other hand during inquiry, the collection of evidence viz.a.viz the allegations are verified with the explanations given by the accused person and statements recorded from the witnesses. If the stated version of accused is found implausible, the matter moves for option of accepting guilt and offering for voluntary return of assets or gain acquired as a consequence of an offence committed

NAB derives its legal mandate from NAO- 1999 which is extended to whole of Pakistan including FATA and Gilgit Baltistan

under NAO. Failing at this stage and with the availability of cogent evidence, the investigation proceedings may causes arrest of the accused and with the option of plea bargain, carrying disqualification to hold public office or to obtain financial facility from banks. The acceptance of Voluntary Return (VR) or Plea Bargain (PB) of an accused is discretion of Chairman NAB and cannot be claimed as right in any manner.

The tougher stage approached when after finalization of investigation the trial proceedings initiated and the accused persons are facing for charges of corruption and corrupt practices framed by the Accountability Court and where possible conviction which may extend to fourteen years Regress Imprisonment (RI) with fine and or confiscation of assets and properties in the name of accused or his family members. This stage has multiple consequences both for the accused and his family. The disgracing life among the fellow members of the society may be one of the consequences beside economic constraints

in participation of activities.

The operational arms of NAB are its Regional Bureaus which involved in field operations i.e. conduct of CVs, inquiries, investigations, prosecution of cases at trial and appellate stages. The Operations Division and Prosecution Division at NAB Headquarters are providing all supports for smooth conduct of operational activities in accordance with law and the Standing Operating Procedures (SOPs). The Chairman NAB Mr. Qamar Zaman Chaudhry has delegated some of his operational powers of the NAO to the Regional Directors General for prompt utilization of these powers and to achieve the objective of eradication of corruption from the country. The Operational Methodology and the SOPs are the guiding principles of enforcement which provide for effective monitoring and accountability within the organization. The operational decision making is passing through a consultative process, called the Executive Board Meetings (EBMs), Chaired by the Chairman and participated by the senior officers at Headquarters and the Regions via video links.

The matters concerning placement on Exit from Control List (ECL), issuance of Red Notices against absconding accused, Requests for Mutual Legal Assistance from foreign jurisdictions and extradition of fugitives from law are rest with the NAB Headquarters. All these matters along with the operational powers not falling under the category of delegations are exercised by the Chairman NAB on the recommendation of Operations and Prosecution Divisions of NAB. The enforcement in the past has proved that it is an effective tool of curbing white collar crimes and led to recovery of proceeds of crime worth Rs. 261 billion and with overall convictions of 60% for the period 1999-2014. NAB since its inception has received 268,260 complaints while 268,121 complaints were disposed off and only 139 complaints are pending. Since 1999 NAB has authorized 5824 inquiries while 4777 inquiries were completed and 1047 inquiries are under progress. During this period NAB has authorized 2899 investigations while 2629 investigations were completed and only 270 investigations are under progress. From November 1999 to December 30, 2014 NAB has filed 2129 corruption references in various Accountability Courts.

The NAB under the leadership of its Chairman Qamar Zaman Chaudhry 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.



PM Nawaz felicitates Sirisena on his election as Sri Lankan president

P rime Minister Nawaz Sharif has congratulated Maithripala Sirisena on his election as President of the Democratic Socialist Republic Sri Lanka.

He expressed the hope, in a message, that

the relationship between Pakistan and Sri Lanka would continue to prosper during his term in the office.

Nawaz Sharif described his success as a clear affirmation by the Sri Lankan people

in his leadership and vision for his country.

PM Nawaz underlined his confidence that the leadership of the two countries would be able to further deepen and broaden the bilateral relations for the mutual benefit of





the two countries.

Earlier in 2014, the Minister of Mass Media and Information Keheliya Rambukwella had confirmed that the election would be held in January 2015.

Presidential elections were held in Sri Lanka on 8 January 2015, two years ahead of schedule. The incumbent President Mahinda Rajapaksa was the United People's Freedom Alliance's candidate, seeking a third term in office. The United National Party (UNP)-led opposition coalition chose to field Maithripala Sirisena, the former Minister of Health in Rajapaksa's government and general secretary of the Sri Lanka Freedom Party (SLFP) - the main constituent party of the UPFA as its common candidate.

On Election Day, 8 January, polling stations opened at 07:00 and closed at 16:00.

On 9 January, Rajapaksa concedes defeat ahead of the final result.

And the election commissioner confirmed Maithripala Sirisena as the new elected President.

Sirisena was declared the winner after receiving 51.28% of all votes cast compared to Rajapaksa's 47.58%. The result was generally seen as a shock. When Rajapaksa called the election in November 2014 he had looked certain to win. On 11 January 2015 the new government announced a special investigation into

allegations of an attempted coup by Rajapaksa.

According to the constitution, the normal term of office for a president is six years, although an incumbent serving a second term can only call an election at any time

PM Nawaz expressed the hope, in message, that the relationship between Pakistan and Sri Lanka would continue to prosper during his term in the office. He described Mr. Maithripala Sirisena success as a clear affirmation by the Sri Lankan people in his leadership and vision for his country.

after four years in office. In the elections held in January 2010 Rajapaksa secured a second term in office, defeating common opposition candidate Sarath Fonseka. In February 2010 the Supreme Court ruled that Rajapaksa's second term would begin

in November 2010, and was accordingly sworn in on 19 November 2010.

In September 2010 Parliament, which was controlled by Rajapaksa's UPFA, passed the eighteenth amendment to the constitution, removing the two term limit on presidents, allowing Rajapaksa to run for a third term.

The new elected president Sirisena was born on 3 September 1951 in Yagoda village. He is the son of World War II veteran Albert Sirisena, who was awarded five acres of paddy land in Polonnaruwa near Parakrama Samudra by D. S. Senanayake.

He was educated at Royal College, Polonnaruwa. He studied for three years at the Sri Lanka School of Agriculture, Kundasale from where he earned a diploma in agriculture in 1973. In 1980 he earned a Diploma in Political science at the Maxim Gorky Literature Institute in Russia.

Sirisena is married to Jayanthi Pushpakumari - they have two daughters (Chathurika and Dharani) and a son (Daham).

At very young age Sirisena became interested in politics and later joined the Sri Lanka Freedom Party's (SLFP) youth league in Polonnaruwa. He rose up the SLFP ranks, joining its politburo in 1981. He became president of the All Island SLFP Youth Organization in 1983.

ISI chief Rizwan Akhtar visits Kabul

Director General of Inter Services Intelligence (ISI), Lt. General Rizwan Akhtar visited Afghanistan capital Kabul during the second week of the last month.

The ISI Chief held meeting with the President of Afghanistan, Ashraf Ghani at presidential palace in Afghan capital.

During the meeting, chief of the intelligence and president of Afghanistan discussed ways to boost anti-terror cooperation and agreed to continue joint struggle against terrorism.

It was ISI chief's third visit to Afghanistan since he assumed office in November 2014. He first travelled to Kabul just after taking charge as ISI chief, while in December he accompanied the army chief in the aftermath of the Peshawar school attack.

The President of Afghanistan Mohammad Ashraf Ghani received Pakistan intelligence ISI chief Lt. General Rizwan Akhtar at his office in Kabul.

In the meeting both sides discussed ways to further strengthen joint efforts against terrorism and extremism.

They also talked about peace and security in Afghanistan, Pakistan and the whole region.

They also discussed the modalities "to strengthen the joint efforts of the two sides in the fight against terrorism and extremism" in both countries.

Pakistani and Afghan security officials have increased contacts after Ashraf Ghani took charge as President of Afghanistan in September last year.

Last month army chief General Raheel and his Afghan counterpart General Sher Muhammad Karimi agreed that their commanders would begin meetings immediately to further coordinate cross-border security operations.

In a sign of growing military-to-military cooperation, Islamabad and Kabul reached an understanding to 'reactivate' border

control centers to coordinate operations against militants. Two Pak-Afghan Border Coordination Centers will be revived at the border points of Torkham and Spin Boldak.

The rare visit of the Afghan president to army headquarters in Rawalpindi in

attack by terrorists at the Army Public School in Peshawar in which 150 people were massacred paved the way for closer cooperation between the two neighbors to counter the militant threat on both sides of the border.

As most of the US-led NATO troops have withdrawn from Afghanistan and ended their combat mission, Islamabad and Kabul are now on the path of a greater cooperation.

Pakistani and Afghan officials say the Taliban and other armed groups routinely exploit instability along the difficult terrain to set up and maintain safe havens away from the reach of Afghan and Pakistani forces.

Sources say that President Ghani has also invited several more Pakistani leaders to visit Kabul.

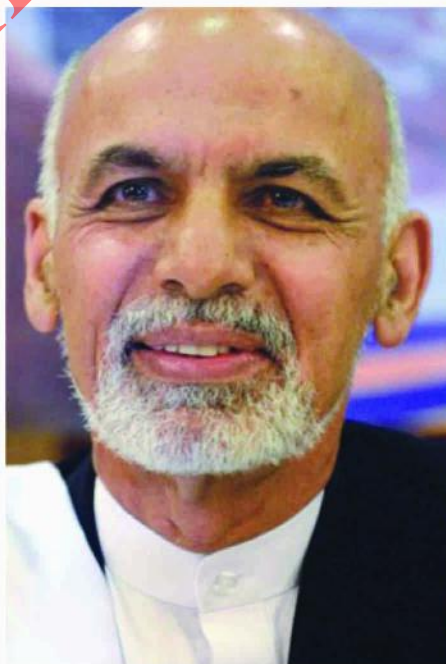
It is worth to mention here that this was the second visit of the ISI chief to

The intelligence chief, Afghan president agree to boost anti-terror cooperation

November was seen as an important step to enhance cooperation in security areas.

The December 16 tragic and barbaric

Afghanistan after the terrorists' attack on the Army Public School in Peshawar on December 16.





By M. Saeed Yousafzai

ISAF withdrawal & New Security Challenges

In 2012, Obama announced that the U.S. would withdraw its troops from Afghanistan by the end of 2014, and he's made good on his word. After 13 years, the U.S. has formally ended the war in Afghanistan. Though the U.S. and Britain ended operations in Afghanistan in October, the chapter was officially and symbolically closed in December with a ceremony at NATO's military headquarters in Kabul. After marking the official end of the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF), a new international mission was announced that would see NATO in a supporting role.

The International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) is a NATO-led security mission in Afghanistan that was

established by the United Nations Security Council in December 2001 by Resolution 1386 as envisaged by the Bonn Agreement. Its main purpose is to train the Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF) and assist Afghanistan in rebuilding

key government institutions but is also engaged in the 2001–present war with insurgent groups.

ISAF was initially charged with securing Kabul and surrounding areas from the Taliban, al Qaeda and factional warlords,

so as to allow for the establishment of the Afghan Transitional Administration headed by Hamid Karzai. In October 2003, the UN Security Council authorized the expansion of the ISAF mission throughout Afghanistan, and ISAF subsequently expanded the mission in four main stages over the whole of the country. From 2006 to 2011, ISAF had been involved in increasingly more intensive combat operations in southern and eastern Afghanistan.

The withdrawal of U.S. troops from Afghanistan describes the ongoing draw down of United States Armed Forces in the Afghanistan war and the plans for its post-2014 presence when combat troops have left Afghanistan by the end of 2014.





to Afghanistan

The U.S. drawdown in Afghanistan began 13 July 2011 when the first 650 U.S. troops left Afghanistan as part of Obama's planned drawdown.

In front of a small, hand-picked audience at the headquarters of the NATO mission, the green-and-white flag of the International Security Assistance Force was ceremonially rolled up and sheathed, and the flag of the new international mission called Resolute Support was hoisted.

U.S. Gen. John Campbell, commander of ISAF, commemorated the 3,500 international soldiers killed on Afghan battlefields and praised the country's army for giving him confidence that they are

able to take on the fight alone. "Resolute Support will serve as the bedrock of an enduring

partnership" between NATO and Afghanistan, Campbell told an audience of Afghan and international military officers and officials, as well as diplomats and journalists. Beginning Jan. 1, the new mission will provide training and support for Afghanistan's military, with the U.S. accounting for almost 11,000 of the 13,500 members of the residual force. Afghan President Ashraf Ghani, who took office in September, signed bilateral security agreements with Washington and NATO allowing the ongoing military presence. The move has led to a spike in violence, with the Taliban claiming it as an excuse to step up operations aimed at destabilizing his government.

After 13 years, many in Afghanistan have mixed feelings about the withdrawal of foreign troops as Taliban insurgents remain a prominent and dangerous threat to this day. In fact, this year has been the most deadly since the war began with civilian casualties expected to reach 10,000 for the first time.

ISAF was set up after the U.S.-led invasion as an umbrella for the coalition of around 50 nations that provided troops and took responsibility for security across the country. It ends with 2,224 American soldiers killed, according to an Associated Press tally.

The mission, which was initially aimed at toppling the Taliban and rooting out al-Qaeda following the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks, peaked at 140,000

troops in 2010. Obama ordered a surge to drive the insurgents out of strategically important regions, notably in the southern provinces of Helmand and Kandahar, where the Taliban had its capital from 1996 to 2001.

Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid called withdrawal event a "defeat ceremony" and said the insurgents' fight would continue.

"Since the invasion in 2001 until now, these events have been aimed at changing public opinion, but we will fight until there is not one foreign soldier on Afghan soil and we have established an Islamic state," he said.

Obama recently expanded the role of U.S. forces remaining in the country, allowing them to extend their counter-terrorism operations to the Taliban, as well as al-Qaeda, and to provide ground and air support for Afghan forces when necessary for at least the next two years.

In a tacit recognition that international military support is still essential for Afghan forces, national security adviser Mohammad Hanif Atmar told the gathered ISAF leaders: "We need your help to build the systems necessary to ensure the long-term sustainability of the critical capabilities of our forces."

Dawn News paper reported In December 2014 that US may not target Mullah Omar after this year (2014).

"Being a member of the Taliban doesn't mean that the United



States is going to prosecute operations against you for that reason alone," Pentagon spokesman Rear Admiral John Kirby told a recent news briefing in Washington.

But he also drew a line between combatant and non-combatant Taliban, saying that those who continued to fight would not be spared.

"We've also concurred that a member of the Taliban who undertakes missions against us or our Afghan partners — by that act alone, renders himself vulnerable and liable to US action," Rear Admiral Kirby said.

Mullah Omar was Afghanistan's head of state from 1996 until the US forced him from power in 2001. He has been on the State Department's Rewards for Justice programme since Oct 2001, for harbouring Osama bin Laden and other terrorists. The reward for his capture is \$10 million.

"Is Mullah and the other people on this list, are they no longer liable for their past acts in Afghanistan?" a journalist asked.

"I don't know if I can answer that question. As the recognised leader of the Taliban to the degree the Taliban still poses a threat or poses a threat to us or to our allies, they will continue to be prosecuted by US military operations," Admiral Kirby said. "I can't really make it any more simpler than that."

The Pentagon spokesman explained that from January 2nd, the US policy in Afghanistan would change.

But "what changes fundamentally, though, is (that) ... on January 2nd, just by being a member of the Taliban doesn't make you an automatic target," he explained.

"So, beginning January 2nd, it will be up to the Afghans to go after someone like a Mullah Omar?" asked a journalist.

"That's correct, unless there is a direct threat that's posed," Mr Kirby said.

Afghans have mixed feelings about the drawdown of foreign troops. With the deteriorating security situation, many believe the troops are needed

to back up the Afghan effort to bring peace after more than three decades of continual war.

NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg has said that Afghanistan's 350,000-member security forces are ready to take on the insurgency alone, despite complaints by officials that they lack the necessary assets, such as air support, medical evacuation systems and intelligence.

He said that ISAF's mandate was "carried out at great cost but with great success."

"We have made our own nations safer by denying safe haven to international terrorists. We have made Afghanistan stronger by building up from scratch strong security forces. Together we have created the conditions for a better future for millions of Afghan men, women and children," he said.

As Afghan forces assume sovereignty, the country is without a Cabinet three months after Ghani's inauguration, and economic growth is near zero due to the reduction of the international military presence and other aid. The United States spent more than \$100 million on reconstruction in Afghanistan, on top of the \$1 trillion war.

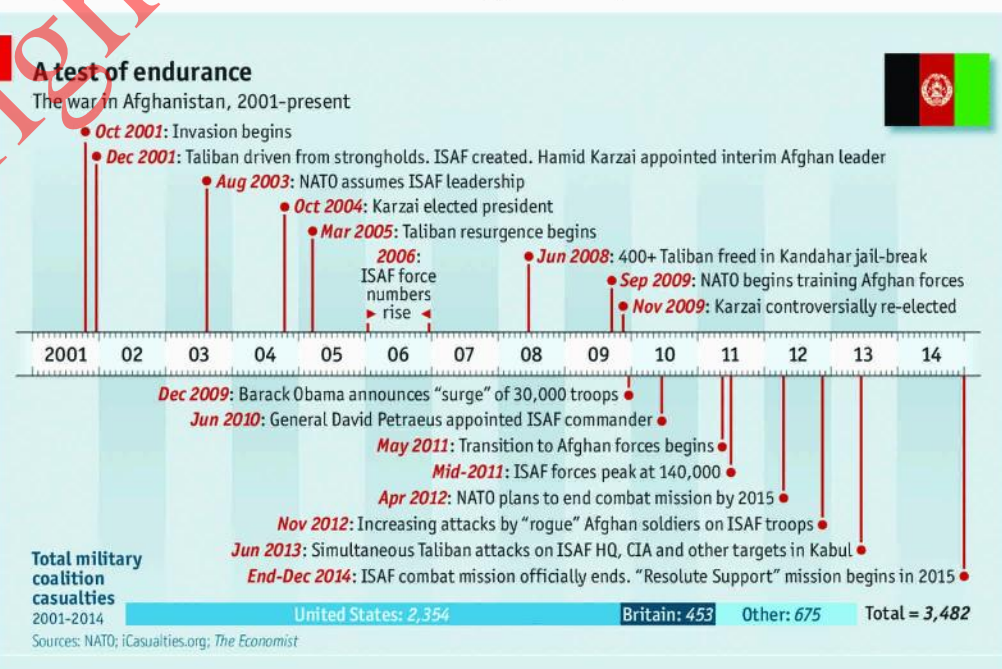
Past year was the deadliest of



the war, according to the United Nations, which expects civilian casualties to hit 10,000 for the first time since the agency began keeping records in 2008. Most of the deaths and injuries were caused by Taliban attacks, the U.N. said.

2014 was also been a deadly year for Afghanistan's security forces — army, paramilitary and

police — with around 5,000 deaths recorded so far. Most of those deaths, or around 3,200, have been police officers, according to Karl Ake Roghe, the outgoing head of EUPOL, the European Union Police Mission in Afghanistan, which funds and trains a police force of 157,000.





Governor KPK, Sardar Mahtab Ahmad Khan in a group photo with the Ambassadors of 9-countries during their visit to Peshawar to show the solidarity with the victims and families of Martyrs of Army Public School at Governor House, Peshawar.

Diplomats of nine countries visit Peshawar school attack site



Diplomats from nine countries, including France and the UK, visited the Peshawar school where the Pakistani Taliban had massacred 150 people, mostly children, last month.

The envoys also met Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor Sardar Mahtab Khan Abbasi and condoled the deaths of innocent people.

The Army Public School (APS) in the cantonment city here was attacked by the Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) militants on December 16 last year, killing 150 innocent people.

Later, the diplomats also visited the Military Hospital in Peshawar to show solidarity with the bereaved families of APS Peshawar attack and enquired about the well being of injured students.

The visiting dignitaries also lauded the sacrifices and resolve of Pakistani forces in their fight against terrorism.

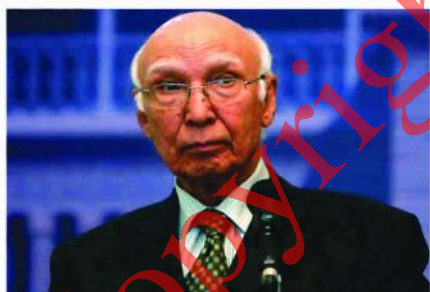
The delegation included the ambassadors of Australia, France, Germany, Saudi Arabia, Netherland, South Korea, Turkey, UAE and UK.



By Sajid Takar

By Sajid Takar

India to be talked with same language which it understands



The day to day violation of ceasefire on Line of Control (LOC) and Working Boundary (WB) has become a routine matter of our arch-rival neighbor India.

The Indian Border Security Forces (BSF) fraudulently shot dead two unarmed officials of the Pakistani Chenab Rangers in the Shakargarh sector of the Sialkot Working Boundary on the last date of the last year.

The reports suggest that five officials of



the Chenab Rangers were going towards the Indian post at 11:00am for a flag meeting in the Shakargarh sector, earlier requested by the sector commander of the Indian BSF.

When the Chenab Rangers officials got close to the Indian post for the meeting, the Indian BSF personnel, shamelessly and deceptively, opened fire, martyring two of them, Naik Muhammad Riaz and Lance Naik Muhammad Safdar. However, the other three managed to save their lives.



The Chenab Rangers retaliated the Indian firing in a befitting manner.

The Punjab Rangers spokesman condemned the incident, terming it 'the very first' of its kind and quite shameful on the part of the Indian BSF.

Repeating such incidents every year, especially at national and religious events like Eidul Fitr, Eidul Azha and Eid Miladun Nabi, is a practice of the Indian BSF. They open unprovoked fire at posts of the Punjab Rangers and villages which result in



the loss of humans, animals and property. Unlike the Punjab Rangers, the BSF do not spare civilians who cross the border mistakenly and shoot them dead. For example, the Punjab Rangers returned unharmed two Indian civilians, Satiya Shel Yadav and Pooja, who mistakenly crossed the Pakistani border.

Pakistan, while condemning the action of the BSF troops, urged India to maintain peace and tranquility along the Line of Control (LoC) and the Working Boundary.

Indian Deputy High Commissioner JP Singh was summoned to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to lodge a strong protest on the unprovoked firing of Indian troops.

The government of India has been urged to investigate the incident, bring the perpetrators to justice, and ensure maintenance of peace and tranquility along the LoC and the Working Boundary.

In another incident of coward act by India's Border Security Force, four Pakistani civilians were killed in unprovoked firing and heavy shelling in the Zafarwal and Shakargarh sectors along the Sialkot Working Boundary. The BSF is said to have suffered 'heavy losses' in the retaliatory fire from Pakistani troops.

The BSF resorted to 'planned intense unprovoked' firing and heavy shelling on civilian population in the villages of Sukhmali, Bheke Chak and

Bhurey Chak, the military's media wing, the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), said in a statement.

In another act of aggression along the Working Boundary, the Indian forces killed a 13-year-old girl and one child (8) seriously wounded.

Defence Minister Khawaja Muhammad Asif while responding to the aggression by Indian forces along the Working Boundary said that it seemed

again his extremist credentials.

He said that Pakistan was working hard trying to maintain peace since at least six to seven months, but now it seemed India would have to be taught in their own language.

Adviser on Foreign Affairs says it was India which suspended foreign secretary-level talks without any reason.

Adviser on Foreign Affairs Sartaj Aziz says all issues between

United States (US) has also expressed concern over Indian firing along Working Boundary.

State Dept spokesperson has said that US has been supporting dialogue between Islamabad, New Delhi to resolve their differences.

The United States has expressed concern over rising tension and exchange of firing along the Working Boundary between Pakistan and India, which has claimed four Pakistani civilian lives.

State Department spokesperson Jen Psaki said in Washington that the US has been supporting dialogue between Islamabad and New Delhi to resolve their differences.

On US-Pakistan Strategic Dialogue, she said, the two sides work on a range of issues, including counter-terrorism and security.

It is worth mentioning here that the situation has started worsening between Pakistan and India back in 2013 after a long period of tranquility for few years. And it got severe after the Modi came into power. This is also very important that in the existing scenario when Pakistan is trying to have more sustainable and long lasting relations with Afghanistan, India is corrupting the atmosphere. It means that India is not in favor of peace in the region. But India should keep in mind that Pakistan can defend itself against any aggression.



like India did not understand the language of peace and tranquility.

He said Pakistan also can speak same language which India understands, adding that the Indian aggression would be responded in same manner. He said that it has been proved that we have to talk with India in same language which is understood, adding that the Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi has proved time and

Pakistan and India can be resolved through dialogue.

Sartaj Aziz said it was expected that after elections in occupied Kashmir, there would be improvement in Pakistan-India ties, but it did not happen; rather, India increased working boundary violations, which is regrettable.

He said India should have welcomed the operation of Pakistan Army in North Waziristan against terrorists.



**Message on the
occasion of The 4th anniversary
of the revolution in Tunisia**

H.E. Mr. Adel Elarbi,
Ambassador –Designate of the Republic of Tunisia to Pakistan

The commemoration of the fourth anniversary of the Tunisian revolution of January 14, 2011 provides an opportunity to reflect on the impressive achievements made over the past years as well as on the obstacles that remain to realizing and consolidating the goals of the revolution mainly in terms of laying the ground for the Second Republic that can respond the aspirations of Tunisians for a better future for Tunisia on the domestic, regional and international levels and to fulfill the objectives of the revolution in terms of eradicating poverty, reducing unemployment and narrowing down regional disparities.

After successful parliamentary and presidential elections, Tunisia has in fact reached Samuel Huntington's "two turnover test," as Huntington believes that "the change of power should occur twice to ensure all parties adhere to the democratic rules".

It is true that transition to democracy in Tunisia has turned out to be more complicated than what was expected before, but Tunisia is not an exception, as we have learned from history that democratic transitions are always difficult. Tunisia witnessed a bumpy transitional period from an authoritarian to a democratic state where dialogue and consensus, rather than domination and exclusion, was the watchword of the Tunisian transition. Therefore, the first democratically elected government took office with a unique experience of coalition of three political parties to rule the country. This government was forced to resign in favor of a "technocratic" interim government. On January 26, 2014, amid political tension, social unrest and economic turmoil, Tunisia's National Constituent Assembly ratified a new progressive constitution which was hailed as a model in the region by foreign leaders and international bodies, for instance UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon hailed the Tunisian new constitution as a "historic milestone" adding that "Tunisia's example can be a model to other peoples seeking reforms".

Tunisia has as well successfully institutionalized its revolution through what have been hailed as the first ever free, transparent and pluralistic parliamentary and presidential elections in the history of the country, with broad participation and strong support from the international community. The election of a new president as well as the appointment of a new Head of

Government is a positive step forward, which will be followed quickly by further steps to name a team of competent cabinet that would spare no effort to respond to the aspirations of the Tunisian people towards democracy, freedom and decent life.

As far as foreign policy is concerned, Tunisia is keen to champion the values of tolerance, solidarity in its own region and throughout the world and to consolidate its relations with brotherly and friendly countries, chief of them the Islamic Republic of Pakistan.

Indeed, Tunisia and Pakistan enjoy long-standing political, economic, social and cultural relations based on mutual respect and solidarity. The exchange of senior officials testifies to the true willingness of both countries to find new avenues of cooperation in order to upgrade their bilateral relations to the highest level of strategic partnership.

In my capacity as the new Ambassador-Designate of the Republic of Tunisia to the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, I would like to take this opportunity to convey a message of solidarity from Tunisia to our brotherly Pakistani people, a message of hope and confidence in a brilliant and prosperous future. We share a common will, a common vision and an unwavering commitment to get our brotherly countries much more closer as well as to find new horizons to further strengthen the prevailing relations between the two countries in all areas for the mutual benefit of our brotherly peoples. In this connection, Tunisia is in talks with the Islamic Republic of Pakistan to conclude a preferential trade arrangement in order to take the bilateral relations between them to the highest levels of cooperation and partnership.

I would also like to invite Pakistani investors to take full advantage of the numerous advantages that Tunisia offers for totally exporting companies in terms of a free and clear investment-friendly legislation, a skilled labor force with a surprising aptitude to rapidly master new technologies, a real legal protection for foreign investors as well as a continuously improving functional infrastructure.

God bless Tunisia

God bless Pakistan

Long live the Tunisian Pakistani brotherhood

A portrait of H.E. Jesus Zener Buergo Concepcion, Ambassador of the Republic of Cuba to the Islamic Republic of Pakistan. He is a middle-aged man with a receding hairline, wearing a dark suit, a light pink shirt, and a red and blue striped tie. He is looking directly at the camera with a neutral expression. The background is the Cuban flag, featuring three horizontal stripes of blue, white, and blue, with a red triangle at the top left containing a white five-pointed star. A large, semi-transparent red watermark with the text "Diplomatic Focus" is oriented diagonally across the image.

Message of

H.E. Jesus Zener Buergo Concepcion,

Ambassador of the Republic Of Cuba to the Islamic Republic of Pakistan,

on occasion of

56th

**Anniversary of the
Cuban Revolution**

On January 1st, 2015, the Cuban people arrive to the 56th Anniversary of its Revolution. In this day, of great significance and happiness, we celebrate the conclusion of our struggle for independence; a unique process that started on October 10th, 1868. It was aimed first, to get freedom after 400 years of the Spanish colonialism; and second, to rescue the interrupted independence from the U.S. dominium that lasted 59 years. The triumph of the popular insurrection on January 1st, 1959 paved the way to the complete exercise of sovereignty and independence by the people of Cuba.

In this struggle the Cuban nation was forged. A nation with its very own stamp emerged from the mixture of European, African, Asian and Latino American roots; with a culture of peace and human projection, very proud of its own existence and very sensitive in defending its singularity.

On January 8th, 1959, a week after the popular victory, Fidel characterized that historic moment:

"I think this is the time of our History. Tyranny has been overthrown. The joy is immense. Yet much remains to be done. Let us not deceive in thinking that everything will be easy, maybe, from now

on, everything will be more difficult".

With the triumph of the Cuban Revolution the excluded land people became into owners; there were created institutional, social and legal conditions for achieving full equality of man, the terrible dead time and unemployment disappeared, and working and studying became into real opportunities. These measures had particular significance for the most marginalized people and also for women and blacks.

In half of a century on independent history, Cuba has been able to raise its people to his own stature. Its achievements in education, health

system, social security, cultural, sport and scientific development and other are recognized all over the world. Faithful of its historic tradition and the path marked by its founding fathers, Cuba has put at the disposition of the humankind its modest advancements.

On December 17, 2014 President Raul Castro addressing to the Nation said: "The heroic Cuban people, in the wake of serious dangers, aggressions, adversities and sacrifices has proven to be faithful and will continue to be faithful to our ideals of independence and social justice. Strongly united throughout these 56 years of Revolution, we have kept our unswerving loyalty to those who died in defense of our principles since the beginning of our independence wars in 1868".

December 17, 2014 will go down in Latin American history as the day on which the Cuban revolution, triumphant since 1959, was finally accepted by the US government as an irreversible fact, thereby recognizing the legitimacy of the road opened by Cuba for all the peoples of Latin America to move towards the affirmation of their political independence.

Also, we celebrated this day the release of all our heroes, that we called "The Cuban Five Cause". Few, if anyone, could have imagined that the heroic sacrifice of a small group of brave and talented Cuban patriots could lead to such a dramatic outcome. Risking their lives, they were able to infiltrate –unarmed– the Cuban criminal gangs at the service of organizations in the US government which, from south Florida systematically assaulted Cuba with total impunity. These young patriots were arrested after the results of their inquiries were placed in the hands of US authorities by the Cuban government. There followed a legal process plagued by manipulations and forgeries which resulted in long sentences. These have just been interrupted following an agreement at the highest political level between presidents Raúl Castro and Barack Obama.

Now, the agreements announced on December 17, 2014, have laid the groundwork for Cuba to move towards the completion of the major social objectives of its socialist program.

In regard to this aim President Raul Castro said: "We propose to the Government of the United States the adoption of mutual steps to improve the bilateral atmosphere and advance towards normalization of relations between our two countries, based on the principles of International Law and the United Nations Charter".

In other hand as a result of the global economic crisis, which Cuba has not escaped, deficiencies persist, but difficulties must be faced with the intelligent effort of all.

In spite of the fact that the Cuban economy continued its progress within the current year, does not reach the expected goals. The Gross Domestic Product grew 1.3 %, lower than the 2.2 % planned. Even in these circumstances very complex, has managed to maintain similar levels in the social services, such as for example, the health and education, among others, which are provided free to the entire Cuban population.

Huge interest has attracted the creation of the Special Development Area of Mariel, destined to become an important pole of attraction for foreign investment and at the same time in testing ground in modern technologies and new forms and methods of business management, in harmony with the preservation of the environment. At the end of January 2014 we opened the first phase of the Container Terminal being built there, along with other vital infrastructure and for which we have enjoyed with the funding provided by the government of Brazil.

Also, in this year Cuba has approved a new Foreign Investment Law, the legislation was approved by the National Assembly of People's Power on March 29/2014, as part of the updating of the country's economic model currently underway, in accordance with Guidelines established by the 6th Congress of the Communist Party of Cuba in 2011. That law is directed toward all potential international investors interested in different sectors of the Cuban economy, and is intended to promote growth and the generation of wealth, which can ultimately be distributed among all Cuban citizens. Every year, in November, Cuban authorities organizing FIHAV, an International Business Fair at ExpoCuba in Havana, that has a wonderful opportunities for foreigners entrepreneurs and businessman to know more about the chances to invest in our island.

The gradual progress continues not only in education, public health, biotechnology, culture, tourism and social security, but in all areas to maintain the sovereign nation status, dignity and independence.

Last October 28, 2014, Cuba submitted to the consideration of the UN General Assembly a resolution entitled "Necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial blockade imposed by the United States of America against Cuba". This resolution was adopted by an overwhelming majority of countries with a total of 188 votes in favour, 2 against (U.S. and ISRAEL) and 3 abstentions. We are very grateful to the Government and people of Pakistan because during 23 years we had received a full support voting a favour of this Resolution.

I would like to convey my deep appreciation to all friends and people of

Pakistan in this special day. It is a proof of the strong and deep friendship that exists between our two countries.

This is a good occasion to highlight our similarities as nations, our struggles for independence, sovereignty and self-determination. We are two nations that lived under colonial dominion and fought to be independent countries. We are countries very proud that struggled for a better future and two peoples that loved their motherland.

With pride and great satisfaction we will have in 2015, several remarkable anniversaries. Firstly, the 60th anniversary of the establishment of bilateral relations between our two countries. Secondly, the 10th anniversary of the arrival of the Cuban medical brigade to Pakistan, with 2.600 members; they were first foreigner assistance who came to Pakistan after the earthquake of October 8, 2005 and the last foreign group to leave the country after almost 7 months of stay. This action resulted in the opening of 32 field hospitals and Cuba provided all the necessary medicines in that so tragic moment. At the time of farewell all these hospitals, medical equipment, medicines, etc. were donated to the Government of Pakistan.

Thirdly, next February/2015 we will celebrate the graduation of more than 600 students and with this Ceremony will finish this free Scholarship Program.

The stay of the Cuban Medical Team in Pakistan (Oct/2005-May/2006) and 1,000 young students of medicine from Pakistan in Cuba (2007-2015) has been extraordinary facts for help to consolidate and strengthen sincere friendship between our two nations.

These graduating doctors are expected to contribute to improve the health sector in Pakistan, strengthening our friendship between the people of both countries.

Once again I extends my thanks to all friends that had supported this Scholarship Program and would like to express the Cubans are ready to make joint efforts with the Government and people of Pakistan to promote our bilateral relationship. Is our desire to expand our cooperation in different fields of mutual benefits and contribute to the economic and social development of both countries, as well as promote the actions in the international area will contribute positively to the achievement of peace and greater prosperity and happiness for all peoples of the world.

On this occasion we would like to extend our most sincere congratulations to all the peoples of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, with the hope that progress can be made for the achievement of peace, and grant them greater happiness, health, and prosperity in the new year of 2015.

Experts call for devising effective strategies & roadmap for engineering qualification standardization in Pakistan and the Asia-Pacific Region

Modernizing academic curricula vital for livelihoods and preparing future engineers for sustainable development

Recognizing the important role of engineers in planning, designing, construction, infrastructure and their lead role in ensuring sustainable development through improved energy and transportation systems, UNESCO's Islamabad and Jakarta Offices organized a national dialogue and international meeting in Islamabad.

The meeting was held in partnership with Pakistan Engineering Council (PEC), the International Science, Technology and Innovation Center for South-South Cooperation under the auspices of UNESCO (ISTIC), the Federation of Engineering Institutions of Asia and the Pacific (FEIAP) and Economic Cooperation Organization Science Foundation (ECOSF), aimed at developing roadmap on engineering qualification standardization and contribution towards South-South Cooperation through UNESCO cooperation programme (Malaysian Funds in Trust for UNESCO).

The two day event was attended by officials and representatives of the Pakistan Engineering Council, Higher Education Commission (HEC), ECOSF, UNESCO, ISTIC, FEIAP and representatives from Pakistani engineering institutions and industry.

Chief Guest, Hasrul Sani bin Muftabar, High Commissioner of Malaysia to Pakistan in his remarks reaffirm Malaysia strong support for UNESCO in enhancing capacity building in education, science and culture under the Malaysian Funds in Trust Agreement as part of Malaysia policy, close collaboration and cooperation. He extended that the international meeting on engineering qualification standardization today was part of South-South Cooperation which would be further



strengthened through bilateral relation between Pakistan and Malaysia.

“Besides rice and palm oil trade between Pakistan and Malaysia, I am pleased to see this initiative where engineers of the two countries will work closely with each other”, he added.

Syed Abdul Qadir Shah, Chairman, Pakistan Engineering Council on this occasion highlighted the need of standardization of engineering qualification in today's era for addressing engineering related problems and enabling engineers for their cross border contribution.

Vibeke Jensen, Representative/ Director, UNESCO Islamabad extended her gratitude to all the participants and emphasized that the initiative had meant to encourage and inspire academicians, particularly in Pakistan and other countries of Asia-Pacific Region towards harmonizing the engineering qualification standards to the international standards. She underlined the active linkages between academia and industry as the significant factor that can accelerate industrial development in Pakistan.

Representatives and officials from FEIAP, ISTIC, ECOSF and academicians of various Engineering Universities from Pakistan highlighted the importance of the initiative, key areas of progress and mentioned that PEC possess lead capacity role in the Asia-Pacific Region. President ECOSF, Prof. Manzoor H. Soomro shared plans and programs of the foundation and stressed on effective cooperation and collaboration led to commercialization of research results and economic development in the ECO region.

In his closing remarks, Shahbaz Khan, Officer in Charge, UNESCO Regional Science Bureau for Asia-Pacific, Jakarta mentioned UNESCO long history role in promoting internationally-recognized standards for engineering institutions and reaffirm UNESCO commitment to continue its support in countries like Pakistan as need based opportunities. He emphasized



to find new ways of learning, teaching, curricula improvement, and executive faculty trainings and stressed Pakistan to

road map for engineering qualifications standardizations.



take lead for this initiative and help other pilot countries and strengthening linkages between ECO countries of Asia-Pacific Region.

During the two day event, engineering experts, industrialists, academicians and focal persons from various national and international entities discussed gaps and opportunities and the development of a

Pakistan has been selected as pilot case study for UNESCO-FEIAP collaboration which is working to improve the standards of engineering qualification in universities and institutes of higher education, in association with the engineering bodies. UNESCO agreed to assist FEIAP to champion its guidelines.





Federal Minister for Interior and Narcotics Control, Chaudhry Nisar Ali Khan in a meeting with acting Saudi Ambassador Jassem Al-Kheledi at Punjab House, Islamabad.

Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has always stood in support of Pakistan: Nisar

Pakistani Minister of Interior and Narcotics Control Chaudhry Nisar Ali Khan met with Saudi Charge D'affaires to the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, the Minister Plenipotentiary Jassem bin Mohammed Al-Khalidi. During the meeting, they discussed bilateral relations between the two countries and ways of enhancing them in various fields. The Pakistani Minister commended deep-rooted relations between the two countries, noting that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has always stood in support of Pakistan.



Charge d' Affaris, Embassy of Saudi Arabia, Jassim M. Al-Khalidi exchanging views with Federal Minister for Finance, Senator Muhammad Ishaq Dar in Islamabad.

Saudi Fund for Development (SFD) has approved a loan of Saudi Riyals 206,250,000

The Charge' d' Affaires Mr. Jassim Al-Khalidi of Saudi Embassy called on pin Finance Minister Ishaq Dar in Islamabad. They discussed the matters of common interest and shared their views for further consolidation of Saudi-Pak economic and commercial relations. The Saudi envoy informed the Finance Minister that the Saudi Fund for Development (SFD) has approved to provide a soft loan of Saudi Riyals 206,250,000 for Challa Bandi-Patikka road project in district Muzaffarabad – Azad Kashmir. This soft loan will be provided for twenty years with five years grace period at annual interest rate of two percent.

The funding is part of Saudi commitment to support Pakistan in development and will augment the unique bilateral relations between the two brotherly countries.



Saudi Arabia to reopen Baghdad embassy after 25-year

A Saudi delegation is going to travel to Baghdad in the month of January to start preparations to reopen an embassy in the Iraqi capital for the first time in 25 years, official Saudi media said.

A thaw in the relations between Saudi Arabia and Iraq could help strengthen a regional alliance against Islamic State militants who have seized territory in Iraq and Syria.

Saudi Arabia closed its Baghdad embassy in 1990 after the invasion of Saddam Hussein in Kuwait.

The Saudi move would help return Iraq to the Arab nation "after an absence since the toppling of the Saddam Hussein regime and the penetration of the Iranian regime into the joints of the Iraqi state," said Abdullah al Askar, head of the foreign affairs committee on Saudi Arabia's Shoura Council, which advises the government on policy.

Saudi Arabia began cautious moves towards rapprochement after the appointment in August 2014 of Haider al-Abadi as Iraq's new prime minister.

Citing an official foreign ministry source, the Saudi Press Agency (SPA) said that besides reopening its embassy, the kingdom also planned to set up a general consulate in Erbil, capital of Iraq's Kurdistan region.

A team from the ministry would head to Baghdad in January to liaise with Iraq on choosing and preparing buildings for both missions, so they could start work "at the earliest opportunity", SPA said.

Mustafa Alani, an Iraqi security analyst with close ties to the Saudi government, said the move was prompted by both the change in Iraqi leadership and the threat from Islamic State, which staged a lightning advance across Iraq in June, 2014 and is the target of US-led air strikes in both Iraq and Syria.



Chairman of the Founder Group of ICCI Abdul Rauf presenting bouquet to Mian Akram Farid of assuming charge of Vice President FPCCI. Former president of FPCCI Malik Zubair, president of various chamber and Chairman Coordination FPCCI Malik Sohail also seen in the picture.

Military courts to stabilise democracy, ensure peace: VP FPCCI Mian Akram Farid

Businessmen unconditionally support daring steps of PM, COAS: Abdul Rauf

Chairman of the Founder Group of Islamabad Chamber of Commerce Abdul Rauf said military courts would not be misused and they would stabilise democracy and ensure peace in Pakistan which will trigger economic activities.

The business community will be able to discharge their duties with peace of mind after a long time after terrorism is uprooted therefore we fully back courageous initiatives by Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif and COAS Gen. Raheel, he said while speaking at a ceremony of taking over charge of Vice President FPCCI by Mian Akram Farid and office of the Chairman Coordination FPCCI by Malik Sohail.

Mr. Rauf said that the demise of Munawar Mughal was a shock to the business community and United Business Group (UBG), we are feeling his absence but his mission would be continued.

Speaking on the occasion, Mian Akram Farid who has twice served as president ICCI and chairman of FPCCI Capital office, said that he will try best

Iftikhar Ali Malik, SM Muneer, President FPCCI Mian Idrees and others and we unconditionally support their all moves aimed at welfare of

decision to jack up gas prices as it will hurt production sector.

Newly elected Chairman Coordination Malik Sohail said that terrorists are now cornered and alienated therefore our leaders should not waste time over petty differences or useless legal issues to fully support armed forces.

He said that failure is not an option in the ongoing war against those who have disturbed our social order.

Those present on the occasion included former president FPCCI Malik Zubair, incumbent and former presidents of different business chambers, markets and associations including Muzamil Sabri, Atif Ikram, Khalid Jaweed, Ijaz Abbasi, Zahid Maqbool, Nasir Khan, Mian Shaukat Masood, Zafar Bakhtawri, Iqbal Tabish and others.



Chairman of the founder group of Islamabad Chamber of Commerce Abdul Rauf speaking to the business community at FPCCI Capital Office.

to serve the business community and resolve their outstanding problems.

He said that we have full faith in the leaders of UBG including

business community.

Mian Akram Farid said that government should take steps to transfer benefit of receding oil prices to masses and reverse



The Biography "A Limitless Pakistani" of Dr. Mirza Ikhtiar Baig was launched by Mohsin-e-Pakistan Dr. Abdul Qadeer Khan. Also present Nisar Khoro Sr. Minister Education, Zahid Malik, Mian Muhammad Address President FPCCI, S.M. Muneer CEO TDAP, Ishtiaq Baig Hon. Consul General Morocco, Zeba Bakhtiar, Rashid Siddiqui, Salahuddin Haider, Mirza Omair and Imran Baig.

A Limitless Pakistani

DR. BAIG'S BIOGRAPHY

The biography "A Limitless Pakistani" of Dr. Mirza Ikhtiar Baig, Former Advisor to Prime Minister and Chairman Baig Group was launched by Mohsin-e-Pakistan Dr. Abdul Qadeer Khan. The speakers highlighted various aspects of Dr. Baig's life as an industrialist, diplomat, politician, columnist, author of economic books and a philanthropist. The event was attended by large numbers of people from various walks of life.

Dr. Baig in his speech said that it requires courage to document your past and present to the people and its only possible when you do not have any stains in your life. He attributed his success to his mother's prayers and teaching of good moral values and high

education. Dr. Baig is proud to be a self made and it is because of Allah's blessing, sheer hard work, parents prayers and honesty.

Federal Minister Industries & Production Ghulam Murtaza Jatoi and Jehangir Shah, DMD Pak Oman Investment Co. two close childhood friends were

present at the ceremony to share good old memories with Dr. Baig.

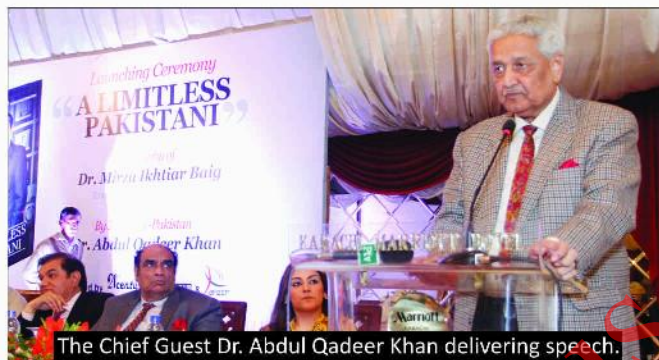
Dr. Baig stressed upon unity and



Dr. Abdul Qadeer Khan, Dr. Ikhtiar Baig, Iftikhar Malik, Ishtiaq Baig, Mian Zahid, Zubair Tufail, Zafar Bakhtawari at the cake cutting ceremony.



Dr. Baig addressing the guests.



The Chief Guest Dr. Abdul Qadeer Khan delivering speech.

The speakers & prominent participants of the ceremony were:
Ghulam Murtaza Jatoi Federal Minister for Industries & Production, Nisar Khoro Sr. Minister for Education, Govt. of Sindh, S. M. Muneer CEO TDAP Mr. Sirajuddin Aziz President Habib Metropolitan Bank, Zahid Malik Editor-in-Chief Pakistan Observer, Mian Adrees Sheikh President FPCCI, Mian Zahid Hussain President Pakistan Businessmen and Intellectuals Forum, Zeba Bakhtiar, Ishtiaq Baig Hon. Consul General of Morocco, Rashid Ahmed Siddiqui Chairman Afeef Group, Salahuddin Haider, President 21st Century Business & Economic Club, Farrukh Mazhar Managing Director – SGS Pakistan.

Consul General Morocco, Rashid Siddiqui Chairman Afeef Group, Salahuddin Haider of 21st Century Business & Economic Club admired Dr. Baig's persona as a professional who enjoys excellent credibility and reputation in the business,

social and political circle.

Dr. Abdul Qadeer Khan highlighted the role of Dr. Baig's mother in their success and shared his old association with Baig family.



Muhammad Rajpar, Zeba Bakhtiar, Pervez Madraswala, Kalim Siddiqui, Ijaz Nisar.



Anum Baig, Dr. Tahir, Shehzad Khan, Murtaza Jatoi, Dr. Ikhtiar Baig, Aadil Zuberi, Naeem ur Rehman.



Dr. Ikhtiar Baig, Ishtiaq Baig, Dr. Abdul Qadeer Khan, Shehzad Khan.



Dr. Ikhtiar Baig with Ghulam Murtaza Jatoi and Naeem ur Rehman.



Dr. Abdul Qadeer Khan with Mr. & Mrs. Ikhtiar Baig and daughter Haya.



DR. BAIG BIOGRAPHY LAUNCHED

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Federal Minister Industries & Production Ghulam Murtaza Jatoi and Jehangir Shah, DMD Pak Oman Investment Co. two close childhood friends were present at the ceremony to share good old memories with Dr. Baig.

Dr. Baig stressed upon unity and strong bondage with the family members and appreciated his brother Ishtiaq Baig's role in achieving the success. Zeba Bakhtiar, a close family friend expressed her esteem respect and regards for Baig family and their support to her when needed. She called Dr. Baig a

role model for the youth of Pakistan.

Nisar Khoro Sr. Minister Education, Zahid Malik Editor-in-Chief Pakistan Observer, Mian Muhammad Adrees President FPCCI, S. M. Muneer CEO TDAP, Iftikhar Ali Malik Chairman UBG, Sirajuddin Aziz President Habib Metropolitan Bank, Ishtiaq Baig Hon. Consul General Morocco, Rashid Siddiqui Chairman Afeef Group, Salahuddin Haider of 21st Century Business & Economic Club admired Dr. Baig's persona as a professional who enjoys excellent credibility and reputation in the business, social and political circle.

Dr. Abdul Qadeer Khan highlighted the role of Dr. Baig's mother in their success and shared his old association with Baig family.



Ishtiaq Baig, Mian Adrees, Pervez Madraswala, Prof. S. B. Hassan, S. M. Muneer, Nisar Khoro, Zubair Tufail, Majyd Aziz.



Dr. Ikhtiar Baig with the representatives from Women Chambers, KPK. Also seen Senator Naseem ur Rehman and S. M. Naseer.



Neha, Fiza, Nasreen, Adeeba, Parveen, Madiha, Mrs. Shafat, Shireen, Aymen.



Sirajuddin Aziz, Salahuddin Haider, Rashid Siddiqui, Nisar Khoro, Dr. Abdul Qadeer Khan, Dr. Baig, Mian Adrees, S. M. Muneer, Mian Zahid.



Jehangir Shah, Farrukh Mazhar, Shehzad Khan, Zahid Malik, Murtaza Jatoi, Ishtiaq Baig, Zeba Bakhtiar.



Iqbal Sheikhan, Col. Tahir, Ather Iqbal, Navaid Bukhari, Farrukh Mazhar, Rashid Siddiqui, Kalim Siddiqui.



Dr. Ikhtiar Baig with Mr. & Mrs. Shafat, Mr. & Mrs. S. M. Tahir, Parveen, Madiha, Adeeba, Neha, Fiza.



Shireen, Aymen, Ishtiaq Baig, Parveen, Adeeba.



Iqbal Sheikhan, Abdullah Feroz, Nisar Khoro, Ikhtiar Baig, Rafiq Dawood, Faisal Malik.



US Ambassador to Pakistan Richard G. Olson called on Finance Minister Senator Muhammad Ishaq Dar in Islamabad.

Mr. Olson Expressed Condolences for The Precious Loss Of Innocent Lives

US Ambassador to Pakistan Mr. Richard G. Olson called on the Federal Minister for Finance Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar at the Finance Ministry. Mr. Olson expressed grief and offered condolences to the Minister on the recent incident in Peshawar in which many precious and innocent lives were lost. The Minister said that this is one of the saddest incidents in the history of Pakistan but the Government has made a firm resolve that the issue of terrorism will be dealt with utmost force and on this issue the whole nation and political leadership has a consensus. The US Ambassador also congratulated the Minister on the successful completion of 4th and 5th IMF review and taking the reserve to \$15 billion which has availed the Government the opportunity to become a member of IBRD and enjoy better Financial Packages. Mr. Olson discussed with the Minister the Civilian assistance package under the Kerry Lugar Act. The Ambassador said that the congress has notified a \$532m assistance package for Pakistan with its break up being given for different sectors like energy, defense against terrorism, economic growth, community building, education and health. The Finance Minister remarked that the government of Pakistan should spend a large amount of this assistance for the rehabilitation of the TDPs of North Waziristan Agency. Mr. Olson also



Federal Minister for Interior & Narcotics Control, Ch. Nisar Ali Khan in a meeting with US Ambassador to Pakistan Richard G. Olson in Islamabad.

discussed the agenda for the expected visit of Secretary Kerry to Pakistan in 2015. The Finance Minister discussed with the Ambassador the speedy delivery of Boeing aircrafts which the PIA has to acquire to upgrade its fleet as restructuring the state asset is one of the important agenda items in the priority list of the Government. The Minister told the ambassador that they are preparing for giving a briefing to the donors about the rehabilitation work being carried out for restoring the life of the Temporarily Displaced People of NWA and the Flood affectees. The Minister said that the floods were unforeseen calamity that will surely have an impact on our growth projections but still we are hoping to recoup under the current circumstances. The meeting was attended by Rana Assad Amin, Advisor to the Finance Division and Mr. Shahid Mahmood Khan, SA to Finance Minister and other members of the US team. Before meeting with Mr. Dar, US

The congress has notified a \$532m assistance package for Pakistan with its break up being given for different sectors like energy, defense against terrorism, economic growth, community building, education and health: US Ambassador

ambassador called on the Federal Minister for Interior and Narcotics Control Ch. Nisar Ali Khan, at Punjab House. The Ambassador expressed his condolences for the precious loss of innocent lives during the tragic incident of APS, Peshawar. He pledged that, the international community will keep on extending its support for Pakistan's fight against extremism. The Minister appreciated the Ambassador's sentiments and viewed that this was a monumental tragedy. One of its upshot is that, an across the board consensus has been developed between all political parties and the people of Pakistan, to deal with the menace of extremism, with extraordinary steps, the minister added. With this kind of unprecedented popular support, the government will take this fight to its logical end. We welcome international support to augment, our efforts in combating extremism across the country.



Pakistan's Ambassador to Germany, Syed Hasan Javed with the representatives of Pakistani Community after inaugurating the First Pakistani Super Market in Berlin.



PAK ENVOY opens First Pakistani Super Market in Berlin

By Mian Mubeen Akhtar

Pakistan's Ambassador to Germany Syed Hasan Javed inaugurated the first Pakistani Super Store in Berlin. Addressing the participants of the inaugural ceremony, the Ambassador said that the Pakistani community should undertake such business ventures as it would not only benefit to their country but also help them move vertically in the German society. He congratulated the owners of the Super Store who pooled together their resources and expertise to open this Super Market of Hilal Food with majority items imported from Pakistan. The owners of the Super Store thanked the Ambassador for taking time to inaugurate the first Pakistani Super Market in Berlin and expressed their resolve to expand it with opening more branches in different cities of Germany.



Dutch Ambassador visited KP Judicial Academy

Mr. Marcel de Vink, Netherlands Ambassador to the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, visited KP Judicial Academy Peshawar. The Ambassador was welcomed by Director General, Mr. Hayat Ali Shah. Ambassador De Vink met with the DG KPK of the Judicial Academy at his office. It is part of the Rule of Law projects supported by the Netherlands.

"Supporting these projects in the rule of law area is more important than ever in the fight against terrorism", said

Ambassador de Vink. The Netherlands government is also supporting the Strengthening Rule of Law program in Malakand through UNDP, to which \$2 million has been contributed.

He visited different sections of the Academy including Research Wing, Library, Mediation Center and Radio Meezan Studios and highly appreciated the rising of such Academy in very short span of time. Representatives of the UNDP's Rule of Law Program briefed the Ambassador on the success and plans of the Program and

contribution of the Academy towards their goals is highlighted.

He said that the people of Netherlands stand united with the people of Pakistan and that we will never forget.

The governor informed the ambassador on the steps taken in the aftermath of the tragedy and the progress made. A wreath was laid at the Army Public School on behalf of the Netherlands in memory of the victims.

**"Supporting these projects in the rule of law area is more important than ever in the fight against terrorism":
Ambassador
De Vink**



Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor, Sardar Mahtab Ahmad Khan talking to the Ambassador of the Kingdom of the Netherlands at Islamabad, Mr. Marcel De Vink who called him at Governor's House, Peshawar.

Denmark

provides extra

\$ 1.6 Million to IDP's

The Government of Denmark has granted a contribution of USD 1.6 million to assist the Internally Displaced Persons (IDP's) in North Waziristan and Khyber Agency's. The contribution, which has a special focus on women and children, will be implemented through UNHCR's operations in the area.

The grant was announced Saturday by the Ambassador of Denmark, Mr. Jesper Moller Sorensen, who said that the situation of displaced people is very complex, as Pakistan faces serious challenges due to the frequency of conflicts and emergencies in the country. "IDP's are in a very serious and extremely vulnerable position. Women and children account for the majority of those newly displaced. Today, almost one million women and children are without social protection. Our contribution serves to ensure that displaced people, especially women, children and others with special needs, have equal access to all services offered by the Government and humanitarian actors", said Ambassador Sorensen.

Nearly 993.166 individuals (90.836 families) with 74 percent being women and children were displaced as a result of military operation in North Waziristan Agency. An additional displacement of 98.700 families (638.699 individuals) took place after military operations started in

the adjacent areas of Khyber Agency. Women and children constitute 81 percent of the total enlisted caseload from Khyber Agency to date.

The Danish contribution will go

to ensure that the families have an adequate coverage of tents, non-food item family kits, which include emergency shelter materials, and core relief items for protection against the cold winter. Additionally, support is

also being provided in collective centers, where families are being hosted at schools, other public buildings, temporary settlements and community and religious centers. UNHCR is also establishing new camps and providing technical support on camp management and coordination.

Denmark has been providing humanitarian support to Pakistan since 2005 with increased support during the earthquake and floods. Between 2010 and 2013, Denmark contributed a total of USD 51.5 million in humanitarian aid to Pakistan. In addition, Denmark is currently implementing a USD 50 million development assistance program in Pakistan (2013-2016).

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Turkey

honours Pakistan Ambassador with medal of distinguished service

In recognition of his services for promoting Turkey-Pakistan relations, Turkish Foreign Minister Mr. Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu at an impressive ceremony presented medal of distinguished services to the outgoing Ambassador of Pakistan Mr. Muhammad Haroon Shaukat. Senior officials of Turkish Foreign Ministry including Deputy Foreign Minister as well as officers of

Pakistan Embassy attended the event.

In his speech, the Turkish Foreign Minister said that the brotherly relations of Pakistan and Turkey predate the existence of our present States. He offered condolences over the loss of innocent lives in the tragic Peshawar terrorist attack. He said grief of Pakistan is Turkey's grief and progress of

Pakistan is Turkey's progress. He hoped that the next meeting of High Level Strategic Cooperation Council meeting will soon take place in Pakistan where the leadership of Turkey and Pakistan shall take further steps to boost economic and commercial ties. Mr. Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu acknowledged the efforts of Ambassador Haroon Shaukat and lauded his services for further promoting Turkey-

Pakistan ties.

Ambassador Haroon Shaukat in his speech said: "I feel deeply honored and privileged to receive the most valued Award of Distinguished Services by His Excellency the Minister for Foreign Affairs. During my nearly three and a half years of stay in this wonderful, brotherly and friendly country, I made my best efforts to enhance the trajectory of our exemplary bilateral relations, especially in the economic and commercial domain. Being an Ambassador of Pakistan in Turkey is an exceptional privilege and a huge honor. Turkey is our second home. No two countries share each other's happiness and sorrows as Turkey and Pakistan. What make this relationship truly special is the deep rooted bonds in the two peoples. We stayed in Turkey at exceptionally important times. Turkey, under the dynamic leadership of President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and Prime Minister Ahmet Davutoglu has achieved a true economic miracle, has set high standards of people friendly social welfare. It has been our endeavor to learn from Turkey's best practices."

Ambassador Haroon Shaukat said Pakistan too, under the distinguished leadership of Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif stands at the threshold of a defining moment of political stability, peace, harmony, rapid socio-economic development and well-being of its people. At this critical time, Turkey is indeed Pakistan's most valued and trusted strategic partner in every domain, he added.



North Korean Ambassador visits office of the 'Diplomatic Focus', appreciates its role in diplomatic community

Strongly condemns Peshawar School Incident, terms it 'barbaric'

By Sajid Tahir

Ambassador of the Democratic Peoples' Republic of Korea to the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, H.E. Mr. Ro Kyong Chol visited the office of 'Diplomatic Focus' in Islamabad.

He was received by Mian Fazal Elahi the Editor & CEO of 'Diplomatic Focus' himself and presented him with a bouquet as warm welcome at his office.

The North Korean Ambassador also visited the news room of the magazine and admired the setup.

During his informal talks with Mr. Elahi, the ambassador said that he was pleased to see the setup and working environment of the office.

Mr. Ro Kyong Chol also praised the services of 'Diplomatic Focus' and termed them as very professional and important to the bilateral relations of Pakistan with other countries. He also lauded the magazine's services for the diplomatic community.

On this occasion, the ambassador also condemned the attack carried out by terrorists on Army Public School (APS) in Peshawar. He strongly condemned the incident and termed it 'barbaric'. He said

that the state of North Korea, its

government and people were standing by





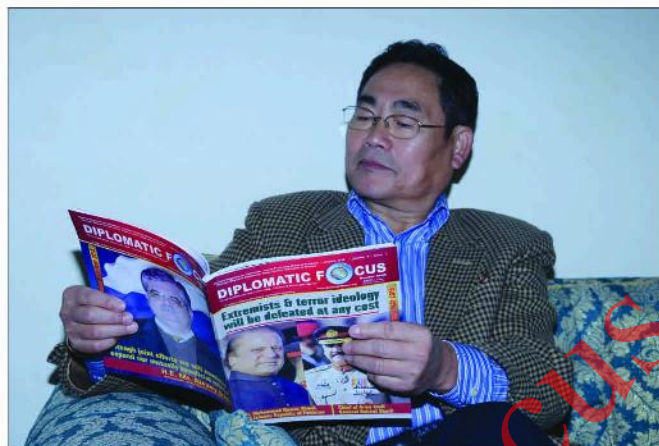
the bereaved families of the victims of the sad incident. He said that their government and country was stood by Pakistan in this hour of sorrow and grief.

"My country, my people and my

government feel very sad and we express our condolence to the families of the victims", he said while condemning the attack. He added that his government was against all kinds of terrorism. The

ambassador further said that such attacks are not acceptable.

He also said that Pakistan should take steps to end the terrorism and added that his country was with Pakistan in this war.

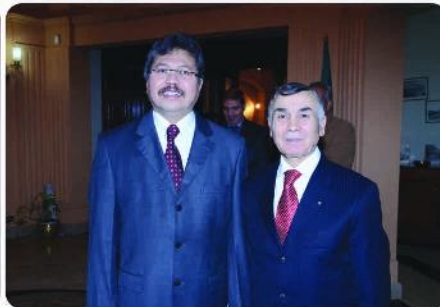


"My country, my people and my government feel very sad and we express our condolence to the families of the victims", he said while condemning the attack. He added that his government was against all kinds of terrorism. Such attacks were not acceptable" Mr. Ro Kyong Chol, The North Korean Ambassador



H.E. Dr. Ahmed Benflis,

The outgoing Ambassador of Democratic People's Republic of Algeria,
Hosted a GOODBY reception at his residence in Islamabad







Pak-UK relations:

Britain willing to work on joint ventures

Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI) President Zakaria Usman has said that there is huge potential of Pakistani products in the United Kingdom (UK) but the current statistics of bilateral trade between the two countries are not reflecting the real picture.

He said this while meeting the British Deputy High Commissioner Karachi Jhon Anthony Tucknott who was visiting the FPCCI head office.

The envoy said that the prosperity of Pakistan with strengthening commercial trade and economic activities between the two countries is high priority.

He added that many British companies are willing to start their businesses in Pakistan and want to undertake joint ventures with their counterparts particularly in gas and power generation and waste power plants. He further said that many British companies are already successfully running their businesses in the country.

He also informed the FPCCI chief that they are planning to hold a seminar to introduce financial services products in the UK market for which the Pakistani financial companies are invited to attend, which is an important opportunity for them.

Anthony said that a British company is interested in setting

up a desalination plant project which will be capable of providing millions of gallons of water per day. He also said that

an experienced British company is also interested in setting up a power generation project through the use of solid waste.





FESF in collaboration with Ilm Ideas hosted the launch of "Pakistan Sign Language Resources" at the Serena Hotel, Islamabad. Over 175 people attended from the corporate, diplomatic and government sectors attended the event which was also covered by the media.

Honorable guests at the event held included Mr Nawid Ahsan, former Secretary General of Ministry of Finance Federal Government and Former Chairman of NAB, Mr Zulfiqar Gardezi, Director General Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Islamabad, Former Deputy High Commissioner in London.



H.E. Mr. Tomwit Jarnson, Ambassador of Thailand, hosted a reception to celebrate the Royal Thai Armed Forces Day. Guests from the Pakistani Government and private sector, Ambassadors, diplomatic corps, and the Thai community including Thai students attended the event.





The Serena Hotels 3rd Annual Invitational Golf Tournament



The Serena Hotels 3rd Annual Invitational Golf Tournament, hosted under the umbrella of Sports Diplomacy, at the Islamabad Golf Club. Chief Guest was Mr. Sartaj Aziz, Advisor to the Prime Minister on National Security and Foreign Affairs. This included corporate and business leaders, government functionaries and diplomats including Excellencies Istvan Szabao (Ambassador of Hungary), Philip Barton(British High

Commissioner), Tomas Rosander (Swedish Ambassador), Janan Mosazai (Afghan Ambassador), Burhan Muhammad (Indonesian Ambassador), Air Chief Marshall Jayalath Weerakkody (Sri Lankan High Commissioner), T.C.A Raghavan (Indian High Commissioner), Hiroshi Inomata (Japanese Ambassador), Tomwit Jarnson (Thai Ambassador), Song Jong Hwan (Korean Ambassador) and Nguyen Viet Hung (Vietnamese

Ambassador), Dato Dr. Hasrul Sani Muhtabar (Malaysian Ambassador), Nedim Makarevic (Bosnian Ambassador), Lars-Gunnar Wigemark (EU Ambassador) and Said Hingham (Egyptian Ambassador), Senior government officials who participated in the tournament included Foreign Secretary Aizaz chaudhry, Admiral Hasham Bin Saddique and Nadeem Asif, Secretary Establishment Division.





A reception hosted by Mr. Cesar Guedes, the representative of UNDOC in Pakistan on the occasion of Regional Counter Narcotics Seminar at Serena Hotel Islamabad





Mr. Mian Fazal Elahi, CEO/Editor/Publisher 'Diplomatic Focus' holds farewell reception in the honor of outgoing Ambassador of the Democratic Peoples' Republic of Algeria, H.E. Dr. Ahmed Benflis at Marriott, Islamabad

By Sajid Takar

Diplomatic Focus' honored the outgoing Ambassador of the Democratic Peoples' Republic of Algeria, H.E. Dr. Ahmed Benflis with a farewell reception held at Marriott Hotel, Islamabad.

Besides the outgoing ambassador, there were some other guests present at the evening gathering including diplomats, High Commissioners, federal ministers, high officials and other renowned personalities in the respective fields.

Mr. Mian Fazal Elahi, the Editor & CEO of 'Diplomatic Focus' himself received the respected guest and other distinguished personalities at the venue.

While addressing the gathering, Mr. Elahi said that it was an honor to have such special guests among us at such a beautiful

evening.

Mr. Elahi presented warm and heartfelt tributes to the honorable outgoing Ambassador H.E. Mr. Dr. Ahmed Benflis. The Editor, during his speech, appreciated his Excellency's diplomatic services and wished him all the very best for his next appointments. The CEO added that Dr. Benflis had achieved great deal during his services here in Pakistan which has been lauded by everyone.

He, while praising the outgoing ambassador, said that he had played great role in brining Pakistan and Algeria closer in various fields.

The CEO of the magazine, during his welcome speech, also highlighted the role of 'Diplomatic Focus'. He, while mentioning the valuable services of the

magazine, said that the it has been playing its diplomatic and precious role in strengthening the bilateral ties of Pakistan with other 154 countries of the world for the last more than six years.

He further said that in today's modern times, the importance of diplomatic and bilateral relations had been increased two-fold. And this is what our esteemed magazine 'Diplomatic Focus' has been doing for last more than six years. It also enjoys great reputation in the journalistic world and considered one of the best among the many magazines. This is all because of your generous and great support that today this Magazine has become a mark of truth, clear policy and honesty, he added.

"I also want to give you the good news that



the UK edition of the Diplomatic Focus is under process and soon to be publishing by this month from London that would be covering the UK based embassies and missions and in this regard, I hope that your assistance and cooperation would be of great worth for us", this he said while giving the good news regarding the magazine.

Mr. Elahi also said that every positive and good thing encourages us, and by the well of God and your support, we will keep

continued our efforts to further enhance the bilateral relations.

On the occasion, Mr. Elahi also welcomed the new envoys i.e. H.E. Mr. Babur Girgin, Ambassador of the Republic of Turkey, H.E. Mr. Sadek A.S. Osman, Head of Mission/ Charge d' Affairs, Embassy of Libya and H.E. Mr. Philip Barton, British High Commissioner of the United Kingdom to Islamic Republic of Pakistan.

H.E. Dr. Ahmed Benflis, during his speech, thanked the CEO & Editor and the entire

team of the 'Diplomatic Focus' for holding such a gracious party. He also lauded the journalistic services of the magazine in the diplomatic affairs.

Other high commissioners, diplomats and distinguished guests also lauded the professional and unbiased work of the magazine.

At the end, the CEO thanked all the honorable guests and served them with various traditional and continental foods.



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إنا لله
وإنا إليه
راجعون

“To God we belong
and indeed to him
we shall return”

King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud (Late)
Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques