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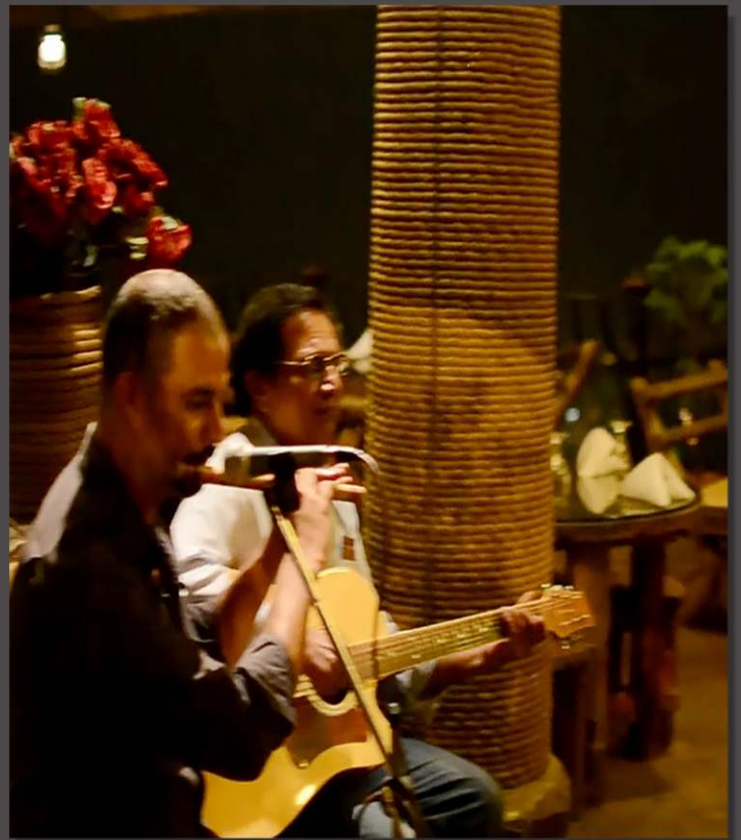
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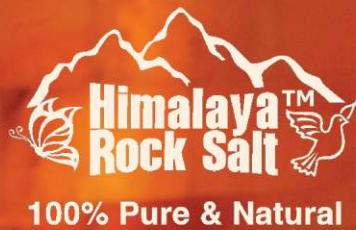
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Mian Fazal Elahi

Editorial

The recent visit of Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif to Turkmenistan has been appreciated by everyone as it can play vital role in the economic uplift of both the countries. PM Nawaz also held talks with Turkmen President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov in all spheres of mutual interest.

According to a joint communiqué, the two sides expressed their determination to upgrade their partnership in the interests of their peoples.

Turkmenistan also expressed support for the efforts of Pakistan to combat the menace of terrorism and extremism.

Both sides decided to increase their cooperation in security, counter-terrorism, and cooperation against drug trafficking, organized crimes and other threats.

Pakistan and Turkmenistan also agreed to create favorable conditions and take up important development projects in trade, economic, financial and other sectors. A number of MoUs and agreements were also signed between the two countries. These developments would no doubt benefit the people of both the countries.

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif arrived in Bishkek on an official visit to Kyrgyzstan after concluding a two day visit to Turkmenistan. Both sides expressed their commitment to enhance political exchanges, people to people contacts.

Pakistan and Kyrgyzstan have agreed to further augment cooperation in diverse fields including economy, trade and energy.

The understanding came at a meeting between Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif and his Kyrgyzstan counterpart Sariyev Temir.

Meanwhile, President of Belarus Alexander Lukashenko for the first ever time visited Pakistan at the invitation of the President Mamnoon Hussain. Pakistan and Belarus enjoy cordial relations.

Belarus established its resident Mission in Islamabad in November last year.

During the visit, the Belarusian President held meetings with President Mamnoon Hussain and Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif.

A number of important agreements and Memoranda of Understanding were signed during the visit.

President Lukashenko's visit will help in strengthening the exiting ties between the two countries.

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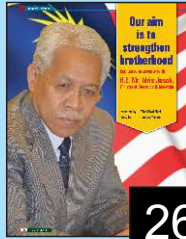
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Condolences Over Naltar Crash



H.E. Mr. Mamnoon Hussain
President of Islamic Republic of Pakistan

President H.E. Mr. Mamnoon Hussain has expressed profound grief and sorrow over the tragic Naltar incident.

He prayed for the departed souls and extended heartfelt condolences and sympathies to the bereaved families.

The President stated that the government and people of Pakistan are deeply saddened over the tragic death of foreigners in the unfortunate incident and equally share the grief of the affected families.



Mr. Asif Ali Zardari
Former President of Islamic Republic of Pakistan

Former President Co-Chairman Pakistan Peoples Party Asif Ali Zardari has expressed his profound grief and sorrow over helicopter crash. In his message said that he is shocked and grieved over the news of crash of helicopter carrying foreign diplomats.

Former President prayed for the departed souls and early recovery on injured. He also condoled to the bereaved families for the tragedy.



UN Secretary General

Ban Ki-moon has extended condolences to the bereaved families and governments of Pakistan, the Philippines, Norway, Indonesia and Malaysia. UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon has expressed his sorrow over the helicopter crash in Naltar tragedy.



President of Maldives

The President of Maldives Abdullah Yameen Abdul Gayoom, made a telephone call to Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif to condole the Naltar incident.

He expressed his condolences for the bereaved families and sympathies for the injured.



Mr. Muhammad Nawaz Sharif
Prime Minister of Islamic Republic of Pakistan

PM Nawaz Sharif has expressed deep grief and sorrow over the tragic incident of helicopter crash in Naltar. PM offered condolences to the families of the deceased.



COAS General Raheel Sharif

COAS General Raheel Sharif offered his condolences over the death of the two ambassadors in the helicopter crash in Naltar valley and said that he stood by the brother countries in their time of sorrow.



H.E. Mr. Emiliano Ion
Dean of European Union Diplomatic Corps

Iwould like to express my gratitude to all Pakistani authorities (Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Armed Forces) for their competence, professionalism and special attention (including medical) given to me and all my colleagues involved in this tragic incident.

In these tragic circumstances, I would like to convey my sincere condolences to the families of my dear colleagues and friends, Ambassador of Norway, Ambassador of the Philippines, wife of Ambassador of Malaysia and wife of Ambassador of Indonesia, as well as of the two pilots and the mechanic of the helicopter, who lost their lives in the unfortunate accident.

Also I would like to wish speedy recovery to all other colleagues / persons who were with us in the helicopter and sustained injuries: Ambassador of Poland and his wife, Ambassador of the Netherlands, Ambassador of Malaysia, Ambassador of Indonesia and two Pakistani persons. I have faith that the Pakistani medical teams that are taking care of them will succeed to recover all of them at the earliest.

I love you all



H.E. Mr. Jassim M. Al-Khalidi

Saudi Charge, d Affaires Jassim M. Al-Khalidi expressed heart-felt grief and sorrow over the Naltar tragedy. He expressed his condolences for the bereaved families and sympathies for the injured and killed.

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Condolences



Madam Datin Habibah Binti Mahmud (L),
spouse of Ambassador of Malaysia



Madam Listyawati Hery (L),
Spouse of Ambassador of Indonesia



H.E. Mr. Burhan Muhammad (L),
Ambassador of Indonesia



H.E. Mr. Domingo D Lucenario Jr (L),
Ambassador of Philippines



H.E. Leif Larsen (L),
Ambassador of Norway



Major Faisal Waseem
(Shaheed)



Major Altamash
(Shaheed)

We would like to convey our sincere condolences and deepest sympathies to the families of our dear friends, **Ambassador of Norway, Ambassador of the Philippines, Ambassador of Indonesia and his wife and wife of Ambassador of Malaysia, as well as of the two pilots and the mechanic of the helicopter**, who lost their lives in the unfortunate accident.

Also we would like to wish speedy recovery to all other friends who were in the helicopter and sustained injuries: Ambassador of Poland and his wife, Ambassador of the Netherlands, Ambassador of Malaysia, and two Pakistani persons.

The extraordinary services of the Ambassadors in elevating ties between their respective countries and Pakistan, as well as the commitment of the pilots and the crew member in the Pakistan Army will be long remembered.

Mian Fazal Elahi
CEO/Editor/Publisher
Diplomatic Focus



Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif addressing a condolence ceremony of Diplomatic Community organized in the memory of the Martyrs of Naltar Valley incident at Foreign Office Islamabad.

Sitara-e-Pakistan announced for Diplomats, spouses dead in Naltar Incident

By Mian Fazal Elahi

Eulogizing the valuable services of two diplomats as well as the two spouses of diplomats, who lost their lives in the tragic helicopter crash in Naltar last week, Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif Monday announced grant of civil gallantry award Sitara-e-Pakistan for them.

While speaking at a memorial meeting held here at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the prime minister said that they were strong supporters of forging closer relations between Pakistan and their countries. We will always remember their valuable contributions, he added.

The Prime Minister said, "I would like to announce that in recognition of their services, for their contribution towards forging closer bilateral relations,

I am recommending to the President to bestow our civil gallantry award, Sitara-e-Pakistan, on Ambassador Larsen

of Norway, Ambassador Lucenario of the Philippines, Madam Habibah binti Mahmud of Malaysia and Madam Heri

Listyawati of Indonesia."

Speaking at reference over Naltar tragedy, PM Nawaz said that the entire nation stood by



Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif observing one minute silence in the memory of the Martyrs of the Naltar Valley incident at Foreign Office, Islamabad.



diplomatic community in hour of grief.

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif also assured families and envoys of the countries affected by Naltar helicopter crash that they would not find Pakistan wanting in this hour of trial.

Nawaz Sharif said he has already given instructions for transportation of mortal remains of the deceased and medical treatment to the injured on immediate basis. Foreign Office has also been directed to liaise with its missions abroad and relevant departments to ensure speedy and timely completion of all formalities. The diplomats, killed in the Naltar incident, were strong supporters of forging closer relations between Pakistan and their countries.

The Prime Minister announced award of Sitara-e-Pakistan to the deceased ambassadors of Norway and Philippines and deceased wives of ambassadors of Malaysia and Indonesia.

Earlier, the Foreign Secretary Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry addressing the reference said it was a loss which no one can describe especially for the Foreign Office as we had

developed such a close and warm friendship with the deceased.

He read out obituaries of the four members of the diplomatic community killed in the helicopter crash.

Speaking on this occasion, Dean of the Diplomatic Corps and Ambassador of Argentina Rodolfo Martin Saravia said the tour of diplomats was arranged at his request to appreciate beauty of the northern Pakistan and pay tributes to those engaged in operation Zarb-e-Azb.

He categorically stated that the accident was caused by technical and mechanical failure of helicopter. He said by no means there was an iota of possibility of act of terrorism or sabotage.

He appreciated the elaborate arrangements made by the Foreign Office, Pakistan Army, Pakistan Air Force, Gilgit Baltistan Government and other organizations for the security and safety of the trip, but it ended in an accident.

Ambassador Rodolfo Martina Saravia ruled out possibility of any terrorism or sabotage. "It was an unfortunate incident,"

he added.

He thanked Pakistan Government for support and facilitation both in Gilgit and Islamabad extended to affected people.

A one minute silence was observed by the participants of the reference in memory of those killed in Naltar copter crash.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif met three bereaved families of the Naltar incident including those from Norway, Malaysia and Indonesia at the Foreign Office.

Talking to them, he expressed deep grief and sorrow over the tragic Naltar incident. He said this was a tragic time. Our hearts go out with the bereaved families.

The condolence reference organized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs was attended by federal ministers, Advisor to Prime Minister on National Security and Foreign Affairs Sartaj Aziz, Special Assistant to Prime Minister on Foreign Affairs Tariq Fatemi, ambassadors and high commissions of the missions present in Islamabad and officials of the ministry.



Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif in a condolence meeting with the families of the Martyrs of Naltar Valley incident at Foreign Office, Islamabad.



Namaze Janaza of Shuhada of Naltar helicopter crash being offered in Gilgit.

Entire nation heartbroken on Naltar tragedy: **PM Nawaz**

By Mian Fazal Elahi

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, after the tragic and saddest Naltar tragedy, said in his statement that the entire nation was heartbroken on the incident.

Five foreigners, two pilots and one crew member were killed when an MI-17 helicopter of Pakistan Army made a crash landing at Naltar in Gilgit.

Those died in the tragic incident included

the Ambassadors of Norway, Philippine, Indonesia and the wives of the ambassadors of Malaysia and Indonesia.

Malaysia, Polish and Dutch ambassadors are amongst those injured in the incident.

The ambassadors were on a three day trip to Naltar when the chopper crashed due to technical fault.

Heads of Diplomatic Mission of more than thirty countries and their family members as well as some Pakistani dignitaries were flown to Gilgit by a C-130 aircraft morning.

From there, they were being taken to Naltar in four helicopters for a three-day excursion trip.

Such excursion trips are regularly organized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in consultation with the Diplomatic Corps. Foreign Office spokesperson said





Foreign Secretary Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhary briefing the median on tragic helicopter crash at Naltar in Gilgat.

President Mamnoon Hussain and Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif have expressed grief and sorrow over the incident. Heads of Diplomatic Mission of more than thirty countries and their family members as well as some Pakistani dignitaries were flown to Gilgit by a C-130 aircraft morning.

From there, they were being taken to Naltar in four helicopters for a three-day excursion trip.

Such excursion trips are regularly organized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in consultation with the Diplomatic Corps. Foreign Office spokesperson said

Minister for Defence Khawaja Muhammad Asif announced that the families of the pilots and crew member, who lost their lives in Naltar accident, would be looked after by the government.

He assured that the matter will be investigated as initial reports suggest it was a technical fault. H.E. Mr. Rodolfo J Martin Saravia Dean of Diplomatic Corps who was also fellow of the trip said that it was occurred due to technical fault. Malaysian Ambassador who was onboard on this helicopter said that all was going well but at the time of landing helicopter suddenly changed its behavior due to some technical fault. Witnesses reported gusting winds as the group of four helicopters prepared to land. The passengers had been due to enjoy a lunch and watch a ceremony attended by the prime minister, Nawaz Sharif. But the helicopter suddenly spun, dropped and hit a school building. The Chief of Army Staff has constituted an investigation board



List of the participants who were scheduled to visit Gilgit from May 8 - May 11

- Ambassador of Argentina
- Ambassador of Austria with son
- Ambassador of Azerbaijan
- High commissioner of Bangladesh with wife
- Wife of Bosnian Ambassador and two sons
- Ambassador of Bulgaria
- Ambassador of Belgium with wife and daughter
- High commissioner of Canada
- Ambassador of Czech republic with wife
- Ambassador of Egypt
- Ambassador of France with husband
- Ambassador of Greece
- German Ambassador wife
- Ambassador of Hungary with wife
- High commissioner of Indonesia with wife
- Ambassador of Norway
- Ambassador of Japan
- Ambassador of Lebanon with husband
- Ambassador of Netherlands
- High commissioner of Malaysia with wife
- Ambassador of Spain
- Ambassador of Sweden
- Ambassador of Switzerland
- Ambassador of Thailand
- Ambassador of Tunisia
- Ambassador of Tajikistan with wife and two children
- Amb Moinul Haque, Madam and daughter
- Ms Fatima Hamdia Tanweer, Assistant chief of protocol with spouse
- Mr Aziz Doolani and Madame
- Mrs Ishrat Hayat
- Mrs Dure Najaf and Maha Mussadaq
- Mr Sultan Bashir
- Ambassador of Philippines and wife

headed by a Brigadier. Some members of the investigation teams have reached the site of the tragedy and the Board has started investigations. These information would also be shared with respective countries.

President extended condolences and sympathies to the bereaved families. President Mamnoon Hussain has expressed profound grief and sorrow over the tragic Naltar incident.

He prayed for the departed souls and extended heartfelt condolences and sympathies to the bereaved families. The President stated that the government and people of Pakistan are deeply saddened over the tragic death of foreigners in the unfortunate incident and equally share the grief of the affected families.

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif declared one-day mourning over the Naltar helicopter crash.

The bodies were received at Nur Khan Airbase with full military honour. Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee General Rashad Mahmood, the three services chiefs, diplomats, Special Assistant to Prime Minister on Foreign Affairs Tariq Fatemi and other high ranking officials were also present on the occasion.



Diplomats and Diplomatic missions are going to board for Naltar at Nur Khan Airbase, Rawalpindi





Madam Datin Habibah Binti Mahmud (L) ,
spouse of Ambassador of Malaysia



Madam Listyawati Hery (L) ,
Spouse of Ambassador of Indonesia



H.E. Mr. Burhan Muhammad (L) ,
Ambassador of Indonesia



H.E. Mr. Domingo D Lucenario Jr (L) ,
Ambassador of Philippines



H.E. Leif Larsen (L),
Ambassador of Norway



Major Faisal Waseem (Shaheed) & Major Altamash (Shaheed)



This tragedy was an unfortunate & sad accident caused by a technical or mechanical failure

Speech Ambassador of Argentina/ dean of the diplomatic corps H.E. Mr. Rodolfo J. Martin Sarvia

Mr. Prime minister

Minister of foreign affairs, Mr. Sartaj aziz

Minister of state of foreign affairs, Mr. Tariq fatemi

Foreign secretary, Mr. Aizaz chaudhry

Government authorities, parliamentarians

Dear colleagues and their spouses.

Ladies and gentlemen

As you all know this last weekend we finely succeeded to organize the trip to the north that myself as the dean of diplomatic corps together with the ministry of foreign affairs, the Serena hotels, the air force, the government of Gilgit Baltistan we have been trying to organize since the last 3

years. This time with the full blessings and support of the prime minister of Pakistan, Mr. Nawaz Sharif, a group of 37 ambassadors, some of them with their spouses and children, started the visit to the northern area with the purpose of seeing its extraordinary beautiful landscapes and to be treated by the traditional generosity and friendship that are the characteristics of the people of that area.

In addition to that and as I personally mention to the prime minister, that the purpose of this trip was to show the world that after the extraordinary brave operation done by the army in coordination with the government of

Pakistan against the terrorists, we can travel to a peaceful and safe region of Pakistan.

This visit, that I personally discussed 10 days ago with you, Mr. Prime minister, was going to be a tribute of the diplomatic corps to the country and to your government, and that's why your Excellency suggested to me during that meeting, that you wanted to be there and host a lunch for all of us in Naltar valley to say thanks for this gesture of support of the whole diplomatic community to the efforts that the government and army are doing to pacify this country. That was the real reason of your projected presence in Naltar valley.

But all what we carefully planned, changed dramatically with this sad and tragic accident. In this regard, I want to publicly and strongly convey a message to all of you and, through the media, to everybody, that myself and all my colleagues who travelled with me in this trip, we are convinced that this tragedy was an unfortunate and sad accident caused by a technical or mechanical failure of the helicopter and by no means, I repeat, by no means there is not a single possibility of been an act of terrorist or sabotage.

I pray to god for the departed souls of my dear colleagues the ambassadors of Norway and Philippines, the wives of the ambassadors of Indonesia and Malaysia and for the souls of the two pilots and the crew member who were also victims of this tragic incident. I also pray to god for the quick recovery of our colleagues who got injured in this sad episode, particularly, the ambassador of Indonesia who left for Singapore this morning to continue his treatment, and also the Dutch ambassador who also departed today to Netherlands for his treatment. Our prayers go also for our colleagues the high commissioner of Malaysia, the ambassador of Poland and his wife and to the other ambassadors who luckily escaped slightly injured in that accident.

To finalize, I want to thank, on behalf of all my colleagues and spouses, to you Mr. Prime minister, to the foreign ministry, to the Pakistan army to the government of Gilgit Baltistan and to the Pakistan air force for all the support and facilitation extended to us in Naltar valley, in Gilgit and back in Islamabad



CONDOLENCE MEETING

The Oxford and Cambridge Society observed **CONDOLENCE MEETING** for very dear friends from the Diplomatic Corps and for the valiant Shaheed of the Pakistan Army at Serena Hotel.

A large number of Ambassadors and High Commissioners, representatives of the Pakistan Army, representatives of the Government of Pakistan attend the reference.





Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif shaking hands with President of Turkmenistan, Berdimuhamedov Gurbanguly Malikgulyevich at Presidential Palace, Ashgabat, Turkmenistan.

Pakistan, Turkmenistan agree to strengthen bilateral ties

By Mian Fazal Elahi

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif visited Turkmenistan on a two-day official visit. He was received by the Deputy Prime Minister of Turkmenistan, Mr. Rashid Meredov at Ashgabat airport. A formal welcome ceremony in honor of Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif was held at Azadi Square in Ashgabat.

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif during his stay in Ashqabat held talks with Turkmen President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov in all spheres of mutual interest.

According to a joint communiqué, the two sides expressed their determination to upgrade their partnership in the interests of their peoples.

This was stated by Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif said while addressing a joint press stakeout along with Turkmen President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov in Ashgabat.

The two leaders, who earlier held one-on-one and delegation level talks told the media that during the wide-ranging consultations on a whole range of bilateral relations, they discussed measures to

counter the challenges that they face and exploit the opportunities available to them.

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif said that

Pakistan wanted to further enhance its relations with Turkmenistan in all areas of cooperation especially trade, tourism and people-to-people contacts. He said Pakistan and Turkmenistan enjoy excellent



Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif being presented a bouquet on his arrival at Ashgabat Airport, Turkmenistan.



Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif and President of Turkmenistan, Berdimuhamedov Gurbanguly Malikgulyevich inspecting guard of honour at Presidential Palace, Ashgabat, Turkmenistan

bilateral relations in all fields. They are based on mutual respect, common faith and shared interests.

Nawaz Sharif said he had wide range of consultations with the Turkmen President on the whole range of bilateral ties.

He said they discussed measures to counter challenges we face and exploit opportunities available to us.

He said we have commonality of views on a broad range of issues including peace and stability, trade and economic cooperation, investment, regional cooperation and connectivity.

The Prime Minister said the two countries have agreed on need for regular high level political exchanges.

He pointed out that the objective of trade and tourism promotion as well as people-

Turkmenistan President said the two countries share identical views on regional peace and stability and can enhance cooperation in agriculture, communication, telecommunication and other sectors.

to-people contacts requires further facilitation of visa regime especially for businessmen.

The Prime Minister said it was in the interest of two countries to make full use of human and material resources through infrastructure building, road and rail links and enhancing energy cooperation.

He said there was need for fast-tracking the implementation of regional energy connectivity projects including TAPI to help realize the objective of greater regional integration. He said early implementation of the project, which will be a game changer, would be win-win situation for all stakeholders.

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif said Pakistan top priority is growth and development and therefore, we want peaceful relations with all our neighbours.



Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif and President of Turkmenistan, Berdimuhamedov Gurbanguly Malikgulyevich leading their respective delegation at delegation level talks at Presidential Palace, Ashgabat, Turkmenistan.



Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif planting a tree at Independence Monument in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan.

He said the two countries also exchanged views on reforms of UN Security Council, which should take into account interests of

smaller states.

He said signing of MoUs by the two

countries would help further strengthen Pakistan's relations with Turkmenistan.

He said Pakistan would continue to provide modest assistance to Turkmenistan in human resource development.

Earlier, in a one-on-one meeting with Turkmen President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov in Ashgabat, the PM said tremendous trade potential exists between Pakistan and Turkmenistan in different fields including trade and economy.

Turkmenistan President said the two countries share identical views on regional peace and stability.

He said the two countries can enhance cooperation in agriculture, communication, telecommunication and other sectors.

He also emphasized the need for people to people contacts between the two countries.

Leaders also held delegation level



Prime Minister Muhammad Sharif and First Lady Begum Kulsoom Nawaz laying a wreath at Independence Monument in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan.



Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif at President of Turkmenistan, Berdimuhamedov Gurbanguly Malikgulyevich addressing joint press stakeout at Presidential Palace, Ashgabat, Turkmenistan.

talks and discussed ways to promote trade and strengthen cooperation in the fields of energy, anti-terrorism and anti-narcotics measures.

They also discussed measures to enhance connectivity through road and rail networks.

The two sides reviewed measures to expedite implementation of the Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India (TAPI) Gas Pipeline project.

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif said Pakistan wants early implementation of the project which is beneficial for the entire region.

Turkmenistan also expressed support for the efforts of Pakistan to combat the menace of terrorism and extremism.

Both sides decided to increase their cooperation in security, counter-terrorism, and cooperation against drug trafficking, organized crimes and other threats.

Pakistan and Turkmenistan also agreed to create favorable conditions and take up important development projects in trade, economic, financial and other sectors.

The Prime Minister invited the Turkmen President to pay an official visit to Pakistan. Dates of the visit would be fixed through diplomatic channels.

Speaking at a dinner hosted in his honor by

President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedow in Ashgabat, Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif said friendly relations between the two countries would further improve through bilateral cooperation.

He also congratulated the Turkmen President for successful completion of Turkmenistan-Kazakhstan-Iran railway track and launching of satellite. The Prime Minister said that Pakistan wants to get itself connected to this satellite.

Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif also visited the Mausoleum of former Turkmen President Saparmurad Niyazov and laid a wreath at the Mausoleum.

PM Nawaz also visited the Independence Monument in Ashgabat. He laid a floral wreath there and planted a sapling in the lawn of the monument.

The Prime Minister was accompanied by First Lady Kulsoom Nawaz and members of his cabinet.

Federal Ministers Khurram Dastgir, Khawaja Asif, Minister of State Jam Kamal, Special Assistant to Prime Minister Tariq Fatmi and Political Secretary to the PM Asif Kirmani accompanied the Prime Minister.

The analysts have termed PM's visit to central Asian countries as a positive gesture. The signed MoUs and Agreements during this visit will help Pakistan to

overcome energy crisis. Pakistan could not progress without overcoming energy crisis. Priority of Pakistan is to improve bilateral relations with other countries. All countries in the region should support each other for peace and prosperity. Pakistan should play its role to improve bilateral relations between Afghanistan and Turkmenistan. To overcome the challenges is the priorities of present.

Moreover, this visit has another vital importance. Pakistan wants to be the member of Shanghai Cooperation Organization. China Pakistan Economic Corridor will be beneficial for other countries of the region. China Pakistan Economic Corridor will bring economic revolution in the region. Gwadar Port will result in maximizing trade activities and reduction in unemployment in the Pakistan.

Turkmenistan is one of the important countries in the Central Asian region. Turkmenistan is the fourth bigger country having gas reserves. China Pakistan Economic Corridor will help Pakistan to improve bilateral relation with Central Asian states in region. Pakistan should support Turkmenistan in education sector. Its student should be provided scholarships for education in Pakistan. Pakistan has been focusing to overcome energy crisis and central Asian countries could support Pakistan in this regard.

Pakistan, Turkmenistan agree to strengthen bilateral ties



By Mian Fazal Elahi

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif visited Turkmenistan on a two-day official visit. He was received by the Deputy Prime Minister, minister of Foreign Affairs of Turkmenistan Mr. Rashid Meredov at Ashgabat airport.

A formal welcome ceremony in honor of Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif was held at Azadi Square in Ashgabat. The President of Turkmenistan and the Prime Minister of Pakistan held the one-on-one talks in the Blue Hall of the Oguzhan palace complex.

The talks involving the members of the government delegations of the two countries took place in the Ak Pagta Hall.

President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov emphasized, that Turkmenistan views Pakistan as a strategic partner on the implementation of ambitious international projects to promote energy transit from Turkmenistan to world markets. The Turkmen leader said that in this context the Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-

India gas pipeline project laid the foundations for long-term bilateral partnership, noting with satisfaction that the successful steps were being taken to promote the important project. Large-scale work has been undertaken through joint efforts. A regional economic dialogue will reach a new level upon entering the final stage of the energy project.

Dwelling on the aspects of Turkmen-Pakistani cooperation, President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov emphasized the role of the ports of Turkmenbashi and Gwadar in shaping international trade corridors. The Turkmen leader expressed belief that the projects would open up new opportunities for transport flows along the Asia-Europe routes.

The implementation of joint projects in the key areas of cooperation, such as agriculture and textile, light and processing industries, is deemed beneficial to the two countries. The Turkmen leader also emphasized the important role of the

Turkmenistan-Pakistan Intergovernmental Commission.

Deputy Chairman of the Cabinet of Ministers of Turkmenistan B. Hojамuhammedov reported on the measures taken to implement the Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India gas pipeline project. The projects and the information on the route of the transnational gas pipeline were presented.

Reporting on the amounts of energy currently supplied from Turkmenistan to Afghanistan, Deputy Chairman of the Cabinet of Ministers B. Artykov said that steady growth of the energy potential enabled our country to increase electricity exports to neighbouring countries.

Prime Minister of Pakistan Nawaz Sharif said that Pakistan wanted to further enhance its relations with Turkmenistan in all areas of cooperation especially trade, tourism and people-to-people contacts. He said Pakistan and Turkmenistan enjoy



excellent bilateral relations in all fields. They are based on mutual respect, common faith and shared interests.

Nawaz Sharif said Pakistan and Turkmenistan have commonality of views on a broad range of issues, including peace and stability, trade and economic cooperation, investment, regional cooperation and connectivity.

The Prime Minister emphasized the two countries have agreed on need for regular high level political exchanges.

The Prime Minister said it was in the interest of two countries to make full use of human and material resources through infrastructure building, road and rail links and enhancing energy cooperation.

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif underscored the significance of the projects of the railway corridors Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Tajikistan and Kazakhstan-Turkmenistan-Iran initiated by Turkmenistan, bringing profound progress

to the entire region. They will also create favourable conditions for Pakistan that has no direct transport corridor to Turkmenistan today.

He said there was need for fast-tracking the implementation of regional energy connectivity projects including TAPI to help realize the objective of greater regional integration. Early implementation of the project, which will be a game changer, would be win-win situation for all stakeholders.

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif said Pakistan's top priority is growth and development and therefore, we want peaceful relations with all our neighbours.

Prime Minister said that Pakistan fully supported the Turkmen leader's initiatives for the peaceful settlement of the situation in Afghanistan through negotiations and diplomatic means.

Within the framework of the top-level talks, President of Turkmenistan Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov and Prime Minister of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan Muhammad Nawaz Sharif focused with satisfaction on the coincidence of views of the two states on the topical issues, in particular the mutual willingness of Turkmenistan and the Republic of Pakistan to contribute to peace, security and stability on regional and global scale.

It was emphasized that the two countries closely cooperated on regional issues applying joint efforts to build up positive international cooperation in the region. The fruitful partnership between the two states in the energy and transport spheres promotes the interests of peace and progress.

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After the government talks had concluded, the ceremony of signing bilateral documents took place in the Marble Hall in the presence of the President of Turkmenistan and the Prime Minister of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan.

The Memorandum of Understanding between the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Turkmenistan and the Trade Development Authority of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and the Agreement on the Turkmenistan-Pakistan Intergovernmental Commission on Economic Cooperation between the Government of Turkmenistan and the Government of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan were signed.

President of Turkmenistan Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov and Prime Minister of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan Muhammad Nawaz Sharif put their signatures to the Joint Communiqué.

In the evening, President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov gave an official dinner in honour of the distinguished guest, at which the Turkmen leader and the head of the Government of Pakistan exchanged speeches.

On the second day of his official visit to Turkmenistan, Prime Minister of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan Muhammad Nawaz Sharif laid flowers to the Independence Monument. Following a good tradition, the distinguished guest planted a young tree on the Alley of Guests of Honour as a symbol of friendship between the peoples of the two countries.

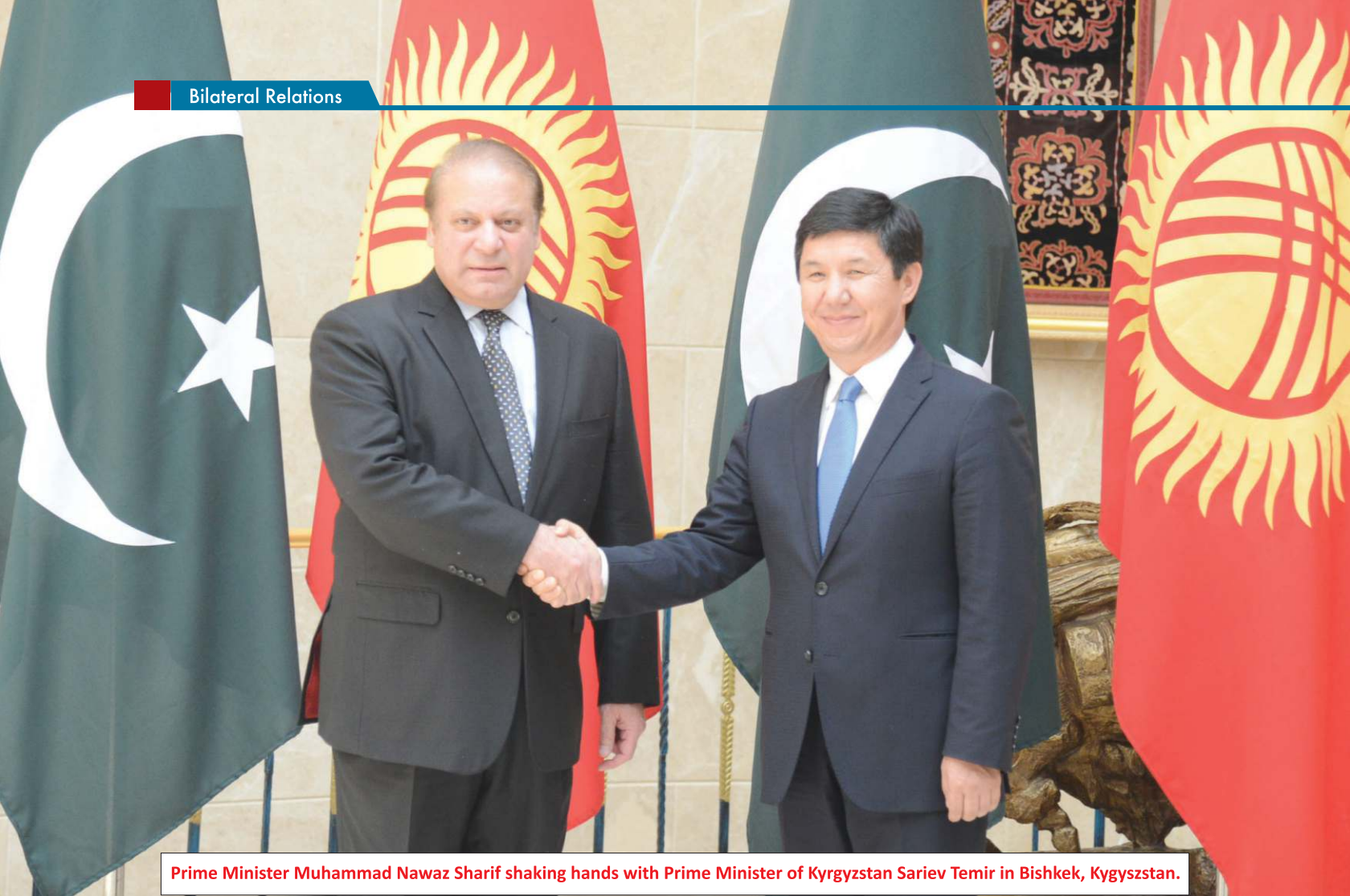
The Prime Minister was accompanied by First Lady Kulsoom Nawaz and members of his cabinet. Federal Ministers Khurram Dastgir, Khawaja Asif, Minister of State Jam Kamal, Special Assistant to Prime Minister Tariq Fatmi and Political Secretary to the PM Asif Kirmani accompanied the Prime Minister.

The analysts have termed PM's visit to central Asian countries as a positive gesture. The signed MoUs and Agreements during this visit will help Pakistan to overcome energy crisis. Pakistan could not progress without overcoming energy crisis. Priority of Pakistan is to improve bilateral relations with neighboring countries. All countries in the region should support each other for peace and prosperity. Pakistan should play its role to improve relations in the region. To overcome the challenges is the priorities of present.

Moreover, this visit has another vital importance.

Pakistan wants to be the member of Shanghai Cooperation Organization. China Pakistan Economic Corridor will be beneficial for other countries of the region. China Pakistan Economic Corridor will bring economic revolution in the region. Gwadar Port will result in maximizing trade activities and reduction in unemployment in the Pakistan.

Turkmenistan is one of the important countries in the Central Asian region. Turkmenistan is the world fourth country having bigger gas reserves. China-Pakistan Economic Corridor will help Pakistan to improve relation with Central Asian states in region. Pakistan should continue to support and strengthen its relations with Turkmenistan and other Central Asian states in different areas of cooperation. Pakistan has been focusing to overcome energy crisis and Central Asian countries could play their valuable role in this regard.



Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif shaking hands with Prime Minister of Kyrgyzstan Sariyev Temir in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan.

Pakistan, Kyrgyzstan agree to further cement bilateral ties

By Mian Fazal Elahi

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif arrived in Bishkek on an official visit to Kyrgyzstan after concluding a two day visit to Turkmenistan. Prime Minister of Kyrgyzstan along with his cabinet members received Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif on arrival.

In the formal welcome ceremony at the airport, the Prime Minister was given guard of honor. National anthems of the two countries were played on the occasion.

Both sides expressed their commitment to enhance political exchanges, people to people contacts.

Pakistan and Kyrgyzstan have agreed to further augment cooperation in diverse fields including economy, trade and energy.

The understanding came at a meeting between Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif and

his Kyrgyzstan counterpart Sariyev Temir in Bishkek.

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif held meeting with his Kyrgyz counterpart Sariyev Temir in Bishkek.



Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif being presented a bouquet on his arrival at Bishkek Airport.



Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif inspecting guard of honor with **Prime Minister of Kyrgyzstan Sariev Temir** at airport Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan.

The Prime Minister appreciated the political maturity which the people of Kyrgyzstan have shown in developing its democratic culture and norms.

He said Pakistan and Kyrgyzstan have common history, culture, faith and desire for peaceful, stable and prosperous region.

Delegation level talks between Pakistan and Kyrgyzstan were held in Bishkek.

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif led the Pakistan delegation at the talks while his Kyrgyz counterpart Sariyev Temir headed Kyrgyzstan side.

The two sides discussed ways and means to enhance cooperation in different fields including economy, trade and energy.

Addressing a joint news conference, Prime

Minister Nawaz Sharif said Pakistan enjoys excellent bilateral relations with Kyrgyzstan. The relations are deep rooted in shared values and common faith.

He said Pakistan wishes to deepen relations with the Central Asian state. Political exchanges particularly high level visits will help further cement the bilateral relations.

Nawaz Sharif said both the countries have shared interests for peace and stability in the region. The two countries share commonality of views on regional and international issues.

He expressed the confidence that the agreements signed on Thursday will further bolster relations between the two countries.

In his remarks, the Kyrgyz Prime Minister said the two countries enjoy common history, culture and faith. He said there is desire on the both sides to further strengthen relations in different sectors.

Pakistan and Kyrgyzstan signed two agreements in Bishkek.

The agreements related to cooperation in disaster management and anti-narcotics.

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif and his Kyrgyz counterpart Sariyev Temir witnessed the signing ceremony.

The prime minister was accompanied by Federal Ministers Khurram Dastgir, Khawaja Asif, Minister of State Jam Kamal, and Special Assistant to Prime Minister Tariq Fatmi and Political Secretary to the PM Asif Kirmani during the visit.



Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif and Prime Minister of Kyrgyzstan Sariev Temir leading their delegations in delegation-level talks in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan.

Our aim is to strengthen brotherhood

Exclusive interview with

**H.E. Mr. Idris Jusoh,
Minister of Education II, Malaysia**

Interview by: Mian Fazal Elahi

Photo by: Ramzan Mughal

Dato' Seri Haji Idris Jusoh is a Malaysian politician and the current Education and Higher Learning Minister II of Malaysia. He was the former Menteri Besar of Terengganu and also the Chairman of MARA. He is a member of the United Malays National Organization (UMNO) which is part of the nation ruling coalition Barisan Nasional.

He is an experienced politician and a very knowledgeable personality who has played great role in making the education better in his homeland, Malaysia. The Diplomatic Focus has found the opportunity to talk to him and learn about his early life, family, education, various positions he has held throughout his career, experiences and awards and rewards he has achieved in the field.

Q1. Your Excellency! First of all, I would like to welcome you to Pakistan. After that I would like to thank you for giving us time out of your very busy and tight schedule. We also welcome you to Islamabad and wish you a very successful visit ahead. The Diplomatic Focus would like to know a bit about your early life, education and political career.

Answer: I was a management student and I did a degree in management and economics. My father was businessman and he passed away while I was in school. After that my brother looked after the business and after completing my degree, I took part in the business. And then some of my friends suggested me to join politics. I was also doing some welfare job and educational activities. So, I thought politics was the good channel to carry out those good things in a more good way. When I was forty, I thought I had done enough for politics and thought to concentrate more on my business. I was also a youth leader. But the prime minister wanted to send me for the parliamentary elections in 1995. And then after that I became a full time politician. However, I wanted to concentrate on my business as well. But it was a hard thing to do. My first government job was deputy minister. I lost the state seat in 1999; however, I won it again in 2004 and was appointed as chief minister of the state of Terengganu, one of the states in Malaysia. I won the same seat in again in 2008, however, this time I was not made the chief minister and thus I got some time for my studies. I love education from my childhood and thus I started the International Islamic Science Schools. I contested in elections again and won the seat and made minister for education II, and thus carrying out my duties now.

Q2. Your Excellency! You mentioned the social work. May I know what kind of social work you did in your country?

Answer: I was a leader of the student union in the university. I was also president of the International Students Organization.





Politics has always been a part of me and at that time I thought that I could bring some opportunity to youth.

Q3. What kind of problems have you faced during your political career?

Answer: I have not found much difficulty in my life. I have always tried to deliver my best. So, there have not been many difficulties in my life.

Q4. Your Excellency! Now I am coming to the education system in Malaysia. It is a fact that there is a very good education system in Malaysia. I would like to know what are the programs or scholarships your government offering to the Pakistani students?

Answer: (Laughs) I have just finished my dinner with the education minister of Pakistan and straightly came here. I would

Pakistanis in Malaysia and I take them as Malaysian in my country. So, seeing the opportunities, I would like to extend our assistance to our Pakistani brothers and strengthen our brotherhood furthermore. We are also looking forward to have an MoU with the Pakistani government. I would also like to add here that the relation in education with Pakistan is not new because we have been sending students to study in medicine, veterinary and religion here in Pakistan long time ago. Even my wife has a cousin who studied religion here in Pakistan and who can also speak Urdu very well. I have also seen some of my friends who can speak Urdu very well because they came here for study. So, it means that there are some good universities here in Pakistan. So, there should be collaboration between Malaysia and Pakistan so that we should

studying there in Malaysia. However, not as many Malaysians are here. We are also looking to offer some scholarships to Pakistani students and we will come about with the details after we go back.

Q5. Your Excellency! There is no doubt that Malaysia have a very good education systems and especially in the field of technology. However, there has been a trend here in Pakistan for so many years that the elite class is sending their children for education abroad like to America and some European countries. The middle class also want to send their kids for education abroad. I want to know whether the education for Pakistanis is affordable there in Malaysia?

Answer: As I have already said that we have about 4000 students there in Malaysia. Malaysia offers quality education and we have some universities ranking in the top 50 and top 100 universities in the world. Engineering is one of the key areas we are in. The disciplines like the civil, mechanical, chemical and electrical are the top among them. We have also very good quality education in the environmental sciences and has good ranking around the world. And in the agriculture, our university is at No 54. University of Malaysia comes at No 32 in developmental studies. So, I mean that we have universities that are quite comparable in various subjects. At the same time we have also foreign universities' campuses and branches in Malaysia. So, if you choose to have a degree from the British, Australian or other universities, you need to go to Malaysia. We have the same curriculum in lower prices in Malaysia. And not only you get the quality education there in Malaysia but also the lifestyle which is almost the same as we both are Muslim Countries.

Q6. I am coming back to your political life. As everyone knows that a politician has a

like to add here that we are working on it and we want to have a greater collaboration with our Pakistani brothers in the field of education. There are many

have more good links with each other. We should have also links in research and technology in medicines and sciences. We are also having about 4000 Pakistani





very tough life and job. Are you satisfied with the services for your constituency?

Answer: As I have already said that I won in 1995 and then lost in 1999 and then won it again in 2004 with a majority. As a deputy minister I have the responsibility to the whole country. And I have also my responsibilities in the field of education. So, yes, I have also to take my time out to visit my people. And I have also to carry out the agenda of improving education in Malaysia along with. So I have to divide my time. We have state assemblies and parliamentarians. So, the states assemblies take care of the peoples in the areas and I have them. The state assembly men do most of work and I do have them. And I go to my parliamentary area after every week. So, I can say that I am happy with my work and on those bases I don't have much problem with them. And of course, I cannot meet all of the needs of my people. However, I try my best to maintain a balance in my government duties and my responsibilities to my people in the ground.

Q7. Your Excellency! Today you held meeting with our education minister. I would like to know what developments made between both of you.

Answer: I see there is a good understanding. There are some very good schools, universities and faculties here. We have also some very good promises.

So, we are sharing our experiences for greater collaboration. It is a collaboration that will bring both of us (Malaysia and Pakistan) a benefit in the field of education not only to our students but to the both countries as a whole. In fact we are sharing our inspirations and experiences how to move our

fields. Some are working in the universities; some are working in the multinational companies. I would also like to mention here that we have multinational companies as well as local companies in Malaysia that hire talented people.

Q9. I would like to know whether the Pakistani students

Q10: How much is the importance of the recently launched Education Malaysia Global Services (EMGS)?

Answer: This is a step that has been taken for the students to get the quality education. This is a move aimed at the better serving of the students from Pakistan with information and counsel on higher education opportunities in Malaysia. This is also to make sure that they are being taken care well. This is to make sure that they are going to right places and right schools. This is why we have this One-Stop-Centre for international students who come to Malaysia. I would also like to add here that we were having some issues, so with this EMGS they will be overcome.

Q11. Your Excellency! How do you see the role of the Diplomatic Focus in enhancing the education ties between both the countries?

Answer: It's very good and it is playing like bridge between the two countries.

Q12. Any messages you want give especially to the youth.

Answer: The Pakistanis are talented people and not only the students but the people who are coming to Malaysia from Pakistan are collaborating in education, research etc. So, they should work hard and with zeal so that the brotherhood should be stronger between Malaysia and Pakistan.



countries together because we believe that education is something that put color to the future of a country.

Q8. Your Excellency! I would like to know what kinds of opportunities are there in Malaysia for the Pakistani students in future.

Answer: There are students who are working in various

in Malaysia can get some working hours along with their studies.

Answer: Actually, we do not encourage the students to do work during their studies because then they have to divert their attention from their studies. However, as part of their practical work relating to their studies and experiences, they are allowed to work.



Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif being briefed about the 100MW Solar Power Plant at Quaid-i-Azam Solar Park Bahawalpur.

PM Nawaz inaugurates first unit of Quaid-e-Azam Solar Park

Prime Minister Mian Muhammad Nawaz Sharif inaugurated the first unit of Quaid-e-Azam Solar Park (QASP) at Bahawalpur.

While addressing the inaugural ceremony, Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif said the government was giving priority to overcome energy crisis and purge the country of terrorism and armed militias.

This is Pakistan's first ever 100-megawatt solar powered plant in the Quaid-e-Azam Solar Power Park Bahawalpur.

Nawaz Sharif said several mega projects in the power sector have been launched which will help overcome power outages from the country by 2017-18.

He said two thousand megawatt of electricity will be generated from the local coal of Thar while 3600 megawatt of electricity will be generated through LNG. He said Quaid-e-Azam Solar Park whose generation will be enhanced up to 900 megawatt will be the world's biggest solar park.

Terming the 46 billion dollars of Chinese investment in Pakistan as unprecedented, the Prime Minister said all the projects

The pilot project will generate 100 megawatt electricity: Nawaz Sharif



Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif being briefed about the 100MW Solar Power Plan at Quaid-i-Azam Solar Park Bahawalpur.



Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif addressing at the inauguration of 100 MW Solar Power Plant at Quaid-e-Azam Solar Park, Bahawalpur.

with the Chinese cooperation will be completed on time. He said Pakistan and China will establish a special committee in order to ensure fast track completion of these projects.

About the issue of terrorism, the Prime Minister said the temporarily displaced persons have started returning to their homes in Waziristan after improvement of situation there. This is a great achievement and our armed forces deserve appreciation. He said peace is being revived as a result of consensus decision of the political and military leadership.

PM Nawaz, on the Karachi situation, said situation has improved in the provincial metropolis. Kidnapping for ransom and extortion have almost been eliminated. He said the provincial capital will again be made the city of lights. However, he emphasized the need for improving political situation in the city.

The prime minister on the occasion also announced twenty million rupees reward for the workers of Quaid-e-Azam solar park.

Speaking on the occasion, Punjab Chief Minister Shahbaz Sharif said China provided two billion rupees concession on the project.

He said the project will start generating 350 MW electricity from December this year.

He said on completion Quaid-e-Azam Solar Park will be the biggest solar

The temporarily displaced persons have started returning to their homes in Waziristan after improvement of situation there: PM

power project in the world.

Shahbaz Sharif announced to set up an industrial estate in Bahawalpur.

Acting Governor Rana Muhammad Iqbal Khan, Minister for Water and Power Khawaja Muhammad Asif, Minister for Petroleum Shahid Khaqan Abbasi and Chinese ambassador Sun Weidong were also present on the occasion besides a number of Federal and provincial ministers.

Earlier, the Prime Minister was warmly welcomed upon his arrival as dancers presented beautiful traditional dance of the area while two renowned folk singers of the area also entertained the gathering with their melodious voices.



Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif offering dua after the inauguration of 100MW Solar Power Plant at Quaid-e-Azam Solar Park, Bahawalpur.



Enemies of Afghanistan cannot be friend of Pakistan: PM Nawaz

Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif and Afghanistan President Mr. Ashraf Ghani inspecting the guard of honour at Presidential Palace, Kabul.

By Sajid Takar

Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif has expressed the confidence that Pakistan and Afghanistan will succeed in rooting out terrorism through their firm determination and by adopting a comprehensive and coordinated strategy.

Nawaz Sharif said peace and stability in the region will remain elusive until terrorism is comprehensively addressed

Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif also that Pakistan sees Afghan Taliban offensive as an act of terror.

The prime minister said this while addressing a joint news conference with Afghan President Ashraf Ghani in Kabul during his one day visit to Kabul.

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif also met with Chief Executive of Afghanistan Abdullah Abdullah.

He said any attempt by any militant or group to destabilize Afghanistan will be dealt with severely and such elements will be outlawed and hunted down.

He said in case of any terrorist activity, both the countries would take counter action in conjunction.

Nawaz Sharif said peace and stability in the region will remain elusive until terrorism is comprehensively addressed.

The Prime Minister expressed the confidence that Pakistan and Afghanistan would succeed in rooting out the menace under a comprehensive and coordinated strategy.

He reaffirmed Pakistan's full support for an Afghan-owned and Afghan-led peace and reconciliation process and assured President Ashraf Ghani of all possible efforts in this regard.

About talks with the Afghan leadership, the Prime Minister said both the sides agreed to continue their bilateral relations by following the principles of non-interference and not to allow use of their

territories against each other.

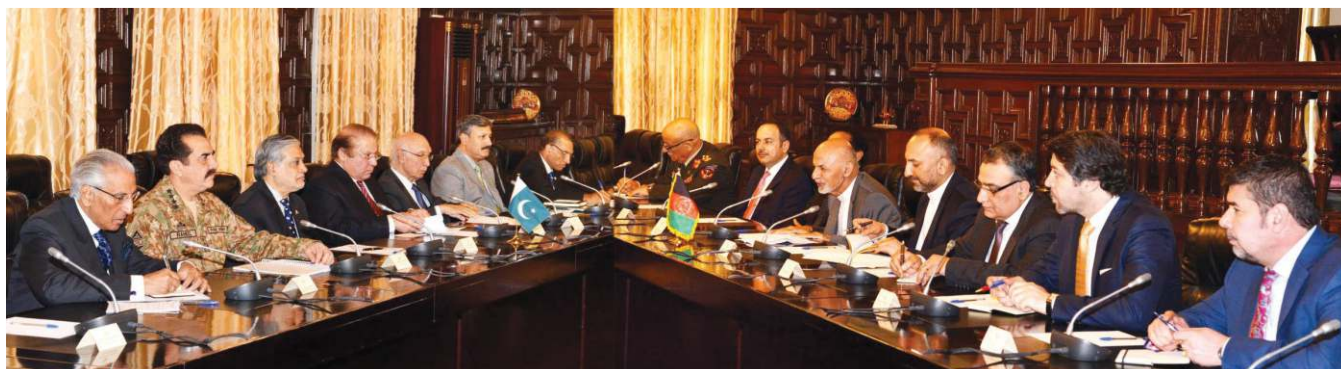
He said expansion of trade, increasing investments, improvement of infrastructure, building road and rail links, and enhancing energy collaboration came under discussion.

The Prime Minister said he also stressed the need for fast-track progress on trans-regional energy projects to advance the goal of greater regional integration.

He also assured Pakistan's continued engagement with regional and international processes in support of Afghanistan.



Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif and Afghanistan President, Mr. Ashraf Ghani addressing a joint press stakeout of Dilkusha Palace, Kabul, Afghanistan.



Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif leading the Pakistan delegation in meeting with Afghanistan delegation led by President, Mr. Ashraf Ghani at Presidential Palace, Kabul Afghanistan

The Prime Minister also reaffirmed his commitment to continue working with President Ashraf Ghani for prosperity and development of the two peoples.

Nawaz Sharif and Ashraf Ghani also agreed on joint operations against terrorists. Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif promised coordinated military operations with Afghan forces to hunt down militants along their shared border.

President Ghani said at the news conference that terrorism was terrorism and it was the enemy of Pakistan and Afghanistan and their people. He added "If a child is killed in Peshawar or in Afghanistan both are same". He admitted that Pakistan was most affected by terrorism than Afghanistan. "Ghani also said that they wanted such an environment where a child in Pakistan and Afghanistan go out and return home safe.

On the daylong trip to Kabul, the prime minister was accompanied by his aides Ishaq Dar, Sartaj Aziz, Tariq Fatemi, army chief General Raheel Sharif, DG ISI Lt Gen Rizwan Akhtar and Foreign Secretary Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry and senior officials.

The analysts have termed the visit very successful. According to some of the analysts, the visit was important in terms of many aspects. This was also important as the two sides agreed on a joint operation against terrorists. Moreover, Pakistan and Afghanistan are brother states and we are hosting around three million Afghan refugees for the last three decades. Ashraf Ghani and General Raheel Sharif have again reaffirmed that operation against terrorists will be continued till the elimination of last terrorist. Pakistan has also offered that they will extend Motorway from Peshawar to Jalalabad. Pakistan will also allow Afghanistan to use all its routes for trade. India wants to create unrest in Pakistan by using Afghan land but we will try to fail this conspiracy. Some of the analysts are of the view that Afghanistan should realize the efforts of Pakistan for the restoration of peace in the region. Both countries should adopt confidence building measures to maintain

good relations.

Pak- Afghan bilateral relations have improved after the formation of new

government in Afghanistan. The visit of Prime Minister will be helpful to remove misunderstandings between both the countries.



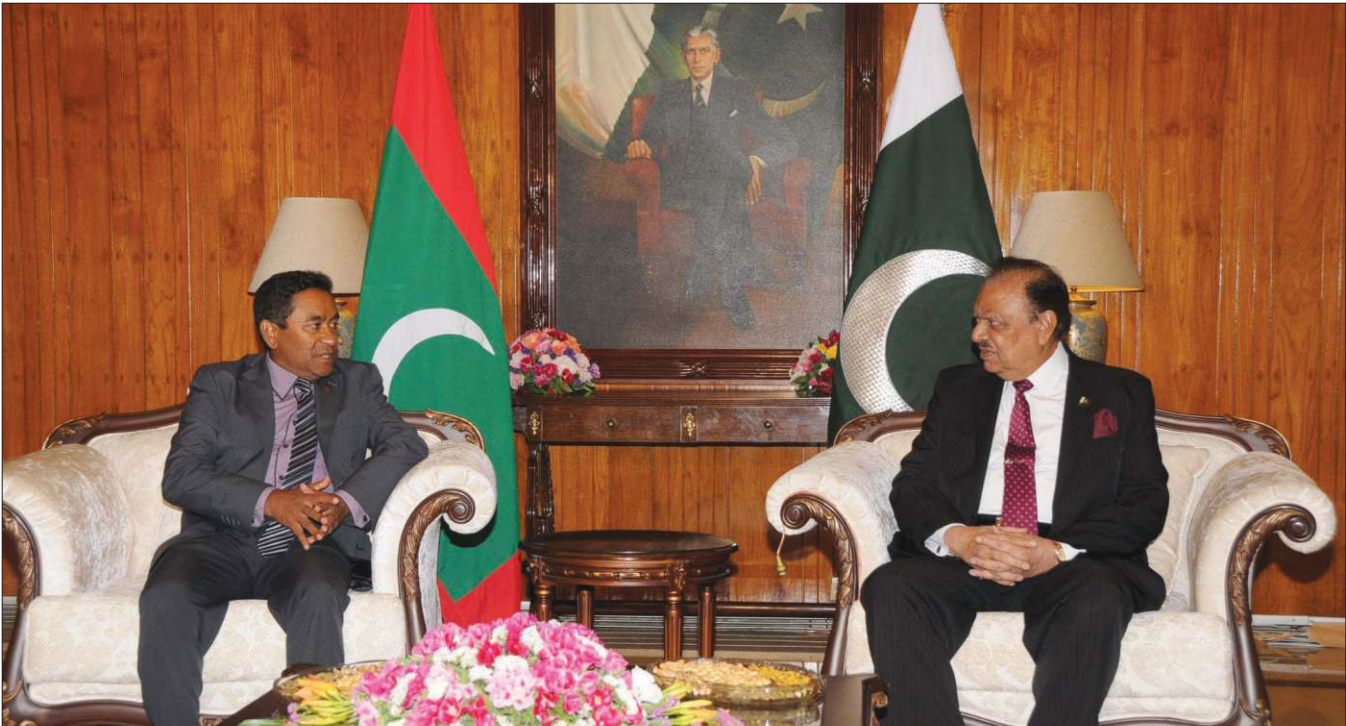
Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif and Afghanistan President Mr. Ashraf Ghani being presented guard of honour at Presidential Palace, Kabul, Afghanistan.



Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif being received by Foreign Minister of Afghanistan, Mr. Salahuiddin Rabbani at Hamid Karzai international airport, Kabul, Afghanistan.



Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif shaking hands with Afghanistan President Mr. Ashraf Ghani at Presidential Palace Kabul, Afghanistan.



President Mamnoon Hussain exchanging views with President of Maldives Abdullah Yameen Gayoom here at Aiwan-e-Sadr, Islamabad.

Pakistan

accords high importance to ties with

Maldives:

President Mamnoon

Pakistan, Maldives resolve to further expand bilateral ties

By Mian Fazal Elahi

President of Maldives Abdullah Yameen Abdul Gayoom visited Pakistan on a two-day visit during the first week of May.

The Maldivian President was given a warm welcome on his arrival at Nur Khan Airbase. He was greeted by Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif and members of his cabinet. A 21-gun salute was given to the distinguished guests when he alighted from his aircraft.

On his arrival at Aiwan-e-Sadr, Maldivian President was warmly welcomed by President Mamnoon Hussain.

He also hosted a banquet in honour of the visiting dignitary.

President Mamnoon Hussain held a meeting with his



President Mamnoon Hussain shaking hands with President of Maldives Abdullah Yameen Abdul Gayoom at Aiwan-e-Sadr, Islamabad.

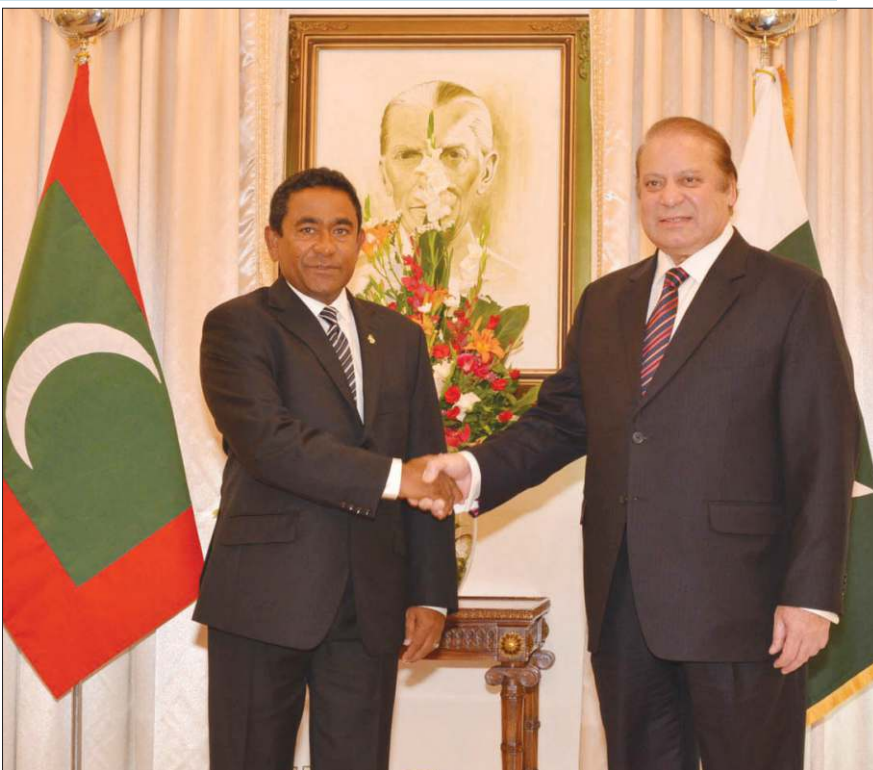


Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif receiving the President of Maldives, Mr. Abdullah Yameen Abdul Gayoom at Rawalpindi.



Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif and President of Maldives Mr. Abdullah Yameen Abdul Gayoom taking salute at the PM House, Islamabad.

President Mamnoon Hussain said that both Pakistan and Maldives have played a proactive role in making SAARC a model of regional cooperation, based on the principles of sovereign equality.



Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif shaking hands with President of Maldives Mr. Abdulla Yameen Abdul Gayoom at the MP House, Islamabad.

Maldivian counterpart Abdullah Yameen Abdul Gayoom and said Pakistan accorded much importance to its relations with Maldives.

The President said both the countries played active role in making SAARC organization as a regional model group. He expressed the hope that visit of Maldivian President will prove a milestone for further strengthening the bilateral relations.

During the visit, Pakistan and Maldives reviewed all important aspects of their bilateral relations.

A number of documents on cooperation in sports, health, education and illicit drugs and narcotics trafficking, were also signed.

President Mamnoon Hussain and President Abdulla Yameen Abdul Gayoom of Maldives have also agreed to support each other for the non-permanent seat, of the



Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif and President of Maldives Mr. Abdulla Yameen Abdul Gayoom jointly addressing press stakeout at the PM House, Islamabad.

**Pakistan is a peace loving country and intends to have good and cordial relations with all its neighbors:
PM Nawaz**

United Nations Security Council.

This was agreed between the two dignitaries as they met at the Aiwan-e-Sadr.

President Mamnoon Hussain said that both Pakistan and Maldives have played a proactive role in making SAARC a model of regional cooperation, based on the principles of sovereign equality.



President of Maldives, Mr. Abdulla Yameen Abdul Gayoom being seen off by Advisor to the PM on National Security & Foreign Affairs Sartaj Aziz and Federal Minister for Commerce, Engr. Khuram Dastgir Khan on his departure at Rawalpindi.



President of Maldives Mr. Abdulla Yameen Abdul Gayoom inspecting guard of honour at the PM House, Islamabad.



President of Maldives H.E. Abdulla Yameen Abdul Gayoom planting a sapling at Shokarparian Islamabad.

The President stated that Pakistan was aware of Maldives' concerns on climate and environmental issues and was willing to cooperate on these issues bilaterally with Maldives as well as under the ambit of SAARC.

The two dignitaries also agreed to closely coordinate with each other at the SAARC platform.

President Mamnoon Hussain stated that Pakistan attaches high importance to its relations with Maldives noting that relations between the two fraternal countries are characterized by cordiality, mutual respect and commonality of interest.

The President highlighted that the bilateral trade between the two countries was below its true potential and that efforts should be made to increase the same.

The President also emphasized on expanding bilateral cooperation in the fields of tourism, education, culture and sports between the two countries.

Speaking on the occasion, President of Maldives Abdulla Yameen Abdul Gayoom said that his country wanted to enhance cooperation with Pakistan in various areas particularly in agriculture and pharmaceutical sectors.

He also thanked President Mamnoon Hussain on according warm hospitality.

The President also appreciated Maldives' consistent support to Pakistan's candidatures for UN and other international bodies. The president apprised that operation Zarb-e-Azb was progressing successfully against terrorists which have produced positive results.

The president stated that Pakistan was desirous of peace in Afghanistan and supported an Afghan-led and Afghan-owned reconciliation process.

He said that Pakistan wanted a constructive, sustained and result-oriented dialogue with India on all issues of mutual concern.

Underlining the importance of Pakistan-China relations, the President said that the China-Pakistan economic corridor and its related projects symbolize the people-centric approach of the two countries.



Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif and President of Maldives Mr. Abdulla Yameen Abdul Gayoom witnessing signing of an MoU at the PM House, Islamabad.



Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif and President of Maldives Mr. Abdulla Yameen Abdul Gayoom witnessing signing of an MoU at the PM House, Islamabad.



Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif and President of Maldives Mr. Abdulla Yameen Abdul Gayoom witnessing signing of an MoU at the PM House, Islamabad.



President of Maldives, Mr. Abdullah Yameen Abdul Gayoom being presented a photo album by senior official of Press Information Department on his departure at Nook Khan Airbase, Rawalpindi.

After the meeting, President Mamnoon Hussain also hosted state banquet in honor of his Maldivian counterpart.

Earlier, upon arrival, President Mamnoon Hussain warmly received President of Maldives at the main entrance of the Aiwan-e- Sadr. On the occasion, children also presented bouquets to President and First Lady of Maldives.

The Maldivian President also met Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif. During the meeting, Pakistan and Maldives expressed their resolve to further expand bilateral cooperation and deepen their ties in diverse fields.

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif and Maldivian President Abdullah Yameen Abdul Gayoom also addressed a joint news conference after holding talks in Islamabad.

Both the leaders expressed the confidence that this visit will help lead to open new avenues of bilateral cooperation.

The Prime Minister said there is commonality of view among the two countries on major



Minister of State for Education and Professional Training, Engr. Muhammad Baligh Ur Rehman in a meeting with Minister of Education of Maldives Dr. Aishath Shiham in Islamabad.

international and regional issue and our friendship is based on mutual respect and understanding for the benefit of our peoples.

He said we both the sides reviewed whole aspect of bilateral ties and focused expanding cooperation in the fields of defence and tourism. He said both the sides also focused on regular exchange of delegations and visits on higher level besides promoting people

to people contacts.

The Prime Minister said Pakistan is a peace loving country and intends to have good and cordial relations with all its neighbors.

He hoped that the memorandum of understanding signed on Thursday (May 7) will help further increasing our cooperation.

The Maldivian President in his remarks said Pakistan has

always proved as reliable friend of his country and extended all possible assistance to deal with tsunami.

He said bilateral relations in defence, infrastructure and human resource have been expanded and hoped that mutual cooperation in other fields will also be increased in result of his visit. He termed his visit as opening of new era of cooperation between the two countries. He extended invitation to visit Maldives and participate in Independence Day celebrations.

Earlier, both the countries signed four MoUs which include strengthening mechanism to stop illicit drug trafficking and enhancing cooperation in the fields of education, health and sports.

The Prime Minister also hosted luncheon in honor of the Maldivian President.

Advisor to the Prime Minister Sartaj Aziz and Commerce Minister Khurram Dastgir bade farewell to him at the Noor Khan Air base after completing his two-day visit.



H.E. Marzoug Ali M. Al-Ghanim, Speaker National Assembly of Kuwait called on Sardar Ayaz Sadiq, Speaker National Assembly in Parliament House.

Pakistan gives great importance to its ties with Kuwait: NA Speaker

Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq has said that Pakistan gave great importance to its ties with Kuwait.

This he said while talking to Speaker National Assembly of Kuwait Marzouq Ali M. Al-Ghanim who called on him in Islamabad.

They discussed wide range of issues, including enhancing parliamentary and economic ties between Pakistan and Kuwait, current situation of the Islamic



Group photo of Kuwaiti Parliamentary delegation headed by H.E. Marzoug Ali M. Al-Ghanim, Speaker National Assembly of Kuwait with Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq in National Assembly Hall.

World and their problems.

Talking to him, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq said Pakistan gave great importance to its relations with Kuwait.

He emphasized the need for a peaceful solution to the Yemen conflict but did voice concern on the overthrow of a legitimate government in Yemen.

Speaker National Assembly of Kuwait termed relations between the two sides as historic and unique.

Speaker National Assembly of Kuwait and Sardar Ayaz Sadiq also agreed to further enhance relations between the parliaments of two brotherly countries

Both the speakers discussed host of issues, including the economic relations between the two countries and problems being faced by the Muslim Ummah in the current situation of Islamic world.

Sardar Ayaz Sadiq while welcoming the visiting delegation said that this visit of Kuwaiti parliamentary delegation would prove a landmark in further strengthening existing bilateral relations and to bring both brotherly countries closer.

The speaker said that the bonds of brotherhood could further be cemented through parliamentary friendship.

He was confident that during the meetings between the Pak-Kuwaiti parliamentarians, both the sides would exchange views, share experiences and explore further possibilities of parliamentary as well as economic cooperation. He further said that both the brotherly countries are rich in natural resources which can be exploited through joint ventures for the benefit of both the nations.

Speaker National Assembly of Kuwait termed relations between the two sides as historic and unique.

The speaker National Assembly said that government is determined to exterminate militancy and extremism from the country and all political forces in the Parliament are behind this national cause. "The government and all its institutions would not allow anyone to subvert its determination," he added.

While discussing the issue of Yemen, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq emphasized the need for a peaceful solution to the Yemen conflict but did voice their concern on the



H.E. Marzouq Ali M. Al-ghanim, Speaker National Assembly of Kuwait along with Sardar Ayaz Sadiq, Speaker National Assembly planting a sapling of Mangolia Grandiflora of Parliament Lawan.

overthrow of a legitimate government in Yemen. He termed the situation in Yemen as "grave," and cautioned that the crisis might endanger unity of the Muslim Ummah in addition to having implications for the whole region.

Appreciating the hospitality, affection and brotherhood of Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq, Speaker National Assembly of Kuwait Marzouq Ali M. Al-Ghanim termed relations between the two sides as historic and unique.

He appreciated the kind remarks of the Speaker and said that Kuwait considers Pakistan as its brother and wants to further cement the ties through rejuvenating parliamentary contacts and exploring possible avenues of economic cooperation.

He said that Pakistani expatriates in Kuwait are playing an important role in economic activity in the country. He said that Kuwait would encourage Pakistani specialists in different fields as well as skilled human resource in diverse sectors. He said that Kuwait strongly desires to see a prosperous, stable and economically vibrant Pakistan.

Speaker also expressed that Kuwait will extend all-out support to Pakistan in diverse fields. He said that Kuwait would

Speaker National Assembly of Kuwait and Sardar Ayaz Sadiq also agreed to further enhance relations between the parliaments of two brotherly countries

always stand by its Pakistani brethren whenever needed. On this occasion, members of the Kuwaiti delegation and MNAs from Pakistan were also present during the call on. Earlier Kuwaiti Speaker planted sapling Magnolia Grandiflora at Parliament House.

The Kuwaiti delegation also witnessed the proceedings of the Senate of Pakistan. The guest Speaker also signed the visitor book of the National Assembly of Pakistan.



President Mamnoon Hussain in a meeting with Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services, Myanmar, who called on him along with a delegation at Aiwan-e-Sadr, Islamabad.

Pakistan offers Myanmar training in education, defence

Pakistan desires to enhance its relations with Myanmar in the fields of trade, commerce, defence, and tourism: President Mamnoon

Prime Minister said that Pakistan and Myanmar enjoy close bilateral ties which Pakistan wishes to strengthen in the time to come.



Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif in a meeting with Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services of Myanmar at PM House, Islamabad.

Pakistan has offered to provide training to Myanmar in education, defence and other sectors.

The offer was extended by President Mamnoon Hussain while talking to Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services of Myanmar Senior General Min Aung Hlaing in Islamabad.

He said Pakistan desires to enhance its relations with Myanmar in the fields of trade, commerce, defence, and tourism.

He said that operation Zarb-e-Azb is progressing successfully against terrorists which has produced positive results.

The President expressed hope that government of Myanmar would provide equal treatment to all minorities including Muslim minority.

Commander-in-Chief Myanmar also called on PM Nawaz Sharif in Islamabad.

During the meetings, they discussed bilateral relations and cooperation

between armed forces.

Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Myanmar Senior General Min Aung Hlaing called on Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif in Islamabad.

Talking to him, the Prime Minister said that Pakistan and Myanmar enjoy close bilateral ties which Pakistan wishes to strengthen in the time to come.

He also called on Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee General Rashad Mahmood in Rawalpindi.

They discussed matters related to professional interest and mutual cooperation between the two Armed Forces.

General Min Aung appreciated the professionalism and sacrifices rendered by the Armed Forces of Pakistan in the fight against terrorism.



Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif meeting Commander National Guard of Bahrain, Lt. Gen. Sheikh Mohamed Bin Isa Al-Khalifa at PM House, Islamabad.

Pakistan desires to boost ties with Bahrain: PM

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif has said that Pakistan wants to enhance cooperation with Bahrain in all areas of mutual interest, particularly trade, energy and defence.

He was talking to Commander National Guard of Bahrain Lt. Gen. Sheikh Mohamed Bin Isa Bin Al-Khalifa in Islamabad.

The Prime Minister said peaceful and cooperative relations with neighboring countries are part of his vision.

He Pakistan is committed to

following a policy of non-interference and non-involvement in the internal affairs of other countries.

About Yemen situation the Prime Minister said Pakistan condemns the overthrow of legitimate government of President Hadi by Houthis. He called for finding a peaceful resolution of the crisis through dialogue.

Sheikh Mohamed Bin Isa Bin Al-Khalifa appreciated that Pakistan has always been a sincere friend of Bahrain.

Qatari ambassador, NA speaker discuss bilateral ties



Ambassador of Qatar, Saqr bin Mubarak Al-Mansouri called on Speaker National Assembly, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq in Islamabad.

Ambassador of Qatar Saqr Bin Mubarak Al Mansouri called on Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq in Islamabad and discussed ways and means to further augment bilateral relations.

The Speaker said Pakistan cherishes its historic brotherly relations with Qatar and wants to take them to new heights through parliamentary cooperation between the legislatures of both the countries.

Expressing his satisfaction over the economic cooperation between Pakistan and Qatar, the Speaker said that Qatari investors should take advantage of business opportunities in Pakistan and invest in various sectors especially the energy and manufacturing sectors.

The Qatari Ambassador said his country strongly desires to see a prosperous, stable and economically vibrant Pakistan.

He said that Qatar would extend all-out support to Pakistan in addressing the energy shortages.

Turkey Pakistan strong, prosper: Erdogan

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan inaugurated a state of the art hospital (Recep Tayyip Erdogan) in Muzaffargarh today which is gift by the Turkish government.

The hundred bed hospital has been constructed by the Turkish government to provide relief to the flood affected people.

In his remarks on video link Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said his country will always stand by Pakistan in its development and provide all possible assistance in case of any

disaster.

He said both the countries enjoy brotherly relations and expressed the confidence that their cooperation in all fields will further flourish in the time to come.

The Turkish President said Turkey wants Pak-Turk friendship to be strong for a better economic cooperation between the two countries.

He said Turkey wants to see Pakistan as a strong, prosperous and a peaceful country.



Pakistan, Turkey agree to enhance cooperation in defence sector



Minister for Defence Production, Rana Tanveer Hussain meeting with Romanian Secretary of State for Ministry of Economy, Trade and Tourism Mr. Sorin Enculescu.



Pakistan and Turkey have agreed to enhance bilateral cooperation in defence sector.

Minister for Defence Production Rana Tanveer Hussain held meeting with Commander of the Turkish General Staff General in Istanbul.

The understanding came during a meeting of Minister for Defence Production Rana Tanveer Hussain with Turkish leadership in Istanbul on the side lines of the 12th International Defence Industry Fair 2015.

During a meeting with Commander of the Turkish General Staff General Necdet Özel, the two sides reiterated their desire to undertake joint defence production projects.

And during his meeting with Commander of Turkish Air Force General Akin Öztürk, Rana Tanveer expressed satisfaction over the recently completed project for up-gradation of F-16s undertaken at Turkish Aerospace Industries.

The minister also met Romanian Secretary of State for Ministry of Economy, Trade and Tourism, Mr. Sorin Enculescu.



Advisor to the Prime Minister on National Security & Foreign Affairs, Sartaj Aziz in a meeting with Deputy Foreign Minister for Tajikistan H.E. Nizomiddin Zohidov in Islamabad.

Pakistan, Tajikistan agree to enhance bilateral trade

Pakistan and Tajikistan have agreed to achieve the target of 500 million US dollars for bilateral trade.

The agreement was reached at bilateral consultations between Pakistan and Tajikistan held in Islamabad. Special Secretary Foreign Affairs Amjad Hussain B. Sial led Pakistani side while Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Tajikistan Nizomiddin Zohidi Shamsiddinzoda.

The Special Secretary highlighted the

importance the Pakistan attaches to the fraternal relations with Tajikistan. He stressed that there exists a great potential to further enhance existing trade volume.

The meeting also covered wide range of other topics including connectivity via rail and road, direct flights, Trilateral Transit Trade Agreement, energy cooperation including CASA-1000 Power Import Project, cooperation against international terrorism and extremism and security cooperation between the two sides, and regional and international issues.

Tajik Deputy Foreign Minister also paid a courtesy call on Adviser to the Prime Minister on National Security and Foreign Affairs Mr. Sartaj Aziz, Minister of Commerce and Minister of State of Water and Power and discussed issues of mutual interest.

Tajik Deputy Foreign Minister also called on Minister for Water and Power Ch. Abid Sher Ali in Islamabad. The minister for water and power presented a souvenir to Deputy Foreign Minister of Tajikistan, Mr. Nizomiddin Zahidov.

Pakistan-Azerbaijan agree to promote people to people contacts

Pakistan and Azerbaijan have agreed to promote people to people contact.

Finance Minister Ishaq Dar met with President of Pakistan-Azerbaijan Parliamentary Friendship Group Arstun Javadov along with other members of the parliament of Azerbaijan in Baku.

They expressed happiness on the growing bilateral relations between Pakistan and Azerbaijan.

Ishaq Dar highlighted the important role that parliamentarians play in building close cooperation among nations not only in the political domain but all walks of

national life.

The two sides agreed that they needed to promote people to people contacts, enhance present level of cooperation between educational institutions, establish direct air link and encourage businessmen to increase bilateral trade.

They agreed to continue supporting each other on the Nogorno-Karabakh conflict and Jammu & Kashmir dispute at all forums and maintain close contacts between the legislative institutions of the two countries in order to promote bilateral ties in diversified fields particularly trade and commerce and investment areas.



Finance Minister, Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar being received by Foreign Minister of Azerbaijan H.E. Elmar Mammadyarov at the Foreign Office in Baku.

H.E Mr. Rodolfo J Martin Saravia

Ambassador of Argentina & Dean of Diplomatic Corps
hosted a farewell reception in the honor of outgoing
Uzbekistan Ambassador in Pakistan his Excellency
PARVIZ MIRIEVICH ALIEV at Marriott hotel Islamabad





Pakistan, Australia agree to consolidate bilateral ties



Advisor to the Prime Minister on National Security & Foreign Affairs, Sartaj Aziz shaking hand with the Australian Foreign Minister, Ms. Julie Bishop in Islamabad.

Advisor on Foreign Affairs Sartaj Aziz has proposed to Australian Foreign Minister to provide greater market access to Pakistani products in Australia.

Pakistan has asked Australia to provide greater market access to its products in the Australian market.

Advisor on Foreign Affairs Sartaj Aziz made the proposal during his talks with Australian Foreign Minister Julie Bishop in Islamabad.

Both the sides agreed to further strengthen their relations in diverse fields including trade and economy.

Later addressing a joint news conference along with Australian counterpart, Advisor on Foreign Affairs Sartaj Aziz said Pakistan and Australia enjoy excellent relations, which are based on mutual respect and shared interests.

He said the two sides have agreed to further consolidate the existing friendly people to people contacts, underpinned by the presence of eighty thousand strong Pakistani diaspora and around thirteen thousand Pakistani students in Australia.

He said our talks focused on the need for regular political exchanges between the two countries including high level visits. We feel that exchange of parliamentary visits is important. He said Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif will visit Australia this year or early next year.

Appreciating Australian development cooperation programme for Pakistan, Sartaj Aziz said Pakistan intends to strengthen interaction with Australia in agriculture, livestock and water resource management. We want both the countries to focus more on sports and culture.

The Advisor said both the countries share common perceptions in combating terrorism. He said we have resolved to continue our cooperation in countering terrorism and transnational

About Australian development assistance to Pakistan, she said during her visit she will announce an assistance package of 24 million Australian dollars for Pakistan. She said that 19.9 million dollars which is part of this package will be given to Pakistan's efforts for facilitating regional trade and investment as well as for the rehabilitation of country's border areas.

Responding to a question, the Australian foreign minister recognized the sacrifices rendered by Pakistan in the war

terrorism.

Voicing concerns over the rise of terror outfit Daish, the Australian Foreign Minister described the outfit as more dangerous and brutal. She said her country is working with the international community to fight such terror outfits. She said her country is also hosting a summit in June on countering extremism.

When asked about Australian-India civil nuclear cooperation, the Australian Foreign Minister pointed out that her country is



Advisor to the Prime Minister on National Security & Foreign Affairs Sartaj Aziz in a delegation level meeting with the Australian Foreign Minister, Ms. Julie Bishop in Islamabad.

crimes.

Australian Foreign Minister Julie Bishop said his country attaches great importance to its bilateral relations with Pakistan. "We have long been friends and want to diversify cooperation in different fields." She said her country has strong and long standing defense relations with Pakistan. "We have common interests in countering transnational crimes including drug and human smuggling."

on terror. She said under a plan her country is sending Australian students to different countries including Pakistan. These visits of our students will give a message to the world that Pakistan is a place to visit. She said her country wanted a peaceful and safe Pakistan.

She said it is vital for the region that both Pakistan and Afghanistan work together to manage the porous border and effectively fight the menace of

a power house and want to export energy to the world. She said currently both Australia and India are negotiating the deal. She however said her country will extend the facility to India under strict controls.

On the issue of Kashmir dispute, Julie Bishop admitted the issue needs to be resolved. She said her country will encourage both Pakistan and India to resolve the dispute through negotiations.



Islamabad: Ambassador of Kingdom of Bahrain in Pakistan His Excellency Mr. Mohamed Ebrahim Mohamed Abdulkader in a group photo with visiting Bahrain Sports Media Council delegation who visited Pakistan on the invitation of Malik Saad Shaheed Memorial Sports Trust (Registered) Pakistan.

Bahrain & Pakistan Media interactions will further strengthen the relations:

Ambassador Ebrahim

His Excellency Mr. Mohamed Ebrahim Mohamed Abdulkader, Ambassador of Kingdom of Bahrain in Pakistan appreciated the initiative taken by Malik Saad (Shaheed) Memorial Sports Trust (MSSMST) to invite a Bahrain Sports Media Council (BSMC)'s 7-members delegation to visit Pakistan in order to further strengthen the both countries' friendly & brotherly relations, this visit from leading Bahrain mass media will further improve the bright image of Pakistan in Bahrain through their impressions taking from their visit. Ambassador Ebrahim was talking with visiting BSMC delegation that called on him at Embassy under the leadership of Mohammed Qassim, President BSMC & Secretary-General Asian Sports Press Union. While other members of the visiting, and were Mr. Fawaz Saleh, President Sports Channels Bahrain. Mohamed Ismael, General Secretary Bahrain Journalists Association. Ahmed Hasan, Chairman-Sports Section ALBILED-newspaper. Aqeel Ahmed, Chairman-Sports Section ALAYAM-newspaper. Mohamed Hasan Senior Member Bahrain Sports Media Council. Mr. Abdulrasool Ahmed, Chief Photo Journalist, Bahrain Sports Media Council. Mr. Amjad Aziz Malik, Secretary MSSMS & Secretary-General PSWF. Syed Ali Nawaz Gilani. Senior Member Board of Trustees MSSMST, Mr. Shakeel-ur-Rehman, Director Media MSSMST. Ambassador lauded the aim & objective of this visit and expressed his desire that this

type of people's to peoples interactive visit should be arranged on regular basis. Ambassador was informed that BSMC delegation also included Head of Sports Sections & Channel from Bahrain Print & Electronic media. While briefing Secretary Information, Mr. Amjad Aziz Malik Secretary MSSMST informed that the purpose of this visit is to further strengthen the relations & interaction in Sports Media community of both countries. The delegation arrived on 4th May 2015 late evening and on 5th May 2015 called on KPK Chief Minister, IGP apart from visiting KPK Sports Board & Olympic Association and media offices. As Asia office of AIPS is in Bahrain so MSSMST & PSWA intend to further enhance the interaction for sports Journalists to arrange workshop and study tours of various training events. The Bahrain Ambassador was informed that MSSMST was established in 2010 and till now established more than 150 sports academy of various disciplines throughout KPK & FATA for various Sports/Games and invited to visit the MSSMST in Peshawar. Later on Gifts were exchanged. The Ambassador was informed that visiting BSMC delegation also extends the invitations to the MSSMST team to visit Bahrain and share the experiences of both countries in the field of Sports in-line other fields of life. The visiting delegation also expressed their appreciations & thanks for friendly hospitality they received during their visit to Pakistan.

Earth day: A promise of taking care of the planet earth

Earth day was first celebrated in 1970. This day is celebrated in 192 countries around the world and is coordinated by the Earth Day Network. This event reminds us of our promise of taking care of the planet earth. Karachi Marriott Hotel in association with the National Forum for Environment & Health and Director Parks, organized a tree plantation activity at the heritage site of the Frere Hall as a part of Earth Day Celebrations. Mr. Jan Verduyn, General Manager Karachi Marriott Hotel inaugurated the event by planting a tree with the medical students and the

school children who were especially there to show their spirit to save the planet. Mr. Naeem, also took an active part in the plantation of the trees. Mr. Ishtiaq Baig, Honorary Consul General Of the Kingdom of Morocco was also present at the occasion and appreciated the efforts of the entire team. All the Associates from Karachi Marriott showed a great "Team Green" spirit and watered the newly planted trees saplings. Mr. Jan invited the participants for refreshments to Karachi Marriott and thanked the whole team and media for actively participating in the Earth Day celebrations.





Pakistani culture display in Washington attracts droves of visitors

Culture enthusiasts and tourists got an opportunity to experience many creative dimensions of life in contemporary Pakistan, and the ancient civilizations that flourished in the South Asian country whose rich heritage remained a central attraction on the occasion of the annual "Passport D.C. Around the World Embassy Tour.

Americans, international diplomats and South Asians visited the Pakistani embassy in endless droves to have a glimpse into the past and present of the country from ancient Indus and Gandhara cultures to the Mughal era architecture to today's works of art and handicraft as Washington D.C. marked a colorful start to the summer.

On display were works of art, pictures, crafts, ornaments, traditional costumes from all provinces of Pakistan and photos of monuments, representing the multicultural heritage of the country.

Shaista Jilani, wife of Ambassador of Pakistan to the U.S. Jalil Abbas Jilani, met with participants, and said the Embassy Tour event provided an opportunity to promote the rich culture and true image of the country.

A colorfully decorated Pakistani rickshaw proclaiming messages of cultural affinity, peaceful coexistence, and mutual humanity drew attention of visitors of all ages, who also had photographs taken with it.

"It is heartening to see so many visitors --- we have tried to exhibit the diversity and beauty of Pakistani culture, natural scenery and heritage " I am sure this opportunity will help project the many facets of Pakistani life," Dr Asad M Khan, Acting ambassador and Deputy Chief of the Mission said.

Besides the annual feature, the embassy also plans to host a series of events to highlight the Pakistani culture. The visitors including young Pakistani-Americans also enjoyed the traditional cuisine and folk music performances at the sprawling embassy compound and also had the opportunity to watch documentaries on life and culture in Pakistan.

On display were works of art, pictures, crafts, places including many other traditional items of Pakistan



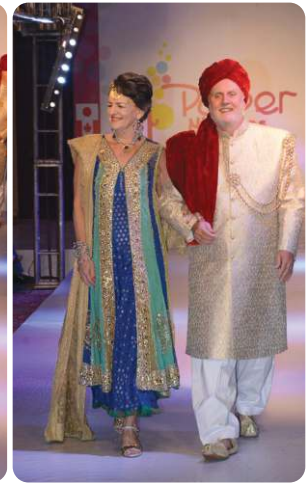
DIPLOMATS BRIDAL FASHION SHOW IN PAKISTAN

Many Ambassadors in Islamabad participated in Colors of Hope, a charity event. This fashion show idea makes diplomats to become brides and grooms on ramp. Well-known members of the diplomatic community participated in the fashion show as models and included, Ambassador of Argentina Rodolfo Martin Saravia, High Commissioner of Australia Peter Heyward and his wife Susan Heyward, Ambassador of Germany Cyril Nunn and his wife Tina Nunn,

Ambassador of Hungary Istvan Szabo and his wife Emilia, Ambassador of Japan Szabo Hiroshi Inomata, Ambassador of Denmark Jesper Moller Sorensen, Ambassador of Austria Brigitta Blaha, High Commissioner of Canada Heather Cruden, Jasmina Makarevic wife of the Ambassador of Bosnia and Michele Galopin from France. The bridal dresses were contributed by Bina Sultan while the outfits for men were designed by Ali Nawaz. Ashida-san and

Ambassador Inomata left the audience spellbound by their performance of the wadaiko (traditional Japanese drum). The Envoys, the band of talented ambassadors, performed 'Wonderful Tonight', 'Cecilia', 'Brown Eyed Girl' and 'Save the Last Dance', with Peter Heyward playing the flute, Ambassador Sorensen on the guitar and Ambassador Inomata playing the drums.





H.E. Mr. Javier Carbajosa Sanchez Ambassador of Spain hosted Al- Andalus Flamenco Gala & Dinner Party in Islamabad Diplomats, Dignities enjoyed the eve.





Lessons from Korea's economic development: visionary leader and national unity with sacrifice

Message of DR. Song Jong-hwan, Ambassador of the Republic of Korea to Pakistan and interview with DR. Baek Yeong-hoon, translator of President Park Chung-hee's first commercial loan delegation to west Germany in 1961.

Park Chung-hee came to power through a military coup on 16th May, 1961. He believed that people could achieve what they wanted if they had a firm volition such as 'Just Do it'.

However, economic problems are not something we can overcome only through desire. Park Chung-hee's will to keep the pledge he made at the time of taking power was high. In addition to this he wanted to find solutions to the economic problems of the Korean people, who were desperate and starving, but unfortunately

Korea had no money.

In Nov 1961, shortly after the military coup, he went to the American President John. F Kennedy with hopes of getting economic assistance but he had the door slammed in his face. The proposals he had prepared were considered absurd by the American side. More importantly, the Kennedy government had an unwelcoming and critical opinion about the military coup.

Americans had the stance that giving a loan to Korea would give them the impression they approved the Park's coup and that the militaries in other Asian countries may attempt to replicate such actions. At that time military coups seemed probable in Vietnam, Philippine and Malaysia.

The financial institutions of America also turned their backs on the Korean proposals mercilessly. They explicitly said that it was nonsocial to give loans to the country that

had already been given grants; it was obvious that at heart they did not believe in the future of Korea.

Apart from America, President Park briefly considered Japan as a possible source of loans but he did not imagine how the Japan could give loans to Korea as Japan did not even have diplomatic relations.

He had been taking notice of new country, West Germany, an emerging power known as 'Miracle of the Rhine River'. The economy of the West Germany had been showing 8% annual growth rate on average since 1950. Observing the dramatic recovery of West Germany, a country which had overcome the wound of being defeated and shared the pain of divided nation, he made a resolution 'Let us also achieve the Miracle of the Han river from the ache of the war'.

In 1961, the military regime of Park Chung-hee decided to send Jung Rai-Hyuk, the



minister of finance and industry, a the chief delegate of the 'Loan Negotiation Delegation, to West Germany. However, there was no one who could speak German, either at the Embassy of Korea to West Germany or in the delegation. After asking around, a person called Baek Yeong-hoon (83, current chairman of Korea industrial development institute) was found. He was the first Korean to earn a degree in doctorate from the West Germany in economics. He earned the degree during the presidency of Lee Seung-man as a student studying abroad on government expense in the West Germany and had come back to Korea. He was working as a professor at Joongang University.

Dr. Baek joined the delegation as an official translator. Even after the delegation arrived in Germany, no one wanted to meet them.

Dr. Baek said at that time we were like the least developed country of Africa today. Our delegation was from a country most of the Germans had not even seen and heard about in their entire lives. When they came asking for a loan, who would listen to them?

Then the minister of economic affairs of West Germany was Ludwig Erhard who became the prime minister of the court after two years. After much celebration, Dr. Baek called on his respected professor at university who had attended the same university as minister Erhard did.

Dr. Baek recounted "I had been talking about the pitiable circumstance of Korea and implored him to help us meet the Minister of Economic Affairs but he repeatedly said that he would not be able to help them. Later on, he did not even like me visiting his home. Finally, I went to the residence of my professor daily at 6:00 am, waited for his wife to come out and appealed for sympathy saying 'Madam, please help me, let me meet with the minister, after one week of this routine, my professor contacted me saying "I have arranged the meeting with the vice minister for you"."

On 11th December, 1961, the delegation finally met Rutger, the vice minister and met the minister the next day. At last the Korea succeeded in borrowing a commercial loan valued at 150 million Marks (30 million dollars). The delegation was move to tears. This was the first commercial loan after the establishment of the Korean government.

The delegation went back and DR. Baek left in West Germany to complete the rest of the work. All of a sudden, a problem arose. Korea needed payment guarantees of a bank. The ministry of finance of the Korean government looked around but could not find a foreign bank, which would offer payment guarantees as Korea had no national credit rating. That was a critical situation and it seemed like all efforts to go in vain.

Lessons from Korea

It has been 1 year and 8 months since I came to Pakistan as the Ambassador of the Republic of Korea. During this time, the most frequently asked question of my Pakistani friends has been, "How did Korea develop so amazingly in such a short time?"

In 1960, Korea's per capita income was \$79 which was lower than the average income of the Least Developed Countries and Korea had only \$20 million foreign exchange reserves. By the end of 2013, Korea's per capita income was \$25,977 and its foreign exchange reserves were more than \$345.6 billion, the 8th largest reserves in the world.

There are many reasons for Korea's speedy development. The two most important reasons were Korea's visionary leader, President Park Chung-hee, who created a strong momentum and secondly, the Korean nation's unity and efforts with their sacrifices.

A Korean newspaper, The Dong-A Ilbo, published an interview with Dr. Baek Yeong-hoon, translator of the Korean Government's loan delegation to West Germany, on 10th April 2013, about how President Park got a \$30 million commercial loan in 1961 from West Germany. This loan was required very urgently for implementing the first Economic Development 5 Year Plan (1962-66).

After the Korean Delegation's visit to West Germany in December 1961, Korean miners and nurses started working in Germany from 1963. Even though their working conditions were very difficult and intense, they provided parts of their income as security for a German commercial loan to the Korean Government.

President Park visited West Germany in December 1964. During his stay in West Germany, he visited the Ruhr mines along with Karl Heinrich Lübke, the president of Germany, and addressed the Korean miners and nurses. During his speech to these hard working Koreans, President Park cried while he promised, "We must not pass this poverty to the next generation". This is a really good lesson for Pakistan too, if it wants to learn Korea's Economic Development.

President Park learnt many lessons



By Dr. Song Jong-hwan

during his visit to West Germany in 1964 which would change the history of Korea. Particularly, he understood that he should not rely only on foreign aid for the progress of his country. Secondly, he learnt how to make an economic development order for the economic stability in a country. His economic development order started with the construction of highways, followed by the making of automobiles, steel mills and oil refineries.

Today, thanks to the visionary leadership of President Park and the national unity, determination, dedication and sacrifices of the Korean people, the Republic of Korea has witnessed the miracle of the Han River. Since 2012, Korea's trade volume with the world has been more than \$1.1 trillion, and it is the 7th largest merchandise exporter and 9th largest merchandise importer in the world. Korea's GDP is over \$1.3 trillion, which is the 14th largest GDP in the world. Korean companies like Samsung, LG, Hyundai, Lotte and Daewoo are household names all over the world and Korea is a global power in industries like shipbuilding, semi-conductors, LCDs, communication technology, power generation, electronics and nuclear technology.

I wish to see the Miracle of the Indus River here in Pakistan as I witnessed and experienced the Miracles of the Rhine River in Germany and the Han River in Korea. And with that desire and hope, I have always made efforts to strengthen the relations between our two countries as an Ambassador of the Republic of Korea to Pakistan.

Regarding this matter, DR. Baek said "Nobody can understand how hard and difficult it is unless one is the national of poor country". I cried every day and went around meeting German friends. And no one was ready to offer payment guarantees, the money we borrowed could not be taken to our country; I thought if I cannot make it, I will just die in West Germany."

One day Schmidt, with whom DR. Baek went to university and worked for the ministry of labor as a section chief, came to him and said, "aren't there many unemployed people in your country? Dr. Baek responded why so? Next day, he came again with a pile of papers.

Schmidt told DR. Baek "at this moment, West Germany has a shortage of miners who are willing to work in coal mine. It needs to be dug 1000 meters below ground but everyone is exhausted with the hot temperature and laborers from other countries ran away. Could Korean send about 5000 laborers by any chance. About 2000 nurses are also needed. It also requires daunting tasks like cleaning dead bodies and no German want to do that. If Korea can send miners and nurses, I can get the commercial loan on the security of their pay.

DR. Baek immediately called on the Korean Ambassador to West Germany. His Excellency, Mr. Shin Eung-kyun listened to what Dr. baek was saying and said, " it would be possible for us to even send 50,000 people, not just 5000 people". For Korea, in which dollars and jobs were short, it was not an offer to decline. Mr. Shin sent an urgent message to his headquarters in Seoul and the job opening was posted in Korea.

In those days the monthly wage of West Germany miners was 7-8 times more than that of Korean miners. Economically, it was

a very tough time in Korea so thousands of people flocked to the opportunity with the hope of working in a developed country like West Germany, with high pays.

The unemployment rate in Korea was almost 40% and the GNI per capita was 79 dollars. In addition, the foreign exchange reserves of the Bank of Korea were less than 20 million dollar.

There were 2894 people gathered for the miner work in the first recruitment; the competition was one out of six. Although it was posted in a notice that the applicant should have two years of experience, even college graduates who had no experience also applied. There were also people who had never even come closer to the mine tunnel also applied.

Another Korean Newspaper, the Kyunghyang Shinmun, in 1963 reported it as follows: " It is revealed that apart from 1600 people who failed the medical test, half of the 1300 applicants are unemployed people who have a college degree and don't have a work experience in the field of mining.

In reality 30% of miners who entered West Germany from 1963 to 1966 were college graduates. Miners who went to the Ruhr region were almost all college graduates. As everyone was interested in this job, the ministry of labor posted the list of the successful applicants just announcement of national examinations.

Finally, first contingent of 123 miners arrived at the D,sseldorf airport of West Germany at 5:00 am on 22nd December, 1963.

The miners shed tears and sweat throughout the mine tunnels. In some cases even they lost their lives .They remitted all their all their salary to Korean expert saving, cost of living and pension .7932 minors and 10226 nurses went to west Germany till 1977their income played the role of seed money for the economic development of Korea .at the time the annual home remittances were \$50 million which amounted to 2 % of GNP of Korea.

As per the contact terms miners and the nurses who went to Germany were not able to go back to Korea for 3 years and had to remit a certain amount of money in there monthly salary to korea no matter what .there pay was remitted to Korea through Commerz bank. This Commerz bank was the bank that is guarantees for introduction of loan.

After much meandering Dr .Beak successfully accomplished the mission of acquiring a loan and headed home, dragging his fatigue body and was reinstated as a university professor in Joongang university.

After 3 years at the end of 1964 Dr Beak got an unexpected summon from president park Chung -hee again .president park ran for the presidency in



his capacity as a civilian after having finished military administration in October 1963 and become the president of third republic win over the candidate Yun-Bo-Seon by a small lead of 0.15 million votes .

President park went to the front door and waited for Dr Beak to ask him "please help me one more time" the fact was that the president of west Germany Karl Heinrich Lübke ,had invited president park as a national guest so they need a translator .

Dr Beak was waiting for the departure day to west Germany when he got a message that there was a meeting in the blue house ,the executive official and official residence of the president of the republic of Korea .He went there and saw that everybody had a greave look .they didn't had an aircraft to go to west Germany "initially there was an arrangement of borrowing an aircraft from an American company northwest airlines for 20 days by paying \$50,000 but the us congress decided to cancel it because they thought that it could provoke other countries if Korean soldiers who came in power through a military coup utilized an American plan it was 10 days before the visit .

Dr Beak was appointed as a presidential envoy at that very place .he was asked to fly to west Germany straight away and asked west German Government for provision of an aircraft .after deliberation,Dr Beak asked Choi doo -sun , the former chairman of the Dong-A Ilbo ,who had resigned from the post of prime minister of the third republic and studied in west Germany with him .

Mr. Choi, the former chairman had a lot of personal connections in Germany .The

team of Dr Beak meet the chief presidential secretary and vice minister of labor department to consult on the schedules of the visit of President Park to West Germany.

Dr Beak intended to talk about provision of plan but words were stuck in his throat .however he opened his eyes wide, gathered all his courage and said "we don't have an aircraft .As Germany is big and wealthy country would it be possible to provide us an aircraft "everybody was dumbfounded .German officials gazed at us for some time and said "please go back for the time being"

Considering there was no call until three days before the proposed departure .we thought they decline our request. just before we left ,we got the call from them .saying they would provide an airplane .finally ,Lufthansa airlines (Boeing 707)which was going back to west Germany via Hong Kong on 3rd Dec 1964 .changed its original route and landed in seoul .president park Chung- Hee went to Germany by that airplane .

In a hurry the plan he look was a general plane ,used by common people and not a presidential plane .he got to Germany after 28 hours ,passing through Hong Kong , Bangkok ,new Delhi ,Karachi, Cairo , Rome, Frankfurt ,and Cologne airports .

Lee jun- Hun accomplished park Chun -hee in that plan as a political department reporter of the Korean news paper , the Chosun Ilbo, and wrote his memories in his book 145 year history of book excellently illustrates the poverty and inexperience of the Koreans who travelled abroad during that era .he wrote "the

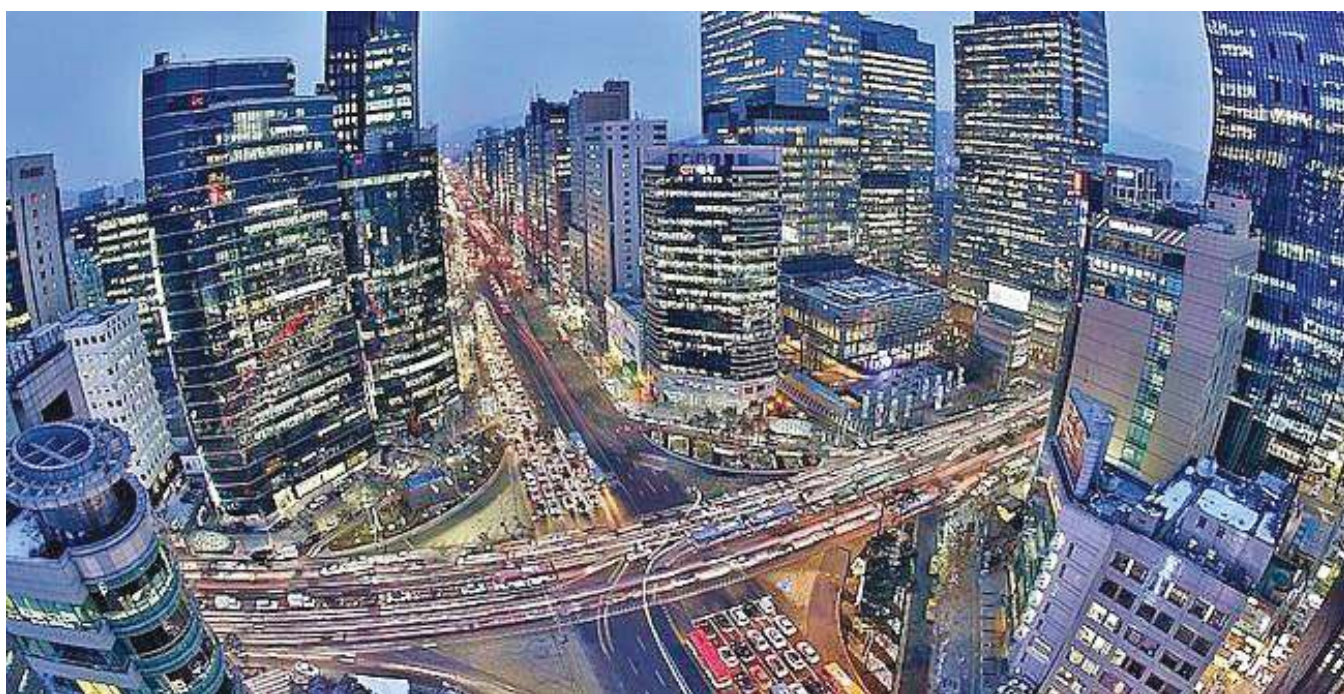
president and ministers took their seats in first class and others in economy . when I went to the washroom some strange thing was placed in front of the mirror and there was a confusion about what it was .At that moment Ms Chung Kwang -mo, the only female reporter In our group from Hankook Ilbo ,a Korean daily newspaper explained that this was "liquid soap" and we couldn't repress our laughter .our reports were international hillbillies and presidents companions were also shabby .president park Chung -Heeis facial expressions were not bright either " .

There was reason why president Park was invited by western Germany .That reason was the miners who had started being dispatched from Korea since end of the previous year.

Dr. Beak said "every day news papers and broadcasts would cover how Korean miners worked on the tunnel 1,000m underground without claiming overtime. West Germans were amazed .finally members of the German national assembly adopted a resolution, which said we could take interest in Korea and invite the Korean president to show our friendship."

The west German president and prime minister give a warm welcome to president Park Chung-Hee when he got to Germany after his 28 hour long journey on Dec 15th , 1964 .Dr beak said the president park he witnessed at the banquet held for him by prime minister Erhard was unforgettable .

President park ,president of a poor country of the east and just 47 years old at that time ,sobbingly said to prime minister Erhard of west Germany ,"half of the Korean people are dying of hunger " . He



continued “we Koreans never lie and we'll pay back the borrowed money .help us .All Koreans are yearning to work we will also make the miracle of Rhine river”. President Park was in tears and so was I as I translated his words.

Prime Minister Erhard asked “why did you staged a coup?”and president park answered “Korea is threatened by communist countries like your nation .to win against communist countries we must be wealthy first .the reason why I started a revolution is not that I'm greedy for power but because of crisis of conscience .Korea has no chance of revival because our political situation was uncertain and our economy was exhausted .however we don't have enough money,if you lend us money I will surely use that to rebuild my country .”

That day prime minister Erhard advised them on various things that would change the history of Korea .Dr Beak noted the entire conversation between prime minister Erhard and president Park and give those notes to the ministry of foreign affairs .When president Park finished talking ,Erhard held his hand firmly and said he was moved and influenced by parks possession and sense of duty .Based on his vast experience ,he solemnly elaborated and made quite a few suggestions for Korea .

Erhard said “I've visited Korea twice when I was minister of economy .Korea has many mountains and that's an obstacle to economic development. You should construct highway .Germany's Autobahn highway was initiated by Adolf Hitler .After you build the highways, you need vehicles to run on them German's national car, Volkswagen was also made when Adolf Hitler ruled “he continued speaking looking at president park .bright- eyed, “to make automobiles you need steel .you should build a steel mill .you need fuel as well so you require an oil refinery too. To focus on economic stabilization, the middle class must made strong, for that you should promote small and medium size businesses. We'll help you and will send economic advisors “.

And indeed West Germany sent 5 economic advisors to Korea after president Park returned to home.

Prime minister Erhard west Germanys first minister of economy (1969-66).He revived the west German economy after the country was ruined by war ,under the slogan 'prosperity for all '

The day prime minister Erhard also give an unconventional advice “go hand in hand with Japan “he continued "Germany fought 16 wars with France .West Germany had deep resentment for France even later. However Konard Adenauer, former chancellor of West Germany visited from

French president De Gaulle and extended his hand for a hand shake after world war? I hope Korea will act similarly that's also a way to prevent communism.

Dr Beak reported “president Park looked angry when he heard that and said “we have never fought with Japan, rather we have always beaten by them.”

Erhard answered” a leader should be futuristic “his advice bore fruit as a treaty between Korea and Japan was signed in 1965 , the year after Park visited west Germany .Their communication on that day serves as an important momentum of Korean history .

Prime Minister Erhard and president Park stood hand in hand after consultations between the two countries, Erhard announced an amazing 250 million mark (\$50 million) loan to Korea without any security.

Next day president park delivered a lecture at an engineering college of a university In Germany .However an un expected situation arose .“when teacher arrived for lectures ,German people gently beat the desk several times ,rather than clapping .unfortunately ,I couldn't inform him that before sure enough , when president went up to the platform ,students started to beat on the table President park thought they jeered him ,I was in the translator seat far from him so I couldn't explain their culture to himhe blushed he was obviously flustered and even couldn't read the prepared remarks properly after a while students again beat on the table and Park realized that they aren't jeering and are actually paying attention .he relaxed and started to read his remarks .

On the way back president park casually told me off “Dr Beak why didn't you inform me about this type of culture in advance? I was almost ashamed!”

Whenever he visited President Park raised his voice “help Korea!”even the remarks he give to students that day also contained the same message “help us we will make miracle of the Han river like miracle of the Rhine river that you have accomplished “

When the president of west Germany Karl Heinrich L,bke ,president park visited the mines in Ruhr where most Korean miners worked .The miners waited for the president of Korea had coal stained faces and muddy clothes .president Park Chung –hee and first lady yuk young-soo went up on the stage the minors band played the national anthem but nobody sang along . The music was overwhelmed by the sound of crying .All 500 minors bowed their heads and their shoulders heaved as they sobbed.

After the band stopped playing president Park wiped his eye and nose, and then walked toward the podium .“Because of

our reunion in this distant foreign country, im overwhelmed with emotion”he couldn't continue to speak to prepare the remarks as the sound of crying become louder and changed into wailing. President Park put the paper aside and said “what state are we in ?my heart is crying bitter tears .My dear miners !I understand you are uncomfortable and missing your family and home town .let's pass a wealthy country on to our next generation .even if we can't witness it in our life time ,lets do our best .You do your best and I will do mine”he couldn't complete his words and cried loudly .The president of west Germany had eye full of tears as well later ,the minors held the doors of president Park's car and continued to cry bitterly .

During the week in West Germany President Park drove on the motorway –Autobahn and visited a steel mill .He was most interested in the 'autobahn'. The construction of the autobahn was started by Nazi Reich and was planned to be 14000km long .3,860km were complete before the construction was stopped by world war .When president Park was in west Germany ,autobahn was famous as 'fastest motor way '.

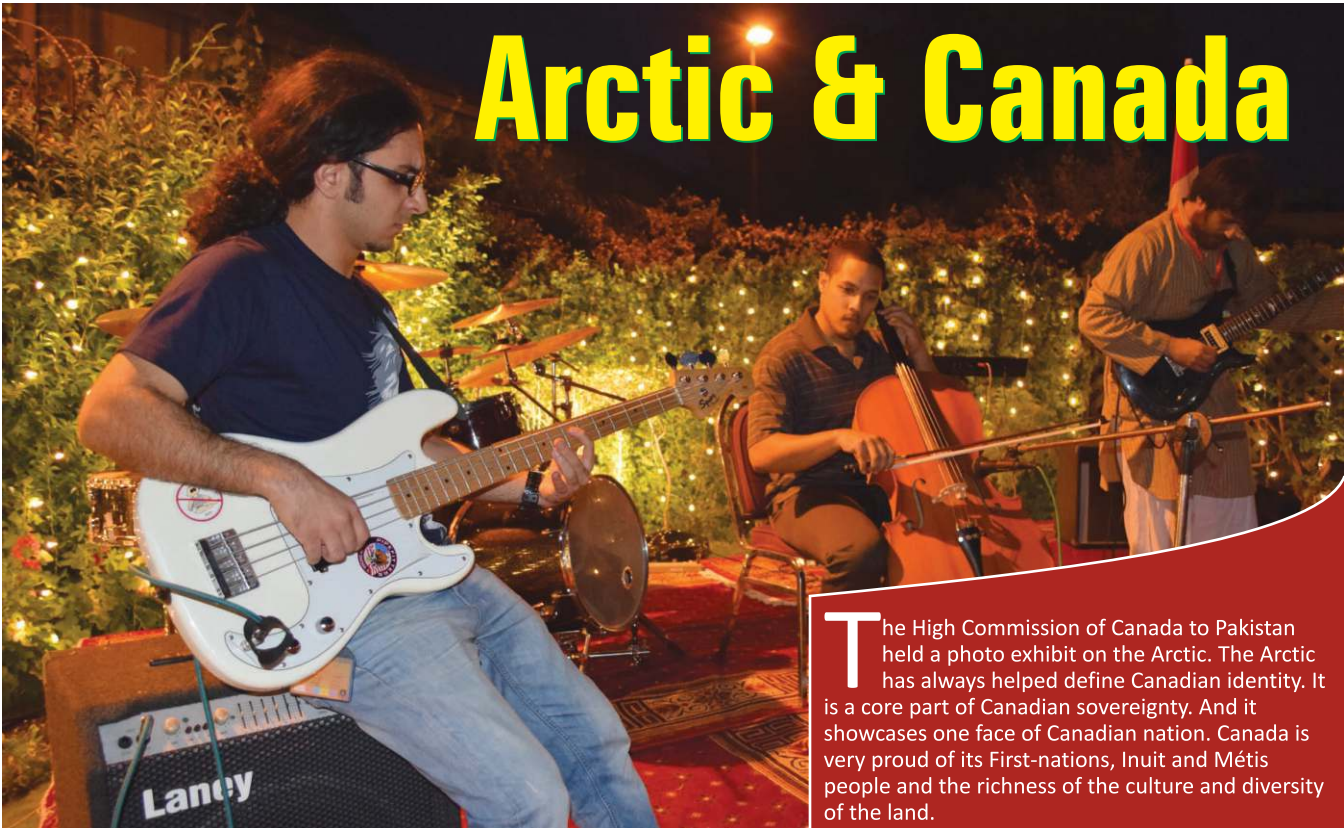
At that time Park enquire of the west German authorities about many things in profound detail regarding the construction of autobahn ,the management methods ,project costs ,construction period and the equipment used .finally ,in meeting at the blue house on 7th November ,1969 ,he gave to the minister of construction the directions to build the Gyeongbu express way and supervised the project himself .

Dr Beak said the express give a new direction to my life as I observed young president Park dedicate himself fully towards rebuilding Korea I was deeply impressed by him .it seemed as if he was willing to risk his skin for Korea and for the People of Korea “.

When he was on the autobahn, president Park suddenly stopped the car and got off .He bowed on his knees and kissed the road .everyone looked at him and cried .First lady yuk Young –Soo cried many times in west Germany with her husband on seeing the situation of Korean miners and nurses .Dr Beaks eyes ached with tears as he remembered everything like yesterday.

Dr Beak deliberates “today's Korea was not made by President Park alone .without the dedication of the minors and nurses working in distant and strange country, risking their lives, we couldn't have obtained the loan and the consequent economic development. I am truly proud of Koreans who made Korea what it is today!”

Arctic & Canada



The High Commission of Canada to Pakistan held a photo exhibit on the Arctic. The Arctic has always helped define Canadian identity. It is a core part of Canadian sovereignty. And it showcases one face of Canadian nation. Canada is very proud of its First-nations, Inuit and Métis people and the richness of the culture and diversity of the land.

The Arctic always had a special meaning for Canadians. The north, grand, epic, and almost infinite in its expanse, has a spiritual appeal for the Canadian people.

Christopher Stewart, a Canadian, shared his photography collection on the Arctic.

The event also features a band called Red Blood Cat. Their music is a mix of alternative/indie band with a jazz/soul influence. It is a cross-cultural showcase. A Canadian and a Pakistani from the High Commission are in this multi-cultural band, which highlights how integrated Canadian and Pakistani culture can be.

Canada is justly proud of its record on multiculturalism. We support pluralism in our society including diversity of languages, customs, and religions. Canada is greatly enriched by the presence of up to 300,000 Pakistanis who have made their home there.

Canada was founded on the principles of peace, order and good government, which were very much rooted in the mutual accommodation of the French, English and First Nations communities. While Christianity is the largest religion in Canada, Islam is the second largest, with over 1 million Muslim-Canadians.

Canada accommodates diversity, through federalism, bilingualism, multiculturalism and aboriginal self-government. This is central to Canadian identity. Pluralism embraces difference as a source of strength. Today, most Canadians consider pluralism and diversity to be core values. The event was also an opportunity to say goodbye to Canadians departing the High Commission this summer. They have appreciated and valued the warmth and generosity of the Pakistani people. They have also explored Pakistan's rich history, culture and geography and will miss Pakistan and its people.





H.E. Mr. Alexey Y. Dedov Ambassador of Russian Federation hosted a reception to mark Victory Day in Islamabad. Senator Pervez Rashid the Minister of Information, Mass-media Broadcasting, and National Heritage, was the chief Guest. The reception was attended by a large number of diplomats, business people and elites of the twin cities.





Message on

28th May

The Republic Day of Azerbaijan



H.E. Mr. Dashgin Shikarov,

Ambassador of the Republic of Azerbaijan to the Islamic Republic of Pakistan

The Day of 28 May, 1918 is marked as a day of establishment of Azerbaijan Democratic Republic. The beginning of 20th century witnessed the collapse of the Russian Empire and the Russian Revolution of 1917 led to chaos in all parts of the state including Azerbaijan. In March 1918, the Baku Commune of Armenians and Bolsheviks decided to completely eliminate the ethnical Azerbaijanis. That throbbing history has left indelible marks on the history pages to give Azerbaijan a real boost to rise against all the odds and prove its substance, subsequently, it is beaming today with multidimensional colors of success amongst the community of nations. It was an opportunity availed in time and today that all Azerbaijanis hold the flag of grace for the generations to come and follow the footprints of this venerable legacy.

So, the Muslim National Council held its opening sitting in Tbilisi, Georgia on May 28, 1918, and adopted the Declaration on Independence. The primary goal of the government was to liberate Baku and the other cities of Azerbaijan, which were under occupation of Armenians and Bolsheviks after the March 1918 genocide. The mission was carried out by the newly established Caucasus Army of Islam - united Azerbaijani and Turkish forces. The Soviets were defeated and the Islamic Army advanced toward Baku getting it liberated on September 15, 1918.

On December 7, 1918, the first session of Azerbaijani parliament took place. That was the first parliament formed on the utmost democratic principles of that time in the entire Muslim East. Not only a true form of multi-party republican government was created, but also extended the suffrage to all persons, irrespective of ethnicity, religion or gender. ADR was the first country in the entire Muslim world to give voting rights to women, even ahead of many advanced western democracies.

The Supreme Council of the Paris Peace Conference on January 11, 1920 unanimously resolved to recognize de facto independence of Azerbaijan. The ADR managed to form a well-operated state machine, establishing relations with more than twenty countries of the world, including Turkey, UK, USA, Italy, France, etc. The Government adopted a national flag with white crescent and eight-pointed star with a three-stripe background. On June 26, the Government enacted the establishment of Azerbaijan Armed Forces.

The reforms in almost all walks of life were launched. Functioning economy and independent financial system started to evolve, the Baku-Batum oil pipeline was restored and the Caspian fleet of Azerbaijan was established of 1919, the Baku State University was founded. Preparations for constitution, development of comprehensive doctrine of national state building, and the criminal code with guarantees of universal rights and freedoms were under way. Bilateral formal relations were established with a number of foreign states and independent foreign policy reflecting the national interests of Azerbaijan was formulated and pursued. The separation of legislative, executive and judicial powers was also confirmed.

The ADR fell under the military attack of Soviets on 28 April, 1920. The resistance movement of Azerbaijani people was squashed. The independence of Azerbaijan was restored only after 71 years. The tri-colored flag of Azerbaijan Democratic Republic rose again.

The present day Azerbaijan is witnessing a rapid and dynamic development that is comparable with developed countries of the world. A country with nine and a half million population has become a leading power in Transcaucasia. The economic growth of Azerbaijan goes accompanied by enormous construction boom, development of the industry, infrastructure,

agriculture, sports, and tourism.

As a result of growing political prestige of the country number of international mega events were held in Azerbaijan.

From 12 June to 28 June 2015 the capital city Baku will host the First European Olympics. Some 6,000 athletes from 49 European countries and 1,000 officials are expected to take part in the Games, with around 2,000 journalists covering the event.

Azerbaijan carries on a balanced foreign policy, based on the interests of the country. Situated on the geographical border of Europe and Asia, Azerbaijan is integrated in the political structures of both continents.

We are proud to say that Pakistan and Azerbaijan enjoy close and cordial relations characterized by shared perception on major global and regional issues. The two countries signed number of agreements to provide a framework for bilateral cooperation in all spheres including economy, trade, finance, information, culture and military fields. Both countries closely cooperate in international forum and support each other on their core issues.

The visit of President of Pakistan Mr. Mamnoon Hussain to Azerbaijan was another important milestone in our bilateral relations. The meeting of Pakistani President with the President of Azerbaijan Mr. Ilham Aliyev, agreements signed during the visit will obviously serve to further strengthen and deepen of bilateral ties. The conferment of First Lady of Azerbaijan Mrs. Mehriban Aliyeva with Hilal-e-Pakistan order recognition of her services to Pakistan by President Mamnoon Hussain was highly appreciated by People and Government of Azerbaijan.

I strongly believe that existing fraternal ties will further be expanding and deepening covering all walks of life in the days ahead.

H.E. Mr. Dashgin Shikarov

Ambassador of Azerbaijan hosted reception to celebrate 97th anniversary of the Republic Day of Azerbaijan. Federal Minister Lieutenant General (Retired) Abdul Qadir Baloch was the chief guest. The event was attended by a large number of officials, diplomats, diplomatic community and dignities from different walks of life.





H.E. Mr. Rodolfo J. Martin Saravia

Ambassador of the Argentine Republic & Dean of Diplomatic Corps, Hosted a reception to celebrate 205th Anniversary of the 1st National Government at the Serena Hotel. The guest of honour was Federal Minister for Defence Production Rana Tanveer Hussain. The event was attended by diplomats and many of his Pakistani friends from different walks of life.





UNIDO

gives top priority to Pakistan's industrial development

Exclusive interview with

Mr. Esam Alqararah

UNIDO Country Representative

M. Saeed Yousafzai

Pakistan has the requisite potentials to become an industrial hub in the region power but needs strong, sustained and clear government policies, Esam Alqararah the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) Representative (UR) for Pakistan said in a special interview with "Diplomatic Focus".

He mentioned that UNIDO in close collaboration with local authorities is making all efforts for inclusive and sustainable industrial development in Pakistan with a focus on Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs), environment, energy, poverty reduction through productive activities and trade capacity building measures. Also we have to

consider empowering woman and ensuring their full participation in the industrial growth process.

When he was asked about what initiatives UNIDO was taking in developing industrial sector, he said, "UNIDO believes in promoting Inclusive and Sustainable Industrial development (ISID) to harness full potential of industry's contribution towards the economic growth." UNIDO in collaboration with the government of Pakistan and Chambers of Commerce and Industries and other stakeholders is making serious efforts towards ISID and he highlighted the need for promoting industrialization as one of the major goals in the forthcoming post 2015 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

He said that concept of ISID is to provide the technological sustainable solutions to environment-friendly sound industrialization. ISID requires suitable institutional capacities, an enabling infrastructure, a vibrant private sector, and a conducive business environment in the country.

Esam Alqararah also shared the organization's vision for ISID, as reflected in Lima Declaration adopted by member states, including Pakistan, at 15th Session of UNIDO General Conference held in December 2013. Alqararah pinpointed the importance of industrialization as an effective instrument for poverty reduction particularly with reference to the countries that have achieved success through following ISID approach.

He emphasized upon the need for further strengthening the cooperation between UNIDO and the Ministry of Industries and Production to look for new areas of technical support at policy, SMEs industrial competitiveness, sectoral and entrepreneurial level which can then provide an enabling environment and platform for localizing ISID in Pakistan.

Mr. Esam Alqararah asserted that UNIDO gives top priority to Pakistan's industrial development for poverty reduction, adding that even UNIDO together with some other UN agencies is working on the concept focusing on federally Administrative Tribal Areas (FATA) to uplift the deprived community through the development of SMEs, entrepreneurship and related activities to help reduce poverty.

UNIDO has been assisting various industries like surgical instruments, cutlery, fan, protective gears for achieving

UNIDO believes in promoting Inclusive and Sustainable Industrial development (ISID) to harness full potential of industry's contribution towards the economic growth

industrial competitiveness. So far ten companies have attained CE mark and, International accreditation of 34 laboratories has been facilitated. When he was asked about the UNIDO projects beneficiaries, he said they include Chamber of Commerce and Industries of Gujranwala and Sialkot for Leather, surgical instruments, sports equipment fan and cutlery. Tannery Associations of Karachi and Kasur for Leather sector, Fans Manufacturers Association of Gujranwala, Alrafique Enterprises Sargodha, KDC Boards for Biomass gasification, Mango Growers Consortium Sargodha. Briefing about the Mission of DG of UNIDO to Pakistan, he said that the visit was of prime importance as this was the first visit of any DG of UNIDO since last 12 years. During his 3 day's visit, DG had bilateral meetings with the Adviser to the Prime Minister on National Security & Foreign Affairs, Minister of Planning, Secretary of the

Ministry of Industries & Production, Secretary Minister of Climate change, Secretary Ministry of Food Security, Field Visits to National University of Science and Technology (NUST) and to National Physical and Standard Laboratory (NPSL), Ministry of Science and Technology and most importantly visited the Small exhibit/Short informal talk with some UNIDO project beneficiaries (women entrepreneur, Cleantech start-ups, TRTA etc.), who were benefitting by the efforts of UNIDO.

He said UNIDO started working in Pakistan in early 1970's, in which UNIDO has provided assistance and facilitation to leather sector of Pakistan and establishing of Leather Products Development Centre which was created in 1983 at Nazimabad Karachi and Sialkot which have been upgraded into National Institute of Leather Technology and Leather Products Development Institute. More than one thousand students have been trained in Leather Garments, Leather Gloves and Leather Goods Manufacturing Technologies, which has facilitated in the development of leather products industries in the country and raising the exports of leather sector to more than one Billion Dollar annually. UNIDO has also assisted the tanning community in the establishment of first ever Combined Effluent Treatment Plant at Kasur of 13000M3/day capacity. Additionally a Fat Extraction Unit to process Hides and Skins fleshings generated in the tanneries has also been established by UNIDO at Kasur. A common facility cum training centre of leather finishing (FTC) established by UNIDO in 1996, is functional on self-finance basis (without any external assistance or government support), by the local tanners themselves and is a success story of UNIDO's assistance in Pakistan.

The same interventions intended to apply in Sialkot and Karachi. ALQARARAH shared that UNIDO is also working for the promotion of footwear industry in the country and has facilitated in the establishment of a leather footwear training center at Hyderabad. Talking about the UNIDO programs for mitigation of industrial pollution which is necessary for creating friendly environment, UNIDO Representative said that UNIDO has also assisted the tanning community in the establishment of first ever combined effluent pre-treatment plant at Kasur of 13000M3/day capacity in 2002. A Fat Extraction Unit to process hides and skins flashings was generated in the tanneries in year 2013. He said that UNIDO is providing technical assistance for the renewable energy technologies in Pakistan, including energy from Biomass, solar and low head hydro etc. On the specifics of the UNIDO program in energy sector, one of the project is focusing on the establishment of Biomass gasification based power plants

for SMEs and rural areas and moreover UNIDO is strengthening local technology support system by building capacities of local gasifier manufacturers. He also highlighted that UNIDO also training technicians and operators on Biomass Gasification systems and introducing a degree level program on Biomass Energy in National Engineering Universities. On one hand, UNIDO is creating awareness among private sector on applications of Biomass Gasifiers and on the other hand we are working with the Government to remove policy barriers. We are also providing support to SMEs for access to local and international financing institutions. We are also working with PPAF/NRSP to electrify rural areas of Pakistan with these Biomass gasification power plants. In addition UNIDO in close consultation with the government of Pakistan is helping the industry to conserve their electricity/energy needs by implementing a project of sustainable industrial energy

UNIDO is providing technical assistance for the renewable energy technologies in Pakistan, including energy from Biomass, solar and low head hydro etc

efficiency in textile sector of Faisalabad. UNIDO is also providing support for the innovation and entrepreneurship development for startups in clean energy technologies focusing on Renewable Energy, Energy Efficiency, Waste to Energy and Water Efficiency which will help to support industries in overcoming energy demands and supply issues, furthermore all these steps will help the growth of industrial sector.

Mr. Esam Alqararah UNIDO Representative for Pakistan assured that UNIDO will continue to work with the aim at building indigenous capacity to enhance the industrialization process of Pakistan inspiring to promote industrial development for poverty reduction, inclusive globalization and environmental sustainability and to tap on the great potentials of industrial production of Pakistan.



Pakistan warmly welcomes Zimbabwe cricket team as international cricket returns in Pakistan after six years



It was a moment of huge joy when the Cricket team of Zimbabwe arrived in Lahore to play two T-20 and three One Day International matches series.

They were warmly received at the Allama Iqbal Airport by the Pakistan Cricket Board high up officials and Punjab Government representatives.

This is the first tour by a test-playing country team to Pakistan, after a long gap of six years.

All the matches were played at Qaddafi Stadium in Lahore.

The government was committed about the security of the visiting team.

Foolproof security measures being taken for Zimbabwean team: Khanzada

Punjab Home Minister Shuja Khanzada had said that foolproof security measures will be taken for the touring Zimbabwean cricket team.

The Minister hoped after successful tour by Zimbabwe, Int'l cricket will be restored in country.

Punjab Sports Minister Rana

Mashood Ahmad Khan had said that credit for this visit goes to the PML (N) Government which organized Punjab International Sports Festival and other grand events.

The visitors landed amid extensive security, with thousands of policemen deployed along the 14 kilometer route to a five-star hotel on the Mall Road, which divides the eastern and western parts of Lahore. The touring group - 16 Zimbabwe players, nine team officials and five board officials was flanked by a large convoy of police commandos, after they had been received by two ministers from the ruling party, PML (N) along with the top brass of the PCB.

The entire nation celebrated the happy moments. They passionately watched the matches and once again the grounds were full of people after a long time.

This visit has proved that Pakistan is a safe country for sports and the nation is hopeful that the international cricket will soon be restored in the country. By Sports Desk

Cultural show of Gilgit Baltistan: Drum beats & the folk songs



By Raheel Iqbal

The cultural show of Gilgit Baltistan was held at Shah Abdul Latif Bhittai auditorium Islamabad. The show was organized by the students of NUML university. Students from all the universities of Islamabad attended the show. Dr Sharif Astori was the chief guest of the show. Students of NUML university perform various cultural programs. The show began with the national anthem and after that there was silence for 5 minutes for the victims of the Saffron accident Karachi. Students of NUML university show their documentary on the culture of Gilgit Baltistan. The audience appreciated and clapped for the effort of the students. Local singers were also there in the show. Raheel Iqbal performed some local songs in the Shina language. Students from all the regions like Astore, Ghizer, Baltistan, Hunza, and Diamer performed the local songs in their specific way. The aim of this cultural event was to promote intercultural harmony and to keep the cultural traditions alive. The unique cultural and musical show captivated the audience and superb performances there accelerated the heartbeats to such an extent that almost all the audience moved with the drumbeats and the folk songs. Intizar Hussain performed the dance of a shipper, which won the hearts of the audience with his winsome performance. Earlier Tehzeeb Hussain, a student from NUML university, shared his poetry with the audience; all the audience gave full appreciation to his poetry. Students from all the provinces of Pakistan attended the show and performed their cultural dances during the event, which shows that the show was a symbol of unity between the students of every region. At the end, Dr Shareef Astori appreciated the endeavour of the students and congratulated the students for such an entertaining and successful event.

Japanese Traditional Music and Improvisation

H.E Mr. Hiroshi Inomata Ambassador of Japan hosted a performance by Sumie Kaneko in collaboration with Pakistan National Council of the Arts and Pakistan Japan Cultural Association. The function was attended by a large number of diplomats, business people and elites of the twin cities.

