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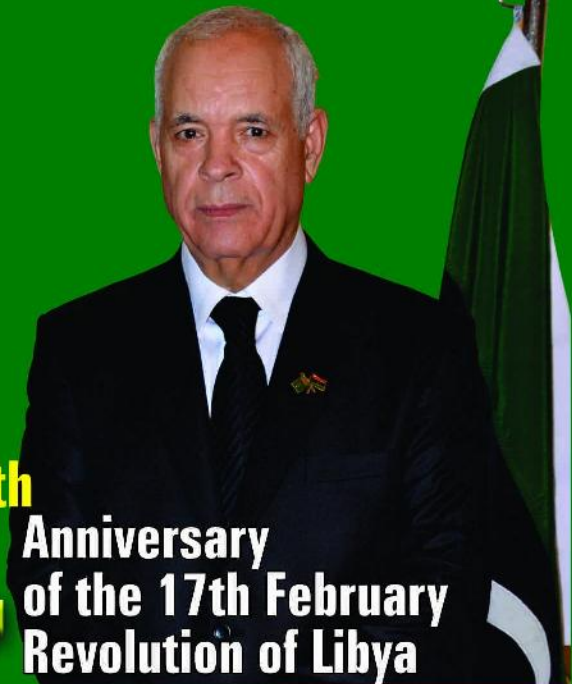
Time Tested Friendship

H.E. Mr. Mamnoon Hussain

President of Islamic Republic of Pakistan honors
Mr. Ahmet Davutoglu PM Turkey &
Mr. Wang Yi Foreign Minister of China
with state medals

Pakistan
Resolution Day

23rd March:
a day to remember forever



4th Anniversary
of the 17th February
Revolution of Libya

H.E. Mr. Sadek A. Osman

Libyan Head of Mission

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Mian Fazal Elahi

Editorial

Pakistan and Turkey have agreed to further strengthen bilateral relations in all sectors. The Turkish Prime Minister, during his Pakistan's visit, hoped that soon Pakistan and Turkey will finalize Free Trade Agreement to further enhance trade and economic activities. He urged to establish better transportation links between the two countries. Ahmet Davutoglu lauded Pakistan's efforts to establish peace and stability in Afghanistan and also appreciated Pakistan's efforts to improve its relations with India. Pakistan-China friendship is time tested and it has been proved time and again. The recent official visit of Chinese Foreign Minister to Pakistan is one such example of such strong ties. China has come forward to help Pakistan whenever the later has faced difficult times. And, recently, when the US President Obama visited India and, during one of his speeches, said that the US would support the Indian struggle to become the permanent member of the Security Council of the UN. China said that it would support such struggle of Pakistan. However, after realizing its position internationally on various issue including that of Kashmir, the Indian Prime Minister Narindra Modi made a phone call to the PM Nawaz Sahrif and expressed his willingness on resuming the foreign secretaries level talks once it had unilaterally called off in August last year. Pakistan has also issued coin of Rs. 20 to mark Pak-China friendship. Moreover, the much awaited and important visit of the Chinese President is also expected during the National Day of Pakistan i.e. 23rd March. And Pakistan wants Chinese President to grace the celebration of the National Day. A joint military parade of Pakistan's armed forces will take place on Pakistan Day after a gap of seven years. According to diplomatic sources, Chinese President Xi Jinping is expected to attend the Pakistan Day parade as chief guest. Both China and Pakistan are working out details of the Chinese president's visit through diplomatic channels. The visit is hoped to be a landmark and would bring more opportunities and economic stability to Pakistan.

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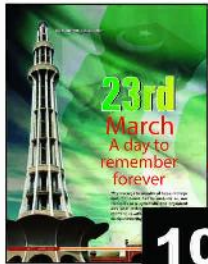


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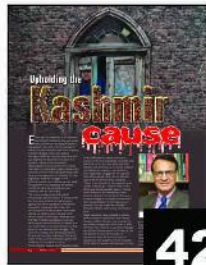
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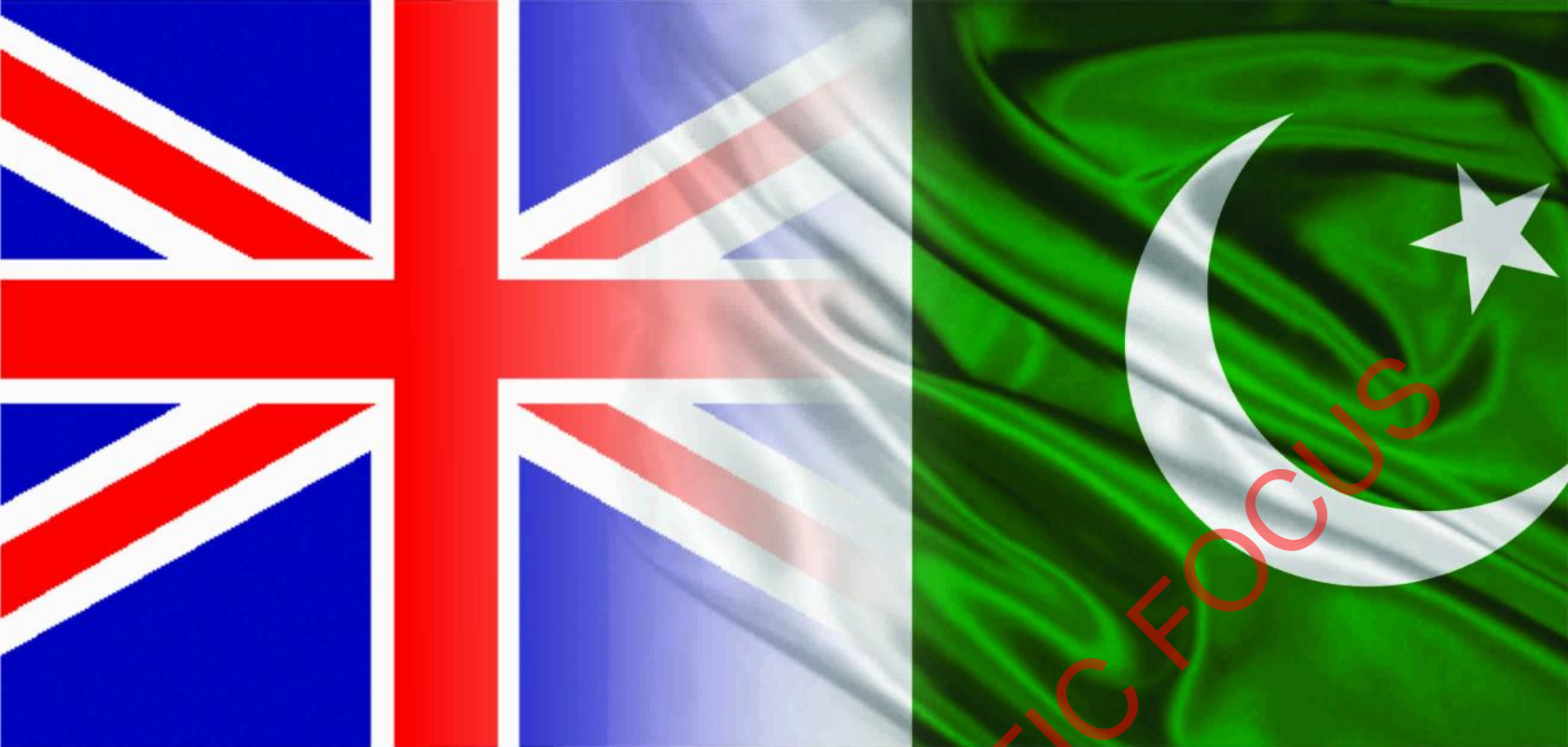


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H.E. Syed Ibne Abbas, High Commissioner for Pakistan to the UK, presents his credentials to the Queen

H.E. Syed Ibne Abbas, High Commissioner for Pakistan to the United Kingdom, presenting his Credentials to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, at a formal ceremony held at Buckingham Palace on 25 February 2015.

The High Commissioner and his spouse were escorted in a state carriage by the Marshal of the Diplomatic Corps from the Pakistan High Commission, London.

During the 20-minute audience, the High Commissioner presented his Letters of Credence to The Queen who accredited him as the High Commissioner for the Islamic Republic of Pakistan. The High Commissioner, on behalf of the President, the Prime Minister and the people of Pakistan, conveyed best wishes to the Queen, the Royal family, the government and the people of the United Kingdom. He mentioned that Her Majesty's message of goodwill given during her visit to Pakistan in 1997 still resonated well with the people of Pakistan who hold her in very high esteem. He also expressed his desire to work for further strengthening the relations between the two countries.

Her Majesty warmly welcomed the High Commissioner and his spouse to the Buckingham Palace. Appreciating friendly relations between Pakistan and the United Kingdom, Her Majesty the Queen extended warm wishes to the Government and the people of Pakistan, and especially Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif. She very


fondly remembered the sweetness and aroma of Pakistani mangoes. Condemning the horrific attack on Army Public School in Peshawar, the Queen expressed her sympathies and condolences to the families of the victims.

The High Commissioner presented Her Majesty a coffee table book on Pakistan, a

hand embroidered Pashmina Shawl from Kashmir and hand made souvenirs, which The Queen greatly appreciated.

After the audience with the Queen, the High Commissioner and his spouse returned to the High Commission by carriage.





By Muhammad Bilal Zafar

23rd March A day to remember forever

"My message to you all is of hope, courage and confidence. Let us mobilize all our resources in a systematic and organized way and tackle the grave issues that confront us with grim determination and discipline worthy of a great nation."

Muhammad Ali Jinnah

The people of Pakistan celebrate the 23rd of March, every year, with great zeal and enthusiasm, to commemorate the most outstanding achievement of the Muslims of South Asia who passed the historic 'Pakistan Resolution' on this day at Lahore in 1940. Pakistan Day (Youm-e-Pakistan) or Republic Day is a national holiday in Pakistan to commemorate the Lahore Resolution of 1940 and the adoption of the first constitution of Pakistan during the transition of the Dominion of Pakistan to the Islamic Republic of Pakistan on 23 March 1956 making Pakistan the world's first Islamic republic. Republic Day parade by the armed forces is a common

which emphasized on the fact that Muslims and Hindus are two separate nations and both nations are quite different from each other. The Hindus and Muslims, in spite of having lived together for centuries could not forget their own individual cultures and civilizations and keep a distance from each other. They could not amalgamate in each other's way of life to become one nation. Therefore, the Muslims of the sub-continent wanted a separate state where they could have an opportunity to live according to their faith and creed, based on principles of Islam.

After adoption of the 'Pakistan

homeland where they could live in accordance with the tenets of Islam.

The response of the millions, to the call of 'Unity, Faith, and Discipline' from their Quaid, firmly placed Pakistan on the world map on August 14, 1947.

The 'Pakistan Resolution' is believed to be the epitome of goal-orientation of untiring and unfailing struggle of Indian Muslims because it actualised the dreams of our founding fathers for an independent state for the Muslims of the sub-continent. It was the resolution, which made the Muslims of India discern their own identity and spelled out destination for them to a separate Muslim-state.

March 23rd is the most propitious occasion for introspection, for a reappraisal of national objectives, for revisiting the past, for recollecting the Quaid's inspirational words, and for delineating the train of events that led to the creation of Pakistan.

The commemoration of the Day is an expression of the whole nation's resolute determination to preserve her independence. So, let us make an effort to achieve the objective laid down by the Quaid in his broadcast to the nation in which he said that,

"Now is the time, chance, and opportunity for every Muslim to make his or her fullest and best contribution and make the greatest sacrifice and work ceaselessly in the service of our nation and the world."

"You are free; you are free to go to your temples. You are free to go to your mosques or to any other places of worship in this State of Pakistan. You may belong to any religion, caste or creed—that has nothing to do with the business of the State."
Muhammad Ali Jinnah

"Pakistan Day on 23rd March is a national holiday in Pakistan. The celebrations regarding the holiday include a full military and civilian parade in the capital, Islamabad. These are presided by the President of Pakistan and are held early in the morning. After the parade, the President confers national awards and medals on the awardees at the Presidency. Wreaths are also laid at the mausoleums of Muhammad Iqbal and Muhammad Ali Jinnah."

celebration for the event.

The words of the Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah in his Presidential address to the session carried a far deeper impression on the oppressed and demoralised Muslims at the hands of ruthless and undemocratic Congress rule. Mr. Jinnah said that, "The Hindus and Muslims belong to two different religious philosophies, social customs, and literature. They neither inter-marry nor inter-dine together, and indeed they belong to two different civilizations which are based mainly on conflicting ideas and conceptions." The 'Pakistan Resolution' created deep down a sense of nationalism, integrity, solidarity, and enthusiasm for getting out of slavery, in the hearts and minds of the Muslims of the sub-continent, which later resulted in a preponderant movement on the basis of which Pakistan was established.

The 'Pakistan Resolution' paved the way for the creation of Pakistan in 1947 as a single state and provided the principles of a constitutional plan for partition of India. Muslims of India instead of seeking alliance with Hindus identified themselves with a 'Two-Nation Theory'

Resolution', Jinnah had a clear objective before him and he struggled hard to achieve it.

He said that, "We are a nation of a hundred million and what is more, we are a nation with our distinct culture and civilization, language and literature, art and architecture, legal laws and moral codes, customs and calendar, history and traditions, aptitudes and ambitions. In short, as Muslims we have our own distinctive outlook of life and on life. By all canons of international laws, we are a nation". Mr. Jinnah's political acumen and far-sightedness had rightly perceived the establishment of a separate state for the Muslims of the sub-continent to save them from unfair treatment by the Hindu majority.

Due to the persistent hostility of the Indian National Congress, the Muslims were left with no alternative but to demand the partition of the sub-continent through the famous resolution of 23rd March, 1940.

Under the charismatic and sagacious leadership of Jinnah, the Muslims of the sub-continent were able to get a separate

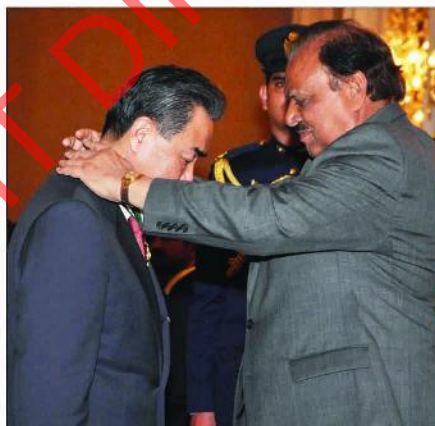


Chinese Foreign Minister H.E. Mr. Wang Yi called on President Mamnoon Hussain at Aiwan-e-Sadr, Islamabad

China, Pakistan Renew 'Iron Brotherhood'

By Sajid Takar

Friendly ties were on display during Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi's recent trip to Pakistan



President Mamnoon Hussain conferring Hilal-i-Pakistan on Chinese Foreign Minister H.E. Mr. Wang Yi at Aiwan-e-Sadr, Islamabad.

The Foreign Minister of China, Mr. Wang Yi, paid two day official visit to Pakistan. He was accompanied by a seven-member delegation. This was Mr. Wang Yi's first official visit to Pakistan as Foreign Minister. The main purpose of his visit was to prepare for the upcoming visit of the President of China, H.E. Mr. Xi Jinping, at an early date this year.

During the visit, the Chinese Foreign Minister called on President Mamnoon Hussain and Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif. He also had meetings with the Adviser to the Prime Minister on National Security and Foreign Affairs, Mr. Sartaj Aziz, and the Chief of the Army Staff, General Raheel Sharif.

The President, in his meeting with the Chinese Foreign Minister, stated that Pakistan attaches great importance to its relations with China. He noted that Pakistan-China friendship was a factor of stability in the region. Foreign Minister Wang Yi agreed with the President, describing Pakistan-China friendship as deep-rooted and irreplaceable. Later, at a special investiture ceremony at the Aiwan-e-Sadr, the President conferred the Hilal-e-Pakistan award on Mr. Wang Yi in recognition of his invaluable contribution to the promotion of relations between



Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif meeting the Foreign Minister of China at the PM House, Islamabad.

Pakistan and China.

The Prime Minister, during his meeting with the Chinese Foreign Minister, said the leadership of both countries is committed to further strengthening the comprehensive strategic partnership between Pakistan and China. He noted that wide-ranging economic cooperation between Pakistan and China had entered a new dimension. It was vital for the two countries to translate their shared vision for the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) into a reality. Foreign Minister Wang Yi agreed that there was a need for speedy implementation of the CPEC and other vital projects, which would transform the entire region.

In the delegation-level talks between the Adviser and the Chinese Foreign Minister, the two sides reviewed all aspects of the bilateral relationship. It was agreed that work on the CPEC-related projects should be expedited to ensure that Early Harvest Projects could be operationalized at the earliest. The two sides also took stock of regional developments and agreed on the need for maintaining strategic balance in South Asia. The Adviser reiterated Pakistan's commitment to fostering a peaceful neighborhood in order to achieve its economic and development objectives. The two leaders welcomed the continuing cooperation between Pakistan and China



Advisor to the PM on National Security and Foreign Affairs Sartaj Aziz in a meeting with the Chinese Minister H.E. Wang Yi, Islamabad.

for the promotion of peace and prosperity in Afghanistan. Both sides agreed on the need to make United Nations Security Council more representative and effective, and that its reform should be achieved by consensus.

Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi called on Chief of the Army Staff General Raheel Sharif.

During the meeting focus of discussion was on regional security and enhanced bilateral defence and security cooperation between both the countries.

Mr Wang Yi appreciated significant and noticable successes and progress of operation Zarbe Azb. The meeting was followed by roundtable delegation level

discussion which included senior officials from both the sides.

President Mamnoon Hussain confers "Hilal Pakistan" on Chinese Foreign Minister Mr. Wang Yi. The President conferred this award in recognition of Mr. Wang Yi's excellent services for further cementing relations between China and Pakistan.

Pakistan and China are iron brothers and Pakistan fully supports Chinese efforts against the three evils of terrorism, extremism and separatism: President Mamnoon Hussain



National Assembly Speaker, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq, Mr. Wang Yi, Foreign Minister of China, CM Punjab, Shahbaz Sharif, Advisor to the PM, Sartaj Aziz listening National Anthem in the Launching Ceremony of 2015 Pak-China Year of Friendly Exchanges, in Islamabad.



National Assembly Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq, addressing the Launching Ceremony of 2015 Pak-China year of Friendly Exchanges in Islamabad.



Chinese Foreign Minister H.E. Wang Yi during a joint press briefing at Foreign Office, Islamabad.

Earlier on arrival at General Headquarters, Foreign Minister of China laid a floral wreath at Yadgar-e-Shuhda, and paid rich tribute to the sacrifices of the Pakistan Army for peace and stability in the region.

During his two-day visit, Mr. Wang Yi also attended the launch ceremony of '2015 Pakistan-China Year of Friendly Exchanges', which was co-hosted by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Chinese Embassy in Islamabad. Sardar Ayaz Sadiq, Speaker National Assembly, was the chief guest on the occasion. Several Federal Ministers, Chief Minister of Punjab and other dignitaries, attended the event.

During the Year of Friendly Exchanges, Pakistan and China have planned a series of activities in the Parliamentary, cultural, education, media, business, and other spheres to further strengthen their strategic partnership and all-weather friendship.

However, Wang's visit was not all about security concerns. The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), part of China's broader Silk Road Economic Belt and Maritime Silk Road projects, was also a major topic of discussion. Like the larger Silk Road, the CPEC focuses on building up infrastructure in preparation for creating an integrated trade network. While in Pakistan, Wang said that both sides would



"boost the construction of the economic corridor" through projects "such as the port of Gwadar, energy, transportation infrastructure, and industry cooperation." Sharif also underlined Pakistan's commitment to the project and expressed his "confidence that President Xi's expected visit would help fast-track CPEC early harvest projects,"



H.E. Mr. Atadjan N. Movlamov, Ambassador of Turkmenistan called on President Mamnoon Hussain in Islamabad.

By Web Desk



Pakistan, Turkmenistan agree to boost bilateral trade

President Mamnoon Hussain has invited entrepreneurs from Turkmenistan to invest in agriculture, power and other sectors in Pakistan.

He was talking to Turkmenistan Ambassador Aladjan Movlamov, who called on him in Islamabad.

The Ambassador invited Mamnoon Hussain to attend Turkmenistan Permanent Neutrality celebrations to be held in December this year.

The President said Pakistan attaches great importance to expeditious implementation of Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India (TAPI) gas pipeline project.

It is to mention here, that recently a summit of all the four countries had been held in Islamabad in which it was decided that the committee's next meeting would be held in Kabul. The nearly 1,800km-long proposed pipeline project worth around \$10 billion aims to export up to 33 billion cubic metres (bcm) of natural gas per year and integrate economies of the four partnering nations. The TAPI project is scheduled to be completed around 2017.

Pakistan, Turkey

agree to further strengthen bilateral ties



President Mamnoon Hussain in a meeting with Turkish Prime Minister Ahmet Davutoglu at Aiwan-e-Sadr, Islamabad.

By Mian Fazal Elahi

PM Nawaz vows to take bilateral ties between Pakistan & Turkey to new heights

Pakistan and Turkey have agreed to further strengthen bilateral relations in all sectors.

Addressing the joint news conference with Turkish Prime Minister Ahmet Davutoglu in Islamabad, Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif said both the countries are important players in their respective regions.

He said Pakistan acknowledges Turkish progress and development.

Addressing the news conference, the Turkish Prime Minister announced twenty million dollars additional assistance for return and rehabilitation of Temporary

Displaced Persons to FATA and the flood affected people.

He hoped that soon Pakistan and Turkey will finalize Free Trade Agreement to further enhance trade and economic activities. He urged to establish better transportation links between the two countries.

Ahmet Davutoglu lauded Pakistan's efforts to establish peace and stability in Afghanistan as peace and stability in Afghanistan is peace and stability in Turkey and Pakistan.

He also appreciated Pakistan's efforts to improve its relations with India.



President Mamnoon Hussain decorating Turkish Prime Minister Ahmet Davutoglu with Nishan-i-Pakistan at Aiwan-e-Sadr, Islamabad.



Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif and Turkish Prime Minister Ahmet Davutoglu addressing a press stakeout at the PM House, Islamabad.

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif also invited Turkish entrepreneurs to invest in energy, infrastructure and agriculture sectors of Pakistan.

Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif has vowed to take traditional bilateral ties between Pakistan and Turkey to new heights by exploring the immense potential in the trade and investment spheres.

The two countries decided to conclude Free Trade Agreement at the earliest to exploit the true potential of economic cooperation.

The two sides agreed to enhance bilateral trade up to ten billion dollars in coming years.

Addressing Pakistan-Turkey Business Forum in Islamabad, he said Pakistan has immense potential, institutional framework and commitment to protect and encourage foreign investment.

The Prime Minister referred to the challenges facing Pakistan and said the Government was determined to address them squarely.

He said the country was on its way to win the war against terrorism and extremism.

Referring to the business delegation accompanying the Turkish Prime Minister, Mr. Nawaz Sharif said this reflected confidence in the investment friendly business environment in Pakistan.



Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif and Turkish Prime Minister Ahmet Davutoglu holding one-on-one meeting at the PM House, Islamabad.

The Prime Minister said the Government is carrying out civil service reforms, improvement in health and education sector and up gradation of infrastructure.

Mian Nawaz Sharif said he wanted regular

train service between Pakistan and Turkey to promote trade.

The Prime Minister said it is always his endeavor to further cement relationship with Turkey and he will play his role as



Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif and Turkish Prime Minister Ahmet Davutoglu signing joint declaration for strengthening cooperation between the two countries at the PM House, Islamabad.



Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif and Turkish Prime Minister Ahmet Davutoglu witnessing signing of an MoU at the PM House, Islamabad.

Prime Minister of Pakistan to solidify ties between the two countries.

In his speech at the forum, Turkish Minister for Economy Nihat Zeybekci said his country doesn't want to be in competition with Pakistan, rather it wants to work together with the country for mutual benefit.

He said Turkish Prime Minister has given instructions to him to finalize FTA with Pakistan at the soonest.

Addressing the forum Turkish Prime Minister Ahmet Davutoglu said Turkish investors can invest in Pakistan's energy, transportation, agriculture, textile and other sectors.

The Turkish Prime Minister also said that Pakistan was rich in natural resources and its strategic location is ideal.

Pakistan and Turkey also signed ten documents including six protocols, three MOUs and one agreement to bolster cooperation in different fields particularly energy, science and commerce.

He said Turkey and Pakistan want to boost their bilateral trade up to five billion dollars in three years and ten billion dollar in five years.

He said if Pakistan extends infrastructure, Turkey will establish Special Economic Zone in Pakistan.

Addressing the forum, Finance Minister Ishaq Dar urged Turkey to establish Special Turkish Economic Zone in Pakistan to help boost Turkish investment in Pakistan.

He said the international economic organizations have posed their confidence in Pakistan's economy.

Ishaq Dar invited Turkish investors to invest in all sectors of Pakistani economy, including industry.

He said the government has set the



Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif shaking hand with Turkish Prime Minister Ahmet Davutoglu at the PM House, Islamabad.



Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif and Turkish Prime Minister Ahmet Davutoglu cutting the ribbon on Turkish cultural section at Lok Vira in Islamabad.

target of seven percent GDP growth rate by 2017 and curtail fiscal deficit down to four percent by the end of next year.

The Finance Minister said Pakistan eyes on eight percent industrial growth and increase the tax to GDP ratio.

He said the government is committed to bring the foreign exchange reserves up to 22 billion dollars.

Pakistan and Turkey also signed ten documents including six protocols, three MOUs and one agreement to bolster cooperation in different fields particularly energy, science and commerce.

The signing ceremony was also witnessed by the Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif and Turkish Prime Minister Ahmet Davutoglu.

An MOU was signed between Oil and Gas Development Company Limited, Pakistan Petroleum Limited and Turkish National Oil Company for exploration of oil and gas in the country.

The two countries sides signed an MOU for sister seaport relations and cooperation.

The third MOU was signed between Pakistan National Accreditation Council and Turkish Accreditation Agency.

For the scientific cooperation, Pakistan Academy of Sciences and the Turkish Academy of Sciences inked an agreement. The two institutes also signed an executive protocol for cooperation in the field of science.

Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Lahore Chamber of Commerce signed three protocols with Ankara Chamber of Commerce and Kayseri Chamber of Commerce for greater linkages.

The two countries signed an additional protocol for promotion and protection of investment. Cooperation protocol was also signed between Turkish Patent Institute and the Intellectual Property Organization of Pakistan.

Pakistan and Turkey have decided to transform bilateral relationship into robust strategic partnership in diverse fields including economy, energy, communication and defense.

This was stated in the joint declaration issued after talks between Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif and his Turkish counterpart Ahmet Davutoglu in Islamabad today.

They reaffirmed the resolve to fight extremism and terrorism in all forms and manifestations.

The declaration strongly condemned the blasphemous acts and called for criminalization of all acts of Islamophobia.

The two sides agreed on extensive exchanges at the leadership, parliamentary, business, cultural, civil



Turkish Prime Minister Mr. Ahmet Davutoglu receiving guard of honour at the PM House, Islamabad.



Chief of Army Staff General Raheel Sharif meet Turkish Prime Minister Ahmet Davutoglu in Islamabad.

society, and media and people-to-people levels.

Chief of Army Staff (COAS), General Raheel Sharif also met Turkish Prime Minister Ahmet Davutoglu and discussed matters related to regional and bilateral security.

During the meeting, defence cooperation and collaboration between two brotherly countries were also discussed.

The Turkish Prime Minister specially appreciated the successes achieved by Pakistan in its fight against terrorism.

Meanwhile, President Mamnoon Hussain also conferred Nishan-i-Pakistan award to Turkish Prime Minister Ahmet Davutoglu in a prestigious special investiture ceremony in Islamabad.

The award has been given to the Turkish Prime Minister in recognition of his outstanding services to further promoting the brotherly relations, bilateral cooperation and strategic relations between Pakistan and Turkey.

Later, the President hosted a dinner in

honor of the distinguished guest and his delegation.

The analysts have termed the visit very successful. Most of the analysts are of the view that Pakistan and Turkey act as bridge in their regions.

According to most of the analysts, Pakistan and Turkey have significance in the world because they act as bridge for other countries in their respective regions. Both the countries have already signed MoUs in many sectors including education sector. The relations between the two countries will further enhance after the visit of Turkish Prime Minister to Pakistan. Turkey is a major country and it is one of biggest exporters of the world.

Besides, Turkey is one of the major Muslim countries in the world. Turkey always remembers and appreciates the historical Khilafat Movement of subcontinent. Turkish Prime Minister says they will help Pakistan in the elimination of terrorism from the country. And the signing of the recent agreements would bring prosperity in both countries.



Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif being presented shield by Mujib-ur-Rehman Shami , President Council of Pakistan Newspaper Editors at "MEET THE EDITORS" event organized by CPNE at Lahore.

PM seeks media's support in implementing NAP

By Muhammad Bilal Zafar

Asked media not to indulge in the race of "rating" and play balanced role on issues of national security



Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif addressing the representatives of CPNE in Lahore



Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif addressing at "MEET THE EDITORS" event organized by Council of Pakistan Newspaper Editors (CPNE) at Lahore.

Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif has urged both print and electronic media to support government in the successful execution of the National Action Plan (NAP) against terrorism and extremism. He acknowledged that media had supported democracy in difficult periods.

Addressing a ceremony of Council of Pakistan Newspaper Editors (CPNE) in Lahore, he urged upon media to support government in the implementation of the National Action Plan. He added that the plan was chalked out with the consensus of all political parties and the military leadership.

The prime minister said military operation against terrorists was progressing successfully and will continue till the elimination of last terrorist.

He said terror acts could not deter their resolve to fight the menace and establish permanent peace in the country.

The PM said involvement of foreign hand in terrorist acts in the country cannot be ruled out.

PM Nawaz said their relations with Afghanistan were better then and they would jointly work for the elimination of terrorism.

Military operation against terrorists will continue till the elimination of last terrorist: Nawaz Sharif

Nawaz Sharif said the government will discuss all issues with India, and will endeavor to resolve serious issues on priority basis.

Referring to his telephonic conversation with the Indian prime minister, he said India had suspended the talks and now they have expressed the desire to send the foreign secretary to Islamabad. "We will welcome the Indian foreign secretary for talks on all issues", he said.

Nawaz Sharif said some journalists supported the dictatorship of General Retd. Pervez Musharraf. Similarly, he said the role of some media houses during the PTI-PAT sit-ins was also not up to the established norms of journalism. As a result of these sit-ins, several leaders of friendly states postponed their visits.

He said these media houses also worked against democracy, for which they should be held accountable by the media itself.

The PM asked the media not to indulge in the race of "rating" and play a balanced and constructive role on issues of national security.

He said that Pakistan wanted to bring gas from Iran and Turkmenistan which will be used in the power plants and help in power generation.



Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif giving Aizaz-e-Kar-e-Hayat award to senior members of CPNE at an event organized by Council of Pakistan Newspaper Editor (CPNE) at Lahore.



Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif, Federal Minister for Information, Broadcasting & NH Pervaiz Rashid and CPNE members standing in the respect of national anthem at "MEET THE EDITORS" event organized by CPNE at Lahore.

PM Nawaz said the government was making all-out efforts to overcome the electricity shortage within its tenure. He said in this regard, we have decided to generate 3,600 megawatt electricity through LNG. For this purpose, one hundred billion rupees will be allocated each year in the Public Sector Development Program. He said it is our utmost effort to provide low-cost electricity to the domestic and industrial sectors.

The PM also announced fifty million rupees for the endowment fund for journalists and also distributed lifetime achievement awards and Aizaz-e-Kar-e-Hayat awards among senior newsmen in recognition of their services.

The Prime Minister, later talking to newsmen, said evidences of involvement

of foreign hand in terror acts in the country have been found. A proxy war has also been waged against Pakistan which is

were improving and both the countries were extending co-operation to each other instead of hurling allegations.

The PM also announced fifty million rupees for the Endowment Fund of CPNE.

On the occasion Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Pervaiz Rashid, Punjab government spokesman Syed Zaeem Hussain Qadri, Evacuee Property Trust Board Chairman Siddiq-ul-Farooq, CPNE President Mujeebur Rehman Shami and General Secretary Dr. Jabbar Khattak, All Pakistan Newspapers Society (APNS) President Hameed Haroon and a large number of journalists, columnists, intellectuals and writers were present.

At the end, CPNE President Mujeebur Rehman Shami also presented Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif with the shield at "Meet the Editors" event organized by the CPNE.

not in the interest of anyone in the region.

To a question, Nawaz Sharif said India had suspended the foreign secretary level talks and now they have expressed the desire to send their External Affairs Secretary to Islamabad. He said we will welcome the Indian foreign secretary for talks on all issues.

Pakistan wants good relations with all the neighboring countries, he said.

The Prime Minister said he was staunch supporter of freedom of media; however media should also refrain from criticizing the government's functions unnecessarily, discouraging investment and hurling baseless allegations against the government.

He said CPNE should prioritize to think over as how the country could be steered out of terrorism, defeat terrorism in Pakistan and Afghanistan and eliminate militant outfits operating in the country. He said work was underway on power projects including Neelum-Jhelum, Nandipur, Guddu and reiterated that government would end the power crisis during its current tenure.

He said Pakistan's ties with Afghanistan

The PM distributed lifetime achievement awards among senior newsmen in recognition of their services at the event.

Pakistan's ties with Afghanistan are improving and both the countries are extending co-operation to each other instead of hurling allegations: Nawaz Sharif

Pakistan

attaches importance to its relations with

EU:

Nawaz Sharif

By Monitoring Desk

Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif has said that Pakistan was deeply interested in its engagement with the European Parliament and stressed for devising a mechanism for regular consultations between the two parliaments.

Talking to a delegation of European Parliament here at the PM House, the Prime Minister said Pakistan attaches greater importance to its relations with the European Union.

The Prime Minister noted with satisfaction that GSP Plus status had benefitted Pakistan as its exports to EU had increased to around US \$1 billion.

Responding to a question, the Prime Minister said the Kashmir issue should be resolved in the light of UN Resolutions.

He expressed resolve to eradicating the menace of terrorism from the country.

The delegates informed the Prime Minister that this was their first formal visit to Pakistan during present government's tenure. They extended condolences over the tragic Peshawar incident.

The delegation comprised Lars Gunnar Wigemark and Jean Lambort, Richard Howitt, Michael Galhar and Sajjad Karim.

Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq and Foreign Secretary Aizaz Ahmed Chaudhry were also present during the meeting.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif has said Pakistan has formulated the National Action Plan to effectively deal with the scourge of terrorism. He was talking to British Minister for the Cabinet Office and Paymaster General Francis Maude who called on him in Islamabad on Tuesday.

The Prime Minister said that bilateral relations between Pakistan and UK are based on sound footing and rooted in shared history and strong diaspora

linkages.

He expressed satisfaction on the overall upward trajectory of Pakistan-UK bilateral cooperation and said that frequent high-

level exchanges and regular consultations between the two countries are a hallmark of this relationship.

Talking about Pakistan's civil service structure, norms and practices the Prime Minister said they are largely a continuation of those that the British introduced in the Sub-continent, but there is an urgent need to make the civil service more attuned and responsive to the present challenges and realities.

He said a reform process has been initiated and he is personally supervising the deliberations being done on civil service reforms.

Francis Maude said that people's expectations and demands from public service delivery are growing and with the help of modern technology lots of services can be put online due to which the size of civil service can be reduced. He also conveyed best wishes of Prime Minister David Cameron.

Nawaz Sharif calls for resolution of Kashmir dispute in accordance with UNSC solutions.



Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif talking to Rt. Hon. Francis Maude, British Minister for the Cabinet Office and Paymaster General at the PM House, Islamabad.



Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif meeting a delegation of European Parliament at the PM House, Islamabad.

Diplomatic Focus thru lens



Ambassador of Turkey H.E. Mr. S. Babur Girgin called on President Mamnoon Hussain at Aiwan-e-Sadr, Islamabad.



Ambassador of China, H.E. Sun Weidong called on President Mamnoon Hussain at Aiwan-e-Sadr, Islamabad.



Dr. Maleeha Lodhi, Permanent Representative of Pakistan to the United Nations, called on President Mamnoon at Aiwan-e-Sadr, Islamabad.



Senator Raja Muhammad Zafar-Ul-Haq, Leader of the House in the Senate exchanging views with Norwegian Ambassador to Pakistan Mr. Leif H. Larson, at Parliament House, Islamabad.



Ambassador of Belarus Andrei G. Ermolovich called on Federal Minister for Textile Industry Abas Khan Afridi in Islamabad.



Korean Ambassador H.E. Song Jong Hawan called on Minister of State for IT Ms. Anusha Rahman in Islamabad.



Minister of State/Special Assistant to Prime Minister/Chairman Board of Investment Dr. Miftah Ismail meeting with H.E. Ms. Martine Dorance, Ambassador of Embassy of France in Islamabad.



Federal Minister for Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony, Sardar Muhammad Yousaf, talking to Mauritius High Commissioner, Muhammad Rashad Daureeawo who paid a farewell courtesy call to the Minister in Islamabad.

Diplomatic Focus thru lens



On the sidelines of to the 10th session of PUIC, Speaker of the National Assembly of Pakistan meeting with Speaker of the Turkish Grand National Assembly at Istanbul.



Federal Minister for States and Frontier regions, Lt. Gen. (R) Abdul Quadir Baloch meeting with a delegation of Embassy of Switzerland in Pakistan regarding meeting by the envoy of the Chairmanship of the Nansen initiative in Islamabad.



Chinese delegation called on Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Reform, Prof. Ahsan Iqbal in Islamabad.



German Ambassador Dr. Cyrill Nunn called on Minister for Defence Khawaja Muhammad Asif in Islamabad.



Chairman from Promotion & Protection Center for Chinese overseas interests, Mr. Yan Li Jin, called on the Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Reform Prof. Ahsan Iqbal in the Planning Commission, Islamabad.



US Ambassador Mr. Richard Olson called on the Federal Minister for Planning, Development & Reforms, Prof. Ahsan Iqbal in Islamabad.



Ambassador, Republic of Korea, Jon Hwan Song called on Secretary EAD, Mohammad Saleem Sethi in Islamabad.



Mr. Shahabuddin Daraei, Cultural Counselor, Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran called on Federal Secretary for Information, Broadcasting and National Heritage, Muhammad Azam in Islamabad.

Remarks by Ambassador H.E. Mr. Sun Weidong at Chinese Lunar New Year Reception

By Mian Fazal Elahi

Your Excellency, President Mamnoon Hussain and Madam,

Distinguished Guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen,
Good Afternoon!

It is such an honor and privilege for me that Your Excellency President Mamnoon Hussain graces this function today. Please accept my warmest welcome and heartfelt thanks to your Excellency, and to all the brothers and sisters of Pakistan for your attendance!

Mr. President, you are an old friend of Chinese people and you have indissoluble bonds with China. According to the Chinese lunar calendar, each year of the Chinese Zodiac is related to an animal sign. If I remember correctly, Your Excellency Mr. President was born in the Year of Dragon. Dragon is a symbol of propitious omen, richness, and prosperity in Chinese traditional culture. It also represents strength and progress. Your Excellency's presence undoubtedly brings happiness and good luck to the Chinese people and to this reception.

Ladies and Gentlemen,
China and Pakistan are iron brothers.

Our friendship is time-tested and always rock firm. Our friendship enjoys whole-hearted support of our two peoples and contributes to peace and stability of the region and even beyond.

This year is the China-Pakistan Year of Friendly Exchanges. Chinese President Mr. Xi Jinping will pay a state visit to Pakistan at an early date this year. It will certainly bring China-Pakistan strategic cooperative partnership to a new high.

We will further promote the exchanges between our two governments, legislative bodies, political parties, local governments, youth, academics, artists and media. We should further enhance the friendship between our two peoples, and bring our hearts closer and closer.

We will take the construction of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor as the backbone. We will boost cooperation in ports, energy, infrastructure and industry, and forge an all-round cooperation to benefit the people of Pakistan. We will encourage Chinese corporations to invest in Pakistan, bring the qualified capacity of production, and transfer the capacity to the impetus of Pakistan's economic development.



We will forge the China-Pakistan community of shared destiny, making it a model and example for relations between China and its neighboring countries.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The upcoming Chinese New Year is the year of goat. These days, the Chinese people will pack up their luggage and rush from the workplace to their home. It is estimated that during the 40 days around the Festival this year, the number of passengers will reach more than 3 billion, which is almost half of the world population. It has become the largest population flow on this planet.

Why do people take time and trouble to rush home? Because Chinese New Year is a time for family reunion. Because home is our warmest harbor. Because all your family members are just right by your side, with overwhelming happiness.

This year, many Chinese people will spend their Festival in Pakistan, including me. But we don't feel lonely. For us, celebrating the Chinese New Year in Pakistan makes me feel at home. Pakistan is our second home. We hope that we can share the happiness of family reunion with every Pakistani friend. We are just one family!

I would like to take this opportunity to express my greetings and best wishes to all of you. I wish all of you a happy and prosperous new year!

Nayaa Saal Mubaarak!

Shukria!



Celebrations of

Pak-China

Year of Friendly Relations launched



The celebrations of Pak-China Year of Friendly Relations 2015 were launched at a ceremony co-hosted by Tsinghua University and China-Pakistan Institute. The event was attended by leading luminaries from China and Pakistan actively associated with promoting friendship between the peoples of the two countries. The event also coincided with the 5th birth anniversary of Pakistan China Institute.

The sentiment that China is a true friend of Pakistan remains deeply etched in the hearts and minds of Pakistani people. With the relationship having successfully weathered several decades since independence of the two countries, the Chinese young and old consider Pakistanis to be their iron brothers and closest friends.

The friendship is deeper than the oceans, higher than mountains and sweeter than honey. In the years to come, this friendship was bound to blossom further, remain ever green and reap dividends for our future generations, said Ambassador Masood Khalid, addressing the gathering.

Ambassador Khalid said that the two countries had broken new grounds of cooperation. Pakistan and China were working on the mega project of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) which

had become an important policy instrument for regional connectivity and regional integration and was also in line with the vision of President Xi Jinping to revive the old Silk Route through operationalization of Silk Road Economic Belt and 21st Century Maritime Silk Road.

The State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) has issued Rs. 20 commemorative coin on January 31 to mark "Pakistan-China Year of Friendly Exchange 2015"

The Silk Road economic belt would connect different regions and civilizations, enhance trade, economic growth and

common prosperity. By linking the Gwadar Port via the Karakorum Highway with Xinjiang, the economic corridor would prove to be a game changer.

Pakistan would serve as a bridge for China with Middle East, Africa and Europe, for its trade and energy requirements. These transportation routes would greatly reduce the distances for China's trade that is being done through Indian Ocean and the Malacca Straits, he added.

China Ambassador to Pakistan Sun Weidong said that China Pakistan relations had become an example of state to state relations. In year 2014, China-Pakistan relations had made great strides. China was now preparing to set up a new Consulate General in Lahore and a Confucius Institute in Faisalabad, in addition to the China Cultural Centre located in Islamabad.

He said both countries looked forward to have further exchanges of visits, to have more high level contacts to promote mutual friendship and cooperation in various fields including politics, economy and people to people contacts.

He said China Pakistan Economic Corridor would be further promoted, particularly cooperation in trade, investment, energy and communications would be

strengthened. He said that a series of activities especially between legislatures, parties, local governments, youth, think tanks, to further promote mutual cooperation giving a solid foundation to build on, had been planned.

Senator Hussain who is also the head of the Pakistan China Institute (PCI) said that day was special as the year of China-Pakistan friendship was being launched and also the 5th birth anniversary of Pakistan China Institute was being celebrated.

He said that his institute was the first non-governmental initiative of the two neighbours and strategic partners, that took the initiative of introducing Chinese language classes, in holding the first Pakistan, China, Afghanistan trilateral Dialogue and launched President Xi Jinping's book "The Governance of China," in Islamabad.

He appreciated Ambassador Masood Khalid's efforts in cementing bonds between the two countries saying that Pak-China friendship had touched new heights during his stint in China. Senator Mushahid Hussain said that being at the crossroads of three great mountain ranges of the Himalayas, the Hindukush and the Karakorums, Pakistan, a neighbour and best friend of China, was uniquely placed to play a pivotal role in realizing the vision of the Silk Road Economic Belt and the Maritime Silk Road.

He said a key component of this would be the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, which would link the Pakistan port of

Gwadar, part of the Maritime Silk Road, winding up north on the Chinese-built Karakorum Friendship Highway to the Chinese ancient city of Kashgar on the Silk Road, a unique fusion of corridors, culture and connectivity. No other country was able to play such a crucial role as Pakistan would, by being a bridge between the Silk Road Economic Belt and the Maritime Silk Road.

Zhao Baige, Vice Chairperson of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the National People's Congress said that the Silk Road initiative had economic, political, social and cultural dimensions. It would strengthen the bonds of friendship and reap benefit for Pakistan, China and the whole world. She said that China and Pakistan had developed a precious friendship through the years.

With regard to future development of the two countries, she suggested first to strengthen communication; second to promote sharing of experience between nongovernmental think tanks and the academia. Furthermore, cultural communication and friendship among the people of the two countries was also crucial, she added.

Director of Tsinghua International Centre for Communication Professor Li Xiguang said that Pakistan was the only all-weather strategic partner of China and played an irreplaceable role. The Gwadar port on China-Pakistan Economic Corridor would become the future commercial and trade centre in the region, provide the main pulling power for Pakistan's economic growth, offer military strategic

support for Pakistan, become an important stronghold on the world energy routes, and become one of the most important ports in Asia and the whole world.

Moreover, the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor would make Xinjiang the 'export gate' of western China, improving the economic structure of Xinjiang's industry on the whole, exploit Xinjiang's economic potential and geographical advantage, and thus radiate through the whole region of South Asia and Middle East.

A book titled A Learning Caravan on Asian Borderlands edited by Li Xiguang was also launched. The book records interviews and stories written by Chinese college students during their three visits to Pakistan led by Li Xiguang, and includes first-hand materials in many important areas along the "belt and road", such as Islamabad, Gwadar Port and Balochistan province.

Zhao Baige, Vice Chairperson of the Foreign Affairs Committee of NPC, Zhai Huisheng, Party Secretary and Executive President of All China Journalists Association, Ai Ping, former Vice Minister of the International Department of CPC, Sun Weidong, Ambassador of China to Pakistan, Senator Mushahid Hussain, Chairman, China-Pakistan Institute, Ambassador Sha Zukang, President, China - Pakistan Friendship Association, Prof Li Xiguang, Director, Tsinghua University Centre for Pakistan Culture and Communication Studies and Ambassador Masood Khalid were the key participants on the occasion.



Pakistan's unique relations with China

The news that the president of the People's Republic of China, Xi Jinping, will be the chief guest at the March parade this year has been warmly received in Pakistan. President Barack Obama's presence in New Delhi on India's Republic Day parade and the heavy tilt of Narendra Modi towards aligning his country's policies with Washington created unease both in China and Pakistan. President Xi's visit will be reassuring and will provide good optics reflecting the strong bonds that exist between the two countries who have stood the vagaries of time. More recently, the extreme warm reception that General Raheel Sharif was accorded in Beijing and the strong

Sino-Pakistan relations, since the early 1950s, have been consistent, multi-faceted and span strategic defence, political, economic and diplomatic ties. China considers Pakistan useful in countering India, values its geostrategic position and considers it an important ally in the Muslim world.

In the field of defence, China has extended invaluable cooperation that extends to all three services. It has not only provided weapons and equipment but has also assisted Pakistan in developing a strong defence industrial capability. The Pakistan Aeronautical Complex, Heavy Industries Taxila, several factories and production



By Talat Masood

China set up major industrial units like the Heavy Mechanical Complex and the Heavy Forge Factory that helped build Pakistan's intrinsic technological and industrial base.

The proposed \$45 billion Pakistan-China Economic Corridor, which has strategic connotations when implemented, should provide a huge boost in transforming Pakistan's economic landscape by linking south, central and western Asia. Development of the economic corridor and the Gwadar port as an energy hub by China are mutually beneficial projects. It will provide China access to the Straits of Hormuz, the Persian Gulf, the Arabian Sea and the Indian Ocean. The economic corridor will link Kashgar in China with Gwadar and open up enormous economic opportunities for both countries.

China today is clearly Pakistan's top arms supplier, a position until recently held by the US. Chinese and Pakistani militaries carry out joint exercises and there is continuous exchange of high-level visits demonstrating that relations are robust. The PLA's training establishments are major destinations for the Pakistan military. In September 2014, a flotilla of the PLA Navy ships made a friendly visit to Karachi. These were followed by several other visits of naval ships. At the diplomatic level, both countries cooperate closely at the bilateral and multilateral levels, and take common positions on

**The proposed \$45 billion
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statements made by the Chinese military leadership reiterating full support to Pakistan were also expressions of the same policy.

lines in the Pakistan Ordnance Factories, maritime projects for the navy and missile factories have been set up with Chinese assistance. In the 1970s and the 1980s,

global and regional issues.

China has, however, genuine concerns regarding growing radicalism in Pakistan. First, for its impact on Pakistan's own stability and more importantly, its influence on the restive northwestern autonomous Chinese region of Xinjiang that has a significant majority of Muslim Uighurs and other minorities. While Pakistan is undertaking serious measures to ensure that dissident Chinese groups do not find sanctuaries in the tribal region, it remains a constant challenge to prevent their infiltration due to the porous nature of the border and the support they receive

foreign relations with regional and global powers.

Pakistan will have to factor in China's global perspective while formulating its future policy and expectations. There is also a lot that our leaders need to learn from the sophistication of China's foreign policy. Despite US strategic convergence and growing support to India's role at the regional and global level, China remains unruffled and poised. As President Obama stated, the "scope of our cooperation with China is unprecedented, even as we remain alert to China's military modernization" while unveiling the US

countries have growing economic and commercial interests, despite their strategic incongruence. Surely, the age of zero-sum diplomacy is over and China, like other world powers, would want to be on the winning side so as not to create problems for itself. On Kashmir, it would like Islamabad to take a more pragmatic attitude in its expectations. It has demonstrated great patience and maturity in dealing with the question of Taiwan and when it comes to the border dispute with India. Most striking in China's foreign policy conduct is the balancing between economic, political and strategic interests.

Sino-Pakistan relations, since the early 1950s, have been consistent, multi-faceted and span strategic defence, political, economic and diplomatic ties

from different militant groups. If militants were to make major gains in Pakistan, Beijing would be very concerned of the impact and could review its policy.

While assessing Pakistan-China relations, one has to factor the latter's current global interests and how these will play out in the long-term. Beijing's economic and commercial links with the US are so closely intertwined that it is difficult for either country to disassociate itself from the other. China owes much of its phenomenal economic rise to the opportunity that the American market offered. No other country's consumer market could absorb China's huge manufacturing base. Moreover, China realises American power and its economic and political clout, and would like to retain a cooperative relationship.

Despite the border dispute and current tensions arising out of the US-Indian strategic alliance, China's leadership has opted for maintaining good working relations with India. It has a growing economic and commercial relationship and trade between the two countries has reached \$70 billion and is fast growing. Beijing understands the fallout of an adversarial relation with India on its economy. Its primary focus is on domestic development. China has always taken a position that time is on its side and it has shown extraordinary foresight in handling

national security strategy of 2015.

Because of the very complex nature of its relations with India, Beijing is uncomfortable when India-Pakistan tensions aggravate. Clearly, China would

China-Pakistan relations that are based on mutuality of interests seem destined to grow. Pakistan should, however, remain sensitive to the complexities that surround this relationship and factor these in.

China today
is clearly
Pakistan's top
arms supplier

remain supportive of Pakistan but would like it to manage relations with its adversary more subtly to retain an environment whereby it is not forced to take sides, especially when the two

Courtesy to the Express Tribune, the writer is a retired lieutenant general of the Pakistan Army and served as chairman of the Pakistan Ordnance Factories Board



Advisor to the PM on National Security and Foreign Affairs, Sartaj Aziz shaking hand with the Foreign Minister of Norway H.E. Borge Brende in Islamabad.

Pakistan, Norway agree to enhance cooperation

By M. Saeed Yousafzai

Norway's FM lauds Pakistan's role in combating terrorism

Advisor to the Prime Minister on National Security and Foreign Affairs Mr. Sartaj Aziz received Mr. Borge Brende, Foreign Minister of Norway and members of his delegation in Islamabad. Norwegian Foreign Minister was on a one day official visit to Pakistan.

The two sides held in-depth discussions on the entire gamut of bilateral relations and looked into various possibilities of deepening existing ties in diverse areas including trade, investment, education, energy and cultural cooperation.

The Adviser briefed the visiting Foreign Minister on Pakistan's vision of a peaceful neighborhood and highlighted Pakistan's counter-terrorism efforts. The visiting Foreign Minister appreciated the positive role played by Pakistan in countering terrorism. The two sides also discussed the situation in Afghanistan and the region. Views were also exchanged on global issues including the Middle East and Europe.



H.E. Borge Brende Foreign Minister Kingdom of Norway called on NA Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq at Parliament House.

The visiting Foreign Minister lauded the positive approach of the large Pakistani Diaspora in Norway.

The discussions held in a cordial atmosphere positively contributed towards strengthening of existing ties.

The foreign minister of Norway praised Pakistan's efforts in combating terrorism during talks with senior civil and military officials.

In a statement released after the meeting with Aziz, the foreign ministry said that the two sides discussed a spectrum of bilateral issues and explored possibilities of deepening existing ties between the two countries.

"The discussions were held in a cordial atmosphere and contributed towards strengthening of existing ties," the statement added.

The two sides also discussed the situation in Afghanistan and the region. Later, Brende also visited the General Headquarters (GHQ) in Rawalpindi to meet the army chief.

Giving details of the meeting at the GHQ, the military's media wing said that issues of mutual interest including security were discussed between the two sides.

During his visit Mr. Brende met with the National Assembly speaker Mr. Sardar Ayaz Sadiq at Parliament house and discussed

matter of mutual interests.

Mr. Brende met with members of five civil society organisations during his visit to Islamabad. At high tea in the residence of Norway's Ambassador to Pakistan, Mr. Leif Larsen, the Foreign Minister was given briefings on how civil society assesses current developments.

The guests represented organisations working on promoting human rights, women's rights and dialogue between sectarian groups in Pakistan.

Norway is supporting financially several Pakistani civil society organisations in their effort to achieve more sustainable development in Pakistan.



Advisor to the PM on National Security and Foreign Affairs, Sartar Aziz in a delegation level meeting with the Foreign Minister of Norway H.E. Borge Brende in Islamabad.

Mr. Ishtiaq Baig, Hon. Consul General of Morocco in association with FFBL organized Moroccan Cultural & Food Festival

Mr. Ishtiaq Baig, Hon. Consul General of Morocco in association with FFBL organized Moroccan Cultural & Food Festival. The Festival was inaugurated by Lt. Gen. (R) Haroon Aslam of FFBL. The Moroccan Chef, Singer and Fashion Designer specially flown to Pakistan for this festival.

A Fashion Show was presented showcasing Moroccan national dresses designed by Moroccan Fashion Designer Soumia Khadiri. Renowned Moroccan Singer Hayat Al Alaoui sang her famous Arabic songs. Mouth watering Moroccan cuisine was served, prepared by Moroccan Chef Brahim Ait Belaid.

Event was attended by: S. M. Muneer, Justice (R) Saeed uz Zaman Siddiqui, Justice (R) Agha Rafiq, Nisar Khoro, Zeba Bakhtiar, Dr. Ikhtiar Baig, Consuls General of Switzerland, Russia, Thailand, Korea, Saudi Arabia, Oman and British Deputy High Commissioner.



Ishtiaq, Imran, Zoya, Noreen, Iman, Omair, Ikhtiar Baig.



Samira, Mr. & Mrs. Lt. Gen. (R) Haroon Aslam, Ishtiaq Baig, Ikhtiar & Noreen Baig.



Navaid Ishtiaq, Mr. & Mrs. Emil Wyss, Mahnoor.



Adnane El Ktri, Mohamed Belhousain, Mr. & Mrs. Lt. Gen. (R) Haroon Aslam.



Mohamed Adil Benyagoub, Nadir Abbas, Hayat Alaoui, Sara Amin, Ishtiaq Baig, Samira Aad, Mr. & Mrs. Lt. Gen. (R) Haroon Aslam, Soumia Khadiri, Zeba Bakhtiar.



Hayat Al Alaoui.



Zeba Bakhtiar.



Lt. Gen. (R) Haroon Aslam



Oleg N. Avdeev, Yasin Malik, S. M. Muneer, Khalid Tawab.



Farukh Mazhar, Dr. Ikhtiar Baig, Rashid Siddiqui.



Gill Atkinson, Ishtiaq Baig.



Aisha Varsey, Nisar Khoro, Dr. Ikhtiar Baig, Abdul Raheem Soomro.



Salahuddin Haider, Gill Atkinson, Dr. Masuma, Ali Ahmed Al Qassimi.



Hayat Alaoui, Ishtiaq Baig, Soumia Khadiri.



Nadir Abbas, Hayat Al Alaoui.



Ade & Emil Wyss.



Adeeba, Najila, Shireen, Mr. & Mrs. Saad ur Rehman.



Mr. & Mrs. Justice (R) Saeed uz Zaman Siddiqui, Capt. Khalid Humail, Arshad Ahmed.



Thai halal food and cultural festival 2015



Thai Embassy in collaboration with the Marriott Hotel Islamabad, arranged the festival, where Thai Ambassador H.E. Mr. Tomwit Jarnson welcomed the guests.

On the occasion, Sibun-Nga Chiang Mai Performance Troupe, performed the traditional Thai dance representing various cultures and backgrounds of their homeland. Ambassadors, high commissioners, diplomats, politicians, senior officials from government of Pakistan, dignitaries from civil society and others were invited.





H.E. Mr. Ali Raza Haghighian Iranian Ambassador to Pakistan, hosted a dinner reception to Celebrate 36th Anniversary of the Islamic Revolution of Iran & National Day in Islamabad.

Mr. Pervaiz Rashid, Federal Minister for Information, Broadcasting & National Heritage
was the Chief Guest. A large number of Government Officials, Diplomats, Members
of the civil society and prominent religious scholars dominated the hall.





**H.E. Mr. Walid A. Abu Ali, Ambassador of the State of Palestine
Welcome & Farewell reception in the honor of New & Outgoing
Ambassadors at his residence in Islamabad. Ambassadors, Members
of Diplomatic Missions, Business Community, Academia and
members of civil society attend the reception.**





Upholding the

Kashmir

cause

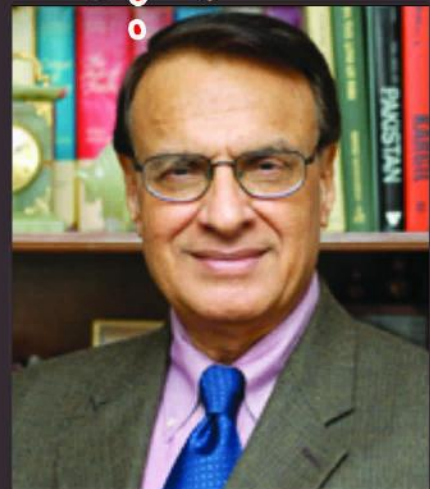
Every year on February 5, we observe the Kashmir Solidarity Day with great zeal and fervour, showing Pakistan's full support and unity with the people of Indian-occupied Kashmir and their ongoing freedom struggle while also paying homage to Kashmiri martyrs who lost their lives fighting for Kashmir's freedom. For decades, however, we have been observing this annual occasion as a ritual only with a countrywide public holiday and sporadic protest rallies and gatherings with no practical expression of solidarity for the legitimate freedom struggle of the Kashmiri people. As a nation, we just walk through the ritual, enjoying the holiday mostly sitting at home without even realising what it is all about.

The day is usually marked by public processions, special prayers in mosques for the liberation of Kashmir and protests against the Indian oppression in Kashmir. In practice, however, other than the familiar spectacle of a human chain with people standing in rows clasping each other's hands on all major crossings into AJK from Pakistan, one doesn't see any other public demonstration of solidarity in our major cities to reassure Kashmiris that they are not alone in their struggle. This year, for a change, one witnessed special fervour and passion on Kashmir Day at all levels in the country showing support and solidarity for the Kashmir cause.

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif specially went

to Muzaffarabad to address the joint session of the AJK Legislative Assembly and the Kashmir Council and reiterated that Pakistan would continue its moral, political and diplomatic support to Kashmiris in their legitimate struggle for the right of self-determination and that no decision against their will would be accepted. "There is no solution to the Kashmir issue except a plebiscite. I make it clear to the entire world that durable peace in South Asia is linked to the resolution of the Kashmir dispute," he declared. This was a timely message to his Indian counterpart who misread Nawaz Sharif's gesture of goodwill last year when he attended Narendra Modi's oath-taking ceremony in Delhi.

What should be clear to Modi is that by putting up an arrogant face, you cannot change realities. Besides representing the key unfinished agenda of the June 3, 1947 Partition Plan, Kashmir is an internationally recognised dispute, which has been on the UN agenda for over six decades. In accordance with UN Security Council resolutions, the question of the accession of the State of Jammu and Kashmir to India



By Shamshad Ahmad

or Pakistan was to be decided through a free and fair plebiscite under UN auspices. All those resolutions remain unimplemented, denying the Kashmiri people of their inalienable right of self-determination.

On their independence, India and Pakistan inherited many problems, but the Kashmir



dispute was the mother of all. The Kashmir clash in 1948, the 1965 war, the Siachen dispute, the Kargil crisis, a volatile Line of Control with frequent violent eruptions, recurring skirmishes at the Working Boundary, frequent war-like military deployments and resultant tensions, water disputes, and mutual suspicions and accusations are all directly related to Kashmir. Even today, the two countries remain locked in a confrontational mode. While all other issues are amenable to easy solutions, the Kashmir dispute invokes intense feelings among the peoples of India, Pakistan and Kashmir.

It is not a 'real estate' issue or a question of 're-demarcation' of geographical boundaries. It is a question involving the fundamental right of self-determination of the Kashmiri people, pledged to them by the international community through solemn UN Security Council resolutions. The setting aside of UN resolutions is one thing, the discarding of the principle they embodied is quite another. The underlying cardinal principle of self-determination enshrined in the UN Charter and reaffirmed in the Millennium Declaration cannot be ignored. The Kashmir settlement has to be in accordance with the wishes of the Kashmiri people, impartially ascertained under no coercion or intimidation.

As one of the oldest unresolved international conflicts, Kashmir is today a

sombre reminder to the world that it cannot continue to ignore the legitimate aspirations of the Kashmiri people. They want nothing but freedom from Indian occupation. The indigenous Kashmiri struggle goes on undeterred with thousands of Kashmiris already laying down their lives. No amount of atrocities and humiliations can stop them from pursuing their legitimate cause. The Kashmiri people continue to experience untold hardships, including human rights violations. This is the crux of the Kashmir situation. India will do itself good by seeing the writing on the wall.

India's efforts to obfuscate the Kashmir dispute as an issue of terrorism will not succeed. Popular movements cannot be suppressed. Brutal military force brings no relief to anyone. Stark lessons are there to be learnt from history. Even the world's sole superpower today owes its existence to a long war of independence. Modi cannot deny the history of his own country. It was the 1857 War of Independence that laid the road to India's liberation as an independent state. India is forcibly hanging on to Kashmir when the Kashmiris don't want to have anything to do with India. They want their right of self-determination.

Today, the voice of the Kashmiris is that of a wronged and forcibly subjugated people challenging India's and the world's conscience. For India, it is time to revert to

the path of justice and fair play, and to heed to sanity and legality. On our part too, it is time to come out of our ostrich-like mode of total apathy and indifference to the Kashmir cause. Pro forma gestures of ritualistic solidarity are no service to the people of Kashmir. While India never showed the slightest change in its position, our rulers in the aftermath of the 9/11 attacks gave wrong signals through their self-serving gestures of unilateral flexibility. What they don't understand is that beyond UN resolutions, there is no compact formula or tailor-made solution available for addressing the Kashmir issue. A free and fair plebiscite under UN auspices remains the only solution to which both India and Pakistan had committed themselves in terms of those resolutions. Our commitment to the Kashmir cause is rooted in this legal and moral reality and cannot be given up by our rulers merely as gestures of goodwill or as a confidence-building measure in pursuit of a peace that will never come by giving up on our principled position. Until then, we must continue to extend full political, diplomatic and moral support to the Kashmir cause and keep upholding the Kashmiris' right of self-determination in every international forum.

Courtesy to Express Tribune, The writer is a former foreign secretary

H.E. Mr. Rodolfo J. Martin Saravia Hosted the Cigar Club Meeting at His Residence in Islamabad. Diplomats, Members of Diplomatic Missions, Business Community and members of civil society attend the meeting.







Air Chief Marshal (R) Jayalath Weerakkody The High Commission of Sri Lanka hosted a reception to celebrate Sri Lanka's 67th Anniversary of Independence at Serena Hotel Islamabad . Federal Minister for Defence Production, Mr. Rana Tanveer Hussain and Federal Minister for Port and Shipping, Mr. Kamran Michael graced the occasion. Parliamentarians, Ambassadors and Members of the Diplomatic Corps, representation from international organizations, members of the business community, academia and members of civil society, media personnel and the Sri Lankan community in Pakistan were present at the occasion.





H.E. Mr. Bharat Raj Paudyal, Ambassador of Nepal & Col. Neeraj Poudyal Military Attache hosted a reception to celebrate the Nepal Army Day at Marriott Hotel, Islamabad. Parliamentarians, Ambassadors and Members of the Diplomatic corps, representation from international organizations, Members of the business community and members of civil society and the Nepali community in Pakistan were present at the occasion.







Mr. Rashad Daureeawo, Out going High Commissioner of Mauritius called on President Mamnoon Hussain

The President, while talking to Mr. Rashad Daureeawo, out going High Commissioner of Mauritius, who called on him at Aiwan-e-Sadr, appreciated the role of the High Commissioner in promoting bilateral relations between Pakistan and Mauritius. The President stated that Pakistan-Mauritius relations have matured into a stable friendship, characterized by similarity of views on most of the international issues of mutual interest. The President while appreciating relief assistance from people of Mauritius during August, 2010 floods, conveyed greetings and good wishes for H.E Mr. Raj Keswur Purryag, the President, Republic of Mauritius.

A book titled 'Chinese Soft power Code' by Pakistan's Ambassador to Germany, Syed Hasan Javed

A book titled 'Chinese Soft power Code' by Pakistan's Ambassador to Germany, Syed Hasan Javed has hit the market. It is his second book, this time on Chinese culture, in a row. The Author of the book, a senior Pakistani diplomat has spent almost a decade in China and is a well known China linguist.

The 259 pages book of Triple Eight 8x8x8 Chinese wisdom has been published by Paramount Publishers, Karachi and now is available online as well as in its outlets and bookstores.

The book includes a study of soft Power's contribution in national power profile. It gives a holistic approach to understanding the origin and evolution of Chinese values,

attitudes and wisdom from the ancient times to contemporary age.

The book traces back Pakistan's own rich cultural and historical heritage and its linkages with China along the ancient Silk Route. The Kushan Empire

immense contribution to Chinese Buddhism. The book includes teachings of China's great sages Confucius, Lao Tzu, Sunzi, and others. It has a chapter each on Chinese clickés, symbols, dogmas, myths, legends and fables.

Pakistan: A Bridge Between China and Europe Since Ancient Times

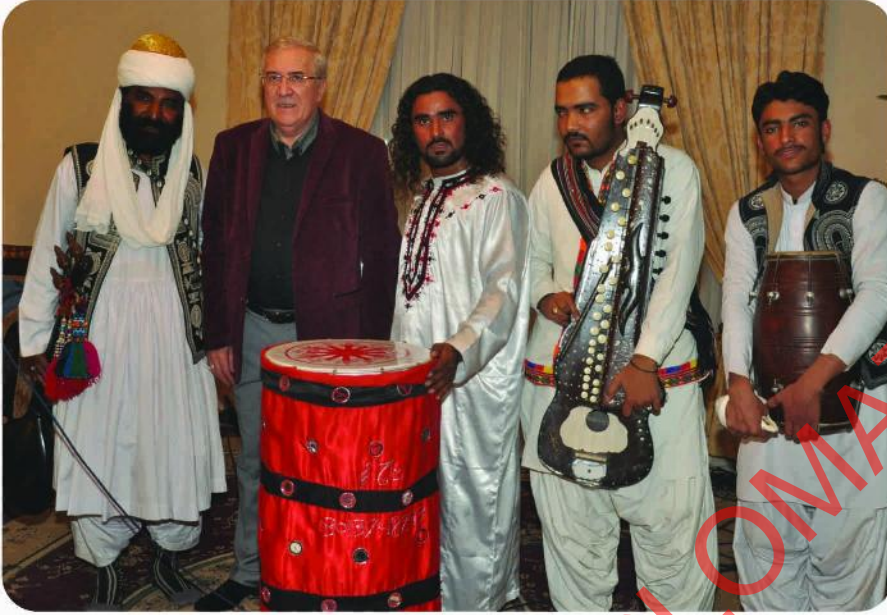
based in Gandhara region, which comprised of the remnant Greek kingdoms from Alexander's earlier campaign had converted to Buddhism and promoted exchanges of China with Rome and Rhine Valley. Gandhara civilization made

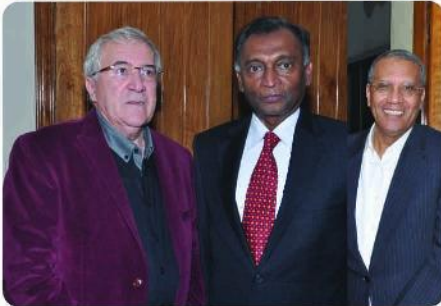
The Author of the book says, through this book, I wanted to promote a better understanding globally of the Chinese culture and their worldview. They do so much for Pakistan. Through my humble efforts, I wanted to reciprocate



in my humble way through the power of pen. China is the only great power in history, rising to the global top position without conflicts and wars. Hence, it is the 'Soft Power Superpower', he adds.

H.E. Mr. Emlion Ion, Ambassador of Romania & Dean of EU countries celebrating the completion of his 6 years staying in Pakistan. Ambassadors, High Commissioners, Information Secretary, diplomats and other dignitaries were present on the occasion.





H.E. Mr. Rodolfo J. Martin Saravia, Dean of Diplomatic Corps hosted a farewell reception in the honor of the outgoing High Commissioners of Sri Lanka H.E. Mr. Jayalath Weerakkody and Mauritius H.E. Mr. Rashad Daureeawo at his residence in Islamabad. Special/Ad Secretary Foreign Affairs Amjad Hussain B Siyal, and the Newly Arrived Ambassadors/High Commissioners of Tunisia, Qatar, Oman, Austria, Greece and Canada were also present in the reception.



H.E. Mr. Ro Kyong Chol Hosted a reception to celebrate the 73rd Birthday of H.E. Mr. Coenrade Kim Jong Il, The Great Leader of Korean People in Islamabad. Mr. Akram Khan Durrani was the Chief Guest. Members of Diplomatic Missions, business community, academia, and members of civil society attend the reception.





By Diplomatic Focus Correspondent

WECREATE Pakistan, a community center for women's entrepreneurs

Ambassador Richard Olson and the Department of State's Special Representative for Economic and Business Affairs Scott Nathan inaugurated the WECREATE Pakistan Center, a community center for women's entrepreneurs in Islamabad. The Women's Entrepreneurial Center of Resources, Education, Access, and Training for Economic Empowerment (WECREATE), the first of its kind in the world, will advance gender equality in entrepreneurship and provide training, support, and mentorship for women entrepreneurs in Pakistan.

The center is supported by the U.S.-Pakistan Women's Council and sponsored by the U.S. Department of State, in partnership with Start Up Cup, TIE Islamabad, Change Mechanics, and the Hashoo Foundation. Launched by Former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton in September 2012, the U.S.-Pakistan Women's Council is a public-private partnership that links U.S. and Pakistani universities, businesses, and other supporters, to initiatives that advance

economic opportunities for women in Pakistan.

WECREATE Centers are currently in

development in Zambia, Kenya, Cambodia, and Vietnam, with other Centers expected in the future.



Peace and Stabilisation

Danish team in town to identify new areas of cooperation

By Diplomatic Focus Correspondent

The Danish Government has sent a team to Pakistan to identify new areas for further cooperation within peace and stabilisation in Pakistan and in the region. The initiative is part of the Peace and Stabilisation Fund of the Danish Government. The fund is a cross-government funding pool to support peace, stabilisation and conflict prevention initiatives.

The defence attaché at the Embassy of Denmark, Colonel Thor Hilton, said about the visit: "Effective stabilisation requires many tools and commitment from different actors and it is not a quick fit. We need to use all instruments we have in the tool box – from political, diplomatic, security, to development and humanitarian. A key objective of creating the peace and stabilization fund has been to promote collaboration of all relevant tools in achieving peace and stabilisation."

Together with the Danish Embassy, the

team will identify and design activities to be part of the next phase of the stabilisation program, which will run in 2016-2017. Since 2012, Pakistan has been part of Denmark's Peace and Stabilization Fund, which departs from a regional perspective. Activities are primarily implemented in Pakistan and Afghanistan.

Executive Director of Center for Research & Security Studies, Mr. Imtiaz Gul, met the team in Islamabad. He said, "It is good to hear that the Danish government is now focusing on medium to long term educational and developmental engagements in Pakistan as it deserves continued support from friendly countries particularly in areas of rights, awareness, constitutional literacy and the rule of law".

As part of the current program, Denmark has supported a counter-IED project and UNODC's law enforcement activities in counter-narcotics and border management. In November 2014,

Denmark also launched a "women's leadership and social reconstruction" program, which is now being implemented by UN Women.

The counsellor of the development department at the Danish Embassy, Mrs. Darniann Riber, stressed that the program is one element in Denmark's multi-faceted support to Pakistan. "Denmark wants to support the people of Pakistan in its quest for stability and prosperity. At the same time such cooperation helps build closer people-to-people ties between our two countries".

Mrs. Riber also stressed that gender is a cross-cutting feature in all of Denmark's activities around the world: "By integrating gender concerns in the mainstream planning of peace, security and humanitarian actions, we do we not only promote women leadership and participation – we also help build stronger communities".



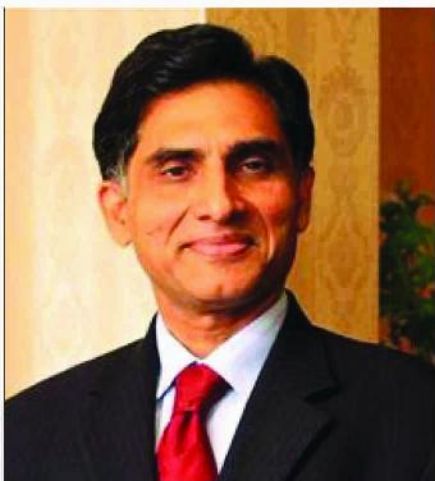
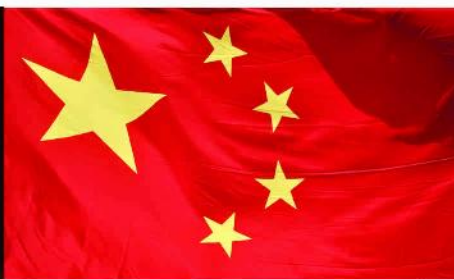


Serena Hotels, The Australian High Commission & PCB teamed up to bring the great cricketing nations together to play an "Exhibition Match" on the heels of the opening of ICC Cricket World Cup 2015.

Former Prime Minister, Mr. Syed Yousaf Raza Gillani also attended the event. Cricketing icons such as Intikhab Alam, Mohsin Kamal, Australian High Commissioner H.E Peter Heyward, British High Commissioner H.E Philip Barton Ambassador of the European Union Delegation H.E Lars-Gunnar Wigemark, along with other diplomats were the team members. The exhibition match took place at Marghar Cricket Ground Serena Hotel, Islamabad between two teams – PCB XI and Diplomatic XI – playing a T20 Match.







Aizaz Ahmed Chaudhry
Pakistan's Foreign Secretary



Liu Jianchao
Chinese Assistant Foreign Minister



Hekmat Khalil Karzai,
Afghan Deputy Foreign Minister

Islamabad, Beijing & Kabul agree to deepen security cooperation

Pakistan, Afghanistan and China agreed to take practical steps and deepen their cooperation in security and counter-terrorism after a trilateral 'strategic dialogue' held in Kabul.

The first round of the strategic dialogue was co-chaired by Pakistan's Foreign Secretary Aizaz Ahmed Chaudhry, Chinese Assistant Foreign Minister Liu Jianchao and Afghan Deputy Foreign Minister Hekmat Khalil Karzai, said a statement issued by the Foreign Office.

The three sides had an in-depth exchange of views on the situation in the region, issues of peace and security and trilateral practical cooperation. They resolved to make concerted efforts for maintaining peace and stability in Afghanistan.

China and Pakistan reiterated support for an Afghan-led and Afghan-owned peace and reconciliation process. Beijing and Kabul expressed their support for Islamabad to host 5th Ministerial Conference of the Heart of Asia-Istanbul Process in 2015.

The three parties welcomed the formation of the national unity government in Kabul

and enhanced bilateral interaction between Afghanistan and Pakistan as well as increased political, security, counter-terrorism and economic cooperation.

On the sidelines of the strategic dialogue, Pakistan's foreign secretary held bilateral meetings with Afghan Deputy Foreign Minister Hekmat Karzai and China's Assistant Foreign Minister Liu Jianchao.

During the meeting with Karzai, Aizaz Chaudhry underscored the importance Pakistan attached to a peaceful, stable, united and prosperous Afghanistan. He noted the commitment of the leadership on both sides to transform relationship with a special emphasis on political engagement, security and counter-terrorism cooperation, trade and commercial interaction, and regional cooperation.

**Beijing and
Kabul expressed
their support
for Islamabad to
host 5th
Ministerial
Conference of
the Heart of
Asia-Istanbul
Process in 2015**



Fund Raising Event

Sponsored by

HBL



H.E. Mr. Rodolfo J. Martin Saravia Ambassador of Argentina and **Muniba Mazari** giving speech during fund raiser event of Subah-e-Nau organised by **Mrs. Shahida Sattar**





Lt. Gen. (Retd.) Abdul Qadir Baloch, Federal Minister for States and Frontier Regions is presenting crest to Mian Muhammad Adrees, President FPCCI at Seminar on "Gwandat: Potential and Prospects"

Government is taking positive initiatives to fulfill the needs of industrialist and traders of Pakistan: S.M. Muneer, Patron-in-chief-ubg

To celebrate the marvellous victory of United Business Group (UBG) in FPCCI Elections 2015, M. Akram Farid, Vice President-FPCCI invited all UBG Leadership and important business tycoons from all over the country on Dinner at Hotel Crown plaza, Islamabad.

In his address, Mr. Farid said that the business community of Pakistan is gathered here today under one roof under the leadership of S.M. Muneer and Iftikhar Ali Malik.

On the auspicious occasion Dua-e-

Magharat for Late Vice President-FPCCI, Munawar Mughal, mother of Vice President-FPCCI Hameed Akhtar Chadda and senior member of FPCCI Late Anwar A. Sheikh was also held.

Chief Executive-TDAP, S.M. Muneer addressing to the business community here said that our Government is taking necessary measures to fulfill the demands of investors, locals as well as international. He added that Government is interested to take all decisions and steps regarding economic affairs in collaboration with traders and investors. He also added that

By Commerce Reporter

businessmen should play their vital role in development of Pakistan, while being the beneficiary of facilities provided by government recently such as tax relaxation, decreasing price of petrol and GSP Plus.

Chairman UBG and Vice President-SAARC CCI, Iftikhar Ali Malik on this occasion said that, one man show and dictatorship of 30 years has been finished from FPCCI and first time in the history of FPCCI the President has been elected democratically. Mr. Malik also added that government should take measures to encourage the



Vice President FPCCI, M. Akram Farid hosted dinner to celebrates victory of United Business Group in FPCCI elections. Mian Muhammad



Vice President FPCCI M. Akram Farid is addressing on celebrates victory of United Business Group in FPCCI elections. Mian Muhammad Address, S.M. Muneer, Iftikhar Ali Malik, Abdul Rauf, Muzammil Hussain Sabri are also present.

people and institutes which relates to SME's, so the SME's should play their needful role in economic growth of Pakistan.

Addressing the business community of Pakistan: Mian Muhammad Adress, President-FPCCI said that it is a part of our policy to encourage the talented and capable people in FPCCI, whereas research and development sector will be strengthened. President-FPCCI also added that merit and transparency will be ensured in FPCCI. While addressing the issues of business women, President said that, Women entrepreneurship will be highly focused whereas those Women who are interested to start their own business will be highly appreciated. President-FPCCI added here that Women Chambers should be opened in all remote cities of Pakistan to facilitate the women who are interested to start business at their own.

Mian Adress said that FPCCI will help

Chief Executive-TDAP, S.M. Muneer addressing to the business community here said that our Government is taking necessary measures to fulfill the demands of investors, locals as well as international.

and facilitate business women more than ever to provide supportive guidelines, and women of business community will also be facilitated to do any industrial and trade exhibitions at national and international level, so they play their role for economic growth and increase the GDP in economy of Pakistan.

Northern Chairman-UBG and Chairman Founder Group-ICCI, Abdul Rauf Alam said at this occasion that Government should select prominent business persons for Board members of Industrial Institutes and autonomous bodies such as PIA, OGDCL, OGRA, PEMRA, IESCO, so these industrial institutes and autonomous bodies will work effectively and efficiently.

At the end Chairman Coordination, FPCCI Capital office Islamabad Malik Sohail Hussain thanks to the entire guests to participate and support for United Business Group.



Adrees, S.M. Muneer, Iftikhar Ali Malik, Abdul Rauf, Malik Sohail Hussain, Muzammil Hussain Sabri and other are also addressed.

Award of Excellence 2015

Years of Continuous Service



By Sajid Takar

Federal Minister for Defence Production,

Mr. Rana Tanveer Hussain

lauds services of

'Diplomatic Focus'

Terms it a bridge between
Pakistan and diplomats

Federal Minister for Defence Production, Mr. Rana Tanveer Hussain lauded the services rendered by the Islamabad based monthly English language magazine, 'Diplomatic Focus', for its very efficient role being played in the field of diplomacy.

The federal minister, while addressing the gathering on the occasion of the 6th anniversary of Diplomatic Focus and 'Award of Excellence 2015', said that the role of the prestigious magazine is great and it is bringing the countries closer to Pakistan in terms of trade, culture, tourism, education and diplomacy.

He said that Pakistan was progressing in every field and it has always been eager to have good and healthy diplomatic relations with other countries of the world.

Mr. Rana Tanveer also appreciated the services and hard-work of the CEO/Editor of Diplomatic Focus, Mr. Mian Fazal Elahi in the diplomatic field. He also thanked him for arranging such a gracious program which, according to him, was useful for enhancing the mutual ties of Pakistan with other countries of the world.

Prior to this, the CEO/Editor/Publisher of

'Diplomatic Focus', Mian Fazal Elahi personally received all the honorable guests at the reception. The program had been arranged to mark the 6th Anniversary of the monthly magazine Diplomatic Focus and confer with awards the Ambassadors, Dean of Diplomatic Corps, High Commissioners and Heads of Missions and other distinguished Pakistanis for their great services in their respective fields for Pakistan. About seventy diplomats attended the program.

In his welcome speech, the CEO/Editor of Diplomatic Focus, Mian Fazal Elahi

Role of the prestigious magazine is great and it is bringing the countries closer to Pakistan in terms of trade, culture, tourism, education and diplomacy:
Rana Tanveer Hussain





Federal Minister for Defence Production, Mr. Rana Tanveer Hussain, Ambassador of Argentine Republic H.E. Mr. Rodolfo J. Martin-Saravia, other honorable Ambassadors, High Commissioners and other distinguished guests standing in the respect of national anthem.

welcomed all the distinguished guests at the program. It is indeed a great pleasure as well an honor to have such

role of our magazine 'Diplomatic Focus', said Mr. Elahi, that is playing an important role in enhancing the bilateral relations

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.

Federal Minister for Defence Production, Mr. Rana Tanveer Hussain also visited the stall of the 'Diplomatic Focus' displayed at the venue.



Mr. Fazal Elahi also gave the good news that the EU and UK editions of the Diplomatic Focus has also started publishing 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.

distinguished guests with us this evening, he added.

Let me thank you all for taking your precious time out and to come here, the Editor said.

Honorable guests! Let me also take the opportunity to throw some light on the

between Pakistan and 154 other countries of the world. I would like to add that in today's modern times, the importance of diplomatic and bilateral relations have been increased two-fold. And this is what our esteemed magazine 'Diplomatic Focus' has been doing for last six years. It also enjoys great reputation in the journalistic

He added that every positive and good thing encouraged him and his team, and by the well of God and their support, they would keep continued their efforts to further enhance the bilateral relations.

Your Excellencies! May God continue to give you success and I wish you all the very best in your future, he concluded his speech.



Secretary for Information, Broadcasting & National Heritage, Mr. Muhammad Azam on the occasion, during his speech, said that the role of media is very important in the present time. He also praised the role of Diplomatic Focus saying that it was playing a very useful role in bringing closer Pakistan with the diplomats of all the countries in Pakistan.

On the occasion, Mr. Chaudhry Faisal Mushtaq, CEO of Roots International School, praised the services of the magazine and said that the magazine was playing a very useful role in enhancing the bilateral ties of Pakistan with other countries of the world. He also appreciated its role in the field of education.

H.E. Mr. Rodolfo J. Martin-Saravia, Ambassador of Argentine Republic and



Dean of Diplomatic Corps & Dean of Americas, during his speech, praised the role of Diplomatic Focus and said that the magazine was playing a remarkable role in enhancing the mutual ties of Pakistan with other countries of the world. He also thanked Mr. Elahi for his services and lauded the role of the entire team of the magazine.

After the speakers encouraging and very informative speeches, the program turned into its cultural phase where the most experienced and expert artists in the field performed on five songs in a manner that amused all the audience. The artists performed on Sindhi and Balochi folk songs, Kashmiri song and popular Pashto Khattak Dance and Punjabi Bhangra. There was such a rhythm in their art that the audience applauded them on every step and did not stop clapping for their delightful performance.

After the cultural dance phase, two popular singers sang songs which the guests applauded very much.

The chief guests Mr. Rana Tanveer Hussain along with H.E. Mr. Rodolfo J. Martin-Saravia Ambassador of Argentine Republic and Dean of Diplomatic Corps & Dean of Americas was called on stage with huge clapping to confer the honorable guests with Award of Excellence 2015. The CEO/Editor of Diplomatic Focus, Mr. Mian Fazal Elahi also accompanied the chief guest in giving away awards to the Ambassadors, High Commissioners and Deans of Diplomatic Corps their commendable services for the promoting of bilateral and trade relations between their respectable countries and Pakistan.

While the new envoys to Pakistan were welcomed with bouquets.

The chief guest also awarded the team of the Diplomatic Focus with Certificates of Appreciation.

At the end, the distinguished guests were served with delicious continental meal and drinks



"Diplomatic Focus" Awards of Excellence 2015

6 Years of Continuous
& Great Services for
Diplomatic Community

RBI Mediaminds
Electronic & Print Media Production House

SERENA HOTELS





Mr. Mian Fazal Elahi, CEO/Editor/Publisher "Diplomatic Focus" hosted a lunch reception in the honor of H.E. Mr. Bakhitbek Shabarbayev, H.E. Mr. Dashgin Shikarov, H.E. Mr. Atadjan N. Movlamov, H.E. Mr. Parviz M. Aliev, H.E. Mr. Sherali Jononov, Ambassadors of Kazakhstan, Azerbaijan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, & Tajikistan respectively along with Mr. Kubanichbek P. Toktorbaev, Charge d'affairs of Kyrgyzstan during their visit to the head office of "Diplomatic Focus" in Islamabad

Photo by
Ramzan Mughal



H.E. Mr. Jesus Zenen Buergo Concepcion, Ambassador of Cuba along with his wife, visit the head office of "Diplomatic Focus" in Islamabad. Mr. Mian Fazal Elahi, CEO/Editor/Publisher "Diplomatic Focus" & Mrs. Elahi received the honorable guests.





H.E. Mr. Rodolfo J. Martin Saravia, Ambassador of Argentina hosted a Dinner in the honor of H.E. DR. MALEEHA LOOHI, ambassador-designate/permanent representative of Pakistan to United Nations at his residence in Islamabad.





SERENA
HOTELS

Sri Lankan High Commissioner, Air Chief Marshal (retd) Jayalath Weerakkody inaugurated the exhibition, titled "Re-constructing Home", at Satrang Gallery at Serena Hotel in Islamabad

The show features artworks of artist Gopa Tridevi from India, Pradeep Thallawatta from Sri Lanka, and Javaria Ahmed & Sundas Azfer from Pakistan. H.E. Mr. Rodolfo J. Martin Saravia, Dean of Diplomatic Corps & Ambassador of Argentina, Mr. Aziz Bolani, Asma Rashid Khan, director of the gallery, The Indian Deputy High Commissioner J P Singh along with the distinguished guests were





His Excellency Mr. Sadek A. Osman
Libyan Head of Mission

Message

On the occasion of the 4th Anniversary of the 17th February Revolution

The 4th Anniversary of the 17th February Revolution is being celebrated at the time when the Libyans are still working to establish a civilian state, (a lawful State), despite the difficulties (which were believed) that they will be removed with the ousted of the previous regime.

It was believed that the road to democracy will be very easy but the reality imposes the imagination and way is too long and demands other kinds of sacrifices and intensifying united efforts by all the nation for better future through finding a suitable solution of all issues facing by the country.

The history of Libya is full of lessons and examples for great sacrifices, and the better example in this regard is the Libyan freedom fighter and Libyan Hero " Omer Al-mokhtar".

The Libyan People love their country and love to live with peace with all countries, especially with the neighboring and brotherly countries and intend to consolidate relations with them and Pakistan is among those countries.

The Libyans love their Pakistan brethren and love Pakistan that bounds them within brotherly relations, same

religion and same destiny. Libyans and working in all fields of life.

At the official level, the both governments are coordinating in various international and regional organizations.

The utmost cooperation between the two countries in all fields is the need of hour but the stability is needed, which will come subsequently (If God willing).

The cooperation between the two countries is continuing in technical field and especially in the field of training as many Libyan students are studying different sciences in Pakistani Institutes and universities.

We are looking forward to consolidate our relations according to the ambitions of our people to achieve the goals of progress and prosperity hoping that the Pakistani People will overcome at all the difficulties at this stage.

I avail this opportunity to express my profound gratitude to His Excellency, the President of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan Mr. Mamnoon Hussain and the Prime Minister Mian Muhammad Nawaz Sharif, praying for their health, and prosperity for the brotherly People of Pakistan.

May God bless the People of Libyan and Pakistan.

Thank you.



H.E. Mr. Sadek A. Osman Libyan Head of Mission, hosted a reception to mark the 4th Anniversary of the 17th February Revolution of Libya. Minister of Defense Production Mr. Rana Tanveer Hussain was the chief guest. Ambassadors, High Commissioners, Diplomats, Politicians, senior officials from government of Pakistan, dignitaries from civil society and others were invited.





Opening night of the British Food Festival

The star studded opening night of the British Food Festival took place at the British High Commission with a lavish menu. John Anthony Tucknott MBE, British Deputy High Commissioner Karachi addressed the gathering and thanked Marriott Karachi extensively for the collaboration. Qatar Air gave away several international air tickets to the lucky draw winners.

Chef Christopher amazed the crowd with his live cooking at the venue and Simon Thacker stole the hearts when he played "dil dil Pakistan" on his guitar.



The King's day feast

The King's Feast has been celebrated in Belgium on November 15 since 1866. Since 2001, the Belgian Federal Parliament holds a ceremony in honor of the King, in the presence of members of the Belgian Royal Family and other dignitaries. Federal ministries are closed on this day. Traditionally, a prayer is sung as well as a private observance being held. November 15 is the name day of Leopold

(the feast of Saint Leopold in the German liturgical calendar) and Albert (the feast of Saint Albert the Great in the General Roman Calendar). In 1951, King Baudouin decided to honor November 15, as did his brother King Albert II. During the regency of Prince Charles, the designations Day of the Dynasty or Feast of the Dynasty were used, and these terms are still often erroneously used. To mark King's Day, the Consul General of

Belgium, HE. Peter Claes organized a King's Feast at the Crystal Ballroom. The festive event at the Crystal Ballroom was attended by the elite of the city with distinguished guests from government, diplomatic and business circles. In his address Ambassador Claes extensively thanked the Honorary Consul General Mr. Hashwani for his loyal commitment to the Kingdom of Belgium as the Honorary Consul General for last twenty five years.

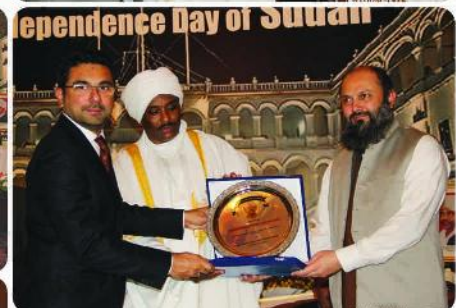


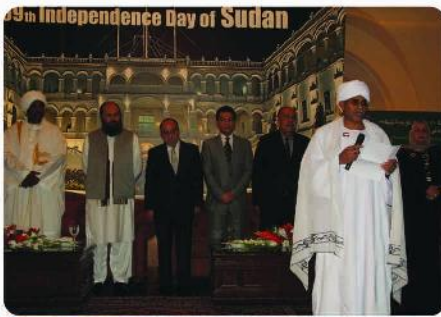
Ambassadors/High Commissioners along with Members of Diplomatic Missions visit to Taxila Museum & Enjoyed Orange Festival. H.E. Rodolfo J Martin Saravia was the Chief Guest at the Orange Festival.





Mr. Ahmed Abdelrahman Mohamed Charge d' Affaires of the Republic of the Sudan hosted a reception to mark 59th Independence Anniversary of Sudan at Sereena hotel Islamabad. Ambassadors, High Commissioners, Members of Diplomatic Missions, business community, academia and members of civil society attend the reception.







Marriott celebrates the Chinese New Year



The Chinese New Year (The Year of Goat) celebrated at Marriott Hotel Islamabad.

Many dignitaries and Celebrities attended the event, The Dynasty Restaurant was decorated with red lanterns and other Chinese art the outside had been decorated with large red lanterns and bunting while myriads of colored fairy lights decorated the trees and bushes that looked very beautiful.

Regional General Manager Islamabad Marriott Mr. Hartmut Noack greeted the guests.

The Ambassador of China H.E. Mr. Sun Weiding, joined the celebration spotted among the guest were the ambassador of the Denmark, the Ambassador of Germany, the Ambassador of the Romania, the Ambassador of Italy, government official and member of media.



In his welcome address, Regional General Manager Islamabad Marriott Mr. Hartmut Noack said, "The Year of the Goat is eight animal in the 12 year cycle of the Chinese Zodiac. The Year of the Goat starts from Feb, 18. Brown, Red, Purple are favorites colours. Lucky numbers are two, seven, twenty seven and thirty two. Lucky flowers are carnation primrose he further elaborated the characteristics of the years of Goat".

Chinese New year is the longest and most important celebration in the Chinese calendar and months are reckoned by the lunar calendar, with each month beginning on the darkest day. New Year festivities traditionally start on the first day of the month and continue until the fifteenth when the moon is brightest. In China people may take weeks of holiday from work to prepare for and celebrate the New Year.





President Mamnoon Hussain in a group photograph with the members of Karachi Council on Foreign Relations along with African Group of Ambassadors/ High Commissioners at Aiwan-e-Sadr, Islamabad.



Prime Minister of Turkey Ahmet Davutoğlu addressing to the Members of the Executive Committee of the council of Pakistan News papers Editors (CPNE) at Serena Hotel Islamabad.

Dr. Al-draiweesh calls on Saudi Minister of Religious Affairs Dr. Suleman

By M.Saeed Yousafzai



President International Islamic University Islamabad Dr. Ahmed Yousif Al-Draiweesh and the delegation accompanied with him, called on Minister of Islamic Affairs, Endowments, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia Dr. Suleman bin Abdullah Al-Khail in his office at Riyadh where both the heads discussed matters of mutual interests.

At the beginning of the meeting the delegation was welcomed by the Minister and other officials. The meeting was a part of the University's drive to establish a leading position in the top ranked universities of the world. The Saudi Minister has showed keen devotion towards the services of IIUI for the young mind of Muslim Ummah and contributing to strengthen the cause of Islamic teachings and spreading the universal message of peace, patience, tolerance and modesty positively to the world; he also appreciated the constructive role and dynamic leadership of the Dr. Al-Draiweesh in this regard.

Dr. Suleman assured maximum cooperation with IIUI to achieve the goals of the university and the services can be performed efficiently.

Dr. Al-Draiweesh, said the top priority of the university is to inculcate the teachings of peace, tolerance and moderation and positive trends in the youth of Muslim Ummah while refraining them from the attitude and thinking of extremism and terrorism. He also informed about the efforts which have been made so far. In this regard IIUI has arranged number of international conferences, symposiums, seminars and workshops. Ha maintained. Dr. Suleman also assured his support to complete the current projects and future goals of the university. At the end of the meeting memento and gifts were also exchanged.



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by **Mr. Syed Hasan Javed**
Pakistan's Ambassador to Germany,

