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Brexit: Can the EU save itself?

**Pioneer for Democracy:
Benazir Bhutto
Shaheed**

21 June 1953 – 27 December 2007



H.E. Dr. Suh Dong-gu
Ambassador of Korea to Islamic Republic of Pakistan



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The 5th Session of Pakistan-Tajikistan Joint Commission on Trade, Economic and Scientific-Technical Cooperation was held in Islamabad.

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Foreign investors can now own 100 percent of retail and wholesale businesses in Saudi Arabia. An approval to this effect was granted by the Council of Ministers.

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Benazir Bhutto was born in Karachi, Pakistan to a prominent political family. At age 16 she left her homeland to study at Harvard's Radcliffe College. After completing her undergraduate degree at Radcliffe she studied at England's Oxford University, where she was awarded a second degree in 1977.



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Printer
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Publisher
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Price
 Pakistan: \$ 6 Middle East: 8 Riyal
 UK: £ 6 Schengen State: €6
 Malaysia: \$ 8 Canada: \$8
 USA: \$ 6

Published from Islamabad



Mian Fazal Elahi

Operation Zarb-e-Azb is the most successful operation in the history of Pakistan. America has not properly helped Pakistan in this complex campaign. Rather, Pakistan army, with its own resources, has won this war against terrorists. It has destroyed arms factories and hideouts of terrorists from the soil of Pakistan. After fleeing from Pakistan, terrorists have found safe havens in Afghanistan. There are 78 border crossing points, which can be used by terrorists to enter and launch havoc in Pakistan. Pakistan has blocked most of the entry points of terrorists. In this operation 19,000 intelligence based operations have been carried out across the country and 1,200 terrorists have been eliminated in Karachi alone. Local people of terrorists hit areas have given sacrifices, which must be recognized. It is the time to resettle the IDPs to their homes." The job is not yet finished and that there is still work to be done – including improving the border management mechanism with Afghanistan as well as clearing restive pockets in some areas of Swat. On other side General Rahel Sharif statement that Pakistan was ready to pay any price to turn the long cherished CPEC dream' into reality, is a clear message to those who are opposing the project.



Mian Assad ullah

Important Announcement

It has been announced for the general information that Mr. Mian Assad Ullah has been appointed as Editor In Chief of the Monthly "Diplomatic Focus" for the UK/EU Edition. He is entitled to participate official /non-officials diplomatic engagements, events, national days, social evenings/gatherings, press conferences/interviews and can be contacted for all kinds of stuff including articles, supplements and advertisements etc). It is requested to all Diplomatic missions and government high officials of UK, please contact with Mr. Mian Assad Ullah on His mailing address, 4 Ipswich Road, SW17 9RH, London. Cell number:+44-7961005954/ 2087694850, Email: uk.diplomaticfocus@gmail.com, assadmian1@gmail.com

Annual Subscription of
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DAILY NEWS

MONTHLY OVERSEAS



Promotion of Science & technology can eliminate poverty in Muslim world: President Mamnoon Hussain



By Saba Sarfraz

The President Mamnoon Hussain said that less developed countries of the Muslim world would be given assistance in research and development through the 10 Year Action Plan. President Mamnoon Hussain chaired First Plenary Session of 15th

Organization of Islamic Cooperation's Standing Committee on Scientific and Technological Cooperation (COMSTECH) General Assembly Meeting in which this Plan was approved.

The purpose of the 10 Year Action Plan is to promote science and technology in the Muslim world. Along with suggestions from develop

countries, 159 leading scientists and thinkers of 20 OIC member countries were involved in the preparation of an action plan.

President Mamnoon Hussain has said that by promoting science and technology in the Muslim society's poverty can be eliminated, health facilities improved and adequate



President Mamnoon Hussain inaugurating the First Plenary Session of Comsech General Assembly meeting in Islamabad. OIC Secretary General Iyad Ameen Madani is also present.



Finance Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar in a group photo with delegates and participants of COMSTECH General Assembly meeting in Islamabad.

provision of water, food and energy ensured.

President Mamnoon said that Muslim countries should achieve the objectives envisaged in the Sustainable Development Goals adopted by the United Nations through development of science and technology. The President stated that we will be able to succeed in strengthening academic foundations in our societies by emulating our great traditions and promoting science and technology.

The President underlined that Muslims made extraordinary contributions in the progress of science but lamented that despite being endowed with natural resources, we are now far behind the contemporary world.

President Mamnoon noted that the combined budget of Muslim countries for science and



MoU signing ceremony between Rector COMSATS & Iranian Organization, from the platform of COMSTECH in Islamabad.

The combined budget of Muslim countries for science and technology is merely 2.4 percent in comparison to the developed world

technology is merely 2.4 percent in comparison to the developed world and the Muslim world contributes only 6 percent of the scientific articles published globally. The President noted that Muslim world had to rely on the developed countries to meet its technological needs adding that the Muslim countries should promptly raise its research and development budget as only a skilled human resource can lead to progress of a society.



Advisor to the Prime Minister on Foreign Affairs Sartaj Aziz in a meeting with the Secretary General of OIC H.E. Iyad Ameen Madani in Islamabad.



President Mamnoon Hussain distributing certificates amongst the Eminent Scientists of the Muslim World during the 15th Inaugural Session of General Assembly of COMSTECH in Islamabad.

"We must make every effort to provide our people the institutional support that they need to explore the limits of their minds and produce highly qualified scientists who are the most valuable asset of any society", emphasized the President.

The President noted with appreciation that COMSTECH has been actively pursuing a number of programmes aimed at building the competence of member states in science and technology adding that its 10-year plan for progress of science and technology in Muslim states is very important which could pave the way for progress and prosperity.

The President expressed his further deep views at a dinner by saying that the Islamic world should focus on development and promotion of science and technology, which played a pivotal role in the progress and prosperity of people. He said the Islamic countries should join hands and exchange their experiences and expertise in the field of science and technology for the common benefit. He was hosting a dinner for the participants of the 15th session of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation's Standing Committee on Scientific and Technological

Cooperation (COMSTECH) at the Aiwan-e-Sadr.

Besides the COMSTECH session's participants, the dinner was attended by a number of federal ministers, members of the Parliament and diplomats.

The purpose of the 10 Year Action Plan of COMSTECH is to promote science and technology in the Muslim world

The President hoped that the deliberations and consultations made during the 15th session of COMSTECH would prove beneficial for the Muslim countries. The President Mamnoon Hussain also conveyed good wishes on his as well as on behalf of the people and government of Pakistan to the people and governments of the COMSTECH member countries.

It may be mentioned that all member countries of Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) are participated in COMSTECH General Assembly. 22 Ministers from various Muslim countries and heads and senior officials of science & research institutions also participated in this session.

On the occasion, President Mamnoon distributed certificates amongst the eminent scientists of the Muslim world. Federal Minister for Science & Technology Rana Tanveer Hussain, Secretary General Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) Iyad Ameen Madani, President Islamic Development Bank (IDB) Dr. Ahmed Mohamed Ali and Coordinator General COMSTECH Dr. Shaukat Hameed Khan also spoke on the occasion.

During the 15th Inaugural Session of General Assembly of COMSTECH prayers were said for early recovery of Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif. Several of the General Assembly participants from various Muslim countries, comprising of ministers and senior officials, mentioned the Prime Minister's illness at different intervals and expressed well wishes for the Premier.



President Mamnoon Hussain addressing while hosting a dinner in honour of Participants of the 15th Inaugural Session of General Assembly of COMSTECH at Aiwan-e-Sadr, Islamabad.



President Mamnoon Hussain addressing the Iftar Dinner at the Aiwan-e-Sadr.

**President
Mamnoon
Hussain
hosted
Iftar Dinner
Reception
in honour
of the
Ambassadors**



Diplomatic Focus Thru Lens



Defence and National Security Minister of Maldives MR. Adam Shareef umar called on President Mamnoon Hussain at the Aiwan-e-Sadr, Islamabad.



Turkish Minister of National Defence Mr. Fikri Sik called on President Mamnoon Hussain at the Aiwan-e-Sadr, Islamabad.



Finance Minister, Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar in a meeting with Chinese Ambassador Mr. Sun Weidong in Islamabad.



Saudi Ambassador to Pakistan, Mr. Abdullah Marzouk Al-Zahrani Minister Ch. Nisar Ali Khan at Punjab House Islamabad.



Advisor to the Prime Minister on Foreign Affairs Sartaj Aziz in a meeting with the Secretary of OIC H.E. Iyad Ameen Madan in Islamabad.



Deputy Chairman Senate, Moulana Abdul Ghafoor Haideri exchanging views with Japanese Ambassador, Mr. Takshi Kurai at Parliament House, Islamabad.



Australian Special Representative on Afghanistan and Pakistan, Mr. Ric Wells called on National Security Adviser, Lt. Gen (R) Massr Khan Janua in Islamabad.



Federal Minister for Planning, Development & Reform Prof. Ahsan Iqbal exchanging views with the British High Commissioner H.E. Thomas Drew CMG.



Federal Minister for Water and Power, Khawaja Muhammad Asif in a meeting with Italian Ambassador, Mr. Stefano Pontecorvo at ministry of Water & Power, Islamabad.



Federal Minister for Water and Power, Khawaja Muhammad Asif in a meeting with Japanese Ambassador, Mr. Takashi Kurai at ministry of Water & Power, Islamabad.



Minister for Education & Science Tajikistan called on Rana Tanveer Hussain, Federal Minister for Science & Technology in Islamabad.



Nigerian Minister Dr. Ogbonnaya Onu called on Rana Tanveer Hussain, Federal Minister for Science & Technology in Islamabad.



The Ambassador of European Union, Jean Francois Cautatin called on Federal Minister for States and Frontier Regions, Lt. Gen (R) Abdul Qadir Baloch in Islamabad.



Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Foreign Affairs Syed Tariq Fatemi in a meeting with the Minister for Energy and Water Resources of Tajikistan Mr. Usmonzoda in Islamabad.



5TH SESSION OF PAK-TAJIKISTAN JOINT COMMISSION ON TRADE, ECONOMIC AND SCIENTIFIC-TECHNICAL COOPERATION

By M.Saeed Yousafzai

The 5th Session of Pakistan–Tajikistan Joint Commission on Trade, Economic and Scientific-Technical Cooperation was held in Islamabad. The Session was Co-chaired by Khawaja Muhammad Asif, Federal Minister for Water and Power and also Co-chair of Pakistan while Mr. Usmonali Usmonzoda, Minister of Energy and Water Resources, Republic of Tajikistan led Tajikistan side.

During the two days of the Session, detailed meetings were held between the experts of the two sides on a number of issues, especially focussing on Trade & Commerce, Energy, Agriculture, Education, Science & Technology and other matters of mutual interest. During the closing session, Protocol of the Session was signed by both Co-chairs, based on major actions/decisions.

During his stay in Pakistan, Mr. Usmonali Usmonzoda, Minister of Energy and Water Resources, Republic of Tajikistan called-on Special Assistant to Prime Minister on Foreign Affairs, Minister for Petroleum and Natural Resources and Minister for Commerce. During meeting with Special Assistant to Prime Minister on Foreign Affairs, the two sides expressed their support for regular meetings of Pakistan-Tajikistan Joint Commission, Pakistan-Tajikistan Business Forum and Pakistan-Tajikistan Business Council, with a view to achieving the target of US \$ 500 million for bilateral trade, as agreed by the leadership during the Prime Minister's visit to Dushanbe in June 2014.

Mr. Yunuasali expressed gratitude to the Government of Pakistan for the warm welcome and generous hospitality extended to him and his delegation.





The highlights of major decisions taken during the meetings of the 5th Session of Pakistan-Tajikistan Joint Commission are as under: -

- i. Both sides agreed to enhance business to business contacts through organizing the second meeting of Joint Business Council on the sidelines of the Inaugural Session of Joint Working Group on Trade, Investment and Transport at Dushanbe in October 2016.
- ii. Both sides agreed to sign a MoU between the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) and National Bank of Tajikistan (NBT) on Supervisory cooperation. In this regard, SBP will share a draft MoU through diplomatic channels within three months.
- iii. Tajik side was apprised that their request for accession to Quadrilateral Agreement for Traffic-in-Transit (among Pakistan, China, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan), given to Pakistan being the Depository of Quadrilateral Agreement, is under consideration.
- iv. Tajikistan appreciated the initiative of Pakistan to organize a truck caravan under the framework of Quadrilateral Agreement and has agreed to participate in this project.
- v. Bilateral Transport Agreement will also be discussed during the first meeting of Joint Working Group on Trade, Investment and Transport, scheduled in October 2016 at Dushanbe.
- vi. The sides noted with satisfaction the progress made so far in realization of CASA-1000 project and also expressed the resolve to initiate the physical work on the project as early as possible to achieve the desired delivery of energy.



- vii. The Parties also noted the mutual interest for export of additional 1000 MW by Tajikistan to Pakistan outside CASA-1000 Project. The Parties have notified the technical committee members and the first meeting of the committee is proposed to be held as early as possible. The committee will review the previous reports prepared by Tajikistan side and will develop a road map for future activities.
- viii. Both sides agreed to establish joint ventures with "Oil and Gas Development Company Limited" (OGDCL) and "Pakistan Petroleum Limited" (PPL) on detection and processing of oil and gas in the Republic of Tajikistan on Government to Government basis.
- ix. The Tajikistan side showed interest to establish joint ventures with Pakistan investors in the field of processing of ginned cotton, wool and leather finished products (cotton fabric, sewn and knitted products, leather jackets, bags and shoes).
- x. In order to effectively collaborate in the field of agriculture a Joint Working Group (JWG) will be formed. Both sides agreed to share the composition of members of JWG through diplomatic channels.
- xi. The two sides agreed to the renewal of Agreement between Pakistan and Tajikistan on Scientific and Technological Cooperation signed in 1992 through exchange of diplomatic notes.
- xii. Both sides decided to appoint Focal points to combat the menace of drug and narcotics trafficking.

The meeting was characterised by a spirit of friendship, cooperation and a desire to make rapid advances in the above mentioned sectors/areas.

Here's to you Benazir Bhutto

It doesn't take Benazir Bhutto's birthday to make one think of her in so many ways. The question I get asked most, though, is what it was like working with her. The short answer is, no one day ever felt like another with her. The longer answer is, she had the intellectual and emotional energy to build ties while she worked, to re-shape another's cognitive and work-life universe while still giving of her self. This was a sort of altruism unusual in politicians. While being a hard-nosed political player, what was most important to her was policy in all sizes and shapes. That meant working within a framework of values and ideas that one had to be consistent with. Everything was tested against a standard, right or wrong, and little went by without a full-on policy dialogue that would trickle up to her in layers until stakeholders on the ground had agreed on a formula. Working with her as the PPP's public policy president well before becoming the party's information secretary, I found her appetite for policy-commitment quite exceptional. Working with her meant being challenged as well as rewarded intellectually, as she was always looking for new ideas while deconstructing, and often respecting, convention. We all know how she fought for regaining space for democracy. We all know that she had the courage of a globally lauded hero and the tenacity of a gladiator, but it was her human rights record that went largely unsung in her lifetime even though she worked relentlessly on that agenda. In every policy paper or speech we wrote, she fought for women, she fought for the dispossessed and she fought for the homeless. In every policy guideline, she worked the unemployed in, she worked the labour in, she worked the farmer in.

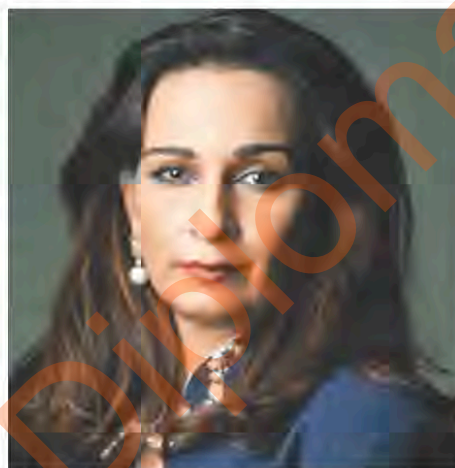
While writing the 2008 election manifesto, a contest she tragically did not live to see, we were in a constant strategic back and forth. In every social policy conversation, her basic humanity always came through. One day she woke me up at two in the morning on a call from Dubai, when she wanted a boarding school system devised for poor children and basic nutrition provided for public schools. Another night she argued for two hours on the phone over why we could not have higher public spending to generate employment. The conversation ended with our devising a public works programme for providing guaranteed employment to the lowest income-poor families. She wanted Pakistan to be a welfare state on the lines of the Scandinavian social democracy model, with social nets for the poor

and a strong market economy that provided jobs and raised a middle class. She would have been proud to see that after several refinements with our internal policy group, this

Bibi, you are still showing us the way and on each birthday Pakistan will honour you as its finest.

programme morphed into the Benazir Income Support Programme in the 2008 cabinet.

Her sense of timing was both acute and often prescient. It was almost as if she knew that her destiny was calling her to fulfil her legacy.



By Sherry Rehman

She was a woman in a hurry, on a mission to transform Pakistan. She made us build a 100-day action programme for her next cabinet so the PPP could deliver more on her promises before the axe fell on us. She worked non-stop to ensure that her vision was translated into our laptops and mental hard drives, almost as if there was no time left. Until her last day, she worked over 18 hours a day. Her last email to her senior colleagues from the BlackBerry would often be between 2.30-3.30am. The next round in the morning would start at 6.30, before she ventured out to cut a huge swathe into the day.

But she was a leader whose vision went farther than any others. Why? Because she was ahead of her time, and because she had extraordinary courage. She was the only leader who saw that if we don't step in the way, the fires of

extremism will engulf Pakistan. This was the challenge that kept her awake at nights as much as dictatorship did, as much as mass hunger did. She dabbled in the waters of realpolitik, but remained clear-eyed about legitimacy. Any dialogue with any government was always for ensuring a level playing field. That was all she asked for: an open contest and a fair election.

This was the PPP's strength, which she had turned into a clear brand for the party. Her father had given his life for it, and she always said that one day she too would have to as well. Her fear was not that she would be snuffed out in the prime of her life. It was that she would not be able to make Pakistan safe again for its children. Benazir Bhutto led the one mainstream party who owned the battle against religious orthodoxy and militancy as Pakistan's internal challenge. And she was the only one willing to mark clear lines in the sand for it. There was to be no compromise on women's freedoms, no expedient compromises with those who targeted our non-Muslim compatriots, with those who targeted our innocent civilians and soldiers. She knew it was never going to be easy. It was never going to be overnight. The institutional capacity for governance was fragile. But she had the long view of life. She was going to start fixing some of it through a reform package and tough security measures. To her this was never another country's war. It was Pakistan's battle for survival.

I end by quoting one of the speeches I wrote for her at a global forum: "I still push for a new deal for women and men all over the world, not just the Muslim world. I still have a new dream for Pakistan in my head. But like so many other women in the world, I have opportunity in one hand, and its opponent forcing my other. It is choices that move us forward, and the judicious exercise of our choices that make the difference. Women and men are here to make their mark on the world, and I will always be the first to show them the way."

Bibi, you are still showing us the way and on each birthday Pakistan will honour you as its finest.

Courtesy to Express Tribune

The writer is a senator, Vice-President of the PPP and Chair of the Jinnah Institute. She has served as Pakistan's Ambassador to the US, and as Federal Minister of Information. She tweets @sherryrehman

Pioneer for Democracy:

Benazir Bhutto Shaheed

21 June 1953 – 27 December 2007



Benazir Bhutto was born in Karachi, Pakistan to a prominent political family. At age 16 she left her homeland to study at Harvard's Radcliffe College. After completing her undergraduate degree at Radcliffe she studied at England's Oxford University, where she was awarded a second degree in 1977.

At 35, she was one of the youngest chief executives in the world, and the first woman to serve as prime minister in an Islamic country.

Later that year she returned to Pakistan where her father, Zulfikar All Bhutto, had been elected prime minister, but days after her arrival, the military seized power and her father was imprisoned. In 1979 he was hanged by the military government of General Zia Ul Haq.

Bhutto herself was also arrested many times over the following years, and was detained for three years before being permitted to leave the country in 1984. When her brother died in 1985, she traveled to Pakistan for his burial, and was again arrested for participating in anti-government rallies.

She flew to London after her release, and martial law was lifted in Pakistan at the end of the year. Anti-Zia demonstrations resumed and Benazir Bhutto returned to Pakistan in





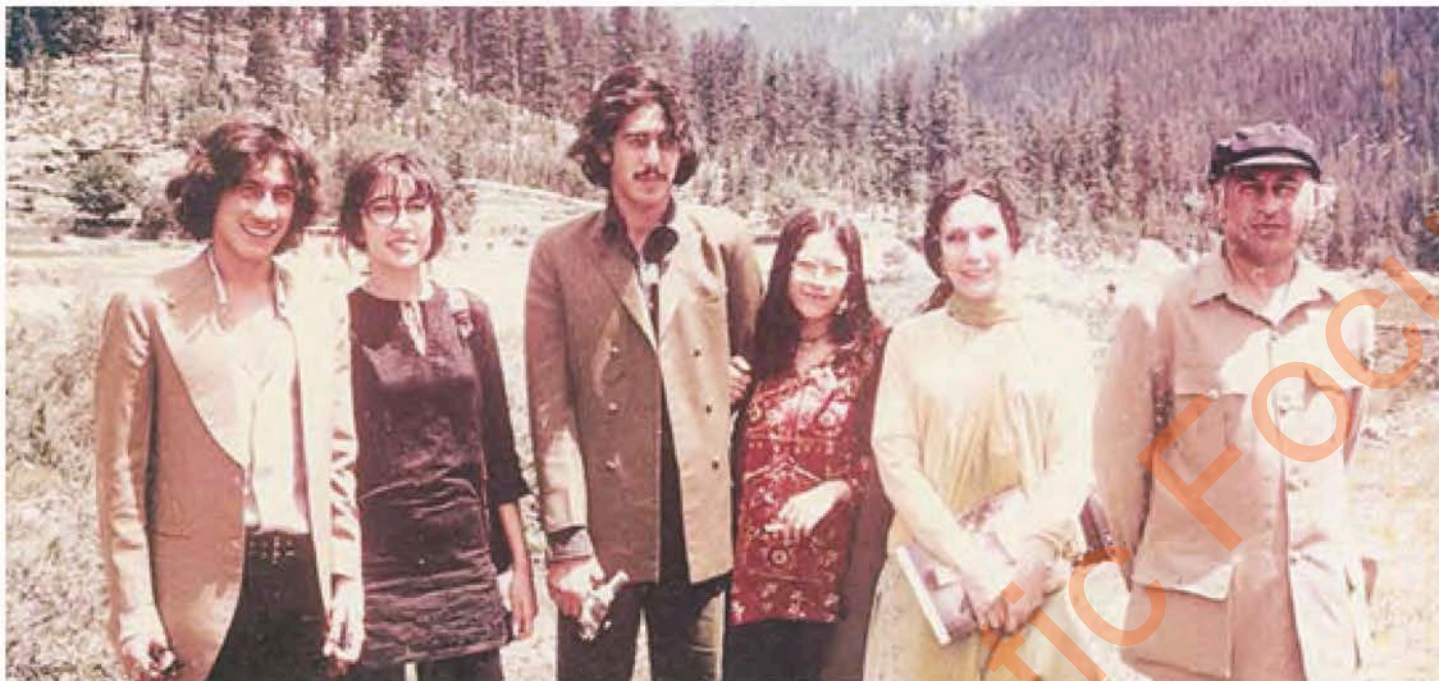
April 1986. The public response to her return was tumultuous, and she publicly called for the resignation of Zia Ul Haq, whose government had executed her father.

She was elected co-chairwoman of the Pakistan People's Party (PPP) along with her mother, and when free elections were finally held in 1988, she herself became Prime Minister. At 35, she was one of the youngest chief executives in the world, and the first woman to serve as prime minister in an Islamic country.

Only two years into her first term, President Ghulam Ishaq Khan dismissed Bhutto from office. She initiated an anti-corruption campaign, and in 1993 was re-elected as Prime Minister. While in office, she brought electricity to the countryside and built schools all over the country. She made hunger, housing and health care her top priorities, and looked forward to continuing to modernize Pakistan.

At the same time, Bhutto faced constant opposition from the Islamic fundamentalist movement. Her brother Mir Murtaza, who had been estranged from Benazir since their father's death, returned from abroad and leveled charges of corruption at Benazir's husband, Asif Ali Zardari.

In 1996 President Leghari of Pakistan dismissed Benazir Bhutto from office, alleging mismanagement, and dissolved the National Assembly. A Bhutto re-election bid failed in 1997, and the next elected government, headed by Nawaz Shari. Bhutto's husband was

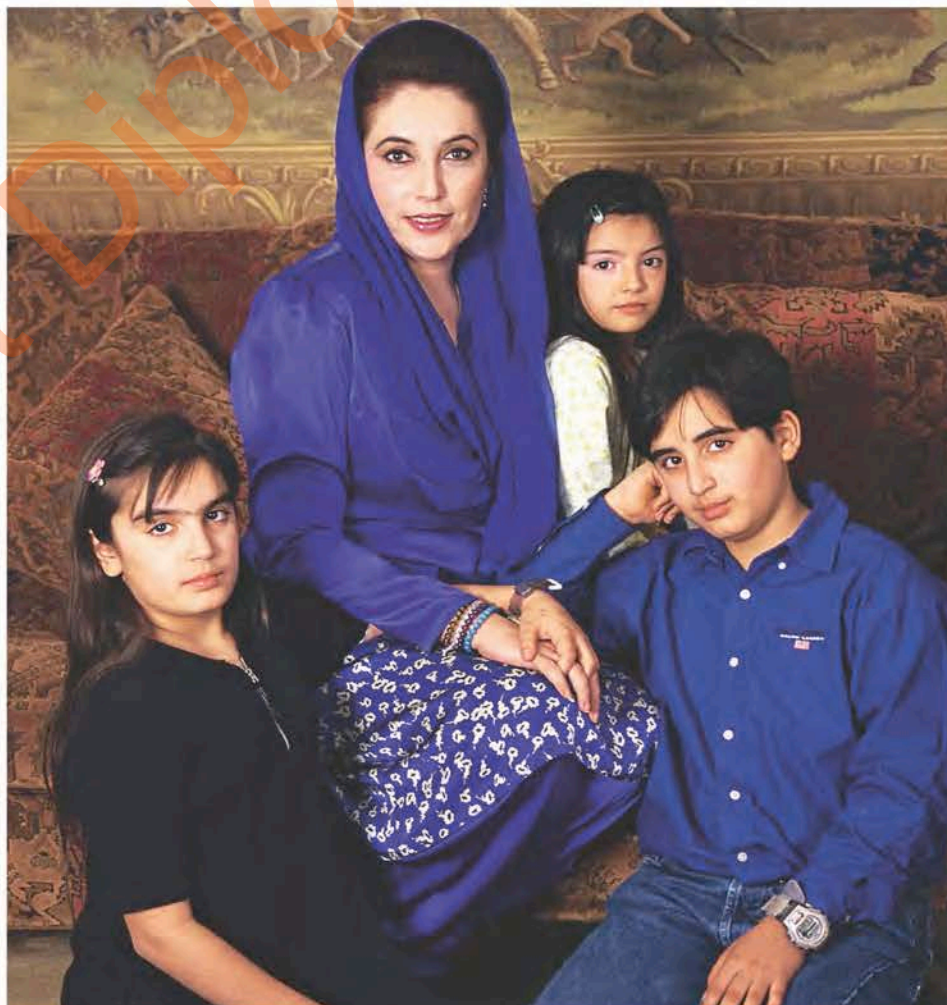


imprisoned, and once again, she was forced to leave her homeland. For nine years, she and her children lived in exile in London, where she continued to advocate the restoration of democracy in Pakistan. Asif Ali Zardari was released from prison in 2004 and rejoined his family in London. In the autumn of 2007, in the face of death threats from radical Islamists, and the hostility of the government, Benazir Bhutto and her husband returned to their native country.

Although she was greeted by enthusiastic crowds, within hours of her arrival, her motorcade was attacked by a suicide bomber. She survived this first assassination attempt, although more than 100 bystanders died in the attack. With national elections scheduled for January 2008, her Pakistan People's Party was

poised for a victory that would make Bhutto prime minister once again. Only a few weeks before the election, the extremists struck again. After a campaign rally in Rawalpindi, a gunman fired at her car before detonating a bomb, killing himself and more than 20 bystanders. Bhutto was rushed to the hospital,

but soon succumbed to injuries suffered in the attack. In the wake of her death, rioting erupted throughout the country. Although Benazir Bhutto did not live but she championed still play a major role in the political life of contemporary Pakistan.



Diplomatic Focus Thru Lens



Federal Minister for Water and Power, Khawaja Muhammad Asif in a meeting with German Ambassador Lepel at Ministry of Water & Power, Islamabad.



Minister of State for Capital Administration & Development Division (CA&DD), Dr. Tariq Fazal Chaudhry in a meeting with H.E. Takashi Kurai, Ambassador of Japan in Pakistan who called on him in Islamabad.



The Outgoing Ambassador of Romania, H.E. Emilian paid a Farewell called on the Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Foreign Affairs Syed Tariq Fatemi in Islamabad.



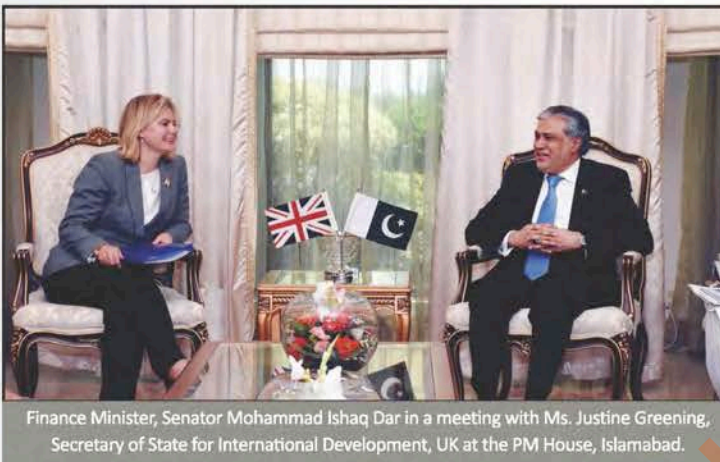
Federal Minister for Planning, Development & Reform Prof. Ahsan Iqbal in a meeting with Italian Ambassador H.E. Stefano Ponfectorvo.



H.E. Mr. Takashi Kural, Ambassador of Japan to Pakistan, called on Federal Minister for Law & Justice, Zahid Hamid in Islamabad.



Finance Minister, Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar meeting with Swiss Ambassador Marc George and Netherlands Charge d' Affairs, Renate Pors in Islamabad.



UK votes to LEAVE the EU

UK votes to LEAVE the EU

Leave
51.9%
17,410,742 VOTES



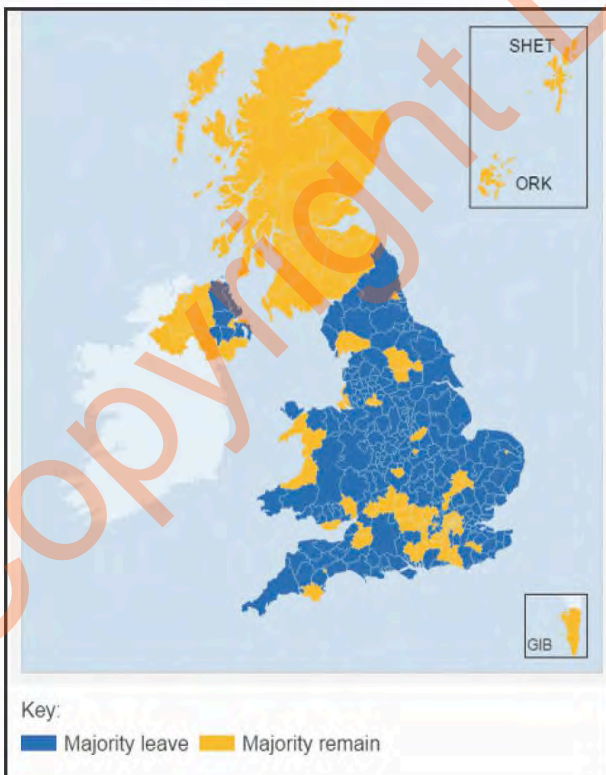
Remain
48.1%
16,141,241 VOTES

0 results left to declare

LEAVE UK votes to LEAVE the EU

Electorate 46,501,241
Turnout 72.2%
Rejected ballots 26,033

72.2%
26,033



UK votes to leave the EU

The UK has voted to leave the EU by 52% to 48%. Leave won the majority of votes in England and Wales, while every council in Scotland saw Remain majorities.

Nation results

Leave **53.4%** Remain **46.6%**
15,188,406 VOTES 13,266,996 VOTES
Counting complete Turnout: 73.0%

Northern Ireland

Leave **44.2%** Remain **55.8%**
349,442 VOTES 440,437 VOTES
Counting complete Turnout: 62.9%

Scotland

Leave **38.0%** Remain **62.0%**
1,018,322 VOTES 1,661,191 VOTES
Counting complete Turnout: 67.2%

Wales

Leave **52.5%** Remain **47.5%**
854,572 VOTES 772,347 VOTES
Counting complete Turnout: 71.7%

Brexit's uncharted territory:



Can the EU save itself?

By Chris Morris

For many across Europe, the unthinkable has happened. But in truth it has been coming for a long time.

The European Union is now facing the biggest crisis in its history.

"It's an explosive shock," said French Prime Minister Manuel Valls, shortly after the victory of the Leave campaign was confirmed.

"At stake, purely and simply," Mr. Valls added, "is the break-up of the union. We have to invent another Europe."

It is indeed not inconceivable that further fragmentation could follow. Political emotions are running high in many European countries. Old certainties are being abandoned.

And those who believe in the idea of European unity know that they have to respond quickly.

Their vision of Europe has taken a decisive step backwards, and the EU will be weaker without the UK.

The union is losing its second largest economy, its most influential diplomatic power and a country that has always sought to challenge the status quo.

"This is an unprecedented situation but we are united in our response," said the President of the European Commission, Jean-Claude Juncker. "We will stand strong and uphold the EU's core values of promoting peace and the well-being of its peoples."

Beyond the sloganeering, the quality of

leadership within the EU will be tested as never before. Muddling through may not be an option.

And that is why, now the British decision has been made, most European leaders want divorce to happen as quickly as possible. Some insist that David Cameron should invoke Article 50 - the mechanism through which separation will be negotiated - immediately.

Further integration?

Senior figures, from Donald Tusk to Angela Merkel, have called for calm. But any impression that the UK is dragging its feet will be met with an increasingly angry response.

As many EU politicians have emphasised: "Out is out."

There are those who argue that - with the UK no longer holding them back - a "coalition of the willing," led by France and Germany, could push forward with further integration to restore confidence in the European project.

Defence and security is one area where progress could be made relatively quickly.

But is that what citizens actually want?

Euroscepticism is not an exclusively British phenomenon. There have already been calls from populist politicians in France, Italy and the Netherlands for their own referendums on EU membership.

So it is hard to avoid the impression that political elites in Europe have for too long ignored the concerns of people who feel they have been buffeted by globalisation, and other

forces beyond their control.

"Brussels must hear the voice of the people - that is the biggest lesson from this decision," Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban said.

But there are also countless people across Europe whose lives have been plunged into uncertainty by the outcome of the UK vote - British expats and others.

And no-one should underestimate the political will to keep things together in the EU when crisis strikes. We have seen that time and again over the past few years.

This though is uncharted territory.

Practical answers

"The future of the European Union in my view genuinely hangs in the balance," the Oxford historian Timothy Garton Ash told me recently, at the height of the UK referendum campaign.

"Not that it's going to collapse tomorrow, but I think what is most important at the moment is that the European Union can deliver practical answers - to economic growth inside the eurozone; to managing the flow of refugees and migrants; and to addressing the fears of populations which lead them to vote for Eurosceptic and nationalist parties."

It is a formidable list. But if the EU is to survive and prosper without the UK, it will have to tackle the toughest issues head on.

Europe's political order has been overturned, with far-reaching consequences that no-one can accurately predict.

Courtesy to BBC NEWS



Brexit: David Cameron to quit after UK votes to leave EU

By Monitoring Desk

Prime Minister David Cameron is to step down by October after the UK voted to leave the European Union.

Speaking outside 10 Downing Street, he said “fresh leadership” was needed.

The PM had urged the country to vote Remain but was defeated by 52% to 48% despite London, Scotland and Northern Ireland backing staying in.

UKIP leader Nigel Farage hailed it as the UK’s “independence day”, while Boris Johnson said the result would not mean “pulling up the drawbridge”.

Just a year after he clinched a surprise majority

in the general election, a visibly emotional Cameron, standing outside Number 10 on Friday morning alongside his wife, Samantha, said: “The will of the British people is an instruction that must be delivered.”

The prime minister campaigned hard in the

“fresh leadership” was needed: David Cameron

divisive referendum on Britain’s relationship with the EU, appearing at hundreds of public events up and down the country to argue that Brexit would be an act of “economic self-harm”.

But a frustrated electorate used the poll to reject the status quo and, as the Ukip leader, Nigel Farage, described it, “stick two fingers

up” at Britain’s politicians.

“I was absolutely clear about my belief that Britain is stronger, safer and better off inside the EU. I made clear the referendum was about this, and this alone, not the future of any single politician, including myself.

“But the British people made a different decision to take a different path. As such I think the country requires fresh leadership to take it in this direction,” Cameron said.

The prime minister’s team were left shocked and distraught by the narrow win for leave, with 52% of the vote, after polls had suggested a move towards a comfortable margin for remain in the final few days of campaigning.

In the statement announcing his intention

to step down, Cameron highlighted the key achievements of his premiership, including rebuilding the economy after the financial crisis and legislating to allow gay marriage.

The process of choosing his successor will now begin, with Tory MPs selecting a two-person shortlist, which will then be presented to the party's members in the country to make a final decision.

Cameron called the referendum as a calculated gamble, aimed at silencing the Eurosceptics in his own party for a generation.

Yet he had underestimated the backing Vote Leave would receive on his own backbenches; and reckoned without the charismatic and popular former mayor of London, Boris Johnson, becoming its figurehead.

Scottish First Minister Nicola Sturgeon said she was "absolutely determined" to keep Scotland in the EU so a second Scottish independence referendum was now "highly likely".

EU chiefs said they expected the UK to begin negotiations to leave "as soon as possible, however painful that process may be".

But Boris Johnson, the ex-London mayor and public face of Vote Leave who is now a frontrunner to be next prime minister, said there was "no need for haste" about severing the UK's ties.

He said voters had "searched in their hearts" and the UK now had a "glorious opportunity" to pass its own laws, set its own taxes and control its own borders.

Another leading Leave campaigner, Labour's Gisela Stuart said the UK would be a "good neighbour" when it left the EU.

The pound fell to its lowest level against the dollar since 1985 as the markets reacted to the results.

Flanked by his wife Samantha, Mr Cameron announced shortly after 08:15 BST that he had informed the Queen of his decision to remain in place for the short term and to then hand over to a new prime minister by the time of the Conservative conference in October.

He would attempt to "steady the ship" over the coming weeks and months, but that it would be for the new prime minister to carry out negotiations with the EU and invoke Article 50 of the Lisbon Treaty, which would give the UK two years to negotiate its withdrawal, he said.

"The British people have voted to leave the European Union and their will must be respected," said Mr Cameron. "The will of the British people is an instruction that must be delivered."

Bank of England governor Mark Carney said UK banks' "substantial capital and huge liquidity" allowed them to continue to lend to businesses and households.

The Bank of England is ready to provide an extra £250bn of support, he added.

The referendum turnout was 71.8% - with more than 30 million people voting - the highest turnout at a UK-wide vote since 1992.

Mr Farage - who has campaigned for the past 20 years for Britain to leave the EU - told cheering supporters "this will be a victory for ordinary people, for decent people".

Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn, who called for the UK to remain in the EU but was accused of a lukewarm campaign, said poorer communities were "fed up" with cuts and felt "marginalised by successive governments".

"Clearly there are some very difficult days ahead," he said, adding that "there will be job consequences as a result of this decision".

He said the point he had made during the campaign was that "there were good things" about the EU but also "other things that had not been addressed properly".

Lib Dem leader Tim Farron said Labour's leader had been "utterly gutless" in the way he approached the campaign.

Former Labour Europe Minister Keith Vaz described the outcome as "catastrophic for our country, for the rest of Europe and for the rest of the world".

Leave supporting Tory MP Liam Fox said voters had shown great "courage" by deciding to "change the course of history" for the UK and, he hoped, the rest of Europe.

Britain is set to be the first country to leave the EU since its formation - but the Leave vote does not immediately mean Britain ceases to be a member of the 28-nation bloc.

That process could take a minimum of two years, with Leave campaigners suggesting during the referendum campaign that it should not be completed until 2020 - the date of the next scheduled general election.

How do you choose a new prime minister?

The prime minister is notionally picked by the Crown, but in practice the monarch has – for centuries – been obliged to pick the party leader who can command the support of most MPs in the House of Commons.

In the distant past this was established by taking informal soundings, but the Labour party from its inception elected its leader by a ballot of its MPs. The Tories adopted the same method of choosing a leader in the 1960s.

Then came the democratisation of the parties, Labour in the 80s, the Tories in the 2000s, which gave ordinary activists a say. But both of these parties made that switch in opposition, and neither has ever balloted its mass membership to pick a PM when in office. It would have happened in 2007, but Gordon Brown crushed all dissent before the members got a say.

This time, however, it will be different. Tory MPs will draw up a shortlist of two, and then party members will have the final say, installing a new leader straight to No 10. It's an historic first, and will trigger calls for an early election.

Diplomatic Focus Thru Lens



Advisor to the Prime Minister on Foreign Affairs Sartaj Aziz in a meeting with the Defence Minister of Maldives Mr. Adam Shareef Umar in Islamabad.



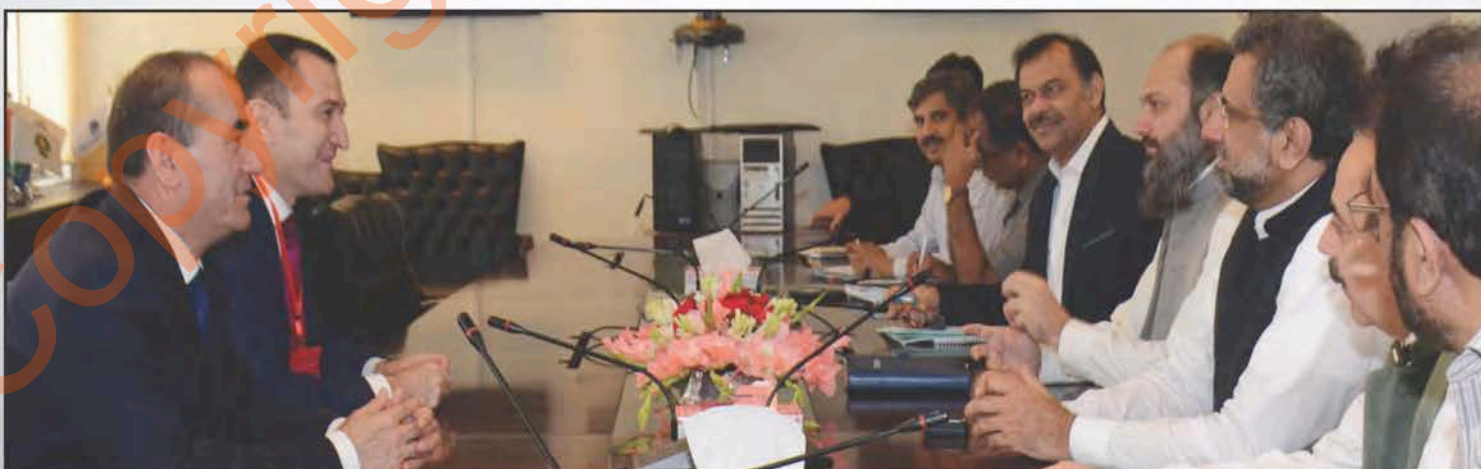
Federal Minister for Planning Development & Reform Prof. Ahsan Iqbal in a meeting with Ambassador of Japan H.E. Takashi Kurain in Islamabad.



Advisor to the Prime Minister on Foreign Affairs in a meeting with Special Representative of the Swedish Prime Minister Mr. Carl Bildt in Islamabad.



Iranian Ambassador to Pakistan Mr. Mehdi Honardoost called on Interior Minister Ch. Nisar Ali Khan at Punjab House Islamabad.



Federal Minister for Petroleum & National Resources, Shahid Khaqan Abbasi in a meeting with Mr. Usmonali Uzmonzoda, Minister of Energy and Water Resources of the Republic of Tajikistan in Islamabad.



Iftar

Dinner Reception

Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) senior leader and former Senator Dr. Shahzad Waseem hosted a dinner for European Ambassadors at his residence with Chairman PTI Imran Khan as chief guest.

Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) Pervaz Khattak, Jahangir Khan Tareen, Naeem-ul-Haq and Abdul Haleem Khan also attended the dinner.

Large number of Ambassadors including Chinese Ambassador Sun Weldong, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia Abdullah Bin Marzouq Al-Zahrani, Ambassador of Afghanistan Dr Omar Zakhilwa, Ambassador of Qatar Saqr Bin Mubarak Al-Mansouri, Honorary Consul General Paraguay Kanwar M. Tariq, diplomats of the embassy of United Kingdom (UK), United States (USA), France, Italy, Japan, Greece, Romania and other foreign dignitaries were in attendance.

Speaking at the occasion, Chairman PTI Imran Khan said that elimination of corruption, investment in human resource development and establishment of rule of law is the only way forward for Pakistan to progress as peaceful and prosperous country. He said that PTI enjoys public support in all provinces to achieve these objectives.

Talking about PTI led Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government he said that police has been depoliticized. Health and education sector are getting required budgetary share. KP Government has promoted environmental protection in its development agenda. PTI Chairman Imran Khan also invited foreign dignitaries to visit KP.

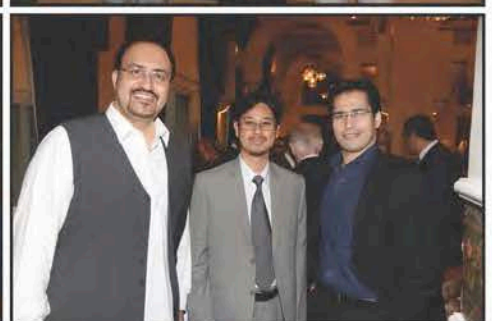
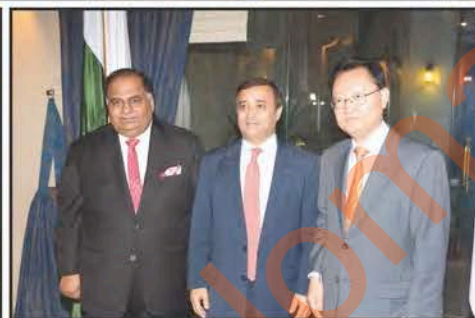
At the end PTI senior leader Dr Shahzad Waseem thanked participants for their presence.



Diplomatic Focus honored New Korean Envoy

Mr. Mian Fazal Elahi Editor, CEO & Publisher "Diplomatic Focus" hosted a dinner reception cum Iftar Party in the honor of newly appointed Ambassador of the Republic of Korea H.E. Suh Dong-gu at Serena hotel Islamabad. Additional Secretary Ministry of Foreign Affairs Pakistan S. Zulfiqar Gardezi, MNA Chaudhry Nazir Ahmad Arian and other dignitaries graced the event with other Ambassadors, Media personals, and businessmen.

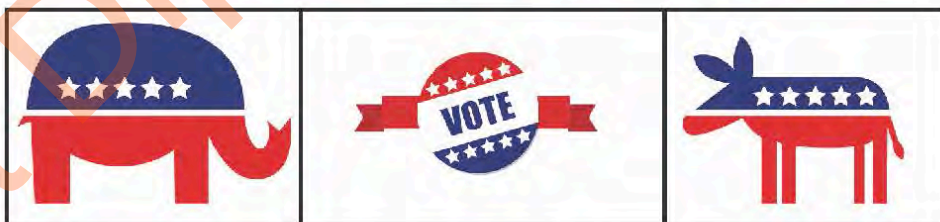






The US elections

The nominees of the Republican and Democratic parties have been chosen. One is a business tycoon and political buffoon. The other is an able, controversial and widely distrusted lady. She is the first female presidential nominee of a major US political party but has so far failed to make it with the youth of America — male or female.



By ASHRAF JEHANGIR QAZI

However, the most interesting and significant candidate has been the 74-year-old Senator Bernie Sanders. He highlighted the massive gap between the perceptions and priorities of young Americans and their elders with regard to where the US really is and where it should be heading. He demonstrated that truth-telling may yet have a future in American politics. He has started something that must continue if the US is ever to approach its self-image as a leader and model for the rest of the world.

Obama was gifted an opportunity to leave his imprint and not just his colour on American history. He blew it because he "flattered only to deceive" despite being one of the most intelligent, articulate and attractive of American presidents. History will note his efforts and accomplishments as well as his

more fundamental limitations which prevented him from transforming the US, in the eyes of many around the world, from being a global threat to being a source of global hope.

The US has always had great human beings. In recent times, they have included the likes of FDR, Martin Luther King Jr, Noam Chomsky, Muhammad Ali, etc. Obama could have been among them. So many US achievements have provided inspiration to the world. But they have all been overshadowed by a concentration of political and economic influence that is protected by a military whose demonstrated killing prowess is abetted by an abiding contempt for international law in the pursuit of its interests.

Hillary Clinton, if she wins, will enthusiastically assume command of this power and impunity.



She is a passionate advocate of its deployment and use around the world, especially in the Muslim world. This 'kinetic' strategy will be the core of her repertoire — just what the 21st century does not need if it is to meet the challenges of global survival.

The dangers of a Trump administration are easily recited. But as he is more hot air than substance he may be the less menacing prospect. His positions regarding Muslims, Mexicans, nuclear weapons, climate, China, etc. are so untenable he will inevitably move away from them. Clinton's convictions spring from a deeper intelligence, insecurity and opportunism that will not give way to reality and common sense so easily.

One of the apparent mysteries of the Democratic campaign is how the Latinos and African-Americans fell for Clinton's promises of tea and sympathy within a class warfare in which their oppressors financed her to beguile and pacify them. Sanders, instead, was committed to changing the system in which they remained losers. Clinton was brilliant and tenacious in ensuring that the Sanders message did not get through to them. Yet young Americans of all genders, ethnic and income groups prefer Sanders to Clinton. That power of the Sanders message remains and bodes well for America. Sanders, moreover, is reluctant to dilute the promise of his 'political revolution' with a phony show of support for Clinton.

Unsurprisingly, Trump who is as shrewd as he

is bombastic relished the prospect of a one on one for the White House with Bernie Sanders much less than a straight fight with Clinton. Bernie would have had nothing to fear as he took on the Don. Despite her pluck Clinton will have plenty to fear from a slugfest with the populist bully. He has more Teflon than Reagan ever had. He has a nasty, frustrated and fearful constituency including white billionaires and so-called 'white trash' who love him for his boorishness and outrageous behaviour.

He is a daytime reverie for white losers in which they smash the so-called American liberal establishment and an emerging world that has begun to be in America's face without blinking. Clinton is on to Trump but may lack the moral self-confidence to beat him without the strong support of Sanders, which his youth brigades seem in no mood to provide.

The Republican Party has long ceased to be a political party. As Chomsky observes it is now an "insurgency" mounted by millions of frustrated and angry white losers who have been manipulated by the political spinners of corporate America. Accordingly, they have become an incoherent and unstable but still significant electoral base of what is left of the original Republican Party. As losers everywhere they tend to vote for their oppressors.

The Democratic Party — which now resembles the traditional moderate wing of the Republican Party according to Chomsky — is following in the footsteps of the current Republican Party towards political disintegration. The Sanders

movement, if it remains a part of and can take over the party, could develop a future for it. But corporate America and Hillary Clinton will formidably oppose such a development since they have an existential stake in ensuring that reforms of any kind do not fundamentally challenge a system that rests on the prevailing structures of power.

This is a game that is also unfolding in Pakistan. Can Nawaz Sharif survive Panama and all the misdemeanours of his government before and since? This is The Question! All other questions, including the future of the country, pale into insignificance and are therefore uninteresting. Smart anchors and commentators, keen to display their relevance and acumen, delineate a fascinating world of possibilities, survival and knockout strategies, and political skill-sets demanded by The Question.

The TOR saga is the current all-encompassing and diverting number one soap opera. The arguments, insults and speculations are fast and furious. The Romans had it right with their circuses. Something similar prevailed among the cardinals of Constantinople with their fascinating quarrels and questions as the Ottomans looked on in 1453. An enthralling rest of the year beckons.

The writer is a former ambassador to the US, India and China and head of UN missions in Iraq and Sudan.

Courtesy to DAWN



**Ambassador of Iraq, Dr. Ali Yasin Mohammad Karim
hosted a lunch in the honor of Arab countries
diplomats at his residence,
Embassy of Iraq in Islamabad.**







Policy dilemmas

TIES between the US and Pakistan have been passing through testing times. First the F-16s dispute, and then the drone strike that killed Mullah Mansour, followed by implied threats of more such strikes by President Obama. Is the relationship headed for another of the now-familiar downturns?

Mark Twain once said the history does not repeat; it rhymes. The fact is this F16s dispute is not the re-enactment of the one in the '90s, and the drone strike may not be what it looks like on the surface. Nor does the growing

Pakistan has to deal with more than two Americas

American romance with India translate into abandonment of Pakistan. These are two very different relationships now. The reports of the demise of the US-Pakistan relations are thus 'vastly exaggerated'. The US is not walking away. When the US walked away the last time it walked away from the region not just from Pakistan. This time it is heavily invested in the region. As US Special Representative to

Pakistan and Afghanistan Richard Olson said in a congressional testimony in April: "Pakistan is strategically vital, due to its role in issues that matter to us, as well as its location at the crossroads of Afghanistan, India, China and Iran. American national interests require that we stay engaged as Pakistan charts its long-term future."

But the question is what 'American national interests' are And what would be the best policies to pursue them. Washington is not quite clear about it. There may be two Pakistans that America has to contend with but Pakistan has to deal with more than two Americas. Given the nature of the post 9/11 challenges, foreign policy has become military dominated and ever more politicised. There are multiple stakeholders and competing priorities and interests causing a serious fragmentation of the policy process. Over this welter of confusion presides a White House whose heart beats to the rhythms of electoral cycle and the lure of legacy. And that affects policy towards Pakistan. Pakistan radiates many potential threats that cause legitimate security concerns to the American public affecting public opinion and thus politics. Then the Afghanistan war has



By TOUQIR HUSSAIN

not been going well for which Pakistan is getting exaggerated but understandable blame. All this has made the White House and congressional perceptions of Pakistan very political.

Politics and US national interests are thus badly out of alignment for Pakistan. Even the national interests of the two countries are not fully in sync as some of the interests of Pakistan clash with American objectives in Afghanistan on the one hand and US-India relations on the other.

Not only that, their policies on shared interests sometimes differ.

But if you look at the larger context in which US-Pakistan relations will likely operate in the geostrategic landscape, the regional environment, and the domestic dynamics within Pakistan, the picture changes. We are talking here of the lengthening strategic shadow of China and the US pivot to Asia, the rise of India's power and ambitions, Afghanistan's elusive search for peace and stability, and Pakistan's own struggle against terrorism and extremism, and efforts at stabilisation of the economy and strengthening of democracy.

Pakistan will be in the eye of a veritable geostrategic storm as it faces on one side prospects of failure on Afghanistan, and on the other continued pressures from an assertive and dominant India while it copes with internal challenges. And this has implications for the US.

Pakistan has an important role in facilitating or complicating the advancement of US interests in the future. As Mr Olson had said in the same testimony "Pakistan is critical to a negotiated settlement to the conflict in Afghanistan; strategic stability in the subcontinent; countering violent extremism; and defeating terrorists that threaten the US and the region".

The administration thus wishes to remain engaged with Pakistan but at a level politically sustainable. Pakistan must not be ignored yet cannot be given a free pass. It is legacy time for Obama and that means Afghanistan has become the single focus of ties with Pakistan. On Afghanistan, Obama cannot leave behind a legacy of inaction and having presided over its failure, more so as the US election approaches. There is no good solution but just to leave behind the present number of troops and expand their role. And be tough on Pakistan and the Taliban.

But the trouble is Pakistan's Taliban policy remains muddled. And its stance of neither being able to bring the Taliban to the negotiating table nor acting against them has reached a dead end. Both countries face serious policy dilemmas as they address challenges neither can handle alone. And neither has good options except that relations must go on.

The writer is a former ambassador teaching at Georgetown and Johns Hopkins University, US. Courtesy to DAWN



By Monitoring Desk

Pakistan has expressed its concern over growing strategic ties between India and the United States (US), a day after the two countries signed a number of agreements for security cooperation during Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to the US. Addressing a press conference at the Foreign Office (FO) on Thursday, the Adviser to the Prime Minister on Foreign Affairs Sartaj Aziz

"We firmly conveyed it to the US that maintaining effective nuclear deterrence is critical for Pakistan's security and only Pakistan itself can determine how it should respond to growing strategic imbalance in South Asia," Sartaj Aziz

said that the US approaches Pakistan whenever it needs it, and abandons it when it doesn't need Pakistan.

"Pakistan will convey its concerns to US over the latest issues in the bilateral ties," Aziz said, adding that a high-level meeting is planned between Pakistan and US officials on June 10 in Islamabad.

"We firmly conveyed it to the US that maintaining effective nuclear deterrence is

critical for Pakistan's security and only Pakistan itself can determine how it should respond to growing strategic imbalance in South Asia," he said.

The adviser said Pakistan has decided to take up the issue of Kulbhushan Jadhav, an Indian spy who was recovered from Balochistan, with the United Nations and other international forums.

He said the statement made by Director General of India's National Investigation Agency (NIA) that no evidence linked Pakistan to the Pathankot attack has vindicated Pakistan's position in attack probe.

This statement comes as Indian PM Modi wrapped up a visit to Washington as one of President Barack Obama's closest international partners.

The developing Indo-US relationship is seen as a foreign policy success for the Obama administration.

Washington views India as an important part of its re-balance to Asia and as a counterweight to China.

The two countries are finalising various agreements that would make it possible for their militaries to cooperate more closely in the future. Under one such agreement, an American company will build six nuclear reactors in India.

The perpetually oscillating Pak-US relationship is once again at low as reflected by the Congressional restriction on financing of F-16 fighters' sale from Foreign Military Financing programme, because of which Pakistan lost the opportunity to buy the jets.

The relationship was further strained when the US carried out a drone strike in Balochistan, killing Afghan Taliban leader Mullah Akhtar Mansour, which was termed by Pakistani leadership a violation of the country's sovereignty.

Pakistan-Romania hold Bilateral Political Consultations

The 8th Round of Bilateral Political Consultations between Pakistan and Romania was held at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Islamabad. The Pakistan side was led by Additional Secretary (Europe) Mr. Rafiuzzaman Siddiqui while the Romanian delegation was headed by Mrs. Daniela Grigore Gitman, State Secretary for Global Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Romania.

A wide range of bilateral and multilateral issues were discussed during the consultations. The two sides while expressing satisfaction over the trajectory of bilateral relations in different areas including economy, defence, parliamentary exchanges, education and culture, stressed on the need for exploring new avenues of cooperation, especially in the fields of agriculture, textile and energy.

The Additional Secretary briefed the Romanian delegation on recent developments in Pakistan



including achievements of the Government to improve law and order, efforts for improving economy and overcoming the energy shortages. He also briefed the Romanian delegation on Pakistan's contribution in the war against terrorism and the successes achieved during the military operation Zarb-e-Azb, as well as the comprehensive policy (National Action Plan) to root out the menace of terrorism and extremism from Pakistani soil.

The Additional Secretary also gave an overview of the Government's policy of peaceful

neighborhood, particularly its endeavors to normalize relations with India and to facilitate an Afghan-led and Afghan-owned peace process in Afghanistan.

The Romanian State Secretary said that Pakistan was a very important country and partner of Romania and we are keen to further strengthen bilateral ties with Pakistan. She also appreciated Pakistan's successes in the fight against terrorism and the policy of peaceful neighborhood, especially its role in facilitating peace process in Afghanistan.



Bilateral Political consultations between Pakistan & Egypt

The two sides underlined similarity of perception of the two countries on major regional and international issues

The 7th Round of Bilateral Political Consultations between Pakistan and Egypt was held at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Cairo on 31st May 2016. Special Secretary Mr. Mohammad Waheed-ul-Hasan led the Pakistani team, which included our Ambassador in Cairo as also Director General (UN) at the Ministry. The Egyptian side was led by Assistant Foreign Minister Yasser Mourad.

Recalling the traditional bonds of fraternity that linked the peoples of Egypt and Pakistan, the two sides underlined similarity of perception of the two countries on major regional and

international issues. The two sides expressed mutual desire to further strengthen the bonds of fraternity and cooperation that benefitted the brotherly peoples of our two countries. The two sides reviewed cooperation in specific areas and agreed upon the need to boost bilateral trade and economic cooperation.

The Special Secretary briefed the Egyptian side on Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif's vision for a 'Peaceful Neighborhood' and the efforts being made by Pakistan to promote friendly relations with its neighbors. The Egyptian side also elaborated the facilities in the newly

established industrial zones in Egypt and hoped that Pakistani investors would take advantage of the investment opportunities. They also expressed desire to resume direct flights between Pakistan and Egypt.

The two sides underlined the need to convene the next session of Joint Ministerial Commission that is due to be held in Islamabad. The Commission provides a platform to identify ways and means to expand and strengthen cooperation in political, economic, social and cultural fields.





Pakistan signs helicopter contract with Italian aerospace giant

Pakistan has signed a contract for an undisclosed number of Agusta Westland AW139 intermediate twin engine helicopters with Italian multinational aerospace company Leonardo-Finmeccanica.

The contract was signed here in presence of the Italian Ambassador to Pakistan Stefano Pontecorvo, said a statement published on the company's website.

The AW139 choppers, which cost over \$10 million each, will be used for search and rescue operations in the country.

The agreement is part of a fleet renewal programme spread over several stages, and includes a logistics support and training package.

The new fleet of helicopters, which is set to be delivered in 2017, is expected to be used for tasks such as civil protection, transport and search and rescue operations.

The latest contract marks a significant achievement for Leonardo-Finmeccanica in Pakistan, further expanding its already successful presence in the country. A total of 11 AW139s are already in service in Pakistan, with five aircraft operated for civil protection and transport tasks.

Leonardo-Finmeccanica is the ninth-largest defence contractor in the world based on applicable 2014 revenues.





Welcome & Bid Farewell Reception

Mr. Mian Fazal Elahi, Editor, Publisher & CEO of "Diplomatic Focus" hosted a reception in the honor of new envoy of Argentina H.E. Ivan Ivanissevich and Outgoing DCM of Spain Mr. Fernando Heridia Noguera in Islamabad.





UAE Ambassador Hosted Iftar Reception



Traditional UAE humility and hospitality, well known, was vividly in vogue at the Iftar-dinner hosted by H.E. Essa Abdullah Al Basha Al Nuaimi, UAE Ambassador to the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, at Serena Hotel Islamabad which is part of the embassy's tradition every year during the Holy Month of

Ramadan.

It was also a Farewell reception in the honor of First Secretary Embassy of the UAE Mr. Matar Ali Al-Mansoori who served in Pakistan for six years. His next assignment is Canberra, Australia. Ambassador H.E. Essa Abdullah Al Basha Al Nuaimi appreciated Mr. Matar Ali Al-

Mansoori services as first Secretary at Embassy of UAE. H.E. thanked to all invitees and said that both the countries enjoyed extremely well bilateral, political and economic ties and these would be strengthened further. Many UAE companies have huge investment worth billions of rupees in Pakistan in various projects

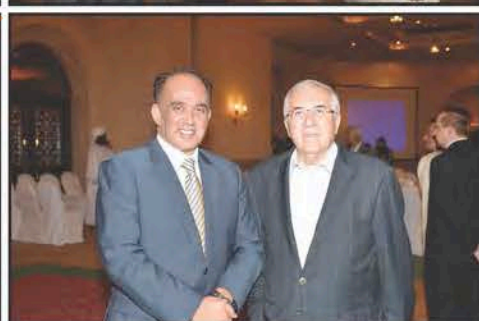


and expressed the hope that they would bring more investment here, he added.

Prominent among those present were Mr. Sartaj Aziz Foreign affairs adviser on the foreign policy at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, to Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, Mr. Zafar-ul-Haq, Mr. Sardar Muhammad Yousaf Federal minister of Religious Affair and Interfaith Harmony, Mr. Muhammad Baligh Ur Rehman Minister of State for Federal Education and Professional Training, Interior and Narcotics Control, Senator Rehman Malik, Mr. Sheikh Ansar Aziz Mayor of Islamabad Federal Capital of Pakistan, Mr. Sahibzada Khan Chief of Protocol, Mr. Tasawar Khan Additional Secretary Middle East & Africa, Dean of Diplomatic Corps and Ambassador of Kazakhstan to Pakistan H.E. Bakhytbek Shabarbayev, Diplomats of Middle East, Asia Pacific and Arab countries.

The invitees were served with delightful mix of UAE and Pakistani dishes at carefully arranged tables in the main hall. The atmosphere was marvelous and full of life. A great numbers of dignitaries, Governments officials, local officials, representatives from UAE investment companies, diplomats, embassy officials, and Emirati residents in Pakistan.







KING SALMAN HUMANITARIAN AID & RELIEF CENTRE

YEMEN

The Humanitarian Situation

The center was founded on 13/05/2015 under the sponsorship of his Excellency Custodian of the two holy mosques. The center operates through a group of programs designed as per the global State of the Art models to enable the center to pursue the crucial role played by Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA) relief and aid programs directed towards stricken communities to provide support and relief for a respectable life. The main objective is to unify relief activities outside KSA and coordinate between all reliefs relevant (governmental and non-governmental) parties inside KSA. "Regaining of Hope" initiative to support the brotherly Yemeni people is a first priority in the program and the center dedicates special attention to such case by virtue of direct instructions from his Excellency the Custodian of the two holy mosques.





212 Million People
in Need of
Humanitarian Aid



2.5 Million people
internally displaced



6 out of **10** need for
food security or
livelihood support



3.4 Million children
without schools



0.5 Million pregnant
women lose a safe
environment for
childbirth



12.4 Million people
in the conflict-affected
areas

Developments

Based on the UN resolution No. 2216, UN envoy to Yemen on March 23 announced the approval of the Yemeni government and the militias to cease hostilities with effect from 10 April, where the cessation of hostilities in Yemen includes all kinds of fight and the United Nations will have the mechanism to verify the cessation of hostilities.

The tribal and social figures in Yemen sought to find out a sort of truce on the Yemeni border, adjacent to Saudi Arabia to make way for the access of medical and relief materials to the villages of Yemen near the areas of operations. The coalition forces from the King Salman Humanitarian Aid & Relief Centre responded through the border port of Alb.

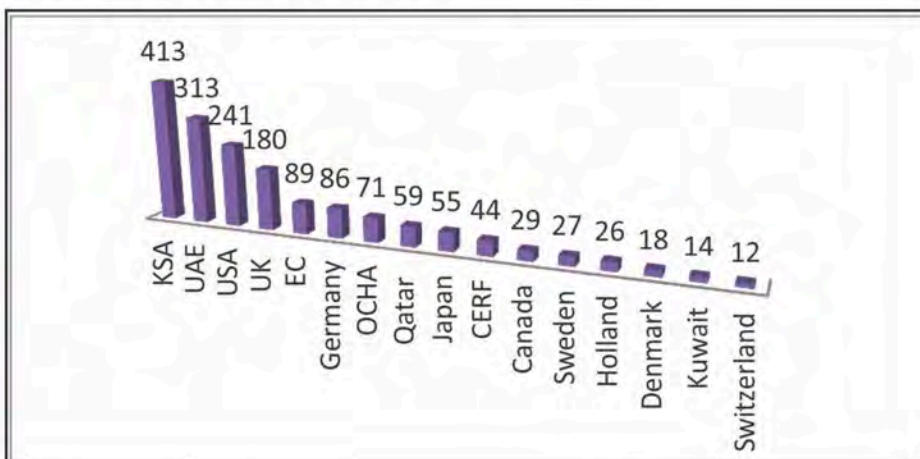
Violent battles raged between the militias and the forces of the legitimate Government supported by the coalition forces in the west of the city of Taiz, The resistance advanced in the region and gained control of the central prison, by failing the attempts of militias to stealing into the sites of resistance in the central prison and Government installations and militias came back to lay siege to the city of Taiz from the southwestern port. The situation in the southern provinces is gradually improving after its freedom from the control

of militias, The governorate of Aden continue to suffer from some terrorist acts while the security agencies in the province are trying to counter these terrorist acts. The Legitimate Government is currently holding several meetings for the adoption of a security plan in the liberated provinces.

Three suicide bombings incident related to Daash took place on Friday 17 Jumada al-Thani 1437H to target the three checkpoints of internal security forces in Aden, which result the killing 22 people, including 10 civilians.

The Economic Commission of the Yemeni Government confirmed that it have a very negative indicators about the situation in Sana' after the militias made extensive changes in the Ministry of Finance and exert its pressure on the banking sector as the meeting of the Board of the Central Bank is still pending, which the government requested that it should be held after the deteriorating will stop.

There are more than 1560 cases of grave violations against children in Yemen, according to an average, six children was killed or injured per day during the past year, These figures are higher by seven time comparing to which happened in 2014.



The contributions of the Kingdom in responding to the humanitarian situation in Yemen (US \$)

Partner	Location	Description	Contribution
FAO	At the level of all countries	Emergency livelihood support for displaced persons and host communities in conflict-affected areas	5.825.633
ICRC	At the level of all countries	Health Sector (Commitment Rations)	10.000.000
IMC	At the level of all countries	Water and sanitation in the provinces of Sana'a - Aden - Taiz - Lahjj	777.341
OCHA	At the level of all countries	Support means of coordination for humanitarian work	8.000.000
UNHCHR	At the level of all countries	Enhancing the capacities of the Yemeni government in the field of human rights	524.937
UNICEF	At the level of all countries	Nutrition, children and pregnant and lactating mothers program	29.634.312
UNDP	At the level of all countries	Food security and agriculture through the support of communities affected by emergency food needs - to protect civilians and aid workers from the conflict	1.743.203
UNHCR	At the level of all countries	Provide life-saving assistance to the Yemeni people displaced interlay.	31.079.202
UNFPA	At the level of all countries	Reproductive health and maternal and child health program	2.517.804
WFP	At the level of all countries	Providing food and logistics	142.808.948
WHO	At the level of all countries	Activities related to health services	15.849.070
KSRELIEF	At the level of all countries	Food aid - shelter - Medical - public health - water - Education	164.239.550
Total (US\$)			413.000.000



Programs of KING SALMAN HUMANITARIAN AID & RELIEF CENTRE

GENERAL STATISTICS FOR ALL PROGRAMS

Date of Update	15/ Jumada al-Thani /1437H Corresponding to March 24, 2016
Number of Programs	(66) Programs
Number of Beneficiaries	(36.560.484) beneficiaries
Total Amounts	More than (413) million dollars
The Number of Partners	More than (66) partners

Executive Management

Emergency Relief Management

GENERAL STATISTICS FOR FOOD SECURITY

Date of Update	15/6/1437H Corresponding to 24/3/ 2016
Number of Programs	(28) Programs
Number of Beneficiaries	(17.112.014) beneficiaries
Total Amounts	(202.130.643) million dollars
The Number of Partners	More than (33) partners

Executive Management

Humanitarian Aid Management

GENERAL STATISTICS FOR HUMANITARIAN AID

Date of Update	15/6/1437H Corresponding to 24/3/ 2016
Number of Programs	(13) Programs
Number of Beneficiaries	(3.465.724) beneficiaries
Total Amounts	(66.008.462) million dollars
The Number of Partners	More than (9) partners

Executive Management

Medical Aid Management

GENERAL STATISTICS

Date of Update	15/6/1437H Corresponding to 24/3/ 2016
Number of Programs	(25) Programs
Number of Beneficiaries	(15.983.010) beneficiaries
Total Amounts	(93.395.556) million dollars
The Number of Partners	More than (37) partners





National Transformation Program 2020

KSA National Transformation Program

Ministries vie with one another to implement NTP

By Agencies

In view of the swift steps to implement the National Transformation Program (NTP) 2020 and Vision 2030, the ministries are competing with each other to ensure their success.

Almost every ministry has been entrusted with the responsibility for achieving the goals set out in Vision 2030.

The Kingdom's moves to ease the conditions for issuing visas as an effort to attract foreign investment and capital are being seen as an effort to diversify its economy beyond oil.

Bloomberg has said in its comment that Majid Al-Qassabi, minister of commerce and investment, announced a new mechanism for issuing visas swiftly to investors as part of NTP and Vision 2030.

The minister told Bloomberg that visa was one of the core issues that were related to improvement of work environment.

He pointed out that the Council of Economic and Development Affairs (CEDA) has formed a committee to make the work of investors easy.

"There are programs for making visas available swiftly. The idea of green card has also been floated, as fast issuing of visas was very important."

The vision requires willingness for implementation, data and logistics, a unified base of information, accurate knowledge of state-owned human and other resources, the introduction of laws and regulations to govern the transition, awareness among citizens and readiness among state employees to take on responsibilities

Al-Qassabi said the Saudi authorities were trying to strengthen the foreign direct

investment in non-oil sectors to even out the losses due to a drop in oil prices.

The NTP is part of a strategy to achieve the ultimate goal of Vision 2030, Abdullah bin Ibrahim Al-Fayez, planning consultant, has said. "The NTP stems mostly from the previous five-year plans and should not be confused with the Vision."

"The vision requires willingness for implementation, data and logistics, a unified base of information, accurate knowledge of state-owned human and other resources, the introduction of laws and regulations to govern the transition, awareness among citizens and readiness among state employees to take on responsibilities," he said.

Through KPIs (Key Performance Indicators), he said, ministers will have up to 100 or more targets to meet. Every three to six months, they must present what they have accomplished and will be held accountable for shortfalls, he said.

Close to half million jobs in the nongovernment sector by 2020 is expected to be generated under the NTP.



Foreigners can now own **100%** of wholesale, retail businesses



Foreign investors can now own 100 percent of retail and wholesale businesses in Saudi Arabia. An approval to this effect was granted by the Council of Ministers. The Cabinet chaired by Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman also approved a tax on undeveloped urban land, Minister of State,

Member of the Cabinet and Acting Minister of Culture and Information Asem Saeed said in a statement carried by the Saudi Press Agency. The rules permitting full foreign ownership of retail and wholesale operations were originally announced last September. Previously, the ownership ceiling was set at 75 percent.

"The decision is in line with Vision 2030 to ease restrictions on ownership and foreign investment in the retail sector to attract regional and international brands, contributing to the creation of job opportunities for citizens in this sector," said the Cabinet statement.



Saudi humanitarian role through King Salman Center lauded

By M.Saeed Yousafzai

A number of international officials and representatives of global relief and humanitarian offices and organizations have lauded the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's role, under leadership of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman, in providing relief and humanitarian efforts through King Salman Center for Relief and Humanitarian Aid.

Following a signing ceremony of one of the executive programs with King Salman Center, John Gang, representative of the United Nations for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, stressed that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia occupies 1st rank regarding providing humanitarian assistance, citing the Kingdom's solidarity with Yemen.

He confirmed that King Salman's role is not limited to be a donor but it is a strategic partner with the UN organizations.

For his part, Assistant Executive Director of the World Food Programme Ramiro Lopes da Silva expressed happiness for existence of King Salman Center for Relief by saying: "the World Food Programme has received a support from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia since 1973. Since 2008 until today, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia provided \$1,200,000,000 for the WFP. Signing agreement with King Salman Center renews this sustainable partnership."

On behalf of the director general, Abu Baker Mohammed, representative of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), thanked the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, his government and King Salman Center for the providing humanitarian services, pointing out that the partnership and cooperation between the organization and the Kingdom is began in 1948.

On behalf of all organizations, Amer Daoudi, regional coordinator for humanitarian operations in Yemen, expressed thanks and appreciation of the Saudi government and the center for the relief assistance to the Yemeni people, stressing that the organizations will develop relationships with King Salman Center.



He confirmed that the Kingdom has always provides assistance to the needy people throughout the world.

For his part, Dr. Nasser Baaoum, Yemeni Minister of Health and member of the supreme committee for relief, thanked the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud for supporting

for Migration in Geneva, expressed thanks and gratitude to the Kingdom and the Centre for their support, praising the strong and active partnership between the two sides to help the most affected people.

He highlighted that cooperation with the Kingdom in Somalia will vary through assistance provided by the center.

"The World Food Programme has received a support from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia since 1973. Since 2008 until today, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia provided \$1,200,000,000 for the WFP. Signing agreement with King Salman Center renews this sustainable partnership."
Assistant Executive Director of the World Food Programme
Ramiro Lopes da Silva

On the other hand, Regional Representative of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Dr. Nabil Othman thanked the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and King Salman Centre for Relief and Humanitarian Aid for helping refugees, pointing out that the center has signed a program with UNHCR to provide support for the displaced Yemenis.

He looks forward to strengthening partnership with the center, stressing that the Kingdom has a honorable historical record in providing assistance to the displaced people and refugees.

Yemen and said: "the center provided aid to the needy people in the first two weeks of its establishment," lauding the Kingdom's direct support for Yemen and the health sector.

He stressed that the executive programs often solve health problems in Yemen. Meanwhile, Mohammad Abdul Khair, Director of Operations and Emergencies at International Organization

For his part, Dr. Alaa Alwan, Director of the Eastern Mediterranean Office of the World Health Organization, expressed thanks and appreciation of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, the Crown Prince and the Deputy Crown Prince for supporting the health sector in Yemen, lauding assistance provided by the center for the World Health Organization to perform its duty in Yemen.



British investors show keen interest in Pakistan pursuing investment led growth policy: Muhammad Zubair

By Raheel Iqbal

British and international investors expressed keen interest in Pakistan during a two-day "Pakistan Investment Conference" in London. Mr Muhammad Zubair, MOS/Chairman Privatization Commission of Pakistan represented Pakistan at the Conference whereas Mr Nadeem Naqvi, MD Pakistan Stock Exchange along with CEOs and CFOs of 13 leading Pakistani companies participated in the event.

The Conference was organized by JS Global Capital Ltd, a leading investment and brokerage banking firm of Pakistan and was hosted by Renaissance Capital of the UK. Leading investors and fund managers of the City of London held over 200 business to business meetings to brainstorm with their Pakistani counterparts with significant interest to invest in Pakistan.

The focus of the Conference was:-

- To lobby support for Pakistan to regain the MSCI Emerging Market status (MSCI to review the same by June 2016); and
- To attract both Direct Foreign Investment and Foreign Portfolios Investment towards Pakistan in the wake of turnaround in the country's macro-economic indicators.

The Conference was attended by leading fund management firms, investment banks, and other fund managers based in UK, US and Europe while Bloomberg, Reuters, and Financial Times alongside local media were also invited for coverage of the event.

Later, H.E. Syed Ibne Abbas, the High Commissioner hosted a dinner in honor of the delegates from Pakistan and the UK. The CEO's and CFO's of over 50 leading British companies and corporate bodies attended the dinner. Besides, British Pakistani Lords, MPs and business people were present on the occasion. Speaking on the occasion Muhammad Zubair, Chairman, Pakistan Privatization Commission, gave an overview of Pakistan economy, energy situation, and improved security environment of the country. He said that due to investment led growth policy of the present government the economy was showing an accelerated growth.

The Chairman updated the guests on China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), and termed it a major economic breakthrough for the country as well as for the region. He apprised the guests that out of US\$ 46 billion, a major chunk of US\$ 34 billion was allocated for energy generation. Mr Zubair invited the International investors to take advantage of the profitable investment opportunities in Pakistan.

Welcoming the guests, the High Commissioner appreciated the keen interest expressed by the British and the international companies in Pakistan during the two-day Conference. He expressed hope that international investors would take advantage of the conducive business environment in the country especially, in the wake of China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) which promises economic opportunities galore. The High Commissioner said that owing



to economic stability and successful fight against terrorism and extremism, the narrative about Pakistan was changing fast.

Mr. Nadeem Naqvi, MD Pakistan Stock Exchange also briefed the guests about the state of Pakistan economy and future prospects. He said the event would help Pakistan to gain the status of Emerging Market from its current status of Frontier Market and would give a positive message about expanding Pakistan economy which was going to gain 5 to 6 percent sustainable growth rate over the next five years. Mr Ali Jehangir Siddiqui from JS Global Capital Ltd also spoke on the occasion. The Conference offered a good opportunity to the Pakistani businesses to collaborate and develop linkages with the British and the international companies.

Thailand's Chairmanship of Group of 77



By H.E. Mr. Suchart Liengsaengthong
Ambassador of Thailand



Thailand assumes the chairmanship of Group of 77 of the United Nations for the year 2016 and in this regard I would like to share some of the information.

The Group of 77 (G77) was established in 1964 by 77 developing countries (hence, the name of the Group). Currently, the Group has 134 member countries, making it the largest negotiating group in the United Nations. The main purposes of the Group are (1) to enhance negotiating power of developing countries within the United Nations system and (2) promote South-South cooperation. The Group's Secretariat is located at the United Nations Headquarters in New York City, with chapters in Geneva, Nairobi, Paris, Rome, Vienna and Washington D.C.

Thailand was endorsed by G77 member states as the Chair of the Group for year 2016 during the 39th G77 Ministerial Meeting held in New York City on

24 September 2015. As a founding member, this is the first time Thailand assumed the chairmanship of G77 in New York City. Thailand has previously served as G77 Chair in the Geneva, Vienna and the Nairobi chapters.

The theme for Thailand's chairmanship is "From Vision to Action: Inclusive Partnership for Sustainable Development" which reflects Thailand's determination to drive the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda (AAAA) through enhancement of the participation of all stakeholders: public, private and peoples in the spirit of a truly global partnership.

The year 2016 marks the first year of implementation after the adoption

of the 2030 SDGs. In this regard, as a moderate country with a sound performance

record at the international level, Thailand serves as a bridge builder between developing and developed countries to create an inclusive global partnership for sustainable development that brings about sustainable development and prosperity for all.

Priority Issues

Building a solid foundation to ensure full and effective implementation of 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda on Financing for Development, through inclusive development and active involvement by all stakeholders and drawing on good practices among member countries on how to proceed on the development path.

Presenting to member states His Majesty the King's Sufficiency Economy Philosophy (SEP) as a development model and guideline towards achieving sustainable development.

Promoting the role of investment as a funding source for the implementation and achievement of the 2030 Agenda, specifically with responsible and sustainable private investments to fill in the funding gap of USD

2.5 trillion annually in order to meet the amount of investment required to achieve the SDGs.

Promoting South-South Cooperation by working closely with all members to explore ways and means to further strengthen cooperation and enhance capacities in tackling emerging challenges and revitalizing the global partnership for sustainable development. In this regard, Thailand contributed USD 520,000 to the Perez-Guerrero Trust Fund for South-South Cooperation to support the Group's activities and its' technical cooperation.

Strengthening coordination and cooperation between different chapters of the Group in

order to ensure that the interests and concerns of the group are comprehensively addressed.

On 28-29 February 2016, Thailand hosted a Bangkok Roundtable on Sufficiency Economy (SEP): An Approach to Implementing the SDGs to officially kick-start our Chairmanship. The conference provided an opportunity for G77 members to learn more about SEP as an approach to sustainable development. SEP emphasizes moderation, prudence and resilience, as well as a balanced way of life with consideration and respect for the environment.

Early March 2016, Thailand hosted two meetings to lay the foundation for the implementation of SDGs and to strengthen South-South Cooperation, namely, the G77 Meeting of Experts on ICT and Sustainable Development and the High-Level Panel of Eminent Personalities of the South on South-South Cooperation.

On 4-5 May 2016, Thailand hosted a G77 Meeting on Investment for Sustainable Development in order to discuss responsible investments for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and contribute to the effective implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda.

On 1-2 June 2016, Thailand will host a "SEP in Business: A G77 Forum on the Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals". This meeting, gathering G77 representatives from both public and private sectors will offer an opportunity for those participating to learn from each other through the exchange of unique national experiences on the role of the private sector in achieving SDGs. Meanwhile Thailand will share her practical approach to sustainable development through SEP and its application in the private sector, by having both representatives of multinational corporations as well as SMEs present in the forum.

German Pakistan Chamber of Commerce & Industry inaugurated in Karachi



By M.Saeed Yousafzai

A high-ranking delegation from Germany inaugurated the newly created German Pakistan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (GPCCI) at the Marriott Hotel, Karachi. German Ambassador Ina Lepel, Dr. Stephan Oswald, Division Head of the German Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), Rainer Schmiedchen, Consul General of the Federal Republic of Germany in Karachi and prominent business leaders were present. The guests enjoyed the Sindhi music played on the traditional instruments alghoza, sitar and chung as well as Pakistan's first and only sand artist Ameer Mukhtar's show.

"This is an important step to further deepen

our bilateral business ties," ambassador Lepel stated. "The German-Pakistan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (GPCCI) will provide a new and permanent home for all German companies in Pakistan, Pakistani companies

"This is an important step to further deepen our bilateral business ties," Ambassador Lepel

working with German products and Pakistani companies trading with Germany."

Chairman GPCCI, Mr. Qazi Sajid Ali, thanked the

German missions in Pakistan, the Commerce Ministry, as well as the bodies of GPTI and PGBF for extending their unabated and selfless support during the process of building this concept and bringing it to fruition.

GPCCI is the first European bilateral chamber in Pakistan. It will support its members by offering an ever-increasing range of services aimed at facilitating bilateral trade and direct investment. The inaugural ceremony ended with the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between the GPCCI and the Pakistan German Renewable Energy Forum (PGREF) whereby GPCCI will provide a secretariat for PGREF in Karachi and will help promote German expertise in renewable energy as part of the PGREF program.



Portugal national day celebrated

The Ambassador of Portugal H.E. Mr Joao Paulo Sabido Costa hosted a reception on the occasion of National Day in Islamabad. Political leaders, Dilomates, Journalists and personalities of different walk of life were attended the function.





Italian national day celebrated

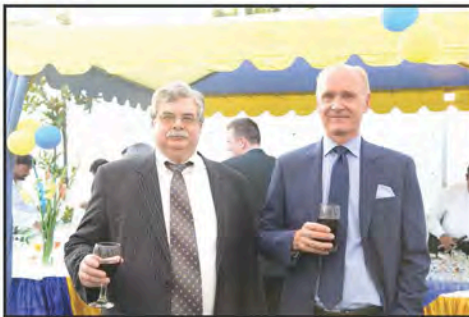
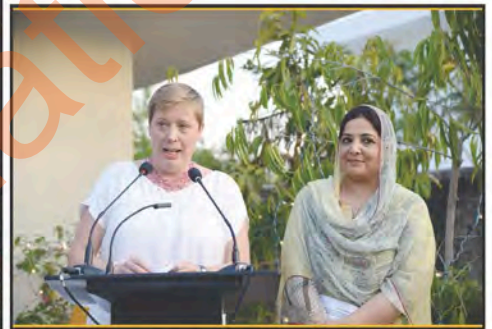
H.E. Stefano Pontecorvo Italian Ambassador to Pakistan hosted an excellent dinner to celebrate his country's national day in Serena Hotel Islamabad. Federal Minister for Inter-Professional Coordination Mian Riaz Hussain Pirzada and Governor Punjab Rafiq Rajwana were the chief guest of the ceremony. The event was very well attended by diplomats, notable business community of Pakistan, defence advisors and attaches of different countries, all envoys of EU, Middle Eastern and African countries envoys were also present with their families.





Sweden National Day Celebrated

H.E. Ms. Ingrid Johansson Ambassador of Sweden hosted a reception to celebrate National Day at her residence in Islamabad. Ms. Anusha Rahman Minister of State of Information Technology and Telecommunication was the chief guest. A large number of guests including ambassadors, business community and people belonging to various walks of life graced the function.







Germany & Pakistan

take their cooperation in renewable energy to a new level

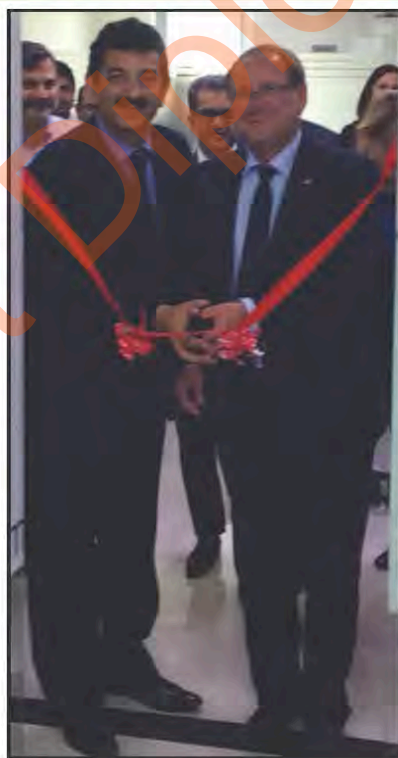
High Profile German Delegation inaugurates the Pakistan German Renewable Energy Forum (PGREF)

By M.Saeed Yousafzai

A high profiled German delegation led by the Head of Division Afghanistan/Pakistan of the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), Dr. Stefan Oswald, visited the secretariat of the Pakistan German Renewable Energy Forum (PGREF) to meet with the Government of the Punjab, Department of Energy representatives. Dr. Oswald inaugurated the first secretariat of PGREF at the premises of the Department of Energy.

The PGREF is a cooperation initiative between the Governments of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and the Federal Republic of Germany supported by Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) on behalf of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation & Development (BMZ) to create a network between their respective industries, public sectors and innovation networks in the Renewable Energy (RE) and Energy Efficiency (EE) field.

Dr. Asad Rehman Gilani, Secretary Energy, Government of the Punjab in his initial statements welcomed the delegates and gave an introduction to the PGREF along with upcoming goals and activities. In addition, topics such as energy efficiency and renewable energy in Pakistan were discussed. The German



Government has been supporting the energy sector in Pakistan through GIZ's Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency project (REEE) since 2005.

With the aim of reducing the power shortage

in Pakistan and moving towards an optimal energy mix by incorporating more renewable energy sources, the PGREF intends to promote cooperation and knowledge transfer in the fields of renewable energy and energy efficiency in Pakistan.



Germany funds WEG to support women's rights in Pakistan

By M.SaeedYousafzai

German Ambassador Ina Lepel and Omer Aftab, CEO of Women Empowerment Group (WEG) signed an agreement for a project to end violence against women. The project aims to contribute to this objective through an awareness campaign, capacity building and advocacy.

The project will be part of WEG's White Ribbon Campaign Pakistan, a men's movement initiated by WEG which involves men to reduce the violation of women's rights. WEG believes that men, even in instances in which they are not a part of the problem, can bring forth the solution by persuading others to question and stop violence against women in every form.

Building on a general public awareness

campaign in 2014 and 2015 that had also been funded by Germany the project will cooperate with the Provincial Commission on the Status of Women in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, provide legal support and advisory to legislators and support government officials through capacity building.

"Preventing violence against women and empowering women continue to be priorities for Germany"
Ambassador Ina Lepel

Omer Aftab, CEO WEG, said: "Our struggle is to create a just society where women

and children can freely exercise their rights, and by the end of this project we will see a significant change in a conservative society like Khyber Pakhtunkhwa not only through strong legislation but also from public awareness and acceptance of empowering women with their due rights."

The German Ambassador Ina Lepel said: "Preventing violence against women and empowering women continue to be priorities for Germany. We strongly believe that closing the gaps between men and women in health, education, politics and economic participation will contribute to a more equitable and more prosperous society in Pakistan. We appreciate the commitment and effort by Women Empowerment Group for the rights of women in Pakistan and look forward to our close cooperation."

Russian National Day celebration

Ambassador Alexey Dedov hosted a reception to mark national day celebration at Marriott Hotel, Islamabad. Minister of Water, Power and Defence Khawaja Mohammad Asif was invited as chief guest, while National Security Adviser retired Lt Gen Nasser Khan Janjua, Punjab Governor Malik Rafique and Minister of Planning, Development and Reform Ahsan Iqbal also attended the event. The reception was attended by diplomats, Pakistani officials, members of the business community and civil society.





Jordan celebrated 70th Independence Day

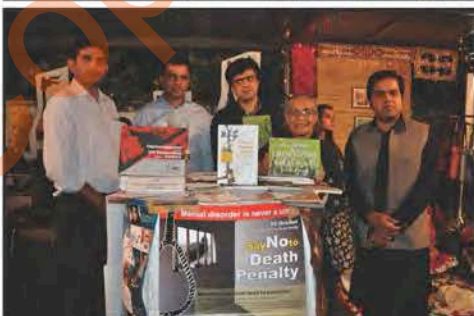
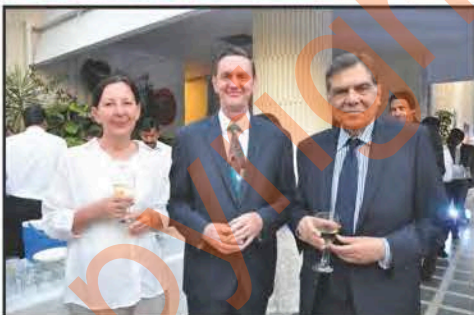
Ambassador H.E. Nawaf Al Sarayrah of Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan hosted a reception to celebrate the 70th Independence Day in Islamabad. The Federal Minister for Inter provincial Coordination, Mr. Riaz Hussain Pirzada was the chief guest. A large number of guests including Arab ambassadors and people belonging to various walks of life graced the function.

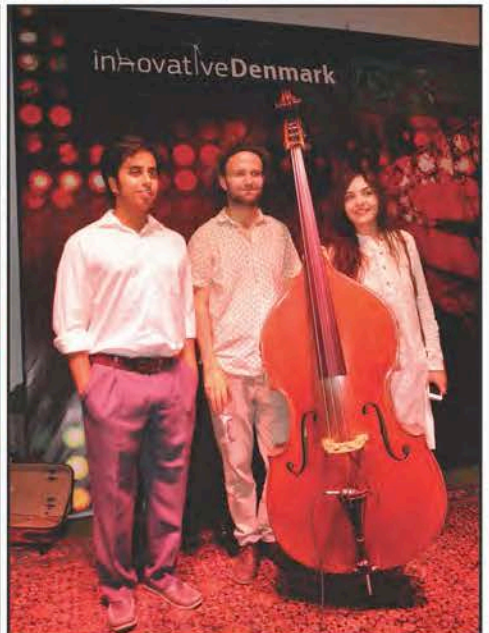
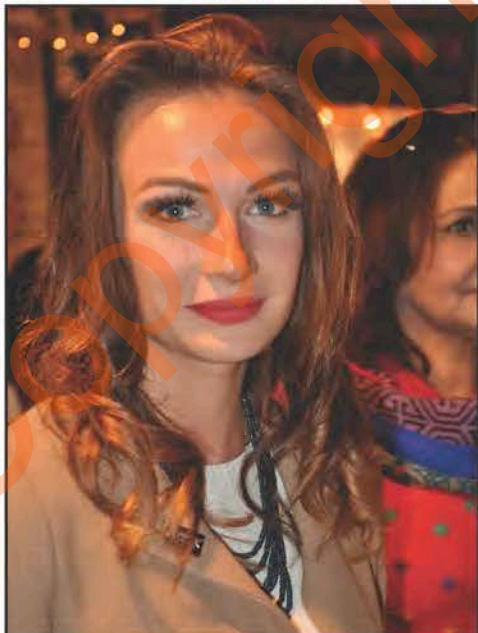
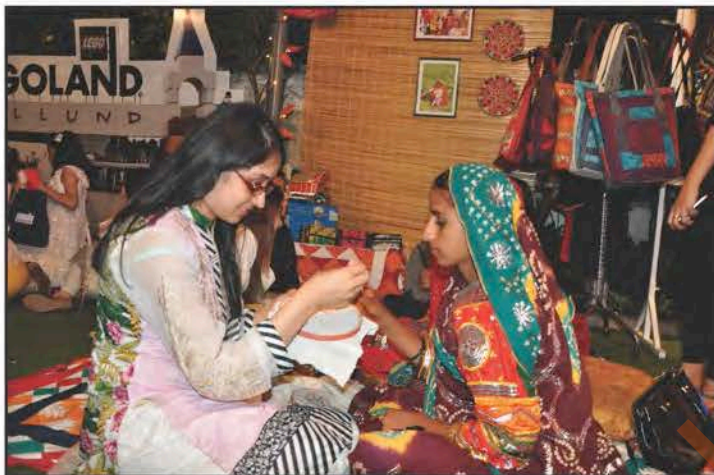




Innovative Denmark

Danish track record of innovation was displayed at 'Innovative Denmark,' organised by the Danish Embassy. DANIDA, UNODC, UNWOMEN, Lahore Children's Film Festival, Human Rights Commission of Pakistan along with many of the Danish companies operating in Pakistan also showed their contributions to the country by showcasing wind energy, water management, healthcare, and textile solutions. The event was attended by hundreds of people.





Azerbaijan celebrates Republic Day

Charge de Affairs of Azerbaijan in Islamabad Mr. Chingiz Gharibli hosted a reception to celebrate the Republic Day of his country at Serena Hotel Islamabad. Minister of State for Education and Trainings Engineer Muhammad Baligh ur Rehman was the chief guest of the ceremony. Scores of diplomats, politicians, business community of twin city, military officials and diplomatic crops were among the participants.





African community celebrates 53 Anniversary

African community hosted a grand reception to celebrate the 53rd anniversary of Africa Day of African Union at a Serena hotel in Islamabad. Mpendulo Jele, High Commissioner of South Africa, Ambassador of Tunisia Mr. Adel Elarabi, High Commisior of Kenya Julius Kibet Bitok, Ambassador of Morocco Mushtapha Salahdine and Sudan's Charge d' Affairs Ahmad Abdelrehman Mohammad were in the reception lion to greet the distinguished guests belonging to different segments of Pakistani society including politicians, parliamentarians, members of diplomatic community, businessmen and social activists.



SERENA HOTELS





Iftar Dinner Reception

Mr. & Mrs. Syed Naveed Zafar, CHAIRMAN Ayyan Group of Companies Hosted a Dinner Reception to Diplomats and Diplomatic Community at Serena Hotel Islamabad





Thai Cuisine



By H.E. Mr. Suchart Liengsaengthong
Ambassador of Thailand

Thai cuisine has become globally popular as a result of its unique characteristics and its rich flavours, derived from a huge variety of ingredients. Each dish has its own flavour from different signature ingredients as well as the delicate and detailed process of preparation and cooking. The ingredients and the cooking process contribute to dishes that are a feast for the senses, with a vast array of flavours, be they sourness, saltiness or sweetness, not to mention the richness of coconut milk and the fiery heat of chillies. They all add to the colour and flavour of Thai food as well as the popularity of this cuisine among Thais and foreigners alike.

The variety of ingredients, in terms of both herbs and spices, in the dishes has also led to Thai cuisine being widely accepted in foreign circles as a healthy cuisine. Thus, the massaman curry, through its rich, spicy flavours that appeals to the tastes of foreigners, has become the most popular dish on the menus of Thai restaurants overseas.

Apart from the famous massaman curry, there are other dishes that have been acclaimed overseas

for a long time and have since become signature dishes of Thai cuisine. These include Tom Yum Gung (spicy sour prawn soup), Pad Thai (Thai-style stir-fried flat rice noodles), Som Tam (papaya salad), Gaeng Khiao Wan (green curry), Khao Pad (Thai-style fried rice) and Nam Tok Moo (Thai-style spicy pork salad). And the list keeps growing as more and more people explore Thai cuisine, for example, Pad See Ew (Thai-style stir-fried noodles with sweet soya sauce) is currently gaining widespread popularity. In addition, Thai cuisine has four regional variations corresponding to the four

rice is also the main accompaniment to meals in this region. Finally, the Central region is the most gastronomically blessed, with access to ingredients from across the country, leading to a wide variety of dishes, such as snacks, chilli sauces, dips, various curries (both with and without coconut milk), Yums (spicy salads) and Thai desserts.

Smiling faces, the “wai” greeting, Thai food, Thai boxing, Thai massage and exotic Thai architecture are examples of the universally known hallmarks of Thai culture. Among all these, Thai food has perhaps established itself



geographical regions of Thailand. Each has its own unique characteristics, derived from local wisdom and tastes. Southern Thai cuisine has a strong, spicy flavour with turmeric as the signature ingredient in almost every dish – this spice also assists in the healing of stomach ulcers. The North, with its mountainous topography and its cooler climate, calls for dishes that are more fattening to warm the body. The Northeast or Isaan region, has two main flavours: saltiness and spiciness. Sticky

as a global brand. As an exporting country of agricultural and food products, the Thai Food to the World project is a key priority for the Thai Government in its overseas promotional campaigns.

In recent years, the Thai government has put a lot of energy and resources into promoting Thailand as a “Kitchen of the World”. It managed to increase the number of Thai restaurants overseas and raise the export volume of Thai food ingredients and other related products.

H.E. Suh Dong-gu

Ambassador of Korea to Islamic Republic of Pakistan

Full Name: Suh Dong-gu

DATE OF BIRTH: December 30, 1955

EDUCATION:

Feb. 1979: B.A. in Political Science and Diplomacy, Hankuk University of Foreign Studies, Seoul, Korea

Jul. 1989: MA in Political Science, George Washington University, Washington, DC, U.S.A.

Feb. 2013: Ph.D. in Political Science, Kyungnam University, Seoul, Korea

CAREER:

Aug. 1992: Consul, Korean Consulate General in Toronto, Canada

Aug. 1994: First Secretary, Korean Embassy in the United States of America

Aug. 1998: Consul, Korean Consulate General in Chicago, U.S.A

Feb. 2004: Minister-Counsellor, Korean Embassy in the United States of America

Jan. 2005: Minister, Korean Permanent Mission to the United Nations in New York, U.S.A.

Jun. 2007: Minister, Korean Embassy in the United States of America

Jul. 2008: Advisor for Energy Resource Development, Korea Electric Power Corporation (KEPCO), Seoul, Korea

Mar. 2011: Visiting Professor, Pukyong National University, Busan, Korea

Nov. 2013: Visiting Fellow, Korean Institute for National Unification (KTNU), Seoul, Korea

May 2016: Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to the Islamic Republic of Pakistan

AWARDS:

Jun. 2003 National Security Medal

FAMILY:

Married & having two daughters



India's nuclear intentions are to gain the great power status

Why the west is keeping eyes close?



By M.Saeed Yousafzai

The South Asian Strategic Stability Institute (SASSI) organized a round table discussion titled 'Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG) 'Criteria based approach and its implications on High-Tech Trade: A case for Pakistan's membership' at Serena Hotel, Islamabad on 23rd June, 2016. The Chief Guest of the roundtable conference was Ms Tasnim Aslam, Additional Secretary, (United Nations & EC) and Mr Awais Ahmad Khan Leghari, Chairman Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs.

The Chairperson and Director General of SASSI, Dr. Maria Sultan gave the welcome speech. She concluded that NSG is a non-proliferation arrangement that is becoming highly politicized due to its discriminatory approach in dealing with non - NPT states. We should save the champions of non-proliferation from harming the regime that they have built in 70-years. Most importantly we should prevent it from harming us. She said that Pakistan's Non proliferation credentials exhibit a policy of state dedication and decades of commitments.

Ms Tasnim Aslam said that we are compelled to increase the percentage of clean energy including nuclear energy. Pakistan maintained consistent engagement with nuclear issues since 2003 and held meetings in 2011, 2012 and 2015 regarding this Nuclear Suppliers Group issue and found these interactions very useful throughout this period. She said that we completed process of Pakistan's formal adherence to NSG guidelines, so Pakistan aligned itself to the global Non Proliferation Regime. On 14th May we sent a formal a

letter to IAEA for our membership in Nuclear Suppliers Group. Pakistan has strong credentials meaning that Pakistan fulfills all the conditions i.e. effective export control regime, technical experience, capability, and power plants, safe

Mr Awais Ahmad Khan Leghari said that India has already second strike capability, trying to make intercontinental ballistic missiles, space based system, missile defence acquisitions with the help of west and UN. India is pursuing



and secure nuclear program, agriculture and biotechnology centers.

She said that Strategic stability is critical for achieving Non proliferation Regime but 2008 exemption of India disturbed the balance because of growing Indian capabilities and weak non-proliferation safeguards. International community should avoid any step that affects the regional and international peace.

naval capabilities to enter in Indian Ocean. India's nuclear intentions are clear that it wants to gain the great power status and its missile defence is intended to protect itself from any retaliatory action, so Pakistan is in a very insecure position. He raised questions that why the west is keeping eyes close to this issue and why UN is not taking into consideration the insecurities of Pakistan as it is insecurity for the whole region. He said that the imbalance is created by the US.

Monthly Magazine on Diplomatic Issues Promoting Bilateral Relations | July 2016 | Volume 07 | Issue 07
Current Affairs | Trade & Economic Affairs | Education | Communication Technology | Showbiz & Culture | Tourism

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H.E. Dr. Ali Yasin Mohammad Karim
Ambassador of Republic of Iraq