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# DIPLOMATIC FOCUS

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Ambassador of The Kingdom of Thailand to The Islamic Republic of Pakistan





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Editor in Chief: Mian Akhtar Hussain  
 Editor/Publisher: Mian Fazal Elahi  
 Editor in Chief: Mian Asadullah  
 UK/EU Edition: Justin Plaza 3, 341 London Road, Mitham, Surrey-CR4 4BE  
 Patron in Chief: Mr. Zia-ur-Rahman Zabehi  
 Chairman Advisory Board: Mr. Kanwar Muhammad Tariq  
 Deputy Editor: Muhammad Saeed Yousafzal  
 News Editor: Saba Sarfraz  
 Sub Editor: Raheel Iqbal  
 Creative Art Director: M. Shahbaz Nawaz, RN Scanner Islamabad  
 Art Director: Sharyar Fazil  
 Graphic Designer: Jamil Ahmed

Chief Photographer: Ramzan Mughal  
 Legal Advisor: M. Hussain Shahbaz Advocate High Court  
 Mobile: +92-315-9994107  
 Mian Mobeen Akhtar Bureau Chief  
 Schengen States, Germany  
 00491783333912  
 Country Director: Fazal Hussain 004540521485  
 Copenhagen Denmark Email: fazal1955@hotmail.com  
 Javed Iqbal Butt Bureau Chief Australia, New Zealand  
 M. Zahoor Bureau Chief UAE, Oman

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Resident Editors  
 Eng. Moshin Ali 1st Floor Office No 50 Gulf Plaza Madina  
 Street P.O B ox 65454 Jeddah 21556  
 Cell: +966-506389895

Bureau Office  
 Zahid Hussain Bureau Chief Washington DC/Merryland  
 Faisal Qazi Manzoor Hussain  
 Baltimore New York  
 Qaisar Masood Muhammad Athar  
 Northern Virginia Georgia  
 M. Jamil Rathore  
 Bureau Chief Jeddah KSA  
 Cell: +966-502583608  
 Mian Zafarullah  
 Burewala

Israr Masood  
 Sydney Australia

Mahtab Shehzad Shahid Akbar Toor  
 Wah Cantt Vehari

#### Printer

Roohani Art Press, Chughtai Plaza, Fazal-e-Haq Road,  
 Blue Area Islamabad.

#### Publisher

Mian Fazal Elahi, House No 167, Street 58, Sector F-11/4 Islamabad.  
 Tel: +92-51-2101410, 2101411, News Room: +92-51-2101412  
 Fax: +92-51-2101410-2101413  
 Mobile: +92-345-5565552, +92-322-5565552  
 Email: mianfazalelahi@gmail.com, diplomaticfocus.isb.pk@gmail.com

Karachi Office: Mobile: +92-321-5558221

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Mian Fazal Elahi

All weather diplomatic relations between China and Pakistan were formally established on May 21, 1951. Pakistan was the first Muslim country to accept People's Republic of China. Cordial relations between two states are not only termed as higher than Himalayas, deeper than oceans and sweeter than honey but both sides equally acknowledge this element of trust on each other. As responsible neighbours, both China and Pakistan always maintain well-coordinated, appropriately communicated and balanced approach on regional and international concerning issues. Apart from matters of mutual interest Pakistan supports China on the issues of Tibet, Taiwan and Xinjiang while China has always appreciated Pak role in war against terrorism other than supporting it economically. To fortify diplomatic relations between the two states, several exchange visits of leaders and high officials on both sides take place frequently.

China is called iron brother, reliable friend and trustworthy neighbor of Pakistan. The two countries share a friendship underpinned by common interests and close cooperation across a broad spectrum of areas. The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) further strengthening the existing bonds of friendship.

Over the past six and a half decades, relations between Pakistan and China have grown from strength to strength, evolving and expanding into an all-weather cooperative strategic partnership. May 21st marked the day when the two countries took the first step towards the establishment of bilateral relations that had stood the tests of time, and grown with each passing year. While celebrating 65 years of Pak China acquaintance, it is expected that in coming years both countries will continue to robust their strategic and political bond proving this connection stronger than steel.



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

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MONTHLY OVERSEAS ISLAMABAD





## New envoys presented credentials to President

By Mian Fazal Elahi

Envoys designate of United Kingdom, Indonesia, Japan, Argentina, Ecuador and Lithuania presented their credentials to President Mamnoon Hussain at an impressive ceremony held at the Aiwan-e-Sadr.

Earlier, each envoy-designate arrived at the main gate of the Aiwan-e-Sadr in a horse driven carriage. On the occasion, the National Anthem of Pakistan and their respective countries were played and the envoys designate were also presented Guard of Honour.

Later, the High Commissioner and Ambassadors separately called on the President. Speaking on the occasion, the President said that Pakistan is desirous of further promoting friendly and brotherly relations with all countries particularly with its neighbours for peace, stability and prosperity in the region. The President stated that Pakistan offers great investment opportunities adding that international investors should take advantage of its investor friendly policies. Talking about Pakistan's efforts against terrorism, the President said that Pakistan has rendered great sacrifices in fight against terrorism and is committed to end this menace. He stated that Operation Zarb-e-Azb



is progressing successfully emphasizing that the operation would continue till elimination of the last terrorist. The President felicitated the newly appointed High Commissioner and Ambassadors to Pakistan and hoped that they would work for further cementing the existing ties of their respective countries with Pakistan. The President also wished the newly appointed envoys a comfortable and pleasant stay in Pakistan.

High Commissioner and Ambassadors who presented their credentials included Mr. Thomas Drew, High Commissioner of UK, Dr. Iwan Suyudhie Amri, Ambassador of Indonesia, Mr. Takashi Kurai, Ambassador of Japan, Mr. Ivan Ivanishevich, Ambassador of Argentina, Engineer Humberto Vinueza Rodriguez, Ambassador of Ecuador (Resident in Argentina) and Mr. Audrius Bruzga, Ambassador of Lithuania (Resident in Turkey).





President Mamnoon Hussain in a group photo with OIC Secretary General's Special Representative on Jammu & Kashmir, Mr. Abdullah Bin Abdurrahman Bin Bakr Alem who along with a delegation called on him at the Aiwan-e-Sadr, Islamabad.

# OIC supports Kashmiris for their right of self determination

By Saba Sarfraz

The President of Pakistan Mamnoon Hussain welcomed the visit of the OIC delegation to Pakistan and Azad Jammu & Kashmir. The OIC Secretary General's Special Representative on Jammu and Kashmir, H.E. Ambassador Abdullah Al-Alim was accompanied by a delegation consisting of Director for Asian Affairs of OIC and the representatives of Islamic Solidarity Fund and Islamic Development Bank.

**A firm commitment and resolve on part of international community especially the UN is required for peaceful resolution of Kashmir dispute: Ch. Barjees Tahir**

Mamnoon Hussain lauded efforts of the OIC in supporting the Kashmir cause and stated that the people of Pakistan had high expectations of the OIC. Pakistan was committed to a just and peaceful resolution of the Kashmir dispute in accordance with the UN Security Council resolutions. Highlighting the tremendous sacrifices of the people of Indian Occupied Jammu and Kashmir for realization of the right

to self-determination, the President said that the Kashmiris looked towards OIC and Ummah for the support. The President also appreciated the endeavors of the Standing Mechanism by the OIC's Independent Permanent Human Rights Commission (IPHRC) for monitoring the human rights situation in the Indian Occupied

Kashmir. Ambassador Abdullah Al-Alim stated that the OIC was fully committed to the Kashmir cause and the visit of OIC delegation to Azad Jammu and Kashmir and Pakistan was an expression of that commitment.

OIC Secretary General's Special Representative on Jammu and Kashmir, H.E. Ambassador



Advisor to the Prime Minister on Foreign Affairs Sartaj Aziz shaking hand with the OIC Secretary General's Special Representative on Jammu and Kashmir, H.E. Ambassador Abdullah Al-Alim in Islamabad



Abdullah Al-Alim met with the Adviser of Prime Minister Sartaj Aziz along with his delegation. Sartaj Aziz appreciated the steadfast support of Muslim Ummah expressed through the OIC platform for the valiant people of Indian Occupied Jammu and Kashmir in their just cause for realization of their right to self-determination in accordance with the UN Security Council resolutions. He thanked the OIC Secretary General and Special Representative for their efforts and keen interest in Kashmir dispute.

The Special Representative stressed that Jammu and Kashmir and Palestine issues are of central significance to OIC. He briefed about OIC's position on Kashmir dispute which is crystallized in the Joint Communique of 13th OIC Summit held in Istanbul, 14-15 April 2016. The OIC continues its principled support to the people of Jammu and Kashmir for realization of their legitimate right to self-determination. It calls on India to implement pending UN Security Council resolutions on Kashmir which declare that the final disposition of the State of Jammu and Kashmir would be made in accordance with the wishes and aspirations of the people expressed through the democratic method of a free and impartial plebiscite conducted under the auspices of the United Nations.

In meeting with Special Representative of OIC, the Federal Minister Ch. Barjees Tahir highlighted the atrocities that are being committed by the Indian forces in occupied Kashmir and said that a firm commitment and resolve on part of international community especially the UN is required for peaceful resolution of this dispute. Appreciating the diplomatic support of OIC to the Kashmir cause, the Federal Minister said that people of Pakistan and Jammu and Kashmir highly value the all time solidarity expressed with the Kashmiri people for their right of self determination by the OIC countries especially in the joint communiqué of OIC's 13th summit. The special representative expressed the solidarity of OIC with people of Kashmir for



their right of self determination and said that the Kashmir has always been one of most important issues discussed at the OIC

**We appreciate the  
endeavors of the Standing  
Mechanism by the OIC's  
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Human Rights Commission  
(IPHRC) for monitoring the  
human rights situation in the  
Indian Occupied Kashmir :  
Mamnoon Hussain**

Summit platforms and in meeting of Council of Foreign Ministers of OIC. He added that OIC has established a standing mechanism in form of Permanent Human Rights Commission to observe the human rights violations in occupied Kashmir and said that OIC will continue to extend its diplomatic support to

the people of occupied Kashmir for their right of self determination.

The special representative also highlighted the projects especially in the field of education in AJK that are being funded by Islamic Development Bank and Islamic Solidarity Fund. The Federal Minister praised the services of OIC in social sector of AJK and said that he would highly appreciate the support of OIC in social sector of AJK and that his Ministry would extend all of its cooperation in this regard.

Later, The OIC delegation held a meeting with the Chairman and Members of the, Special Committee of the National Assembly on Kashmir. Maulana Fazl ur Rahman and other Members of the Committee stated that the people of Pakistan greatly value the political support of the OIC for the Kashmir cause.

The Special Representative appreciated and thanked the Government of Pakistan for arranging the visit. This call concludes the fourth visit of Ambassador Alim to Pakistan and AJK as Special Representative on Kashmir. Earlier, he visited Pakistan and AJK in 2009, 2011 and 2013.



A delegation of OIC headed by Secretary General's Special Representative on Jammu and Kashmir Abdullah Abderrahman Alim in meeting with Federal Minister for Kashmir Affairs & Gilgit-Baltistan, Ch. Muhammad Barjees Tahir in Islamabad.





Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif along with leaders of Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan and Afghanistan inauguration CASA 1000 project at Tursunzade City.

# CASA-1000 power project launched

By Mian Fazal Elahi, Raheel Iqbal

The leaders of Pakistan, Tajikistan, Afghanistan and Kyrgyzstan jointly launched the Central Asia South Asia (CASA 1000) electricity project, terming it “win win and mutually rewarding” for all stakeholder states and beneficial for the prosperity of their peoples.

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, Tajikistan’s President Emomali Rahmon, Afghanistan’s Chief Executive Abdullah Abdullah and Kyrgyzstan’s Prime Minister Sooronbay Jeenbekov performed the formal launch by tightening bolts of the grand power transmission tower, installed at the Tursunzade city, some 47 kilometres from capital Dushanbe.

Speaking on the occasion, Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif said that the mega project is a win-win situation for all the stakeholders.

“This will not only provide economic, social and environmental benefits but also reduce

energy shortfall, create jobs and improve business activities in the region.” He reiterated Pakistan’s full commitment to early completion of this project.

The Prime Minister said the project will also contribute to regional integration and promote

friendship amongst the participating countries. He said it is a matter of great pleasure that after many years of conception of this project, we are entering into the implementation phase.

Nawaz Sharif said Pakistan welcomes start of flights between Dushanbe and Lahore as this





will facilitate travelling and enhance economic relations and promote tourism.

Leaders of Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan and Afghanistan also spoke on the occasion and said the project will enhance economic integration and bring prosperity in the region.

In her remarks on the occasion, World Bank's representative said the bank will provide assistance for the project which will help produce cheap and environment friendly electricity.

Under CASA 1000, Pakistan will be able to obtain 1,000 MW of electricity, generated by Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan via Afghanistan, which will also get 300 MW of the total 1,300 MW.

US Deputy Assistant Secretary for Central Asia Daniel Rosenblum said at the ceremony that Washington has allocated \$15 million to the project.

"This project connects the markets of Central and South Asia," the US official said in comments translated into Russian.

"All the participating countries win from this project: both the suppliers and consumers of electricity," he said.

The "successful completion of this project will open doors for the completion of other projects in the region," Rosenblum added.

Tajikistan's President Emomali Rahmon, Afghanistan's Chief executive Abdullah Abdullah and Kyrgyzstan's Prime Minister Jeenbekov Sooronbai also addressed the launching of the mega project.

Tajikistan, a mountainous country that generates almost all its electricity from hydroelectric power and has an energy surplus in summer, is expected to supply more than 75 per cent of the electricity.

**"This will not only provide economic, social and environmental benefits but also reduce energy shortfall, create jobs and improve business activities in the region" PM Nawaz**

Neighbouring Kyrgyzstan will supply the remainder for the electricity line that will end in Peshawar in energy-starved country's north. The overall supply potential of the shared grid has been cast under doubt as ex-Soviet Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan battle growing energy deficits, however.

Both countries have failed to attract investment to build two mega-dams that would revamp their ageing national grids and increase the supply potential of CASA-1000.

Pakistan has long suffered chronic energy shortages, while the population of much of



Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif addressing at the inauguration ceremony of CASA 1000 at Tursunzade City.



Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif and Federal Minister for Water and Power Khawaja Muhammad Asif at the inauguration ceremony of CASA 1000 project at Tursunzade city.



Afghanistan lives without stable electricity despite billions of aid dollars spent on energy infrastructure.

But Afghanistan said it would only play a transit role in CASA-1000 as it seeks to develop its own hydroelectric power potential.

Britain, the European Investment Bank and Islamic Development Bank are also financing the CASA-1000 project.

The \$1.2 billion, 750-kilometre-long transmission line which is expected to be complete by 2018 will allow Pakistan to import electricity from Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan

via Afghanistan to minimize the country's electricity shortage.

The initial plan is to transmit about 1,300MW electricity from Republic and Tajikistan to Pakistan and Afghanistan. The 1,200 kilometer (746-mile) pipeline is set to connect the four countries by 2018. Around 16 per cent of the transmission line of will pass through Tajikistan, 75pc through Afghanistan and 9pc through Pakistan.

The Afghan government has given a sovereign guarantee to protect the section of the transmission line passing through it.

The Casa-1000 project will comprise the development, financing, construction, ownership and operation of the AC and DC facilities.

The transmission line originates from Kyrgyzstan with substation at Datka to Tajikistan's four substations including Sughda, Dushanbe, Regar and Sangtuda and then passing through Afghanistan to Pakistan with a converter station at Nowshera.

This will include a 750km high voltage direct current transmission system between Tajikistan and Pakistan via Afghanistan, together with associated converter stations at Sangtuda (1,300MW), Kabul (300MW) and Peshawar (1,300MW). A 477km 500kV alternating current facility will also run between the Kyrgyz Republic (Datka) and Tajikistan (Khoujand). System upgrades will be required to safely and reliably accommodate the AC and DC facilities and the associated power flows.





# Pakistan

is keen to improve ties  
with Azerbaijan: PM Nawaz

By Raheel Iqbal

**M**r. Yavar Jamalov Minister for Defence Industry, Republic of Azerbaijan called on Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif at PM house. The meeting was attended by Federal Minister for Finance Mr. Ishaq Dar, Minister for Defence Production Mr. Rana Tanvir and Minister for Petroleum and Natural Resources Mr. Shahid Khaqan Abbasi.

Warmly welcoming Mr. Yavar Jamalov, Prime Minister recalled his meeting with the President of Azerbaijan Mr. Ilham Aliyev at Davos in recent past during which both the leaders had agreed to enhance the ties between the two states.

The Prime Minister stated that Pakistan places high value to its partnership and closer friendly relations with Azerbaijan and is keen to enhance its ties by cooperation in defence, energy, commercial and economic fields for mutual benefit of both the countries.

Mr. Yavar Jamalov thanked the Prime Minister warm welcome and extended greetings on behalf of the President of Azerbaijan. The Minister for defence said that Azerbaijan is keen to explore new opportunities to import defence products and raw material from Pakistan. The Minister extended invitation for Pakistan's participation in the international Defence Exhibition being organised by Azerbaijan in coming September with special reference to JF 17 thunder.

Mr. Yavar Jamalov appreciated the economic policies of Pakistan's government and also highlighted the need to increase the bi-lateral trade. The Minister also invited investments from Pakistan in Azerbaijan. Both sides agreed to further enhance cooperation in areas of trade and economics and agreed to continue the joint ministerial meetings to find out new opportunities. The Prime Minister said that Pakistan will participate in the exhibition, and extended his greetings and best wishes to the President of Azerbaijan Mr. Ilham Aliyev.



Mr. Yavar Jamalov Minister for Defence Industry, Republic of Azerbaijan called on Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif at PM House, Islamabad.



# Paris Agreement is a landmark in the history of our planet: Chaudhry Nisar



By Saba Sarfraz

**A**t the United Nations Pakistan joined the international community in global efforts against climate change by signing the Paris Agreement with 175 other countries at UN Headquarters in New York.

Speaking on the occasion, as representative of Pakistan, Chaudhry Nisar Ali Khan, Minister for Interior and Narcotics Control called the Paris Agreement a landmark in the history of our planet.

Urging the world body to implement the Agreement 'fully and faithfully', the Minister said, "We have now an action plan to deal with the greatest development emergency of our times".

He said that Pakistan joined the consensus in Paris in line with the commitment to the principles and objectives of the Climate Convention.

Assuring the world body of Pakistan's commitment to implement national climate plans, Chaudhry Nisar cautioned that fulfillment of financial obligations, particularly meeting the US\$ 100 billion target by developed countries was extremely important. "The availability of adequate resources remains critical for climate actions in developing countries", he added.

Arguing that the challenges and needs of developing countries were enormous, Chaudhry Nisar said that the bulk of the estimated trillions of dollars that are needed globally to effectively respond to climate change impacts has to be spent in developing countries. He

said that while Pakistan's contribution to global warming was very modest, yet the country is profoundly vulnerable to its adverse impact. "Overall the temperature in my country has already risen. Pakistan's 5000 glaciers are in retreat. They are receding faster than in any other part of the world", he added. In addition, he said that Pakistan was already a water stressed country and the frequency of large floods has also increased in recent years causing huge losses to the lives and livelihoods of people. He said that Pakistan's national priority remains economic growth, while ensuring that we deviate from the business as usual trajectory of increase in emissions. Pakistan's ratification process, the Minister

said, will hinge on the updated Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDC), a process that has commenced. "We will be presenting an ambitious INDC that would both promote the imperative of development and address environmental concerns", he added.

The Minister told the august gathering that Pakistan has adopted an ambitious course to implement its national climate plans including a comprehensive long-term sustainable development policy framework – Vision 2025 – which fully takes into account our Climate Change Policy and associated objectives.

He said that a Climate Change Council and a Climate Change Authority was being established as part of strengthening of institutional structures at all levels to accelerate climate action. "Over 5 % of the annual budget is already being allocated to climate change related activities".

The Minister expressed confidence that a comprehensive approach will help meet climate objectives and build required institutional resilience. "It will also enable us to contribute to the global mitigation efforts against climate change aimed at keeping the temperature rise below 2-degree Celsius", he stressed. The Minister concluded by saying that the international community must live up to the commitments to realize the Paris Agreement. "This will test all of us but we owe this to our common humanity and future generations".



Leader of Pakistan delegation, Chaudhry Nisar Ali Khan, Minister for Interior Narcotics Control signing the historic Paris Climate Agreement at a ceremony held at UN Headquarters, New York



# Diplomatic Focus Thru Lens



Ambassador of Thailand H.E. Suchart Liengsaengthon paid a courtesy call on the Advisor to the Prime Minister of Foreign Affairs, Sartaj Aziz in Islamabad.



British High Commissioner to Pakistan Mr. Thomas Drew called on Interior Minister Ch. Nisar Ali Khan in Islamabad.



Advisor to the Prime Minister on Foreign Affairs, Sartaj Aziz in a meeting with the High Commissioner of Canada, H.E. Heather Cruden in Islamabad.



Minister of State for Federal Education & Professional Training, Engr. Muhammad Baligh Ur rehman in a meeting with the Ambassador of Germany, Ms. Ina Lepel in Islamabad.



Outgoing Ambassador of Korea H.E. Song Jong Hawan called on MoS IT & Telecom Mrs. Anusha Rahman in Islamabad.

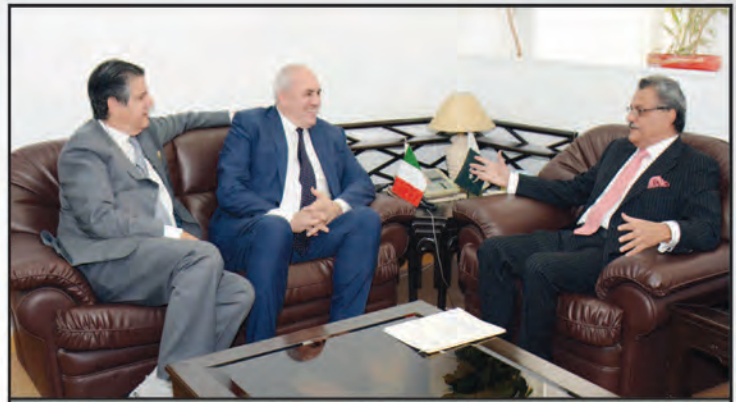


Finance Minister, Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar meeting with Japanese Ambassador Takashi Kurai in Islamabad.





Newly appointed Ambassador of Argentina H.E. Ivan Ivanishevich paid a courtesy call on the Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Foreign Affairs Syed Tariq Fatemi in Islamabad.



Mr. Stefano Pontecorvo, Ambassador of Italy along with Mr. Crosetto, Chairman of the Italian Industries Federation for Airspace called on Federal Minister for Industries & Production Ghulam Murtaza Khan Jatoli in Islamabad.



US Ambassador to Pakistan Mr. David Hale called on Minister for Commerce Engr. Khurram Dastgir Khan in Islamabad.



Ambassador of Netherlands in Pakistan, H.E. Jeannette Seppen called on Federal Minister for National Food Security & Research, Sikandar Hayat Khan Bosain.

## National Round Table Conference at Marriott Karachi

The Crystal Ballroom was the venue for the "National Round Table Conference". The conference had the VIP guests from the Supreme Court of Pakistan, Sindh High Court, Baluchistan High Court, Sindh Judicial Academy and Federal Shariat Court. Mr. Jan Verduyn, General Manager Karachi Marriott Hotel greeted the Chief Justice of Pakistan, Justice Anwar Zaheer Jamali who was the guest of honor at the occasion and personally escorted the Chief Justice of Pakistan and Chief Justice of Sindh High Court, Justice Sajjad Ali Shah to the Crystal Ballroom. The Speakers of the conference included Justice Kailash Nath Kohli, Justice Majid Rizvi, Dr. Livingston Armytage and Dr. Faqir Hussain.







# Relationship between Pakistan & United States is Imbalanced & on down trajectory

By M.Saeed Yousafzai, Monitoring Desk

Senate Chairman Raza Rabbani termed the relationship between Pakistan and United States as imbalanced and expressed concern at US' tilt towards India.

"Bilateral relationship between US and Pakistan seems to be driven by giving priority to US national security interests in the region rather those of Pakistan", Rabbani observed while chairing a Senate session.

He added that he has great respect for the

US Congress and congressmen, but as a parliamentarian he has serious concerns over bilateral ties between Islamabad and Washington.

Referring to US' tilt towards India in recent years, Rabbani stated that US has an agreement with India on civil nuclear cooperation, but

**Relations with US under stress for three months, admits Sartaj Aziz**





refuses to offer Pakistan a similar deal, casting doubt on Pakistan's utility for the US at a time when major combat operations have winded down in Afghanistan.

"Chairman Foreign Affairs Committee of the

## **"Chairman Foreign Affairs Committee of the Congress is reported to have said that one of the reasons for the blockage of assistance for F-16s is due to Indian concerns," Raza Rabbani**

Congress is reported to have said that one of the reasons for the blockage of assistance for F-16s is due to Indian concerns," added the Senate chairman.

"US has no respect for Pakistani courts and laws, as was witnessed in the Raymond Davis case, and which can now be seen in the case of Shakil Afridi."

Rabbani also expressed reservations that US did not hold court martial of its officers and men who according to their own inquiry are responsible for the bombing of a hospital in Afghanistan, which killed women and children.

Sartaj Aziz, advisor to the prime minister on foreign affairs, also supported the reservations of chairman Senate.

Sartaj Aziz conceded that relations with the US had been under stress for the past three months because of conditions Washington had attached to the funding of F-16s sale.

Pakistan had raised the unresolved issue of F-16 sale to Pakistan and expressed concern with the visiting commander of US Central Command (Centcom) General Joseph Votel. The confession was made by the adviser while winding up a debate in the Senate on an adjournment motion on the US decision to withdraw proposed subsidy on the sale of F-16 fighter jets to Pakistan.

Secretary Defence Gen (r) Alam Khattak had reiterated Pakistan's need for the F-16 jets,

and impressed upon the visiting Centcom commander the jet's utility in the war against terror.

Pakistan had earlier reached an understanding with the US for buying eight F-16 planes.



Under the deal, Pakistan was required to pay about \$270m from its national funds. The US was supposed to provide the rest from its Foreign Military Financing (FMF) fund.

## **The US action might have been caused by concerns raised by Washington on the nuclear issue which had been categorically rejected by Pakistan: Sartaj Aziz**

Pakistan has conveyed to the US that it does not have the money to buy F-16 jets from its resources and has cautioned that if the stalemate over funding is not resolved it may consider buying some other fighter aircraft to meet its needs.

Among the key reasons behind the Congressional hold are concerns that Pakistan has not taken enough action against the Haqqani network; jail sentence for Dr Shakeel Afridi — the physician who had cooperated with the US in tracking Osama bin Laden; and fears about Pakistani nuclear programme. The adviser Sartaj Aziz said on a debate in the Senate on an adjournment motion on the US decision that Pakistan-US relations had come to a standstill in 2011 because of unfortunate incidents of WikiLeaks, Raymond Davis, Abbottabad operation, Datta Khel and Salala. Since 2013, he said Pakistan's relations with

the US had witnessed an "upward trajectory". "In the past three months, however, this upward trajectory in relations has witnessed a downward slide, as reflected in a decision of the US Congress to block partial funding for eight F-16 aircraft," he said. Mr Aziz said that the US action might have been caused by concerns raised by Washington on the nuclear issue which had been categorically rejected by Pakistan. "We have also rejected frequent demands, especially by the US Congress, for the release of Dr Shakil Afridi. The US officials, Congress, think-tanks and media, in tandem with our adversaries, have also been blaming Pakistan for supporting the Haqqani network without giving any concrete evidence to enable us to take additional action against it or other terrorist organisations," he added.

However, Mr Aziz said, the Haqqani Network issue remained the top US concern at the moment. The Indian lobby in the US, he said, had also been highly pro-active in adding fuel



to the fire, especially after the Pathankot incident.

The adviser, however, assured the Senate that in view of the importance of the issue, Pakistan had been making all-out efforts to finalise the F-16 deal with the US administration. Mr Aziz said that the spring offensive launched by Afghan Taliban with the latest terrorist attack in Kabul had further aggravated the already bleak security situation in Afghanistan.

He said that Pakistan had been impressing upon the US and Afghan sides that the reconciliation process needed to be given a fair chance and more time and irreconcilable elements could be targeted after efforts for negotiations had failed.



# Parliament Diary



## Pakistan keen to expand Trade & Economic Cooperation with Portugal: Speaker NA

**S**peaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq has said that Pakistan was keen to forge strong bilateral relations with Portugal. He underlined the need for regular exchange of Parliamentary delegations to facilitate comprehensive bilateral engagements. While talking to him, the Speaker underlined the need for bilateral cooperation to explore the untapped opportunities and expand the scope of relations.

The Speaker outlined that Pakistan was keen to collaborate with Southern Europe in trade and economic affairs and deemed Portugal as a gateway to enhance cooperation and exchange of expertise in the field of Science and Information Technology. Portugal Charge de Affairs Mr. Joao Paulo Marques Sabido Costa highly endorsed Sardar Ayaz Sadiq's proposal for expansion of trade and economic relations and added that relations with Pakistan in energy, tourism and education may form the basis for future cooperation. Exchange of Parliamentary delegations and business groups could create further avenues for cooperation, he added.



Charge d' Affaires of Portugal Mr. Joao Paulo Marques Sabido Costa called on Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq at Parliament House, Islamabad.



# Cuban government look forward to peaceful Pakistan: Cuba Ambassador

**S**peaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq has said that Pakistan and Cuba were committed to robust its bilateral relations through mutual cooperation and synergies. He highlighted that the exchange of parliamentary groups between the two countries would strengthen the diplomatic ties between the two nations.

The Speaker appreciated the Cuban government for its assistance to Pakistani students to pursue education in Cuba through scholarships. The Speaker admired the role of Cuban government and doctors who provided their immense support during the catastrophic 2005-earthquake in Pakistan and the first hand support provided by Cuban doctors afterwards.

Ambassador of Cuba Mr. Gabriel Tiel Capote said that the Cuban government supported Pakistan in its fight against terrorism and look forward to a peaceful and prosperous Pakistan. He also extended invitation on behalf of Cuban Speaker to Sardar Ayaz Sadiq to visit Cuba along with his parliamentary delegation.



Ambassador of Cuba Mr. Gabriel Tiel Capote called on Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq at Parliament House, Islamabad.

# Pakistan keen to expand Economic Trade Cooperation in the Region: NA Speaker

**S**peaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq has said that Pakistan was keen to expand its economic and trade cooperation in the region extending to Central Asia. He said that Pakistan desired to facilitate foreign investment in Pakistan's infrastructure, information technology, health and energy sectors.

While talking to Turkmenistan's Ambassador Mr. Atadjan Movlamov, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq said that Pakistan and Turkmenistan enjoyed cordial relations validated by trade and cooperation between the two nations. Referring to Pak-Turkmenistan robust relations, he added that both the countries stood with each other side by side when faced with challenges. The Speaker highlighted that Pakistan had shown immense interest in cementing trade and economic relations with Turkmenistan.

The Turkmenistan Ambassador highlighted that Turkmenistan would continue to identify more avenues where both the countries can intervene and work together towards mutual cooperation and development bringing both the nations close to each other and cementing the bilateral ties to new level.



Ambassador of Turkmenistan Mr. Atadjan Movlamov called on Speaker National Assembly Sardar Azia Sasiq at Parliament House, Islamabad.





## Due to the continuous efforts, Terrorism in Pakistan has been at lowest level: Ch Nisar

By M.Saeed Yousafzai

Interior Minister Ch Nisar Ali Khan meets British National Security Adviser Mark Lyall-Grant.

Pakistan and UK reaffirmed their commitment for greater cooperation and interaction at all levels to further strengthen their existing

**PM Nawaz Sharif showed very positive gestures in improving our relations with India but those efforts got a set back by some recent incidents: Ch. Nisar**

partnership for dealing with issues of mutual concern, achieving shared objectives and ensuring regional peace and security.

This was agreed upon during the meeting of Interior Minister Ch. Nisar Ali Khan with the British National Security Adviser Sir Mark Lyall Grant here at the 10th Downing Street.

"Pak-UK bilateral relations, various strands of ongoing security cooperation, issues of mutual concern and regional security situation" was also discussed during the meeting.

The Interior Minister appreciated the UK Government's understanding of the problems being faced by Pakistan and their consistent

commitment and support to the country in addressing these issues.

Talking to British National Security Adviser, the Interior Minister said that due to its historical linkages, UK is in a position to have better understanding of regional dynamics and peculiar socio- security environment. Despite this advantage, the existing Pak-UK cooperation is far below the actual potential and there is need to make greater efforts for

**The British Security Adviser assured the Interior Minister every possible support from UK side in ongoing fight against terrorism**

tapping this potential for the mutual benefit of the two countries.

Discussing the security situation in Pakistan, the Interior Minister said that due to the continuous efforts of the Government since it took over in June 2013, the terrorism related violence in Pakistan has been lowest in 2015 since the last 9 years. The real challenge now lies in rooting out the facilitators and supporters of these elements who have spread hatred, strife and division in our society. The Interior Minister said that under NAP, over 14000 IBOs have been carried out across the length and breadth of the country and it resulted in curtailing to a huge extent the level

of terrorist related activities in Pakistan.

Discussing regional situation, the Interior Minister said that Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif showed very positive gestures in improving our relations with India but those efforts got a set back by some recent incidents. Discussing the situation in Afghanistan, the Interior Minister

**There is a tendency to put the blame for everything which goes wrong in Afghanistan at Pakistan's door step which should not be allowed to continue:**

**Ch. Nisar**

said that Pakistan has been making sincere efforts for the regional peace especially for the stability, peace and development in the neighboring Afghanistan and will continue doing so in the larger interests of the region. The Minister continued that despite our efforts, there is a tendency to put the blame for everything which goes wrong in Afghanistan at Pakistan's door step which should not be allowed to continue.

On the question of military courts, the Minister said that it was a difficult decision for the government to set up military courts but the terrorists had left the government with no other option. However it is a temporary

**It was a difficult decision for the government to set up military courts but the terrorists had left the government with no other option: Ch. Nisar**

measure and the SCP overviews the decisions of all the Military courts so the element of judicial review is very much there. The Interior Minister also welcomed the commitment of the two countries to furthering their cooperation in all the areas of mutual interest.

The British Security Adviser assured the Interior Minister every possible support from UK side in ongoing fight against terrorism including strengthening and capacity building of Counter Terrorism structures in the country. There is no lack of commitment or intent on the part of UK to keep the high level cooperation and interaction with Pakistan intact and it will be carried forward in future as well, remarked the National Security Adviser.



**Green Pakistan Program is being launched with the specific objective to ensure implementation of Paris Agreement. This includes both mitigation and adaption initiatives like promotion of forestation, renewable energy etc:  
Mr. Zahid Hamid**

# Pakistan is 4th country to establish Climate Change Authority” **Zahid Hamid**

By M.Saeed Yousafzai

**F**ederal Minister for Law, Justice and Climate Change Mr. Zahid Hamid held meeting with Mr. Jean-Francois Cautain, Ambassador of the European Union Delegation to Pakistan along with Mrs. Martine Dorance, Ambassador of France on implementation of Paris agreement at Ministry of Climate Change.

“Pakistan is committed to implement Paris agreement. In this regard Pakistan is establishing Climate Change Council under the chairmanship of Prime Minister”, said by the Minister for Law, Justice and Climate Change Mr. Zahid Hamid.

Pakistan is the fourth country in the world to establish Climate change authority. It will be a professional body responsible to monitor climate change in all development sectors”, highlighted by the federal Minister.

“Green Pakistan Program is being launched with the specific objective to ensure implementation of Paris Agreement. This includes both mitigation and adaption initiatives like promotion of forestation, renewable energy etc. along with awareness, informed by the Federal Minister to the delegation. “National Climate Change Policy



Implementation Committee has been activated to oversee the progress of implementation of policy recommendations at federal and provincial levels. A framework has also been developed to facilitate Implementation process”, said by the Federal Minister

“Pakistan is at 135th in Global emitters but still Pakistan is putting its efforts and doing

preparations to grab its part from Green Climate Fund. Second National Communication Study and Technology Need Assessment under CTCN has been initiated”, highlighted by the Federal Minister.

It was told to the delegation that many wind and solar projects are being initiated as part of China Pakistan Economic Corridor.





# We have three strong points on which nobody competes with us:

**Arab & Islamic depth, Investment strength, Geographical location**

In an exclusive interview Turki Al-Dakhil, Deputy Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman said that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia was founded by late King Abdul Aziz and his companions without the need for oil, pointing out that it is very dangerous to deal with Aramco Company as our constitution. He said that Aramco's reverence by some is a very big problem and we have a state of oil addiction in the Kingdom, which disrupted the development. He added "we will turn

Deputy Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, second deputy premier, minister of defense and chairman of the Council of Economic and Development Affairs, stressed that the Kingdom's Vision 2030, approved by the Cabinet, constitutes a road map for the country's overall development in the next 15 years.



Aramco into a holding company and move its operations to companies owned by it."

The deputy crown prince explained that high risks would have occurred if there had not been a move to offer Aramco for public subscription, saying that the investment fund will not manage Aramco and there will be a board of directors to manage it. He pointed out that we have three strong points on which nobody competes with us: They are our Arab and Islamic depth, our investment strength and our geographical location.

The following are excerpts from the interview:

**You have declared more than once that you will offer part of the shares of the world largest oil company, the Saudi Aramco company, for public subscription both in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and abroad. Everyone is talking about that Aramco is a public property; how did you manage to give up Aramco by this offering?**

First of all, we are talking today about a vision. The vision is a road map for our goals of development and economy and other aspects for the next 15 years; Aramco has a very small part of this vision in which there are so many contents. We should not reduce them to Aramco. No doubt that Aramco is part of the main keys of this vision, and for the renaissance of the economy and the renaissance of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. The IPO of Aramco has several benefits. The first and most important of these benefits is transparency. People in the past used to be upset that Aramco's files and data are not announced, unclear and not transparent. Today, it will



become transparent. If Aramco is listed in the market, this means it must announce its statements and declare every quarter. It will come under the supervision of Saudi banks, Saudi analysts and thinkers. All world banks and all research and planning centers in the world

will intensively monitor Aramco. Aramco today works as a facilitating limited company. This is a very dangerous matter: A giant company of this size is managed and treated as a facilitating limited company. I see the portion that will be offered for public subscription as very small,





# CHARTING THE FUTURE



The vision does not need high oil prices and will even enable KSA to live without oil by 2020.

● We have 3 areas of strength to rely on: Our Arab and Islamic identity, our investment strength and our geographical location.

● The sovereign fund, which will be a key driver not only for the Gulf but for the world, will execute the projects of the state.

● King Abdul Aziz and his companions founded and ran the Kingdom without oil.

● Dependence on oil has disrupted development in most industrial sectors.

less than five percent.

**On what basis this percentage (less than 5 percent) has been set?**

First, Aramco's size is very huge. To date, there is no final valuation and we expect Aramco to be valued at more than \$2 trillion. We talk about more than SR7 trillion. If only one percent of Aramco's shares was offered for public subscription, it will be the largest IPO in the history of the world.

Aramco's IPO will be in the Saudi market and there are ideas about finding outlets for Aramco shares outside the Saudi market. Today, you can buy gold from the US market, or oil through funds in the US market and we have something similar. For example, in the Saudi market there is the Falcom Fund which buys in several companies. Ideas include establishing a fund in the US market only for buying Aramco's shares. This is one of the outlets that will be very important in bringing liquidity for Aramco trade or other companies in the Saudi market. The Aramco company is a part of the keys of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's Vision 2030 and Aramco's IPO will make it transparent and under the supervision of banks and everyone else.

**This means that you will not violate, as some say, any sacred thing when you offer Aramco or part of it for public subscription?**

This is a very big problem.

**Aramco's reverence?**

Yes. King Abdulaziz and all men who worked with him all over the Kingdom, when they

established the Kingdom, there was no oil. They founded and ran the country without oil and they lived in this country without oil ... Today, oil has become our constitution; the Qur'an and Sunnah and then petroleum. This is a very dangerous thing. We have a situation of oil addiction in the kingdom, which disrupted the development in many sectors in the past years.

**Is oil the main item on which the economy of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia depends?**

Yes. Oil comes from your work in investment no less, no more. Investment is a company that has value and should be owned as an investment, not owned as a main commodity or a main source of income.

**So you are seeking to diversify the sources of income?**

Yes. Aramco's IPO has many benefits other than the transparency, its benefits for the Saudi market. When you offer a company of more than SR7 trillion in the Saudi market, then you have doubled the size of the Saudi market. There is also a second phase of the offering. Aramco's parent company and then its affiliated companies will be offered in the market, it would give the Saudi market a larger size, this the second benefit for the market. The third benefit and the most technically important after Aramco's IPO is shifting Saudi Arabia's income from oil to investment. What remains is how to diversify your investments. Most assets of your investment portfolio are in energy companies, we must diversify the

investment by borrowing and entering in other opportunities in order to balance your portfolio, and this is what will be done in the coming years, which will help to increase the size of your portfolio.

**So, you will offer initially five percent of Aramco's parent company or of some of its affiliated companies?**

Less than five percent of the Aramco's parent company and most of Aramco's affiliated companies. We are trying to turn Aramco into a holding company and the operating sector will only belong to the companies owned by Aramco.

On the Public Investment Fund's extent of risk in relation to Aramco, that lack of action is much riskier and that the Public Investment Fund will not manage Aramco in the future. Aramco will be run by a Board of Directors. The Board of Directors will be elected by a general assembly, which represents Aramco's owners. The owners may be the fund or other citizens, or investment entities at home and abroad, who will buy Aramco's shares. This will make a very huge leap. Preliminary data points out that the fund will be in control of more than ten percent of the world's investment capacity. The fund's size of assets will be more than 3 percent of the global assets. We believe that it will exceed these estimates.

**Question on lands:**

Lands, we believe that their development will solve part of the problems and crises that we have in the cities, whether in commercial,



financial, business or housing complexes. There are very large assets, which are areas that have not been developed so far in this field, especially the tourism field or others. I expect that these assets will amount to one trillion Saudi riyals. Investment Fund will not manage Aramco Company. There will be a Board of Directors for Investment Fund that will control 10% of the investment capacity in the world. The Investment Fund was restructured last year. With little studies, the investment fund gained profits which amounted to SR30 billion in 2015.

**Are these lands owned by the state?**

Yes, these lands are owned by the state. And now we have finished the procedures regarding the transferring of their ownership to the Public Investment Fund.

**Thus, will they be offered or invested through the construction of malls and commercial centers?**

No, the Fund does not enter into malls; and its size is very large. The Fund enters into huge opportunities, mostly lands and great opportunities. The lands will be transformed into projects, transformed into a company and offered at whole in the market.

**So, don't you consider that you will manage, in your capacity as you are responsible for the Public Investment Fund and chairman of the Council of Economic and Development Affairs, these funds with a policy having some risks?**

No, we have worked in the Public Investment Fund which was restructured last year. Small details have remained, and the full program of Public Investment Fund will be announced; and how to manage the resources and make the decision. The Fund's transparency will be clear to everyone. I am the chairman of Board of Directors of Public Investment Fund. I do not have the decision. The decision is taken by the Board, according to the mechanism and governance that will be released and announced to everyone. I cannot take a decision without accordance with this governance.

**This means that a chairman or board of directors cannot dictate opinions.**

No, the board cannot dictate its viewpoints.

**Why?**

Because the board of directors cannot vote except based on the mechanism announced by public investment fund governance or it will be announced.

**What have you done after the restructuring of the Fund?**

The introduction of new assets to the Fund; Aramco and other assets, and re-solving the problems of current assets owned by the Public Investment Fund, whether companies or other projects. There were stalled projects and restructuring some of them. Some of the problems facing some other companies owned by the Fund were solved, and this will support and increase the profitability of these companies and lead to more profits for the

Fund.

**Some believe that the Fund was managed with a conservative investment policy, do you overpass this conservative investment policy?**

The word conservatism and risk is sensitive. The Fund's decision is based on a clear study, a clear analysis and a clear vision. The decision became studied and procedures have not changed. The Fund in the past was not working well, and not achieving high profits. In 2015 we were able to realize a profit from the fund amounting to approximately SR30 billion, which led and contributed to raising non-oil revenues by 35 percent in 2015. This is in one year, is this conservative? Or did it earn additional profits for the government?

**You stressed on three main axes in the vision released today, on what basis have you built this vision? Is it only on these elements?**

Of course, there was a very big debate, like entering human development into it, or other elements. What is the vision? It is to put your strength areas which you can operate on them in the date of this vision.

**Will it be in the time that you have set?**

In the time that we have set, we have three areas of strength that we have not exploited them and no one competed with us regarding them. The Arab and Islamic depth, we have Muslims' Qibla and we have Madinah and very huge Islamic heritage. Our Arab depth is strong. Arabism was launched from the Arabian Peninsula and the Kingdom constitutes the large part of it. This is not being fully exploited, and we have the world's leading investment force. Today we will launch the largest Sovereign Fund in the globe, and this will be a key driver of the globe, not only for the region, there will not be any investment or movement or development in any region of the world, without the voice of the Saudi Sovereign Fund which executes the projects of this state, if they do not succeed or we do not invest in them that will affect directly, and vice versa. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia will be a strong investment force through its Sovereign Fund, and through other funds owned by the government, and through the most important profession; Saudi businessmen. Yes, we have many businessmen in different industries, but most businessmen are in investment companies. The Saudi mentality is an investment one; we must use it, and push the Sovereign Fund and other funds, and all Saudi companies, so as to be an investment force to move the Saudi market and the global market.

The third aspect is the geographical location. We are in a very special geographical location, we have three most important marine straits in the world and almost 30 percent of global trade passes by sea through the Kingdom and now we will have King Salman causeway between the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and Egypt, which will be the most important land border crossing in the world and the major part

of trade between Asia and Africa and a major part of trade from Europe to Asia pass through the Kingdom.

We have a huge opportunity to create logistical services, both in aviation or ports or industrial complexes or in the economic centers that will be developed or in linking the Gulf countries, Egypt, Jordan and other countries to find a very large movement by exploiting the geographical location centers. This will make many goods pass through the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia that worth hundreds of billions.

**From Asia to Europe?**

Yes, this will make many commodities amounting to billions of dollars pass by. This will create very huge economic opportunities and new industries, and jobs, and at the same time, they will help in the growth of the global economy. These are the three main pillars of the vision which are your strength that must be exploited. We must not focus on other pillars in which we are weak, and we cannot strongly grow them up. We want to exploit the strength areas that we have and then move on to another stage.

**Let me ask you about oil again, did you launch this vision due to low oil prices?**

Never, this vision was about to be launched, whether oil price is high or low.

**If oil prices return and stabilize above \$70, how the vision would be affected?**

The vision will not be affected in general. If oil price rises, no doubt it will be a strong supporter and incentive, because too many procedures will be easier for us, but the vision does not need high oil prices, but it deals with less oil prices.

**What is the date in which you will not need oil income and therefore other income would be relied on?**

I think that if oil stops in the year 2020, we will be able to live without it.

**You focused in the vision to preserve the high living standards and raising citizens' living standards?**

Yes, this is part of the vision. This requires the cooperation being exerted by citizens in order to maintain a better standard of living and improve it.

**What do you expect from citizens to do?**

Everyone must work in it. Today we are making more effort to convince everyone, whether in the government agency or in executive, legislative or judiciary authorities, whether citizens or businessmen. This is our fate we all as Saudis must do their turns in this vision.

**You referred within the vision to the vital society; you talked about the development of Haj and Umrah, and providing more welfare services for pilgrims and Umrah performers?**

Of course.

*Courtesy to Al Arabiya News Channel*





# All success stories start with a vision

By Web Desk

Cultural and entertainment activities have found special mention in Vision 2030, the ambitious plan to transform the Saudi economy with economic diversification, a decision which has received much applause from citizens.

One of the key goals set for 2030 by the Council of Economic and Development Affairs, and approved by the Cabinet under the chairmanship of Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman on Monday, includes increasing household spending on cultural and entertainment activities inside the Kingdom from the current 2.9 percent to 6 percent.

Cultural and entertainment activities form an essential part of the Kingdom's most ambitious reform plans to date as this vision has a strong commitment for meaningful entertainment and cultural activities for citizens.

Vision 2030 promises to increase the number and variety of cultural and entertainment activities with the aim of opening dedicated venues to showcase citizen's myriad talents. It also promises to review regulations to

simplify the establishment and registration of amateur, social and cultural clubs. Moreover, the government aims to launch and provide the necessary financial support for "Daem," a national program to enhance the quality of cultural activities and entertainment in the Kingdom.

By 2030, the program will create a national network of clubs, encourage the exchange of knowledge and international experiences, and

promote better awareness of a wide range of hobbies and leisure activities.

According to the vision, by 2020, there will be more than 450 registered and professionally organized amateur clubs providing a variety of cultural activities and entertainment events to citizens.

Furthermore, the Kingdom will build the world's largest Islamic museum in accordance with the highest global standards, equipped with







## **Vision 2030 promises to review regulations to simplify the establishment and registration of amateur, social and cultural clubs**

the latest methods in collection, preservation, presentation and documentation, to be a major landmark. Applauding the decision Talal Al-Otaibi, a media consultant, said: "All success stories start with a vision, and I am sure this cultural and infotainment vision as an integral part of the larger Vision 2030 will lead us to a bright future as aimed in this vision document."

Mohammad Zeyad, a fresh graduate, welcomed the idea saying, "It will for sure add meaningful value to our daily life and help reduce the stress of routine living."

Khaled Abdullah, a tour and travel operator said the Kingdom has the holy cities of Makkah and Madinah, and building an Islamic museum will help it emerge as the international hub of Islamic tourism.





# The Saudi Vision 2030

## New plan is a futuristic vision for the future sustainable development

By M.Saeed Yousafzai, Agency

**T**he Saudi Vision 2030 was applauded as a major step by the government toward sustainable public finance by a cross-section of the Saudi society.

The ambitious vision document, drafted by the Council of Economic and Development Affairs upon instructions from King Salman, was lauded by Commerce and Industry Minister Tawfiq Al-Rabiah, who said that Vision 2030 gives the utmost care for the promotion of the commercial and industrial sectors in the Kingdom.

It will help increase the gross domestic product (GDP) of the Kingdom and make Saudi mega-companies a major player in international markets, he said.

He added that the development of small and medium enterprises (SMEs) is considered the

optimal investment for the national economy, which, in turn, will promote the Kingdom's non-oil exports and generate more job opportunities for citizens.

Echoing these sentiments, Civil Service Minister Khaled Al-Araj said the vision was characterized by transparency and clearness in its pursuit to create a national economy not dependent on oil but which rather looks at a post-oil era and draws up appropriate plans to that end.

Transport Minister Abdullah Al-Muqbil said the vision is a road map for economic and developmental reform for the post-oil era and will help diversify income resources, enhance the national economy and draw up modern





economic policies.

Majed Abdullah Al-Hedayan, a senior columnist and specialist consultant on legal affairs at the Riyadh Chamber of Commerce and Industry, said: "Vision 2030 is a clear road map to a very positive and promising future.

"It has very strong determination to build a thriving country in which all citizens can fulfill their dreams, hopes and ambitions,

**It has very strong determination to build a thriving country in which all citizens can fulfill their dreams, hopes and ambitions, and will help the Kingdom emerge as a leader in providing opportunities for all through education and training, high quality services, employment, health, housing and a happy life.**





and will help the Kingdom emerge as a leader in providing opportunities for all through education and training, high quality services, employment, health, housing and a happy life." Prince Faisal bin Abdullah, head of the Saudi Red Crescent Authority, lauded the plan saying it is a major economic policy for sustainable development as Vision 2030 represents the vision of the wise leadership, shows keenness to improve citizens' lives, which are key features of the national ambition for construction of a promising future for coming generations based on developmental plans at both economic and social levels that will bring a quality shift for the post-oil era.

Khaled Al-Aboudi, deputy chairman of the Riyadh-based Al-Muttahedah Recruitment Company, welcomed Vision 2030. "We will achieve, InshaAllah, very soon what we could not in last 40 years as this vision provides opportunity for all sections."

Economists say Saudi Vision 2030 offers a futuristic vision for the future will lessen dependence on oil and stimulate other sectors that rely on human resources.

They added that the new vision relies on human competency and that it will strengthen sustainability by increasing resources and diversifying internal income through investment. This is due to a sovereign investment fund that will be the biggest in the world. Economists say the Kingdom is entering a new stage in light of its increasing population and changing skill sets.

Economic analyst Dr. Salah Al-Shalhoub said the national economy had passed an important



**The Vision 2030 would play a role in changing the key features of the Saudi economy from those that depend on oil to those that generate returns**





crossroads; nationals are living under the care and protection of the government, education levels are high, the labor market is growing and the entry of expats is creating a powerful labor force.

He added that the standard of living among nationals and young people is linked to the encouragement of the private sector and improvement of homes, health and education. Shalhoub said the Kingdom was at a turning point that reflects the national economy at a time when the national population is increasing. "Individuals are going in search of income diversification that contributes to the growth of society. In light of the economic fluctuations the world is experiencing at present, there is a need to look for alternative energy resources," he said. "Essentially, we are now looking toward the post-oil period."

The transformation that will be witnessed in the coming years relates to a group of issues related to competence expenditure, sustainability, resource growth and income diversification through investment and setting up of the national sovereign fund along with other diverse financial instruments to distribute risks. This is in addition to greater openness as exemplified by the Kingdom's entry into the World Trade Organization which will make it a market for foreign investment and regulate consumption which will be less stressful on the state budget.

Dr. Salem Ba'ajaj, economic analyst, said the Vision 2030 would play a role in changing the key features of the Saudi economy from those that depend on oil to those that generate returns. He confirmed that this is a futuristic vision for incoming generations who are determined to keep up with global developments.

He added that the local community and economists are waiting for the announcement of the full program, which will have many incentives to stimulate the nation's economy and achieve economic variation.



Dr. Mohammad Dulaim Al-Qahtani, an economist, said the national transformation program is a very positive move that responds to economists' calls for economic diversification. He said the new vision has many benefits for all citizens and all economic sectors.

Al-Qahtani said the program would lessen dependence on oil and activate other sectors that depend on human beings. He added that the new direction fund encourages smart investments.

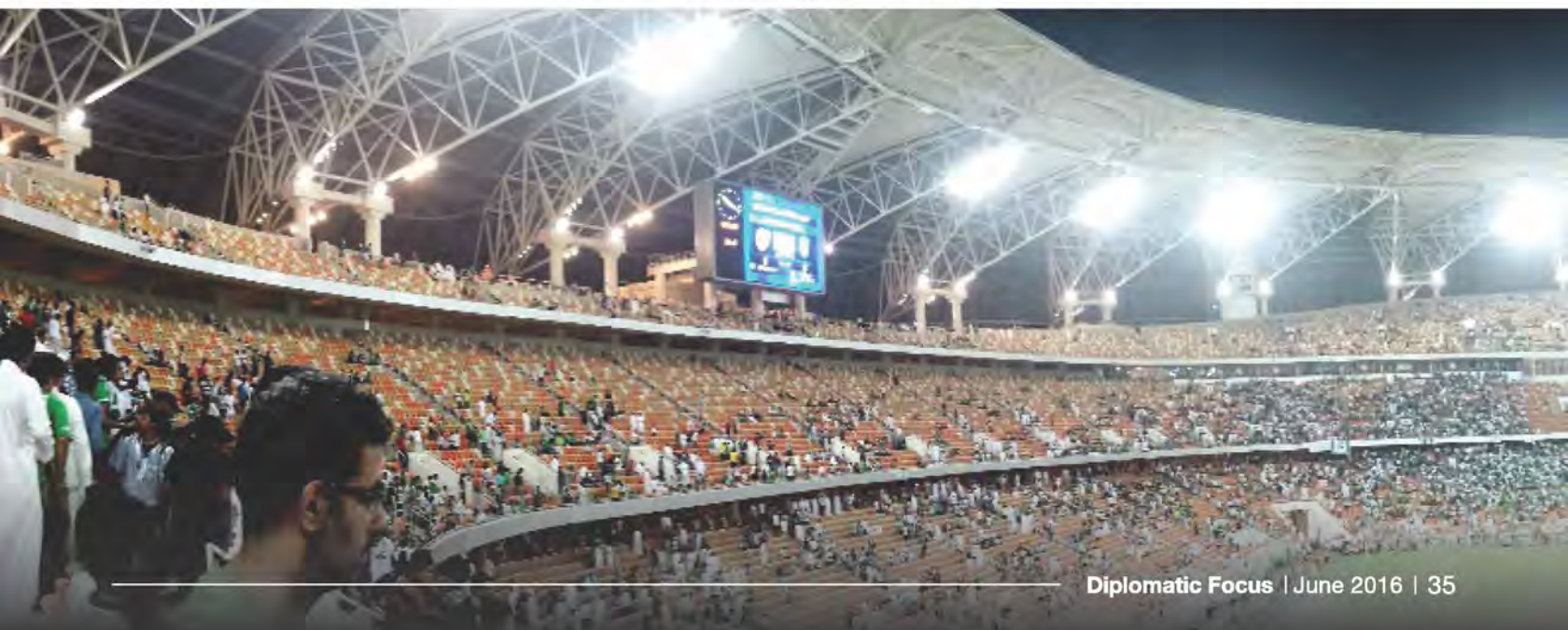
"We are looking forward to the sovereign investment fund with a value of \$2 trillion which will invest in vital sectors such as nano and telecommunication technology which achieve quick and large returns," he said.

Al-Qahtani said it was important to support

these aspirations which reflect positively on citizens and will change the economy from one dependent on oil into a diversified one.

He said that if the economy stayed the same, the Kingdom would depend on the expertise of other countries and foreign elements. He noted that it was time to work in a stable way and start training a national cadre in addition to supporting the sectors we are already advanced in.

He pointed out that if we wanted to reach the desired change, everyone should understand their duties and maintain a clear vision for the national transformation. He said that citizens need to work together under a comprehensive program for national transformation which should be well researched and stable.







## CUSTODIAN OF THE TWO HOLY MOSQUES RELIEF CAMPAIGN FOR PAKISTAN

By Web Desk

The "Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques Relief Campaign for Pakistan" (CTHMRCP) announces details of humanitarian projects (both in terms of infrastructure and development) that have been accomplished, and the projects under process in different parts of Pakistan, for the relief and rehabilitation of Pakistani brothers affected by the devastating earthquake in the northern areas of Pakistan during 2005 and those affected by floods in different parts of Pakistan during 2010-2011, as per the directives of the leadership of Kingdom of Saudi Arabia affirming support for brotherly people of Pakistan during hard times.

The Campaign carried out huge projects in the earthquake-affected areas costing (\$ 51 million dollars). Most important of these projects were the rebuilding of houses demolished in Balakot City, some parts of Muzaffarabad and Bagh cities by providing 8400 units of prefabricated houses, beside reconstruction of 34 School and construction of 8 health centers in the regions affected by earthquakes in Kashmir and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.







The Campaign has allocated (\$ 30 million) for flood-affected areas as well for construction of 5,000 houses distributed in different areas of Pakistan; whereas the first phase of 2,000 homes in the provinces of Sindh, Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa have been handed over to their owners. The second phase of constructing 3,000 houses in Punjab, Sindh, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Baluchistan provinces and Gilgit Baltistan region is on fast track which will be delivered to recipients after completion.

The Campaign also allocated (10 million dollars) for the execution of drinking water projects in flood-affected areas of Pakistan; whereas approximately (226 projects) of digging artesian wells and installing hand pumps and water purification plants and extension of water networks in residential complexes, schools and hospitals, have been furnished so far. Work is still underway on implementation of similar projects in different regions.

Further, to support the education sector in flood-affected areas all over Pakistani provinces, the Campaign has allocated a budget of (\$ 15 million dollars) for the construction of 40 schools, including elementary, middle and high schools, educational institutions contain halls, libraries and laboratories for computer and classrooms equipped with school furniture and other requirements of the modern education including playgrounds and green areas







# Saudi Arabia will always stand by Pakistan and its brotherly people

**H.E Abdullah M Ali-Zahrani, Ambassador of The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to Pakistan**

Your Excellency Federal Minister SAFRON

General Abdul Quadir Baloch,

Honorable Guests,

Distinguished Brothers,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

السلام عليكم ورحمة الله وبركاته،

Today at this happy occasion of completion of First phase of the rehabilitation projects in Pakistan, initiated by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in the wake of earthquake and floods, I would like to reaffirm to my Pakistani brothers the unwavering commitment of The Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, under the leadership of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman Bin Abdulaziz Al- Saud, and the Saudi people, to always stand by our brothers in Pakistan and take this friendship to new heights.

Saudi Arabia is a leading donor. It instantly responds to humanitarian disasters and natural calamities worldwide without any religious or ethnic discrimination, in addition to providing economic and financial aid to the developing countries. It is the largest donor in the world in terms of ratio to its GDP and scope of its donations. The ratio of Saudi global donations constitutes 1.9% of its GDP against the United Nations target for 0.7% of the GDP. More than 80 countries in the world benefitted from its humanitarian aid.

Our relations with Pakistan are distinct and it is an honor for us to be in a position to extend our hand of friendship and support to our Muslim brothers in Pakistan in their hard times.

Time bears testimony that Saudi Arabia has proved itself an all-weather friend of Pakistan. I assure you that this time-tested friendship

is destined to strengthen further in the years ahead.

In successfully completing these humanitarian projects in Pakistan, I would like to make special mention of the cooperation we received from the Ministry of States and Frontier Regions (SAFRON), National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), Earthquake Reconstruction and Rehabilitation Authority (ERRA), the Provincial Governments and various Organizations of the United Nations in Pakistan.

I wish the brotherly people of Pakistan enduring well-being and reiterate that we stood by you in the past, we stand by you today and tomorrow and May Allah the Almighty grant your country and your people peace, stability, prosperity and shower His bounties and blessings on all of you.





بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

# SAUDI RELIEF COMMITTEE FOR AFGHANISTAN



By Raheel Iqbal

“Saudi Relief Committee for Afghanistan” is making great efforts to support Afghan refugees residing inside Pakistan, through executing some projects for them over the next two years (2016 - 2017) with a budget of up to (\$ 5 million). These projects are as under:

**First: educational, human development and vocational training projects:**

- Distribution of 10,000 schools bag equipped with the necessary stationery among ten thousand students of Afghan refugee schools.

- Repair, maintenance and rehabilitation of schools located in refugee camps, including provision of clean water through digging shallow wells and building reservoirs in large schools, as well as providing healthy sanitation facilities.
- Provision of chairs, carpets and blackboards for classrooms, beside water coolers and some computer labs in the secondary schools.
- Provision of (24 thousand) food basket for 1000 poor teachers in two years.
- Provision of scholarships for diploma of one year to 1000 Afghan students in

some important disciplines like (Computer, Accounting, Trade and Financial Management).

- Training 1000 Afghan students in multiple craft like (sewing, electricity, carpentry).

**Second: Emergency relief projects:**

- Distribution of (20,000) food baskets among Afghan refugees in two years.
- Distribution of 100 tons of dates.
- Distribution of tents and tarpaulins within two years according to requirements.

**Third: health projects:**

- Support health services provided to Afghan refugees in the provinces of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Baluchistan in two years.





# CIA chief says no evidence of Saudi involvement in 9/11 attacks

By Monitoring Desk

**T**he head of US Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), John Brennan, has said there is “no evidence” indicating that Saudi Arabia gave backing to Al Qaeda for the Sept 11, 2001, terrorist attacks on New York and Washington.

In an interview on NBC news show “Meet the Press”, he said speculation that the Saudis were involved, as some in Congress have charged, was not “corroborated, not vetted, and not deemed to be accurate”.

The CIA chief was referring to the 28 pages of a congressional probe into 9/11 released. The pages focus on Saudi Arabia and its alleged involvement in 9/11 attacks, the former head of the panel Bob Graham said in a CBS news show, 60 minutes.

Brennan said the congressional panels “came out with a very clear judgment that there was no evidence indicating that the Saudi government as an institution, or Saudi officials individually, had provided financial support to Al Qaeda”.

“Those 28 pages were withheld from the public because of the sensitive sources used in the investigation.”

He spoke on the eve of the fifth anniversary of US Special Forces’ operation against Al Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden.

**The congressional panels “came out with a very clear judgment that there was no evidence indicating that the Saudi government as an institution, or Saudi officials individually, had provided financial support to Al Qaeda”: CIA Chief**





# Award of Excellence

**H.E. Abdullah Marzouk Al-Zahrani, Ambassador of The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to Pakistan honored Saudi Students by Award of Excellence in Islamabad. Number of Saudi Students are studying in Pakistani Institutions and fulfilling their education in different disciplines.**





# Thailand & the UN Sustainable Development Goals

By Agency

Efforts to achieve sustainable development reached a milestone at the international level in 2015. The United Nations Sustainable Development Summit to endorse the new global goals for the post-2015 period, and the seventieth session of the United Nations General Assembly were held in New York from 23 September to 1 October 2015. During the meetings, they discussed various interesting topics including the Sustainable Development Goals. These Goals are a follow-up to the progress achieved since the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development meeting or Rio+202. Unveiled in 2015, the Sustainable Development Goals will remain in effect for 15 years or until 2030. The Goals are in line with the focus on balancing the three pillars of sustainable development: the economy, the society and the environment.

Thailand has reaffirmed its role in tackling the



global challenges by presenting its experiences in eradicating poverty and reducing inequalities. Thailand's efforts to achieve sustainable

development are based on the Sufficiency Economy Philosophy. Its vision of achieving "security, prosperity, and sustainability" in

Thailand's efforts to achieve sustainable development are based on the Sufficiency Economy Philosophy. Its vision of achieving security, prosperity, and sustainability





a five-year timeframe (2015 – 2020) reflects clearly that the country's development path matches well with the United Nations goals and the world's development trend.

The Sufficiency Economy Philosophy is a form of sustainable development that has been recognized by the United Nations. Many developing countries in Africa, Latin America and the Pacific islands have expressed an interest in this philosophy.

The propagation of the Sufficiency Economy Philosophy has gained further momentum since the Thailand Sustainable Development Foundation linked up with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in a number of activities. Among those that stand out are joint efforts to stage exhibitions and organize seminars on the Sufficiency Economy Philosophy in the global arena, such as at a UNESCO meeting in Paris, a United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) meeting in Geneva, and during the seventieth session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York, whereby representatives of 196 countries were exposed to a presentation on the Sufficiency Economy, which was clear-cut, comprehensive and extensive.

The Sufficiency Economy Philosophy and His Majesty the King of Thailand-initiated projects



are very comprehensive and thus can serve as development models in efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

Year 2016 as the chair of the Group of 77, Thailand is required to lay down the development foundation for meeting the Sustainable Development Goals. Our goal is to expand interactive activities further and also to achieve more tangible results. With knowledge in our hands and the right direction, we can usher the world towards sustainable development.

Referring the Sufficiency Economy Philosophy

to the Middle Way of moderation and judicious balance in assessing facts and consequences will encourage those outside of Thailand to want to accept it and apply its teachings because it will then appear to them as practical, based on common-sense, and applicable to all situations. The Buddhist Middle Way can be associated with Aristotle's ethics, Catholic Social Teachings, Islamic stewardship ideals, and the Chinese Doctrine of the Mean, for example, to demonstrate its relevance to all people, not just to Buddhists. This will open minds to the potential viability and importance of the Sufficiency Economy Philosophy.

## **The Sufficiency Economy Philosophy and His Majesty the King of Thailand-initiated projects are very comprehensive and thus can serve as development models in efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals**







# Golden Era of Pakistan-China Relations



The visiting Pakistan Friendship delegation on invitation of CPC in a group photo with Prof. Dr. Ms. Li Li Deputy Director-General, Institute of South & Southeast Asian & Oceanian Studies, China Institute of Contemporary International Relations after Interactive discussion.





Governor KPK (the then Senator) Iqbal Zafar Jhagra while leading a national delegation to China on CPC invitation at site seeing.

By Syed Ali Nawaz Gilani

Pakistan-China entered the 65th year of mutual friendly relations on 21st May 2016, spanning over more than half a century. These relations have been growing ever since in terms of defence, economy and diplomacy, and, in short, all fields of life. China has now turned into a giant economic power, striding fast on the path to become a functional world power. A recently published book "Who Ruled the World" by a famous American scholar became ample testimony that after completion of Gwadar seaport, China will be able to expand its trade from the coast of Malacca to the Gulf of Eden; and the sea will turn into an economic highway for emerging powers which is now being used as personal lake by America.

An overview of world scenario, particularly in this region, reveals that America and NATO bypassing Russia are busy in extending their sphere of influence in Eastern Europe. On the other hand, they have been preparing China against India. But now the scenario has changed. Now China has established 'Bank for International Infrastructure and Development' further developing economies of the world. This Bank has dented the hold of IMF and World Bank as Australia and England being fed up with America's Veto Power in the United Nations Organization in the affairs of IMF and World Bank, have joined this newly established bank China has developed a system to make independent and self-reliant the poor state of Africa; but the most recent and one of the wonders of the world is "China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) project, which is going to make Pakistan an empowered country

of the region. Given the diverse opinions, all agree that this giant leap will turn China into a superpower. Chinese President Xi JINPING visited Pakistan last year and announced a huge investment of 46 billion US dollars for CPEC. Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province of Pakistan & Xinjiang Region of China declared as Friendly Region in 2008 through an MOU. Similarly, Xinjiang Region of China's Capital city Urumqi & Peshawar, capital city of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province of Pakistan, Kashgar, China, and Abbottabad, Pakistan, were declared as sister cities. Malakand power project is a gift for People of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa whereas Silk Road in the name of CPEC is going to make this region a hub of trade and economic activities. Similarly manufacturing of JF Thunder in

Pakistan is a living example of faithful friendship. In spite of so many changes in Government in both countries, their relations and friendship have never seen any weaning. One vision is that after 35 years China & Pakistan will be celebrating centennial Jubilee of their friendship. China would have become a superpower of the world. All this will lend China in an enviable image in Islamic world. Let it be Middle East, Afghanistan, Kashmir or any other dispute. China has ever supported Pakistan. Despite all ebbs and flows during the last 65 years, Sino-Pak relations have never seen anything displeasing or disparaging.

In the light of forgoing argument, it would be high time now to venture on educational and cultural fronts. Chinese universities and training institutions should attract Pakistani students. Chinese universities should be established in cities of Pakistan. Similarly,

Chinese cultural and language centres should be established in Pakistan. These steps will find maximum acceptance level as Chinese products from tyres to machines have made their way to every home in Pakistan.

On 11th May 2016, China railed a goods train to Nepal which is a message to the entire world that China is linking the whole region of South Asia and it is going to supersede even European Union. It is also a message to India that it should abandon the policy of conflict and confrontation and explore the potential for well being of its public.

Malaysia is also negotiating its oceanic matters with China which would be a milestone for development of Malaysia.

Another encouraging aspect in China-Pakistan relations is appearing in the shape of China Study Centres in the University of Peshawar and other universities of the country. China has announced to give eight modern submarines to Pakistan which is the biggest defence deal ever made by any country with Pakistan.

More than 150 companies are working in different developmental projects in Pakistan. Gwadar port was handed over to China in 2013. And within one year China made it fully functional and operational.

More than 90 billion US Dollar agreements were inked during the visit of Chinese President last year, giving new heights to these relations. (The Writer is Secretary-General Pakistan-China Friendship Association Khyber Chapter & President Radio China Listener's Club Peshawar His email [syed.gilani@gmail.com](mailto:syed.gilani@gmail.com))





# Message of H.E. Nawaf Al SarayrahAmbassador of Jordan to Pakistan on the occasion of Jordan 70th Independence Day 25th May 2016

The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and Islamic Republic of Pakistan, enjoy strong, deep and historic ties, a relationship based on common values and perceptions. Jordan is always emphasizing the need to strengthen relations with Pakistan, because of the common interest of the two brotherly nations. Existing bilateral commercial and economic relations had increased. Nevertheless, the present volume of bilateral trade is far below the potential of the two countries. We stress the need for measures to enhance and diversify trade relations.

Jordanians are celebrating the 70th anniversary of the Independence Day and the centennial of The Great Arab Revolt; Jordan had its independence from the British mandate and announced the establishment of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, on May 25, 1946.

The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan celebrates national occasions such as the anniversary of the King's coronation on June 9, the Army Day and the anniversary of the Great Arab Revolt on June 10. While Jordanians celebrate these dear and close national occasions to their hearts, they remind themselves of the struggle of the earlier generations for long years, under their Hashemite leadership, to gain independence, build the state and affirm freedom for the country and the people. Jordan was and will remain, as its wise Hashemite leadership wanted it to be, an Arab and Islamic stronghold and patron of sincere peace efforts. Today,

Jordanians perceive their future under the leadership of His Majesty King Abdullah II, as prosperous and luminous. Jordan succeeded through decades of regional political turmoil, in maintaining its stability and builds a solid foundation for economic growth, and has become in recent years a regional hub for investors and business owners. Investors have shown their confidence in Jordan by opening more than 10,000 companies and more than fifty commercial enterprise multinational companies.

Tourism on other side is considered to be a cornerstone of the Jordanian economy. We in Jordan take special pride in the diversity of our tourism product which combines history, archaeology, religion, adventure, incentives, wellness, family, health and nature. It is to mention that Health tourism in Jordan is the region's top medical tourism destination, as rated by the World Bank, and fifth in the world overall. The Dead Sea is Earth's lowest elevation on land and the deepest hyper saline lake in the world, it is 9.6 times as salty as the ocean; Jordan is home to around 100,000 archaeological and tourist sites. Some very well preserved historical cities include Petra which was named amongst the New 7 Wonders of the World in 2007 and was also chosen by the Smithsonian Magazine as one of the "28 Places to See Before You Die." Jordan is part of the Holy Land and has several biblical attractions that attract pilgrimage activities and it has several Islamic sites. The

Jordan's Armed Forces mission is to defend and maintain the sovereignty, security, and stability of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan against any external or internal threat. The Jordanian Armed Forces has been a strong supporter and participant of UN peacekeeping missions, the size of the Jordanian participation in various areas of the United Nations peacekeeping troops and staff, hospital and international observers, is estimated to be more than 70,000 officers and men. Internationally, Jordan ranks third in participating in U.N. peacekeeping missions.

The Arab Revolt or Great Arab Revolt was declared on 10 June 1916 by The King of Hejaz and prince of Mecca the Sherif Hussein bin Ali , with the aim of securing independence from the ruling Ottoman Turks and creating a single unified Arab state, It is to mention that Arabs were united and very loyal to Ottoman Caliphate for about four centuries (1516–1916) sacrificing their lives, lands and money to strengthen and unite Muslims under one Caliphate with Islam as its back bone, but due to policies and actions of the Young Turks in 1906 and Committee of Union and Progress party (CUP), who proceeded to follow Turkification policy, and enforcing Turkish language on Arabs in order to abolish the Arabic language, it was this party believes in the secularism and Turkish nationalism and other reasons which forced the Arabs to seek their freedom and establish a unified Arab state.



## “The Cuban Health Model; What Pakistan can Learn From It”

“The Cuban Health Model; What Pakistan can Learn From It” organized by Pakistan Cuba Parliamentary Friendship Group with association Cuban Embassy in Islamabad. Chairperson Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs Sardar Awaiz Ahmed Khan Leghari, Secretary General PML (Q) Mushahid Hussain Syed and Senator Shibli Faraz and Ambassador of Cuba Gabriel Tiel along with others speaks at seminar.





# An enjoyable EU celebration



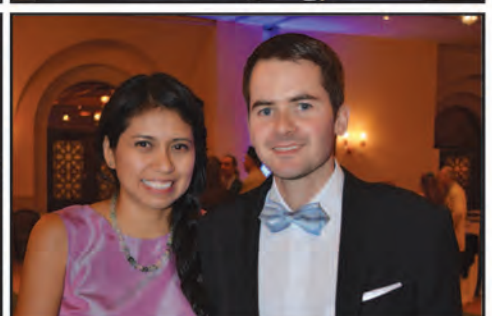
SERENA HOTELS



Ambassador of the European Union, Jean-Francois Cautain and his spouse, Sonia Cautain hosted a reception to celebrate Europe Day at the Serena Hotel. The guest of honour was Adviser to the PM on Foreign Affairs Sartaj Aziz. Different people from diplomatic as well as the local community of Islamabad attended the event.









# Farewell reception to Dr. Song Jong-hwan

**Mr. Mian Fazal Elahi, CEO and Publisher of “Diplomatic Focus” hosted a farewell Dinner Reception to say good bye to outgoing Ambassador of the Republic of Korea Dr Song Jong-hwan at Marriott Hotel in Islamabad. Diplomatic as well as business communities of Islamabad were also the part of the auspicious reception.**









# The Art of making hand pulled noodles



By M.Saeed Yousafzai

**T**he Art of making hand pulled noodles goes hundreds of years back. Chinese Chef Bruce shares the culinary secrets as he made the dough and stretched it out

in the Show kitchen of Suzie Wong. While demonstrating his expertise he emphasized on the elementary way to divide the noodles that is by flour. Rice noodles are called fen, while wheat noodles are called mian. The two best ways to cook hand pulled noodle are, stir

fried in wok or plunged into soup. Chinese Chef Bruce can't wait for Karachites to taste the authentic recipe of Chinese Hand Pulled Noodles here at Suzie Wong. The exceptional Hand Pulled Noodles menu will be launched very soon here at Suzie Wong.





# Pakistani & Turkish Cultural Fiesta

Organized by Pak Turk International Schools & Colleges, in Islamabad





# Musical farewell evening hosted by Gandhara Art and Culture Association in honour of Ambassador of the Republic of Korea Dr Song Jong-hwan at Serena Hotel, Islamabad.





# Javed Malik launches “Positive Pakistan” Initiative in Bahrain



By M.Saeed Yousafzai

Javed Malik, Pakistan's Ambassador to the Kingdom of Bahrain has launched a special initiative aimed at reaching out and engaging with the Pakistani community in Bahrain, building a positive relationship between them and the Embassy of Pakistan, and collectively working towards promoting a “Positive Pakistan”. Speaking about the initiative, Ambassador Javed Malik said that, “Positive Pakistan” initiative is aimed at further strengthening the bonds and connections between the expatriate Pakistani community and the their Embassy by holding regular community interactions and events that giving the community a sense of participation and inclusion. We would also encourage and appreciate talented and prominent Pakistanis in the Kingdom of Bahrain and the Gulf countries by recognizing them for their contributions and achievements”. He further explained that “by building a positive partnership between the community and the Pakistan Embassy in Bahrain we would work as a team to promote a positive image of Pakistan and protect our national and community interest in the countries and regions where we

live”. He said that “the Embassy of Pakistan in Bahrain is adopted an open door policy and we have made ourselves accessible to the community wherever possible. Our Community engagement program has already started holding regular interactions with the different segments of the community so that we can exchange ideas and discuss solutions to the issues being faced by you. Speaking on the occasion, he said “the government under the leadership of Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, attaches a lot of importance to the valuable role being played by the overseas Pakistanis and it remains our priority to facilitate you in every way possible”.

In order to appreciate some Pakistani artists and professionals that had assisted in organizing the Pakistan-Bahrain Friendship Week 2016, Ambassador Javed Malik presented them with “Appreciation Certificates”, and said that “by appreciating our community, we demonstrate that we represent a government that cares about its people”. Prominent bankers, professionals, businessmen, artists and other talented Pakistanis based in the Kingdom of Bahrain were present on the occasion, says a press release received here today from Bahrain.

**By building a positive partnership between the community and the Pakistan Embassy in Bahrain we would work as a team to promote a positive image of Pakistan and protect our national and community interest in the countries and regions where we live: H.E. Javed Malik**





## Italian Foreign Minister, Paolo Gentiloni inaugurates Exhibition of Pakistani Calligraphy at the Italian National Museum of Oriental Arts organized by the Embassy of Pakistan

By M.Saeed Yousafzai

Paolo Gentiloni, Italian Foreign Minister, inaugurated the exhibition "Calligraphy and Calligraphic Art of Pakistan – Contemporary Styles and Tendencies" in Rome at the prestigious Italian National Museum of Oriental Arts, says a Press Release received from Rome.

The Foreign Minister in his opening remarks, fondly recalled his recent visit to Pakistan which he termed as very productive. He termed Pakistan as a "great country" which has very versatile people. Pakistan and Italy enjoy a close relationship with a long-standing cooperation in the field of culture. He noted that cultural cooperation was an important facet for promoting people to people contacts and strengthening bilateral ties. Appreciating the quality of works displayed, the Foreign Minister congratulated the Pakistan Embassy and the Italian Ministry of Culture for

organizing the exhibition which will contribute to better understanding of a significant aspect of Pakistan's culture among the Italian public. Speaking at the event, Ambassador Nadeem Riyaz appreciated the important contribution which Italian archaeologists have made for the preservation of Pakistan's archaeological treasures. He stressed the importance of cultural harmony and understanding between different cultures. He said that enhancing cultural exchanges would positively contribute towards strengthening existing relations between Pakistan and Italy. He thanked the Museum and the Italian authorities for their support and cooperation in organizing the exhibition. He also appreciated the artists who had contributed their works for the exhibition.

Renowned Pakistani calligraphy expert Mr. Athar Tahir spoke about the tradition of calligraphy in Pakistan. Ms. Sumaira Amin, Associate Professor National College of Arts elaborated on the various techniques and

materials used by Islamic calligraphers.

On display are 34 works of 14 calligraphists from all over Pakistan representing various styles of contemporary calligraphy. Pakistani calligraphers have made notable contribution to calligraphy. While continuing to be inspired by Islamic traditions, Pakistani artists have imparted a great degree of modernity to this form of classical art. Their works rival some of the best artwork done in the world.

The exhibition has been organized by the Embassy of Pakistan, Rome in collaboration with the Italian Ministry of Culture. It will remain open to the Italian public for a period of two months.

Over 100 notable Italians from various walks of life attended the inauguration ceremony. Two separate workshops on calligraphy will be held by the two experts from Pakistan at the Museum for the Italian public





## Hybrid Identity

**High Commissioner of Australia H.E. Margaret Adamson cutting the ribbon to inaugurate an exhibition titled “Hybrid Identity” showcasing the art of Syed Faraz Ali at Nomad Gallery**



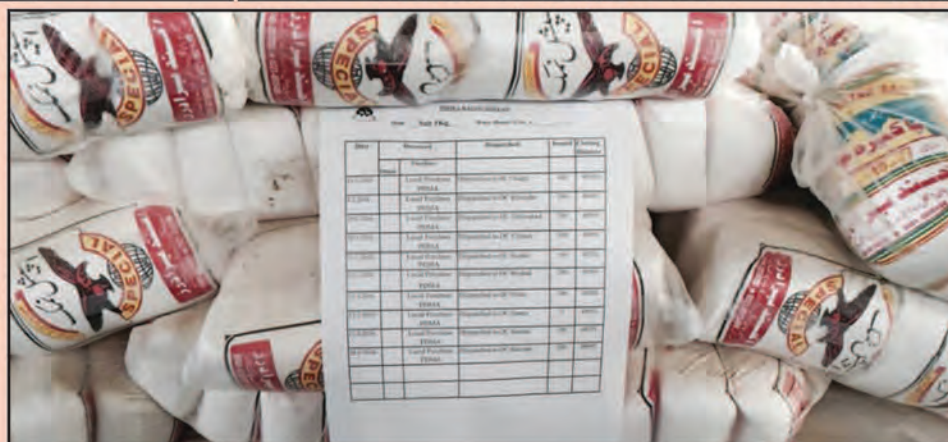


# HOC German Embassy visited Baluchistan



By M.Saeed Yousafzai

The Head of Cooperation of the German Embassy Islamabad visited Baluchistan, where the World Food Programme (WFP) supports the provincial government in community based stunting and malnutrition prevention. She met with lady health workers in Nushki District, spoke to beneficiaries and visited the warehouse facilities.



# The German Development Bank KfW signed an agreement

By M.Saeed Yousafzai

The German Development Bank KfW signed an agreement together with the United Kingdom and the Pakistan Poverty Alleviation Fund to create the Pakistan Microfinance Investment Company (PMIC). The PMIC is designed to help provide millions of hard-working entrepreneurial people with small loans to boost economic growth and development in Pakistan – very much in line with the Government of Pakistan's National Financial Inclusion Strategy. H.E. Finance Minister Ishaq Dar attended the signing ceremony along with other dignitaries. Germany's support will create additional opportunities for the millions of financially excluded people in Pakistan and support the Government of Pakistan in implementing its financial inclusion strategy.







## Warsak hydro-electric power station will generate by 2019 more power more efficiently & eco-friendly

By M.Saeed Yousafzai

**O**n the occasion of the visit of KfW Director Afghanistan and Pakistan, Olaf Zymelka, from Frankfurt the German, French and EU Ambassadors Ms. Ina Lepel, Ms. Martine Dorance and Mr. Jean-Francois Cautain visited the hydro-electric power station Warsak. The dam and water power plant on Kabul River is to be rehabilitated by WAPDA with funds from KfW (Germany), AfD (France) and the EIB (EU).

The preparations for the mega project are already under way and by 2019 the Warsak hydro-electric power station will generate more power more efficiently and eco-friendly!





# Farewell Reception

Senior politicians, diplomats, journalists and people from all walks of life gathered at the residence of outgoing South Korean ambassador Dr Song Jong-hwan to bid farewell to the senior diplomats. Former prime minister and President Chaudhry Shujaat Hussain and eminent scholar and Senate's Defence Committee Chairman Mushahid Hussain Sayed were the chief guest and guest of honour of the ceremony.

The guests were all in praise for Dr Song who had worked untiringly to boost the bilateral diplomatic ties between both the friendly countries. In his farewell address, Dr Song Jong-hwan expressed his deepest gratitude to the people and government of Pakistan for the marvelous and unprecedented hospitality extended to him and the embassy staff.



SERENA HOTELS











# Associate Appreciation week at Marriott

Every year Marriott international simultaneously organizes a host appreciation week throughout all Marriott Hotels around the world aiming to thank the Marriott Associates for their effort, support and hard work.

This year Karachi Marriott Hotel had a most surprising Associate Appreciation Week celebration different to the past years. Many hotel employees participated and enjoyed recreational and fun activities as well as CSR activities including beach cleaning, serving lunch to the special children at the Sanatorium, a picture session with the General Manager, the cultural / talent show and ice cream treat for all the associates from the served by the management of the hotel.

As part of the Spirit to Serve the Community initiative, Karachi Marriott Hotel Associates went to Dar Ul Sakoon and served lunch to the special children and spent time with them where under reading stories to the children. Beach Cleaning was organized at the Clifton Beach where all the team picked the trash from the beach that polluted the environment and disposed it off properly in the hope to inspire more. The talent show that depicted the rich culture and heritage of Pakistan was exceptionally enjoyed by all the associates. Faluda (a cold beverage popular in Pakistan, is made from mixing rose syrup, vermicelli, seeds, tapioca pearls and pieces

of assorted colorful jelly with milk or water) was served to all the associates that was immensely relished by them during a hot day of May.

By the end of the appreciation week, the General Manager of Karachi Marriott Hotel Mr. Jan Verduyn thanked all the associates for their hard work and genuine efforts which is not only appreciated by the management but also by the guests of the hotel who turn on turn come back over and over again.





# DIPLOMATIC FOCUS

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## CASA-1000 power project launched

**H.E. Nawaz Sharif**  
PM of The Islamic Republic of Pakistan,

**Mr. Abdullah Abdullah**  
Chief Executive of Afghanistan

**H.E. Emomali Rahmon**  
President of Tajikistan,

**H.E. Sooronbay Jeenbekov**  
PM of Kyrgyzstan